

CENTRAL STATES SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
SYNOD OFFICE  
136 MAIN STREET, SUITE 101  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
AUGUST 17, 2018

The meeting of the Central States Synod Executive Committee was called to order by Dennis Allerheiligen, Synod Vice-President, at 10:30 a.m., on Friday, August 17, 2018. Members present included Bishop Roger Gustafson, Dennis Allerheiligen, Loren Mai, Scott Schulte, David Strommen, and Susan Boxberger. Present from the Synod staff was Susan Candeia, Bishop's Associate. Committee member Chelsea Deines was absent.

Pastor Susan Candeia led the group in a time of devotion on the topic of *Wisdom*. The question "How do we embrace Wisdom?" invited reflection and discussion; the devotion concluded with prayer.

Vice-President Dennis Allerheiligen welcomed the members of the Committee. Susan Boxberger, Olathe, KS, was introduced as a new member of the Committee. Chelsea Deines, Butler, MO, was a newly-appointed member of the Committee but was unable to attend this meeting.

SEC.18.8.3A. SECRETARY'S REPORT – APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Loren Mai, Secretary, presented the minutes of the June 7, 2018, meeting of the Central States Synod Council.

SEC.18.8.3A1. It was MSC to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2018, meeting of the Synod Council.

Loren Mai presented the minutes of the 2018 Synod Assembly, which was held June 7-9, 2018, on the campus of Bethany College, Lindsborg, KS.

SEC.18.8.3A2. It was MSC to approve the minutes of the 2018 Synod Assembly. It was noted that the amended budget for the Fiscal Year Ending 1/1/2020 had been approved by the required 2/3 of Assembly Voting Members.

SEC.18.8.3B. TREASURER'S REPORT – CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL STATUS.

Scott Schulte, Treasurer, gave an overview of the financial status of the Synod for the first six months of the Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2019. Referring to his printed summary, Scott reported that income from congregations for the period through July 31, 2018, totaled \$785,322—which was \$44,678 less than what was anticipated in the revised spending budget, a variance of -5.7%; the amount received is \$45,806 less than received in the same period of the previous year (a 5.8% decrease). A total of \$392,686 has been remitted to ELCA Churchwide--\$24,814 less than anticipated in the revised spending budget (a -6.3% variance), and \$45,023 less than the amount contributed for the same period in the previous year (a -11.5% variance). Synod expenditures for the first 6 months totaled \$442,722—which was \$5,178 less than the amount in the revised spending budget (a -1.2% variance), and \$1,585 less than the amount spent in the first 6 months of the previous year (a -0.4% variance) The amount of \$815,164 has been received in total support and revenue (\$50,236 less than anticipated, and \$48,514 less than last year). Expenditures have totaled \$835,408 (\$29,992 less than anticipated and \$46,608 less than last

year). The current net deficit of \$20,243 compares to a net deficit of \$18,338 for the same period in the previous year.

Scott commented on the trends, reviewing a graph that compared mission support for the current and previous years. He remarked that mission support for the summer months has been below expectations. It was suggested that the shortfall be communicated to Synod congregations—particularly in light of the significant increase in the budget for next year. Scott was thanked for his report and work as Treasurer.

#### SEC.18.8.3C. REPORT OF THE BISHOP.

Bishop Gustafson gave a report of his ministry, spanning the dates from June 7 through August 16, 2018. His verbal report supplemented a printed document. Highlights follow:

- (1) He reflected on the June Synod Assembly, which had as its theme *Sharing in Hope*.
- (2) He made preparations for, and participated in, the ELCA national Youth Gathering, which was held in Houston, TX.
- (3) He preached and brought a synod update to the Synodical Women of the ELCA convention, which was held at Roach, MO.
- (4) The Synod staff joined the staff of the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri for a day-long retreat.
- (5) He conducted an Open Door visitation in western Kansas.
- (6) The staff continues to investigate potential office space for the Synod, since the lease for the present office expires in February 2019. Input was sought from the Executive Committee.

Bishop Gustafson was thanked for his report.

#### SEC.18.8.3D. SYNOD ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS REPORT.

Susan Canda provided the Committee with an update on the status of the resolutions approved by the Synod Assembly in June. Requested actions have been taken.

#### SEC.18.8.5A. OLD BUSINESS – APPROVAL OF MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE BY-LAWS.

The Committee reviewed the By-laws of the Synod Mission Endowment Fund Committee.

#### SEC.18.8.5B. OLD BUSINESS – GIFT ACCEPTANCE POLICY (DRAFT).

The Executive Committee also reviewed the draft of a Gift Acceptance Policy. A Task Force will be appointed to further review both the By-laws of the Mission Endowment Fund Committee and the Gift Acceptance Policy. Findings will be presented to the October meeting of the Synod Council.

#### SEC.18.8.5C. OLD BUSINESS – REPORT OF BISHOP'S ELECTION TASK FORCE.

Vice-President Dennis Allerheiligen reported on the progress of the work of the Bishop's Election Task Force, which was formed to provide guidance for the 2019 election of a synodical Bishop. Smaller task forces have been formed, one of which is studying the election procedure, and the other seeking to identify possible nominees for the office of Bishop. A Ministry Site Profile is being developed for the Synod, and an informational letter detailing the process will be

sent to congregations; congregations (and individuals) will be asked to respond to surveys seeking information about the needs of the Synod for the next six years. A timetable for the process leading to the election in June 2019 is being developed.

A break for lunch was taken from 12:05 until 12:40 p.m. A prayer preceded the meal.

SEC.18.8.6E. NEW BUSINESS – LOCATION FOR 2020 ASSEMBLY.

Dawne Bockelman, Assembly Manager, requested that the Executive Committee assist in choosing a site and a time for the 2020 Synod Assembly.

SEC.18.8.6E1. It was MSC to hold the 2020 Synod Assembly in the St. Louis, MO, area June 4-6, 2020.

SEC.18.8.5D. OLD BUSINESS – 2017 SYNOD ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION REGARDING IMMIGRATION.

It was noted that 2017 Synod Assembly Resolution SA.17.06 “Refugees and Immigrants” required action by the Synod Council.

SEC.18.8.5D1. It was MSC to send Resolution SA.17.06, “Refugees and Immigrants” to the Synod Council for approval.

SEC.18.8.6A. NEW BUSINESS – AMENDED SYNOD CONSTITUTION.

It was observed that the amending of the Synod Constitution by the 2018 Synod Assembly resulted in a change of representation on the Synod Council. Specifically, Area Ministries were eliminated in favor of geographical conferences. Following are the proposed revised terms of Synod Council members, with expiration dates:

Western Kansas – Rev. Lorna Paulus (2021); Doug Reed will not serve the remainder of his term.

Central Kansas – Rev. David Strommen (2020); Tom Nelson will serve the remainder of an at-large position, and Rev. Chad Langdon will not serve a second term.

Border Conference – Susan Boxberger (2020); Jeanie Schuler will not serve the remainder of a second term.

Southeast Kansas/Central Missouri – Chelsea Deines (2021)

Eastern Missouri – Daniel Lilienkamp (2021)

Deacon – Mindy Tillberg (2019)

Youth – Grace Vannoy (2019)

Person of Color – Linda Lockhart (2019)

Person of Color – A male is needed

Young Adult – A male is needed

At Large – Tom Nelson (2019); he is serving the remainder of a term

At Large – Rev, Kristen Koch (2020)

SEC.18.8.6A1. It was MSC to approve the composition of the proposed representation on the Synod Council, as noted above.

SEC.18.8.6B. ROSTER OF MINISTERS REPORT.

Bishop Gustafson presented the Roster of Ministers Report:

SEC.18.8.6B1. In accord with the provision of the ELCA Constitution (7.41.17.), and with the endorsement of the Bishop, it was MSC to grant retired status to Bruce Adamson, effective August 1, 2018. He continues to be listed on the roster of the ELCA.

SEC.18.8.6B2. In accord with the provision of the ELCA Constitution (7.41.17.), and with the endorsement of the Bishop, it was MSC to grant retired status to David Miller, effective September 1, 2018. He continues to be listed on the roster of the ELCA.

SEC.18.8.6B3. With the Bishop's endorsement, it was MSC to approve the endorsement and grant "On Leave From Call" status to Carrie McElfresh, effective June 16, 2018.

SEC.18.8.6B4. With the Bishop's endorsement, it was MSC to approve the endorsement and grant "On Leave From Call" status to Brian Elster, effective August 2, 2018.

SEC.18.8.6B5. With the Bishop's endorsement, it was MSC to approve the endorsement and grant "On Leave From Call" status to Alan Saatkamp, Deacon, effective August 1, 2018.

SEC.18.8.6B6. With the Bishop's endorsement, it was MSC to approve the endorsement and grant "On Leave From Call" status to Ann Chida, Deacon, effective June 21, 2018.

In other Roster notes, it was reported that Pastor Don Fallon (retired) entered the Church Triumphant on June 25, 2018. Gail Brecht, Deacon, has been called to serve Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO, effective June 25, 2018. Kyle Olson, Deacon, resigned from the ELCA roster, effective August 16, 2018.

#### SEC.18.8.6C. NEW BUSINESS – APPROVAL OF CONGREGATIONAL CONSTITUTIONS.

The Committee reviewed the constitutions of two congregations.

SEC.18.8.6C1. It was MSC to approve the constitutions, as submitted, of Hope Lutheran Church, St. Charles, MO, and Messiah Lutheran Church, Springfield, MO.

#### SEC.18.8.6D. NEW BUSINESS – YEAR-END FINANCIAL APPEAL.

The Committee reviewed analyses of recent Synodical year-end financial appeals (2013-2017). It was the consensus to again conduct a year-end appeal.

#### SEC.18.8.7. OTHER BUSINESS – UPCOMING MEETINGS.

The schedule of upcoming meetings follows:

October 19-20	Synod Council
January 24, 2019	Mission Budget Team
January 25, 2019	Executive Committee
March 15-16, 2019	Synod Council
May 3, 2019	Executive Committee
June 6, 2019	Synod Council (prior to Synod Assembly)
June 6-8, 2019	Synod Assembly

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

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