

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTANA SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 23-24, 2007**

Pastor Gary Cockrell was appointed to fill the Flathead Cluster term.

Treasurer Harold Spilde reported that the final income was \$10,000 over the budgeted amount.

The Executive Committee has indicated that a budget of \$20,000 is set aside for costs associated with the election and transition of the new bishop.

The Constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions have been revised and are now in one document.

Corrine and Jim Fredrickson will be awarded the Spirit of Hope award at the 2007 Synod Assembly

The recommendation was made to appoint the following to the 2007 Resolutions Committee: Tim Tripple as chair, Bev Peterson, Steve Schumacher, Wava Goetz, Deb Koch, John Lund.

The recommendation was made to appoint Jan Nerem to organize an elections committee and serve as chairperson. Other will be appointed from the local congregations.

The recommendation was made to appoint the nominating committee consisting of Karen Nave, Rev. Molly Sasser-Goehner, Rev. Alan Baglien, Scott Southwick, Judie Cundy, Carol Kienenberger, Gary Gollehon, Rev. Loren Gustafson, Rev. Kristy Daniels, Colleen Nelson, Rev. Tom Peterman, and Norm Unterseher, with Judie Cundy as chair.

Report on the Sexual Misconduct Policy. Recommendation made to affirm the MT Synod Sexual Misconduct Policy and to refer to each congregation guidelines for maintaining safe sexual boundaries – “Toward truth telling, safety and healing” -- as a sample policy.

Malta and Whitewater Lutheran Churches (Unity Parish) will be realigned with the Bearpaw Cluster.

Hetzel Board appointments: Rodney Casey appointed to a 3 year term and George Dalthorp reappointed to a 3 year term to serve on the Hetzel Foundation Board.

The recommendation was made to renew AIM Sue Thompson’s call for Minister for Congregational Leadership Development.

Shaun Seedhouse was appointed to serve as a voting member to the 2007 churchwide assembly.

Synod Council Resolution: In Thanksgiving for 100 years of Lutheran Campus Ministry Resolved that each congregation of the Montana Synod be encouraged to contribute a special thank offering to benefit the endowment with a suggested contribution of \$1 or more per confirmed member.

Synod Assembly Resolution passed referring congregations to also encourage students and members to share in Lutheran Campus Ministry by prayer and participation.

Salary Guidelines: The 2008 guidelines were approved.

It was suggested that next year the committee consider recommending that the continuing education portion be increased, due to rising costs for continuing education.

The revised Sabbatical Guidelines were approved with slight changes. They are available on the synod website.

Resolution passed that ELCA congregations of the MT Synod be encouraged to find ways to enter into fellowship with our Methodist brothers and sisters as we already have an inter-Eucharistic agreement and anticipate that the 2009 churchwide assembly will enter into full communion with the United Methodist Church.

Evaluative materials regarding the mission of the Synod and also the qualities needed in a Bishop were examined and changes and suggestions were received. Vice President Jake Block requested that each cluster representative contact congregations in their own cluster and encourage them to participate and respond to these tools.

Synod Treasurer: Harold Spilde has been nominated by the Synod Council.

Synod Council adopted the proposed budget for 2008: Income of \$1,160,547.93 and Expenses of \$1,160,547.93

Policy change made that the MT Synod Bishop reside in the Great Falls area where the MT Synod office is located.

Submitted by Pr. Peggy Paugh Leuzinger  
Montana Synod Secretary