

**South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Synod Council
Synod Office, Zoom Meeting
March 20, 2020**

Present: Bishop Constanze Hagmaier, Carla Borchardt, Rev. Jonathan Vehar, Cynthia Wall, Rev. Chris Strohm, Deacon Kris Wollman, David Anderson, Erik Gilbertson, Dennis Thompson, Rev. Lon Kvanli, Michael Miller, Rev. Tera Kossow, Tom Stotz, Jan Haugen-Rogers, Rev. Jim Fowler, Pam Seefeldt, Rev. Shelly Gehring, Rev. Layne Nelson, Joyce Vasgaard, Rev. Ryan Gage, Jim Iverson, Valarie Parsley, Bonnie Lange

Staff: Lois Borchardt, Rev. Renee Splichal Larson, Rev. Jonathan Steiner, Kathy McHenry, Sawyer Vanden Heuvel

Meeting called to order at 8:15 AM

Dave Anderson is nominated by the Prairie Rivers Conference to fill an unexpired term.

**MSC to appoint Dave Anderson to the vacant council position from the Prairie Rivers Conference.
SC.2020.03.01**

Synod Council members introduced themselves and shared one thing they are thankful for during this time.

Agenda

**MSC to adopt the agenda.
SC.2020.03.02**

**MSC to approve the minutes of the August 22-23, 2019 and October 18, 2019 meetings.
SC.2020.03.03**

**MSC to approve the minutes of the 2019 Synod Assembly.
SC.2020.03.04**

Treasurer's Report

Gilbertson presented a financial summary of the synod for the end of the 2019 fiscal year. Mission Support from congregations came in at 97.2% of budget and resulted in a year-end loss of \$2,437. Operating Reserves still remains within the historical range.

The 2020 Mission Plan was revised by the Executive Committee and changed to reflect actual staffing cost. The net result was a proposed budget deficit of around \$10,000. The Executive Committee was comfortable with that number, also knowing that other changes will likely be needed throughout the year.

The 2021 Mission Plan was presented and remains similar to the revised 2020 plan. The Synod Council is responsible for preparing the mission plan and moving it before the Synod Assembly for consideration.

| | Adopted | Revised | Proposed |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| INCOME | 2020 | 2020 | 2021 |
| MISSION SUPPORT FROM CONGREGATIONS | 1,823,305 | 1,733,093 | 1,733,093 |
| Program Ministry Income | | | |
| Pine Ridge Ministry Income | 45,000 | 45,000 | 45,000 |
| Other Income Streams | | | |
| SD Synod Mission Support | 37,000 | 29,927 | 29,927 |
| DEM Support Staff | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Interest Income | 7,500 | 8,000 | 8,000 |
| SDS Transportation LLC Income | 12,472 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| SDS Transportation/Plane Income | 25,000 | - | - |
| Misc Income | 503 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 1,960,780 | 1,832,020 | 1,832,020 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| CHURCHWIDE MISSION | Adopted | Revised | Proposed |
| | 2020 | 2020 | 2021 |
| Mission Support to ELCA | 820,487 | 779,892 | 779,892 |
| % of Mission Support | 45.0% | 45.0% | 45.0% |
| Region III | 8,702 | 7,626 | 7,626 |
| SHARED MINISTRIES | | | |
| South Dakota Sustained Ministries | | | |
| Campus Ministry | 128,919 | 122,177 | 122,177 |

| | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Campus Ministry Capital | 1,030 | 1,030 | 1,030 |
| Lutheran Planned Giving | 58,300 | 58,300 | 58,300 |
| Heartland Ephphatha | 6,325 | 5,994 | 5,994 |
| Lutheran Youth Organization | 3,605 | 3,605 | 3,605 |
| South Dakota Supported Ministries | | | |
| SD Ministries Support | 16,650 | 13,467 | 13,467 |
| Luther Seminary | 73,110 | 69,287 | 69,287 |
| Lutheran Social Services | 73,110 | 69,287 | 69,287 |
| Lutherans Outdoors | 36,462 | 34,555 | 34,555 |
| Church Colleges | 6,325 | 5,994 | 5,994 |
| Chapel in the Hills | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Good Samaritan Society | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total Shared Ministries | 403,838 | 383,698 | 383,698 |

| | | | |
|---|---------|--------|--------|
| SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD MINISTRIES | | | |
| Staff Leadership | | | |
| Bishop | 107,500 | 90,605 | 90,605 |
| Associate Director of Evangelical Mission | 10,606 | 6,528 | 6,528 |
| Associate Mobility/Candidacy | 89,017 | 74,394 | 74,394 |
| Bishop/Associate Benefits | 69,991 | 78,897 | 78,897 |
| SDS Travel | 35,734 | 20,500 | 20,000 |
| Bishop/Assistants Travel & Cont Ed | 18,800 | 16,300 | 16,299 |
| Program Ministries | | | |
| Native American Ministry | 74,265 | 79,248 | 77,748 |
| Synod Youth Gathering Coordinator | 15,814 | 6,959 | 6,959 |
| Companion Synod Coordinator | 11,993 | 12,315 | 12,065 |
| Support Staff and Office | | | |

| | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Support Staff Salaries/Benefits | 148,859 | 152,501 | 152,501 |
| Resource Center Supplies | 150 | 300 | 300 |
| Synod Office Expenses | 66,222 | 68,164 | 65,559 |
| Augustana University | 20,949 | 20,949 | 20,949 |
| Synod Leadership | | | |
| Synod Council | 7,000 | 7,000 | 5,500 |
| Support to Ministries Committee | 2,600 | 2,600 | 2,100 |
| Candidacy Committee | 4,500 | 4,500 | 3,750 |
| Electronic Communications | 1,750 | 1,750 | 1,750 |
| Multicultural Ministry Committee | 1,700 | 1,700 | 1,550 |
| Companion Synods Ministry Committee | 500 | 250 | 200 |
| Evangelical Outreach Committee | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,350 |
| Mission Strategy Committee | 2,000 | 2,000 | 1,850 |
| Ministry Projects | | | |
| Stewardship Project | 500 | 500 | - |
| Continuing Education Projects | 250 | - | - |
| Outreach Ministries | | | |
| Multicultural Center/Woyatan | 15,000 | 16,500 | 16,000 |
| Mission Congregation Start-up | 4,000 | 4,000 | 3,950 |
| Companion Synods | 500 | 500 | - |
| Contingency | | | |
| | 16,053 | 674 | - |
| Subtotal SD Synod Ministries | 727,753 | 671,134 | 660,804 |
| Total Expense | 1,960,780 | 1,842,350 | 1,832,020 |
| Net Total | 0 | -10,330 | 0 |

**MSC to present the proposed 2021 Mission Plan to the 2020 Synod Assembly.
SC.2020.03.05**

Audit Committee

The Synod Council appoints members of the Audit Committee. The Rev. Nick Collins has resigned and needs to be replaced. Gilbertson will confirm the willingness of an individual to serve.

Bishop's Report

Vision/Mission Statement

The Listen, Learn & Care events were finished in the Fall and gave lots of fodder for the Staff Retreat to form a five-year vision for the work of the Bishop's Office. We are a synod because God calls us to "Journey Together in Christ."

We will Journey Together in Christ Through...

...Intentional Relationships rooted in God's Word of guidance & love

...Networking ministry resources & congregations

...Equipping God's people for faith-filled living empowered by God's Word of guidance & love.

...Shared Leadership

Break

As the council returned from break, Splichal Larson and Steiner led a song and devotion.

The Bishop will be hosting information calls for rostered leaders and lay leaders of congregations. The first gathering for the rostered leaders was held earlier in the week, and the first two for congregational leaders next week.

Bishop is working on being creative with plans for Easter and supporting congregations and communities in light of restrictions of gathering size due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Conference of Bishops

Due to health issues in the Bishop's family, she was not able to travel, but did attend virtually.

The ELCA Church Council voted to remove Vision and Expectations as a document of the church. V&E was an aspirational document that outlined the hopes and expectations for rostered leaders. The document had a mixed history for how it was used in discipline matters. Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline will be the guiding document for the discipline of rostered leaders in the church.

There was one seminary student assigned to South Dakota in the Spring Assignment Process. Throughout the ELCA, only 150 students are graduating in 2020. Only a small number of those were open to call throughout the church.

The Assignment Process moving forward is seeing a great shift. Graduating seminarians will now be assigned to the synod from which they went through candidacy. Not all the rules are yet known for this transition.

Farm to Table Dinner

For the past few years, there have been synod sponsored fundraisers. Most of these fundraisers supported the work of the seminary recruiter and seminary scholarships. Bishop Hagmaier has proposed a “Farm to Table Dinner” event. It will be held July 12, 2020 in Bryant, SD. The dinner will replace the golf tournament and Bishop’s Blast.

Partner Ministry Greetings

Rev. Ann Rosendale brought a greeting from Augustana University. The campus is on an extended spring break and will resume class next week in an online presence only. Just as churches are looking for ways to do ministry differently, so are universities and campus ministry. With the retirement of Pastor Paul Rhode, Pastor Ann Rosendale has accepted the role of administrative pastor for the community, and a call process is now beginning for an associate pastor.

Associate Reports

Rev. Renee Splichal Larson

Peer Mentor Groups: Peer mentors have been trained to lead small groups of leaders for mutual support, care, and growth. This will be accomplished through scripture study, prayer, and sharing case studies from ministry. Eighteen mentor group leaders have received training, representing every conference of the South Dakota Synod.

Rev. Jonathan Steiner

South Dakota is blessed to have many active new start and mission congregations. Steiner has been working with the Evangelical Outreach Committee and Multi-Cultural Committee to define goals and purposes.

He applied for a Stewardship Grant from Lord of Life foundation out of Gettysburg. This project is on hold for the time being and hopes to resume in the Fall.

West River Synod Office is now set up with a private office in a shared office space.

The 2016 Churchwide Assembly adopted a Memorial on the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery. The work of understanding this what this means for the life of the church in all expressions continues.

Neighbors in Solidary is the effort to raise support for the twelve ministry partners of the synod. New starts, ethnic-specific congregations, ministries for those in poverty, along with Campus

Ministry, makes up those included. Support comes in prayer, financial support, and education, understanding the work of these various ministries.

Staff Reports

All reports are available in Google Drive.

Endowment Report

Gilbertson presented the Endowment Report. The available reports do not reflect the current market values that have been reduced by about 20%. Generally, at this meeting, there would be a report of available funds for distribution. The Executive Committee declined to take action on distributions, and asked the Endowment Committee to review their previous recommendation in light of current conditions.

MSC to receive the Endowment Report.

SC.2020.03.06

Roster Matters

Inform Only:

Janice FitzGibbon – Transferred to St. Paul Area Synod effective 11/18/2019

Paul Hanson – Transferred to Western North Dakota Synod effective 09/09/2019

Action Needed:

Amber Bergeson has requested a one-year extension of On-Leave-From-Call status. This would be the seventh year of family leave and has been approved by the Roster Committee of the Conference of Bishops.

MSC to grant Amber Bergeson a one-year extension of On-Leave-From-Call status effective 08/01/2014.

SC.2020.03.07

Velma Larson is requesting retirement roster status effective 4/1/2020.

MSC to grant the Rev. Velma Larson retirement roster status effective 4/1/2020.

SC.2020.03.08

The Rev. Ann Rosendale has been appointed as Administrative Campus Pastor at Augustana University. This appointment comes from the university.

MSC to issue a Letter of Call to the Rev. Ann Rosendale as Administrative Campus Pastor at Augustana University.

SC.2020.03.09

Congregation Constitutions

MSC to approve the constitutions of St. Paul Lutheran, Elk Point, Christ Lutheran, Hartford, Messiah New Hope, Sioux Falls, and St John's Lutheran, Webster.

SC.2020.03.10

Disaster response

MSC to gift \$500 from the Good Samaritan/PEACE Fund to Southeastern Synod for disaster response.

SC.2020.03.11

Synod Constitution

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly made amendments to the Model Constitution for Synods. Required provisions have already been incorporated the synod constitution. Non-required provisions need action by the Synod Assembly. A committee has received a report of changes.

Moved to recommend to the 2020 Synod Assembly for adoption the non-required provisions of the Model Constitution for Synods as adopted by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, excluding S8.11.01.

Move to amend by addition, adding S7.32 be amended by striking “The Synod Rules of Parliamentary Procedure shall govern the procedure of the Synod Assembly.” and inserting MSC *Robert’s Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly, unless otherwise ordered by the assembly to conform to the model constitution for synods.

Seconded. Amendment carried.

MSC to recommend to the 2020 Synod Assembly for adoption the non-required provisions of the Model Constitution for Synods as adopted by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, excluding S8.11.01., and to amend S7.32. to conform to the model constitution for synods.

SC.2020.03.12

2020 Synod Assembly

The 2020 Synod Assembly is set for the beginning of June. Likely, restrictions on group sizes will still be in place. The Presiding Bishop and ELCA Office of the Secretary recommend synod assemblies be cancelled or postponed. The constitution requires that an assembly only takes place every three years.

MSC to cancel the 2020 Synod Assembly.

SC.2020.03.13

Seminary Debt Refinance

The Seminary Debt Reduction Committee has continued to meet and work on polices for the seminary debt reduction programs of the synod. The committee recommends that new applications to the refinance program be suspended while an overview of the program continues and loan documents are developed.

**MSC to suspend new applications to the Seminary Debt Refinance program of the South Dakota Synod.
SC.2020.03.14**

50/40/10 Celebration

One of the events of the Synod Assembly would be the 50/40/10 Celebrations. The synod will look for a creative way to honor these milestones later in the year.

Building Accessibility

The synod office does not have an automatic door opener, which makes it a challenge for people with disabilities to access the building. Augustana University would share in the cost of installing.

**MSC to authorize up to \$3,500 from the Building Repair Fund to make accessibility improvements to the synod office.
SC.2020.03.15**

Update from Executive Committee

Sexual Misconduct Policy has been approved. The policy will be shared in a couple of ways. An outline of the process for reporting misconduct will be posted on the synod website, so the process for filing a complaint is transparent and available. The full document will outline the steps then taken after a misconduct report.

With the transition of synod staff, new vehicles were purchased, and loans taken out. The Executive Committee acted to pay off the loans for two of the three vehicles from the Bishop Transition Fund and unrestricted endowment income.

With the rise in Coronavirus and limiting of in-person meetings, the synod has increased its capacity for online meetings. We now can have up to 10 concurrent meetings with up to 300 participants.

Scholarships were given to fund continuing education for rostered leader development from the leadership fund of the Listen! God is Calling Appeal.

The West River Synod Office was funded for setup.

Raised \$3,800 from the council for Woyatan Retreat Center and authorized balance form the Endowment.

A Memo of Understanding was authorized with Luther Seminary for the Kairos program for the management of the internship requirement. The first MOU, which outlined student affiliation, which is an ELCA Candidacy requirement, is still in effect. The second MOU forms an agreement with Luther Seminary to manage the internship process for the Luther House of Study students. Several of the Synod Council members received letters of concern. It is important to know that ELCA Candidacy requirements have not changed.

Woyatan Retreat Center – authorized the disbursement of funds for the construction of the Woyatan Retreat Center from designated and campaign funds.

Disaster Response

Bishop Hagmaier presented a Statement of Understanding for disaster response. The synod received funds from Lutheran Disaster Response after the 2019 flooding that is earmarked for this purpose. The SOU outlines responsibilities for the partnership.

MSC to authorize Bishop Hagmaier to sign the Statement of Understanding with Lutheran Disaster Response for disaster response and to hire a part-time coordinator.

SC.2020.03.16

Synod Authorized Ministers

The synod policies for providing for Synodically Authorized Ministers have been updated for clarity, especially around the celebration of Holy Communion.

MSC to adopt policies and procedures for Synodically Authorized Ministers with the addition of presiding of Holy Communion.

SC.2020.03.17

Lutheran Campus Ministry

A few years ago, the work of the Campus Ministry Committee was absorbed by Support to Ministries. Given a renewed understanding of campus ministry as an outreach ministry, Lutheran Campus Ministry of South Dakota will report to the Evangelical Outreach Committee. Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls will begin to manage some of the financial aspects.

Future meetings

Executive Committee - June 4, 2020

Synod Council - June 5, 2020

Review of Online Meeting

Overall impressions were that the meeting went well and should be considered for future times. It was helpful for some to have two devices, one for the Zoom call and another for the documents from Google Drive.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rev. Jonathan Vehar, Secretary