

MINUTES
MONTANA SYNOD COUNCIL
Friday, June 3, 2011, 9 a.m. -Noon
Great Falls, MT

Call to Order

Vice President Jake Block called the Montana Synod Council meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Opening Prayer

Rev. Gary Cockrell led the Synod Council in prayer.

Introductions

Vice President Jake Block, Bishop Jessica Crist, Treasurer Harold Spilde, Secretary Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, Pastor Gary Cockrell, Mike Young, Sue Ost, John Munding, Pastor Al Beyer, Tom Gossack, Cheryl Muncy, Chris Holler-Dinsmore, Pastor Kim Wilker, Cindy Larsen, Synod Staff: Pastor John Allen, Pastor Dave Peters, Visitor: Bishop Richard Graham, Metro WA DC Synod

Greetings from Churchwide from Bishop Richard Graham

Bishop Graham introduced himself and stated that he is looking forward to being in Montana and attending the Assembly.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion

Second: Adopt the Agenda

SC11.06.01

VOTE: ADOPT THE AGENDA

Report of the Secretary

Approval of the Minutes of the March, 2011 Synod Council Meeting

Motion

Second: Approve the Minutes of the March, 2011 Synod Council Meeting

SC11.06.02

VOTE: APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH, 2011 SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING

Correspondence

Secretary Peggy Paugh Leuzinger reported on thank you letters received from Ministry Partners for support from: Lutheran Campus Ministry, PLU, PLTS, Luther Seminary

Report of the Treasurer

Treasurer Harold Spilde presented the 2011 Financial Report through May. Income to May 31, 2011 was \$328,115.68 and expenses through May 31, 2011 were \$278,943.34. Income is greater than expenses. There is negative balance in the category of "program delivery" which is the pre-payment for Synod Assembly.

Report of the Administration Committee

Pastor Gary Cockrell reported that a message has been received from Churchwide that the Churchwide portion for the DEM for 2012 has been reduced by \$5,000. The Administration and Finance Committee will deal with this issue at the next meeting.

Bishop's Report

Lutheran Disaster Response, through LSS has bought bottled water, diapers, and baby formula for the Crow reservation. LDR has given \$5,000 to offset the cost. The Council members shared a brief report on flooding and weather issues around the state.

The Bishop extended thanks to Gary Cockrell and George Karres who are completing terms on the Synod Council. She also thanked Jake Block for his years of service as Vice-President of the Synod and Harold Spilde for his years of service as Treasurer.

The Bishop reported that the MT Synod has again had the required number of people who completed the Health Risk Assessment so that the Synod's congregations receive a 2% discount and that the Synod has also received a grant of \$10,000 to be used for wellness.

The Bishop also indicated that at the September meeting, the Council will be examining all the ministries of the Synod and put everything "on the table" to examine our ministry priorities.

Synod Council Items for 2011 Assembly

During the Assembly, there will be an open forum on the Genetics statement and on genetics. The Planning Committee has also organized an orientation session for voting members. She also encouraged the Council to greet people. In the effort to be "green", much of the information has not been printed, but there will be paper copies of Resolutions and Biographies for the nominees. During the activity time tomorrow, there will be a Wellness Walk and a leader is needed for that time.

At the Churchwide Assembly, the Genetics statement will be voted on. Several congregations have been studying the statement. The Bishop stated that the Statement on Criminal Justice has released a beginning study. Pastor Steve Rice, Miles City, is on the task force that study.

Report of the Executive Committee

Sanctuary of Hope Lutheran, Chester Application to be a Recognized Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community
Motion

Second: Sanctuary of Hope, Chester to become a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community of the Montana Synod

SC11.06.03

VOTE: SANCTUARY OF HOPE, CHESTER TO BECOME A SYNODICALLY AUTHORIZED WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

The Synod will submit a press release to local newspapers regarding this decision.

Jake mentioned that a bequest has been given that is being contested by the person's children.

Bishop's Sabbatical –Bishop Crist stated that she would like to consider planning a sabbatical.

Motion

Second: Bishop Crist will bring a proposal for a sabbatical to the September meeting.

SC11.06.04

VOTE: BISHOP CRIST WILL PRESENT A PROPOSAL FOR A SABBATICAL AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

Appoint Elections Committee

The Bishop presented the following to serve as the Elections Committee: Jan Nerem, Judy Spilde, Marv Strom, Cheryl Laveson, Jason Pollington, Steve Smith

Motion

Second: Appoint Jan Nerem, Judy Spilde, Marv Strom, Cheryl Laveson, Jason Pollington, Steve Smith to the 2011 Elections Committee

SC11.06.05

VOTE: APPOINT JAN NEREM, JUDY SPILDE, MARV STROM, CHERYL LAVESON, JASON POLLINGTON, STEVE SMITH TO THE 2011 ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Jake mentioned that Atlantic Mutual Insurance is undergoing bankruptcy and several ELCA Synods may be affected by that, but the Montana Synod should not be affected.

Old Business

Update on Congregations Leaving the ELCA

There are still a total of 17 congregations in the Montana Synod who have left the ELCA.

New Business

Mission Table

The “Emergent” Task force from the Mission Table would like to explore the possibility of a ministry in a new way in Dillon with those who would like to remain in the ELCA.

Motion

Second: The “Emergent” Task Force from the Mission Table is granted the blessing of the Synod Council to further explore the possibility of an “emergent” ministry in Dillon with the Lutherans from the former congregation.

SC 11.06.06

VOTE: THE “EMERGENT” TASK FORCE FROM THE MISSION TABLE IS GRANTED THE BLESSING OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL TO FURTHER EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF AN “EMERGENT” MINISTRY IN DILLON WITH THE LUTHERANS FROM THE FORMER CONGREGATION.

Memorandum of Understanding between COD and MT Synod

Motion

Second: Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Cape Orange Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Southern Africa and the Montana Synod

SC11.06.07

VOTE: APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CAPE ORANGE DIOCESE OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE MONTANA SYNOD

There will be conversation at the Executive Committee regarding the appropriateness of sending an offering to the COD.

Roster Matters

Place the following on leave from call: first year:

Rev. Cheryl Hoops, Rev. C. Mark Lundquist

Motion

Second: Place the following on leave from call: first year:

Rev. Cheryl Hoops, Rev. C. Mark Lundquist

SC11.06.08

VOTE: PLACE THE FOLLOWING ON LEAVE FROM CALL: FIRST YEAR: REV. CHERYL HOOPS, REV. C. MARK LUNDQUIST

Place the following on leave from call: second year:

Rev. Michael Dahle, Rev. Loren Gustafson, Rev. Val Metropoulos

Motion

Second: Place the following on leave from call: second year:

Rev. Michael Dahle, Rev. Loren Gustafson, Rev. Val Metropoulos

SC11.06.09

VOTE: PLACE THE FOLLOWING ON LEAVE FROM CALL: SECOND YEAR: REV. MICHAEL DAHLE, REV. LOREN GUSTAFSON, REV. VAL METROPOULOS

Place the following on leave from call: beyond the three year period:

Rev. Kay Tostengard

Motion

Second: Place the following on leave from call: beyond the three year period:

Rev. Kay Tostengard

SC11.06.10

PLACE THE FOLLOWING ON LEAVE FROM CALL: BEYOND THE THREE YEAR PERIOD: REV. KAY TOSTENGARD

Extend a call to Special Service to Pastor Karl Guhn to serve as a Chaplain at St. John's Lutheran Ministry

Motion

Second: Extend a call to Special Service to Pastor Karl Guhn to serve as a Chaplain at St. John's Lutheran Ministry

SC11.06.11

VOTE: EXTEND A CALL TO SPECIAL SERVICE TO PASTOR KARL GUHN TO

SERVE AS A CHAPLAIN AT ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN MINISTRY

Elect Executive Committee (S11.01.01)

Motion

Second: Sue Ost, Al Beyer, Tom Gossack

SC11.06.12

VOTE: ELECT SUE OST, AL BEYER, TOM GOSSACK TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Other Business

L.I.F.T. - Bishop Richard Graham

Bishop Graham described how the L.I.F.T. task force was organized to examine and suggest changes to “the ecology of the ELCA”. The LIFT task force made a series of recommendations to the Churchwide Council. They looked at the way the pieces of the church work or do not work together. The task force has said that the main emphasis of the church needs to be on congregational ministry and that the structure and work done in the ELCA in the past did not necessarily connect to the life of faith. They determined that the emphasis on the question “What does Jesus want us to do?” and for congregations to be the place where disciples are formed, are the main purposes of the church.

Bishops have been asked to report on what they do on a regular basis. The L.I.F.T. task force recommended that the church not bring any more social statements until the church is more clear about how to decide to approve them. He will present the Report from Churchwide on Sunday morning.

Future Synod Council Dates:

September 16-17, 2011, Great Falls

February 24-25, 2012, Great Falls

June 1-3, 2012 Assembly and Theological Conference, Billing

September 21-22, 2012, Great Falls

February 22-23, 2013, Great Falls

May 31-June 2, 2013 Assembly, Great Falls

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger
Secretary, Montana Synod