

CENTRAL STATES SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
SYNOD OFFICE  
136 MAIN STREET, SUITE 101  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
JANUARY 19, 2018

The meeting of the Central States Synod Executive Committee was called to order by Dennis Allerheiligen, Synod Vice-President, at 10:08 p.m., on Friday, January 19, 2018. Members present included: Bishop Roger Gustafson, Dennis Allerheiligen, Loren Mai, Scott Schulte, and David Strommen. Austin Krug and Janis Hutchinson were absent. 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 prayer.

SEC.18.1.3A. SECRETARY'S REPORT – APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Loren Mai, Secretary, presented the minutes of the November 10-11, 2017, meeting of the Central States Synod Council.

SEC.18.1.3A1. It was MSC to approve the minutes of the November 10-11, 2017, meeting of the Synod Council.

SEC.18.1.3B. TREASURER'S REPORT – CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL STATUS.

Scott Schulte, Treasurer, gave an overview of the financial status of the Synod for the first 11 months of the Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2018. Referring to his printed summary, Scott reported that income from congregations for the period through December 31, 2017, totaled \$1,563,919—which was \$3,581 less than what was anticipated in the revised spending budget, a variance of -0.2%; the amount received is \$9,835 less than received in the same period of the previous year (a 0.6% decrease). A total of \$790,700 has been remitted to ELCA Churchwide--\$2,367 more than anticipated in the revised spending budget (a 0.3% variance), and \$1,182 more than the amount contributed for the same period in the previous year (a 0.1% variance). Synod expenditures for the first 11 months totaled \$819,600—which was \$24,472 less than the amount in the revised spending budget (a -3.0% variance), and \$3,948 less than the amount spent in the first 11 months of the previous year (a 0.5% variance). The amount of \$1,627,143 has been received in total support and revenue (\$5,263 less than anticipated and \$829 more than last year). Expenditures have totaled \$1,610,300 (\$22,106 less than anticipated and \$5,130 more than last year). The current net surplus of \$16,843 compares to a net surplus of \$21,144 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 December was an excellent month for mission support. Lower Synod expenditures to this point have been driven by lower costs in Travel and Operations budget items. Total support and Revenue were enhanced by special appeal income totaling \$17,481. Scott expressed appreciation for the response to financial needs, and he remained optimistic that the year-end report would show a modest surplus. Scott was thanked for his report and his service as Treasurer.

SEC.18.1.3B. TREASURER’S REPORT – PROPOSED SPENDING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING 1/31/2019.

Scott Schulte reviewed the proposal for a spending budget for the Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2019. This revised budget was considered and approved by the Synod Mission Budget Team, which met on January 18. The revised budget lowers expected income for reimbursements from \$83,000 to \$60,000. Decreases are forthcoming in the Salaries and Benefits line item (approximately \$15,500), due primarily to a less-than-expected health insurance increase; the Region 4 allocation (from \$2,500 to \$1,200); Depreciation (from \$7,800 to \$5,000); Synod Council line item (from \$4,000 to \$3,500); and Contingency (approximately \$4,500). The primary increase is in the area of Synod Travel (\$2,000).

SEC.18.1.3B1. It was MSC to approve the revised, or spending, budget for FYE 1/31/2019.

SEC.18.1.3B. TREASURER’S REPORT – PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING 1/31/2020.

Scott Schulte presented the proposal for a budget for the Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2020. This proposal was prepared by the Synod Mission Budget Team at its meeting on January 18. The budget assumes a decrease of \$20,000 in congregational support from the FYE 1/31/2020 spending a budget (to \$1,640,000). The Reimbursement line item is increased from \$60,000 to \$69,000—including funds reimbursed from Nebraska Family Services. Total Support and Revenue is estimated to be \$1,719,800—a decrease of \$11,000 from the previous year. Support of the ELCA Churchwide Ministry is budgeted to decline from \$835,000 to \$825,000; the figure continues to be based on 50% of congregational giving to the Synod. Salaries and benefits are projected to be \$512,725—an increase of approximately \$16,500. The Synod portion of Campus Ministry is figured at \$135,000—a decrease of \$10,000; the total utilizes \$10,000 from proceeds of the now-concluded Mission Fund Appeal. The Legal Fee Line item is reduced from \$1,600 to 0. The Line Item for the Parish Ministry Associates program is increased from \$500 to \$1,000. The Contingency Line item is reduced from \$6,451 to 0. Expenditures of \$1,719,800 result in a balanced budget.

A vote on the budget proposal for FYE 1/31/2020 would be taken later in the meeting.

SEC.18.1.4B. OLD BUSINESS – REVIEW OF NEW MINISTRIES.

Pastor Donna Simon, Synod Director for Evangelical Mission, was present to review the progress of the new ministries being formed on the territory of the Synod. She provided information about the three Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities: Laotian, Olathe, KS; South Sudanese, St. Joseph, MO; and El Divino Nino, Dodge City, KS. It was noted that the Synod Council (or Executive Committee) is charged with re-authorizing SAWCs annually.

SEC.18.1.4B1. It was MSC to re-authorize the three Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities, for a term of one year: Laotian, Olathe, KS; South Sudanese, St. Joseph, MO; and El Divino Nino, Dodge City, KS.

Donna Simon presented information about the possible formation of a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community in the River Market/Downtown Kansas City, MO, area. She referred to a printed ROSE outline for the SAWC exploration (Rationale, Objectives, Strategy, Evaluation), noting that a leader has been identified to serve on a part-time basis

beginning February 1 for a 9-month time-frame. Funding for the exploration totaling \$13,800 would come from an ELCA grant and the Synod Mission Table.

SEC.18.1.4B2. It was MSC to authorize a SAWC Exploration in the River Market/Downtown Kansas City, MO, area, beginning February 1, for a term of 9-months. A continuation of the exploration will be considered in October 2018.

#### SEC.18.1.3C. REPORT OF THE BISHOP.

Bishop Gustafson gave a report of his ministerial activities, spanning the dates of November 10, 2017, to January 18, 2018. His verbal report supplemented a printed document. Highlights follow:

(1) The St. Louis Transitions Project continues to move forward, with leadership provided by Michael Kerr and John Mann.

(2) The Bishop participated in the inauguration of Will Jones as President of Bethany College.

(3) The 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation was commemorated in a joint ecumenical gathering in Wichita, KS.

(4) The November Bishop's Convocation held at the Lake of the Ozarks featured the theme of Discipleship—a theme that will be explored in 2018 Area Ministry gatherings.

(5) He has participated in the meeting of the Synod Candidacy Committee and the Gathering of the Bishops of Region 4.

(6) The Bishop informed the Committee of the attempts of Lutheran Church of Hope, Des Moines, IA, to start a satellite congregation in the Kansas City area.

(7) Worship opportunities took the Bishop to one congregation in Kansas and three congregations in Missouri.

Bishop Gustafson was thanked for his ministry.

#### SEC.18.1.4A. OLD BUSINESS – APPROVAL OF ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE UPDATED DOCUMENTS.

The Executive Committee reviewed updated documents pertaining to the functioning of the Synod Endowment Committee.

SEC.18.1.4A1. It was MSC to adopt the *Statement of Operation* of the Mission Endowment Fund.

SEC.18.1.4A2. It was MSC to table the proposed amendments to the Endowment Fund Committee Bylaws, pending a thorough analysis of Section 6.

SEC.18.1.4A3. It was MSC to adopt the updated *Grants Process and Procedures*.

The Executive Committee was requested to appoint a new member to the Endowment Committee.

SEC.18.1.4A4. It was MSC to appoint Rev. Rebecca Boardman to serve a three-year term on the Synod Endowment Committee.

A break for lunch was taken from 12:05 until 12:40 p.m. The table grace was sung prior to the meal.

#### SEC.18.1.5A. NEW BUSINESS – ROSTER OF MINISTERS REPORT.

Bishop Gustafson presented the Roster of Ministers Report:

SEC.18.1.5A1. 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 Tom Kamprath, effective February 1, 2018. He continues to be listed on the roster of the ELCA.

SEC.18.1.5A2. 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 Brecke, effective February 1, 2018. He continues to be listed on the roster of the ELCA.

It was noted that John Mann, under Synod Council call for interim ministry, has been granted Disability status, effective December 7, 2017.

SEC.18.1.5A3. It was MSC to extend a call from the Synod Council to Ann Rundquist to serve as Mission Developer under 7.44.A16.b.1.6—Congregational Ministry, Pastor in a congregation under development, for a term of one year, effective January 1, 2018.

It was reported that David Frerichs has been called as Pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Columbia, MO, effective January 29, 2018.

Transferring out of the Synod were Sarah Erickson (to Sierra Pacific Synod) and Debra Cantrell (to Western North Dakota Synod).

Children's Memorial Lutheran Church closed, effective December 31, 2017. The Gathering Table Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community was approved by the Synod Council and is currently meeting at the same location as Children's Memorial had been meeting.

There was discussion about the ministry of The Table, a Kansas City area Mission initiative that has been meeting in Overland Park, KS. The initiative has not fulfilled goals of ministry that were expected since its inception.

SEC.18.1.5A4. It was MSC to close the ELCA mission initiative called The Table, which also ends the call of the Rev. Joe Crowther as mission developer, effective January 19, 2018.

SEC.18.1.5A5. It was MSC to deny "On Leave From Call" status requested by Joe Crowther, which removes him from the ELCA roster of ministers of word and sacrament, according to 7.43.01., effective January 19, 2018. A time of prayer preceded the vote on the motion.

It was reported that Our Savior Lutheran Church, Norway, KS, had taken a second vote to leave the ELCA on December 3, 2017; the vote passed by the required 2/3 majority, thereby removing the congregation from the ELCA.

#### SEC.18.1.3B. ACTION ON BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FYE 1/31/2020.

SEC.18.1.3B2. It was MSC to approve the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2020 and recommend the budget for passage by the Synod Council, with final action taken by the Synod Assembly in June.

#### SEC.18.1.5B. NEW BUSINESS – APPROVAL OF CONGREGATIONAL CONSTITUTIONS.

The Committee considered the approval of three congregational constitutions.

SEC.18.1.5B1. It was MSC to approve the constitutions of the following three congregations: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lohman, MO; Trinity Lutheran Church, Topeka, KS; and the SAWC Constitution for Gathering Table.

SEC.18.1.5C. NEW BUSINESS – SYNOD ASSEMBLY UPDATE.

Reminder was given of the 2018 Synod Assembly, which will be held June 7-9, 2018, on the campus of Bethany College, Lindsborg, KS. It was observed that the Assembly Planning Team would meet in Lindsborg on January 30. A draft agenda was made available to the Committee.

SEC.18.1.5C1. It was MSC to establish the registration fees for the 2018 Synod Assembly as follows:

Voting Members, \$180; Retired clergy, \$75; Youth Voting Members, \$100

SEC.18.1.5D. NEW BUSINESS – CAMP TOMAH SHINGA LEASE.

It was announced that the Synod Council would consider the approval of the lease agreement with Camp Tomah Shinga at the Council's March meeting.

SEC.18.1.5E. NEW BUSINESS – ST. LOUIS CAMPUS MINISTRY REQUEST TO SOLICIT FUNDS.

The Committee considered a request from the St. Louis Campus Ministry to engage in the solicitation of funds, in accord with by-law 8.3, Required Member Synod Approval.

SEC.18.1.5E1. It was MSC to grant permission to the St. Louis Campus Ministry to engage in the solicitation of funds and provide written authorization for such action, in accord with by-law 8.3.

SEC.18.1.5F. NEW BUSINESS – ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE BISHOP.

The Executive Committee conducted the annual review of Bishop Roger Gustafson.

The next meeting of the Synod Council was scheduled for March 16-17.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m. with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

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