

Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council
Executive Committee
Minutes
February 15, 2005

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

Absent: Ann Beatty, excused due to surgery

Staff present: Deborah Norrie, Recorder

Vice president Shirley Gangstad called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM in the conference room of the synod office, Assisi Heights, Rochester, Minnesota.

The only agenda item was revision to the 2005 budget and finalizing a proposed 2006 budget for the council's action February 19, 2005.

Bishop Usgaard presented several different scenarios for income projections for 2005. The adopted 2005 budget was \$2,260,000 which seems unrealistic given the level of giving in 2003 and 2004. Larry Iverson projects income at \$2,233,000 with several congregations left to report. A \$2,240,000 budget would be safe. The bishop would like to stretch some and challenge the synod. The synod is a long way from fulfilling the budget requests of our ministry partners and cuts to the budget come at their expense. The Executive Committee decided to present three options to the council for consideration for 2005 budget revisions: 1. \$2,260,000 with changes made in line item allocations to raise ministry partner gifts; 2. \$2,240,000 with cuts across the board; and, 3. \$2,245,000 with cuts across the board but giving small increases to the Minnesota Council of Churches, LCPPM and Campus Ministry.

The 2006 proposed budget will be \$2,305,000 at 52.5% Mission Support to the ELCA. The budget requests from Ministry Partners for 2005 and 2006 will be printed in the pre-assembly report. Bishop Usgaard and Jeff Setterlund will talk about these requests in their reports to the assembly.

Ms. Norrie said that there would be a surplus of about \$30,000 after the reserve funds used in 2004 are repaid. Bishop Usgaard will propose that \$10,755 of the surplus be used to fund Ministry Partners at 100% for 2004. The council will take action of the disposition of these funds.

The council will be discussing the Report and Recommendations of the ELCA Task Force on Sexuality with Rev. Joseph Crippen at the next council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

BettyAnn Hernke, Secretary
Deborah Norrie, Recorder