

Minutes from the
SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
August 6, 2021
Via Zoom

Present: Bishop Susan Candea, Nancy Nagel (Vice President), Scott Schulte (Treasurer), Rev. Chad Langdon (Secretary)

Absent: Joanie Saltzman, Dallas Rakestraw, Rev. David Frerichs

CALL TO ORDER

Nancy called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chad presented the minutes from the 2021 Synod Assembly and the Synod Executive Committee meeting on June 4, 2021.

- **SEC 21.08.06.A1** **It was MSC to approve the minutes from the Synod Assembly & the June 4 Synod Executive Committee.**

BISHOP'S REPORT

Bishop Candea presented a written report. Verbal highlights included:

- There has been an increased pastoral care load on the Bishop and the synod staff. There are just a lot of issues among congregations & parishioners.
- The recent staff retreat held in Nebraska went well and very refreshing.
- Barb Jones has started her part time position coordinating the candidacy process and it seems to be going well.
- We are still seeking a candidate for the open half time Director of Evangelical Mission position.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Scott presented a written treasurer's report:

Financial Status as of 7/10/2021, after 5 months of the fiscal year, ending January 31, 2022.

Income from congregations

- \$642,669 received
- The amount received is \$3,164 less than what was anticipated in our revised spending budget, a -0.5% variance
- The amount received is \$768 more than received last year, a 0.1% variance

ELCA Churchwide Contribution

- \$321,333 contributed to Churchwide
- This is \$3,667 less than anticipated in the revised spending budget, a -1.1% variance
- The amount contributed is \$80 more than last year, a 0.02% variance

Synod Expenditures

- \$361,910 spent
- The amount spent is \$18,327 less than budgeted, a -5.1% variance
- This is also \$71,539 more than spent last year, a 19.8% variance

Total Support & Revenue vs. Total Expenditures

- \$713,292 received in Total Support & Revenue, \$8,055 more than anticipated and \$48,095 more than last year
- This includes \$40,000 of the forgiven PPP loan
- \$683,243 in Total Expenditures, \$21,994 less than anticipated, and \$71,619 more than last year
- Net surplus of \$30,049 as compared to a \$53,573 surplus last year
- With inclusion of full forgiven PPP loan, net surplus of \$157,249.

Analysis of Financial Status

- We are still slightly under the amount expected for the year to date in giving from congregations based on the amount of giving necessary to support our spending targets. The amount this year is \$768 more than last year. The giving this year is more uneven as compared to last year thus far, but as we near the midpoint of the year, the end result is about the same.
- Synod expenditures are lower than expected by about 5%. That is primarily due to Travel and Operations expenses being lower than budgeted. Synod expenditures are significantly greater than last year by \$71,000 due to the new expense items that we added to share last year's surplus and due to the expenditures that we delayed last year. We've already spent funds to support the Faith Innovations, Leadership Training, and Enhanced Outreach & Evangelism areas.
- Our Total Support & Revenue amount is more than budgeted right now by \$8,055. This includes \$40,000 of the PPP funds that were forgiven in this fiscal year. As a result, we currently have a \$30,049 surplus. Because the forgiven PPP loan will be included at income for 2021, we will use those funds to supplement our income this year, instead of releasing a portion of last year's surplus that we had set aside, as originally planned.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY FOLLOW-UP

Post-Synod Assembly, we need to appoint some people to fill the positions that were not filled at the Assembly.

- **SEC 21.08.06.A2** **It was MSC to appoint Nathan Wutka to be a (youth representative) voting member to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.**
- We discussed that we have no representative from the Western Kansas Conference on Synod Council or for the Churchwide Assembly. The Bishop is visiting the conference soon and will make a final appeal. If no one is identified from the conference to attend Churchwide Assembly, we will be opening that up to the entire synod to nominate an at-large lay male voting member.
- **SEC 20.08.06.A3** **It was MSC to appoint Rev. Aimee Appell & Rev. Ralen Robinson as co-chairs of the Racial Justice Team.**
- Actions & Resolutions – We tabled any discussion on any actions and resolutions until we have more people present at a meeting.

THE GATHERING TABLE

The Building Use Agreement has been deferred and Scott will continue working on it.

ANNUAL APPEAL

We determined that we would like to do another end-of-the-year annual appeal and will ask Dallas Rakestraw if he is willing to coordinate this effort.

CONGREGATION ISSUES

Synod Constitution S13.24 is a required provision in our constitution and lays out conditions for which the Synod Council may take change and control of a congregation. These reasons include:

- a) *The congregation has disbanded, ceased to worship, or otherwise ceased to exist as a congregation,*
- c) *The remaining members of the congregation decided that it is no longer possible to function as a congregation or that they are unable to provide required governance, and*
- d) *The Synod Council determines that the membership of a congregation has become so scattered or so diminished in numbers that it cannot provide required governance or that it has become impractical for the congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized.*

These constitutional provisions may become important as we work through issues in the following congregations.

- United Lutheran, Cole Camp, MO – This congregation has not worshipped together since March 2020. Informally, their leadership has determined that it is time to close. They will be taking steps to make that happen officially and deal with the building and assets.
- Hillside Lutheran, Spring Hill, KS – They officially became a congregation in 2014. Their mission developer, Rev. Janice Hawley, took another call and left in 2019. Since that time they have had some serious leadership difficulties. Rev. Len Dale has been supply preaching for them, but they no longer have a functioning council and are out of compliance with their constitution. On August 22, the Bishop will be visiting them, preaching, and then meeting with the congregation about possible paths forward.

ROSTER REPORT

- **SEC 21.08.06.A4** **It was MSC to approve Rev. Emily McQuillan for another year of On Leave From Call status effective August 2, 2021. This begins her 2nd year of OLFC.**

CONSTITUTION UPDATES

- **SEC 21.08.06.A5** **It was MSC to approve the constitutional changes for Bethel Lutheran, University City, MO.**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Our next Synod Executive Committee meeting will be August 24 at 7:00pm via Zoom. The primary purpose of that meeting will be to discuss that situation at Hillside Lutheran.
- Synod Council (in person) October 22 - 23
- Budget Team (in person) January 13, 2022
- Synod Executive Committee (in person) January 14, 2022
- Synod Council (via Zoom) March 11-12, 2022
- Synod Executive Committee May ???
- Synod Council (in person) June 9, 2022
- Synod Assembly (in person) June 9 – 11, 2022

*Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Chad Langdon
Central States Synod Secretary*