

South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Synod Council
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls
June 1, 2024

Present: Bishop Constanze Hagmaier, Dennis Thompson, Jill Beers, Terry Johnson, Kristie Anderson, SAM, Rev. Michael DeKraai, John Rasmussen, Rev. Jackie Braun, Marlee Braun, Gary Kaufmann, Deacon Christie Meier, Dave Poppens, Anne Rieck McFarland, Rhonda Hansen, Jake Hoffner, Rev. Jeff Otterman, Christy Harkness, Rev. David Lund, Kelly Nelson, Chad Nilson, Jeff Clark, Rev. Becky Senner, Malcolm Chapman, Rev. Wilbur Holz, Jody Johnson, Craig Pfeifle, Juan Angel

Staff: Lois Borchardt, Kathy McHenry, Rev. Renee Splichal Larson, Rev. Jonathan Vehar,

Guest: Rev. Norma Malfatti, ELCA Churchwide representative.

VP Dennis Thompson called the meeting to order.

Thompson read the Land Acknowledgement:

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.

Malcom Chapman led an opening devotion.

Roll Call and introductions

Please forward any corrections to Lois at lborchardt@sdsynod.org

Approve Agenda

The agenda is available in Google Drive.

MSC to approve the agenda in the order as the chair deems most appropriate. SC.2024.06.01

Approve Minutes

The minutes of the March 15, 2024 meeting were in Google Drive.

MSC to approve the minutes from the March 15, 2024 synod council meeting. SC.2024.06.02

Synod Assembly

Discussion was held on how the 2024 Synod Assembly ran. It was felt that voting went well. We need to make sure all delegates have devices for voting. The question was asked if we needed to have a number for each vote. Could we do a voice vote for some? This year we intentionally voted on all questions to check for flaws. Next year voting delegates must be in the worship center to be able to vote.

The timeline was questioned. It might be a good idea to have a moderator to keep the time moving. We need to be responsible.

The question was asked if it is possible to get notes for all songs.

People seemed favorable with the way the assembly ran. All videos will be sent out. The panel discussions were good and well received.

Discussion was held on the recognition program on Thursday evening. Bishop Constanze stated that she intentionally did this on Thursday to make it more special for the people being recognized. We need to be clear that the recognition is for everyone.

The food trucks were a good addition.

Reports

Treasurer's Report

The SD Synod and Endowment reports from 04.30.2024 can be found on the Google Drive. Terry reported that the monthly financial statements are uploaded to the Google Drive around the 8th of each month.

Audit Report

Paceline Accounting Group is the company that the SD Synod uses for our annual audit. The audit report and related letters are on the Google Drive as well as the audit committee report.

**MSC to receive the report of the Audit Committee.
SC.2024.06.03**

Bishop's Report

Bishop Constanze thanked the council members for their service. She will be spending June in Germany. She gave plans for her sabbatical. August will be spent discerning what is next for her and time with her family. November and December is a slower time in the synod office and she will use that time for sabbatical. Bishop Andrea DeGroot Nesdahl will serve the synod during November and December.

Associate to the Bishop Reports

Rev. Renee Splichal Larson

Pastor Renee reminded us that the call process is an anxious time for congregations. She was asked how we were able to call Peter Meyer as our assembly musicians. She explained that they have a long association and that he is trained as a global musician. She also explained that the liturgy used for the assembly was composed by her late husband Ben. She made us aware of the site benstillsings.org to learn about his music.

Rev. Jonathan Vehar - no report

Pastor Jonathan was asked to share his cow chart.

Old Business

Bishop Election - Synod Self Study

Per the South Dakota Synod constitution:

S9.04.A18

3. The Synod Council shall arrange for a synod study to be completed by the Synod Council meeting the fall prior to the beginning of the election process. The synod study shall be distributed to rostered ministers and congregations of the synod six month prior to the election, providing guidance throughout this synod as potential nominees for bishop are identified.

4. At the assembly of each conference prior to the election of a bishop, held no later than 75 days prior to Synod Assembly, the voting members will be asked to use the synod study document to guide conversations regarding the gifts desirable and necessary in a bishop.

Discussion was held on appointing four to six members to the committee for the synod study.

MSC to appoint Rev. Cassandra Lamb, lead, Deacon Christie Meier, Rev. Dell Sanderson, Jack Holmquist, Malcolm Chapman and Rev. Michael Jordan to the Bishop Election Survey Committee.

SC.2024.06.04

Dennis will contact Pastor Cassandra and she will reach out to these committee members.

Roster Matters

Inform only

Rev. Jason Kramme transferred into SD from Saint Paul Area Synod effective 05/01/24

Other roster matters will be addressed in Executive Session.

MSC to enter into executive session for roster matters.

SC.2024.06.05

Synod Council met in executive session.

MSC to come out of executive session and report all actions taken in the minutes.

SC.2024.06.06

****Actions taken while in executive session****

Rev. Renae Boehmer - requesting a Specialized Synod Letter of Call to serve as Associate Director of Spiritual Care at Dow Rummel Village, Sioux Falls effective 4/23/24.

MSC to issue a Specialized Synod Letter of Call to Rev. Renae Boehmer to serve as Associate Director of Spiritual Care at Dow Rummel Village in Sioux Falls effective 4/23/24.

SC.2024.06.07

Rev. Jackie Braun – requesting renewal of On-Leave-from-Call effective 5/01/24.

MSC to grant Rev. Jackie Braun renewal of On-Leave-from-Call effective 5/01/24.

SC.2024.06.08

Rev. Shawna Day - requesting a Specialized Synod Letter of Call to serve as Associate Campus Pastor at Augustana University, Sioux Falls effective 8/01/24.

MSC to issue a Specialized Synod Letter of Call to Rev. Shawna Day to serve as Associate Campus Pastor at Augustana University in Sioux Falls effective 8/01/24.

SC.2024.06.09

Rev. Katherine Olson - requesting a Specialized Synod Letter of Call to serve as Director of Spiritual Care at Dow Rummel Village, Sioux Falls effective 6/01/24.

MSC to issue a Specialized Synod Letter of Call to Rev. Katherine Olson to serve as Director of Spiritual Care at Dow Rummel Village in Sioux Falls effective 6/01/24.

SC.2024.06.10

Rev. Dr. Richard Swanson - requesting retirement effective 6/01/24.

MSC to grant Rev. Dr. Richard Swanson retirement effective 6/01/24.

SC.2024.06.11

Deacon Laurel Vogl - requesting Renewal of Family On-Leave-from-Call effective 12/06/20. (Annual Renewal - Family Leave is 6 years)

MSC to grant Deacon Laurel Vogl Renewal of Family On-Leave-from-Call effective 12/06/20.

SC.2024.06.12

Congregational Matters

Inform Only:

Lake Campbell, Volga held a 2nd Vote to Leave ELCA on 4/21/24. The vote passed.

Sinai Lutheran, Sinai held a 2nd Vote to Leave ELCA on 4/21/24. The vote passed.

Action Item:

Walla Lutheran, New Effington - Constitution Approved by Pr. Jonathan Vehar on 6/01/24.

MSC to approve the constitution of Walla Lutheran, New Effington.

SC.2024.06.13

Retire Members

The Synod Council thanked the following retiring members for their service to the synod:

Dave Poppens, Crossroads

Rhonda Hansen, Southeastern

Rev. Dave Lund, Northern Plains
Malcom Chapman, Bear Butte
Mallorie Schultz, Youth

Seat New Members

The Synod Council welcomes the following new members to the council:

1. Thad Titze, Crossroads
2. Cristy Harkness, Southeastern
3. Rev. Justin Van Orman, Northern Plains
4. Craig Pfeifle, Bear Butte
5. Danielle Toates, Youth

Orientation

A brief new member orientation was given by Bishop Hagmaier and Dennis Thompson. They reminded the members of confidentiality when away from the meetings and ethics. 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. Members signed and returned the Disclosure Form.

New Business

Box Elder

Synod-Authorized Worshiping Community (SAWC) approval was sought for a new start ministry in Box Elder.

MSC to authorize as a Synod Authorized Worshiping Community, a new start ministry in Box Elder, SD effective June 1, 2024.

SC.2024.06.14

Future Meetings

- A. Executive Council, August 8, 2024, 6:00 pm, Synod Office, Sioux Falls
- B. Synod Council Retreat, August 9-10 2024, St. John Lutheran, Sioux Falls
- C. Executive Council, October 17, 2024, 6:00 pm, Synod Office, Sioux Falls
- D. Synod Council, October 18, 2024, 8:30, First Lutheran, Mitchell
- E. Executive Council, February 12, 2025, 2:00 pm, Synod Office, Sioux Falls
- F. Conference Assemblies, February 23, 2025
- G. Executive Council, March 13, 2025, 6:00 pm, Sioux Falls
- H. Synod Council, March 14, 2025, 8:30 am, TBD
- I. Synod Assembly, Mary 30-31, 2025, Our Savior's Lutheran, Sioux Falls

Reminder, we will have Bishop, Vice President and Treasurer elections next year.

Bishop Constanze led the council in a closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Beers, secretary