

CENTRAL STATES SYNOD COUNCIL
ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
9948 METCALF AVE.
OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS
MARCH 16-17, 2018

The meeting of the Central States Synod Council began with the evening meal at 5:05 p.m., on Friday, March 16, 2018. The business meeting of the Synod Council was called to order by Dennis Allerheiligen, Synod Vice-President at 5:45 p.m. Council members present included: Bishop Roger Gustafson, Dennis Allerheiligen, Loren Mai, Scott Schulte, Kristen Koch, Mindy Tillberg, Lois Viebrock, Austin Krug, Tom Nelson, Lorna Paulus, Jeanie Schuler, Daniel Lilienkamp, Susan Boxberger, Dan Friberg, Linda Lockhart, Chad Langdon, Grace Vannoy, and David Strommen. Present from the Synod staff was Susan Candea, Bishop's Associate and Director for Evangelical Mission. Also present were Stephen Phelps, Regional ELCA Gift Planner; Alice Burnett, President of the Synodical organization of the Women of the ELCA; and Nick Kiger, Associate Director for Mission Support of the ELCA. Council members absent were Janis Hutchinson, Doug Reed, and Jack King. A time of introduction followed.

Daniel Lilienkamp led the Council in devotions, based on Psalm 51: 1-12; Exodus 30: 1-10; and Hebrews 4: 14 – 5: 4. Participants reflected on the texts and discussed them in small groups and then in plenary. The devotional time concluded with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Susan Candea, Bishop's Associate, introduced Nick Kiger, the Associate Director for Mission Support in the ELCA. Mr. Kiger then led the Council in a Mission Support Symposium, which had as its purpose *to listen, to learn, and to imagine together how we live out our lives of faith and how we support our ELCA Ministries*. Utilizing a data package, he guided participants in a process of understanding Mission Support. He thanked the Synod for past support and explained the ELCA's current Comprehensive Mission Support Strategy, focusing on the Mission Support Strategic Initiatives for 2016-2018. Trends of demography and congregational vitality were reviewed, and the shortage of professional church leaders was noted. The Council considered the Synod's context for ministry, and future directions for mission were pondered.

Following a brief break in the evening agenda, the Council focused on enhancing the partnership between the Central States Synod and the ELCA. Reminder was given that the Synod currently remits to the ELCA 50% of income received from synod congregations. A video message from Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop, gave thanks for the Synod's mission support and highlighted the message of God's abundant grace. The importance of maintaining connections among the expressions of the Church (congregations, synod, ELCA) was highlighted. The building of relationships is a critical aspect of ministry in the 21st century. As the Synod moves forward in ministry, careful consideration is given to those connections and relationships. The Council considered a document entitled "Stewardship and Mission Support Strategy" that was made available.

Nick Kiger completed his presentation at 8:20 p.m. A word of thanks was expressed to him for his leadership and ministry. The meeting adjourned with a prayer at 8:25 p.m. The meeting was scheduled to resume on Saturday, March 17, at 8:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2018

The Saturday session of the Central States Synod Council meeting was called to order by Dennis Allerheiligen, Synod Vice-President, at 8:40 a.m., on Saturday, March 17, 2018. Council members present included: Bishop Roger Gustafson, Dennis Allerheiligen, Loren Mai, Scott Schulte, Kristen Koch, Daniel Lilienkamp, Lorna Paulus, Jeanie Schuler, Susan Boxberger, Mindy Tillberg, Lois Viebrock, Linda Lockhart, Grace Vannoy, Chad Langdon, Tom Nelson, David Strommen, Austin Krug, and Dan Friberg. Susan Candea, Bishop's Associate, was also present. Visitors present were Nick Kiger, Associate Director for Mission Support in the ELCA; Stephen Phelps, Regional ELCA Gift Planner; and Alice Burnett, President of the Synodical organization of the Women of the ELCA. Council members absent included: Doug Reed, Janis Hutchinson, and Jack King.

Linda Lockhart led the group in a time of devotion. Her remarks focused on Acts 8: 28-40, and she provided a spiritual auto-biography. Her devotion included the hymns *I Love to Tell the Story* and *We Are Marching in the Light of God*.

SC18.3.4A. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Loren Mai, Secretary, presented the minutes of the January 19, 2018, meeting of the Synod Executive Committee.

SC18.3.4A1. It was MSC to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2018, meeting of the Synod Executive Committee, noting that the meeting had begun at 10:08 a.m.

SC18.3.4B. TREASURER'S REPORT – UPDATE ON FYE 1/31/2018.

Scott Schulte, Treasurer, gave an overview of the financial status of the Synod for the year just completed (FYE 1/31/2018). Referring to his printed summary, Scott reported that income from congregations totaled \$1,712,773—which was \$2,773 more than what was anticipated in the revised spending budget, a 0.2% variance; the amount received was \$13,090 more than received in the same period of the previous year (a 0.8% increase). A total of \$866,742 was remitted to ELCA Churchwide--\$6,742 more than anticipated in the revised spending budget (a 0.8% variance), and \$13,009 more than the amount contributed for the same period in the previous year (a 1.5% variance). Synod expenditures for the year totaled \$892,721—which was \$28,085 less than the amount in the revised spending budget (a -3.1% variance), and \$4,223 more than the amount spent in the previous year (a 0.5% variance). The amount of \$1,784,680 was received in total support and revenue (\$3,874 more than anticipated and \$30,412 more than the previous year). Expenditures totaled \$1,759,463 (\$21,343 less than anticipated and \$17,232 more than last year). The end-of-year surplus of \$25,217 compared to a surplus of \$12,038 in the previous year.

Scott commented on the trends, reviewing a graph that compared mission support for the recently-concluded year with the previous year. He observed that December was the best month of the year for mission support. Receipts in January were the most for any January in the last six

years. Expenditures were less than budget in part to reduced travel and operations costs. Responses to year-end appeals aided in the resulting surplus.

SC18.3.4B. TREASURER'S REPORT – UPDATE ON FYE 1/31/2019.

Scott Schulte gave an overview of the financial status of the Synod for the first month of the current fiscal year (FYE 1/31/2019). Referring to his printed summary, Scott reported that income from congregations totaled \$131,816—which was \$6,517 less than what was anticipated in the revised spending budget, a -4.9% variance; the amount received was \$23,867 less than received in February of the previous year (an 18.1% decrease). A total of \$65,933 was remitted to ELCA Churchwide--\$3,650 less than anticipated in the revised spending budget (a -5.5% variance), and \$11,658 less than the amount contributed for the same period in the previous year (a -17.7% variance). Synod expenditures for the first month totaled \$77,447—which was \$2,797 more than the amount in the revised spending budget (a 3.6% variance), and \$3,039 more than the amount spent in the previous year (a 3.9% variance). The amount of \$134,991 was received in total support and revenue (\$9,242 less than anticipated and \$35,192 less than the previous year). Expenditures totaled \$143,380 (\$853 less than anticipated and \$8,619 less than last year). The one-month deficit of \$8,389 compared to a surplus of \$18,184 in the previous year.

Scott again commented on the trends, noting that income in February was slightly below expectations. He remarked that support payments from the ELCA (for travel, campus ministry, and the Director for Evangelical Mission position) have been slow making their way through the pipeline.

SC18.3.4B. TREASURER'S REPORT – SPENDING BUDGET FOR FYE 1/31/2019.

Scott Schulte led the Council in a review of the Spending Budget for FYE 1/31/2019, as that spending budget was proposed by the Mission Budget Team in January and approved by the Synod Executive Committee on January 18, 2018. 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). It was observed that the spending budget has been in effect since the beginning of the fiscal year in February.

SC18.3.4B. 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 1/31/2019 spending 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 Associate 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.

SC18.3.4B1. It was MSC to approve the proposed budget for FYE 1/31/2020 in the amount of \$1,719,800 and forward the proposal to the 2018 Synod Assembly for action in June.

A break was taken from 10:00 until 10:00 a.m.

SC18.3.4C. REPORT OF THE BISHOP.

Bishop Gustafson gave a report of his ministry, spanning the dates from January 19 to March 15, 2018. His verbal report supplemented a printed document. Highlights follow:

(1) He and his staff are concluding the latest round of Area Ministry Paloozas, which have featured the theme of Discipleship.

(2) The St. Louis Transition Project continues, with new revelations and learnings.

(3) Conversations with the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri are exploring the possibilities for sharing office space in the future.

(4) He traveled to Chicago for the seminarian assignment process and the Conference of Bishops meeting.

(5) Dialogue continues with an Iowa ELCA congregation that is contemplating a satellite in the Kansas City area.

(6) Worship opportunities took him to Lawrence, KS, and St. Charles, MO.

SC18.3.4D. REPORTS OF AREA MINISTRIES, TEAMS, AND COMMITTEES.

The Council received and reviewed printed reports from the following Area Ministries: Areas 1 and 2 (combined); Area 5; Area 9; Area 10.

The following reports of synodical teams and committees were received:

Companion Synod Team, submitted by Pastor Gary Teske; Parish Ministry Associate Team; TEAM 500, submitted by Pastor Brian Hiortdahl; Lutherans Restoring Creation Mission Table; and synodical Women of the ELCA, submitted by Alice Burnett

SC18.3.5A. NEW BUSINESS – ROSTER OF MINISTERS REPORT.

Bishop Gustafson presented the Roster of Ministers report.

Two seminarians/candidates have been assigned to the Synod: Dan Johnson and Rachel Wolf (Deacon).

Transferring into the Synod was Vern Skarstad, retired, from Southwestern Texas Synod.

Transferring out of the Synod were Dave Beese, retired (to Metropolitan Chicago Synod), and Linda Anderson-Little, On Leave From Call (to Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod).

Entering the Church Triumphant was Pastor Stanley Rogge (retired), on February 10, 2018.

SC18.3.5B. NEW BUSINESS – UPDATE ON SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2018.

The Council was apprised on the planning of the 2018 Synod Assembly, which will be held June 7-9 on the campus of Bethany College, Lindsborg, KS. The Assembly theme is *Sharing in Hope: God's Story, Our Voices*. Reminder was given that the Synod Assembly offering will be divided equally among the following: Central States Synod new ministries; local

MOSAIC division (Ellsworth, KS); and Assistance for Youth from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to attend the National Youth Gathering. Congregations are also invited to support the ELCA Youth Gathering's "Blast Off for Books" project.

SC18.3.5B. NEW BUSINESS – APPROVAL OF SYNOD ASSEMBLY WAIVER REQUESTS.

The Council considered the requests of five congregations that waivers be granted for the purpose of Synod Assembly representation, allowing the congregations to send two voting members of one gender.

SC18.3.5B1. It was MSC to grant waivers to the following congregations for the purpose of Synod Assembly representation, allowing those congregations to each send two voting members of one gender: Immanuel, Salina, KS; Hebron, Burdick, KS; Trinity, Chesterfield, MO (3 female, 1 male); Trinity, Otis, KS; and Redeemer, Salina, KS.

SC18.3.5B. NEW BUSINESS – COMPENSATION GUIDELINES 2019.

Susan Candea presented the proposed Compensation Guidelines for 2019, as prepared by the Synod Compensation Guidelines Task Force. It was observed that Appendix A has been revised.

SC18.3.5B2. It was MSC to approve the 2019 Synod Compensation Guidelines as presented, with the revised Appendix A, and to recommend them to the 2018 Synod Assembly for consideration and final approval.

SC18.3.5B. NEW BUSINESS – REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE.

Susan Candea presented the report of the Synod Nominating Committee; the report listed the names of those who would be considered for election at the Synod Assembly. It was noted that nominees are needed! The nominees follow:

SYNOD COUNCIL (3-year term except where noted)

Area 2 – Female Clergy	Pending
Area 5 – Male Clergy	Pending
Area 8 – Female Layperson	Pending
Area 9 – Male Clergy	Pending
Area 10 – Male Layperson	Pending
At Large – Female Layperson (Clergy nominated)	Rev. Kris Dietzen; Olathe, KS Rev. Donna Florio; Hanover, KS
At Large – Male Layperson (PC/L)	Pending
At Large – Male Layperson, youth (2-year term)	Pending

ELCA CHURCH COUNCIL (6-year term)

(At least 2 nominees required – Churchwide Assembly has final vote)

At Large – Female Layperson Susan Boxberger; Olathe, KS
Kristine Lubber; Topeka, KS

2019 CHURCHWIDE VOTING MEMBERS

Area 1 and 2 – Male Layperson	Rev. Jon Anderson; WaKeeney, KS
Area 3 – Female Clergy	Pending
Area 4 – Female Layperson	Pending
Area 5 – Female Clergy	Pending
Area 6 – Male Layperson	Pending
Area 7 – Female Layperson	Pending
Area 8 – Male Clergy	Pending
Area 9 – Female Layperson	Pending
Area 10 – Male Layperson	Pending
At Large – Male Layperson (PC/L)	Pending
At Large – Female Layperson (Youth/Young adult)	Pending
At Large – Male Layperson (Vice-President)	Dennis Allerheiligen; Overland Park, KS
At Large – Male Clergy (Bishop)	Rev. Roger Gustafson; Olathe, KS

NOTE: PC/L denotes Person of Color/Primary Language other than English

SC18.3.5B. NEW BUSINESS – APPROVAL OF ASSEMBLY DISPLAY TABLES.

The Council considered the requests of two organizations to have display tables at the 2018 Synod Assembly.

SC18.3.5B3. It was MSC to approve the requests of the following organizations to each have a display table at the 2018 Synod Assembly:

Reconciling Works
Healthy Church.org

SC18.3.5C. NEW BUSINESS – APPROVAL OF CONGREGATIONAL CONSTITUTIONS.

The Council considered the approval of Congregational Constitutions.

SC18.3.5C1. It was MSC to approve the Congregational Constitutions of the following congregations: Advent, Olathe, KS; Unity, Bel-Nor, MO; St. Mark, Clayton, MO; and Zion, Ferguson, MO.

SC18.3.5D. NEW BUSINESS – CAMP TOMAH SHINGA LEASE RENEWAL.

The Council considered the approval of the lease agreement with Camp Tomah Shinga.

SC18.3.5D1. It was MSC to amend Section 4 of the lease agreement to include sub-leases for hunting, with the resulting language: *including sub-leases for farming or hay cultivation, hunting, or for timber extraction.*

SC18.3.5D2. It was MSC to approve the lease agreement with Camp Tomah Shinga, as amended.

SC18.3.5E. NEW BUSINESS – SANCTUARY TASK FORCE REPORT.

The Council reviewed a preliminary report, prepared by Pastor John Backus, of the Sanctuary Task Force. The Task Force was authorized by Resolution SA.17.06. *Refugees and Immigrants*, which was approved by the 2017 Synod Assembly.

SC18.3.5F. NEW BUSINESS – BISHOP'S ELECTION TASK FORCE.

It was noted that a Bishop's Election Task Force has been appointed in preparation for the election or reelection of a synodical Bishop at the 2019 Synod Assembly. The Task Force will meet initially via ZOOM technology in the near future.

SC18.3.5G. NEW BUSINESS – APPOINTMENT OF LSTC BOARD MEMBER.

The Council was charged with appointing Janette Schumm to serve a second term on the LSTC Board of Directors.

SC18.3.5G1. It was MSC to appoint Janette Schumm to serve a second three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be Friday, May 11, 2018. The next meeting of the Synod Council is scheduled for Thursday, June 7, 2018 (time to be announced), preceding the Synod Assembly in Lindsborg, KS. The Synod Assembly will be held June 7-9, on the campus of Bethany College.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

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