

**South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Synod Council
Haugo Room, Augustana College
Sioux Falls, SD
May 30, 2009**

Present: Bishop Dave Zellmer, Carla Borchardt; Pastor Linda Wahlstrom, Northern Plains; Holly Paulson, Becky Senner, Willmer Herr, Pastor Brad Danielson, Prairie Rivers; Kristin Ackermann, Travis Gerlach, Youth; LuAnn Denke, Pastor Bruce Thalacker, Bear Butte; Pastor Chip Joyslin, Joel Laumer, Gwen Bobbie, Crossroads; Mary Weerts, Dick Shane, Pastor Carlene Rhody, Medary; Barbara Egbert, Pastor Anna Peck, Janis Schumacher, Southeastern; Pastor Wayne Gallipo, Prairie Coteau; Susan Marone, AIM, Pastor Bill Tesch, Jackie Hensley, Lois Borchardt, Kristi Lee, Jim Schade

Guests: Bishop Victoria Cortez, Justin Mootz, Pastor Heidi Kvanli

Synod Council Vice President Pastor Bruce Thalacker called the meeting to order and led devotions.

Secretary's Report

**MSC to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2009, meeting.
SC.09.05.01**

A discussion was held regarding approval and distribution of the Synod Council minutes. There is a desire to distribute the minutes throughout the Synod, but a reluctance to do so before the minutes are approved by the Synod Council. Waiting until the next face-to-face Council meeting causes a delay in distribution. Electronic (email) distribution and approval by Council is a potential solution. If this option is used, Council members are reminded to use the reply rather than reply to all function with any comments or corrections to the minutes.

**MSC Synod Council minutes to be published electronically to all members of the Council within two (2) weeks of the Council meeting. Council members have one (1) week to respond to the secretary with corrections. No response to the secretary indicates approval of the minutes. Amended minutes to be published electronically to all members of the Council for approval. The final approved version of the minutes to be published to the Synod as a whole within thirty (30) days of the Council meeting.
SC.09.05.02**

Treasurer's Report

Copies of the balance sheet and analysis of revenue and expenses were distributed. Lois Borchardt provided a brief overview of the statements. Members of the Executive Committee will receive monthly statements and Council members will receive statements at Council meetings. Restricted accounts are established by the Council. Monies stay in these accounts at the end of the fiscal year (do not go into the general fund). Bishop Dave expressed some concern that revenues should be at approximately 120% of budget. Pastor Brad Danielson stated it would be helpful to present a summary of the past fiscal year during Synod Assembly.

New Business

Gloria Dei, Sioux Falls

Pastor Heidi Kvanli, Gloria Dei, Sioux Falls, stated the congregation has been exploring a location move from 2800 E. 57th Street, to approximately 1 ½ miles east on 57th Street, near Highway 11. Bishop Dave stated the Synod has been in conversation with Gloria Dei regarding this potential relocation of the congregation. Pastor Bill Tesch stated this potential move has been discussed by the Sioux Falls Mission Strategy Table. The Gloria Dei relocation would fit well with the Sioux Falls strategy. Per constitution, congregation relocation must be approved by the Synod Council.

MSC to grant Gloria Dei, Sioux Falls, permission to proceed with plans for congregation relocation from 2800 E. 57th Street to approximately 1 ½ miles east on 57th Street, near Highway 11.
SC.09.05.03

Companion Synod, Nicaragua

Bishop Victoria and Justin Mootz (interpreter) were welcomed and introduced. Bishop Victoria stated she feels truly blessed by God to be in South Dakota. She learns much from the South Dakota Synod. The church in Nicaragua has only about 10,000 members and is only 18 years old. She feels very honored to come to South Dakota and share Nicaragua's theological vision for the world. Bishop Victoria thanked Bishop Dave and the synod for the invitation to visit and participate in the Synod Assembly. She has felt very welcomed and part of our family. Members of the Council thanked Bishop Victoria for coming to South Dakota and sharing with the synod.

Synod Assembly Evaluation

Council members introduced themselves and provided an evaluation of the Synod Assembly.

- Conversations were difficult but good (X3)
- Pleased with assembly (X2)
- Difficult conversations, but wasn't too tense, all were respectful (X9)
- Appreciated Bishop's remarks of three things to keep in mind regardless of what is decided at churchwide assembly
- Troubled by "green" maybe synod was green, but it all went back to the congregations; recommend amount saved should go back to congregations as decreased registration costs for next year (X2)
- Was hard to run copies off own printer at home
- Wasn't too impressed with needing to print out reports on own, then there were some revisions, so had to print again
- Struggled with having to print, neither congregation or voting members have access to printers; then had to decide which of the updates to print
- Very late before reports could be printed out, need to have reports at least a couple weeks ahead
- Enjoyed the assembly
- Appreciate the book of faith sessions/moments (X3)
- Liked Bishop Dave's acronym for RESPECT
- Enjoy situations where debate is good, feel that people were able to express their opinion
- Good
- General consensus, Dr Gaiser book of faith moments should be just a bit shorter
- To save time, during votes, do some filler things such as Rapid City or Bust announcement
- Is praying for the Churchwide Assembly, hope it goes as well as our assembly

- Bishop Dave did a good job of setting tone for respect and mutual tolerance by all sides/opinions; handled discussions well (X3)
- Enjoy worship services (X2)
- Heard comments Friday was long and got boring (X3)
- Liked there was not a feeling of being rushed, all had opportunity to state their piece
- Went very well
- As a disabled person, greatly appreciated bus service to breakout sessions
- Food was outstanding
- Fun
- Glad she was aware of parliamentary procedure, so knowledge of that was very helpful
- Change times of breakout sessions
- Way of handling resolutions 5A, 5B, 6 and 7 worked well and was appreciated
- Feels like we've been talking about issues regarding sexuality for a long time, wish we could focus on other issues
- Appreciate having all text on the screens in black – very easy to see
- Felt encouraged by tone and attitude of those speaking
- Weren't as many standing around coffee, people were more attentive
- Sad so many people leave before the closing worship
- Appreciate the name tags and lanyards
- Bishop Dave was careful about people understanding what was happening, this was very good
- Was too cool, especially starting Saturday afternoon
- Youth acted like voting members, were involved in the whole process
- Video and audio were good
- Appreciate the staff and all the work they do
- Online registration worked well from the synod office side, greatly decreased the synod staff workload; credit goes to Kevin Stillson for rewriting this program
- Was confusing to find break out rooms, better signage would be good
- What are goals for synod assembly? Should be a time to review ministries occurring in name of the synod, hear stories
- Some reports/content are dictated by the constitution
- Assembly improves each year
- David Swartling's ability to step in and do the banquet keynote was appreciated, he did a good job
- Flow was good
- People were well engaged
- Sound was good
- Assistive listening devices were appreciated
- Would like to see more Bible study

Assembly Resolution Follow-up

Resolution 3, Synodically Authorized Ministers (SAMs) -- Bishop Dave stated there is one person serving as a Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM) with no background check or psychological profile/ evaluation completed. This is non-negotiable and must be done. Bishop Dave will discuss potential options for formal education for SAMs with Churchwide. Council members stated SAMs must have an active relationship with a mentor. Council members stated concern if SAMs do not have continuing education or certification when serving congregations. This resolution will be placed on the October Synod Council meeting agenda for further discussion.

Call Matters

The Council entered executive session. The executive session was adjourned.

MSC to remove Pastor William Greaver from the roster of the South Dakota Synod and the ELCA.

SC.09.05.04

(Pastor Brad Danielson abstained)

MSC to grant Pastor Brad Peterson disability roster status.

SC.09.05.05

MSC to issue a non-stipendiary letter of call to Pastor Ron Brugger to serve Trinity Episcopal in Watertown.

SC.09.05.06

MSC to issue a non-stipendiary letter of call to Pastor Bob Hansen to synod interim ministry.

SC.09.05.07

Pastor Al Schoonover transferred out of the Synod.

MSC to grant leave from call roster status to Pastor Joe Smith.

SC.09.05.08

Jay Haaland has been serving the Hecla and Houghton congregations as a SAM since 2005. Mr. Haaland has not entered into the candidacy process nor has he completed any type of continuing education. Neither a background check nor psychological profile have been completed. Bishop Dave has had conversation with Mr. Haaland and the congregations regarding church policy and requirements. The congregations indicated they have had difficulties with previous leadership. The relationship with Mr. Haaland has been perceived very positively by the congregations. The congregations have taken an initial vote to leave the ELCA and are waiting to hear from the Synod Council whether or not an exception to the TEEM candidacy requirement can be made for Mr. Haaland.

MS a background check and psychological evaluation/profile be completed for Jay Haaland and he must meet with Bishop Dave Zellmer by July 15, 2009.

MS to amend motion to state Jay Haaland must begin the candidacy process. A background check, psychological evaluation/profile be completed and he must meet with Bishop Dave Zellmer by July 15, 2009.

MSC to end debate.

SC.09.05.09

The amendment to the motion was approved.

SC.09.05.10

The amended motion was approved.

Jay Haaland must begin the candidacy process. A background check, psychological evaluation/profile be completed and he must meet with Bishop Dave Zellmer by July 15, 2009.
SC.09.05.11

Council members suggested someone from a congregation that has benefited from the TEEM process speak with the congregations at Hecla and Houghton. The Synod Council will allow Bishop Dave and the synod staff the ability to negotiate the educational process and options with Mr. Haaland and the Hecla and Houghton congregations.

Retire Outgoing Members

Outgoing members were thanked for their years of service on the Synod Council: Jason Richie (Prairie Coteau), Pastor Randy Eisenbeisz (Medary), Jennifer Koepsell (Crossroads), Orland Geigle (Northern Plains), Becky Senner (Prairie Rivers), SaRena Freet (Youth).

Seating of New Members

New members were welcomed to the Council: Jeff Brindle (Prairie Coteau), Pastor Carlene Rhody (Medary), Gwen Bobbie (Crossroads), Scott Lein (Northern Plains), Holly Paulson (Prairie Rivers), Travis Gerlach (Youth).

Conference Caucus, Mission Board Assignments and Elections

Conference caucuses were held to determine mission board assignments. Mission boards met to elect a chair and recorder. Chairs of the mission boards serve on the Executive Committee.

	Leadership	Outreach	Congregational Ministry
Prairie Coteau	Pr Wayne Gallipo	Janis Schumacher	Jeff Brindle
Medary	Pr Carlene Rhody	Dick Shane *	Mary Weerts +
Crossroads	Pr Chip Joyslin *	Gwen Bobbie	Joel Laumer *
Southeastern	Alan Ferris	Barbara Egbert	Pr Anna Peck
Northern Plains	Pr Linda Wahlstrom	Connie Woehlhaff	Scott Lein
Prairie Rivers	Holly Paulson +	Pr Brad Danielson	Willmer Herr
Bear Butte	Pr Bruce Thalacker	LuAnn Denke	Kermit Diers
Youth	Travis Gerlach	Kristin Ackermann +	
Officers	Gary Steuck	Carla Borchardt	Ty Inglis
Synod Staff	Bishop Dave	Pr Bill Tesch	Susan Marone

* Chair + Recorder

Synod Council Vice President

MSC to nominate and elect Pastor Bruce Thalacker to serve as Synod Council Vice President.
SC.09.05.12

Other

There has been a leadership change and ministry refocus at Woyatan. There has been discussion regarding a ministry site and a separate retreat and/or pastor housing facility. After further investigation it has been decided not to proceed with a separate facility at this time.

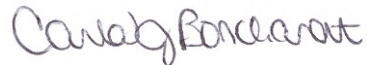
Future Meetings

The next meeting will be August 24-25, 2009, at Thunderstick Lodge, Chamberlain. Council members may arrive Monday evening. No business will be conducted on Monday. All business will be conducted on Tuesday.

The fall meeting will be October 9-10, 2009, in Sioux Falls.

Meeting adjourned following praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carla Borchardt".

Carla Borchardt
Secretary