

**South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Synod Council
Synod Office / Go-to-Meeting
Sioux Falls, SD
March 22, 2013**

Present: Bishop David Zellmer, Gary Steuck, Erik Gilbertson, Carla Borchardt; Teri Gayer, Prairie Coteau; Pastor Carlene Rhody, Lon Moeller, Verdelle Anderson, Medary; Pastor Siri Sorenson, Gwen Bobbie, Alex Jensen, Crossroads; Christy Kimball, Steve Koenig, Pastor Kevin Jensen, Southeastern; Peggy Namanny, Pastor Deb Grismer, Northern Plains; Pastor Holly Slater, Lorne Tilberg, Holly Paulson, Prairie Rivers; Pastor Tom Opoien, LuAnn Denke, Bear Butte; Kayla Koterwski, Youth; Susan Marone, AIM, Lois Borchardt, Suzanne Hansen, AIM, Cathy Larson, Pastor Karen Rupp, Pastor Bill Tesch

Vice President Gary Steuck called the meeting to order.

Pastor Tom Opoien led opening devotions.

**MSC to approve the agenda as presented.
SC.13.03.01**

**MSC to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2012, and November 16, 2012,
meetings.
SC.13.03.02**

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Erik Gilbertson presented the Treasurer's Report including the balance sheet, analysis of revenues and expenses, summary of restricted accounts, and historical year to date and month to date trends; and the Synod Endowment balance sheet.

Gilbertson presented the close out of fiscal year 2012-2013 report.

Gilbertson presented the fiscal year 2013-2014 budget as revised by the Executive Committee based on statements of intent. Congregations are encouraged to explore the small business health care tax credit.

Gilbertson presented the proposed fiscal year 2014-2015 budget. It assumes a 3% increase in regular mission support and inflationary increases in expenses. Bishop Zellmer explained the rationale for increasing the line item for Lutheran Planned Giving (LPG): this amount has not increased for over five years, several partners have left the relationship, and to strengthen the relationship between the Synod and LPG.

	Proposed 2014
INCOME	
MISSION SUPPORT FROM CONGREGATIONS	\$1,699,420
Program Ministry Income	
Pine Ridge Ministry Income	45,001

Other Program Income	-
Woyatan Income (EOCM Grant)	-
Other Income Streams	
SD Synod Mission Support	60,000
DEM Support Staff	15,000
Interest Income	13,500
SDS Transportation LLC Income	5,000
SDS Transportation/Plane Income	25,000
Misc Income	8,750
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,871,671
EXPENSES	
	Proposed
CHURCHWIDE MISSION	2014
Mission Support to ELCA	\$773,236
% of Mission Support	45.5%
Region III	16,560
SHARED MINISTRIES	
South Dakota Sustained Ministries	
Campus Ministry	121,928
Campus Ministry Capital	1,030
Lutheran Planned Giving	54,410
Heartland Ephphatha	5,982
Lutheran Youth Organization	3,605
South Dakota Supported Ministries	
SD Ministries Support	13,778
Luther Seminary	69,145
Lutheran Social Services	69,145
Lutherans Outdoors	34,485
Church Colleges	5,982
Flandreau Indian School Chaplaincy	13,522
Association of Christian Churches	2,000
Chapel in the Hills	1
Good Samaritan Society	1
Total Shared Ministries	\$395,014
	Proposed
	2014
SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD MINISTRIES	
Staff Leadership	
Bishop	\$100,516
Associate Tesch	10,603
Associate Marone	76,977
Bishop/Associate Benefits	61,559

SDS Travel	38,698
Bishop/Assistants Travel & Cont Ed	20,800
Program Ministries	
Native American Ministry	78,084
Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator	14,007
Companion Synod Coordinator	10,700
Support Staff and Office	
Support Staff Salaries/Benefits	137,483
Resource Center Supplies	250
Synod Office Expenses	60,859
Augustana College	19,233
Synod Leadership	
Synod Council	6,000
Support to Ministries Committee	6,000
Candidacy Committee	6,000
Electronic Communications	2,500
Multicultural Ministry Committee	1,700
Companion Synods Ministry Committee	2,000
Evangelical Outreach Committee	1,500
Mission Strategy Committee	2,000
Ministry Projects	
Stewardship Project	4,000
Congregational Initiative Grants	1,236
Continuing Education Projects	1,000
Rural Ministry Projects	500
Woyatan Program Expenses	-
Outreach Ministries	
Multicultural Center	15,000
Mission Congregation Start-up	4,000
Companion Synods	1,000
Contingency	2,656
Subtotal SD Synod Ministries	\$686,861
Total Expense	\$1,871,671
Net Total	0

MSC the proposed fiscal year 2014-2015 budget be presented to the 2013 Synod Assembly for approval.
SC.13.03

Gilbertson presented the Synod Endowment Annual Report and year end restricted account summary.

MSC to receive the Treasurer's Report and Synod Endowment Report.
SC.13.03.04

Reports

Pastor Bill Tesch, Associate to the Bishop, presented his report.

MSC to receive Woyatan Lutheran Church as a congregation of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA, and to welcome their reception into the ELCA at the 2013 Synod Assembly.

SC.13.03.05

MSC to receive WestSide Lutheran Church as a congregation of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA, and to welcome their reception into the ELCA at the 2013 Synod Assembly.

SC.13.03.06

MSC to authorize Bishop Zellmer to decide whether or not to release the Ethiopian Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community meeting at East Side Lutheran in Sioux Falls from the ELCA pending a consultation to be conducted by The Evangelical Outreach Committee and Pastor Bill Tesch.

SC.13.03.07

Susan Marone, AIM, Associate to the Bishop, presented her report. She thanked the Council for the opportunity to take a sabbatical. She also thanked her colleagues for their support during that time. It was a time of rest, renewal and continuing education. She continues to work with Support to Ministries, 11 churches are in the call process. The South Dakota Synod received three seminary candidates. The First Call Retreat was successful. She will attend the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. She attended a meeting of Associates to the Bishop.

Cathy Larson presented the companion synod report, highlighting opportunities to partner and support various projects in Cameroon and Nicaragua. Pastor Ralph and Barbara Egbert are currently in Cameroon as part of a pastor exchange.

Pastor Karen Rupp, Director Native American Ministry, presented her report. The Synod Council is supportive of Pastor Rupp pursuing options for a building for worship services.

Bishop Zellmer reported on recent events at Luther Seminary and provided an update on other ELCA seminaries. There is great need for Spanish speaking pastors. The Conference of Bishops received a full briefing from Portico. Details will be shared with rostered leaders at the gathering after Easter. There will also be discussion at the Synod Assembly and Burgers with the Bishop in August. Partners Against Hunger work continues. The *Human Sexuality Gift and Trust* statement has been fully incorporated into the church. Bishop Zellmer wrote an article for *Word and World*. Two synods in Region 3 have experienced embezzlement. The South Dakota Synod has internal controls and yearly audits to deter this. There have also been embezzlements in congregations in the South Dakota Synod. Congregations are encouraged to review their financial and internal control processes. The ELCA website contains helpful guidelines.

Bishop Zellmer stated the Synod and ELCA are in a discernment process regarding a \$195M capital campaign over five years. The monies raised would potentially fund operational costs for:

- Complete the Malaria Campaign
- Fund for Leaders
- 250 mission starts
- Revitalize 400 congregations

- Major emphasis on global missions
- Seminaries

Bishop Zellmer asked the Mission Boards to discuss the following questions:

- How would the campaign be received/perceived by members and congregations in South Dakota?
- What is the capacity of the South Dakota Synod to participate in the campaign?
- How would you see your congregation participating in the campaign?
- Your perception of Synod Staff participating, or not participating, in the campaign?
- The South Dakota Synod, Lutherans Outdoors and Lutheran Social Services in South Dakota are all considering capital campaigns in the near future.

The Council recessed for Mission Board meetings and lunch.

The Council reconvened.

Mission Boards reported their discussion regarding an ELCA capital campaign:

- Be aware of the questions that will come forward and the need to have detailed answers, how will this be done on a large scale?
- There needs to be a formal structure, process and timeline. Can this be accomplished prior to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly?
- \$195M is a big number, it is too large.
- If most of this money is needed for operational budget, has there been mismanagement of funds? What will happen in five years after the campaign?
- An endowed fund campaign may be better received.
- People would respond better to areas with which they have a relationship, such as the malaria campaign, seminaries, new mission starts; it's the relationships.
- The story needs to be told; communication will be key.
- Who will actually operationalize/implement the campaign? (X2)
- If state ministries have a capital campaign during the same timeframe, people would more likely give towards the state campaigns.
- The Synod's capacity may be \$1-2M; but recommend it be tied to only one or two focus areas.
- The timing is ok.
- Could the ELCA campaign be connected to a state campaign?
- Need to focus on the benefit of giving to the giver.
- There is a sense of skepticism around the campaign – how might an ELCA campaign affect state entity campaigns?
- When people feel like they have a say in something, they are more receptive and willing to give. This may feel like a top down effort.
- We are finally getting some good forward momentum on a congregation and synod level; there is concern how this large scale campaign would affect this positive movement.
- Would the campaign be directed towards major donors, congregations, synods?
- Synod representative visits are well received by congregations.
- Communication is key. (perception is reality)
- How will the money really be used? Except for malaria, aren't the other topics things that the ELCA should already be supporting out of the operational budget?
- It is too big and too broad.
- Where is the local impact?

- We need to be focused on preaching. We need to have leaders who can preach. If we don't support seminaries, how can this happen?
- What is the mission, vision and purpose of the ELCA?

How would you feel, as a rostered or congregational leader, if the campaign was directed toward major gifts; someone from outside the synod going directly to members of your congregation to solicit a major gift?

- Major gifts are important, but people who are able to give smaller amounts need to feel that their contributions are valued.
- This would add to a negative perception of churchwide.
- This would not be a big problem if they approach people who have already donated to an ELCA cause.
- Not comfortable to identify or name potential major donors.
- Willing to extend an open invitation to the whole congregation.
- If we don't ask, someone else will.

Bishop Zellmer thanked the Council for their feedback.

The social statement on Justice for Women will be reported in 2019 instead of 2016.

The Conference of Bishops wrote a Pastoral Letter on Violence which was distributed.

Congregational Matters

First English, Lennox, has voted to leave the ELCA (two successful votes). St. James, Leola, has completed all necessary paperwork to leave the ELCA. A total of 37 congregations have left the ELCA.

Roster Matters

**MSC to grant Pastor Glen Enright on leave from call roster status.
SC.13.03.08**

**MSC to grant Pastor James (Chip) Joyslin retired roster status.
SC.13.03.09**

**MSC to grant Pastor Tanya Rist retired roster status.
SC.13.03.10**

**MSC to grant Pastor Daryl Schubert on leave from call roster status.
SC.13.03.11**

**MSC to grant Pastor Robin Wanner-Schaunaman disability roster status.
SC.13.03.12**

**MSC to issue a non-stipendiary synodical call to Pastor Janice Wiersma to serve as chaplain at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton, SD.
SC.13.03.13**

Bishop Zellmer reported that Pastor Hugh Brewer will be removed from the roster of the ELCA because he has joined the roster of the NALC. ELCA policy prohibits dual rostered status.

The Council moved into executive session.

The Council returned to open session.

**MSC to deny an additional year of on leave from call roster status to Pastor Curtis L. Matson and to remove him from the ELCA roster.
EC.13.03.14**

New Business

Synod Assembly Registration

It is important to have a hard deadline for registration for voting members for the Synod Assembly. The number of voting members per congregation will need to be verified prior to the Assembly.

**MSC to set the 2013 Synod Assembly voting member registration deadline at May 24, 2013, at 5:00 pm CDT.
SC.13.03.15**

St. Dymas Board

There are two lay vacancies on the St. Dymas Board. Pastor Siri Sorenson will identify potential nominees. Pastor Marlin Wangsness is retiring before the end of this year.

2013 Nominations Workbook

There are numerous open positions which will be elected at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. The ELCA Office of the Secretary has published a 2013 Nominations Workbook to provide guidance for this process. The document was distributed.

Other

**MSC the Synod Council move to electronic devices provided by the Synod, if needed, for meetings beginning after the 2013 Synod Assembly.
SC.13.03.16**

Vice President Gary Steuck announced he has resigned following the end of this meeting. The Council thanked him for his leadership and years of service.

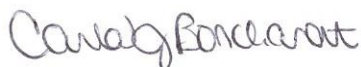
Future meetings:

June 8, 2013, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, following the Synod Assembly; Verdelle Anderson responsible for devotions.

August 23, 2013, potentially at Thunderstick, Chamberlain, beginning with an evening meal on August 22; LuAnn Denke responsible for devotions.

Pastor Tom Opoien led closing devotions.
The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Carla Borchardt
Secretary

Leadership Minutes

We discussed the possible churchwide campaign. Three areas of discussion were: capacity of the SD Synod, the congregations and the synod staff. The capacity of the synod would be about \$1-2 million. It needs to be more focused. It should focus on seminary and seminary debt reduction. The timing is good. It needs to be presented in the right way. There is really no clarity to it right now. Who will lead the campaign? Tithe needs to be a part of the campaign. Talk about capital campaign for mission. Leadership needs to be behind it. The benefit of giving needs to be addressed because it would be hard for congregations who may have a hard time giving to churchwide when they have a hard time giving to the synod. The synod staff is already maxed on responsibilities and time. A separate person needs to be responsible for the campaign.