

CENTRAL STATES SYNOD COUNCIL
ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
9948 METCALF AVENUE
OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS
NOVEMBER 10-11, 2017

The meeting of the Central States Synod Council was called to order by Dennis Allerheiligen, Synod Vice-President, at 4:30 p.m., on Friday, November 10, 2017. Council members present included: Bishop Roger Gustafson, Dennis Allerheiligen, Loren Mai, Scott Schulte, Austin Krug, Daniel Lilienkamp, Janis Hutchinson, Chad Langdon, Mindy Tillberg, Dan Friberg, Jeanie Schuler, Doug Reed, David Strommen, Lorna Paulus, Lois Viebrock, Grace Vannoy, Susan Boxberger, and Kristen Koch. Present from the Synod staff were Pastor Susan Candea, Bishop's Associate, and Pastor Donna Simon—both of whom serve the Synod as Directors for Evangelical Mission. Present as guests were Tom Gear and Carrie Gear, as well as Pastor Ann Rundquist. Synod Council members absent were Jack King, Linda Lockhart, and Tom Nelson.

Vice-President Dennis Allerheiligen welcomed the members of the Council and led the group in a time of "Dwelling in the Word." The theme of the devotional time was "hope," based on John 12: 24-26.

Susan Candea, Bishop's Associate, facilitated a session of orientation. Council members introduced themselves and were asked to consider what God was calling them to do on the Council. Pastor Candea read portions of the Synod constitution that outlined the duties and responsibilities of the Synod Council. It was noted that the Council has a ministry of oversight of the Synod's mission and is called to approve new ministries on the territory of the Synod. Susan Candea was thanked for her leadership of the orientation session.

The meeting was recessed at 5:40 p.m. for the evening meal. Dennis Allerheiligen led the group in a table prayer.

The meeting resumed at 6:12 p.m. Tom Nelson was now present, as was Linda Lockhart (by telephone).

Donna Simon, Director for Evangelical Mission, and Tom Gear, a candidate to do mission development, presented information related to a strategy to explore the formation of a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community in the eastern part of Kansas City, MO. Included in the presentation were education about the Synod Mission Table and a review of a ROSE Outline (Rationale, Objectives, Strategies, Evaluation) for the Kansas City East Side Community. Tom Gear spoke of his possible involvement as a mission developer in the area. A word of thanks was extended to Pastor Simon and Tom Gear for their presentation.

Pastor Ann Rundquist, Children's Memorial Lutheran Church, Kansas City, MO, then spoke of the current status of her congregation. She emphasized the continuing mission of the congregation, while also observing that Children's Memorial no longer can function as a congregation. She expressed the hope that Children's Memorial would be reincarnated as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community. Referring to a ROSE outline (Rationale,

Objectives, Strategies, Evaluation), she explained that a SAWC descended from Children's Memorial would be named "Gathering Table."

Pastor Rundquist, Tom Gear, and Pastor Simon answered questions related to their presentations and future ministry. They were thanked for their efforts. It was pointed out that the Synod Council would consider actions relating to the inner Kansas City ministries on Saturday.

SC17.11.6I. NEW BUSINESS – APPROVAL OF CONGREGATIONAL CONSTITUTIONS.

Austin Krug presented four congregational constitutions for consideration and approval by the Synod Council.

SC17.11.6I1. It was MSC to approve the congregational constitution and bylaws of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Washington, KS.

SC17.11.6I2. It was MSC to approve the congregational constitution and bylaws of Zion Lutheran Church, Washington, KS.

SC17.11.6I3. It was MSC to approve the congregational constitution and bylaws of Atonement Lutheran Church, Overland Park, KS, pending congregational ratification of those documents.

SC17.11.6I4. It was MSC to approve the congregational constitution and bylaws of First Lutheran Church, Manhattan, KS, pending the removal of incidental brackets in the documents.

SC17.11.4B. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Scott Schulte, Treasurer, gave an overview of the Synod's financial status for the first eight months of the Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2018. Referring to his printed summary, Scott reported that income from congregations through September totaled \$1,083,407—which was \$56,593 less than what was anticipated in the revised spending budget, a variance of -5.2%; the amount received is \$4,035 less than received in the previous year (a 0.4% decrease). A total of \$544,779 has been remitted to ELCA Churchwide--\$28,554 less than anticipated in the revised spending budget (a variance of -5.2%) and \$976 more than the amount contributed in the previous year (a 0.2% variance). Synod expenditures for the 8 month period totaled \$582,807—which was \$31,064 less than the amount in the revised spending budget (a -5.3% variance), and \$5,928 less than the amount spent in the previous year (a -1.0% variance). The amount of \$1,122,212 has been received in total support and revenue (\$64,992 less than anticipated, and \$4,525 less than the previous year). Expenditures totaled \$1,127,586 (\$59,618 less than anticipated and \$4,952 less than last year). The current net deficit of \$5,374 compares to a net deficit of \$5,801 last year.

Scott commented on the trends, referring to a graph that compared the income received thus far in FYE 2018 with the income received in FYE 2017. He noted that the first two months of the year showed solid giving, but the months since then have been below expectations. Expenditures have been less than budget due to lower costs for travel and operations. The modest deficit to date belies the significant decline in congregational support. Scott was thanked for his report and service as Treasurer.

The meeting of the Council recessed for the evening at 7:45 p.m., with the Lord's Prayer dismissing the participants.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2017

The meeting of the Central States Synod Council resumed at 8:35 p.m., on Saturday, November 11, 2017. Vice-President Dennis Allerheiligen called the meeting to order. Council members present included: Bishop Roger Gustafson, Dennis Allerheiligen, Loren Mai, David Strommen, Daniel Lilienkamp, Janis Hutchinson, Tom Nelson, Chad Langdon, Mindy Tillberg, Lorna Paulus, Lois Viebrock, Dan Friberg, Jeanie Schuler, Doug Reed, Grace Vannoy, Susan Boxberger, and Kristen Koch. Present from the Synod staff was Susan Candea. Council members absent were Jack King, Linda Lockhart, Austin Krug, and Scott Schulte.

Dennis Allerheiligen led the group in prayer and a meditation from the book *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth* by Walter Brueggemann. Jack King was now present via telephone.

SC17.11.4A. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Loren Mai, Secretary, presented the minutes of the August 5, 2017, meeting of the Synod Executive Committee.

SC17.11.4A1. It was MSC to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2017, meeting of the Synod Executive Committee.

Loren Mai presented the nomination grid for elections at the 2018 Synod Assembly.

SC17.11.4A2. It was MSC to approve the following nomination grid for elections at the 2018 Synod Assembly:

<u>SYNOD COUNCIL</u>		
Area Ministry 2 (3-year term)	Female Clergy	Incumbent is eligible
Area Ministry 5 (3-year term)	Male Clergy	Incumbent is eligible
Area Ministry 8 (3-year term)	Female Layperson	Incumbent is ineligible
Area Ministry 9 (3-year term)	Male Clergy	Incumbent is ineligible
Area Ministry 10 (3-year term)	Male Layperson	Incumbent is eligible
At Large (3-year term)	Female Layperson	Incumbent is ineligible
At Large (3-year term) (PC/L)	Male Layperson	Incumbent is ineligible
At Large (2-year term) (Youth)	Male Layperson	Incumbent is ineligible

ELCA CHURCH COUNCIL

At Large (6-year term)	Female Layperson	At least 2 nominees needed
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2019 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS

Area Ministries 1 & 2	Male Clergy
Area Ministry 3	Female Clergy
Area Ministry 4	Female Layperson
Area Ministry 5	Female Clergy
Area Ministry 6	Male Layperson
Area Ministry 7	Female Layperson
Area Ministry 8	Male Clergy
Area Ministry 9	Female Layperson
Area Ministry 10	Male Layperson
At Large (Vice-President)	Male Layperson

At Large (PC/L)	Male Layperson
At Large (Youth/Young Adult)	Female Layperson
At Large (Bishop)	Male Clergy

Loren Mai presented the membership of the Synod Executive Committee for ratification. SC17.11.4A3. It was MSC to ratify the following members of the Synod Executive Committee: Bishop Roger Gustafson; Dennis Allerheiligen, Vice-President; Loren Mai, Secretary; Scott Schulte, Treasurer; Austin Krug; Janis Hutchinson; and David Strommen.

SC17.11.4C. REPORT OF THE BISHOP.

Bishop Gustafson gave a report of his ministry, spanning the dates from August 5 to November 9, 2017. His verbal report supplemented a printed document. Highlights follow:

- (1) He took part in a September 29 Lutheran-Roman Catholic worship service in Kansas City, as a component of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.
- (2) He has provided leadership for the St. Louis Transitions Project, which seeks to re-imagine pastoral leadership in an area of numerous clergy retirements.
- (3) He has encouraged congregations in the Kansas City area to become involved in Wartburg Seminary's Collaborative Leadership Program and congregational revitalization.
- (4) His staff and he continue to work with congregations and pastors in situations of difficulty and conflict.
- (5) Worship opportunities took him to four congregations in Kansas and three congregations in Missouri, as well as the Area IV Mission Festival.

SC17.11.4D. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT.

Vice-President Dennis Allerheiligen provided information to the Council about a recent gathering of Synod Vice-Presidents. He noted that the clergy shortage in the ELCA remains acute. He also remarked that he is in the process of appointing a Task Force to oversee the election of a Synod Bishop in 2019.

SC17.11.4E. SYNOD MINISTRY REPORTS.

The Council considered printed reports of Area Ministries and Synod Teams and Committees. Reports were received from the following:

- Areas 1 and 2 – Pastor Roger Dennis, Area Dean
- Area 4 – Pastor Kevin Clark, Area Dean
- Area 5 – Pastor Elizabeth Cummings, Area Dean
- Area 6 – Pastor Roger Lenander, Area Dean
- Area 7 – Pastor Ashley Huber, Area Dean
- Area 8 – Pastor Katherine Hayes, Area Dean
- Area 9 – Pastors Stephen Zeller and Kim Knowle-Zeller, Area Deans
- Area 10 – Pastor Roy Christell, Area Dean

Companion Synod Team – Pastor Gary Teske, Team Chair
 Mission Endowment Fund Committee
 Church in Society Team
 Lutherans Restoring Creation Mission Table
 PMA Task Force

Sanctuary Synod Task Force – Pastor John Backus, Chair; Susan Candea commented
Mission Table
Stewardship Table/Team
Candidacy Committee – Deacon Dave Mareske, Chair

SC17.11.5A. OLD BUSINESS – GIFT ACCEPTANCE POLICY TASK FORCE.

It was reported that the Task Force exploring the Synod's Gift Acceptance Policy has been meeting and reviewing past such guidelines. It is hoped that recommendations relating to such a policy will be forthcoming soon.

SC17.11.5B. OLD BUSINESS – BISHOP'S ELECTION TASK FORCE.

It was noted that a Synod Task Force reviewing procedures for electing a Bishop had been formed after the 2013 election, and suggestions for the next election (in 2019) were made. It was pointed out that a soon-to-be constituted Task Force on the 2019 Election would benefit from previous efforts.

SC17.11.5C. OLD BUSINESS - UPDATE ON "THE TABLE."

Bishop Gustafson and Pastor Susan Candea, Director for Evangelical Outreach, apprised the Council on the progress of "The Table," a Congregation Under Development currently served by Pastor Joe Crowther. "The Table" was authorized to form a network of house churches in the urban core of Kansas City; the current location of the mission is in Overland Park, KS, and the stated goal of the mission is not being fulfilled. Discussion ensued, with the Council deliberating on a strategy to re-direct the course of the mission development.

SC17.11.6A. NEW BUSINESS – ROSTER OF MINISTERS REPORT.

Bishop Gustafson presented the Roster of Ministers Report:

SC17.11.6A1. In accord with the provisions of the ELCA Constitution (7.41.17.), and with the endorsement of the Bishop, it was MSC to grant, *en bloc*, retired status to the following:

Martin Rafanan, effective August 1, 2017

Michael Kerr, effective October 1, 2017

Karen Scherer, effective December 1, 2017

David Beese, effective December 1, 2017

Bill Buschbom, effective January 1, 2018

They continue to be listed on the roster of the ELCA.

SC17.11.6A2. It was MSC to remove Tony Mendez from the ELCA roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament.

It was reported that Jennifer Obermueller has been granted disability status, effective November 1, 2017.

SC17.11.6A3. It was MSC to issue a call from the Synod Council to Melaku Tizazu to serve as a mission developer of the Kansas City Oromo Mission, under 7.44.A05.b.1.6— Congregational Ministry, Pastor in a Congregation under development, effective through Jan. 7, 2019.

SC17.11.6A4. It was MSC, *en bloc*, to extend a call from the Synod Council to the following persons to serve as Interim Pastors under 7.44.A05.b.1.5—Congregational Ministry, Interim Pastor, effective for a term of one year, through December 31, 2018:

Elizabeth Backus
John Backus
Greg Eidell
Russ Glaser
Tom Hallstrom
Gena Koeberl
Peter Rewaldt
Deacon Alan Saatkamp
Cynthia Schnaath
Michael Brecke
John Kreidler
Shelly Klingensmith
Callista Isabell

It was reported that John Mann, called to interim ministry through December 31, 2018, is applying for disability.

SC17.11.6A5. With the Bishop's endorsement, it was MSC to approve the endorsement and grant "On Leave From Call" status to Elizabeth Liggett, effective October 15, 2017.

SC17.11.6A6. With the Bishop's endorsement, it was MSC to approve the endorsement and grant "On Leave From Call" status to Linda Anderson-Little, effective November 1, 2017.

SC17.11.6A7. With the Bishop's endorsement, it was MSC to approve the endorsement and extend "On Leave From Call" status to Bruce Freeman, effective January 1, 2018 (third action).

SC17.11.6A8. With the Bishop's endorsement, it was MSC to approve the endorsement and extend "On Leave From Call" status to Kim Knowle-Zeller, effective January 1, 2018 (third action – family leave).

SC17.11.6A9. With the Bishop's endorsement, it was MSC to approve the endorsement and extend "On Leave From Call" status to Brenda Ulrich, effective November 3, 2017 (third action).

SC17.11.6A10. With the Bishop's endorsement, it was MSC to approve the endorsement and grant "On Leave From Call" status to Larry Block, effective October 1, 2017.

In other roster news, it was noted that Micah Sievenpiper is now the Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Kansas City, MO (from Southeast Michigan Synod). David Viles is the Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lohman, MO (from Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod). Anita Strommen is the Pastor of Prairie Wind Parish, Junction City, KS (from call to interim ministry). Mary Arie has an open ended call to Greenleaf-Waterville Parish (from term call).

Entering the Church Triumphant were Walter Evenson, who died September 7, 2017, and Duane Levin, who died October 27, 2017.

Transferring out of the Central States Synod were Jennifer Osheim-Owen, On Leave from Call, to Western Iowa Synod; John Lundin, retired, to South Dakota Synod; and Mark Holmes, On Leave From Call, to Southeastern Iowa Synod.

It was reported that Faith, Prairie Village, KS, had a final worship service on August 27, 2017. Salem, Axtell, KS, voted to disaffiliate from the ELCA, an action approved by the Synod Executive Committee. Our Savior, Norway, KS, planned a second vote on December 3 to disaffiliate from the ELCA.

SC17.11.6D. NEW BUSINESS – SYNODICAL PRESERVATION OF CHILDREN’S MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The Council engaged in discussion about future plans for Children’s Memorial Lutheran Church, a congregation under Synodical Administration without hope for further life as an organized community of faith. The discussion centered around Synod Constitution provision S13.24., which allows for congregational preservation, after the closure of a congregation.

SC17.11.6D1. Following the procedure defined in Synod constitution S13.24., it was MSC to enact that provision for Children’s Memorial Lutheran Church, Kansas City, MO, appointing trustees as needed.

SC17.11.6D2. It was MSC to close Children’s Memorial Lutheran Church, Kansas City, MO, effective December 31, 2017.

SC17.11.6D3. It was MSC to appoint the following as trustees for Children’s Memorial Lutheran Church: Pastor Chris Deines, Pastor Susan Candea, and Susan Boxberger.

SC17.11.6D4. It was MSC to designate “Gathering Place” (formerly Children’s Memorial Lutheran Church) as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community, effective January 1, 2018.

SC17.11.6E. NEW BUSINESS – NEW MINISTRY, KANSAS CITY EAST SIDE COMMUNITY.

The Council reviewed material relating to the establishment of a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community in the east side community of Kansas City, MO. The input of Tom Gear, the prospective Mission Developer, was considered, as were remarks by Donna Simon and the Synod Mission Table.

SC17.11.6E1. It was MSC to approve an exploration of the Kansas City (Missouri) East Side Community as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community, pending a revision of the goals set forth in the ROSE document, without a focus on a worshipping community. This action is to include conversation with current Synod Council members Linda Lockhart and Janis Hutchinson.

SC17.11.6B. NEW BUSINESS – APPROVAL OF HOUSING ALLOWANCES.

Loren Mai presented Housing Allowance Resolutions for members of the Synod staff.

SC17.11.6B1. It was MSC that the following members of the Synod staff receive the housing allowances for 2018 as designated:

The Rev. Roger Gustafson, \$15,000

The Rev. Keith Hohly, \$40,000

The Rev. Susan Candea, \$20,000

The Rev. Shawn Norris, \$20,000

The Rev. Kevin Clark, \$17,000

The Rev. Rebecca Boardman, \$28,000

SC17.11.6H. NEW BUSINESS – APPOINTMENT OF SANCTUARY TASK FORCE.

The Council was requested to ratify the appointments of the members of the Sanctuary Task Force, as such a Task Force was authorized by 2017 Synod Assembly Resolution SA.17.06.

SC17.11.6H1. It was MSC to ratify the appointment of the following members of the Sanctuary Exploratory Task Force:

Rev. John Backus

Rev. Kendra Nolde

Rev. Karen Scherer

Terry Shriner

Anecea Stambaugh

SC17.11.6F. NEW BUSINESS – RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS TO SYNOD CONSTITUTION.

Susan Candea reviewed the amendments to the Synod Constitution, as proposed by a Task Force charged with making revisions to the document.

SC17.11.6F1. It was MSC to approve the amendments to the Synod Constitution as noted and to recommend the amendments to the 2018 Synod Assembly for adoption.

SC17.11.7. OTHER BUSINESS – DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS.

A schedule of upcoming meetings was reviewed:

Executive Committee	January 19, 2018
Synod Council	March 16-17, 2018
Executive Committee	May 11, 2018
Synod Council	June 7, 2018
Synod Assembly	June 7-9, 2018

The business meeting of the Synod Council was adjourned at 12:30 p.m., with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

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