

Minutes from the
SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

May 14, 2021

Via Zoom

Present: Bishop Susan Candea, Nancy Nagel (Vice President), Scott Schulte (Treasurer), Rev. Chad Langdon, Rev. David Frerichs, Dallas Rakestraw

Absent: Joanie Saltzman

CALL TO ORDER

Nancy called the meeting to order at 1:00pm, and began with a land acknowledgement. She then led a short devotion related to birdwatching and prayed.

AUDIT REPORT

Scott introduced Lee Ann McGill with our accounting firm and she presented the audit for FYE 2020. They did not identify any major problems, issues or concerns. It was a clean audit.

- **SEC 22.05.13.A41** **It was MSC (Scott, David) to accept the draft of the audit as presented.**

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chad presented the minutes from the Synod Council meeting on March 11-12, 2022.

- **SEC 22.05.13.A42** **It was MSC (Dallas, Scott) to approve the minutes as presented.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Scott presented a written treasurer's report:

Financial Status as of 3/31/2022, after 2 months of the fiscal year, ending January 31, 2023.

Income from congregations

- \$256,336 received
- The amount received is \$1,997 less than what was anticipated in our revised spending budget, a -0.8% variance
- The amount received is \$5,561 less than received last year, a -2.2% variance

ELCA Churchwide Contribution

- \$128,168 contributed to Churchwide
- This is \$999 less than anticipated in the revised spending budget, a -0.8% variance
- The amount contributed is \$2,780 less than last year, a -2.2% variance

Synod Expenditures

- \$139,999 spent
- The amount spent is \$10,887 less than budgeted, an -7.8% variance
- This is also \$4,779 more than spent last year, a 3.4% variance

Total Support & Revenue vs. Total Expenditures

- \$285,949 received in Total Support & Revenue, \$5,896 more than anticipated and \$3,560 more than last year
- \$268,167 in Total Expenditures, \$11,886 less than anticipated, and \$1,999 more than last year
- Net surplus of \$17,782 as compared to a \$16,221 surplus last year

Analysis of Financial Status

- After two months of the fiscal year, we're pretty close to the amount of congregation support anticipated in the budget. We are behind by about \$2,000 and \$5,500 compared to last year. I don't think there is anything to be alarmed about at this point. The amount of support shared with Churchwide is likewise slightly lower than expected as a result.
- Synod expenditures are lower than budgeted primarily due to lower than expected Operations costs and the timing of some expenses being later than we typically see. Expenses for the audit is one example of that. They are higher than last year due to the compensation for the DEM positions and Travel being greater.
- Our Total Support & Revenue amount is higher than expected due to the financial arrangement for one of the DEM positions. We now have a purchase of services arrangement for Aimee Appell's position which we did not have at this time last year and the amount we have received is greater than what is needed for the first 2 months of the year to offset the increased compensation amount. So again, a timing difference situation that will be straightened out as we progress through the year. The difference in Total Expenditures is primarily explained by the synod expenses situation explained above. As a result, we have a fairly healthy surplus after two months of the year.

Verbal highlights and discussion included:

- We talked briefly about the \$167,000 in PPP loan forgiveness we received last year that we now have in cash reserves.

BISHOP'S REPORT

Bishop Candea presented a written report. Verbal highlights included:

- She gave us an update on Bethany Lutheran in Webster Groves. They have not met together in 2 years, nor have they paid their pastor during that time. This represents a severe lack of leadership and Bishop Candea is now in conversation with the pastor about next steps.
- She & Rev. Dave Whetter did a listening session at Prairie Faith Parish and gave us a brief update.
- Hillside in Spring Hill, KS continues to negotiate with Churchwide about their ongoing dispute.

STAFF UPDATES

Bishop Candea gave some updates about the staff. These included:

- We have posted the job for the Administrative Assistant. Dawne will be around until the end of July. Bishop Candea is hoping to start interviews mid-June (after Synod Assembly), and have the new person in place mid-July.
- We aren't quite sure when Barbara, our bookkeeper, will be departing, but we do know that it will be some time this year. The firm will be assigning our account to another person and Scott will be working with that new person. We are hoping that the new office person & bookkeeper won't be starting at the same time.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Nancy gave a Vice President report. She has finished up her role as a coach through Faithful Innovations. She took part in the Easter Vigil at Resurrection Lutheran in St. Louis, which was a really nice service. She's been helping with the Synod Assembly planning team. She has also sat in with some of our teams and committees as they've done their work.

FOLLOW UP TO 2021 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

We went through the assembly actions from 2021 and discussed the follow-up actions we have taken on all of the previous resolutions, ensuring that we have done all that we were directed to do.

2022 SYNOD ASSEMBLY UPDATE

- Display Table Approval
 - **SEC 22.05.13.A43** **It was MSC to approve Vanco’s application to display a table at the assembly.**
- Rules of Procedure – We briefly went through & clarified some of the Robert’s rules that we will propose to use at the Synod Assembly. The Bishop presented a written list of procedures. Points of clarification include:
 - There will be a 3-minute time limit on people talking when at the microphone.
 - You are not allowed to make an amendment to an amendment.
 - Any speaker must be recognized by the Chair.
 - **SEC 22.05.13.A44** **It was MSC (Dallas, Scott) to recommend the written rules and procedures and present them to the Synod Assembly.**
- Voting Member Waiver – St. John’s, Lancaster, KS, has requested a voting member waiver.
 - **SEC 22.05.13.A45** **It was MSC to approve the voting member waiver for St. John’s, Lancaster, KS.**
- Resolutions – We briefly talked through some of the upcoming resolutions that we will come to the floor at the assembly.
- Issues of Conscience – We decided to rename the “Issues of Conscience” to “Issues of Conscience and Affirmations”, using the same procedures we’ve had in the past (signing up ahead of time, 2-minute time limit, etc.).
- Compensation Guidelines – Some changes were presented to the Compensation Guidelines for 2023 and we briefly discussed them.
 - **SEC 22.05.13.A46** **It was MSC (David, Scott) to forward the Compensation Guidelines for 2023 to the Synod Assembly with a recommendation for approval.**
- Covid Protocols – Nancy has been working and collaborating with other synod vice presidents and put together a set of possible COVID protocols.
 - **SEC 22.05.13.A47** **It was MSC (Dallas, David) to approve these guidelines as presented and use the them during the Synod Assembly.**
- 2023 Synod Assembly – We discussed when to hold the 2023 Synod Assembly.
 - **SEC 22.05.13.A48** **It was MSC to hold the 2023 Synod Assembly on June 3, 2023, and have it as a virtual/online Assembly.**

RESURRECTION, ST. LOUIS PROPERTY UPDATE

A written draft of a proposal for this property was presented, but it was not very detailed. The situation is still fairly fluid. We have requested that a proposal with more specificity be presented to the Synod Council at the June 2022 meeting.

ROSTER REPORT

Bishop Candea presented a written roster report.

- On Leave From Call
 - **SEC 22.05.13.A49** **It was MSC to grant Rev. Barb Jones On Leave From Call status, effective May 1, 2022.** This is her second year of OLFC status.
 - **SEC 22.05.13.A50** **It was MSC to grant Rev. Phil Vickers On Leave From Call status, effective April 25, 2022.** This is his first year of OLFC status.
 - **SEC 22.05.13.A51** **It was MSC to grant Rev. Alfi Wyatt On Leave From Call status, effective May 15, 2022.** This is their first year of OLFC status.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

- **SEC 22.05.13.A52** **It was MSC to approve the constitutional changes for Holy Trinity (St. Louis, MO).**
- **SEC 22.05.13.A53** **It was MSC to approve the constitutional changes for New Gottland (McPherson, KS), with the understanding that they will correct some minor things next time they update it.**

ADJOURNMENT

Nancy closed us in prayer. Nancy adjourned the meeting at 4:25pm.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Synod Council June 9, 2022 3:00pm in-person at Embassy Suites, Olathe, KS
- Synod Assembly June 9-11, 2022 at the Embassy Suites, Olathe, KS
- Executive Committee July 6, 2022 afternoon TBD via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Chad Langdon
Central States Synod Secretary