

South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Synod Council
Our Savior's Lutheran, Sioux Falls
June 4, 2022

Present: Bishop Constanze Hagmaier, Dennis Thompson, the Rev Jonathan Vehar, Stan Jung, Kelly Nelson, the Rev. Dave Lund, Jeff Clark, Bonny Hansen, the Rev. Layne Nelson, Deacon Christie Meier, Dave Poppens, Anne Rieck McFarland, Tom Stotz, Rhonda Hansen, the Rev. Jim Fowler, Jim Iverson, Valerie Parsley, the Rev. Jackie Braun, Michael Miller, Pam Seefeldt, the Rev. Ramona Hayes, the Rev. Pam Power, Bonnie Lange, Malcom Chapman, Terry Johnson, the Rev. Becky Sinner, Marlee Braun.

Absent: Truman Stoller, Caylee White Eagle

Staff: Lois Borchardt, the Rev. Jonathan Steiner, the Rev. Renee Splichal Larson

Guests: the Rev. Keith Fry, Office of the Secretary, ELCA

Thompson called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm.

The council members introduced themselves.

The Rev. Keith Fry brought a greeting on behalf of the churchwide organization.

The Rev. Jonathan Steiner read the 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, and Standing Rock 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.

Approve the Agenda

The agenda is available in the Google Drive.

MSC to adopt the agenda.
SC.2022.06.01

The minutes of the March 18, 2022 minutes were sent and approved electronically.

**MSC to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2022 meeting.
SC.2022.06.02**

The Rev. Jim Fowler led in an opening prayer.

Synod Assembly Evaluation

Print on the screens was hard to read from anywhere in the sanctuary.

Excellent music throughout the assembly and a nice variety.

The assembly was full of laughter.

Loved the healthy option for the breaks.

Additional time for Imagination Labs could have been used.

Make sure to announce the display areas

There was a discrepancy in an earlier version of the schedule

Good use of the meeting schedule and pace

Captions would be useful

Lack of youth voting members, are there other ways to include young people?

Provide a written sermon to be shared with pastors who may not make it back for worship on Sunday.

There were no issues with voting devices

Members inquired about the reasons behind Resolution #4b. (Resolution #4b Subject: Encourage Understanding in References to God as Father or Mother. Resolved, that the South Dakota Synod, ELCA encourages its members to prayerfully consider the many metaphors used throughout Scripture when referring to God.) The author is a member of a congregation in a parish agreement in which several communities are voting to disaffiliate from the ELCA. The author hoped this resolution would help to address some of their concerns.

Treasurer's Report

The synod continues to have a positive financial outlook, with revenue slightly ahead of budget and expenses right at budget.

The Endowment Report is in the folder. It is likely that the endowment stock portfolio is down with market conditions. The endowment distribution for 2022 was taken early in 2022, so it will not need to be acted on until 2023.

Audit Report

The Audit Committee has reviewed the external audit committee from Paceline Accounting Group. There is a qualified position because of how income is recorded from congregations, but everything else was in order. The endowment has increased to over \$13 million. The Audit Report made a note of a grant to the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center. Fiscal controls are being put in place to help manage that significant grant.

MSC to receive the Audit Report.

SC.2022.06.03

Bishops Report

Bishop Hagmaier asked if there were any questions regarding her participation in the Listen Team that prepared a report for the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA regarding the conduct of

Bishop Rohrer of the Sierra Pacific Synod on December 12, 2021. The Bishop had been asked by Presiding Bishop Eaton on the recommendation of Bishop Rohrer to conduct the Listen Post in the synod after the removal of a mission developer from Iglesia Luterana Santa Maria Peregrina, a Spanish-speaking congregation in the Sierra Pacific Synod. The Bishop warned that the events are multilayered and not to believe everything on social media.

The Bishop will be in Germany until June 30. Since she is gone for an extended period in a foreign country, there is the appointment of an interim bishop, Bishop Dee Pederson. She will only be called on in the case of pastoral misconduct.

Associate Reports

Pastor Splichal Larson

Two site studies are underway, and a new candidate from Iowa is interviewing. In addition, she will be visiting Spirit of Hope Lutheran in Scotland, SD, to lead worship and confirm two students.

Pastor Steiner

Coming back from Paternity Leave and vacation, there is nothing new to report. The sabbatical approved by the Executive Committee was not approved by the churchwide organization. They have a six-year rule before being eligible.

Roster Manual

The Bishop explained the church's different rosters and roster status, which manages the listing of pastors and deacons who can serve the church.

Inform only

Randy Fett – Transferred to Northwestern Minnesota Synod effective 5/01/2022

Mark Galbraith – Transferred to Pacifica Synod effective 6/05/2022

Wayne Gallipo – Transferred to Western Iowa Synod effective 5/27/2022

Rhia Strohm – Transferred to South- Central Synod of Wisconsin effective 5/08/2022

Requiring Synod Action

The Rev. Denise Broveak has requested Family On-Leave-from-Call effective 4/11/2022

MSC to extend on-leave-from-call status to the Rev. Denise Broveak effective 4/11/2022.

SC.2022.06.04

Kris Garlick has requested a Specialized Letter of Call for Chaplaincy at Monument Health Hospital, Rapid City, effective 4/25/2022

MSC to extend a Letter of Call to the Rev. Kris Garlick to serve as Chaplain at Monument Health in Rapid City, effective 4/25/2022.

SC.2022.06.05

Congregation Updates

Inform Only

Zion, Scotland, passed a second vote to leave the ELCA and join the NALC in March. Our Redeemer, Bryant/Bethlehem, Vienna/Grace, Willow Lake, took the first vote to leave the ELCA.

Constitutional Approvals

Augustana, Claremont/Falnes & Highlanda, Langford (Langford Lutheran Parish) –
Constitutions Approved by Jonathan Vehar

MSC to approve the constitution updates for Augustana, Claremont/Falnes & Highlanda, Langford.
SC.2022.06.06

First, Sioux Falls – Constitution Approved by Erik Ohrtman 5/16/2022

MSC to approve the constitution updates for First Lutheran, Sioux Falls.
SC.2022.06.07

St James, Belle Fourche - Constitution Approved by Jonathan Vehar 6/01/2022

MSC to approve the constitution updates for St James, Belle Fourche.
SC.2022.06.08

Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

The Synod Council needs to vote to approve voting members to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.

MSC to elect as voting members to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly:
Mallorie Schultz – Youth/Young Adult additional voting member,
Moises Acosta - BIPOC additional voting member, and
Carla Borchardt – synod officer position.
SC.2022.06.09

Thank you for retiring members

Members of the Synod Council whose terms are expiring were thanked for their service to the synod over the past three years. Outgoing members are: Valerie Parsley, Rev. Layne Nelson, Tom Stotz, Rev. John Paulson, Bonnie Lange and Caylee White Eagle. A donation will be made in each of their names to an ELCA ministry of their choice.

New Members

Introductions of new members to the Synod Council were made and welcomed onto the council. New members are: Marlee Braun, Deacon Christie Meier, Jake Hoffner, Rev. Becky Senner, Emily Hiatt and Mallorie Schultz.

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.

Luther House of Studies – The LHOS program is working on forming a separate 501(c)3. When that process is complete, there will be a public announcement.

The 2023 synod assembly will on June 2-3 at Our Savior's Lutheran, Sioux Falls. It was highly encouraged that the synod staff considers holding the 2024 Synod Assembly in Rapid City.

The Bishop closed the meeting in prayer.

Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,



Rev. Jonathan Vehar, Secretary