

**Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council**  
**Executive Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**August 28, 2007**

At 3:00 PM, before the business meeting was called to order, the committee had conversation about the interview process for the synod minister position on the synod staff. Bishop Usgaard explained that he felt this might be the time to reorganize the two synod minister job descriptions to better use the gifts of the two synod ministers. He has come to recognize that Larry Iverson has gifts for the call process. The reorganization will be done after the new person is called.

Rev. Linda Gunderson, Central Freeborn, Clarks Grove was interviewed for the synod minister position by Bishop Usgaard, Shirley Gangstad, BettyAnn Hernke, Mark Bradley and John Petersburg.

Following the interview, the committee discussed the interview and agreed that Rev. Gunderson should be offered the position. After a brief discussion with her, Bishop Usgaard announced that Linda Gunderson accepted the call as Synod Minister. The Synod Council will extend the Letter of Call at the September council meeting.

Shirley Gangstad called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order with all members present: Bishop Harold Usgaard, Shirley Gangstad, BettyAnn Hernke, Mark Bradley, John Petersburg and Rev. Linda Gunderson. Deborah Norrie was also present as recorder.

Three candidates for the position as Call Process Assistant were expected for interviews during the evening: Cheryse Sloan, Cheryl Root and Carmen Zwicker.

During the brief times between these interviews the committee conducted an abbreviated agenda of business.

Minutes of the May 22, 2007 meeting were received by the committee. A motion was made, seconded and carried to adopt those minutes.

Mr. Bradley offered a brief financial report. He reported a bank balance of \$386,875.35. Projected Mission Support for August is good and we expect to be close to anticipated income. The July preliminary financial report was distributed. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the treasurer's report.

**Old Business**

Bishop Usgaard reported that the Budget Task Force met once and will meet again in September. The Youth & Family Ministry Task Force has met once and a second meeting is planned.

The committee discussed the plans for the September council meeting. Ms. Gangstad will work with Our Saviors, Spring Valley about food and Friday night worship. Bishop Usgaard will do

the Saturday morning worship and lead the book discussion Friday evening. Housing is at the Hilton Garden Inn in Rochester.

The two vacancies on the council were discussed. Cathy Mannel served on the Congregational Renewal Team. Ms. Gangstad will be in touch with a woman in Cleveland who would be a good addition to that team and the council. She will speak with Rev. Tammy Dahlvang about completing Rev. Linda Gunderson's place on the Mission Planning & Action Team. Linda Gunderson also needs to be replaced on the Executive Committee by another member of the council.

Ms. Norrie reported that the Personnel Policy manual is not ready for its final review.

There was no other old business.

#### New Business

Ms. Norrie reported that Rev. Paul Baker served the synod well as the assembly manager. He is already hard at work on the 2008 assembly. BettyAnn Hernke made a motion to approve the contract with Paul Baker for another year at a fee of \$3500.00. The motion was seconded and carried.

Ms. Norrie reported that the Office of the Secretary notified the synod office that the synod is entitled to 27 voters (that included the bishop and the vice president) at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. She also reported the continuing difficulty in securing multicultural voters. The committee directed Ms. Norrie to recruit two multicultural voters rather than three. The nomination information will be given to the Conference of Deans at their September meeting. We will also use the same process used in 2006 to elect a youth and young adult voter.

Ms. Gangstad explained her discomfort with the title Call Process Assistant. It seems to convey more authority than we wish to give for a clerical position. The Committee decided the title Call Process-Candidacy Administrative Assistant was a more appropriate title for this position.

Mark Bradley made a motion to hire Cheryse Sloan as the new Call Process-Candidacy Administrative Assistant. This is a full time position with benefits. The salary will be annualized using the hourly rate now paid. This motion was seconded and carried.

There was no other new business.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

BettyAnn Hernke, Secretary  
Deborah Norrie, Recorder

Next meeting: October 23; Devotions – Shirley Gangstad