

CENTRAL STATES SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
SYNOD OFFICE  
136 MAIN STREET, SUITE 101  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
JANUARY 20, 2017

The meeting of the Central States Synod Executive Committee was called to order by Dennis Allerheiligen, Synod Vice-President, at 10:00 a.m., on Friday, January 20, 2017. Members present included: Bishop Roger Gustafson, Dennis Allerheiligen, Loren Mai, Scott Schulte, Austin Krug, and Valorie Bratcher. Present from the Synod staff was Susan Candea, Bishop's Associate.

Vice-President Dennis Allerheiligen welcomed the members of the Committee. He led the group in a time of devotion, reading from a letter by ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton on the occasion of the inauguration of the new President of the United States, Donald Trump. Reference was made to I Timothy 2: 2-3, which encourages Christians to pray for their leaders. The devotional time concluded with a prayer by Dennis Allerheiligen.

SEC.17.1.3A. SECRETARY'S REPORT – APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Loren Mai, Secretary, presented the minutes of the October 21-22, 2016, meeting of the Synod Council.

SEC.17.1.3A1. It was MSC to approve the minutes of the October 21-22, 2016, meeting of the Synod Council.

Loren Mai presented the minutes of the December 5, 2016, teleconference meeting of the Executive Committee, which focused on the reception of ELCA grants for new congregations and congregations in renewal.

SEC.17.1.3A2. It was MSC to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2016, teleconference meeting of the Synod Executive Committee.

SEC.17.1.3B. TREASURER'S REPORT – STATUS OF RESTRICTED FUNDS.

Scott Schulte, Treasurer, presented the Executive Committee with a listing of restricted accounts held by the Synod. He explained the purpose of the various funds, which number 39, and reported the approximate amounts in each account. He noted a goal of moving funds to accomplish mission and ministry in the Synod. The Committee reviewed the report and suggested disposition of some of the accounts.

SEC.17.1.3B. TREASURER'S REPORT – CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS.

Scott Schulte gave an overview of the financial status of the Synod for the first 11 months of the Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2017. Referring to his printed summary, Scott reported that income from congregations for the period through December 31, 2016, totaled \$1,573,754—which was \$30,413 less than what was anticipated in the revised spending budget, a -1.9% variance; the amount received is \$21,375 less than received in the same period of the previous year (a 1.4% decrease). A total of \$789,518 has been remitted to ELCA Churchwide--\$19,440 less than anticipated in the revised spending budget (a -2.5% variance), and \$24,288 less than the amount contributed for the same period in the previous year (a -3.1% variance). Synod expenditures for the first eleven months totaled \$816,432—which was \$54,630 less than the

amount in the revised spending budget (a -6.7% variance), and \$72,273 less than the amount spent in the first 11 months of the previous year (a -8.9% variance). The amount of \$1,626,305 has been received in total support and revenue (\$53,716 less than anticipated, and \$82,625 less than last year). Expenditures have totaled \$1,605,950 (\$74,071 less than anticipated and \$96,561 less than last year). The current net surplus of \$20,354 compares to a net surplus of \$6,418 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 noted that congregational support in December was very strong; the total received was \$195,165—making December the best month of the year thus far. Total support and revenue remain below budgetary expectations and previous year levels—primarily because of special appeals in the previous year and a reduction in reimbursements for candidacy expenses. Synod expenditures are lower due to staffing changes implemented this year. Scott observed that a budgeted amount of \$10,000 had yet to be set aside for the Bishop Transition fund.

#### SEC.17.1.3B. TREASURER'S REPORT – SPENDING BUDGET FOR FYE 2018.

Scott Schulte presented to the Committee a revised spending budget for FYE 1/31/2018—as proposed by the Synod Mission Budget Team on January 19, 2017. The anticipated income from congregations has been reduced by \$40,000 from the original budget approved by the Synod Assembly—to \$1,710,000. Other reductions in expected income include a decrease of \$5,000 in the Annual Appeal; \$1,944 in the Shared Mission challenge; and \$5,000 in reimbursements. Total income, therefore, is expected to be \$1,780,806—a reduction of \$51,944. On the expense side, a reduction in Churchwide support of \$22,500 is projected. Other reductions in anticipated expenses include \$375 in Team and Task Force expenses; \$582 in Synod salaries and benefits; \$5,000 in staff travel; \$5,000 in seminary support; \$2,000 in office janitorial services; \$500 in Synod Council meetings; \$4,185 in the prepaid expense amortization for the former Mission Fund Appeal; and \$10,000 for contingency. Increases in expenses totaled \$500 for Call Process Ministers and \$250 for Area Ministry support. Total expenditures of \$1,780,806 create a balanced revised spending budget for FYE 1/31/2018.

SEC.17.1.3B1. It was MSC to approve the revised spending budget for FYE 1/31/2018 as proposed.

#### SEC.17.1.3B. TREASURER'S REPORT – BUDGET FOR FYE 1/31/2019.

Scott Schulte presented the proposed budget for FYE 1/31/2019—as proposed by the Synod Mission Budget Team. He noted that the budget assumes a \$50,000 reduction in mission support from Synod congregations; the total support and revenue is, therefore, \$1,730,806. On the expense side, a reduction in Churchwide support of \$25,000 is anticipated. Other reductions in anticipated expenses from the 2018 revised spending budget include \$1,000 in Teams and Task Force expenses; \$30,000 in grants to Campus Ministry; \$6,000 in staff travel; \$1,000 in Bethany College support; \$5,000 in Seminary support; \$1,000 in Synod Council meetings. Synod salaries and benefits increase by \$20,000—primarily to expand the Communicator's position; otherwise, no salary increases are projected. Projected expenses for FYE 1/31/2019 total \$1,730,806. Bishop Gustafson spoke of the need for adaptive change in the Synod's budgeting process.

SEC.17.1.3B2. It was MSC to approve the proposed budget for FYE 1/31/2019 in the amount of \$1,730,806 and recommend approval by the Synod Council in March—with final action to be taken by the Synod Assembly in June.

SEC.17.1.3B3. It was MSC to allocate \$3,335 of the Kingman, KS, restricted fund for use by the Synod Mission Table, with the stipulation that if there ever is a desire to start a congregation in Kingman, the \$17,209 that was originally in the fund would be available to support the mission start.

SEC.17.1.3C. REPORT OF THE BISHOP.

Bishop Gustafson gave a report of his ministry, spanning the dates from October 22, 2016, to January 18, 2017. His verbal report supplemented a printed document. Highlights follow:

- (1) He recently visited the two ELCA congregations in Garden City, KS, and was pleased to see relationships formed between those congregations and other Synod congregations.
  - (2) He visited the Islamic Center of Johnson County, KS, and met with the leadership of the Center and the congregation. He stressed the importance of dialogue and mutual respect.
  - (3) Significant meetings included Lutheran Planned Giving, Region 4 Bishops, Wartburg Seminary (with an accent on distance learning), Lutheran Social Services, and the Parish Ministry Associate Table.
  - (4) He conducted reviews of the Synod's professional staff.
  - (5) He visited the seminary in Philadelphia and met with six graduating seniors.
  - (6) Worship opportunities took him to six Synod congregations.
- Bishop Gustafson was thanked for his report and his ministry.

A break for lunch was taken from 11:55 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., when the meeting resumed.

SEC.17.1.5E. NEW BUSINESS: SYNOD ASSEMBLY UPDATE – APPOINTMENTS TO RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE.

Susan Canda announced that three members had been secured for the Resolutions Committee: Pastor Phil Vickers, Sister Mary Arie, and Connie .

SEC.17.1.5E1. It was MSC to appoint the following persons to three-year terms on the Synod Resolutions Committee: Pastor Phil Vickers, Mission Hills, KS (Chair); Sister Mary Arie, Waterville, KS; and Connie Harris, Hutchinson, KS. .

SEC.17.1.5E. SYNOD ASSEMBLY UPDATE – APPOINTMENT TO NOMINATING COMMITTEE.

Susan Canda reported that Larry Lemke had agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee.

SEC.17.1.5E2. It was MSC to appoint Larry Lemke, Chesterfield, Mo, to a three-year term on the Synod Nominating Committee.

SEC.17.1.5E. SYNOD ASSEMBLY UPDATE – JUNE 8-10, 2017.

Dawne Bockelman, Synod Assembly Manager, was present to review the plans for the June 8-10, 2017, Synod Assembly, which will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Kansas City,

MO. She noted that the Assembly theme was *Giving in Hope*. A postcard publicizing the Assembly has been sent to Synod congregations. A draft of the Assembly agenda was distributed to the Committee, and it was noted that the Assembly is scheduled to begin at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 8. Included in the Assembly will be service opportunities for participants and workshops. The business of the Assembly will conclude on Saturday, June 10, at 11:00 a.m., with a festival worship service starting at 1:00 p.m., in Atonement Lutheran Church, Overland Park, KS. The worship service will highlight the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

The Executive Committee was apprised of various deadlines related to the Assembly. It was emphasized that visitors to the Assembly on Saturday, June 10, would pay no registration fee. Otherwise, the following registration fees were approved by the Committee.

SEC.17.1.5E3. It was MSC that the registration fee at the 2017 Synod Assembly be \$200 per voting member. Retired pastors will pay \$120. Visitors on Thursday will pay \$50 for a one day pass, and visitors on Friday will pay for \$70 for a one day pass.

SEC.17.1.5E. SYNOD ASSEMBLY UPDATE – 2019 SYNOD ASSEMBLY.

The Executive Committee was asked to consider a venue for the 2019 Synod Assembly. It was noted that, by Continuing Resolution, the 2018 Assembly will be held at Bethany College, Lindsborg, KS. Dawne Bockelman reported that three venues in the centrally-located Kansas City area were being considered for the 2019 Assembly, which will include a Bishop's election.

SEC.17.1.5E4. It was MSC that the June 6-8, 2019, Synod Assembly be held at the Marriott Hotel, Overland Park, KS.

SEC.17.1.5A. NEW BUSINESS – SYNOD CONSTITUTION REVIEW TASK FORCE.

Susan Canda presented an interim report of the Synod Constitution Review Task Force, which had met on January 12, 2017. Main items for further discussion include: size of the Synod Council, frequency of Synod Assemblies, and role/shape of Area Ministries. It was suggested that any proposals for constitutional amendments be prepared for consideration in 2018.

SEC.17.1.5B. NEW BUSINESS – MAKEUP OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

It was observed that the Executive Committee currently has three vacancies. Tom Nelson, Olsburg, KS, will be asked to fill one of the open positions.

SEC.17.1.5E. NEW BUSINESS – SYNOD ASSEMBLY OFFERING DESIGNATION.

The Executive Committee considered the distribution of the Synod Assembly offering. In following previous practice, three recipients were designated.

SEC.17.1.5E5. It was MSC that the 2017 Synod Assembly offering be divided equally among the following three recipients:

- (1) Campus Ministry Programs
- (2) Synod Youth Ministry Projects
- (3) Campaign for the ELCA (where needed most)

SEC.17.1.5C. NEW BUSINESS – ROSTER OF MINISTERS REPORT.

Bishop Gustafson presented the Roster of Ministers Report.

SEC.17.1.5C1. 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 Pastor Julia Will, effective December 1, 2016. She continues to be listed on the roster of the ELCA.

SEC.17.1.5C2. 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 Pastor James Strasen, effective January 1, 2017. He continues to be listed on the roster of the ELCA.

SEC.17.1.5C3. 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 Pastor Beverly Jo Arnold, effective February 1, 2017. She continues to be listed on the roster of the ELCA.

SEC.17.1.5C4. 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 Pastor Daniel Friberg, effective March 1, 2017. He continues to be listed on the roster of the ELCA.

SEC.17.1.5C5. 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 Pastor James Schack, effective March 1, 2017. He continues to be listed on the roster of the ELCA.

SEC.17.1.5C6. With the Bishop's endorsement, it was MSC to approve the endorsement and extend "On Leave From Call" status to Rick Brenton, effective March 11, 2017 (second action).

In other roster news, it was noted that the following retired pastors recently entered the Church Triumphant: Robert Albin (10/13/16); William Brooks (10/17/16); Donald Hawk (10/19/16); Holland Jones (10/27/16); and Arthur Ohl (11/22/16).

The following persons resigned Synod Council calls: Rev. Mark Jeske (now rostered in the Episcopal Church); Sr. Mary Arie (received Congregation Call to Greenleaf/Waterville, KS, Parish); Rev. Cathy Rosenholtz (transferred to the Metro DC Synod). Jeff Martin received a 3-year term call from the ELCA Global Mission Unit to the Church of Scotland, retroactive to 1/1/2016. Receiving congregational calls were Katherine Kolodziejczyk (Elim, Marquette, KS, effective 2/5/17); Sr. Mary Arie (Greenleaf/Waterville, KS, Parish, effective 11/21/16); Jennifer Obermueller (St. John Parish, Lancaster and Bendena, KS, effective 12/4/16); and Joshua Brecht (Good Shepherd, Manchester, MO, effective 12/1/16 – Associate). Transferring out of the Synod were Kaileen Hogan/Brink (to Oregon Synod) and Cathy Rosenholtz (to Metro DC Synod).

It was reported that Zion Lutheran Church, Everest, KS, took a first vote to leave the ELCA on 10/2/16; a second vote is scheduled for 2/12/17.

#### SEC.17.1.5D. NEW BUSINESS -- APPROVAL OF CONGREGATIONAL CONSTITUTIONS.

The Committee reviewed the constitutions of two congregations.

SEC.17.1.5D1. It was MSC to approve the constitution, as submitted, of Advent Lutheran Church, Olathe, KS.

SEC.17.1.5D2. It was MSC to approve the constitution of Trinity Lutheran Church, Great Bend, KS, with editorial corrections.

SEC.17.1.5F. NEW BUSINESS – REPORT OF CHILDREN’S MEMORIAL SYNODICAL ADMINISTRATION TEAM.

Susan Candea reported on the ongoing Synodical Administration of Children’s Memorial Lutheran Church, Kansas City, MO. The Synodical Administration Team, of which Pastor Candea is the facilitator, met on December 13, 2016, and January 12, 2017, to make decisions related to the ministry of the congregation. It was observed that the congregation has been in the current status of Synodical Administration for six years. As the Team considers ministry and a budget for 2017, many questions remain regarding the congregation’s health and viability. The Synod Council will continue to monitor the situation. Scott Schulte offered the expertise of the Synod bookkeeper in assisting Children’s Memorial in managing financial matters.

SEC.17.1.5G. NEW BUSINESS – LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF THROUGH CAMP TOMAH SHINGA.

The Committee reviewed the request of Camp Tomah Shinga to release Disaster Relief Funds that reside in a restricted account. A total of \$24,034 remains in the account. As Camp Tomah Shinga continues to focus on Disaster Relief efforts, funding for those efforts is needed.

SEC.17.1.5G1. It was MSC to authorize the release of \$20,000 from the “Synod Disaster Ministry” restricted fund, as requested by the Camp Director, with the stipulation that, rather than sending the camp a check for the \$20,000, the funds be requested as needed; that the director explore other sources of funding; and that the Camp Tomah Shinga Board affirm that disaster relief is a part of the Camp’s ministry.

SEC.17.1.5H. NEW BUSINESS – ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE BISHOP.

The Committee engaged in an annual review process of Bishop Gustafson.

A schedule of upcoming meetings follows:

Synod Council	March 17-18, 2017
Executive Committee	May 12, 2017
Synod Council	June 8, 2017 (prior to Synod Assembly)
Synod Assembly	June 8-10, 2017

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m., with a prayer by Dennis Allerheiligen.

Respectfully Submitted,

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