

Central States Synod Women of the ELCA
November 4, 2021, Board Meeting via Zoom 7:00-8:55pm

Present: Vickie Donnell, Jill Duis, Pat Dunavan, Rev. Dinah Dutta, Janice Gerken, Loretta Holmes, Kathy Regehr, Beth Rockleman, and Kathy Steinke.

Jill Duis opened with prayer.

President Vickie Donnell called the meeting to order at 7:02pm by reading aloud the mission statement. This will be the practice at the beginning of each meeting.

Board meeting minutes from October 7, 2021, were approved by consensus as distributed. Kathy Steinke will ask Tim Anderson to post the Convention 2021 minutes and approved minutes for subsequent meetings on our website.

Treasurer's Report- Vickie Donnell made a motion/Kathy Steinke seconded to accept the treasurer's report as completed. Motion passed. Vickie will take ledger books to Janice. There was an expense for a box of new letterhead. Account totals were highlighted:

Operating balance \$23,575.28

Education Scholarship Fund \$2,066.69

Final Convention offering distribution: Restoration House \$1,078.17; Gathering Table \$1,578.17; Churchwide \$3,640.08 (YTD almost \$5,000.)

Presentation of Churchwide Report – Rev. Dutta shared a portion of the PowerPoint she created as a churchwide representative to update us on the state of the organization, changes in the Constitution, and future goals. She said we could have access to presentation to share with all CSS women. Thank you, Rev. Dutta.

Announcements: Rhonda Templing has agreed to continue serving as Historian. She requested a 2020 convention t-shirt for the archives. Vickie purchased and sent a Joe's BBQ gift card to Tim Anderson as a thank you from the Board for his expert help with the virtual convention.

Convention 2022- There was discussion on whether to host the 2022 convention virtually or in-person following the Central States Synod's lead of vaccination and masks with a live streaming option. The consensus was for Beth to plan for an in-person convention in the Kansas City area next July with the caveat that we will postpone or go totally virtual if COVID numbers spike. It was noted that it is easier to cancel plans than to quickly make plans at the last moment. The invitation would read something like:

"Vaccinations are encouraged, and we ask those who are not vaccinated either not attend or wear masks. Everyone is welcome to wear a mask. Those who do not feel safe attending in person are invited to attend virtually."

Vickie asked Beth to send the names of the Kansas City hotels in consideration to her so that she can send out links to all board members for input. We will wait to contact area churches regarding any local arrangements, speakers, etc. until after a theme is chosen at the January board meeting. Vickie asked Pat Dunavan, Kathy Regehr, and Kathy Steinke to serve on the convention planning committee.

SWO Constitution & Bylaws A copy of the Constitution, revised in August 2021 to align with changes in the churchwide Constitution, was circulated. There were no questions after review.

SWO Board Policies- A few specific updates were suggested. Kathy and Vickie will work to make these changes to the document and make them available at the next meeting.

Board Member Assignments – Vickie asked each board member if she would lead a specific mission area. Each women accepted and the new assignments are:

Justice- Jill Duis, possibly new focus on racism

Discipleship- Pr. Dutta, possible convention theme, Synod-wide Bible study

Stewardship- Loretta Holmes with Janice Gerken, scholarships and encouraging Thankofferings

Cluster Coordinator- Pat Dunavan

Social Media- Kathy Regehr

Media- Kathy Regher is working to get the passwords needed to make posts on Facebook. As a board we need to find additional ways to build connections without solely using the WITW email list and Mary Liby.

Survey to Identify Active Units- Vickie will mail out a cover letter and survey to every church in the Central States Synod. Kathy Steinke will receive and collate completed surveys.

Cluster Realignment- Documents were circulated that showed the five conferences in the Central States Synod, the churches in each region, and those with probable active units because of financial contributions. We tabled further discussion until we have the results from the surveys to find out what is happening in individual units and whether this would positively impact growth, communication and feeling connected.

Pat Dunavan closed with prayer.

Calendar

Wed., Dec. 1 WITW Deadline- photo and brief biography to Mary Liby

Thurs., Jan 6 Board meeting via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Steinke, secretary