

MINUTES
MONTANA SYNOD COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 25-27, 2010
Ursuline Centre, Great Falls, Montana

Worship with Holy Communion was held with Bishop Jessica Crist presiding and Pastor Linda Webster serving as Chaplain.

Plenary I

Call to Order

The meeting of the Montana Synod Council was called to order by Vice President, Jake Block.

Introduction of Officers, Council members, visitors

Present: Bishop Jessica Crist, Vice President Jake Block, Treasurer Harold Spilde, Secretary Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, Scott Southwick, George Karres, Sue Ost, Meredith Hamann, Victoria Bull, John Mundinger, Mike Young, Tom Gossack, Gary Cockrell, Cheryl Muncy, Chris Holler-Dinsmore, Dave Peters, Director for Evangelical Mission for the MT Synod, Margie Fiedler, Mission Investment Fund, Pastor Shelley Wickstrom, Region One, Pastor Phil Wold, ELCA Churchwide Council member, Pastor John Lund, UM Campus Pastor, Synod Executive Assistant, Susan Hedahl, Pastor Linda Webster, Associate to the Bishop, John Allen.

Appointment of Synod Council Member

Moved

Seconded: Appointment of Meredith Hamann, Council member from the Crazy Mountain Cluster

SC.10.02.01

PASSED: APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF MEREDITH HAMANN AS CRAZY MOUNTAIN CLUSTER SYNOD COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Bible Study by Pastor John Lund

Mark 4:35: Peace, be still! Pastor Lund shared reflections on the text.

U of M Campus Ministry Report:

Pastor John Lund gave an update of the activities and ministry of the Campus ministries at MSU and UM.

Approval of Agenda

Moved

Seconded: Approve the agenda for the Synod Council meeting

SC.10.02.02

PASSED: AGENDA APPROVED

Secretary's Report:

Moved

Seconded: Approve Minutes of September 18-19, 2009 meeting

SC.10.02.03

PASSED: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER, 2009 SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING

Correspondence:

Letter from Luther Seminary – Thanks for Financial Partnership

Treasurer's Report:

Received a total of \$1,091,136.21 income and expenses of \$1,133,861.74 which includes money from the sale of the Kraftenburg fund assets. The amount of undesignated giving was higher than anticipated with a number of congregations giving more than their stated intentions. Glasgow gave an extra \$5000 as a challenge to other congregations for the new Synod Office Building; a sign of hope in these days.

Annual Review of Statement of Purpose of Constitution from Chapter 6

The Synod Council spent some time reviewing the MT Synod Constitution; specifically the Statement of Purpose and discussed what we “the church” are about! The constitution provides structure without being rigid.

Bishop's Report

Congregations who have completed 2 votes and have left the MT Synod and ELCA:

Scobey Lutheran, Scobey

Peerless Lutheran, Peerless

Peace Lutheran, Belgrade

Pondera Valley Lutheran, Conrad

Golden West Lutheran, Conrad

Calvary Lutheran, Kalispell

Congregations who have taken a first vote and plan a second:

Faith, Great Falls

St. John's, Poplar

Zion, Flaxville

Pleasant Prairie, Flaxville

Christ, Whitefish

First, Dillon

American, Winifred

Bethany, Bigfork (their first vote failed, but their second first vote got 2/3)

Congregations who took a first vote and may not take a second:

Our Redeemer's Nashua

Our Savior's, Rudyard

Congregations whose first vote did not get 2/3:

Bethlehem, Kalispell

St. Paul's, Cut Bank

Our Savior's, Chester

Bishop Crist wrote, “Constitutional provisions require a consultation with the Bishop during the period of at least 90 days between the first vote and the second vote. I have made a practice of taking at least one other representative of the Synod with me to these consultations, and usually 2 (a Synod Council member and a Dean, ideally.) Many of you on the Synod Council have now accompanied me on these visits, and I appreciate your helping me to represent the church. Of the congregations who have taken a first vote but not yet a second, I have had consultations in Nashua, Rudyard, Zion and Pleasant Prairie in Flaxville, St. John in Poplar. By March 2nd I will have completed consultations with Christ in Whitefish, Bethany in Bigfork, and First in Dillon. Still in process are American in Winifred and Faith in Great Falls, although there are some unique challenges and extenuating circumstances with Faith.

As a Council we may be thrust into the middle because of some congregational constitutional issues. On church in particular, Faith Lutheran in Great Falls, has a provision in its constitution that requires a 90% vote to join another denomination. This congregation could be in the situation of having achieved the require 2/3 to leave the ELCA, but not achieving the require 90% to join another denomination. If that is the case, it will be in the hands of the Synod Council in June. I am keeping abreast of this with attorneys, but it may become an issue for the council.

In addition to these congregations who are taking steps to leave, there are congregations who are choosing to withhold benevolence. And there are congregations who are feeling the pain of lost members, a weak economy and are giving less because they are receiving less.

“Breaking up is hard to do,” goes the song. And indeed it is. It takes time, strength, patience, prayers, forgiveness, clarity. It is important for us as a council, as the leadership of the synod, to be clear about this. There are consequences for pastors and congregations who leave the ELCA. It is not punitive, it is not personal, but there are consequences. We will be spending the next weeks and months articulating some of those consequences and communicating them both to those who leave, and to those who stay. Relationships with our ministries will change. LPA’s will have to make decisions on their own membership. Participation on synod boards and committees, as well as on ELCA boards and committees will be affected. Change does not come easily.

II. MINISTRY CONTINUES

And yet in the midst of it all, God is good. We are learning through these struggles. Congregations and individuals are stepping up and unabashedly supporting the Montana Synod and the ELCA. Some people whose congregations are withholding benevolence are making contributions directly to the Synod. Some congregations have increased their benevolence. Some congregations have made special gifts. Among the congregations that are remaining faithful to the ELCA there is an excitement about doing ministry. And I share that.

I share the excitement about our Mission Table, who are working outside the box to look at mission, stewardship and mission support. I share the excitement about our ELCA World Hunger program, and about our congregations who have raised almost 5 million dollars to be sent to Haiti. I share the excitement about rural congregations who are finding new ways to work together, sometimes ecumenically, to provide ministry in their communities. I share the excitement about congregations who are involved in the needs of their communities, whether town or country. I share the excitement about a group on teenagers from Wolf Point going to visit our companion synod in South Africa. I share the excitement of our partnership with the Lutheran Church in Bolivia, and the many ways that we have come to know one another.

I share the excitement of a Glocal Formation Event in Billings in August, helping all of us to see Christ's mission in the world, and how we are part of it. I share the excitement of Growing in God's Field III: Going Viral in October, moving outside our comfort zone to find new ways to evangelize. I share the excitement of our Synod Theological Conference, focusing on this year's synod theme—Education at all levels and for all people.

I share the excitement of moving forward with a new Synod Office building. We have a creative and responsible design, and the time is ripe.

I share the excitement of the LPA classes that are in training, and the new one starting in the fall. I share the excitement of our fine candidates in seminaries across the country, and the new seminary grad assigned to the Montana Synod. I share the excitement of congregations who are moving forward, reaching out, finding new ways to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in their communities.

I share the excitement of upcoming ELCA Churchwide gatherings, like the WELCA Triennial in Spokane in 2011, and the Youth Gathering in New Orleans again in 2012. These are opportunities for people in the Montana Synod to join with ELCA Lutherans from across the country and share and celebrate our faith.

I share the excitement of our ELCA's vision of Global Mission, that is accompaniment. I share the excitement of our 2 companion synod relationships—the Cape Orange Diocese of South Africa, and the Lutheran Church in Bolivia. We are in the process of discussing partnerships and cooperation with the IELB, and we have some concrete proposals from the CoD, as well, that will enhance our partnership and understanding. I share the excitement of missionaries connected with our Synod—Josh and Susie Magyar in Tanzania, Bradn Buerkle in Russia, Eric Anspach-Hanson in Japan, Justin and Kari Eller in Bolivia. I share the excitement of Young Adults in Global Mission, serving across the world, making a difference in the lives of others and in their own lives.

I share the excitement of being a church in a critical time in history. May we be equipped to serve!

III. PRIORITIES

When I began as Bishop I listed 5 priorities, which the Synod Council adopted as Synod emphases for the 5 years from 2009-2013. Our emphasis for 2009 was Word and Sacrament. Our Synod Assembly dealt with the issue of worship, and we began seriously the Book of Faith introductions around the Synod. And the churchwide decisions have brought front and center issues of how we use the Bible. We continue to work with Word and Sacrament as central to what it means to be Lutheran. NRIT classes have addressed preaching and worship. And we have 2 new resource people appointed as worship resources—Pastor Darius Larsen of Big Sky, and Mr. Tom Keesecker of Billings. They, along with Pastor Peters, will attend training in May on the centrality of worship in our congregations and synods.

The second priority I listed, and the one we are focusing on this year, is Education at all levels. This year's Synod Theological Conference focuses on Education. We have an up and coming Christian Education Scholar from Wesley Seminary—the Rev. Dr. Jessicah Duckworth. We have a number of presentations and workshops on education at all levels, and we will have connections with the Lutheran Association of Christian Educators. We'll also acknowledge the 40th anniversary of NRIT.

The next priority, the one we will particularly focus on as a synod in 2011 is Shared Ownership. That will be taking seriously the partnerships we are in as a church, and exploring what interdependence means, the struggles that we have been in as a denomination and as a synod may help us hone our understanding of what it means to be an interdependent, global church. I have spoken with the Rev. John Nunes, President and CEO of Lutheran World Relief, and he is eager to be with us at our Assembly in 2011.

In 2012 we focus on engaging the world. It has been easy to stay absorbed in church matters this year, but we as a denomination have also been involved in advocacy for health care, the environment and the poor.

And in 2013 we address ecumenical and interfaith aspects of our calling in God's world. This year we are having a lot of celebrations of the Lutheran-Methodist full communion agreement. It is my hope that we will be able to highlight all our full-communion agreements by 2013, as well as our other relationships.

We have work to do in this place where God has called us to do ministry. I thank you for joining together to do God's work with our hands!" (The end of the Bishop's Report)

The Bishop passed out several documents that are given to congregations during their consultation with the Bishop or are available to congregations to assist them in being the church, or to help the church be in "good order". "Declaration Regarding Rostered Ministry at _____ Lutheran Church", Boilerplate resolutions", "Reasons for staying in the ELCA", The ELCA -- Our Mission Continues", "FAQ – How Do We Leave the ELCA", and also received the "Colored paper" documents – "Frequently Asked Questions", from the Journal of Lutheran Ethics – Tim Wengert, "Lutherans and

Scripture” by Mark Gravrock, a packet of materials regarding the process and the vote,” and “the ELCA – Our Mission Continues”.

Bishop Crist invited Phil Wold to speak regarding the ELCA Church Council. She shared the process unfolding in the Conference of Bishops regarding the implementation of the results of the Sexuality Study decision.

Region 1 Report – Pastor Shelley Wickstrom

Pastor Wickstrom reported that in the Region, four positions have been eliminated – and now each Synod has a Mission Specialist -- in the past year, eight people left the regional office. Now there are 2.5 people and a deployed person-Shelley. As a region, the work now centers on a partnership of synods, agencies, serving as coordinator of regional Candidacy, Campus Ministry, and serving as a Churchwide link. Pastor Wickstrom handed out information for the Synod Council members on Young Adults in Global Mission, and the Candidacy Process; 7 seminarians are assigned to Region 1. Campus Ministry; there are 8 campus ministries in the region and the church is able to lift up the importance of ministry to young adults at this point in their lives. Pastor Wickstrom also mentioned the opportunity/responsibility to serve on the Synod Council – to ask “What does it mean to be the Church? What is the difference between unity and uniformity?” The Church is called to act in the world and she summarized, “This is a time for spiritual agility.”

Mission Investment Fund -- Margie Fiedler

The purpose 100 years ago of the Mission Investment fund was to begin new starts. Thanks that congregations, individuals invested and so the MIF is able to give to the Fund for Leaders in Mission and to continue to offer new starts. Margie thanked all for their support offered together with the MIF.

The Council was recessed until 1:30 p.m.

Committee meetings were held after lunch.

Friday, February 25, 2010 3:30 p.m.

Plenary II:

Vice President Jake Block called the Synod Council back into session.

Presentation on the MT Synod Mission: Pastor David Peters

Pastor David Peters, Director for Evangelical Outreach of the MT Synod spoke with the Council about the work that he and the MT Synod Mission Table have been doing since the last Synod Council meeting. The members of the MT Synod Mission Table are

Pastor Lindean Barnett Christenson, Eric Bueling, Pastor Patricia Callaghan, Pastor Scott Hedegaard, Pastor Bruce Kolasch, Jeanne McCoskery, David Trost, and Mike Young. In the virtual walkabout, the team discovered a number of issues and concerns that had some uniformity with one key issue that the team heard a number of times; that the church could do something to make a difference in the community, not preaching or teaching, but as a community center and that the doors would be open more! The Mission Table discovered that people saw the congregation as needing to be involved in the community, and dealing more with community issues. The team then met to develop priorities:

- 1) Seek out, initiate, and support contextual new starts.
 - A. To establish a prison congregation in the Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge. (action plan to include developing a strategy for wider support)
 - B. To investigate the needs and potentialities for resort community ministry (action plan to include exploring a conference of church leaders from resort communities)
 - C. To develop an “emergent” ministry
 - D. To explore the possibilities for new American Indian ministry (Action plan to include consideration of non-traditional models)

- 2) Promote and provide resources for Synod and congregational renewal and development
 - A. To assist Synod/Congregations in their public witness (strengthening our identity as ELCA) Action plan to include a Trost-like ad campaign
 - B. Empower and equip Synods/congregations to be the voice of the gospel in communities through social action; “every member a missionary and servant”, a vibrant internet component/presence)
 - C. Be more welcoming of others and build/create a stronger sense of community (action plan to include “hospitality and welcoming: training for congregations)

- 3) Leverage and expand our partnerships Mission Support Strategy from Feb. 2010: Pastor Peters handed out a draft of the strategy that listed three priorities and showed a draft of a logo for the Mission Table that incorporated “The Montana Synod ...These three.... Initiative of Faith, Hope, Love.....”

Administration and Finance Committee:

Pastor Gary Cockrell presented the committee report

Revision of the 2010 Budget:

Moved

Seconded: Accept the revised 2010 Budget as presented: Undesignated Benevolence Income: \$1,050,000.00 with other income to total: \$1,069,650.00,
and expenses of total: \$1,069,635.18

SC.10.02.04

PASSED: ACCEPT REVISED 2010 BUDGET AS PRESENTED

2011 Budget

Moved

Seconded: Accept the 2011 Proposed Budget as presented: Income: Undesignated Benevolence: \$1,050,000.00, and other income to total: \$1,069,500.00 and Expenses: \$1,068,787.29

SC.10.02.05

PASSED: ACCEPT THE 2011 PROPOSED BUDGET

Education and Society Committee

John Munding presented the committee report

NRIT Board

Moved

Seconded: the Montana Synod Council appoint to the NRIT Board: Deb Abbott, Jason Asselstine, Larry Goehner

SC.10.02.06

PASSED: APPOINT DEB ABBOTT, JASON ASSELSTINE, LARRY GOEHNER TO THE NRIT BOARD

Lutheran Student Foundation

Moved

Seconded: That the Montana Synod Council approve the LSF Board Articles of Incorporation and By-laws, as presented, with the following amendments:

§4.1 General Powers; Number and Composition

The management of the Corporation shall be vested in its Board of Directors, which shall consist of 9 to 13 persons representing the Montana Synod. The Directors shall include faculty, staff and and at least two (2) students, one from each campus, of the institution(s) served; rostered clergy; and, lay persons who are supportive of ELCA campus ministry. At least 60% of the directors shall be lay persons. It shall be deemed proper for the Board of Directors to suggest to the Montana Synod the names of such persons it considers qualified to serve as directors. The Montana Synod shall appoint each Director. Need for removal or replacement of a Director due to resignation, inactivity or other reasons shall be referred to the Montana Synod represented for action.

§ 4.3 Terms

Members of the Board of Directors shall serve terms of three years each, except that the term of each student member shall be two years and except that certain of the non-student members of the initial Board of Directors shall serve lesser terms so that the terms do not expire all at one time. Non-student members may serve no more than two terms consecutively; student members may serve no more than three terms consecutively. No term limitations shall apply to the Bishop of the Montana Synod or her/his personal representatives. Directors shall hold office until the annual meeting for the year in which their terms of office are to expire, and, in each case, until their successors shall have been elected and qualified, or until their death, or until their resignation shall have become effective, whichever shall be the earliest.

§ 8.2 Required ~~Division~~ Unit Approval

SC.10.02.07

PASSED: APPROVE LSF BOARD ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAW AMENDMENTS AS PRESENTED

Lutheran Student Foundation

The committee deferred to the Synod Council to state a policy in regard to ELCA members serving on the LSF Board.

Moved

Seconded: The MT Synod enter into a contract with Dr. Dick Hardel to coach a Youth and Family Ministry team to oversee and guide the Synod in ministry to and with youth and families at a cost of \$2,160 for 2010.

SC.10.02.08

PASSED: CONTRACT WITH DR. DICK HARDEL TO COACH A YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM FOR MINISTRY TO AND WITH YOUTH AND FAMILIES ON A SYNOD-WIDE LEVEL IN 2010

Planning and Organization Committee

Chris Holler-Dinsmore presented the committee report.

Moved

Seconded: Elect Pastor Robert Nagy, Russ Plath, Lisa Moellenkamp, Elaine Ryan, Margie Williams, Pastor Scott Hedegaard, Pastor Jason Asselstine, Glen Phelps, Steve Holte, Pastor Sandy Van Zyl, Pastor Phil Wold, and Elaine Tjelde to the 2010 MT Synod Nominating Committee

SC.10.02.09

PASSED: ELECT THE MT SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Moved

Seconded: Approve the Rules and Procedures for the 2010 Montana Synod Assembly

SC.10.02.10

PASSED: APPROVE THE RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE 2010 MONTANA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Moved

Seconded: Present the “Apology to the Indigenous people of Montana for the what they have suffered and a pledge to address the consequences in the future” for approval at the 2010 Synod Assembly

SC.10.02.11

PASSED: PRESENT THE “APOLOGY TO THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF MONTANA” FOR APPROVAL AT THE 2010 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Mission and Outreach Committee

Pastor Kim Wilker presented the report.

Prison Ministry

Moved

Seconded: The Synod Council reaffirm its strong support for the Prison Ministry proposal at the MT State Prison in Deer Lodge.

SC.10.02.12

PASSED: REAFFIRM STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE PRISON MINISTRY PROPOSAL

The Committee heard a report from Arden Barden regarding the Rural Ministry Leadership Team.

The Committee announced an update on the “Growing in God’s Field Event 3” to be held on Oct. 8-10, 2010 in Helena.

The committee also announced an update on the “Glocal Formation Event” which will be held in Billings on August 6-7, 2010 with the Global Mission Committee planning the event.

ELCA Church Council Report

Phil Wold shared again about the privilege to serve on the ELCA Church council. A thanks was expressed to Phil for his service!

Architect’s Presentation on the New Synod Office Building

Steve L'Heureux presented the plans for the new Synod Office Building and the Council had discussion with him regarding the plans.

The Council was recessed.

Evening Session:

Bishop Crist, Pastor Dave Peters and Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger shared some pictures and perspectives on their recent trip to the Cape Orange Diocese in South Africa.

Saturday, February 27 8:30 a.m.

Plenary III:

Morning Prayer

Chaplain Linda Webster led the Council in Morning Prayer.

Vice President Jake Block called the Council back to order.

On Leave from Call Status:

Moved

Seconded: Accept the recommendation from Bishop Crist to place Rev. Sara Akre, Rev. Jonathan Kibler-McCabe, Rev. Paul Skatrud-Mickelson, Rev. Ellen Skatrud Mickelson, Rev. John Rohwer on “On Leave From Call Status”

SC.10.02.13

PASSED: PLACE REV. SARA AKRE, REV. JONATHAN KIBLER-MCCABE, REV. PAUL SKATRUD-MICKELSON, REV. ELLEN SKATRUD MICKELSON, REV. JOHN ROHWER ON “ON LEAVE FROM CALL STATUS”

Report of the Executive Committee

Extend Call to Interim Service

Moved

Seconded: Extend calls to Interim service to Mitch Jones and Joel Westby

SC.10.02.14

PASSED: EXTEND CALLS TO INTERIM SERVICE TO MITCH JONES AND JOEL WESTBY

Hetzel Foundation

Moved

Seconded: appoint Beth Keegan to a 3 year term, and Amanda Liggett to a 1 year term on the Hetzel Foundation Board of Directors

SC.10.02.15

PASSED: APPOINT BETH KEEGAN TO A 3 YEAR TERM, AND AMANDA LIGGETT TO A 1 YEAR TERM ON THE HETZEL FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By-laws for the Hetzel Foundation

The Hetzel Foundation requested that the MT Synod Council approve the following by-law changes:

Article 2 Membership Section 2 2b Member Functions reads, “The Synod Council of the Montana Synod shall, at its first regularly scheduled meeting of the calendar year, include in the agenda an item of business regarding the Foundation, which will include:” **An excerpt of the new version with the changes reads,**

1. “*The Foundation shall report* to the Synod Council of the Montana Synod, before its first regularly scheduled meeting of the calendar year, *and ask the it* include in the agenda an item...”

Article 3 Board of Directors Section 3.3c Tenure reads, “If a board member is absent from three consecutive regular or special meetings of the board, that member’s position on the board shall be declared vacant, and an appointment made to fill the unexpired portion of the term.” **An excerpt of the new version with the addition reads,**

2. “...and an appointment *will be* made to fill the unexpired portion of the term.”

Article 3 Board of Directors Section 3.5a Officers reads, “The Board of Directors shall elect, from its members, a Chair and Vice-Chair, and elect a Secretary and a Treasurer who need not be a member of the board.” **The new version will read,**

3. “The Board of Directors shall elect, from its members, a Chair and Vice-Chair, and elect a secretary and a Treasurer (*positions can be combined*) who need not be a member of the Board.”

Article 3 Board of Directors:

Section 3.6a Meetings reads, “The Board of Directors shall hold no less than three (3) regular meetings per year,” **The new version will read,**

4. “The Board of Directors shall hold no *fewer* than three (3) regular meetings per year.”

Section 3.6c Meetings should reads, “Conference telephone calls will constitute a meeting of the Board, provided the same notice is given as required for a meeting and those participating constitute a majority of the membership of the Board.” **An excerpt of the new version with the addition reads,**

5. “Conference telephone calls, *or other electronic meetings*, of the Board of Directors....”
6. “Board actions may be taken by mail, *or email*, if all the members of the Board participate therein and consent thereto.”

Article 6 Amendments reads, “These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the members of the Board of Directors. Written notice of a proposed amendment shall be given to each member of the Board no less than thirty days prior to the regular or special meeting at which the proposed amendment will be considered. The amendment shall be effective upon receiving the approval of a majority of the members of the Board.” An excerpt of the new version with the change reads,

7. “not less than thirty days prior to the regular *or* special meeting....”

Moved

Seconded: Approve the above Hetzel Foundation Bylaw Changes

SC.10.02.16

PASSED: APPROVE THE ABOVE CHANGES TO THE HETZEL FOUNDATION BYLAWS

Agreement between the Hot Springs Lutheran Church and the Presbyterian Church

Moved

Seconded: Approve the agreement between Hot Springs Lutheran Church and the Presbyterian Church in Hot Springs.

SC.10.02.17

PASSED: APPROVE THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN HOT SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH AND THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN HOT SPRINGS.

Executive Committee will craft language for a policy that limits the involvement on boards who are not members of the ELCA.

Nomination for Synod Secretary

Peggy Paugh Leuzinger has been nominated to a second term as Synod Secretary.

Moved

Seconded: Approve nomination of Peggy Paugh Leuzinger to a second term as MT Synod Secretary

SC.10.02.18

PASSED: APPROVE NOMINATION OF PEGGY PAUGH LEUZINGER TO A SECOND TERM AS MT SYNOD SECRETARY

Annual Review of Sexual Misconduct Policy (p. 119, Synod Yearbook)

The policy was reviewed and discussed and the Synod Council recommends that congregations take a look at the Synod's policy which is on the Synod's website concerning employees of a congregation so that the congregation is informed.

Old Business:

New Business:

Pastor Shelley Wickstrom announced that Region One has awarded a grant to Our Savior's of Rocky Boy in the amount of \$3000.

Budget:

Mike Young requested that it be communicated that the 2010 and 2011 budget is an expression of hope and an act of love and there is a need to communicate this to the congregations and ask the congregations to also take a leap of faith to increase their giving. There was fruitful discussion regarding the topic. The Bishop and staff will respond.

Dates of Upcoming Meetings:

- June 4, 2010, St. John's Lutheran Ministries, Billings
- September 17-18, 2010, Ursuline Centre, Great Falls
- March 11-12, 2011, Ursuline Centre, Great Falls
- June 3, 2011, Best Western Heritage Inn, Great Falls
- September 16-17, 2011, Ursuline Centre, Great Falls
- February 23-25, 2012, Ursuline Centre, Great Falls

Adjourned

The MT Synod Council meeting was adjourned.

Closing Prayer

Chaplain Linda Webster led the Council in closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger
Secretary, Montana Synod of the ELCA**