

CENTRAL STATES SYNOD COUNCIL
BETHANY COLLEGE
LINDSBORG, KANSAS
JUNE 7, 2018

The meeting of the Central States Synod Council was called to order by Dennis Allerheiligen, Synod Vice-President, at 2:30 p.m., on June 7, 2018. The meeting, which was held in the Levin Room of the Pihlblad Memorial Union, preceded the annual Synod Assembly. Council members present included: Bishop Roger Gustafson, Dennis Allerheiligen, Loren Mai, Scott Schulte, Doug Reed, Tom Nelson, Susan Boxberger, David Strommen, Lorna Paulus, Jeanie Schuler, Kristen Koch, Grace Vannoy, Jack King, Linda Lockhart, Chad Langdon, Daniel Lilienkamp, Dan Friberg, and Mindy Tillberg. Present from the Synod staff was Susan Candea. Also present were Stephen Phelps, Regional Gift Planner, and Dallas Rakestraw, Assembly Parliamentarian. Synod Council members absent were Janis Hutchinson, Lois Viebrock, and Austin Krug.

Vice-President Dennis Allerheiligen welcomed the members of the Council and led the Council in prayer. A time of introductions followed. Dallas Rakestraw, Wichita, KS, was introduced as the Parliamentarian for the upcoming Synod Assembly.

SC18.6.5A. NEW BUSINESS – ROSTER OF MINISTERS REPORT.

Bishop Gustafson provided the Council with an update on the recently-concluded ministry of “The Table,” a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community in Overland Park, KS. He noted that the Synod Executive Committee had closed “The Table” at its January meeting (cf. SEC.18.1.5A3.); that action also terminated the call of Pastor Joe Crowther, the rostered leader of the SAWC. He was subsequently removed from the ELCA roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Bishop Gustafson observed that funding of the SAWC ceased in January, and that designated funds would go elsewhere. He explained that funds received by “The Table” from the ELCA were to be returned to the ELCA. He emphasized that the ministries of SAWC’s are to be evaluated on an annual basis. The Synod Council engaged in discussion about “The Table.”

SC18.6.3C. REPORT OF THE BISHOP.

Bishop Gustafson reported on his ministerial activities, noting his participation in the Festival of Homiletics (a Continuing Education event), preparations for the Synod Assembly, and presiding at the ordination service for Pastor Daniel Johnson (Associate) at the Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Florissant, MO.

SC18.6.5A. ROSTER OF MINISTERS REPORT.

Returning to a printed Roster Report, Bishop Gustafson presented that report:

SC18.6.5A1. In accord with the provisions of the ELCA Constitution (7.41.17.), and with the endorsement of the Bishop, it was MSC to grant retired status to Pastor Bruce Freeman, effective June 1, 2018. He continues to be listed on the ELCA Roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament.

SC18.6.5A2. With the Bishop’s endorsement, it was MSC to approve the endorsement and grant “On Leave From Call” status to Dinah Dutta, effective April 5, 2018.

SC18.6.5A3. With the Bishop's endorsement, it was MSC to approve the endorsement and grant "On Leave From Call" status to Nate Haaland, effective June 16, 2018.

SC18.6.5A4. In accord with the provisions of the ELCA Constitution (7.41.17.), and with the endorsement of the Bishop, it was MSC to grant disability status to Pastor Linda Bollenbach, effective April 10, 2018. She continues to be listed on the ELCA Roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament.

SC18.6.5A5. It was MSC to extend a call from the Synod Council to Brenda Ulrich to serve as Pastor of Grace United Methodist Church, Emporia, KS, under 7.44.A16.b.1.43—Congregations beyond ELCA, Other, effective July 1, 2018.

In other roster news, it was reported that Dan Johnson was ordained on June 3, 2018; he will serve as Associate Pastor of Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Florissant, MO.

SC18.6.5B. NEW BUSINESS – UPDATE ON SAWC EXPLORATIONS.

The Council was informed that the exploration of a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community in the East side of Kansas City, MO, (id. 31265), which began December 15, 2017, would end on June 15, 2018. A printed report of activity was received from Tom Gear, explorer.

It was observed that ELCA action is pending on the potential SAWC exploration in the River Market District of downtown Kansas City, MO. The Council received a ROSE Outline for this possible ministry, titled "The Listening Post." (ROSE = Rationale, Objectives, Strategy, Evaluation).

SC18.6.4A. OLD BUSINESS – BISHOP'S ELECTION TASK FORCE REPORT.

Vice-President Dennis Allerheilgen remarked that the recently formed Bishop's Election Task Force had met and had submitted a report that was available to the Synod Council. Action on the report would be forthcoming later in the meeting.

SC18.6.3A. SECRETARY'S REPORT – APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Loren Mai, Secretary, presented the minutes of the May 11, 2018, meeting—via zoom/teleconference—of the Synod Executive Committee.

SC18.6.3A1. It was MSC to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2018, meeting of the Central States Synod Executive Committee.

SC18.6.3B. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Scott Schulte, Treasurer, gave an overview of the financial status of the Synod for the first three months of the Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2019. Referring to his printed summary, Scott reported that income from congregations through April 30 totaled \$412,909—which was \$2,091 less than what was anticipated in the revised spending budget, a variance of -0.5%; the amount received is \$983 less than was received in the same period of the previous year, a 0.2% decrease. A total of \$206,479 has been remitted to ELCA Churchwide--\$2.271 less than anticipated in the revised spending budget (a variance of -1.1%), and \$342 less than the amount contributed in the previous year (a -0.2% variance). Synod expenditures to date totaled \$219,988—which was \$3,962 less than the amount in the revised spending budget (a -1.8% variance), and \$8,253 less than the amount spent in the first three months of the previous year (a -3.8% variance). The amount of \$432,058 has been received in total support and revenue (\$642 less than anticipated, and \$4,071 less than the previous year). Expenditures have totaled \$426,467 (\$6,233 less than

anticipated and \$8,595 less than last year). The current net surplus of \$5,592 compares to a net surplus of \$1,066 last year.

Scott commented on the trends, referring to a graph that compared the mission support received to date to that received through April in the previous year. Giving and spending patterns were similar to last year's experience. The primary decrease in expenditures is in the Travel line item. The modest surplus at this time of year is welcome.

Scott was thanked for his report and his work as Treasurer.

SC18.6.4B. OLD BUSINESS – APPROVAL OF SYNOD ASSEMBLY WAIVER REQUESTS.

The Council considered the requests of two congregations to be granted waivers for the purpose of Synod Assembly representation, allowing those two congregations to each send two voting members of one gender.

SC18,6.4B1. It was MSC to grant waivers to the following congregations for the purpose of Synod Assembly representation, allowing those congregations to each send two voting members of one gender:

Holy Cross Lutheran Church; Creve Coeur, MO (two males)

Peace Lutheran Church; Joplin, MO (two females)

SC18.6.5C. NEW BUSINESS – ASSIGNMENTS FOR SYNOD ASSEMBLY.

Vice-President Dennis Allerheiligen reviewed the Synod Assembly assignments for Council members, including the tasks of ushering, assisting with serving Communion, and counting of ballots. Dallas Rakestraw and Susan Candea outlined the process for enacting changes in the Synod constitution.

SC18.6.4A. OLD BUSINESS – BISHOP'S ELECTION TASK FORCE.

The Council considered the Bishop's Election process for 2019.

SC18.6.4A1. It was MSC to approve the process for the 2019 Bishop's Election, as prepared and recommended by the Bishop's Election Task Force.

The meeting of the Synod Council was adjourned at 4:40 p.m., with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Loren D. Mai
Secretary, Central States Synod