

**Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council
Executive Committee
Minutes
November 14, 2003**

Members present: Bishop Harold Usgaard, Vice president Shirley Gangstad, Treasurer Jeff Setterlund, Secretary Betty Ann Hernke, and Kathy Tanabe.

Member Absent: Rev. Phil Lewison

Staff present: Deborah Norrie, Recorder

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 PM by Shirley Gangstad, vice president. Ms. Gangstad led the group in prayer.

The only agenda item for this meeting was to discuss the synod's finances and discuss possible recommendations for the synod council meeting.

October mission support was \$181, 495 which is 86% of budget for the nine months of the fiscal year.

There are about 52 congregations that are behind totaling about \$250,000. Larry Iverson is contact these congregations to get a sense of where they will end the year.

Larry Iverson and Bishop Usgaard have done brown bag lunches in all five conferences for pastors to talk about stewardship.

There was discussion about using reserve fund to subsidize the budget for 2003. Bishop Usgaard is concerned about using the reserve for this purpose. Shirley Gangstad suggested that this decision be deferred until January. We need to focus on the income side of the budget. The income to the synod has been flat for many years. This will be discussed at the council meeting November 15.

Bishop Usgaard will bring a revised 2004 budget to the Executive Committee and the Synod Council to increase Mission Support to the ELCA 52% to 52.5 %. Congregations have been challenged to increase their giving and the synod needs to do the same thing.

The bishops and assistants at the Region 3 retreat discussed a special offering for the ELCA. It was suggested that the third Sunday in January be designated for a special offering for the ELCA. Kathy Tanabe commented that if this offering is taken all the offering go to the ELCA, not just 52% of it. The plate should be passed twice so the special offering isn't mixed with the regular offering. The congregations need to be informed about the concerns in the ELCA so they know how serious this is. This is an emergency situation. Bishop Usgaard will present this idea to the council and will ask the council members to make a special gift to the ELCA, also.

Deborah Norrie explained how the gifts to FLIM (Fund for Leaders in Mission) will be matched by Thrivent. If the council would approve it, about \$7600 from the Clergy Continuing Education Restricted Fund could be used to boost the FLIM gifts and enable the synod to begin making scholarship awards sooner. Kathy Tanabe made a motion to recommend that the Synod Council transfer these funds to FLIM. The motion was seconded and carried.

Committee Action

EC.03.11.01 to transfer up to \$7675.00 from the Clergy Continuing Education Restricted Fund to the Fund for Leaders in Mission Scholarship Fund at the ELCA Foundation by December 1, 2003.

Deborah Norrie will present the proposal to the council.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM so the committee could join the synod council for dinner.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is Tuesday, January 20, 2004 at 4:00 pm. Betty Ann Hernke will lead devotions.

Betty Ann Hernke, Secretary
Deborah Norrie, Recorder