

CENTRAL STATES SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING VIA ZOOM/TELECONFERENCE  
MAY 12, 2017

The meeting of the Central States Synod Executive Committee was called to order by Dennis Allerheiligen, Synod Vice-President, at 12:10 p.m., on Friday, May 12, 2017. Members present included: Bishop Roger Gustafson, Dennis Allerheiligen, Loren Mai, Scott Schulte, Valorie Bratcher, and Austin Krug. Present from the Synod staff was Susan Candea, Bishop's Associate. Also present was Marci McGuire of Ifft and Company PA, Certified Public Accountants.

Dennis Allerheiligen, Vice-President, welcomed the members of the Committee. Bishop Roger Gustafson opened the meeting with a prayer.

SEC.17.5.2B. TREASURER'S REPORT – AUDITOR'S REPORT, FYE 1/31/2017.

Marci McGuire of Ifft and Company PA, Certified Public Accountants, was introduced. Ms. McGuire was the field auditor in the audit of the Synod's financial records for the Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2017. She led the Executive Committee through the printed audit report. Documents distributed to the Committee by e-mail included the following: (1) Financial statements, which included a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and fourteen other notes; (2) A Management Letter; (3) Supplementary Information; (4) A cover letter, which gave highlights of the Audit Report. These documents revealed that the audit firm expressed an unqualified opinion, or clean audit, of the Synod's financial records. Note was taken that the loan from the Mission Endowment Fund to the 2009 Capital Fund Appeal for Resource Development costs has now been repaid. It was requested that the Synod take appropriate steps to clear reconciling items (outstanding checks) within a reasonable period of time. Gratitude was expressed to Ms. McGuire and the accounting firm for their work in preparing the audit report.

SEC.17.5.2B1. It was MSC that the Executive Committee accept and approve the audit report for the Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2017, as presented by the firm of Ifft and Company, Certified Public Accountants, pending the receipt of a final copy, and with the acknowledgement that changes to the report will be forthcoming. A final copy of the audit report will be submitted to the ELCA, and the audit report will be posted on the Synod web-site.

SEC.17.5.2A. SECRETARY'S REPORT – APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Loren Mai, Secretary, presented the minutes of the March 17-18, 2017, meeting of the Synod Council.

SEC.17.5.2A1. It was MSC to approve the minutes of the March 17-18, 2017, meeting of the Synod Council.

SEC.17.5.2B. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Scott Schulte, Treasurer, gave an overview of the financial status of the Synod for the first 2 months of the Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2018. Referring to his printed summary, Scott reported that income from congregations for the period through March 31, 2017, totaled \$302,515—which was \$17,515 less than what was anticipated in the revised spending budget, a variance of 5.8%; the amount received is \$17,681 less than received in the same period of the previous year (a 5.8% decrease). A total of \$151,008 has been remitted to ELCA Churchwide--

\$7,674 more than anticipated in the revised spending budget (a 5.1% variance), and \$9,165 less than the amount contributed for the same period in the previous year (a -6.1% variance). Synod expenditures for the first two months totaled \$150,766—which was \$2,702 less than the amount in the revised spending budget (a -1.8% variance), and \$9,207 less than the amount spent in the first two months of the previous year (a -6.1% variance). The amount of \$320,487 has been received in total support and revenue (\$23,666 more than anticipated, and \$18,717 less than last year). Expenditures have totaled \$301,774 (\$4,973 more than anticipated, and \$18,372 less than last year). The current \$18,714 surplus compares to a net surplus of \$19,058 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 the fiscal year has begun well. The increase in support of ELCA Churchwide is the result of an increase in mission support. It was pointed out that a surplus is always a good thing, but things can change rapidly.

#### SEC.17.5.2B. TREASURER’S REPORT – RECEIPT AND DISPERSAL OF BEQUEST.

It was reported that the Synod received a bequest from the estate of William R. Betcker (member of St. James, Kansas City, MO) in the amount of \$383,607.36. According to a continuing resolution adopted by the Synod Council in June 2001, the first 10% of all undesignated bequests shall be placed with the earning of the Central States Synod Mission Endowment Fund for distribution by the Endowment Committee. The remaining principle from such gifts shall be placed in and under the management of the CSS Mission Endowment Fund.

The bequest will be reviewed at the June 2017 meeting of the Synod Council.

#### SEC.17.5.2C. REPORT OF THE BISHOP.

Bishop Gustafson gave a report of his ministry, spanning the dates from March 18, 2017, to May 12, 2017. His verbal report supplemented a printed document. Highlights follow:

(1) He participated in the Synod’s Parish Ministry Associates Convocation, which focused on Leadership in Times of Change; a PMA Table continues to work on retooling the PMA program.

(2) The Bishop and his staff recently completed annual visits to the Ten Area Ministries.

(3) He participated in an interfaith dinner at the invitation of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Louis.

(4) He continues to engage in outreach to, and dialogue with, the Islamic communities on the territory of the Synod, most recently in St. Louis.

(5) He hosted a meeting of retired pastors in the St. Louis area, and he participated in a Candidacy meeting—as well as numerous meetings related to the upcoming Synod Assembly.

(6) Worship opportunities took him to seven Synod congregations.

(7) He apprised the Committee of a developing conflict in the vision and direction of a mission development in the Kansas City area. A goal of reaching out to millennials in the Kansas City region has been revised by the mission developer to focus on mission strategies that are incompatible with the original proposal. At the request of the Bishop, the Synod Council—at a future meeting—will review the status of the mission development and its developer. At that time, decisions will be made as to the viability and direction of the development.

SEC.17.5.3A. NEW BUSINESS – SYNOD ASSEMBLY NOMINATION SLATE.

Susan Canda presented to the Committee the slate of nominations for elections at the 2017 Synod Assembly, as proposed by the Synod Nominating Committee.

SEC.17.5.3A1. It was MSC to approve the following Synod Assembly nomination slate as proposed by the Nominating Committee:

**SYNOD COUNCIL**

(3 year term, except where noted)

Area 3	Male Clergy	*Rev. David Strommen; Salina, KS
Area 6	Female Layperson	*Jeanie Schuler; Topeka, KS
Area 7	Female Layperson	Susan Boxberger; Olathe, KS
At Large	Female Clergy	Rev. Anita Strommen; Salina, KS Rev. Kristen Koch; St. Ann, MO
At Large (youth 2 yr.)	Female Layperson	Grace Vonnoy; Overland Park, KS

\*Denotes incumbent

**CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**

(6 year term; no re-election)

Female Layperson	Mary Jo Moore; Kansas City, MO
Male Clergy	Rev. Gordon Peterson; Overland Park, KS

**DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE**

(6 year term; no re-election)

Female Clergy	Rev. Mari Larson; Wichita, KS
Female Layperson	Deborah Eagleburger; Kansas City, KS
Male Layperson	Kevin Boatright; Lawrence, KS
Male Layperson	Chuck Frickey; Oberlin, KS
Female Layperson (2 year unexpired term)	Pending

SEC.17.5.3B. NEW BUSINESS – SYNOD ASSEMBLY DISPLAY TABLE APPROVAL.

The Executive Committee considered the requests of two organizations to have display tables at the 2017 Synod Assembly.

SEC.17.5.3B1. It was MSC to approve the requests of the following organizations to each have a display table at the 2017 Synod Assembly:

Kenya Children's Fund  
Mission Builders

SEC.17.5.3C. NEW BUSINESS – APPROVAL OF SYNOD ASSEMBLY WAIVER REQUEST.

The Executive Committee considered the request of Peace, Washington, MO, that a waiver be granted for the purpose of Synod Assembly representation, allowing the congregation to send two voting members of one gender.

SEC.17.5.3C1. It was MSC to grant a waiver to Peace Lutheran Church, Washington, MO, for the purpose of Synod Assembly representation, allowing that congregation to send two voting members of one gender.

SEC.17.5.3D. NEW BUSINESS – ROSTER OF MINISTERS REPORT.

Bishop Gustafson presented the Roster of Ministers report.

SEC.17.5.3D1. It was MSC to extend a call from the Synod Council to Gena Koeberl to serve as Interim Pastor under 7.44.A05.b.1.5—Congregational Ministry, Interim Pastor, effective May 12, 2017.

SEC.17.5.3D2. It was MSC to extend a call from the Synod Council to Eva Creydt Schulte, to serve as Deacon in the position as Vice-President for Economic Opportunity at Travois, under C7.74.A.16.b.5.1.—Institution/Agency related or unrelated to the Synod, effective March 1, 2017.

In other roster notes, it was reported that Pastor Shelby Bailey entered the Church Triumphant on April 9, 2017. Transferring out of the Synod was Jay Grave, to the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod. Dean Apel resigned from the roster of the ELCA, effective January 29, 2017; he was received on the roster of the Church of Sweden. Christyn Koschmann will be ordained on May 27, 2017; she has been called to serve as the Associate Pastor of Martin Luther Church, Lee's Summit, MO. It was observed that Trinity Lutheran Church, Abilene, KS, has taken a first vote to leave the ELCA; a second vote is scheduled for July 2, 2017, and synodical approval is required for the congregation to terminate their relationship with the ELCA (since Trinity was formerly an LCA congregation).

SEC.17.5.3E. APPROVAL OF CONGREGATIONAL CONSTITUTION.

The Committee considered the approval of the constitution of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Kansas City, MO.

SEC.17.5.3E1. It was MSC to approve the Congregational Constitution of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Kansas City, MO.

SEC.17.5.3F. OTHER BUSINESS – DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS.

A schedule of upcoming meetings follows:

Synod Council	June 8, 2017	11:00 a.m. (Prior to Synod Assembly)
Synod Assembly	June 8-10, 2017	
Executive Committee	August 4, 2017	
Synod Council	November 10-11, 2017	
Executive Committee	January 19, 2018	
Synod Council	March 16-17, 2018	
Executive Committee	May 11, 2018	

The meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 1:13 p.m., with Vice President Dennis Allerheilgen offering a closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted

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