



**Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council met on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at Faith Lutheran Church in Dodge Center.

Members present: Rev. Jay Dahlvang, Rev. Jason Bryan-Wegner, John Odegard, Cheryl Kylo, Rev. Heather Culuris, Rev. Kerry Eversole, Rev. Dave Klawiter, Craig Nelson, Regina Seabrook, Vice President Ann Peterson, Secretary Jodie Archer, Treasurer Jeff Chestnut and Bishop Steve Delzer.

Staff: Kari MacIver, Rev. Pete Reuss and Rev. Susan Miller.

Absent: Rev. Regina Hassanally, Rev. Ashley Osborn, Maria Nielsen, Amanda Gebhart and Rev. Mark Johnson.

Devotions were provided by Rev. Jay Dahlvang and the Communion Presider was Rev. Kerry Eversole.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Ann Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:43am.

**AGENDA**

✚ Vice President Ann Peterson reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

**SC17.02.01 Motion to approve the Agenda.**

**Motion approved.**

- ✚ Announcements  
Rev. Ashley Osborn has been blessed with a baby girl.
- ✚ Consent Agenda
  - \*Minutes – November 5, 2016 and January 4, 2017 (electronic meeting)
  - \*Reports: Executive Committee, Bishop & Staff
  - \*Approval of congregational constitutions Calvary, Rapidan

**Council Action:**

**to thank Calvary Lutheran Church, Rapidan, for the work done on the constitution and bylaws;**  
**to express appreciation of the way the congregation bylaws have been codified in the document as a model for other congregations in the synod; and**  
**to approve the constitution dated January 15, 2017, as consistent with the 2016 Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Southeastern Minnesota Synod.**

Faith, Wabasha

**Council Action:**

**to thank Faith Lutheran Church, Wabasha, for the work done on the constitution and bylaws;**  
**to express appreciation of the way the congregation bylaws have been codified in the document as a model for other congregations in the synod; and**  
**to approve the constitution ratified January 15, 2016 and updated January 17, 2017, as consistent with the 2016 Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Southeastern Minnesota Synod.**

**SC.17.02.02 Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**

**Motion approved.**

**Fiduciary Work**

- ✚ Bishop's Remarks
  - Update on Campus Ministry – Rev. Tammy Dahlvang has resigned as the pastor at Mankato. This has led the board there into conversation as to the direction of the ministry going into the future. Lutheran Campus Ministry Minnesota will go out of existence at the end of 2017. Each Synod will be responsible for those ministries within their territory. Possibilities include Christ the King congregation considering taking prime responsibility for that ministry. All congregations in Mankato would still be supporting that location. The call would come from

Christ the King and the congregation would assume the financial responsibility. The second option would be to call another campus pastor just like they have in the past. The third option would be to sell the building and work out of another space on campus. The fourth option would be that it goes away. Part of the complication is that there is a \$188,000 lien against the building that comes from the ELCA's national campus ministry organization. When the building was purchased, money was loaned from this national organization (1/2 from them and 1/2 from this synod). This lien would only be activated if the building was sold. There is significant maintenance that needs to be done over the next few years on the building. This lien would affect the ability to secure a loan. The national organization was contacted and asked to have the lien removed/released and they have denied that request. The title can be transferred.

They currently have an operations manager and pastors in the area have taken responsibility to cover the Wednesday night services through the end of the school year.

- The Bishop has recently been elected as president of Minnesota Council of Churches. The director has retired. They are now in the process of finding a new director and have hired a search firm to assist with this process.
- Leading a group to Tanzania in March with Kathy Chatelaine.

✚ Approval of Roster Changes – Bishop Delzer  
Call To Interim Ministry Through Synod Council:

- Rev. Randal Fett, On Leave From Call to Interim at First Evangelical, Kenyon-12/07/2016.
- Rev. Cheryl Inderhar, Interim at East & West St. Olaf to Interim at St. Paul, Meridan & Zion, Lemond-01/08/2017.

Call To Specialized Ministry Through Synod Council:

- Rev. Diane Odermann, Interim at First Albert Lea to Interim Associate Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Austin Minnesota-11/01/2016.

Synodically Authorized Ministers Through Synod Council: (Renewed yearly)

- Cathleen Morris, SAM, at Medo, Mapleton-01/01/2017.
- Dean Safe, SAM, at Henrytown, Canton & Union Prairie, Lanesboro-01/29/2017.
- Simon Choat, SAM, at St. Olaf, Austin-02/19/2017.

Disability:

- Rev. Vicki Hultine, Solo Pastor at St. John, Mapleton to Disability-12/03/2016.

Retirement Status: (Acknowledge Only)

- Rev. Clifford B. Jacobsen-10/01/2016

Congregation: (Remove from the ELCA/ SEMN Synod)

- Mona & Six Mile Grove, Lyle: Bishop Delzer Recommends Delaying of Action till the next Synod Council Meeting on 04/01/2017.

On Leave From Call - New Requests

- Marie Anderson, start date 11/20/2016, expiration date 11/19/2019.
- Peter Soli, start date 11/20/2016, expiration date 11/19/2019.
- Tammy Dahlvang, start date 01/01/2017, expiration date 12/31/2019.
- Dan Watland, start date 01/01/2017, expiration date 12/31/2019.
- Joy Bussert, start date 04/17/2017, expiration date 04/16/2020.

On Leave From Call - Renewals

- Michelle Rem, start date 01/17/2016, expiration date 01/17/2019.
- Shana Williams, start date 02/22/2015, expiration date 02/21/2018.

**SC.17.02.03 Motion to approve roster changes as presented.**

**Motion approved.**

✚ Financial Reports

- Audits  
Treasurer Jeff Chestnut shared with the Council members that the 2015 audit update is currently happening. He is hopeful that the audit will be complete by the time of Synod Assembly.

We are close to having the 2016 financials complete and will begin the 2016 audit at that time.

- Update on Gift Receipt Policy  
The auditors have been given the gift receipt policy to review. They have requested that one sentence be added on page 3, Section I subsection B Temporarily Restricted Gifts. "The SE Minnesota Synod reserves the right to refuse or ask for altering of any temporarily restricted funds when the restriction is too narrow or the cost to comply with the restriction would outweigh the benefits."

**SC.17.02.04 Motion to approve the Gift Receipt Policy as amended.  
Motion approved.**

- Update on Sale of Gifted Stock  
The Executive Committee has recommended giving authority to sell the stock in Jeff's absence to two staff members, per Jeff's recommendation. The Executive Administrator and the Financial Administrator have been given this authority.
- Accountant Information  
There was a discussion regarding the accountant currently hired by the Office of the Bishop.

**SC.17.02.05 Motion to receive the financial reports.  
Motion received.**

- ✚ Preliminary planning for the 2018 proposed budget  
There is a proposal to merge the program budget and the Leading Together campaign so there is one comprehensive budget going forward. The rationale of bringing them together into one comprehensive budget is that the exciting things are all happening with the Leading Together portion. Additional things with the additional funds

are being done that could not be done with the standard budget. There was discussion within the group.

Rev. Pete Reuss reviewed the budget information with the group.

- ✚ Leading Together update  
Rev. Pete indicated that \$190,000 will be the year-end total for 2016. For never having done this before, he indicated that he felt good about this total. The Campaign Disbursement Team will meet to disperse the funds appropriately.

Proposal for 2017 campaign includes having a team to do much of the work that the staff did in 2016. Categories listed under each priority indicate where funds will be directed at the end of the 2017 campaign should the funds be raised in full.

**Strategic Work**

- ✚ Nominating Committee Update  
Vice President Ann Peterson shared the needs with the openings available for the committees, tables, etc. She will pursue additional positions for the Synod Council with specific gifts surrounding finance and development. If there are other areas that we as a Council should be looking for going forward, please let Ann know of names.
- ✚ Mission Support Table Update  
Rev Pete Reuss shared the thank you tour explanation and a request for non-clergy Council members to sign up to say thank you. A script is read during the worship service. There are five congregations in each conference visited each year.
- ✚ Synod Assembly Update  
Kari MacIver shared updated information regarding the 2017 Synod Assembly details. This will be the 30<sup>th</sup> assembly of our synod assembly. First assembly had twenty-one resolutions. Workshops are open to anyone, not just to voting members. \$25 registration fee for workshops only. Emily has been working on pre-assembly report and it is being done differently. It will be rolled out in 6 pieces.  
The 2018 Synod Assembly will be at the Verizon Center in Mankato. After the 2017 Assembly, the dates will be announced. It

will be a Friday/Saturday or a Saturday/Sunday.

The same space will be used for the 2017 Assembly at the Mayo Civic Center. New space will be used for workshops.

The Synod Council members recessed for lunch at 12:15pm

The Council reconvened at 1pm.

### **Generative Work**

- ✚ Overview & Conversation: Synod Diversity Team  
Regina Seabrook invited the members present to read the document “Synod Table for Community Accompaniment”. After reading the document, Regina explained the committee’s journey. The name of the group grounds the table. Using this language is inclusive language – it includes all persons and is relationship based. Key concepts: Reactivity to proactivity; Responsive to leaders and congregations; Listening to leaders and congregations; Become a resource.  
Intersectional justice work: intersectionality is an analytic sensibility, a way of thinking about identity and its relationship to power.

### **SC.17.02.06 Motion to approve the formation of a Synod Table for Community Accompaniment.**

**Motion approved.**

The group then broke into small groups to discuss survey questions and blessings for the newly formed table.

- ✚ Meeting Summary
- ✚ Observers: Rev. Jason Bryan-Wegner & Cheryl Kylo  
Pace of the meeting went well.  
Internet capacity of facilities is important when scheduling in other locations.

### **SC.17.02.07 Motion to adjourn.**

**Motion approved.**

Meeting adjourned at 3pm.

Video – Regina Seabrook

- \*Budget process has begun that reflects our three synod priorities
- \*Identifying a number of initiatives to support congregations
- \*Exciting candidacy, call process updates

Dates to Remember:

February 26– Renew! at Zumbro in Rochester  
April 1 – Synod Council Meeting, Assisi Heights, Rochester  
May 6 & 7 - 2017 Synod Assembly at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester

Respectfully submitted,  
Jodie Archer  
Synod Council Secretary

Kari Maclver  
Recorder