

**MONTANA SYNOD COUNCIL OF THE ELCA  
MINUTES  
JUNE 6, 2008  
HOLIDAY INN  
BILLINGS, MONTANA**

**Present:** Bishop Jessica Crist, Vice President Jake Block, Secretary Pr. Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, Treasurer Harold Spilde, Allan Roush, Cheryl Muncy, Mike Young, Pr Kim Wilker, Ashley Glover, Clarice Beery, Pr. George Karres, Tamara Crowder, Pr Bill Duffy, Pr Gary Cockrell, Chris Holler-Dinsmore, Associate to the Bishop David Peters.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice President Jake Block called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, June 6, 2008.

Allan Roush led the Council in an opening prayer.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Moved

Seconded: Approve Agenda.

**SC08.06.01**

**VOTED: APPROVE AGENDA**

**SYNOD COUNCIL APPOINTMENT**

Ratify the appointment of Fort Peck Cluster representative.

Moved

Seconded: Ratify appointment: Dr. Christine Holler-Dinsmore

**SC08.06.02**

**VOTED: RATIFY APPOINTMENT OF DR. CHRISTINE HOLLER-DINSMORE**

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

The minutes of the February 2008 Montana Synod Council meeting were received.

Correspondence was read: Thank you from Churchwide for mission support, from PLTS for support, from the Jr. High Youth Gathering for support, and from the Virginia Synod with greetings upon Synod Assembly.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The 2008 1<sup>st</sup> quarter income was \$387,301 and designated gifts were listed at \$113,438.69 for year to date. Both are above budget for this time of the year. Thanks expressed to congregations.

Moved

Seconded: Receive the Treasurer's Report

**SC.08.06.03**

**VOTED: RECEIVE THE TREASURER'S REPORT**

**BISHOP'S REPORT:**

Several synods will be meeting this weekend in assembly; the Montana Synod will join in prayer for all of them.

The "Growing in God's Field" educational event will be held on Oct. 10-11 in Helena. More information will be available during the Assembly from the Growing in God's Field Planning Committee.

The Montana Synod Audit is scheduled for July 16-18 in 4 places across the state with representatives from churchwide conducting the interviews.

LMMS has ceased to exist since the last Synod Council meeting. The ELCA Foundation is available to assist with planned giving in the Synod.

Bishop Crist will be going to Bolivia in September with the Companion Synod Representatives.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

#### **REGION 1 FINANCIAL COMMITMENT/MULTI-CULTURAL MINISTRY POSITION**

History: In 2003, the MT synod committed to fund Region 1 services for a period of 5 years; in 2008, the commitment ends. At the Regional Governing Council, the Synods of Region One committed themselves to cover "Core Services" made up of: financial services, candidacy and mobility and regional coordination. For the 2009 budget, \$53,909 from the Montana Synod would cover the "fair share" of the core services. \$75,000 would cover the "fair share" of the core services and the Multi-cultural Ministry Position.

Moved

Seconded: The Montana Synod will continue to finance the "Core Services" for a period of three years (to 2011).

**SC08.06.04**

**VOTED: FUND "CORE SERVICES" FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.**

Moved

Seconded: The Montana Synod not continue to fund for staffing for multi cultural ministries in Region One beyond 2008.

**SC08.06.05**

**VOTED: NOT CONTINUE TO FUND FOR STAFFING FOR MULTI CULTURAL MINISTRIES IN REGION ONE BEYOND 2008.**

The Mission and Outreach committee will address multicultural issues at the September Synod Council meeting

#### **SYNOD OFFICE BUILDING:**

Moved

Seconded: Accept the terms of the letter dated May 28, 2008 from Architect Stephen M. L'Heureux to proceed with the Synod Office Building project

**SC06.08.06**

**VOTED: ACCEPT TERMS OF LETTER (MAY 28, 2008) FROM STEPHEN M. L'HEUREUX TO PROCEED WITH THE SYNOD OFFICE BUILDING PROJECT**

#### **STEWARDSHIP ENCOURAGEMENT:**

Plans are in place for a training to be held on August 25 for Synod Council members and selected people to visit congregations with a Synod produced Dvd, and short Bible Study to help congregations make intentional decisions about stewardship and their congregation's statement of intent

#### **CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS:**

The issue had been raised regarding giving voice and vote to Full Communion partners at Synod Assemblies -- this will be brought to the September Synod Council meeting to be adopted as a bylaw change at the 2009 Synod Assembly.

Moved

Seconded: Amend bylaw S 7.22.01 to insert “retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers” after “All retired ordained ministers, ....”  
(Synod Handbook, p. 149)

**SC06.08.07**

**VOTED: AMEND BYLAW S 7.22.01 TO INSERT “RETIRE ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY, RETIRE DEACONESSES, AND RETIRE DIACONAL MINISTERS” AFTER “ALL RETIRE ORDAINED MINISTERS, ....”**

**DEAN’S JOB DESCRIPTION:**

There is a proposal that has been circulated among the Deans and within clusters over the past year. This proposal is referred to the Council for information.

**ITEMS FOR 2008 ASSEMBLY:**

Book of Faith Resolution: This is the only resolution on the agenda for the Assembly.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Moved

Seconded: Elect George Karres, Tamara Crowder, and Michael Young to serve on the Executive Committee.

**SC08.06.08**

**VOTED: GEORGE KARRES, TAMARA CROWDER, MICHAEL YOUNG ELECTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**MONTANA SYNOD ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

Moved

Seconded: Elect George Karres, Tamara Crowder, and Mike Young to serve as additional members along with the Officers of the Synod on the Montana Synod Endowment Committee.

**SC08.06.09**

**VOTED: ELECT GEORGE KARRES, TAMARA CROWDER, MIKE YOUNG TO SERVE ON THE SYNOD ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

The Synod Endowment Committee met during the Executive Committee meeting with David Stensrud regarding the Synod Endowment funds and investments options; a conference call meeting for the Synod Endowment Committee will be held in August to further clarify decisions and policies regarding the funds.

**CANDIDACY COMMITTEE NOMINEES:**

Moved

Seconded: Carol Karres, Patricia Peterman, Klaus Sitte appointed to the Montana Synod Candidacy Committee (We need to list terms here. I'll check with Dave. There should be staggered terms.)

**SC08.06.10**

**VOTED: APPOINT CAROL KARRES, PATRICIA PETERMAN, KLAUS SITTE TO THE MONTANA SYNOD CANDIDACY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:**

Moved

Seconded: Appointed Harold Everson, Toni Ann Little, Jay Randall, Dorothy Randall, Marian Eichlin as the Elections Committee for the Synod Assembly

**SC08.06.11**

**VOTED: APPOINT HAROLD EVERSON, TONI ANN LITTLE, JAY RANDALL, DOROTHY RANDALL, MARIAN EICHLIN AS THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

**NRIT DIRECTOR:**

Moved

Seconded: Ratify NRIT Advisory Committee's appointment of Jenny Kunka as Director of NRIT.

**SC08.06.12**

**VOTED: RATIFY NRIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S APPOINTMENT OF JENNY KUNKA AS DIRECTOR OF NRIT.**

**CALLS TO SPECIAL SERVICE:**

Moved

Seconded: The Montana Synod issues calls to Special Service to:

Pr. Kathie Larson Phillips -- Immanuel Lutheran in Kalispell

Pr. Jim Shelden -- St. Peter's Hospital in Helena

Pr. Greg Karlsgodt -- Kogodus Ministry

**SC08.06.13**

**VOTED: ISSUE CALLS TO SPECIAL SERVICE TO PR. KATHIE LARSON PHILLIPS - - IMMANUEL LUTHERAN IN KALISPELL, PR. JIM SHELDEN -- ST. PETER'S HOSPITAL IN HELENA, PR. GREG KARLSGODT -- KOGUDUS MINISTRY**

**CAMPUS MINISTRY UPDATE**

The Synod Council was informed that the ministry review regarding Campus Ministry in Missoula was held recently. Pastor Lund recently received the Phillip Knutson award from his colleagues in Campus Ministry.

Pr. John Lund presented the report regarding Campus Ministry:

Building Issues in Bozeman: The Board of Higher Education in Campus Ministry of the United Methodist, Yellowstone Conference which owns 70% of Christus Collegium has indicated that they are considering whether to withdraw from the Campus Ministry agreement at MSU. If they do withdraw, the Lutheran Campus Ministry Board has discussed their desire to purchase the Methodists' share. The cost to obtain their share of the Collegium is estimated to be around \$500,000.

Building Issues in Missoula: Of the two buildings that are a part of Campus Ministry, The Ark is owned by LCM Inc. and the Glacier Presbytery, PCUSA. There has been some discussion on the part of the Presbytery about withdrawing from the agreement with LCM and selling their portion of the building. The U of M Lutheran Campus Ministry Advisory Board has a strong interest in

retaining (or expanding) ownership of the building. They are working this summer and into the fall to figure what they would have to do to be able to purchase the portion owned by the Presbytery.

**DRAFT STATEMENT, “HUMAN IMPACT ON THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CRISIS”**

Bishop Crist reported that this draft statement will be considered at the MT Council of Churches Assembly in October.

**2011 SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

Moved

Seconded: The 2011 MT Synod Assembly held in Great Falls on June 3-5.

**SC08.06.14**

**VOTED: THE 2011 MT SYNOD ASSEMBLY HELD IN GREAT FALLS ON JUNE 3-5**

Thanks were expressed to Allan Roush, Clarice Beery, Steve Bahnmiller, and Ashley Glover for their service on the MT Synod Council.

The Montana Synod Council meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. and the meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger  
Montana Synod Secretary