

Minutes for the
CENTRAL STATES SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING
on June 6, 2019

at the Marriott Hotel
10800 Metcalf Ave, Overland Park, KS

Present: Bishop Roger Gustafson, Dennis Allerheiligen (Synod Vice President), Scott Schulte (Treasurer), Chad Langdon (Secretary), Linda Lockhart, Rev. Kristin Koch, Dan Lilienkamp, Susan Boxberger, Rev. Lorna Paulus, Rev. David Strommen, Chelsea Deines. Terrance Freeman & Mindy Tillberg arrived about 1:45pm.

Synod Staff Present: Rev. Susan Candea

Also Present: Theo Keesee, youth who will be nominated at the Synod Assembly; Nancy Nagel, who will be nominated as the Vice President at the Synod Assembly; Bill Horne, the Vice President of the ELCA; Dallas Rakestraw, the Parliamentarian for the Synod Assembly

Council Members Absent: Tom Nelson

CALL TO ORDER

Dennis called the meeting to order at 1:05pm and began with introductions.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chad presented the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting on May 3, 2019. It was noted that the Audit Team has not yet completed the audit, so the Executive Committee has not yet approved an audit report.

- **SC 19.06.06A1 It was MSC (Chelsea, Dan) to approve these minutes.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Scott presented a written Treasurer's Report. Verbal highlights included:

- We have received \$374,138 through April 30, 2019. This is \$35,862 less than what was anticipated, a -9.6% variance. This is also \$38,771 less than we received last year, a -10.4% variance.
- Because our income is down, our contribution to Churchwide is down.
- Synod Expenditures are up a bit over last year due to expenses related to moving the synod offices. These costs should be recouped throughout the year as we save money on rent, utilities, etc.
- The financial shortcomings are quite a big swing from last year.
- Giving has been terrible. This might be due to winter weather where many congregations had to cancel services.
- A letter to congregations was sent out last week alerting the synod to our financial situation and seeking additional support. The letter also encouraged congregations to explore the use of automated giving for their members. This letter was from Scott and Bishop Gustafson.

BISHOP'S REPORT

Bishop Roger Gustafson presented a written report to the council. He presented the following verbal highlights:

- He sees a lowering of denominational boundaries throughout the Church, and would like to see us take more steps toward common ministries. We are in especially good position to work with our Episcopalian sisters and brothers.

OLD BUSINESS

VOTING MEMBER WAIVER

St. Mark, Hope and Peace has requested a voting member waiver for the Synod Assembly. They would like to send 2 women and no men.

- **SC 19.06.06A2 It was MSC (David, Dan) to approve this waiver.**

SYNOD CONSTITUTION UPDATE

We will have elections for all 4 synod officers at this assembly. We would like to figure out a way to stagger the terms so that, for the sake of continuity, this situation does not happen again. Susan Candea investigated possible ways to change this and talked with people at Churchwide. She reported that there is not much we can do about this situation because the length of terms are all required parts of the constitution. Officers are required to have 4-year terms, and the bishop's term is 6 years. For the future, there may be a potential way to fix it by writing in some changes to provision S8.55, as long as it does not contradict S8.51. Making these changes is not possible for this year's Synod Assembly, but we can look into it for the future.

- It was suggested to form a constitutional review committee to change it so that we don't have all 4 officers elected at the same time. There was no official action.

NEW BUSINESS

ROSTER REPORT

- **SC 19.06.06A3 It was MSC (Dan, Linda) to grant Dean Apel a synod council call to serve as Interim Pastor for Assaria Lutheran, in Assaria, KS, effective April 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.** This is in accordance with ELCA constitution, sections 7.44.A.16 and b1.5.

CONGREGATION CONSTITUTION

Bethel Lutheran in University City, MO has requested approval for the constitutional changes they have made. The changes were in good order and no issues were found in the review. It was recommended for approval.

- **SC 19.06.06A4 It was MSC (Linda, Dan) to approve the constitutional changes.**

At 2:00pm, Susan Candea & Bishop Gustafson left so that we could discuss our assignments for the Bishop's Ecclesiastical Ballot. Susan Boxberger & Theo also left to attend to other Synod Assembly duties.

BISHOP'S ELECTION TASK FORCE

Dennis gave the council instructions on the process for the upcoming bishop's election.

- It was noted that in the future we can change the type of ecclesiastical ballot that we use (modified ecclesiastical ballot) like other synods do.
- Dennis gave each council member a script so that they could make phone calls to nominees later in the evening.

ADJOURNMENT

- **SC 19.06.06A5** It was MSC (Linda, David) to adjourn the meeting.
- The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Chad Langdon
Central States Synod Secretary

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Executive Committee will meet on Thursday, June 20, to welcome newly elected officers and talk about post-Assembly matters.