

Minutes from the
SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING
June 13, 2020
via Zoom

Present: Bishop Susan Candea, Nancy Nagel (Vice President), Scott Schulte (Treasurer), Rev. Chad Langdon (Secretary), Daniel Lilienkamp, Chelsea Deines, Linda Lockhart, Susan Boxberger, Dallas Rakestraw, Theo Keese, Mindy Tillberg, Lorna Paulus, Joanie Saltzman, Rev. David Frerichs
Absent: Rev. David Strommen & Terrance Freeman

CALL TO ORDER

Nancy called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Bishop Candea led us in a devotion by reading a hymn. The purpose of this meeting is to complete the agenda of last week's meeting.

RELOCATION OF SALEM LUTHERAN

Last year Salem Lutheran, Lenexa, KS sold their building to a leasing company. Their intent was to lease the building from the new building owners. Unfortunately, this arrangement has not worked out as originally planned and they need to relocate. They have followed proper procedures and identified two possible locations, both of which fit acceptable criteria according to advice from Churchwide and our Director of Evangelical Mission. The Synod Council had discussion and is in favor of them moving forward in the process.

PERSONNEL POLICY UPDATE

There has been some questions concerning the continuing education portion of the Central States Synod Employee Handbook. We discussed adding the following provision to the Handbook:

Rostered ministers who receive continuing education funds each year as part of their benefits may accumulate those funds for two years beyond the current year. If the rostered minister's position ends and they receive a call at another ELCA congregation or ministry, they may request any remaining funds to be paid directly to a continuing education event or as a reimbursement for an event that takes place within one year of their leaving. This policy also applies to campus pastors who are paid through the synod.

No official action was taken and we decided to clarify it further before we make any decisions or change current policy.

ONCE WE WERE REFUGEES

- **SC 20.06.13.A1** It was MSC (Dan, Mindy) to approve Once We Were Refugees an official Synod Ministry Partner.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY LOCATION

Continuing Resolution S7.11.E04 reads, "That beginning next year, 2003, and every third year after that, the Synod Assembly will be at Bethany College in Lindsborg, KS. On the other years, the Synod Assembly will be located in Missouri or elsewhere in Kansas." According to this, we are currently scheduled to hold the 2021 Synod Assembly at Bethany College. Because we had to cancel the 2020 Synod Assembly due

to the pandemic, which was to be held in St. Louis, we needed to make some decisions about what to do next year.

- **SC 20.06.13.A2** It was MSC (Susan B., Linda) by a 2/3 majority vote to add to Continuing Resolution S7.11.E04, “The Synod Council may alter the location of the Synod Assembly due to exceptional circumstances.” Continuing Resolution S7.11.E04 now reads:
That beginning next year, 2003, and every third year after that, the Synod Assembly will be at Bethany College in Lindsborg, KS. On the other years, the Synod Assembly will be located in Missouri or elsewhere in Kansas. The Synod Council may alter the location of the Synod Assembly due to exceptional circumstances.
- **SC 20.06.13.A3** It was MSC (Susan, Joanie) to hold the 2021 Synod Assembly in St. Louis, MO.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY

We had a discussion to ensure that this policy not only covers all rostered leaders, but applies to all Synod Authorized Ministers as well.

- **SC 20.06.13.A4** It was MSC (Dallas, Scott) to adopt the Sexual Misconduct Policy.

COMPANION SYNOD REQUESTS

The Kotte District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea has asked for help in acquiring funds so that they can purchase new Sunday school materials. The Companion Synod Team is asking us to help raise \$10,500 to fund this effort.

- **SC 20.06.13.A5** It was MSC (Dan, Linda) to encourage the Sunday schools & congregations of the Central States Synod to donate some of their offerings to the Kotte District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea to help with their desire to purchase new Sunday school materials. It is further moved that the Synod Office help promote this effort through their communications.

We had a brief discussion about inviting the new bishop from Russia to the 2021 Synod Assembly, Bishop Alexander Scheiermann. We tabled any action on this request because we are not certain of what the future holds and what next year’s Synod Assembly will look like.

ADJOURNMENT

- **SC 20.06.13.A6** It was MSC to adjourn. Bishop Candea closed us with a blessing. We adjourned at 10:50am.

UPCOMING DATES

- Officers Meeting Thursday, July 9 6:00pm via Zoom
- Executive Committee Friday, August 14 1:00pm – 5:00pm via Zoom
- Synod Council Friday – Saturday, Oct 23-24 in Kansas City

*Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Chad Langdon
Central States Synod Secretary*