

**Southeastern Minnesota Synod
Executive Committee
October 12, 2006**

Members present: Bishop Harold Usgaard, Vice president Shirley Gangstad, Secretary BettyAnn Hernke, Treasurer Mark Bradley, Rev. Cindy Fisher-Broin, Deborah Norrie, Recorder.

Absent: John Petersburg

Ms. Gangstad described the process that she and John Petersburg used to review the personnel policy manual. She proposed that the committee take 20-30 minutes at upcoming meetings and work through the policy until it is completed. Then the revised document will be presented to the council. The committee agreed to meet one hour early on January 23, 2007 and use that extra hour to work on the policy manual.

Ms. Gangstad called the meeting to order at 3:25 PM in the synod office conference room, Assisi Heights, Rochester.

Rev. Cindy Fisher-Broin led devotions.

BettyAnn Hernke presented the minutes of the meeting August 31, 2006. Mark Bradley made a motion to accept the minutes.

Voted

EC06.10.01 to accept the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting August 31, 2006.

Mark Bradley presented the treasurer's report.

- At the end of September Mission Support income was at 58.5% of what was expected for the year. That is even with actual income for 2004 and 2005.
- The budget for Y-T-D September shows spending well below the budget for 66% of the year.
- Reviewed the cash report in the September preliminary accounting report.
- Reported a checking account balance of \$212,130.92

Ms. Hernke made a motion to approve the treasurer's report.

Voted

EC06.10.02 to accept the treasurer's report.

Old Business

Ms. Gangstad followed up with the Lutheran Campus Ministry Winona loan assistance request received in August. After having conversation with Rev. Mark Dumke, Ms.

Gangstad reported that the committee does not need to take action on this request at this time. This is on hold until there is further contact from campus ministry in Winona.

Ms. Gangstad reported that her report on the synod constitution was not ready for this meeting.

The personnel policy manual is ready for review by the committee. This review will begin at the January 23, 2007 executive committee meeting.

Bishop Usgaard reported that the 2007 ELCA representative to the synod assembly will be Rev. Kathie Bender Schwich, Executive for Synodical & Constituent Relations, Office of the Presiding Bishop, ELCA. The committee is still in the dreaming phase and the agenda is not finalized.

Ms. Norrie reported that no response has been received from ELCA legal counsel as yet regarding St. Paul's ELCA/UCC, Lewiston governing documents.

There was no other old business.

New business.

The committee reviewed the plans for the upcoming synod council meeting.

- Meeting at Good Shepherd, Rochester.
- Worship at 8:30 — Rev. Cindy Fisher-Broin will preach; staff will put together a liturgy
- Ministry hour from 9:00 to 10:00 to focus on a different area of ministry (continuing education for the council).
- Business meeting will begin at 10:00 until noon.
- Teams meet during lunch and into the afternoon.

Bishop Usgaard gave a brief report from the October meeting of the Conference of Bishops.

- The new ELW hymnbook has been well received.
- Documentary filmmakers were filming during the meeting. Bishop Hanson is featured in the about great religious leaders in the world

Bishop Usgaard led conversation about how to do the 2008 budgeting within the framework of the goals set out in the September council meeting. "What do we do now?"

- Ask Karen Ortloff to plan prayer times during each meeting.
- Ask other council members to be prepared to pray at different times during the meetings.
- Do the budget in a narrative/story/picture form of report to the assembly; this is easier to do with the ministry portions than administration; ask staff prepare information for Mark Bradley about the ministry areas of their jobs in general.
- How do we engage congregations? Can Katie Butler do an audit asking: How well do we engage congregations? Which areas are effective? Which are not?

- What are the synod's values? The council needs to struggle with this question. Is there a disconnect between what we say the values are and what we act on?

There will be a regional stewardship consultation at Luther Crest, Alexandria, November 9, 2006 from noon to 4:00. Shirley Gangstad and Mark Bradley are not able to attend. Larry Iverson will be asked to consider who else might attend this meeting. Bishop Usgaard, Larry Iverson and Deborah Norrie will attend.

Bishop Usgaard reported on how Rev. Audree Catalano's job has been filled in the interim until a new Synod Minister can be called.

- Miri Mattson, Hosanna, Rochester will do preliminary interviews with people interested in candidacy.
- Call Process Shepherds have been recruited in each conference: Rev. Chris Wendland, Rev. Chris Brekke, Rev. Charles Espe, Rev. Jim Radatz, and Rev. Gary Benson.
- A group of recent FCTE participants and presenters will be meeting to assist in planning for the upcoming year.
- Dr. Noel Peterson, chair of the Committee on Candidacy is willing to take more leadership during the interim.
- John Petersburg, chair of the Lay & Clergy Leadership Development Team is leading the team in the interim.

There was no other new business

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

BettyAnn Hernke, Secretary
Deborah Norrie, Recorder

Next meeting: January 23, 2007 at 3:00; John Petersburg, devotions