

Minutes from the
SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
May 14, 2021
Via Zoom

Present: Bishop Susan Candea, Nancy Nagel (Vice President), Scott Schulte (Treasurer), Rev. Lorna Paulus (acting as Secretary), Dallas Rakestraw, Terrance Freeman

Absent: Rev. Chad Langdon (Secretary)

CALL TO ORDER

Nancy called the meeting to order.

DEVOTION

Dallas led us in a short devotion based on Michelangelo's *Pieta*.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes from the Synod Council meeting on March 19-20 were presented.

- **SEC 21.05.14.A1** **It was MSC to approve the minutes as presented.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Scott presented a written treasurer's report:

Financial Status as of 2/28/2021, after 3 months of the fiscal year, ending January 31, 2022.

Income from congregations

- \$383,563 received
- The amount received is \$3,937 less than what was anticipated in our revised spending budget, a -1.0% variance
- The amount received is \$16,157 more than received last year, a 4.2% variance

ELCA Churchwide Contribution

- \$191,782 contributed to Churchwide
- This is \$3,218 less than anticipated in the revised spending budget, a -1.7% variance
- The amount contributed is \$7,954 more than last year, a 4.1% variance

Synod Expenditures

- \$226,499 spent
- The amount spent is \$1,643 less than budgeted, a -0.7% variance
- This is also \$48,084 more than spent last year, a 21.2% variance

Total Support & Revenue vs. Total Expenditures

- \$406,026 received in Total Support & Revenue, \$17,116 less than anticipated and \$21,448 more than last year
- \$418,281 in Total Expenditures, \$4,861 less than anticipated, and \$55,998 more than last year
- Net deficit of \$12,255 as compared to a \$22,296 surplus last year
- With inclusion of forgiven PPP loan, net surplus of \$154,945.

Analysis of Financial Status

- We were still slightly under the amount expected for the year to date based on the amount of giving necessary to support our spending targets. The amount this year is \$16,000 more than last year, which is encouraging, but as you can see in the graphs below, February of last year was a really disappointing month, so that might skew the comparison between the years a bit.

- Synod expenditures are slightly lower than expected. That is primarily due to Travel expenses being lower than budgeted. Synod expenditures are significantly greater than last year by \$48,000 due to the new expense items that we added to share last year's surplus. We've already spent funds to support the Faith Innovations, Leadership Training, and Enhanced Outreach & Evangelism areas.
- Our Total Support & Revenue amount is less than budgeted right now by \$17,000. The reason for that is that we have not released the first quarter amount of the temporarily restricted funds that we have designated from last year's surplus. This would be \$20,000. As a result, we currently have a \$12,254 deficit, when we would have a \$7,746 surplus if the restricted funds had been released before April 30. By the way, our PPP loan has now been forgiven.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Nancy gave a report which detailed her committee involvement and her preparations for the Synod Assembly. She asked us to keep the Synod staff in our prayers as they handle the details of our first online Synod Assembly.

BISHOP'S REPORT

Bishop Candeia presented a written report. She engaged us in discussion about staffing and the need to simplify how things are done. We also discussed ways to delegate specific tasks to persons not on Synod staff to free staff members to pursue areas of leadership to which they feel called.

ROSTER REPORT

Bishop Candeia presented a written roster report.

- On Leave From Call
 - **SEC 21.05.14.A2** It was MSC to grant Rev. Anita Strommen On Leave From Call status effective April 1, 2021. This is her 1st year of OLFC.
 - **SEC 21.05.14.A3** It was MSC to grant Rev. Barb Jones On Leave From Call status effective May 1, 2021. This is her 1st year of OLFC.
 - **SEC 21.05.14.A4** It was MSC to grant Rev. Mari Larson On Leave From Call status effective June 4, 2021. This is her 1st year of OLFC.
 - **SEC 21.05.14.A5** It was MSC to grant Rev. Meggan Prosser-Gebhardt another year of On Leave From Call status effective April 14, 2021. This is her 2nd year of OLFC.
 - **SEC 21.05.14.A6** It was MSC to grant Rev. Liz Kocher On Leave From Call status effective June 17, 2021. This is her 1st year of OLFC.
- Interim Ministry
 - **SEC 21.05.14.A7** It was MSC to grant Rev. Merle Brockhoff a Synod Council call to interim ministry to serve as interim pastor at Trinity Lutheran in Great Bend, KS, effective June 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022.
- Invitation to Extended Service

According to the roster manual, "upon the recommendation of the synod bishop and approval by the synod council, the synod bishop can authorize an extended service ministry." Rev. Amy Kay Pavlovich (UCC clergy), has been granted "privilege of call" through the United Church of Christ, a full communion partner with the ELCA. She has been serving Elim Lutheran, Marquette as a Synod Authorized Minister for the past year as she clarified her roster status.

 - **SEC 21.05.14.A8** It was MSC to approve an Invitation to Extended Service to Rev. Amy Kay Pavlovich to serve Elim Lutheran, Marquette, KS effective the date that the congregation offers the contract.

- Retirements
 - **SEC 21.05.14.A9** **It was MSC to grant Ann Chida, deacon, retirement status effective April 4, 2021.**
- Specialized Ministry
 - The Lutheran Campus Ministry at KU has asked the Synod Council to extend a call to Rev. Daniel Baldwin to full-time ministry beginning August 1, 2021. Questions were raised that need to be researched and a decision will be reached at the next Executive Committee meeting.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY UPDATE

The rules of procedure for the upcoming Synod Assembly were discussed.

- Voting Member Waiver – A voting member waiver was requested by St. Mark Hope and Peace in Kansas City, MO.
 - **SEC 21.05.14.A10** **It was MSC (Dallas, Scott) to approve the voting member waiver for St. Mark Hope and Peace, Kansas City, that they be allowed to send two female delegates.**

BETHANY COLLEGE

- **SEC 21.05.14.A11** **It was MSC to appoint Mark Lysell as the Synod Representative to the Bethany College Board of Directors.**

CONGREGATION CONSTITUTIONS

St. Matthew in Butler, MO has recently updated their constitution and it is in good order.

- **SEC 21.05.14.A12** **It was MSC to approve the updated constitution for St. Matthew, Butler, MO.**

THE GATHERING TABLE

Dallas requested that some additional information be gathered concerning liability insurance on the property. As a SAWC, the ministry is part of a Churchwide liability policy. Since the Synod owns the property, we want to be sure that the Synod is protected financially if an accident or injury should occur at the ministry site.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. Terrance closed the meeting with prayer.

UPCOMING DATES

- June 4, 2021 Executive Committee (this has changed and is no longer a full Synod Council meeting)
- June 4-5, 2021 Synod Assembly

*Respectfully Submitted
 (with special thanks to Rev. Lorna Paulus for acting secretary during this meeting),
 Rev. Chad Langdon
 Central States Synod Secretary*