

**Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council
Minutes
November 17, 2007**

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council met at Messiah Lutheran, North Mankato November 17, 2007 at 8:30 AM.

Morning worship was led by Rev. James Ahlquist along with the worship team from Messiah in the church sanctuary. Following worship, Rev. Ahlquist told about the history of the congregation.

The business meeting was called to order by vice president Ms. Shirley Gangstad.

Member Present: Bishop Harold Usgaard, Vice president Shirley Gangstad, Secretary BettyAnn Hernke, Treasurer Mark Bradley, Rev. Jim Ahlquist, Karen Berg, Marcia Blackburn, Rev. Cindy Fisher-Broin, Dorothy Gesme, Rev. John Henriksen, Rev. Randy Johnson, Craig Nelson, Rev. Scott Olson, John Petersburg, Rev. Richard Spande.

Members Absent: Ann Beatty, Beth Krehbiel, Amanda Neuzil, Karen Ortloff.

Staff Member Present: Rev. Linda Gunderson, Larry Iverson

Staff Member Absent: Deborah Norrie, Recorder

Ms. Gangstad welcomed Karen Berg, Fountain Lutheran, Fountain to the synod council. Also welcomed was Rev. Wyvetta Bullock & Rev. Mark Grorud from ELCA Churchwide Organization.

Rev. Wyvetta Bullock & Rev. Mark Grorud led a consultation on the ELCA Mission Support. Discussion focused on the relationship between the Churchwide organization and synod. Some questions that were considered: What is the role of Churchwide? What are some of the mission and ministry opportunities in the synod? How can we partner to address these mission and ministry opportunities? What is our synod's strategy to increase mission support in the synod's congregations? How can Churchwide be more helpful?

A video "Mission Flowing from God's Abundance" was shown. This video was from the Blue Ribbon Committee report given to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly.

Ms. BettyAnn Hernke presented the minutes of the council meeting September 8, 2007. Rev. Richard Spande made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded and carried.

Voted

SC.07.11.01 to accept the minutes of the council meeting September 8, 2007.

Mr. Mark Bradley was called upon for the treasurer's report.

1. Mission support is on track to 2007 budget.

2. Reviewed the October financial report and budget.
3. Checkbook balance was \$347,031.

Rev. John Henriksen moved to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and carried.

Voted

SC.07.11.02 to accept the treasurer's report.

Reports

Bishop Usgaard reported that the Budget Task Force has met and will be meeting again soon. The Youth and Family Ministry Task Force has met and are developing a vision and strategy of Implementation of Youth and Family Ministry in the synod.

Bishop Usgaard reported on staffing. Rev. Linda Gunderson began her new call on October 8, 2007. Her job description will focus on caring for congregational life and renewal in the synod. Larry Iverson will focus on call process. Cheryse Brenno-Sloan will be Larry's support with the call process. Miri Mattson is serving as support with the candidacy committee and Cheryse will assume this when Deborah returns from sabbatical.

Over \$100,000 has come in for flood relief for Southeastern Minnesota. This doesn't include what the council voted for flood relief. Conference Deans are coordinating an effort to provide a weekend of respite for pastors affected by the flood.

Bishop Usgaard would like to use some of the money in the Board Designated Operating Reserve for staffing for Lutheran Disaster Response. John Petersburg made a motion that the Bishop use some of Board Designated Operating Reserve for staffing for Lutheran Disaster Response.

Voted

SC.07.11.03 to authorize Bishop Harold Usgaard to use \$10,000 of Board Designated Operating Reserve funds for staffing Lutheran Disaster Response; and to authorize use of an additional \$15,000 of Board Designated Operating Reserve funds for flood relief at his discretion.

The Bishop told about a Council as Leaders event on February 24, 2008 at Zumbro Lutheran, Rochester. The event will feature Bishop Mark Hanson, Presiding bishop of ELCA. He will be speaking to the leaders of the church about current trends in the ELCA.

Team minutes and other reports were sent to the council in advance of the meeting.

Old Business

Updates were given on the Conference of Deans meeting on September 25, 2007 and on the Executive committee meeting on October 23, 2007.

There was no other old business.

New Business

Craig Nelson made a motion to replace Rev. Linda Gunderson on the Mission Planning and Action team with Rev. Tammy Dahlvang. Motion was seconded and carried.

Voted

SC.07.11.04 to replace Rev. Linda Gunderson on the Mission Planning and Action team with Rev. Tammy Dahlvang.

John Petersburg made a motion to replace Cathy Mannel on the Congregational Renewal team with Karen Berg. Motion was seconded and carried.

Voted

SC.07.11.05 to replace Cathy Mannel on the Congregational Renewal team with Karen Berg.

Mark Bradley made a motion to replace Beth Krehbiel on the Congregational Renewal team with Vonda Humburg. Motion was seconded and carried.

Voted

SC.07.11.06 to replace Beth Krehbiel on the Congregational Renewal team with Vonda Humburg.

Housing allowance for 2008 for Bishop Usgaard and Rev. Linda Gunderson was explained. Craig Nelson made a motion that the housing allowance for Rev. Linda Gunderson be \$25,000. Motion was seconded and carried.

Voted

SC.07.11.07 that the 2008 housing allowance for Rev. Linda Gunderson be \$25,000.

Mark Bradley made a motion that the housing allowance for Bishop Usgaard be \$38,700. Motion was seconded and carried.

Voted

SC.07.11.08 that the 2008 housing allowance for Bishop Usgaard be \$38,700.

A Task Force meeting will be held on December 10, 2007 at 3:00PM at the synod conference room at Assisi Heights for the purpose of synod council reconfiguration. All council members are welcome to attend.

Shirley Gangstad read a thank you from the family of Mervin Ellingson, Bishop's Usgaard's father-in-law.

Mark Bradley made a motion to approve on leave from call status to Rev. Barbara Jewell. Motion was seconded and carried.

Voted

SC.07.11.09 to approve on leave from call status to Rev. Barbara Jewell.

Rev. Scott Olson made a motion to approve a Letter of Call to Rev. Rolf Wangberg to Lutheran Disaster Response Staff. Motion was seconded and carried.

Voted

SC.07.11.10 to approve a Letter of Call to Rev. Rolf Wangberg to Lutheran Disaster Response Staff.

Rev. Scott Olson made a motion to approve the constitution of Trondhjem, Lonsdale. Motion seconded and carried.

Voted

SC.07.11.11 to approve the constitution of Trondhjem, Lonsdale.

Craig Nelson made a motion to approve the constitution of Messiah, North Mankato. Motion was seconded and carried.

Voted

SC.07.11.12 to approve the constitution of Messiah, North Mankato.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next council meeting will be February 23, 2008 at Assisi Heights, Rochester.

Lunch was served by the ladies of Messiah and team meetings were held during lunch.

BettyAnn Hernke, Secretary