

**South Dakota Synod, ELCA  
Synod Council  
Zoom Meeting  
June 5, 2021**

Present: Bishop Constanze Hagmaier, Carla Borchardt, the Rev Jonathan Vehar, Erik Gilbertson, the Rev. Ramona Hayes, Michael Miller, Pam Seefeldt, the Rev. Jackie Braun, Jim Iverson, Bonnie Lange, the Rev. Tera Kossow, Malcom Chapman, Valerie Parsley, Dave Poppens, the Rev. Jim Fowler, Rhonda Hansen, the Rev. Dave Lund, Deacon Kris Wollman, Tom Stotz, the Rev. John Paulson, Terry Zell, Stan Jung, Truman Stoller, Anne Rieck McFarland, Bonny Hansen, Dennis Thompson

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

Absent: Truman Dick, Caylee White Eagle, Jan Haugen-Rogers, Cynthia Wall, the Rev. Layne Nelson, Terry Johnson

The meeting of the South Dakota Synod Council was called to order at 1:50 PM

Council members introduced themselves.

Approve the Agenda

**MSC to approve the agenda.**

**SC.2021.06.01**

Approving Minutes

The minutes of the March 19, 2021 meeting were approved electronically

**SC.2021.06.02**

Assembly Reflection

Mostly positive responses from the assembly. It was well produced and had a good user experience from the Zoom end. It was a long agenda for a virtual meeting. Virtual options should be considered in the future.

Treasurer's report

Gilbertson shared that Mission Support is 28.2% and on the high end of historical trends. The financial statement shows a \$116,638 year-to-date deficit over 2020; however, this is due to 2020 Extraordinary Giving. McFarland inquired if the operating reserves are in invested accounts. Those funds are cash assets and not invested.

Endowment Report

A full Endowment Committee report will come in August, but the balance of the endowment stands at \$10,510,116.39.

#### Audit Committee

A clean audit report was received once again. The full report for review is available in Google Drive.

#### **MSC to receive the Treasurer's Report.**

**SC.2021.06.03**

#### Bishop's Report

The Bishop thanked Carla and Erik for their service to the synod over the years and presented them with part of the Thank You gift that didn't make it into the bag. Thanks Erik and Carla you will be missed!

#### Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center

As a part of a coalition of organizations, the PRRC received an \$800,000 grant from the State of South Dakota to help combat homelessness on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Such a large grant would have pushed the South Dakota Synod into a new area of auditing and financial management. The grant partners are working on splitting up the grant among different partners in order to keep the reporting requirements below the thresholds.

#### Roster Matters

The Synod Council was asked to act on the following roster matters.

For information only:

the Rev. Karen Ressel transferred to the NW Synod of Wisconsin

the Rev. David Schoeld transferred to the Northwest Washington Synod

the Rev. Nyla Schoeld transferred to the Northwest Washington Synod

the Rev. Beverly Struckmann transferred to the Central States Synod.

Bishop Hagmaier presented requests needing the council's action.

The Rev. Nick Collins is requesting On-Leave-From-Call.

**MSC to grant On-Leave-From-Call roster status to the Rev. Nick Collins effective 4/22/2021.**

**SC.2021.06.04**

The Rev. Randy Fett will be starting as an Interim at Holy Cross Lutheran in Sioux Falls. He has requested that the Synod Council issue a letter of call.

**MSC to call the Rev. Randy Fett to serve as Interim Pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran in Sioux Falls effective 6/20/2021.**

**SC.2021.06.05**

The Rev. Lon Kvanli and the Rev. Heidi Kvanli have requested retirement roster status.

**MSC to grant Retired Roster status to the Rev. Lon Kvanli and the Rev. Heidi Kvanli effective 6/1/2021.**

**SC.2021.06.06**

The Rev. Wayne Meidinger has requested retirement roster status.

**MSC to grant Retired Roster status to the Rev. Wayne Meidinger effective 7/1/2021.  
SC.2021.06.07**

The Rev. Hans Sacrison has requested retirement roster status.

**MSC to grant Retired Roster status to the Rev. Hans Sacrison effective 6/1/2021.  
SC.2021.06.08**

Bishop Hagmaier is requesting a Letter of Call to Jamie Reising to serve as the Mission Developer for the Rapid City Co Lap.

**MSC to call Jamie Reising as Mission Developer of the Rapid City Co(L)lab  
effective June 5, 2021.  
SC.2021.06.09**

Congregation Constitutions

Borchardt presented congregation constitutions that have been reviewed by the Constitution Review Committee.

**MSC to approve the constitution for Bergen Lutheran, Meckling.  
SC.2021.06.10**

**MSC to approve the constitution for Faith Lutheran, New Effington.  
SC.2021.06.11**

**MSC to approve the constitution for the Lutheran Church of Dell Rapids, Dell  
Rapids.  
SC.2021.06.12**

Spring Valley Lutheran in Viborg has adopted a second resolution to disaffiliate from the ELCA. Bishop Hagmaier is requesting that their request be accepted.

**MSC to approve the disaffiliation of Spring Valley Lutheran, Viborg.  
SC.2021.06.13**

Retiring Members

Borchardt thanked the outgoing members of the Synod Council, Jan Haugen-Rogers, Deacon Kris Wollman, Cynthia Wall, Truman Dick, Erik Gilbertson, and Carla Borchardt. Borchardt didn't really thank herself, but it is certainly appropriate to give much gratitude for the years of service given to the synod.

Seat New Members

Borchardt welcomed new members to the Synod Council, having been elected at the 2021 Synod Assembly: Anne Rieck McFarland, Kelly Nelson, Bonny Hansen, Truman Stoller, Dennis Thompson, Terry Johnson.

### New Member Orientation

Borchardt and Thompson presented the Synod Operational Ethics Policy which members are required to sign outlining conflicts of interest. It is also important that members understand the Disclosure forms and the confidentiality needed to honor the discernment process of the council.

### 2022 Synod Assembly Offering

This will be discussed by synod staff and brought before the August meeting.

### Other Business

Jim Iverson asked how congregations were responding to guidance from the CDC on COVID-19 restrictions. Each congregation is handling this according to their own governance. The recommendations from the Bishop are to continue to follow guidance from the CDC that includes mask-wearing.

### Future meetings

Executive Committee, Thursday, August 19, 5:00 PM, devotions: Dennis Thompson  
Synod Council, Friday, August 20, 8:30 AM, 2021, devotions: Bonnie Lange

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Jonathan Vehar, secretary