

CENTRAL STATES SYNOD COUNCIL  
SAVIOR PASTORAL CENTER  
12601 PARALLEL PARKWAY  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS  
OCTOBER 19-20, 2018

The meeting of the Central States Synod Council was called to order by Dennis Allerheiligen, Synod Vice-President, at 5:05 p.m., on Friday, October 19, 2018. Council members present included Bishop Roger Gustafson, Dennis Allerheiligen, Loren Mai, Scott Schulte, Susan Boxberger, David Strommen, Daniel Lilienkamp, Chelsea Deines, Linda Lockhart, Kristen Koch, Lorna Paulus, and Terry Freeman (via iPad). Present from the Synod staff was Susan Candea, Bishop's Associate and Director for Evangelical Mission. Synod Council members absent were Tom Nelson, Grace Vannoy, and Mindy Tillberg.

Vice-President Dennis Allerheiligen welcomed the members of the Synod Council. David Strommen led the Council in a time of devotion; he read *God is a Verb*, by David A. Cooper. The devotion concluded with prayer.

Pastor Susan Candea led the Council in a time of orientation, which included introductions of the Council members. She reminded the Council of the duties and responsibilities outlined in the Synod constitution, pointing out the statement of purpose set forth in chapter 6 of the constitution.

A break for the evening meal was taken at 6:00 p.m. Susan Candea led the Council in a table prayer prior to the meal.

The Council reconvened at 6:45 p.m. Dennis Allerheiligen updated the group on the process for electing a synodical Bishop; the election will take place at the 2019 Synod Assembly. He observed that a Ministry Site Profile has been developed for the Synod, and members of congregations are encouraged to participate in a survey that explores the leadership characteristics desired in a Bishop. Two sub-committees have been formed under the Bishop's' Election Task Force: an Election procedure group and a group that identifies possible nominees for the office of Bishop. The election itself will utilize the ecclesiastical ballot.

The Synod Council meeting was recessed at 8:10 p.m. with the praying of the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was scheduled to resume at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 20.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018

The Saturday session of the Central States Synod Council meeting was called to order by Dennis Allerheiligen, Synod Vice-President, at 9:00 a.m., on Saturday, October 20, 2018. Council members present included: Bishop Roger Gustafson, Dennis Allerheiligen, Loren Mai, Scott Schulte, Susan Boxberger, David Strommen, Daniel Lilienkamp, Chelsea Deines, Linda Lockhart, Kristin Koch, and Lorna Paulus. Susan Candea, Bishop's Associate, was also present. Council members absent included: Tom Nelson, Terry Freeman, Mindy Tillberg, and Grace Vannoy.

David Strommen led the Council in a time of devotion. He read *Yonder*, by Siri Hustvedt, and a portion of Romans 14. He concluded with a prayer.

SC18.10.5A. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Loren Mai, Secretary, presented the minutes of the August 17, 2018, meeting of the Synod Executive Committee.

SC18.10.5A1. It was MSC to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2018, meeting of the Central States Synod Executive Committee.

It was noted that the Council was charged with ratifying the members of the Executive Committee.

SC18.10.5A2. It was MSC to ratify the following as members of the Synod Executive Committee: Bishop Roger Gustafson; Dennis Allerheiligen, Vice-President; Loren Mai, Secretary; Scott Schulte, Treasurer; David Strommen; Susan Boxberger, and Chelsea Deines.

SC18.10.5B. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Scott Schulte, Treasurer, gave an overview of the financial status for the Synod for the first 8 months of the current year (FYE 1/31/2019). Referring to his printed summary, Scott reported that income from congregations totaled \$1,036,152—which was \$70,515 less than what was anticipated in the revised spending budget, a -6.8% variance; the amount received was \$47,255 less than received in the same period of the previous year (a 4.6% decrease). A total of \$518,101 was remitted to ELCA Churchwide--\$38,566 less than anticipated in the revised spending budget (a -7.4% variance), and \$26,678 less than the amount contributed for the same period in the previous year (a -5.1% variance). Synod expenditures for the year totaled \$587,800—which was \$9,400 less than the amount in the revised spending budget (a -1.6% variance), and \$4,993 more than the amount spent in the previous year (a 0.8% variance). The amount of \$1,070,754 has been received in total support and revenue (\$83,113 less than anticipated and \$51,458 less than the previous year). Expenditures have totaled \$1,105,901 (\$47,966 less than anticipated and \$21,685 less than last year). The net deficit of \$35,148 compared to a deficit of \$5,374 in the previous year.

Scott commented on the trends, reviewing a graph that compared mission support for the current fiscal year with the previous year. He noted that only one month of the year (March) has exceeded required monthly income from congregations. Expenses are generally in line with budgetary expectations, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter ELCA Director for Evangelical Mission grant still to come (this grant will reduce the current deficit to \$22,000).

It was noted that the budgetary increases for FYE 1/31/2020 (as approved by the 2018 Synod Assembly) will require significant mission interpretation and education. It was suggested that Synod Council members contact synodical congregations to thank them for past mission support and to remind them to submit a Statement of Intent for the coming Fiscal Year (FYE 1/31/2020).

SC18.10.5C. REPORT OF THE BISHOP.

Bishop Gustafson gave a report of his ministry, spanning the dates from August 17 through October 18, 2018. His verbal report supplemented a printed document. Highlights follow:

(1) He reviewed the recent Bishop's Convocation, held October 9-11 at the Lake of the Ozarks, MO. The theme was *Preaching as Testimony*, with Anna Carter Florence and Jim Brandt serving as presenters.

(2) The search for Synod office space continues, with the possibility of sharing space with the Episcopal Diocese in Kansas City, MO.

(3) He attended the fall gathering of the Conference of Bishops; the agenda focused on the five goals of the ELCA.

(4) He participated in a Congregational Vitality Workshop that explored the listening involved in church vitality.

(5) The Synod staff participated in a retreat with the staffs of three other synods at Camp Carol Joy Holling, NE.

(6) He conducted a consultation in American Lutheran Church, Belleville, KS, in preparation for the congregation taking a first vote to leave the ELCA. (The impending vote, taken on October 14, resulted in a tie.)

Bishop Gustafson was thanked for his report.

#### SC18.10.5D. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT.

Dennis Allerheiligen, Synod Vice-President, reviewed the progress of the Bishop's Election Task Force, as earlier discussed at the Friday evening session of the Council. He observed that an ELCA representative would be present at the Synod Assembly in June to conduct the election process. He also reviewed the tasks of the Election and Nominee Identification sub-committees.

Grace Vannoy was now present at the Synod Council meeting.

#### SC18.10.5E. REPORTS FROM SYNOD TEAMS AND COMMITTEES.

The Council received and reviewed printed reports of Synod Teams and Committees:

Church in Society Team, submitted by Team Chair, Peggy Beljan Schaefer

Lutherans Restoring Creation, submitted by Chair, Pastor Noni Strand

Stewardship Team,

Congregational Vitality Team

Mission Endowment Fund Committee

Companion Synod Team

Transitional Ministry, submitted by Michael Kerr

Campus Ministry, submitted by Campus Ministers – Kevin Clark, Kansas State U.;

Shawn Norris, University of Kansas; Rebecca Boardman, St. Louis Campus Min.

Eastern Conference Strategy Team

Parish Ministry Education and Associate Program

#### SC18.10.6A. OLD BUSINESS – DRAFT OF SYNOD GIFT ACCEPTANCE POLICY.

Scott Schulte, Treasurer, presented the findings of a Gift Acceptance Policy Task Force. The Council reviewed the draft of a policy that updated one approved by the Synod Council in 2001.

SC18.10.6A1. It was MSC to accept the revised Gift Acceptance Policy for the Central States Synod, thereby replacing the policy established by the Synod Council in 2001 and any other policy previously approved by the Synod Council.

A break was taken at 10:15 a.m. The meeting of the Synod Council resumed at 10:25 a.m.

SC18.10.7B. NEW BUSINESS – DESIGNATION OF HOUSING ALLOWANCE.

The Council considered the designation of housing allowances for the rostered Synod staff and campus pastors.

SC18.10.7B1. It was MSC to designate the following amounts as housing allowance for rostered Synod staff for the year 2019:

Bishop Roger Gustafson in the amount of \$15,000

Rev. Keith Hohly in the amount of \$50,000

Rev. Susan Candea in the amount of \$20,000

Rev. Kevin Clark in the amount of \$17,000

Rev. Rebecca Boardman in the amount of \$29,000

Rev. Shawn Norris in the amount of \$20,000

SC18.10.7C. NEW BUSINESS – YEAR-END FINANCIAL APPEAL.

Susan Candea reviewed the process for moving forward with a year-end appeal to augment the Synod's general fund. The Synod Executive Committee had by consensus approved the conducting of such an appeal in August. (cf. SEC.18.8.6D.).

SC18.10.7D. NEW BUSINESS – SYNOD PROPERTY AT 5001 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, KANSAS CITY, MO.

Susan Candea gave a report on the status of the building that formerly housed Children's Memorial Lutheran Church at 5001 Independence Avenue, Kansas City, MO. With the closing of the congregation in 2017, the building became the property of the Central States Synod. The Gathering Table Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community currently worships in the building. A team consisting of Pastor Susan Candea, Susan Boxberger, and Pastor Chris Deines oversees the building on behalf of the Synod. The Council received a printed update of the condition and needs of the building. It was noted that liability insurance is vital for the continued upkeep of the building.

SC18.10.7E. NEW BUSINESS – NEW MINISTRIES IN THE SYNOD.

Susan Candea observed that it is the responsibility of the Synod Council to annually authorize the Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities. The Council took the following action:

SC18.10.7E1. It was MSC to re-authorize the following SAWCs for one year each:

Gathering Table; Kansas City, MO

South Sudanese SAWC; St. Joseph, MO

El Divino Nino; Dodge City, KS

It was noted that the Laotian Community is a SAWC that has suspended worship for now. A proposal for a new start is planned as a satellite of Holy Cross, Overland Park, KS.

It was noted that three congregations are currently under development: Partners, Wichita, KS; Sagrado Corazon de Jesus, Garden City, KS; and the Bridge, St. Charles, MO.

SC18.10.7A. NEW BUSINESS – ROSTER OF MINISTERS REPORT.

Bishop Gustafson presented the Roster of Ministers report:

SC18.10.7A1. It was MSC (en bloc) to extend calls from the Synod Council to the following persons to serve as Mission Developers under 7.44.A05.b.1.6—Congregational Ministry, Pastor in a Congregation under Development, effective for a term of one year, through the dates noted:

Melaku Tizazu, 11/13/19

Ann Rundquist, 1/1/20

Odir Flores, 1/1/20

SC18.10.7A2. It was MSC (en bloc) to extend calls 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, 2019:

Elizabeth Backus

John Backus

Greg Eidell

Gena Marie Koeberl

Callista Isabelle

Russ Glaser

Tom Hallstrom

John Kreidler

Peter Rehwaldt

Cynthia Schnaath

Shelly Klingensmith

SC18.10.7A3. It was MSC to grant disability status to Brad Bray, effective October 15, 2018.

SC18.10.7A4. With the Bishop's endorsement, it was MSC to approve the endorsement and extend "On Leave From Call" status to Larry Block, effective October 1, 2018 (second action).

SC18.10.7A5. With the Bishop's endorsement, it was MSC to approve the endorsement and grant "On Leave From Call" status to Janai Robinson-Makarov, effective January 1, 2019.

In other roster news, it was noted that Elizabeth Kocher was installed as the Associate Pastor at First Lutheran Church, Manhattan, KS, on September 30, 2018.

SC18.10.7F. NEW BUSINESS - APPROVAL OF CONGREGATIONAL CONSTITUTIONS.

The Council considered the approval of the constitutions of three congregations.

SC18,10.7F1. It was MSC to approve the Congregational Constitutions of the following congregations:

Peace Lutheran Church; Manhattan, KS

Hope Lutheran Church; St. Charles, MO

Hebron Lutheran Church; Burdick, KS

SC18.10.7G. NEW BUSINESS – UPDATE ON SYNOD OFFICE.

Discussion of the location of the Synod office was a part of the Bishop's report earlier in the meeting.

SC18.10.7H. NEW BUSINESS – APPOINTMENT OF SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBER.

The Council considered the appointment of Terry Freeman as a member of the Synod Council.

SC18.10.7H1. It was MSC to approve Terry Freeman as a member of the Synod Council (at large male layperson, Person of Color/Primary Language other than English).

SC18.10.7I. NEW BUSINESS – APPOINTMENT OF CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER.

The Council considered the appointment of Janice Gerken as a Churchwide Assembly Voting Member.

SC18.10.7I1. It was MSC to appoint Janice Gerken as a Churchwide Assembly Voting Member (Area 9).

SC18.10.8A. OTHER BUSINESS – NOMINATION GRID FOR SYNOD ASSEMBLY.

Loren Mai presented the nomination grid for elections at the 2019 Synod Assembly.

SC18.10.8A1. It was MSC to approve the following nomination grid for elections at the 2019 Synod Assembly:

OFFICERS

Bishop (6-year term)	Clergy Male or Female	Incumbent is eligible
Vice-President (4-year term)	Male or Female Layperson	Incumbent is eligible
Treasurer (4-year term)	Layperson or Clergy	Incumbent is eligible

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At Large (3-year term)	Male Layperson	Incumbent is ineligible
At Large (3-year term)	Female Layperson (PC/L)	Incumbent is eligible
Youth (2-year term)	Male Layperson	Incumbent is ineligible
Deacon (3-year term)	Female Layperson	Incumbent is ineligible

In addition, positions will be filled on the Consultation Committee and the Discipline Committee. All are six-year terms. The Consultation Committee requires one male clergy and one female clergy. The Discipline Committee requires one male clergy, two female clergy, and one female layperson.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

Executive Committee: January 25, 2019; May 3, 2019

Synod Council: March 15-16, 2019; June 6, 2019

Synod Assembly: June 6-8, 2019

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

It has been a great honor and a privilege to serve as Secretary for 22 years. Thank you!