

South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Synod Council
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls
June 3, 2023

Present: Bishop Constanze Hagmaier, Dennis Thompson, Terry Johnson, the Rev Jonathan Vehar, the Rev. Michael DeKraai, Kristi Anderson, John Rasmussen Mallorie Schultz, Deacon Christie Meier, Dave Poppens, Anne Rieck McFarland, Jeff Clark, Bonny Hansen, the Rev. Becky Senner, Malcom Chapman, the Rev. Wilbur Holz, the Rev. Jackie Braun, Marlee Braun, Jim Iverson, Gary Kaufmann, Kelly Nelson, Stan Jung, Chad Nilson, the Rev. Dave Lund, Rhonda Hansen, the Rev. Jim Folwer, Jack Hoffner

Staff: Lois Borchardt, the Rev. Jonathan Steiner, the Rev. Renee Splichal Larson, Kathy McHenry, the Rev. Alan Blankenfeld

Guests: the Rev. Phil Hirsch

Thompson called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm.

Land Acknowledgment was read by Dennis Thompson.

Fill Vacant Seat

Jody Johnson has been nominated by the Bear Butte for the vacancy after the resignation of Emily Hiatt.

MSC to elect Jody Johnson to the unexpired term as a lay voting member from the Bear Butte Conference.

SC.2023.06.01

The Rev. Jackie Braun led in an open devotion with a reading from Dietrich Bonhofer, reflection, and prayer.

The council members introduced themselves.

Approve the Agenda

The agenda is available in the Google Drive.

MSC to adopt the agenda as the chair deems most appropriate.

SC.2023.06.02

Approve Minutes

The minutes of the March 10, 2023 meeting were sent and approved electronically.

SC.2023.06.03

Synod Assembly

Council members offered reflections on the Synod Assembly.

- would like the power points accessible after
- keynote accessible after
- worship today (Sat) was most moving ever experienced
- Cultivate labs - time was cut in 1/2, need ALL the time
- stay on agenda time
- build in a break before labs as a cushion?
- miss education that came from conversations on resolutions, not one issue brought up to discuss & debate, miss fervor of being involved
- refreshing not to have contentious words
- grateful for worshipful & not alot of resolutions
- whole different feel from CWA, very strange, too much can be too much
- remember the old days of 35-40 resolutions
- nice to see Bishop Emeriti there
- music was fantastic
- appreciate someone from churchwide there, part of a greater whole
- would be nice to have closed captioning, someone struggled to hear
- music - not all words displayed on all songs
- ASL interpreter? have one for livestream
- more than 1 station for leaving & turning in stuff
- recognition of pastors - some way to recognize those not called up, maybe have them stand
- pictures utilized by Pstr Alan - people really responded to these
- giving of the land and a Holy Trust, strong liturgy in Sat worship. Holy Holy Ground.
Wonder now what with history of broken promises (reassured them that we are not done)
- Speaks to the trust built, especially with Bishop Constanze
- on their Facebook page, someone put a thumbs up for the land acknowledgement

Rev. Phil Hirsch brought a greeting on behalf of the churchwide organization.

Reports

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Johnson gave an overview of the synod's financial reports. One quarter into the year, Mission Support has been received at 29% of the budget. More detailed reports will come at the August retreat.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee has submitted its annual report. There were no major concerns raised in the report.

MSC to receive the report of the Audit Committee.

SC.2023.06.04

Bishop's Report

The Synod Authorized Worshiping Community Exploration in Box Elder, SD is completing. At this time, there is not an identified Mission Developer, but the location still seems promising for a new start ministry.

Associate Reports

Pastor Splichal Larson

Pr. Renee is just back from one month of sabbatical and will return to sabbatical in July and August. Lots of transitions continue as congregations go through the call process. The next assignment for first-call pastors is in July and we look forward to seeing who will be assigned.

Pastor Steiner

An official announcement of Pastor Steiner's resignation was sent out shortly after the Synod Council was notified. He doesn't have anything specific yet, but knows that he will be relocating closer to family on the East Coast.

He challenged the council to consider how as a synod we continue to support Woyaton Lutheran. The gift of the church building and land to the Woyaton congregation is only the next step in deepening our ministry among the Lakota people in Rapid City.

The ministry explorations for Shepherd's Table and Box Elder are complete, and the final reports are being prepared.

Retiring Members

We give thanks for the council members whose terms are ending. They were presented with a card on behalf of the synod. Outgoing members are: Michael Miller, Pam Seefeldt, Jim Iverson, Rev. Jim Fowler, Stan Jung and Truman Stoller.

Seating of New Members

New members were welcomed. New members are: Kristi Anderson, SAM, John Rasmussen, Gary Kaugmann, Rev. Alyssa Mitchell, Chad Nilson and Juan Angel.

Roster Matters

Inform only

The Rev. Nathaniel Bendorf – Transferred into SD Synod from Florida-Bahamas Synod effective 7/05/23

The Rev. Arlo 'Pete' D. Petersen – Transferred into SD Synod from Western Iowa Synod effective 3/27/23

The Rev. Sonja Pilman – Resigned from the ELCA roster effective 4/17/23

Other roster matters are taken up in Executive Sessions.

MSC to go into Executive Session for Roster Matters.

SC.2023.06.05

Exit Executive Session

MSC to come out of Executive Session and to report all actions taken in the minutes.

SC.2023.06.06

Actions Taken While in Executive Session

Martha Atkins – Requesting On-Leave-from-Call effective 4/10/23

To grant on-leave-from-call status to the Rev. Martha Atkins effective 4/10/2023.

MSC

SC.2023.06.07

Renae Boehmer – Requesting On-Leave-from-Call effective 6/01/23

To grant on-leave-from-call status to the Rev. Renae Boehmner effective 6/1/2023.

MSC

SC.2023.06.08

Jackie Braun – Requesting On-Leave-from- Call effective 5/01/23

To grant on-leave-from-call status to the Rev. Jackie Braun effective 5/1/2023.

MSC

SC.2023.06.09

Bailey Fossum – Requesting On-Leave-from-Call effective 5/27/2023

To grant on-leave-from-call status to the Rev. Bailey Fossum effective 5/27/2023.

MSC

SC.2023.06.10

Sheila Pohl – Requesting Retirement effective 8/01/23

To grant retirement roster status to the Rev. Sheila Pohl effective 8/1/2023.

MSC

SC.2023.06.11

Daryl Schubert – Requesting Retirement effective 9/01/23

To grant retirement roster status to the Rev. Daryl Schubert effective 8/1/2023.

MSC

SC.2023.06.12

Laurel Vogl – Requesting Renewal of Family On-Leave-from-Call effective 12/06/20

To extend family on-leave-from-call status first granted on 12/6/2023 to the Deacon Laurel Vogl.

MSC

2023.06.13

Constitutional Approvals

Brett Koenecke recommends approval of the constitution for St. Paul Lutheran in Clark, SD.

MSC to approve the constitution for St. Paul Lutheran in Clark, SD.

SC.2023.06.14

The Rev. Jonathan Vehar recommends approval of the constitution for East Side Lutheran in Sioux Falls, SD.

MSC to approve the constitution for East Side Lutheran in Sioux Falls, SD.

SC.2023.06.15

The Rev. Jonathan Vehar recommends approval of the constitution for Our Savior's Lutheran in Sioux Falls, SD.

**MSC to approve the constitution for Our Savior's Lutheran in Sioux Falls, SD.
SC.2023.06.16**

New Member Orientation

The Operational Ethics Policy was distributed to all members. The ethics policy covers conflicts of interest that might exist between members and the work that the synod will be required to undertake.

Endowment Committee

Martin Oyos' term ended as a member of the Endowment Committee. Bobbi Thury is nominated to fill the vacancy.

**MSC to appoint Bobbi Thury to a six-year term on the Endowment Committee.
SC.2023.06.17**

Future Meetings

- A. Synod Council Retreat: August 17-19, 2023 – Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center
- B. Exec: November 2, 2023, 6:00 pm, Synod Office, Sioux Falls
- C. Synod Council: November 3, 2023, 8:30 am, Sioux Falls
- D. Synod Assembly: May 31-June 1, 2024 – Calvary Lutheran, Rapid City
- E. Synod Assembly: May 30-31, 2025 – Our Savior's Lutheran, Sioux Falls

The Bishop closed the meeting in prayer.

Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jonathan Vehar", is displayed on a light gray rectangular background.

Rev. Jonathan Vehar, secretary