

Central States Synod Women of the ELCA
January 6, 2022, Board Meeting via Zoom 7:00-8:30pm

Present: Vickie Donnell, Jill Duis, Pat Dunavan, Rev. Dinah Dutta, Janice Gerken, Loretta Holmes, Beth Rockleman, and Kathy Steinke. Absent due to illness: Kathy Regher

Rev. Dinah Dutta opened with prayer.

President Vickie Donnell called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM by reading aloud the Mission & Purpose statement.

Board meeting minutes from November 4, 2021, were corrected and approved by consensus. Kathy Steinke will ask Tim Anderson to post minutes on the website.

Treasurer's Report- Janice made a motion/Kathy Steinke seconded to accept the treasurer's report as completed. Motion passed. Vickie asked that future reports contain savings and mission investment fund amounts.

Announcements: Thank you to Mary Liby for publishing the December issue of Walking in the Word. The issue was informative and interesting.

Vickie attended a Zoom meeting on December 7, 2021, with other Area 4 presidents, Joy Michalicek and Linda Post-Bushkofsky. She shared the only new information she learned was that all other synodical organizations use geographical configurations of their synods to denote clusters/conferences for their women's organizations.

Reports:

Justice- Jill was unable to share due to laryngitis.

Discipleship- Rev. Dutta would like to plan and lead a Synod-wide Bible study via Zoom perhaps on the book *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Possibly four sessions on a regular schedule leading up to the convention. Requested that she bring a plan for how this might be done to the next meeting.

Stewardship- Loretta submitted the scholarship application for publication in the December issue of WITW. We need to spread the word that these scholarships are available.

Social Media- Linda Lockhart of Trinity Manchester offered to post holiday greetings on Facebook. Vickie will submit brief greetings to her for posting.

Cluster Coordinator- Pat has been contacting the Cluster Coordinators to update contact information. To date, she has found:

Two clusters (Revelation and Heartland) are no longer active. A single church from each group is still meeting as a congregational unit.

Cluster IV-A is not meeting and has no cluster coordinator.

Southeast Kansas City Metro's Cluster Coordinator, Paula Simonich passed away in June 2020. No new coordinator has been found.

Smoky Valley Cluster has a new but at this point unknown coordinator but hope to meet in Spring 2022. If they identify the coordinator, they will provide us with that information.

Mid-Missouri and Ark River Valley Clusters has new coordinators who are planning meeting for 2022.

Seven of the clusters (Ozark Mountain, Disciples of the Plains, Northern Lights, Prairie Angels, Sunflower, Post Rock, III-D) continue to have the same Cluster Coordinator. A few are planning meetings for 2022 but others indicated that the number of participating congregations has decreased and they are not sure of their plans.

The remaining clusters (Heartland South, God's Sonflowers, Southeast Missouri, Tri-State, and Amazing Women) have had repeated phone messages and emails sent with no response. Pat will continue to try and contact these individuals.

Cluster	
AMAZING WOMEN	?
ARK RIVER VALLEY	New coordinator planning to meet in 2022
DISCIPLES OF THE PLAINS	Same cluster coordinator
GOD'S SONFLOWERS	?
HEARTLAND	No longer active (only one unit meeting)
HEARTLAND SOUTH	?
MID-MISSOURI	New coordinator planning to meet in 2022
NORTHERN LIGHTS	Same coordinator
OZARK MOUNTAIN	Same coordinator
POST ROCK	Same coordinator
PRAIRIE ANGELS	Same coordinator
REVELATION	No longer active (only one unit meeting)
SE KANSAS CITY METRO	No coordinator
SE MISSOURI	?
SMOKY VALLEY	New but unknown coordinator hope to meet in Spring 2022
SUNFLOWER	Same coordinator
TRI-STATE	?
III D	Same coordinator
IV A	No coordinator not meeting

Convention 2022-

Location- After visiting several hotels in the greater Kansas City area, Beth recommended we book the Sheraton Overland Park Hotel located at 6100 College Blvd. for July 22-24, 2022. It has a convenient location and the rooms we need. We are waiting for a written contract from the hotel with all pricing before we make a final decision. We also need to ask for technology equipment pricing since we are planning to live-stream for women who are not comfortable attending in person. Janice will wait for confirmation from Vickie and Beth before booking rooms for our next board meeting. Beth will wait to contact area churches regarding any local arrangements, speakers, etc. until after we have a hotel confirmation.

Other details- During our discussion, many voiced the importance of hope after the challenges of this ongoing pandemic. We unanimously decided on Romans 12:12 *“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.”* for the scripture verse and “Rejoice in Hope” for the convention theme. The hymn will be decided later. Janice will call Gloria Sharp to see if she would serve as registrar. All planning meetings will be attended by the entire committee: Beth, Pat, Kathy R., Kathy S. and local arrangement leaders, hopefully from Atonement Lutheran Church and Holy Cross Church in Overland Park, Kansas.

SWO Board Policies- Vickie revised and circulated the document and there were no further changes.

Survey to Identify Active Units- Vickie and Kathy S. wrote an introductory letter and modified the original survey to send to 90 congregations. Vickie prepared and mailed the letters, and Kathy S. will tabulate the responses.

We tabled the review/revision of position descriptions until a future meeting.

Next meeting will be January 28-30 at the Sheraton Overland Park.

Jill Duis wrote a prayer for closing shared aloud by Kathy Steinke.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Steinke, secretary