

**South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Synod Council
Go-To-Meeting/Conference Call
July 10, 2012**

Present: Bishop David Zellmer, Gary Steuck, Erik Gilbertson, Carla Borchardt; Pastor Janice FitzGibbon, Teri Gayer, Michael Miller, Prairie Coteau; Pastor Carlene Rhody, Verdelle Anderson, Lonell Moeller, Medary; Alex Jensen, Gwen Bobbie, Pastor Siri Sorenson, Crossroads; Christy Kimball, Pastor Kevin Jensen, Southeastern; Holly Paulson, Lorne Tilberg, Prairie Rivers; Pastor Deb Grismer, Northern Plains; Duane Abata, LuAnn Denke, Bear Butte; Lindsay Boehmer, Kayla Koterwski, Youth; Pastor Bill Tesch, Susan Marone, AIM, Jim Schade, Lois Borchardt

Vice President Gary Steuck called the meeting to order.

Bylaws adopted at the 2012 South Dakota Synod Assembly regarding the bishop election process direct, "The Synod Council shall arrange for a synod study to be completed six months prior to the beginning of the election process. The synod study and any strategic planning adopted by the Synod Council shall be distributed to rostered members and congregations of the synod six months prior the election, providing guidance throughout this synod as potential nominees for bishop are identified. At the assembly of each conference prior to the election of a bishop, held no later than 75 days prior to Synod Assembly, the voting members will be asked to consider a set of topics developed by Synod Council designed to clarify the vision for this synod's mission, the issues they deem important for this synod, and the gifts desirable and necessary in a bishop...."

A synod strategic plan needs to be developed by December 2012. Mission and vision statements and values have already been established. The fall Burger with the Bishop events will serve as listening posts to gather further input/direction.

Several consultants have been contacted and submitted proposals to assist with this process with fees ranging from \$2500-8000. All consultants are well qualified in strategic planning as well as capital campaign planning.

Bishop Zellmer has also had conversation with David Swartling, ELCA Secretary. Twenty-six ELCA bishop elections will be held in 2013. The ELCA is developing a bishop election toolkit and has requested that South Dakota serve as a pilot synod for this process. Mr. Swartling recommends a synod task force be formed composed of people with long term experience in the synod, range of ages, mix of lay and clergy, and at least one Synod Council liaison. An additional recommendation regarding task force membership is a representative from each conference and officer liaison(s). Task force members would facilitate the strategic planning portion of the Burgers with the Bishop.

ELCA representatives (Rev. Walter May, Assistant to the Bishop and Executive for the Conference of Bishops, and Ken Inskeep, Executive for Research and Evaluation) would work with the task force in development of the final strategic plan.

MSC to serve as a pilot synod for the ELCA bishop election toolkit utilizing the expertise of Mr. Swartling, Rev. May and Mr. Inskeep to conduct a synod study and develop a synod strategic plan.

SC.12.07.01

MSC to authorize a task force to work with ELCA consultants to coordinate/facilitate the synod study and strategic planning process. Members of the task force to be approved by the Executive Committee.

SC.12.07.02

MSC to utilize the bishop election line item for expenses associated with the synod study and strategic planning process.

SC.12.07.03

The next Synod council meeting will be August 17, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carla Borchardt".

Carla Borchardt
Secretary