

**South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Synod Council
Synod Office
Augustana College
Sioux Falls, SD
August 17, 2012**

Present: Bishop David Zellmer, Gary Steuck, Erik Gilbertson, Carla Borchardt; LuAnn Denke, Bear Butte; Pastor Deb Grismer*, Peggy Namanny, Northern Plains; Lonell Moeller*, Verdelle Anderson, Pastor Carlene Rhody, Medary; Gwen Bobbie, Pastor Siri Sorenson, Alex Jensen, Crossroads; Lorne Tilberg, Holly Paulson, Prairie Rivers; Pastor Jan FitzGibbon*, Teri Gayer, Prairie Coteau; Pastor Kevin Jensen*, Christy Kimball, Southeastern; Kayla Koterwski, Lindsay Boehmer, Youth; Lois Borchardt, Suzanne Hansen, AIM, Cathy Larson, Jim Schade (*via go-to-meeting/conference call)

Excused: Duane Abata, Pastor Tom Opoien, Bear Butte; Steve Koenig, Southeastern; Susan Marone, AIM, Pastor Bill Tesch

Absent: Scott Lien, Northern Plains; Pastor Holly Slater, Prairie Rivers; Michael Miller, Prairie Coteau; Travis Gerlach, Youth

Vice President Gary Steuck called the meeting to order.

LuAnn Denke led opening devotions and prayer.

**MSC to approve the agenda with the addition of the Bishop's Report.
SC.12.08.01**

Secretary's Report

**MSC to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2012, meeting.
SC.12.08.02**

Treasurer's Report

Erik Gilbertson presented a summary of the month end balance sheet, analysis of revenues and expenses, summary of restricted accounts, and undesignated mission support and SD Synod only revenue year to date and month totals.

**MSC to receive the Treasurer's Report.
SC.12.08.03**

Endowment Financial Report

Jim Schade presented the Endowment financial report.

Synod Assembly Financial Report

Lois Borchardt presented the financial report comparing 2011 and 2012 Synod Assembly revenues and expenses.

**MSC to receive the Synod Assembly financial report.
SC.12.08.04**

**MSC to transfer \$35,000 from the Synod Assembly Fund to the Bishop Transition Fund.
SC.12.08.05**

Synod Assembly offerings totaled \$24,332 with \$17,718 designated for malaria and \$6,614 for St. Dymas.

**MSC to designate 2013 Synod Assembly offering for roofs in Cameroon and Feeding South Dakota.
SC.12.08.06**

Bishop's Report

Bishop Zellmer presented South Dakota demographic data which shows decreasing population in the majority of the state. This has a significant impact on congregations.

Portico reports the increase for congregations for 2013 is anticipated to be approximately 2%. Bishop Zellmer explained potential ramifications of federal health care reform on ELCA major medical care/Portico.

Portico wellness reward funds of \$22,389 were received in 2011 and approximately \$23,500 will be received for 2012. The SD Synod will award up to five \$2000 grants to support sabbaticals for pastors of small congregations. The grant application deadline is October 1, 2012.

Eleven seminarians have been assigned to South Dakota.

The church in Henry, SD, has closed. Ownership of the property is being investigated/clarified.

Bishop Zellmer requested prayers for the ELCA. Bishop Mark Hanson and David Swartling, ELCA Secretary, are discerning whether to seek re-election in 2013.

Bishop Zellmer will travel to Germany the end of October to explore options for future trips to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the reformation.

Susan Marone, AIM, is on sabbatical.

Resolution Follow-up

Resolution 6: Evangelical Outreach Committee and Multi-cultural Committee -- the numbering was changed to reflect bylaw and continuing resolution numbering convention. The content of the resolution was not changed.

**MSC to amend the numbering convention of the provisions of resolution 6 to meet constitutional requirements.
SC.12.08.07**

Resolutions 7A and 8A, Bishop Election Process – a synod study/strategic planning task force has been appointed and met. A portion of this process will be completed during the fall Burgers with the Bishop events. An online questionnaire will be available through the ELCA during the month of September as another method to gather input from members of the synod. The task

force will present a draft strategic plan at the October Synod Council meeting. A Synod Council go-to-meeting will be scheduled for November to approve the final strategic plan.

Bishop Zellmer provided an overview of the bishop election process as approved at the 2012 South Dakota Synod Assembly.

Congregation Matters

Vale Lutheran, Vale, has left the ELCA (the second vote was 11 to 4 to leave).

Bishop Zellmer has consulted with the ELCA Office of the Secretary and will recognize the two votes of St. James, Leola, to leave the ELCA. The congregation has indicated the intent to be independent. The Synod Council will need to make determination regarding the property.

The consensus of the Council is to send a letter from the Synod Council to St. James, Leola, requesting official notice of leaving the ELCA and becoming an independent congregation with a deadline prior to October 12, 2012. Information regarding further congregation action steps to be included in the letter.

Bishop Zellmer stated the ELCA Office of the Secretary is placing a hold on the demand letters for Christ the King, Yankton, and Holy Cross, Aberdeen.

Roster Matters

**MSC to grant Pastor Gary Pabst retirement roster status.
SC.12.08.08**

**MSC to grant Pastor Timothy Robertson on leave from call roster status.
SC.12.08.09**

**MSC to grant Pastor Chris Anderson on leave from call roster status.
SC.12.08.10**

**MSC to grant Pastor Stephen Lauricella retirement roster status.
SC.12.08.11**

**MSC to grant Pastor Renee Tecklenburg on leave from call roster status.
SC.12.08.12**

**MSC to grant Pastor David Astrup retirement roster status.
SC.12.08.13**

**MSC to grant Pastor Aaron Matson on leave from call roster status.
SC.12.08.14**

**MSC to grant Pastor Ronald Brugger on leave from call roster status.
SC.12.08.15**

**MSC to grant Pastor Karen Matuska on leave from call roster status.
SC.12.08.16**

~~S10.07.35.A96 The Mission Board for Leadership shall provide oversight to continuing education for laity and clergy and support of pastors and congregations.~~

~~Long Range Financial Strategy Committee~~

~~S11.06.A08 The Long Range Financial Strategy Committee shall be composed of the Bishop or the Bishop's designate, the Synod Vice President, Synod Treasurer and five other appointed persons, nominated by the Bishop and appointed by the Synod Council. Each member is appointed for three years and can serve two terms.~~

~~The Long Range Financial Strategy Committee shall:~~

- ~~a. Work with the Synod Council, Synod staff, Director of Lutheran Planned Giving, Synod Financial Advancement Committee and other committees and individuals who know the Synod's vision plan and who understand the costs related to accomplishing the Synod's vision plan.~~
- ~~b. Work with the above stated relationships to review and refine capital, operating and personnel costs pertaining to implementing the Synod's vision plan.~~
- ~~c. Formulate a Long Range Financial Plan, being both evaluative of trends and creative in approaches, and including an action plan to address the present and long term fiscal needs to achieve the South Dakota Synod vision plan.~~
- ~~d. Identify the resources necessary to implement the Long Range Financial Plan and assure that the Long Range Financial Plan is implemented.~~
- ~~e. Relate with Synod staff persons who have responsibilities with the Synod Mission Plan, Synod Endowment, resource development and planned giving, including staff of Lutheran Planned Giving.~~
- ~~f. Report to the Synod Council.~~

SC.12.08.18

SDSU Campus Ministry Restricted Funds Request

Bishop Zellmer stated Pastor Bob Chell, University Lutheran Center, has submitted a request for funds for capital improvement projects including replacing a retaining wall and windows and installation of a mini split heat pump. The Executive Committee approved giving funds from the Campus Ministry Capital Reserves to SDSU University Lutheran Center.

MSC to give \$3000 from the Campus Ministry Capital Reserves (restricted account) to SDSU University Lutheran Center for capital improvement projects.

SC.12.08.19

Other

Bishop Zellmer provided a report on the National Youth Gathering. It was impressive to see all the South Dakota youth. Bishop Zellmer expressed appreciation to congregations, youth leaders and youth attendees. Video of the gathering can be viewed via the ELCA website or YouTube.

Bishop Zellmer read a thank you letter from Denise Broverk for the South Dakota Synod Seminary scholarship she received.

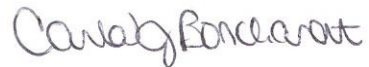
Future Meetings

October 12, 2012, Synod Council at 8:30am; Christy Kimball responsible for devotions
March 8, 2013, Synod Council at 8:30am

LuAnn Denke led closing devotions.

The meeting adjourned following praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Carla Borchardt
Secretary

Mission Board for Leadership

Alex Jensen is the chair and Holly Paulson Is the recorder.

Bishop Zellmer and the board talked about raising the liability insurance for directors, boards, and officers. Gary gave the group three questions to think about: 1. Look at the cost of defense 2. Look for what your retention is 3. Make sure the wording says pay on behalf of.