

**Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council
Executive Committee
Minutes
October 25, 2005**

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

Staff present: Deborah Norrie, Recorder

Vice president Shirley Gangstad called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM in the conference room of the synod office, Assisi Heights, Rochester, Minnesota. Deborah Norrie led devotions.

Ms. BettyAnn Hernke presented the minutes of the meetings August 29 and September 16, 2005. Rev. Scott Olson moved to accept the minutes of both meetings as written.

Voted

EC05.10.01 to accept the meetings of the Executive Committee August 29, 2005 and September 16, 2005.

Mr. Jeff Setterlund presented the treasurer's report.

- Mission Support for September was \$153,421; which is about the same as September 2004; the year-to-date total income was \$1,247,957 which is 95.4% of the historical budget
- October Mission Support through mid-October was \$87,841
- The September accounting report and the October transaction list were reviewed by the committee.
- The bank balance was \$83,205.42.

Ms. Hernke moved to accept the treasurer's report.

Voted

EC05.10.02 to accept the treasurer's report.

Old Business

The synod council will be having a discussion about the operations assessment. It was decided that an outside facilitator was not necessary for this discussion. The Executive Committee is looking for reaction from the council. In order to make the best use of the time Friday evening at the council meeting, there will be conversation during the evening meal to address:

- What have you appreciated about being on the synod council? What brings you joy or excites you?
- What has been difficult, disappointing or a challenge as a member of the synod council?

Ann Beatty suggested that we ask for reactions from the council members prior to the meeting to address the programs that are important and which may be worn out.

After dinner the council members will be divided into small groups to discuss the questions. Staff members will not be in with the council members. Staff members will be their own group. Shirley Gangstad, BettyAnn Hernke and Jeff Setterlund will facilitate these groups and take notes of the conversation.

Bishop Usgaard briefed the committee on his conversation with staff about job descriptions and the big stone/little stone conversations. Both Carolyn Goulet and Cheryse Sloan asked for more clarification in their job descriptions about their duties. Bishop Usgaard will follow up on this and their job descriptions will be revised.

The staff is on hold regarding use of volunteers for copying and filing. As the call process becomes less paper intensive, this need is reduced. There may be need to filing assistance in the future and the staff will address this issue in the future. We will not use volunteers to answer the phone.

Bishop Usgaard updated the committee on the Assisi Heights remodeling project. Staff will be having conversation with Mayo architects and designers about possible remodeling of the synod space. That process is expected to begin in the new year.

The bishop reported that there has been no word as yet on the two grant proposals to Thrivent. The only other business related to the strategic plan is that the Lay School of Theology program in 2006 is a series of six bible studies to be offered around the synod.

Ms. Norrie presented the revised Assembly Rules for 2006 including the policy statement on the distribution of material at the synod assembly. Ms. Beatty made a motion to adopt the revised assembly rules.

Voted

EC05.10.03 to adopt the revised assembly rules and display policy for distribution of materials for the 2006 Synod Assembly.

Carolyn Goulet has requested that S7.34.06 be enforced. That section states:

There shall be a Committee on Credentials appointed by the Synod Executive Committee from registered voting members to that Synod Assembly to act on applications and examine credentials of Synod Assembly voting members. Every congregation shall submit the credentials of its lay voting members to the Credentials Committee at least 30 days prior to the opening of a synod assembly.

The effect of enforcing this section would be to deny seating any voter not registered 30 days prior to the assembly. The committee does not feel that this is the time to enforce this section. Bishop Usgaard will inform pastors at the theological conference of this

constitutional language. He will also highlight this in his report to the synod at the assembly. Committee members had a number of questions about the registration process. Ms. Norrie explained the process and pointed out the difficulties caused by congregations not getting voters registered prior to assembly. It is difficult to plan for materials, food, etc when attendance numbers are uncertain. There will always be need for registration at assembly for substitute voters even if all voters are pre-registered.

The committee reviewed the revised display policy for synod assembly. Ms. Hernke made a motion to adopt the revised display policy.

Voted

EC05.10.04 to adopt the revised Policy for Synod Assembly Displays.

Annie Lynsen presented a revised Publication Policy to the Executive Committee. Discussion of the policy had been tabled at several meetings due to time constraints. The policy was reviewed by the committee. There was general discussion about who should be able to request labels based on this policy. This paragraph will be added to clarify who can receive labels:

Labels will be provided to ELCA related institutions; ministry partners supported by the synod budget, conferences, congregations and pastors where the purpose of the mailing supports the mission and ministry of the synod's members, rostered personnel, congregations and the synod itself. In no case will labels or mailing lists be provided for fund-raising unless approved in advance by the Executive Committee.

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod has been assigned three additional voting members for the 2007 Churchwide Assembly. Bishop Usgaard would like the Synod Council to designate two of those slots for youth voters. The Conference of Deans has proposed that the Deans received applications from youth and young adults interested in serving as voting members of the Churchwide assembly. The Deans will then select two voters and two alternates from those applications. Those names will be elected by the synod assembly.

Rev. Scott Olson made a motion to recommend that the Synod Council designate two 2007 Churchwide Assembly voter slots as youth positions (1-high school age and 1-young adult) to be nominated by the Conference of Deans and elected by the synod assembly in 2006.

Voted

EC05.10.05 to recommend to the Synod Council that two 2007 Churchwide Assembly voter slots be designated as youth positions (1-high school age and 1-young adult) to be nominated by the Conference of Deans and elected by the synod assembly in 2006.

There was no other old business.

New Business

The Synod Nominating Committee has two vacancies. The Cannon River position has never been filled and the Minnesota River position is vacant because Rev. Karl Rydholm moved to a call in the Blue Earth River Conference. Staff will recruit people to fill these positions for appointment at the February council meeting.

Shirley Gangstad, as vice president, will convene the committee and act as advisory. The bishop would like to have the synod staff less involved in the nomination process. The Executive Committee will oversee the nominating process.

There was no other new business.

Next meeting: January 24, 2006 at 4:00; devotions – Scott Olson.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

BettyAnn Hernke, Secretary

Deborah Norrie, Recorder