

CENTRAL STATES SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING VIA ZOOM/TELECONFERENCE
MAY 11, 2018

The meeting of the Central States Synod Executive Committee was called to order by Dennis Allerheiligen, Synod Vice-President, at 9:00 a.m., on Friday, May 11, 2018. Members present included: Bishop Roger Gustafson, Dennis Allerheiligen, Loren Mai, Scott Schulte, and David Strommen. Present from the Synod staff was Susan Candea. Austin Krug, Committee member, was absent.

Dennis Allerheiligen, Vice-President, welcomed the members of the Committee and opened the meeting with prayer.

SEC.18.5.2A. SECRETARY'S REPORT – APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Loren Mai, Secretary, presented the minutes of the March 16-17, 2018, meeting of the Synod Council. It was noted that the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2020 will include a \$135,000 line item for Campus Ministry, but that the total allocation for Campus Ministry will be \$145,000; this total utilizes \$10,000 from proceeds of the Mission Fund Appeal.

SEC.18.5.2A1. It was MSC to approve the minutes of the March 16-17, 2018, meeting of the Synod Council, as corrected.

SEC.18.5.2B. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Scott Schulte, Treasurer, gave an overview of the financial status of the Synod for the first two months of the Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2019. Referring to his printed summary, Scott reported that income from congregations for the period through March 31, 2018, totaled \$281,860—which was \$5,193 more than what was anticipated in the revised spending budget, a variance of 1.8%; the amount received is \$20,655 less than received in the same period of the previous year (a 7.3% decrease). A total of \$140,943 has been remitted to ELCA Churchwide--\$1,776 more than anticipated in the revised spending budget (a 1.3% variance), and \$10,065 less than the amount contributed for the same period in the previous year (a -7.1% variance). Synod expenditures for the first two months totaled \$151,078—which was \$1,778 more than the amount in the revised spending budget (a 1.2% variance), and \$472 more than the amount spent in the first two months of the previous year (a 0.3% variance). The amount of \$298,029 has been received in total support and revenue (\$9,562 more than anticipated, and \$22,404 less than last year). Expenditures have totaled \$292,021 (\$3,554 more than anticipated, and \$9,593 less than last year). The current \$6,008 surplus compares to a net surplus of \$18,818 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 year. He noted that congregational support is slightly higher than expected, but still trending downward. The Travel and Campus Ministry grants have now been received from the ELCA—somewhat later than usual. Scott was thanked for his support and service.

SEC.18.5.2C. REPORT OF THE BISHOP.

Bishop Gustafson gave a report of his ministry, spanning the dates from March 16, 2018, to May 10, 2018. His verbal report supplemented a printed document. Highlights follow:

(1) Since the lease of Synod office space ends in January 2019, a discussion of possible future office options is underway—with those options including the renegotiation of the current lease, a partnership with the Episcopal diocese at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, utilization of public office space, or seeking office space in a Metro Kansas City ELCA Church building. The Bishop will soon meet with the Synod's current landlord to begin negotiations.

(2) The St. Louis Transition Project continues to require staff time and energy, with hopes of developing a model for an area strategy.

(3) Planning continues for the June 7-9 Synod Assembly in Lindsborg, KS.

A word of thanks was expressed to Bishop Gustafson for his ministry and leadership.

SEC.18.5.3A. NEW BUSINESS – SYNOD ASSEMBLY NOMINATION REPORT.

Susan Canda provided the Committee with a report of the Synod Assembly Nominating Committee. The report follows, with several positions requiring at least one nominee:

SYNOD COUNCIL

3-YEAR TERM

*denotes incumbent

Area 2	Female Clergy	* Rev. Lorna Paulus; Kensington, KS
Area 5	Male Clergy	* Rev. Chad Langdon; Wichita, KS
Area 8	Female Layperson	Pending
Area 9	Male Clergy	Pending
Area 10	Male Layperson	* Daniel Lilienkamp; St. Louis, MO
At Large	Female Clergy	Rev. Kris Dietzen; Olathe, KS Rev. Donna Florio; Hanover, KS
At Large	Male Layperson (PC/L)	Pending

ELCA CHURCH COUNCIL

6-YEAR TERM

2 nominees required; final election is at 2019 ELCA Assembly

At Large	Female Layperson	Susan Boxberger; Olathe, KS Kristine Lubber; Topeka, KS Mary Jo Moore; Kansas City, MO Valorie Bratcher; Kansas City, MO
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2019 ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS

Areas 1 and 2	Male Clergy	Rev. Jon Anderson; WaKeeney, KS
Area 3	Female Clergy	Rev. Laura Smith; Assaria, KS
Area 4	Female Layperson	Sister Mary Arie; Waterville, KS Julie Barstow; Manhattan, KS
Area 5	Female Clergy	Rev. Elizabeth Cummings; Haysville, KS
Area 6	Male Layperson	Lloyd Pinon; Topeka, KS

Area 7	Female Layperson	Heather Yerion-Keck; Kansas City, MO Heather Winker; Kansas City, MO Susan Boxberger; Olathe, KS Patricia Phelan; Prairie Village, KS
Area 8	Male Clergy	Rev. Chris Deines; Nevada, MO
Area 9	Female Layperson	Nyssa Brockhoff; Springfield, MO
Area 10	Male Layperson	Daniel Lilienkamp; Bel-Nor, MO
At Large	Male Layperson (PC/L)	Pending
At Large	Female Layperson (Youth/Young Adult)	Grace Vannoy; Overland Park, KS Megan Mong; Salina, KS
At Large	Male Layperson (Vice-Pres.)	Dennis Allerheiligen; Overland Park, KS
At Large	Male Clergy (Bishop)	Rev. Roger Gustafson; Olathe, KS

NOTE: PC/L denotes Person of Color/Primary Language Other than English

SEC.18.5.3B. NEW BUSINESS – SYNOD ASSEMBLY DISPLAY TABLE APPROVAL.

The Executive Committee considered the requests of four organizations to have display tables at the 2018 Synod Assembly.

SEC.18.5.3B1. It was MSC to approve the requests of the following organizations to each have a display table at the 2018 Synod Assembly:

Kenya Children’s Fund
Kansas Interfaith Action
ACS Technologies
St. Francis Foundation

SEC.18.5.3C. NEW BUSINESS – APPROVAL OF SYNOD ASSEMBLY WAIVER REQUESTS.

The Executive Committee considered the requests of four congregations to be granted waivers for the purpose of Synod Assembly representation, allowing those four congregations to each send two voting members of one gender.

SEC.18.5.3C1. It was MSC to grant waivers to the following congregations for the purpose of Synod Assembly representation, allowing those congregations to each send two voting members of one gender:

First Lutheran Church; Dorrance, KS
Zion Lutheran Church; Phillipsburg, KS
Emmanuel Lutheran Church; Stuttgart, KS
Faith Lutheran Church; Oberlin, KS

SEC.18.5.3D. NEW BUSINESS – ROSTER OF MINISTERS REPORT.

Bishop Gustafson presented the Roster of Ministers report.

SEC.18.5.3D1. In accord with the provisions of the ELCA Constitution (7.41.17.), and with the endorsement of the Bishop, it was MSC to grant retired status to Pastor Keith Holste, effective June 1, 2018. He continues to be listed on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the ELCA.

SEC.18.5.3D2. In accord with the provisions of the ELCA Constitution (7.41.17.), and with the endorsement of the Bishop, it was MSC to grant retired status to Pastor Penny Holste, effective June 1, 2018. She continues to be listed on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the ELCA.

In other roster news, it was noted that Dinah Dutta resigned her call to St. Mark, Emporia, KS, effective April 4, 2018. Entering the Church Triumphant were James Henning, on April 1, 2018, and Robert Kreier, on May 9, 2018. Transferring out of the Central States Synod were Ethan Feistner (to Nebraska Synod); Carl Petering (to Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod); Richard Perry (to Metro Chicago Synod); and Martin Rafanan (to Southwest Pennsylvania Synod). Robert Dealey has transferred into the Synod (from the Central-Southern Illinois Synod). Peter Rehwaldt, called as an interim pastor, is now serving as the interim pastor of St. Mark, Emporia, KS.

SEC.18.5.3E. NEW BUSINESS – APPROVAL OF CONGREGATIONAL CONSTITUTION.

The Committee considered the approval of the congregational constitution of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lawrence, KS.

SEC.18.5.3E1. It was MSC to approve the congregational constitution of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lawrence, KS.

SEC.18.5.2B. TREASURER'S REPORT – AUDITOR'S REPORT FYE 1/31/2018.

Marci McGuire and Leeann Potter of Ifft and Company PA, Certified Public Accountants, were introduced. Ms. McGuire was the field auditor in the audit of the Synod's financial records for the Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2018. 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. It was requested that the Synod take appropriate steps to clear reconciling items (outstanding checks) within a reasonable period of time, and to ensure that Forms W-4 and I-9 be obtained and retained for all employees. Gratitude was expressed to Ms. McGuire, Ms. Potter, and the accounting firm for their work in preparing the audit report.

SEC.18.5.2B1. It was MSC that the Executive Committee accept and approve the audit report for the Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2018, as presented by the firm of Ifft and Company, Certified Public Accountants, pending the receipt of a final copy. 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.18.5.4. OTHER BUSINESS – LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES.

Bishop Gustafson apprised the Council of a recent meeting with the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod about Lutheran Social Services, organized as LSS, Inc. Although the primary purpose of LSS currently is to maintain records, there is interest on the part of the two ELCA Synods and the two geographically-corresponding Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Districts to expand the focus of LSS to include other aspects of ministry, e.g. human trafficking. There is interest on the part of Episcopal dioceses to be involved in social ministry as well. The Synod Council could explore possibilities for partnership and cooperation.

SEC.18.5.4. OTHER BUSINESS – BISHOP’S ELECTION TASK FORCE.

Vice-President Dennis Allerheiligen reported the formation and recent initial meeting of a Bishop’s Election Task Force. This group is charged with preparing for a Bishop’s election at the 2019 Synod Assembly. A “tool kit” for this task is available from the ELCA, and the Task Force will oversee a “site profile” for the Synod. It is hoped that the Task Force will develop a process for identifying nominees for the position of Synodical Bishop.

SEC.18.5.4. OTHER BUSINESS – DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS.

A schedule of upcoming meetings follows:

Synod Council	June 7, 2018	2:30 p.m. (Prior to Synod Assembly)
Synod Assembly	June 7-9, 2018	
Executive Committee	August 10, 2018	
Synod Council	October 19-20, 2018	
Executive Committee	January 11, 2019	
Synod Council	March 15-16, 2019	
Executive Committee	May 3, 2019	
Synod Council	June 6, 2019	(Prior to 2019 Assembly)

The meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 10:52 a.m., with Vice-President Dennis Allerheiligen offering a closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

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