

**Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council  
Minutes  
April 8 & 9, 2005**

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council met in retreat in Canticle Hall, Assisi Heights, Rochester April 8 & 9, 2005.

Friday evening, April 8, the council met for dinner and discussion in the Earth Center. They were joined by representatives from synod ministry partners: Lutheran Men in Mission (Rick, Nick & Dick), Christ Through Hands Ministry (Deb Timmers), WELCA (Marie Tesch and VJ Anderson), LACE (Carole Joyce), and the Lutheran Human Relations Association (Pauline Redmond).

Members present: Bishop Harold Usgaard, Vice president Shirley Gangstad, Secretary Betty Ann Hernke, Treasurer Jeff Setterlund, Rev. James Ahlquist, Ms. Marilyn Carpenter, Rev. Cindy Fisher-Broin, Ms. Cathy Mannel, Rev. Richard Spande, Rev. Daniel Baker, Rev. Scott Olson, Mr. John Petersburg, Ms. Beverly Sundheim, Ms. Ann Beatty, Rev. Mary Sue Dreier, Mr. David Horning, and Rev. Barbara Knutson.

Members absent: Rev. Randy Johnson, excused

Note: Dr. Rebecca Koelln has resigned from the Synod Council.

Staff present: Rev. Audree Catalano, Larry Iverson, Deborah Norrie

After dinner and conversation with synod ministry partners about their mission and ministry, Sister Dolore, Sister Avis and Sister Gavin were welcomed for coffee, dessert and conversation. The council asked questions of the sisters about their thoughts on the death of Pope John Paul II and explained the election process of the Conclave.

At 8:00 the meeting adjourned to Clare Chapel. Jon and Siri Strommen Campbell led Holden Evening Prayer. Following worship, members of the council enjoyed fellowship time in the Earth Center.

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On Saturday morning, April 9, 2005, morning worship with Eucharist was led by Bishop Usgaard and members of the Mission Planning & Action Team with Shirley Gangstad preaching.

Following morning prayer, the teams met separately.

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The Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council met in the Sun Center, Assisi Heights, Rochester. Ms. Shirley Gangstad called the meeting to order at 12:45 PM.

Members present: Bishop Harold Usgaard, Vice president Shirley Gangstad, Secretary Betty Ann Hernke, Treasurer Jeff Setterlund, Rev. James Ahlquist, Ms. Marilyn Carpenter, Rev. Cindy Fisher-Broin, Ms. Cathy Mannel, Rev. Richard Spande, Rev. Daniel Baker, Rev. Scott Olson, Mr. John Petersburg, Ms. Beverly Sundheim, Ms. Ann Beatty, Rev. Mary Sue Dreier, Mr. David Horning, Rev. Randy Johnson and Rev. Barbara Knutson.

Staff present: Rev. Audree Catalano, Larry Iverson and Deborah Norrie, Recorder.

Mr. Steve Christopherson and Mr. Bill Kalmes were present from Smith Schafer & Associates. They reviewed the audit for the council and presented their findings.

Ms. BettyAnn Hernke presented the minutes of the council meeting February 19, 2005. Ms. Marilyn Carpenter made a motion to accept the minutes.

**Voted**

**SC05.04.01 to accept the minutes of the council meeting February 19, 2005.**

Mr. Jeff Setterlund presented the treasurer's report.

- March Mission Support -- \$164,406 (\$12,115 ahead of budget projections)
- The March accounting report was reviewed – Ms. Norrie pointed out the balance in the Board Designated Operating Reserve and the Mission Investment Fund account for the strategic plan initiatives
- Checkbook balance of \$183,486.20

Rev. Barbara Knutson made a motion to accept the treasurer's report.

**Voted**

**SC05.04.02 to accept the treasurer's report.**

Reports.

Ms. Gangstad reported to the council that the Executive Committee has authorized contracting with a consultant to do a staff, structure and office space evaluation. That evaluation is expected to be completed by the end of the summer.

Ms. Beatty announced the Mission Planning & Action Team is sponsoring a lemonade stand at the assembly and asked the council's support for *I'm Ready for Mission*.

The Lay & Clergy Development Team has a vacancy with the resignation of Rebecca Koelln. They will work on nominating a replacement to be appointed at the next council meeting. They spent the morning with a pastor from Nebraska talking about lifting up candidates for ministry.

The Congregational Renewal Team:

- awarded a \$500 grant to Glory to God and discussed how to promote the grant availability.

- working in the prayer tent at the assembly
- kick-off event for a synod in study is October 1
- awarded up to \$1500 for the Communications workshops in August
- discussed a harvest festival

Bishop Usgaard noted that the synod council did not forward a formal report or resolution to the ELCA Church Council regarding the task force report. Should the Synod Council send a resolution to the synod assembly that would give the assembly a way to memorialize the Churchwide Assembly with a sense of where this synod is on the issue.

Rev. Scott Olson made a motion to bring the ELCA Church Council resolution to the synod assembly.

#### **Voted**

**SC.05.04.03 to authorize the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Synod Council, to write a resolution to memorialize the 2005 Churchwide Assembly to receive as information the record of response, pro and con, to each of the three recommendations submitted by the Church Council.**

There was no other old business.

S11.05.01 There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the four synod officers and two persons elected annually by the synod council from its own membership.

(The custom has been to elect one clergy and one lay person from the council to serve for one year; they are eligible to be re-elected to one additional year.) Ann Beatty and Rev. Scott Olson were elected at the council meeting May 8, 2004.

Shirley Gangstad explained the election of Executive Committee and polled the members of the Synod Council to ask if they would serve on the Executive Committee. The council was asked to vote for one clergy and one lay person. The results of the first ballot re-elected Ms. Ann Beatty and Rev. Scott Olson to the Executive Committee.

#### Candidacy Committee election

S11.07.01 ...The conference representative shall be nominated by each conference at its annual meeting and elected by the Synod Council...Members shall be elected for a term of 5 years and may serve two consecutive terms.

Zumbro River Conference has nominated **Ms. Miri Mattson** to a second five year term.

Minnesota River Conference has nominated **Rev. Nancy Dreier** for a five year term.

Root River Conference has nominated **Rev. Steve Fiksdal** for a five year term.

The Synod Nominating Committee has nominated **Rev. Steve Bohling** to fill the unexpired term of Rev. Clark Cary, Member at Large whose term expires in 2007. Rev. Bohling would be eligible for two five year terms in addition.

Rev. Barbara Knutson made a motion to elect those nominated by the conferences to the Candidacy Committee.

**Voted**

**SC05.04.04 to elect Ms. Miri Mattson, Rev. Nancy Dreier, Rev. Stephen Fiksdal and Rev. Steve Bohling to the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Candidacy Committee.**

Synod Nominating Committee election

S9.03 The Synod Nominating Committee of five members shall be nominated by the Conference Deans and elected by the Synod Council to serve for one three year term.

The following people have been nominated by the Conference Deans: Blue Earth – Rev. Curtis Zieske, Minnesota River – Rev. Karl Rydholm, Root River – Diane McNally Forsyth and Zumbro River – Rev. Mark Schwartz. Cannon River has not nominated a person yet.

Mr. John Petersburg made a motion to elect the four who have been nominated and elect the Cannon River person via e-mail when the person is known.

**Voted**

**SC.05.04.05 to elect Rev. Curtis Zieske, Rev. Karl Rydholm, Diane McNally Forsyth and Rev. Mark Schwartz to the Synod Nominating Committee.**

Ms. Norrie passed out a meeting schedule for the Executive Committee and the Synod Council for 2005 – 2007.

Rev. Glenn Leaf has requested a Letter of Call as Interim Senior Pastor at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Rochester. Mr. David Horning made a motion to extend the Letter of Call.

**Voted**

**SC.05.04.05 to extend a Letter of Call to Rev. Glenn Leaf as Interim Senior Pastor, Gloria Dei, Rochester effective April 1, 2005.**

The Synod Council is asked by Ecumen to appoint members of the synod to the Ecumen Voters Assembly. Ms. Nancy Donahue, Austin and Rev. Larry Tantow, Rochester are willing to serve. Ms. Cathy Mannel made a motion to appoint them to the Ecumen Voters Assembly.

**Voted**

**SC.05.04.06 to appoint Ms. Nancy Donahue and Rev. Larry Tantow to the Ecumen Voters Assembly.**

Rev. Daniel Baker had one additional piece of new business. He asked the Synod Council for permission for Word Alone and/or Solid Rock Lutherans to have a display table at the synod assembly.

Bishop Usgaard noted that the deadline for requesting a display table was past. Also, he turned down the request by Lutherans Concerned, whose request was in by the deadline. Ms. Norrie also commented that all the space has been reserved and at least one ministry partner had been turned down with a late request for a table because the display space is all taken.

Rev. Dan Baker made a motion that if room is available both Lutherans Concerned and Word Alone be allowed to have displays at the 2005 assembly. There was no second to the motion.

The synod council meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

BettyAnn Hernke, Secretary  
Deborah Norrie, Recorder