

CENTRAL STATES SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SYNOD OFFICE
136 MAIN STREET, SUITE 101
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
AUGUST 5, 2017

The meeting of the Central States Synod Executive Committee was called to order by Dennis Allerheiligen, Synod Vice-President, at 10:10 a.m., on Saturday, August 5, 2017. Members present included: Bishop Roger Gustafson, Dennis Allerheiligen, Loren Mai, Scott Schulte, Austin Krug, and David Strommen. Present from the Synod staff was Susan Candea, Bishop's Associate.

Vice-President Dennis Allerheiligen welcomed the members of the Committee. He led the group in a time of devotion entitled *Summer Rest for Your Soul*, based on Matthew 11: 28-30. The members of the Committee considered three reflection questions and shared responses. The devotion concluded with prayer by Dennis Allerheiligen.

Pastor David Strommen, Salina, KS, was introduced as a new member of the Executive Committee. Vice-President Dennis Allerheiligen noted that he is seeking to appoint at least two more members to the Committee.

SEC.17.8.3A. SECRETARY'S REPORT – APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Loren Mai, Secretary, presented the minutes of the June 8, 2017, meeting of the Central States Synod Council.

SEC.17.8.3A1. It was MSC to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2017, meeting of the Synod Council.

Loren Mai presented the minutes of the 2017 Synod Assembly, which was held June 8-10, 2017, in Kansas City, MO.

SEC.17.8.3A2. It was MSC to approve the minutes of the 2017 Synod Assembly.

SEC.17.8.3B. TREASURER'S REPORT – CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL STATUS.

Scott Schulte, Treasurer, gave an overview of the financial status of the Synod for the first five months of the Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2018. Referring to his printed summary, Scott reported that income from congregations for the period through June 30, 2017, totaled \$696,725—which was \$15,775 less than what was anticipated in the revised spending budget, a variance of -2.3%; the amount received is \$17,209 less than received in the same period of the previous year (a 2.5% decrease). A total of \$348,488 has been remitted to ELCA Churchwide--\$9,845 less than anticipated in the revised spending budget (a -2.8% variance), and \$8,554 less than the amount contributed for the same period in the previous year (a -2.5% variance). Synod expenditures for the first 5 months totaled \$371,687—which was \$11,983 less than the amount in the revised spending budget (a -3.2% variance), and \$2,529 less than the amount spent in the first 5 months of the previous year (a -0.7% variance). The amount of \$725,654 has been received in total support and revenue (\$16,348 less than anticipated, and \$14,390 less than last year). Expenditures have totaled \$720,175 (\$21,828 less than anticipated and \$11,083 less than last year). The current net surplus of \$5,480 compares to a net surplus of \$8,787 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 years. He observed that monthly mission support has remained consistent, except for April, which was significantly lower. Lower Synod expenditures to this point have been driven by Candidacy and Travel budget items. Despite the decline in congregational mission support, a modest surplus has been recorded. Scott was thanked for his report and his service as treasurer.

SEC.17.8.3C. REPORT OF THE BISHOP.

Bishop Gustafson gave a report of his ministry, spanning the dates from June 8 through August 4, 2017. His verbal report supplemented a printed document. Highlights follow:

(1) He emphasized the theme of “Discipleship” that was the focus of the recent Synod Assembly and the continuing focal point for this year.

(2) He noted that pastors related to other Lutheran groups have been creating turmoil in various Synod congregations; two congregations are currently in the process of leaving the ELCA – Trinity, Abilene, which has taken a second vote, and Salem, Axtell, KS, which is preparing for a second vote. (If Salem leaves the ELCA, a new pastor will be needed to serve New Hope Lutheran Church, Onaga, KS, which is currently linked to Salem.)

(3) The Bishop and his staff continue to work with the Congregation Under Development known as The Table, currently worshipping in Overland Park, KS; it is advisable that this group relocate to a new venue in the Kansas City area.

(4) He is exploring new possibilities for funding the ministry of the Synod.

(5) He recently led worship services in Garden City and Overland Park, KS.

Bishop Gustafson and his staff were thanked for their ministry.

SEC.17.8.3D. UPDATE ON SYNOD ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS.

Susan Candea reported on the status of resolutions that were approved by the 2017 Synod Assembly. She observed that members will be sought for a task force that was established by SA.17.06 “Refugees and Immigrants,” to explore the possibility of the Synod becoming a Sanctuary Synod. She and Vice-President Dennis Allerheilgen will recruit members for this Task Force.

SEC.17.8.4. OLD BUSINESS – UPDATE ON SYNODICALLY AUTHORIZED WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES AND CONGREGATIONS UNDER DEVELOPMENT.

Susan Candea provided the Executive Committee with a brief overview of the Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities (SAWC) and Congregations Under Development (CUD). These include The Bridge, St. Charles, MO; San Juan, Wichita, KS; Iglesia Luterana Sagrado Corazon de Jesus, Garden City, KS; The Table, Overland Park, KS, and Oromo Community, Kansas City, MO (all CUD)—and El Nino Divino, Dodge City, KS; Sudanese Community, St. Joseph, MO; and Laotian Community, Olathe, KS (all SAWC).

SEC.17.8.5A. NEW BUSINESS – ROSTER OF MINISTERS REPORT.

Bishop Gustafson presented the Roster of Ministers Report.

SEC.17.8.5A1. It was MSC to extend a call from the Synod Council to Greg Eidell to serve as Interim Pastor under 7.44.A16.b.1.5—Congregational Ministry, Interim Pastor, effective through December 31, 2017.

SEC.17.8.5A2. With the Bishop's endorsement, it was MSC to approve the endorsement and grant "On Leave From Call" status to Kyle Olson, Minister of Word and Service, effective June 16, 2017.

SEC.17.8.5A3. With the Bishop's endorsement, it was MSC to approve the endorsement and extend "On Leave From Call" status to Jennifer Owen, effective August 16, 2017 (second action).

SEC.17.8.5A4. With the Bishop's endorsement, it was MSC to approve the endorsement and extend "On Leave From Call" status to Sarah Erickson, effective August 10, 2017 (second action).

SEC.17.8.5A5. With the Bishop's endorsement, it was MSC to approve the endorsement and extend "On Leave From Call" status to Kristin Ross, effective July 1, 2017 (second action).

SEC.17.8.5A6. In accord with the provision of the ELCA Constitution (7.41.17.), and with the endorsement of the Bishop, it was MSC to grant retired status to Bill Peterson, effective July 1, 2017. He continues to be listed on the roster of the ELCA.

SEC.17.8.5A7. In accord with the provision of the ELCA Constitution (7.41.17.), and with the endorsement of the Bishop, it was MSC to grant retired status to John Lundin, effective August 1, 2017. He continues to be listed on the roster of the ELCA.

SEC.17.8.5A8. In accord with the provision of the ELCA Constitution (7.41.17.), and with the endorsement of the Bishop, it was MSC to grant retired status to Michael Haar, effective August 12, 2017. He continues to be listed on the roster of the ELCA.

SEC.17.8.5A9. It was MSC to permit Trinity Lutheran Church, Abilene, KS, to disaffiliate with the ELCA, based on the congregation's required two votes to terminate the relationship, effective July 9, 2017. The congregation will join the North American Lutheran Church.

SEC.17.8.5A10. It was MSC to permit Salem Lutheran Church, Axtell, KS, to disaffiliate with the ELCA, pending the results of the congregation's second vote, a 2/3 majority required, to terminate the relationship, effective September 17, 2017. The congregation plans to join another Lutheran body.

It was noted that Suzanne Bartling, Minister of Word and Service, resigned from the ELCA roster of ministers, effective July 7, 2017.

It was noted that, by the action of the Bishop, the Rev. Matthew Durance, Axtell, KS, was removed from the ELCA roster of ministers, effective August 10, 2017.

Receiving calls were Amy Truhe (Messiah Lutheran Church, Lindsborg, KS—with contracted services as Campus Pastor of Bethany College), effective July 30, 2017, and Christopher Naig (Trinity Lutheran Church, Chesterfield, MO), effective August 21, 2017.

Transferring out of the Synod were Rick Brenton (to Rocky Mountain Synod) and Steve Evans (to Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod).

A break for lunch was taken from 12:30 until 1:00 p.m. A prayer preceded the meal.

SEC.17.8.5B. NEW BUSINESS – APPROVAL OF CONGREGATIONAL CONSTITUTIONS.

The Committee reviewed the constitutions of two congregations.

SEC.17.8.5B1. It was MSC to approve the constitutions, as submitted, of Emanuel Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, KS, and Redeemer Lutheran Church, Salina, KS.

SEC.17.8.5C. NEW BUSINESS – LEASE AGREEMENT WITH CAMP TOMAH SHINGA.

It was reported that Andrew Mueller, Synod Legal Counsel, had drafted an amended lease agreement between the Central States Synod and Camp Tomah Shinga in order to provide an extension that would enable a new lease agreement to be enacted. The Committee reviewed the terms of the “Amended Lease Agreement.”

SEC.17.8.5C1. It was MSC that the Executive Committee approve the following revision to the lease agreement dated September 1, 2007:

It is mutually agreed by and between the parties hereto that the Lease Agreement is amended but only as to the following particulars, all other provisions to remain in force and effect:

2) Term of Lease. The entirety of paragraph is deleted and replaced as follows: “The term of the Lease Agreement shall expire on May 1, 2018, unless otherwise terminated prior to that date by written agreement of Central States (Synod) and Outdoor Ministries.”

11) Option to Renew. Paragraph 11 is deleted in its entirety.

SEC.17.8.5D. NEW BUSINESS – POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING REALLOCATION OF CAMPUS MINISTRY GRANT.

Susan Canda presented notes from a July 22, 2017, meeting of the Synod Campus Ministry Team. It was pointed out that the \$165,000 line item for Campus Ministry in the current Synod budget is distributed in the following manner:

St. Louis	\$44,561	27%
KU	\$60,816	37%
KSU	\$59,623	36%

Scott Schulte, Treasurer, explained the dilemma of trying to equalize the amounts allocated for the three Campus Ministry sites under the FYE 1/31/2019 budget line item of \$145,000. Monies from the Mission Fund Appeal already designated for Campus Ministry could be used to assist in equalizing the amounts without cutting the total funds received.

SEC.17.8.5D1. It was MSC to release the following amounts of monies designated in the Mission Fund Appeal for Campus Ministry, with the purposes of lessening the budgetary impact on the Campus Ministry sites and equalizing the distribution to the three sites:

FYE 2018	\$13,000 is taken from the Mission Fund Appeal
FYE 2019	\$8,000 is taken from the Mission Fund Appeal; each site receives \$51,000

SEC.17.8.5E. NEW BUSINESS – CHILDREN’S MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH SYNODICAL ADMINISTRATION TEAM PROPOSAL.

Susan Canda presented notes from a July 13, 2007, meeting of the Synodical Administration Team for Children’s Memorial Lutheran Church. The team is considering the possibility of closing the congregation and restarting the remnant as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community (SAWC). Pastor Canda explained the ramifications of such actions, remarking that Area Ministry 7, the Synod Mission Table, the Synod Council, and ELCA Churchwide would all be a part of the discussion and carrying out the proposals. It is hoped that a proposal outlining the future of Children’s Memorial will be forthcoming at the November meeting of the Synod Council.

SEC.17.8.5F. NEW BUSINESS – VISIT FROM ELCA STAFF MEMBER IN NOVEMBER.

Susan Candeia announced that Nick Kiger of the ELCA Churchwide staff would be present for a consultation on mission support at the Nov. 10-11 meeting of the Synod Council.

SEC.17.8.5G. NEW BUSINESS – APPROVAL OF MISSION ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER.

The Executive Committee was asked to approve Janette Schumm for a second three-year term on the Synod Mission Endowment Committee.

SEC.17.8.5G1. It was MSC to approve Janette Schumm to serve a second three-year term on the Synod Mission Endowment Committee; the term will expire in June 2020.

It was reported that the Mission Endowment Committee consists of the following:

Scott Schulte, Chair	2 nd term expires 6/19
Brad Gardner	2 nd term expires 6/18
Pastor Jon Wolf	2 nd term expires 6/19
Janette Schumm, Secretary	2 nd term expires 6/20
Open for nomination	Term expires 6/20

SEC.17.8.5H. NEW BUSINESS – APPOINTMENTS TO LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD.

Bishop Gustafson explained the structure of the Lutheran Social Services of Kansas and Oklahoma, noting that the board is seeking to expand. Bishop Michael Girlinghouse of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod serves as Chair.

SEC.17.8.5H1. It was MSC to appoint Ben Fulton (Camp Tomah Shinga) and Rev. Elizabeth Cummings (Resurrection Lutheran Church, Haysville, KS) to three-year terms on the board of Lutheran Social Services.

SEC.17.8.5I. NEW BUSINESS – YEAR END APPEAL.

The Committee discussed the merits of a year-end appeal to enhance mission support. Susan Candeia suggested that the endeavor be undertaken for one more year. Pastor Michael Brecke will coordinate the effort.

SEC.17.8. 6. OTHER BUSINESS – UPCOMING MEETINGS.

Dates of upcoming Synod Council meetings were announced:

Synod Council	November 10-11, 2017
Executive Committee	January 19, 2018 (Mission Budget Team meets Jan. 18)
Synod Council	March 16-17, 2018
Executive Committee	May 11, 2018
Synod Council	June 7, 2018

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m., with Susan Candeia offering a closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

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