

Central States Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA  
March 18 & 19, 2022, Board Meeting  
Doubletree by Hilton Kansas City-Overland Park

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

Friday, March 18

Jill Duis opened with a devotion and prayer.

President Vickie Donnell called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM by reading aloud the Mission & Purpose statement. Agenda was approved by consensus.

Board meeting minutes from January 6, 2022, were corrected and approved by consensus. Kathy Steinke will make corrections and send to Tim Anderson to post on our website.

Notes from a supplemental meeting held via Zoom on February 14, 2022, solely to finalize the hotel selection were circulated.

Treasurer's Report- Kathy R. made a motion/Pat seconded to accept the treasurer's report as completed. Motion passed. Ending balance as of 3/27/2022 is \$26,015.43; Barbara Nelson Fund-\$15,281.07; Scholarship Fund-\$1,481.00.

Announcements: Women who participated in the churchwide offerings "For Such A Time As This" found the bible study, personal interaction and information very enriching. There will be an upcoming posting on the WELCA website of the CWO offering, "Now is the Time", presented recently, giving guidance on how to train people in leading discussion groups on the ELCA social statement on racial justice.

Tax Exempt Status- Vickie applied for this in Kansas. If this attempt is unsuccessful, they could consider having someone apply who has a Kansas address.

Social media posts- Linda, a member of Trinity in Kirkwood, Missouri, has been posting items sent to her by Vickie on social media. She will be working with Kathy R.

"Living History of Faith-Filled Women" last in the series will be available on Thursday, March 24, at 7:00PM as part of the Women's History Month offered by churchwide. Register online.

All were reminded to register for the Training Events for Leaders offered online by churchwide. Training is available for president, VP, secretary, and cluster coordinator. Register online.

Churchwide update: During "For Such a Time as This" plans were shared for an upcoming capital appeal for Katie's Fund to raise \$1,000,000. to support Women of the ELCA operations. Some funds have been moved around to cover staff payroll, but a long-term plan is necessary. More details to come later.

Reports:

**Justice-Jill** Our top focus will be social justice.

- Now is the Time: Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent. There is a study guide on how to present this information. The possibility of offering a study session via Zoom was mentioned.
- Jill recommended a Ted Talk by author Heather McGhee called "Racism Has a Cost for Everyone". It discusses race as an economic issue.
- Perhaps a booth at the Convention and a 10-minute infomercial
- Possible speakers from the synod office on the ELCA statement.
- Jill will explore further

**Stewardship-** Loretta circulated three Education Scholarship applications for consideration. Applications were reviewed by all.

**Cluster Coordinator Liaison-**Pat provided updates on contact information. Board members were assigned to each active cluster. Vickie will reach out to inactive units.

<b>AMAZING WOMEN</b>	<b>Kathy Steinke</b>
<b>ARK RIVER VALLEY</b>	<b>Loretta Holmes</b>
<b>DISCIPLES OF THE PLAINS</b>	<b>Pat Dunavan</b>
<b>GOD'S SONFLOWERS</b>	<b>Jill Duis</b>
<b>HEARTLAND</b>	<b>Inactive (Vickie Donnell)</b>
<b>HEARTLAND SOUTH</b>	<b>Inactive (Vickie Donnell)</b>
<b>MID-MISSOURI</b>	<b>Janice Gerken</b>
<b>NORTHERN LIGHTS</b>	<b>Vickie Donnell</b>
<b>OZARK MOUNTAIN</b>	<b>Vickie Donnell</b>
<b>POST ROCK</b>	<b>Kathy Regehr</b>
<b>PRAIRIE ANGELS</b>	<b>Rev. Dutta</b>
<b>REVELATION</b>	<b>Vickie Donnell</b>
<b>SE KANSAS CITY METRO</b>	<b>Beth Rockelman</b>
<b>SE MISSOURI</b>	<b>Inactive (Vickie Donnell)</b>
<b>SMOKY VALLEY</b>	<b>Kathy Regehr</b>
<b>SUNFLOWER</b>	<b>Pat Dunavan</b>
<b>TRI-STATE</b>	<b>Inactive (Vickie Donnell)</b>
<b>III D</b>	<b>Pat Dunavan</b>
<b>IV A</b>	<b>Vickie Donnell</b>

Each board member was assigned one or more clusters.

1. Contact the coordinator for your clusters.
2. Introduce yourself and tell them you are available to attend their cluster meetings.
3. Share convention theme and invite them to register.
4. Share PowerPoint made by Pat and Kathy R. that highlight resources available like Daily Grace and Bold Café, changes in the churchwide constitution, and other information.

Again, discussion centered around the idea of reorganizing how WELCA units are grouped. Consensus of the group is that following the recommendation of the Constitution: that grouping be done using boundaries coinciding with the boundaries established by the Central States Synod (five conferences) should be further explored. Vickie will introduce this in upcoming issue of WITW. Several ideas of how this proposal can be presented at the convention were discussed: Preparation of a 'white paper' and when the voting members have registered, we can plan an informational ZOOM meeting to discuss transition to this model .

Pat requested we change the Cluster Offerings Report Form to include the question, "What units were represented at this cluster meeting? This form will then provide a record of contributions from individual units to meet criteria as active units in support programs of Women of the ELCA. Janice will revise the form and distribute to those clusters with meetings planned.

Pat and Janice will revise the cluster coordinator description and have it ready for the June meeting.

**Social Media-** Kathy R. will contact Tim Anderson to become an administrator on the FB account. Kathy will update the names of board members on the website and reach out to Linda Lockhart. Cluster coordinators and congregational units need encouragement to send photos of activities to be posted by Kathy R. or Linda Lockhart.

**Discipleship-** Rev. Dinah will lead online bible study series based on the book *Discipleship That Fits: The Five Kinds of Relationships God Uses to Help Us Grow* by Alex Absalom and Bobby Harrington. The dates will be May 10, 24, June 14, 28, and July 12 at 7:00PM. Dinah will write an article for the March issue of Walking in the Word to explain how women can access the Bible study.

**For Discussion & Possible Action:**

We are abandoning the \$10.00 fee for "Walking in the Word" postal subscriptions.

Position Descriptions- Vickie and Kathy Steinke will review descriptions for the other positions to be shared at the June meeting.

Nomination forms for election to the Board need to be in the registration packet. Vickie stated she had been in contact with Linda Post Bushkofsky regarding choosing of voting members to the 2023 Triennial. After discussion many questions were raised. Vickie will pursue further clarity.

Report on Survey/Results- Vickie and Kathy reported that a good percentage of active units have responded with surveys from inactive units being returned more slowly. Many units have not been meeting due to COVID and are slow to resume. Women are very active in mission across the synod, and we need to communicate the importance of financially supporting the work of the Women of the ELCA. We plan to follow up with mailings and phone calls with an invitation to convention and free resources.

Synod Assembly Representation- Jill and Pat will be attending synod assembly and will staff a Women of the ELCA information booth during breaks. Kathy S. will pass on the display board, table cover, literature racks to Jill. Kathy R. will check to see what needs to be updated on the board. The opportunity to make a brief presentation to the Assembly will be explored.

Convention Hymn is "Rejoice in the Lord Always".

Convention Goal is *Instill hope and share it!*

Saturday, March 19

Registration Fees- \$90.00  
Saturday only \$50.00  
Cluster Coordinator-\$80.00  
Late registration fee- \$100.00

\$18.00 Friday dinner- taco bar and cookie  
\$25.00 Saturday salad lunch bar, rolls, and dessert  
\$30.00 Saturday evening dinner-chicken

---

\$73.00 Total meals

Vickie will offer an explanation in the cover letter for an increase in fees and meal prices.

Registrar is Gloria Sharp.

We will offer four first time convention attendee grants for \$90.00/each totally \$360.00. Grant application will be in the registration packet and possibly made available in June issue of WITW

**Educational Scholarships Recipients** – After review of applications, consensus was to award a \$500.00 scholarship to Emma Atchison, Kelly Parr, and Sapphire Davis.

Loretta will get photos and send to Kathy R. to post on social media and send information to Mary Liby for inclusion in Walking in the Word. Vickie will write a letter to each recipient and invite them to Saturday evening dinner at convention for the presentation. The board will pay for the recipients' meals that evening.

#### **Convention Registration Packet-**

Will be posted on the website and announced that registration is open on Facebook

Registration packets will be mailed on Friday, April 15, 2022, by Gloria Sharp.

Grant registration applications will be mailed to Beth and are due May 15, 2022.

Board nominations are due June 1, 2022.

Triennial nominations are due to registrar by June 1, 2022.

All registration forms are due by June 1, 2022.

Hotel Reservations are due by June 17, 2022.

Deadline for Convention Program Report is July 1, 2022.

Deadline to receive Vendor table checks is July, 1, 2022.

#### **Voting Member Packets**

Need to be mailed July 1, 2022. Could possibly be sent via email.

They will contain nominations, resolutions, proposed budget and Treasurer's Report.

Submission of resolutions will be encouraged, considering topics reflective of those approved at the 2021 CWO convention

Grants- We will award four grants to cover the registration cost to convention. Criteria for application were reviewed. No changes were made. The application form will be included in the registration packet.

T-shirt design will be on a black t-shirt in middle-range price point. Kathy S. will negotiate best price and handle ordering, hopefully early for board members. Price will be between \$15.00-\$18.00.

Prayer partner exchange- This will take place on Friday evening after dinner, with activity planned by the Board. Pat will contact Crosses Across America to see about ordering individual crosses to which partner information will be attached at the registration table. Adequate time will be allowed for women to converse at the time of exchange.

#### *Friday afternoon activities suggestions:*

walking path on-site

fair trade shopping (Amy from Kansas will be asked to pay \$100.00/night for locked room.) Kathy R will make contact.

massage chair

card making-

quilting

Stars for Veterans

Zumba

Bowling Alley

Board will make special recognitions at the Saturday evening banquet.

Virtual Capacity- Whether portions of the convention would be made available virtually was discussed. Consensus was that it would be good to make specific portions of the convention available virtually. Primarily the Friday evening and Saturday morning worship services. Breakout sessions could be recorded and posted on Facebook and/or website. If this

is going to be done, it needs to be done well. Suggestion was to reach out to the Synod office for technical support. Decisions will be made later.

*Cluster convention assignments:*

Logo- Board

Worship & Music- planning committee

Program- planning committee

Banner- Vickie will ask an individual; will use the black background with logo

T-shirt distribution- Amazing Women

Table grace Friday evening- Sunflower

Table grace Saturday noon- Disciples of the Plains

Table grace Saturday evening- Ark River Valley

Oversee Barbara Nelson Scholarship silent auction- Ozark Mountain

Oversee Mini raffle- Mid-Missouri

Quilt raffle- Vickie will reach out to the individual donating the quilt.

Saturday evening table favor- Smokey Valley

In-kind contributions- planning committee will designate local agency/facility to receive in-kind donations

Prayer partner activity- board

**Board Nominations at Convention**

Positions to be elected in July are VP, secretary, two board members. All four are 2-year terms. Positions will be listed on the nomination form included in the registration packet. Alice Burnett and Wilma Prifti will be asked to serve on the Nomination Committee. Board liaison will be Rev. Dutta.

When voting members are registered, following positions need to be recruited for convention: Report of the President, Credentials (Gloria Sharp), Resolutions, Conduct of Election/Parliamentarian.

*WITW deadline is Friday, March 25. Article content:*

Vickie- ongoing activities of the Board and convention

Beth- convention (will mention when packets are coming)

Janice- need for contributions to the education scholarship fund

Loretta-education scholarship recipients

Jill- race/social statement

Pat- Cluster update, including current challenges

Rev. Dutta- information on Bible study series to be offered

Mark your calendars for Pre-Board meeting on Thursday, July 21, 2022.

Board Meeting Adjourned at 10:00AM

***Rejoice in Hope*** Convention Planning Meeting

Ros Thorpe, Director of Outreach from Atonement Lutheran Church in Overland Park, KS, joined us for the meeting for the convention. Cell 913-909-6444 and 913-648-0595. She agreed to help us make connections with local professional organizations and possible speakers for the break-out sessions Saturday.

Possible break-out session topics—incorporating theme of the convention--suggested:

Resting and honoring the Sabbath

RIP medical debt

Healthy and happy caregivers

Domestic abuse

Mental health/depression

Pastor Kimberly Knowles was suggested as a keynote speaker for Friday night. She is a dynamic preacher. Pastor Dutta will contact her.

Beth will contact Bishop Susan Candea to ask if she is available to give a Synod report and homily during opening worship on Friday, July 22, 2022. Beth will contact Barbara Nelson from Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Overland Park to plan the Friday evening worship. We will schedule a Zoom call to discuss.

Jill Duis has agreed to preach and preside at final worship on Sunday morning, July 24, 2022. Jill will contact musicians she has worked with in the past to see if they are available for Sunday worship.

Jill suggested a musical group called "Seeds of Faith" to provide entertainment on Saturday evening. Per Board policy, The fee is \$100.00 plus transportation costs. Jill will contact them for availability.

The choir will practice at around 5:00PM on Friday, and the choir will sing as part of worship on Friday evening. This is a change from past years. This change will be stated clearly on convention registration form in the packet.

Ros will contact the mayor's office and the Overland Park Visitors Bureau for possible brochures and small giveaways.

The Rev. Kim Frederking was suggested as the convention chaplain. Kathy R. will contact her.

#### Upcoming Meetings:

Sat., April 4 Convention planning meeting via Zoom at 9:00AM  
Thurs., April 7 Convention Worship planning meeting via Zoom at 7:00PM  
Wed., April 27 Board Meeting via Zoom at 7:00PM

Vickie will email the Zoom link for these meetings.

Planning meeting concluded at 11:45. The group closed by sharing the Lord's Prayer together.