

Central States Synod Women of the ELCA
October 7, 2021, Board Meeting via Zoom 7:00-8:30pm

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

Rev. Dutta opened with prayer.

President Vickie Donnell called the meeting to order by warmly greeting everyone and asking board members to briefly share where they live and the best times/avenues to reach them. Vickie thanked everyone for serving and shared that growth, communication and connecting are on her heart as we move forward together as a new board.

Pre-Convention Board minutes were approved as distributed.

Post-Convention Board minutes were approved as distributed.

Convention 2021 minutes-were amended noting the distribution of the Love offering 50% to churchwide, 25% to Gathering Table, 25% to Restoration House of Greater Kansas City; correct spelling of Dutta, Duis; 2-year term for Pat Dunavan; Alice Burnett moved for the adoption of credentials report; addition of Bethany Home to vendor videos. Vickie made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Motion passed. It was noted that we have not received a formal evaluation from Liz Burgess, our assigned churchwide executive board member.

Treasurer Report- Janice Gerken made a motion/Kathy Regehr seconded to accept the treasurer report as completed. Motion passed. Vickie stated that offerings of all types are down. Some totals were highlighted:

Unit regular offerings \$4,581.00

Cluster offerings \$428.00

Convention Love offering was \$2,726.69 (churchwide receives \$1,381.35 and Gathering Table and Restoration House \$690.00 each).

An In-kind Offering of \$135.00 will be equally divided between Gathering Table and Restoration House.

Education Scholarship- \$660.00 in donations.

Expenses for convention totaled \$1,213.00, which includes printing and honorariums.

Walking In the Word- Every board member is responsible for submitting an article for each issue. Upcoming issues will be published in December 2021, March 2022, June 2022, and September 2022. Articles are due on the first day of every month to Mary Liby, editor. For the upcoming December issue, Mary has requested a clear head shot and a brief biography from each board member. In addition, Vickie will send a message from the president and Kathy S. will provide an overview of the convention.

CSS W/ELCA Board Policy Review- Our bylaws dictate that we review the policy yearly. Before the next board meeting, carefully read over the recently revised and approved Constitution and Bylaws mailed to each new board member in a packet. Please note the changes highlighted in yellow and be prepared to discuss or ask specific questions for clarification.

There are significant changes to the constitution such as: there may be two women from the same unit on the board if one is in the leadership group; clusters should align with the synod conferences; boards may consist of three (3) board members; a woman does not need to be a member of a unit to serve on the board. Vickie will highlight the changes for the December issue of Walking in the Word as part of her report. Rev. Dutta will recap what she presented as a churchwide representative to women in Chicago and New York regarding the changes at our next board meeting.

Survey to Identify Active Units- Units that are active generally send in offering so those units are easy to identify. There were approximately 50 units that contributed FYE 2021 (or 2020). Vickie proposed that we mail a survey to each of the 165 churches in the Central States Synod in an attempt to identify all active units. Kathy R. suggested we utilize technology and send an email with a link to a Survey Monkey. Rev. Dutta suggested we send the letters to the attention of the Council Presidents. After discussion regarding internet access and familiarity, it was decided to mail the survey with a stamped return envelope to the attention of the Council President at each congregation. Kathy S. volunteered to receive the surveys. We will finalize plans at the next board meeting.

Meeting schedule- Vickie would like to meet frequently to keep everyone informed and engaged. The next board meeting was scheduled for Thursday, November 4, via Zoom from 7:00-8:30pm.

Food for Thought

*Committee Structure-*We need to look at meaningful titles for our roles and goals. We are not tied to use the labels used by churchwide. We can consider action, community, growth, communication and cluster coordinator and others. Please be prepared with some ideas.

*Cluster Realignment-*The Central States Synod is divided into five conferences: Western Kansas, Central Kansas, Border, Southeastern Kansas & Central Missouri (Osage), and Eastern Missouri. We currently have 18 clusters and only half are active. Would it benefit the women/units to combine for larger groups and gatherings? This realignment could positively impact growth, communication and feeling connected. Vickie will send a chart which shows which churches are in each of the five conferences and indicate if they have contributed monetarily via the synod or churchwide.

Media- Lynda Lockhart has reached out and volunteered to update the CSS W/ELCA website. Kathy Regehr will head up social media and manage our Facebook page. She will contact Tim Anderson and Wendy Hoops to access needed passwords and other account information.

*Other-*Perhaps we can offer a Bible study via Zoom on a regular basis with guest leaders

Kathy Steinke closed with prayer.

Calendar

Thurs., November 4 Board meeting via Zoom 7:00-8:30pm

Wed., Dec. 1 WITW articles to Mary Liby

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Steinke, secretary