

**South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Synod Council
West Side Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD
November 3, 2023**

Present: Bishop Constanze Hagmaier, Dennis Thompson, Terry Johnson, Jill Beers, Kristie Anderson, SAM, the Rev. Michael DeKraai, John Rasmussen, the Rev. Jackie Braun, Marlee Braun, Gary Kaufmann, Dave Poppens, Rhonda Hansen (online), Jake Hoffner, the Rev. Alyssa Mitchell (online), the Rev. David Lund, Kelly Nelson (online), Jeff Clark, Bonny Hansen, the Rev. Becky Senner, the Rev. Wilbur Holz (online), Jody Johnson (online), Juan Angel

Staff: Lois Borchardt, the Rev. Dan Johnson (online), the Rev. Renee Splichal Larson, the Rev. Jonathan Vehar

Dennis Thompson called the meeting to order at 8:32 am.

Land Acknowledgment

South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recognizes that the Oceti Sakowin (the Seven Council Fires of the Lakota, Dakota, Nakota), the Arikara, the Ponca and the Cheyenne, are the historic inhabitants of South Dakota; and South Dakota is the current home of the Cheyenne River Tribe, Crow Creek Tribe, Flandreau Santee Tribe, Lower Brule Tribe, Oglala Tribe, Rosebud Tribe, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, Standing Rock Tribe, and Yankton Tribe.

We recognize that we are called to be in good relationship with our neighbors, that the tribes are sovereign nations, that there is a history of broken treaties and broken trust, and that there is lots of work to be done. And we also recognize that as Christians, we have faith in new life, in hope for mending what is broken, and in our calling through the Holy Spirit to do this work.

Opening Prayer

Rev. Jonathan Vehar led the group with a Moravian Prayer.

Resignation

After accepting the position of DEM/Associate to the Bishop, Rev. Jonathan Vehar is resigning as the secretary for the South Dakota Synod Council.

**MSC to accept the resignation of Rev. Jonathan Vehar as secretary for the South Dakota Synod.
SC.2023.11.01**

Seat Interim Secretary

Bishop Constanze has contacted Jill Beers, a member at Our Savior's in Waubay to be the interim secretary of the South Dakota Synod Council.

**MSC to seat Jill Beers as interim secretary for the South Dakota Synod Council.
SC.2023.11.02**

Roll Call and introductions

Forward any corrections to Lois at lborchardt@sdsynod.org

Approve Agenda

MSC to approve the agenda in as the chair deems most appropriate..
SC.2023.11.03

Approve Minutes

MSC to approve the minutes from August 18-19, 2023 Synod Council meeting.
SC.2023.11.04

Reports

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Johnson presented the financial information through Sept. 30, 2023. (8 months of Fiscal Year = 66.67%). Mission Support is being offset with an appeal. Balance of Operating Reserves does not include endowment.

Bishop's Report

Conference of Bishops - there were many reports.

- Candidacy Process - The ELCA has put in place a new pathway process. The bishops had a chance to look at the new process.
- Regina Hassanally, Matthew Regal are working on historical knowledge
- How we come up with the formula for synods to send delegates for Phoenix, AZ in August of 2025. Forms A & C tell us how many delegates we can send. South Dakota Synod is Region 3C

Cameroon Trip

- This was a joyful and physical trip. Looking around, Jesus needs to show, very humbling, sacred and holy experience. Bishop Baïguelé was very new and is very transparent about how our gifts are used.
- Seventeen women are ordained
- Lois Borchardt, Rev. Aaron Matson, Karen Cecil and Shadoc Hanson traveled with
- Other things to keep in mind: don't send outdated medical equipment, don't send things that can be bought there, the seminary has 3 computers and 70 students, library literature is from 2006.

Nicaragua

- Bishop Victoria passed away. We will set up a video to be shown at the synod assembly. Her daughter Katia will serve as interim.

Sabbatical

- August 2024 - focus on discernment for the next bishop election
- November and December 2024 - Must be thoughtful of her family. She also plans to do some reading and intentional listening.

Rosebud Episcopal Mission Fire

- a \$3000 gift will be given from the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. Please keep them in your prayers.

Synod Assembly

- Theme is All the People - highlight all the partners we work with
- Buntrock Scholarship - up to \$12,000 per year, cohort of 30 incoming freshmen – actively involved in their home congregation and to ELCA ministries - may enter into ministry.

We still want to show up!

10-minute break

Jamie Duprey from Region 10 (I 29 corridor, not Texas)
 Quality of Call Committee for Women
 Sioux Falls, August 6-8, 2024 Empower Empowered Empowering
 Rosella Hati White - Collegiality of Women
 Supporting First Call Women and Congregations in Transition
 The grant is for up to 150 participants

Rev. Jonathan Vehar

This is day 5 of his new job. He has done 98 hours of IT. Church wide is revamping DEM training. He has started setting up meetings.

Rev. Renee Splichal Larson

- Twenty-two Ministry Site Studies have been conducted so far in 2023 with 21 calls extended. We continue to work towards a ministry coop called Western Dakotas Ministry (Buffalo and Bison).
- Monthly zoom calls for rostered ministers, senior pastors and interim ministers continue.
- In 2023 we have received 3 new first call candidates. The First Call Minister's Retreat is November 5-7, 2023 in Brookings. Guest speaker is Rev. Dr. William Russell and chaplain is Becky Piper.
- We are piloting a project with Wartburg Theological Seminary, inviting seminarians to serve for 3 weeks in a rural SD congregation during their J-term. We will receive one student in January 2024.
- Currently there are 15 people inquiring about candidacy. There are 20 people in various stages of candidacy in the SD Synod. There will be a Candidacy Retreat April 12-13, 2024 in Sioux Falls

Staff Reports - See Google Drive for written reports from Rev. Dr. Aaron Matson, Companion Synods and Rev. Alan Blankenfeld, Rural Ministry Liaison

Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center - Rev. Dan Johnson

- Currently submitting finalizing reimbursement submissions for the ESG-CV grant.
- The ELCA World Hunger Program along with the ELCA's Native American ministry is providing \$250,000 to help operate the homeless shelter. Have also \$130,000 from the state.

MS to approve the \$250,000 ELCA World Hunger grant.

Discussion

- Majority will be for the security of the shelter at both places. Also for electricity and food.
- Meeting with Icon-3D Printing Co. They are designing a homeless shelter for Yankton

Reservation. Hope Pine Ridge will buy into it.

C

SC.2023.11.05

Executive Committee – Dennis Thompson

The Executive Committee approved 3 grants for Luther Seminary Certificate track. It includes money for books and travel.

SDS Transportation approved the purchase of a new vehicle for Rev. Jonathan Vehar. The money will come from the Undesignated Endowment. It is a 2023 Ford Escape.

Old Business

Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center proposal for Board of Directors

- Not much has happened. We will work on this at the March meeting.

Small Town and Rural (STAR) Grants

- Transportation cost to bring a pastor in/moving costs/maybe provide a grant.
- Pastor Alan is able to make things available. Question was asked what is considered a STAR community
- Forms will be created and then on the website.

Motion for grant administration

MSC that \$1,500 grants can be administered by Pastor Alan and up to \$5,000 grants can be administered by the Rural Ministry Committee.

SC2023.11.06

New Business

Breakdown of Churchwide Assembly voting members by conference

We are allotted 19 voting members - the same as the last churchwide assembly. 10% (2) must be Youth and/or Young Adult. Another 10% (2) must be BIPOC. 40% of the delegates must be clergy (11 Lay/ 8 Clergy). Delegates need to be selected at the 2024 spring conference meeting so that names can be brought to the 2024 Synod Assembly for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly. Make sure to get alternates.

Motion for Delegates

MSC to remove two delegates from the conferences so that we can have one more in Youth/Young Adult and BIPOC.

SC.2023.11.07

MSC to amend the motion that was passed to remove three delegates instead of two from the conferences.

SC.2023.11.08

MSC to adopt the allocations for voting members of the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

2025				
Conference	Female	Male	Rostered Minister	Totals
Northern Plains		1	1	2
Bear Butte	1		1	2
Crossroads		1	1	2
Medary	1		1	2
Prairie Coteau	1		1	2
Prairie Rivers	1		1	2
Southeastern		1	1	2
Bishop			1	1
Vice-president		1		1
Nominating Com 1*	1			1
Nominating Com 2*		1		1
Nominating Com 3*	1			1
	6	5	8	19

*The Nominating Committee should ensure that 10% (2) are BiPOC, 10% (2), that as close as possible, 50% of the lay voting members be female and 50% male. The Nominating Committee shall also nominate an additional Youth/Young Adult and BiPOC. The Nominating Committee should also keep in mind the geographical diversity of those whom they nominate.

SC.2023.11.09

Evangelical Outreach Committee & Multicultural Committee update
No update.

SD Synod Constitutional Amendment - to go to 2024 SD Synod assembly
Other officers on synod council will start on September 1, the same as the Bishop. This is a mandatory provision from the churchwide assembly.

MSC to send to the Synod Assembly the constitutional change that officers start their term on September 1.

SC.2023.11.10

2024 Synod Assembly
Offering designation

MSC to designate the 2024 South Dakota Synod assembly offering to Neighbors in Solidarity.

SC.2023.11.11

Registration Fee

MSC to set the 2024 South Dakota Synod assembly registration fee at Voting Member \$175, Displayer \$130 and Interns and On Leave from call \$100.

SC.2023.11.12

There are opportunities to apply for funds for help with registration cost. We should provide a link for congregations in need.

The Thursday event will have an update at the March meeting. Dennis encouraged the council to attend.

Appoint Rev. Jeff Backer to Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Board effective 01.01.2024
MSC to appoint Rev. Jeff Backer to the Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Board effective 01.01.2024.
SC.2023.11.13

Lunch Break

Synod Council members to visit congregations to give thanks.
Council members will visit conference churches to help build relationships. There is a script that can be used. Share something you are excited about. Give them an opportunity to tell you what they want. Meet in December by zoom to share what happened.

Luther Seminary Rural Ministry - Rev. Jon Anderson
Thank you for sending students and funding. Faith Lead Academy will have 5 from Region 3 at Luther. The goal is to use the Faith Lead website - there are many uses. There is a coaching system in place with many resources. They have a working preacher pd and a Planting Seeds newsletter.

Augustana University - Rev. Ann Rosendale
Discussed the Viking Bold initiative, 10 years ending in 2030. Faith Fest for junior high students is Feb. 10. She informed the council of the Buntrock Scholarship. This scholarship will provide up to \$12,000 per year for 30 incoming freshmen.

Roster Matters - inform only

Rev. Mindy Ehrke - Transferred to Southwestern MN Synod effective 09.01.2023
Rev. Warren Lahammer - Transferred to West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod effective 08.01.2023
Rev. Elizabeth Platts - Transferred into SD from St. Paul Area Synod effective 11.01.2023
Rev. Renee Tecklenburg - Transferred into SD from Western IA Synod effective 10.04.2023

Other Roster Matters will be addressed in the Executive Session.

MSC to enter executive session for personnel matters.
SC.2023.11.14

Synod Council meet in Executive Session.

Exit Executive Session
MSC to come out of Executive Session and to report all actions taken in the minutes.
SC.2023.11.22

***Actions taken while in executive session*

Deacon Katherine Eisele is requesting retirement effective 01.01.2024
MSC to grant Deacon Katherine Eisele retirement status effective 01.01.2024.

SC.2023.11.15

Rev. Paul Erdal is requesting a Synod Letter of Call to serve as Intentional Interim at South Canyon, Rapid City effective 10.21.2023

MSC to grant Rev. Paul Erdal a Synod Letter of Call to serve as Intentional Interim at South Canyon in Rapid City effective 10.21.2023.

SC.2023.11.16

Rev. Randy Gehring is requesting retirement effective 10.15.2023

MSC to grant Rev. Randy Gehring retirement status effective 10.21.2023.

SC.2023.11.17

Rev. Joel Pakan is requesting On-Leave-from-Call effective 12.01.2023

MSC to grant Rev. Joel Pakan On-Leave-from-Call status effective 12.01.2023.

SC.2023.11.18

Rev. Carlene Rhody is requesting retirement effective 10.15.2023

MSC to grant Rev. Carlene Rhody retirement status effective 10.15.2023.

SC2023.11.19

Rev. Jonathan Steiner is requesting On-Leave-from-Call effective 09.01.2023

MSC to grant Rev. Jonathan Steiner On-Leave-from-Call status effective 09.01.2023.

SC.2023.11.20

Rev. Paul Svingen is requesting a Synod Letter of Call to serve as Intentional Interim at Our Savior's, Sioux Falls effective 09.19.2023

MSC to grant Rev. Paul Svingen a Synod Letter of Call to serve as Intentional Interim at Our Savior's in Sioux Falls effective 09.19.2023.

SC.2023.11.21

Motion Rev. Jonathan Vehar is requesting a Synod Letter of Call to serve as DEM/Associate to the Bishop effective 10.30.2023

Motion rescinded.

Churchwide call includes work with the synod.

Annual Review of Rostered Ministers of Word & Service and Ministers of Word & Sacrament (synod council calls) - October 2023

1. Pr. Chris Anderson - Chaplain for Avera St. Luke's Hospital, Aberdeen
2. Dr. Richard Bowman - Professor of Religion for Augustana University, Sioux Falls
3. Pr. Maria Cabello - Pastor Developer for Pueblo de Dios, Sioux Falls
4. Pr. Randy Fett - Intentional Interim Pastor for Calvary, Rapid City
5. Pr. Kris Garlick - Chaplain for Monument Health Hospital, Rapid City
6. Pr. Christy Hallenbeck Ask - Director, Mission Integration and Senior Pastor for the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, Sioux Falls
7. Pr. Lisa Heffernan - Campus Pastor for USD Luther Center, Vermillion
8. Pr. Dan Johnson - Director of Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center, Pine Ridge
9. Pr. Cassandra Lamb - Campus Pastor for the University Lutheran Center, Brookings
10. Pr. Jo Ann Lemme - Chaplain for Bethany Lutheran Home for the Aged, Inc., Sioux Fall/Brandon

11. Pr. Chris Matson - Pastor for Church on the Street, Sioux Falls
12. Dr. Ann Pederson - Professor of Religion for Augustana University, Sioux Falls
13. Pr. Ann Rosendale - Administrative Campus Pastor for Augustana University, Sioux Falls
14. Pr. Kari Sansgaard - Chaplain for Avera, Sioux Falls
15. Dr. Richard Swanson - Professor of Religion for Augustana University, Sioux Falls
16. Deacon Randy Youngquist-Thurrow - Associate Director for Lutherans Outdoors in SD

**MSC to accept the reviews of these Synod Council calls en bloc.
SC2023.11.23**

Congregational Matters

Trinity, Madison has a Constitution Approval by Nick Moser on 10.23.2023
**MSC to approve the constitution of Trinity Lutheran, Madison.
SC.2023.11.24**

Trinity, Miller has a Constitution Approval by Brett Koenecke on 10.17.2023
**MSC to approve the constitution of Trinity Lutheran, Miller.
SC.2023.11.25**

Two questions were posed to the council. What will you share? How will you share it?

Future Meetings

- A. Exec: February 13, 2024 at 3:00 pm in the Synod Office, Sioux Falls
- B. Exec: March 14, 2024, 6:00 pm, Synod Office, Sioux Falls
- C. Synod Council: March 15, 2024, 8:30 am, TBD, Sioux Falls Opening Prayer/Devotions by Marlee Braun
- D. Synod Assembly: May 31-June 1, 2024, Our Savior's Lutheran, Sioux Falls
- E. Synod Council: June 1, 2024 after the close of assembly, Our Saviors Lutheran, Sioux Falls
- F. Synod Assembly: May 30-31, 2025, Our Savior's Lutheran, Sioux Falls

Other Topics

If you want to do any fundraisers for Rural Ministry, let the synod know by January.

Fabric that came from Cameroon will be used to make objects that may be sold at the Synod Assembly.

Closing Prayer
Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Beers, Interim Secretary