

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA SYNOD COUNCIL**  
**Friday - Saturday, March 11 - 12, 2011**  
**Ursuline Centre, Great Falls, Montana**

Worship with Holy Communion and installation of Synod Council member Cindy Larsen was led by Chaplain Tammy Bull, AIM in the Ursuline Chapel.

Present: Bishop Jessica Crist, Vice President Jake Block, Secretary Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, Treasurer Harold Spilde, John Munding, Pastor George Karres, Tom Gossack, Mike Young, Sue Ost, Cheryl Muncy, Pastor Gary Cockrell, Chris Holler-Dinsmore, Wayne Young, Scott Southwick, Pastor Kim Wilker, Cindy Larsen, Chaplain to the Synod Council: Tammy Bull, Associate to the Bishop: Pastor John Allen, DEM: Pastor Dave Peters, Synod Executive Assistant, Susan Hedahl, Region 1 Coordinator: Pastor Shelley Wickstrom, Synod Mission Table: Jeanne McCoskery

**PLENARY I FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2011, 9:45 A.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Jake Block called the Montana Synod Council meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

**RATIFY SYNOD COUNCIL APPOINTMENT**

Motion, second: Appoint Cindy Larsen as the Crazy Mountain Cluster Representative to the MT Synod Council

**SC.11.03.01**

**PASSED: APPOINT CINDY LARSEN AS THE CRAZY MOUNTAIN CLUSTER REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MT SYNOD COUNCIL**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion, second: Approve the agenda

**SC.11.03.02**

**PASSED: APPROVE THE AGENDA**

**INTRODUCTION OF OFFICERS, COUNCIL MEMBERS, VISITORS**

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Motion, second: Approve the Minutes from the September 2010 meeting with a correction to action that Mitch Jones was not placed on 2<sup>nd</sup> year on leave but was called to Special Service in the Synod.

**SC.11.03.03**

**PASSED: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER, 2010 MEETING**

Correspondence was referred to: thanks have been received from Mission Partners.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Harold Spilde referred the Council to the printed report. The total income in 2010 was \$951,111.98 and total expenses were \$975,302.12. In February, income to the Synod was \$84,913 and expenses were \$56,686.21.

Motion, second to receive the Treasurer's Report

**SC.11.03.04**

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

**BISHOP'S REPORT:**

### **Initial Thoughts**

+Thank you for your leadership in the Montana Synod as we move into the future of our church. It is good to work with leaders like you with vision and passion. I am very grateful to each of you for your service on the Synod Council and beyond. And I know that this past year has been a challenge for all of us. Some of you have accompanied me on numerous conversations and consultations with congregations who were hurt and angry, seeking to discern if they should leave the ELCA. You have provided them with a different perspective, different from theirs, and different from mine. You have helped demonstrate the shared ownership of the church.

+Once upon a time, the Synod Council, in keeping with the 5 priorities I had suggested, designated this as the year of focusing on shared ownership of the church. Shared ownership, as I first articulated it, means that we take seriously our interdependence, that we shy away from “us and them” language. In the last year and a half there has been a lot of “us and them” language among those who have felt hurt by the churchwide decisions and the aftermath. This is true for people who supported the decisions and for people who opposed them. I thank all of you for being people who have tried to bring our church back together. How we come back together will be different from what it was 50 years ago, 20 years ago and even 5 years ago. This is a challenging and rewarding time to be decision makers in the church, followers of Jesus.

### **Highlights**

+As we pause to reflect on the mission and vision of our church, I want to share some highlights with you. Since we met in September there have been no additional congregations leaving the Montana Synod. And we have 2 groups asking to form into congregations, both made up of people who chose to stay with the ELCA, even when their congregation left.

+We had our first-ever Bishop’s Convocation in October and had a good turnout of 50+ rostered leaders. We sat at round tables and had discussions based on the presentation I had done. We will do this again.

+LPA classes continue in 2 locations. Candidacy continues to draw people who are discerning calls to ministry. New pastors and AIMs gather annually for First Call Theological Education, and clergy and laity attend NRIT events across the synod. The youth gathered in Helena in November under the theme of Global Mission, and 4 young people from Wolf Point did a presentation on their amazing trip to our companion synod in South Africa.

+In January we had our 3rd Canadian-American Lutherans across the Border event in Lethbridge. Our topic was “Faith in the Oil Patch,” which included a very moving personal reflection by our own Pastor Scott Hedegaard. Participants are eager to have Montana host next time.

+On February 28 we took the Apology to Tribal Peoples to the Fort Peck Tribal Council. Six of us presented it: Dr. Christine Holler-Dinsmore, Pr. Greg Holler-Dinsmore, Pr. Scott Hedegaard, Pr. David Peters, Mr. Turner Graybill, Bishop Jessica Crist. (Pictures of the event were shown.) We will be going to other reservations, and will be inviting you to join us. It was a profound and moving experience.

+**The Mission Table** is hard at work on mission support and outreach. The Freedom in Christ Project is working feverishly to secure grants and call a pastor for this ministry that we named our highest priority. I invite your prayers and support. You will be learning more about the Macedonia Project for which the Mission Table secured a grant. I want you to know that we make every effort to respond to grant opportunities that come our way. Whenever there is a grant available, if it fits with our understanding of our mission and does not detract, we apply for it and generally get it. It is an example of how we work hard to use resources well.

In August we are planning a worship and music event for small and rural churches. Headed up by Mary Stevens of First Lutheran in Havre, “Come and Worship: Planning Worship for Small Congregations” will bring together musicians and worship leaders to explore creative resources for doing worship well in their settings.

### **Workings**

+The staff and deans and leaders of the synod have responded graciously to our staff cuts. I have

begun to use deans for conversations with church councils and call committees, to cut travel time and expense. We have also used both speaker phone conference calls and Skype to meet with congregations. I am grateful to the deans for their willingness to step in, and to the congregations for their willingness to try some new ways of being in touch. We are still adjusting to the reduced presence of Pastor Allen (deployed in November and December, and reduced to .6 FTE in February), and of Susan Smith (reduced her hours from 32 to 24.)

+Across the church people are looking for new ways to do our ministry effectively and faithfully. We will be having a conversation with our counterparts in the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod to see if there are ways that we can do some kinds of ministry together. And on the congregational level we continue to explore ecumenical partnerships. In Region I, we are looking at a partnership that involves networking. We have been invited to join in, and we will hear a brief presentation in a few minutes.

+As we move to the church of the future, we will be doing things in different ways. We have had to spend a lot of time in the last 2 years reacting—reacting to the economy, reacting to churches who were, in turn, reacting to churchwide decisions. As we move forward, it is important for us to have time to look seriously at what our mission is as a synod, what we can do and what we cannot do. In February I sent you a list of questions that I had been asked to answer as a bishop, and I'd like us to spend some time during this meeting discussing them. I also think that we need to have a synod council retreat in the summer or fall to look at our priorities, and then structure ourselves according to those priorities. This will take a lot of work. We will have to look at staffing, budget, use of time, volunteer involvement as we seek to do God's work with our hands.

+Congregations in our synod are undergoing significant transitions. We have a number of openings in our larger congregations, in various stages of the transition process. We are blessed with a number of fine interim pastors. And, unlike last year, when we had very few openings for first call pastors, we have a number. And, we have new seminary graduates assigned to our synod to fill those vacancies. In 2005, there were 209 seminary graduates, and 587 open slots hoping to get them. In 2011, there are 209 seminary graduates, and 205 slots. Things have changed. Congregations are also looking for creative and faithful ways to do ministry, including combining with other congregations to share a pastor, working ecumenically, and re-thinking parish arrangements. We will look at a few of those on Saturday.

+Rethinking everything involves not only deciding what we must and can and should do. It also involves deciding what we must and can and should stop doing. Determining what to let go of is much more difficult than deciding what to add. But it is a matter of integrity and stewardship. When the Churchwide expression of the ELCA cut over 100 staff positions in the last year, the design team worked hard to have as little impact on synods as possible. In other words they did not slash and slice with the mantra "Let the synods do it." As Bishop, I have made some initial strategic decisions about what our staff will give up. We have given up always being able to answer the phone personally, always being able to go to congregations promptly, attending certain meetings. Personally I have resigned from several committees and task forces that take me out of the synod, reduced participation in others. To my regret, I have not been as involved in MAC, I have not hosted a lunch with legislators, and I have dropped other things in order to be in the office more. During the second half of 2010 I eliminated 22 out of synod days from my schedule. But my regular out of synod responsibilities still include Conference of Bishops meetings, Regional Consultations, Luther Seminary Board, Lutheran World Relief Board, and serving as the Assignment Bishop for Region I.

+I think we will need, as a synod, to make some similar decisions about what we can and cannot do, what we will and will not do. Synods responsibilities are noted in the constitution, but we do have some leeway. I see this as an important task for us.

+I asked Dave Peters to sit in on a webinar about a "community commons" for Region I, and he will share it with us.

### **Churchwide**

+The Genetics Social Statement is up on the web as is [www.elcafactchecker.org](http://www.elcafactchecker.org). I urge you to read

them and spread the word.

+A preliminary study is now available for the next social statement on Criminal Justice.

+The social statement on Justice for Women is still on hold.

#### **In conclusions**

+ “I thank God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the Gospel.” (Philippians 1: 3-7) Really!

+I am grateful for you faithful witness, for your support of the church and of me, for your encouragement, for your challenge, for our work together.

+We have had numerous challenges over the last several years—spiritual, organizational, financial. But we have far more blessings. Special thanks go to First Lutheran in Glasgow for their \$10,000 gift at the end of the year. And thanks to all who have continued to be faithful lovers of the church.

+Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson told of being in an airport in his bishop purple when a woman asked him what kind of bishop he was. When he said “Lutheran,” she shrieked in delight, “We love Lutherans!” Unused to such a response, Hanson said, “Who is we?” “FEMA,” she said. “We love Lutherans because they stay to the end, and they get the job done.”

#### **REPORT FROM DAVE PETERS REGARDING “COMMUNITY COMMONS”**

Pastor Peters introduced the concept of a social business software that is being developed in the Oregon Synod that would help to foster communication and break down “silos”. Money from the MT Synod has been directed to this undertaking and to assure that the Montana Synod can be involved and make use of this resource that is being designed.

#### **REGION 1 REPORT – PASTOR SHELLEY WICKSTROM**

Pastor Wickstrom reminded the Council about the history and structure of the Region and the plan originally in the ELCA regarding the region and the partnerships within the Synods. “We are different because we have come through challenge and we are a different church and as we move into the future, we are being prepared by God to be the church God needs us to be.” The question was raised: Would the Synod request “best practices from the Region” from Pastor Wickstrom as she has ears and a presence in each of the Synods of the region? We will revisit this on Saturday morning.

#### **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

##### **CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES:**

##### **2009 Amendments to the *Constitution for Synods* as approved by the Eleventh Churchwide Assembly, August 17–23, 2009**

##### **Official Notice of Required Provisions**

##### **Additions are underlined. Deletions are struck through in the text.**

Under †S18.11., required provisions are to be introduced at once into the synod's constitution upon this formal certification by the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Required provisions become effective immediately upon their adoption by the Churchwide Assembly and this subsequent formal notification of their adoption. Therefore, no vote of the Synod Assembly is needed for such required provisions; neither is such a vote to be taken.

Required provisions are those that are marked by a dagger (†) in this summary of

amendments adopted by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. Such required provisions may be amended only by the Churchwide Assembly.

Required provisions adopted by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly are now in force; the text of the amendments of required provisions should be incorporated immediately into your synod's constitution.

Amendments that are not required may be adopted by the Synod Assembly on a majority vote at one assembly under †S18.12.

**To amend S7.26. and add S13.40. and S13.41. to separate information about the Synod Assembly from more general information about synodically authorized worshiping communities:**

~~†S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of mission settings formed with the intent of becoming chartered recognized congregations and authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21. Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.~~

**S13.40. Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities**

~~**S13.41.** Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.~~

**To add †S8.16. and †S8.16.01. to incorporate procedures concerning matters of potential conflicts of interest for synodical bishops, as required by 10.32. and 10.32.01. of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:**

**†S8.16 Conflicts of Interest**

~~**†S8.16.01.** The following procedures shall govern matters of potential conflicts of interest for synodical bishops:~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ a. Whenever a synodical bishop determines that a matter of the kind described in †S8.16.01.b. may require his or her determination or action with respect to a related individual as defined in †S8.16.01.c., the synodical bishop shall withdraw from personal involvement in such matter and shall so notify the presiding bishop. The presiding bishop shall then appoint another synodical bishop from the same region to handle the matter to conclusion. In dealing with such matter, the appointed bishop shall exercise all of the functions and authority to the same extent as if the appointed bishop were the elected bishop of the withdrawing bishop's synod.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ b. Matters include any proceedings under Chapter 20, proceedings under provision 7.46. of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the~~

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (†S14.13.), candidacy, reinstatement, and similar matters where determinations or actions by the synodical bishop could change, limit, restrict, approve, authorize, or deny the related individual's ministry on one of the official rosters of this church.

c. A related individual is one who, with respect to the synodical bishop, is a spouse, parent, son, daughter, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, or in-law (parent, son, daughter, or sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a sibling).

**To amend S8.42. to provide additional clarity:**

**S8.42.** The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:

f. Giving of corporate surety in the amount determined by the Synod Council, which shall be in the custody of the secretary, and the premium therefore shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement. Obtaining a fidelity bond in the amount determined by the Synod Council for persons handling synod funds, which bond shall be in the custody of the secretary. The premium for the bond shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.

**To add †S9.12. to require background checks for nominees for officers of synods:**

†S9.12. Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated as synodical officers prior to their election, if possible, or as soon as practical after their election. The specific procedures and timing of background checks and screening shall be determined by the Synod Council.

**To amend †S11.01. to require each synod to have an Audit Committee, to add †S11.05. to specify its composition, and to amend †S15.31. to give to the Audit Committee responsibility for recommending a certified public accountant firm to conduct the annual audit:**

†S11.01. There shall be an Executive Committee, a Consultation Committee, a Committee on Discipline, a Mutual Ministry Committee, an Audit Committee, and such other committees as this synod may from time to time determine. The duties and functions of such committees, or any other organizational units created by this synod, and the composition and organizational structure of such units, shall be as set forth in this constitution or in the bylaws or continuing resolutions, and shall be subject to any applicable provisions or requirements of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

†S11.05. The Audit Committee of this synod shall consist of three to six persons, none of whom are members of the synod staff. Up to half of the committee members may be Synod Council members. The Audit Committee members shall be elected by the Synod Council for a term of three years and be eligible for re-election to a second consecutive three-year term. The terms of the Audit Committee members shall be staggered. The Audit Committee shall be responsible for assisting the Synod Council in fulfilling its general oversight of the synod's accounting, financial reporting, internal control systems, and external audit processes as provided in †S15.31.

†S15.31. This synod shall arrange to have an annual audit of its financial records conducted by a certified public accountant firm recommended by the synod Audit Committee and approved selected by the Synod Council. The audited annual financial report shall be submitted by this synod to the churchwide Office of the Treasurer and to the congregations of this synod. The financial reports shall be in the format approved from time to time by the churchwide Office of the Treasurer.

***To amend and add the following to allow for expanded roles for youth and young adults in the governance in all expressions of this church:***

***To add:***

†S6.04.B09. It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term "youth" means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term "young adult" means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.

***To amend:***

†S10.01. The Synod Council, consisting of the four officers of the synod, 10–24 other members, and at least one youth and at least one young adult, shall be elected by the Synod Assembly.

***To amend and add the following to make the process for relocation parallel to the process for establishment of additional sites for worship:***

***To add:***

†S13.19. A congregation considering a relocation shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate program unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected.

***To add the following to provide an interdependent process for the establishment of additional sites for worship:***

†S13.20. A congregation considering development of an additional site to be used regularly for worship shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate program unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.

***To amend the following to provide for the termination of a call when a parish arrangement terminates:***

†S14.13. a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which, except in the case of the death of the pastor, shall be terminated only following consultation with the synodical bishop and for the following reasons: . . .

6) the dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or  
[with the rest unchanged]

**To amend S7.22. and S.73. to make them consistent and to add voting rights for those on disability:**

**S7.22.** The synod may establish processes that permit retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above. The synod may establish processes that permit ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers who are on leave from call, or those designated as disabled, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered leaders specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

~~**S7.23.** All retired ordained ministers, all ordained ministers on leave from call, all associates in ministry on leave from call or retired, all deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on leave from call or retired, and all diaconal ministers of this church on leave from call or retired, all of whose names appear on the rosters of this synod, shall have the privilege of voice but not vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly. The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.~~

Motion, second: Constitutional Changes be presented to the 2011 MT Synod Assembly for adoption.

**SC.11.03.05**

**PASSED: CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES BE PRESENTED TO THE 2011 MT SYNOD ASSEMBLY FOR ADOPTION**

**SPIRIT OF HOPE AWARD**

Motion, second: Amanda Johnson, from Bethel Lutheran Church, Great Falls to receive the 2011 Spirit of Hope Award.

**SC.11.03.06**

**PASSED: AMANDA JOHNSON TO RECEIVE THE 2011 SPIRIT OF HOPE AWARD**

**NEW HOPE LUTHERAN SYNODICALLY AUTHORIZED MINISTRY**

Motion, second: Recommend that the MT Synod Council approve the request to designate New Hope Lutheran Ministry of Great Falls as a Synodically Authorized Lutheran Ministry

**SC.11.03.07**

**PASSED: DESIGNATE NEW HOPE LUTHERAN MINISTRY AS A SYNODICALLY AUTHORIZED LUTHERAN MINISTRY OF THE MT SYNOD**

**COMMUNITY COMMONS**

Announcement of money designated by the Administration Committee of \$5,000 to join the process of this web based communication tool in Region One.

**COVENANT OF EXPECTATIONS FOR THE BENEVOLENCE SHARING OF MT SYNOD CONGREGATIONS FROM 1990.**

This document was introduced and the question raised about how to use this. No decisions were made.

### **SYNOD COUNCIL TREASURER**

Motion, second: Nomination for Harold Spilde to serve as Synod Treasurer for a four year term

**SC.11.03.08**

**PASSED: HAROLD SPILDE NOMINATED TO SERVE AS MT SYNOD TREASURER**

The Synod Council was recessed for lunch and committee meetings.

### **PLENARY II FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2011 3:30 P.M.**

#### **MISSION TABLE 1-1 – PASTOR DAVID PETERS**

Dave outlined all the ways in which the Mission Table is at work.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION**

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

Jake Block presented the report.

Motion, second: Recommend a raise to the Bishop and Associate to the Bishop of 2% for 2012.

**SC.11.03.09**

**PASSED: RAISE OF 2% TO THE BISHOP AND THE ASSOCIATE TO THE BISHOP ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

Gary Cockrell presented the report.

Motion, second: Revise the 2011 budget as follows:

Wyoming Association of Churches to \$250

Increase Bishop, Assoc. to Bishop, Exec. Asst. and Admin Asst Salaries by 3% including benefits, retroactive to Feb 1.

Add a line in budget for cell phones at \$130 per month for Bishop and Associate to Bishop (total \$3,120)

Correct Bishop's Pension /Medical to \$26,0006

Proposed Revised: Income of \$954,500.00 and expenses of \$944,604.29.

**SC.11.03.10**

**PASSED: APPROVE THE REVISED BUDGET FOR 2011:**

- **INCLUDE \$250 TO WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES**
- **INCREASE BISHOP, ASSOC. TO BISHOP, EXEC. ASST. AND ADMIN ASST SALARIES BY 3% INCLUDING BENEFITS, RETROACTIVE TO FEB 1.**
- **ADD A LINE IN BUDGET FOR CELL PHONES AT \$130 PER MONTH FOR BISHOP AND ASSOCIATE TO BISHOP (TOTAL \$3,120)**
- **CORRECT BISHOP'S PENSION /MEDICAL TO \$26,0006**
- **PROPOSED REVISED: INCOME OF \$954,500.00 AND EXPENSES OF \$944,604.29.**

Motion, second: Recommend that the 2012 Proposed Budget of \$974,500.00 income and \$959,796.72 expenses as presented which includes increasing Churchwide support to 40% and a 2% raise to the Synod staff be forwarded to the 2011 Synod Assembly for approval.

**SC.11.03.11**

**PASSED: FORWARD THE 2012 PROPOSED BUDGET OF \$974,500.00 INCOME AND \$959,796.72 EXPENSES AS PRESENTED TO THE 2011 SYNOD ASSEMBLY FOR**

**APPROVAL. (THIS INCLUDES INCREASING CHURCHWIDE SUPPORT TO 40% AND A 2% RAISE TO THE SYNOD STAFF)**

**EDUCATION AND SOCIETY COMMITTEE:**

John Munding presented the report.

Jenny Kunka reported that although the NRIT budget has been reduced, enrollment for events has been good. She is looking into hosting on-line events.

Motion, second: Miriam Schmidt appointed to serve a 3 year term on the NRIT Board beginning 1/11.

**SC.11.03.12**

**PASSED: APPOINT MIRIAM SCHMIDT TO SERVE A 3 YEAR TERM ON THE NRIT BOARD BEGINNING 1/11.**

John Lund gave an overview of activities at UM. The LCM Board is fundraising for support of Campus Ministry.

Motion, second: The MT Synod request a formal conversation with the other Synods in Region One regarding shared funding for Campus Ministry and announce our intention to withdraw from Campus Ministry and depending on the outcome to announce our intention to withdraw from Shared Funding beginning in 2012, pending the results of this conversation.

**SC.11.03.13**

**PASSED: THE MT SYNOD REQUEST A FORMAL CONVERSATION WITH THE OTHER SYNODS IN REGION ONE REGARDING SHARED FUNDING FOR CAMPUS MINISTRY AND ANNOUNCE OUR INTENTION TO WITHDRAW FROM CAMPUS MINISTRY, AND DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME, TO ANNOUNCE OUR INTENTION TO WITHDRAW FROM SHARED FUNDING BEGINNING IN 2012, PENDING THE RESULTS OF THIS CONVERSATION.**

Motion, second: Appoint Mike Conner to the Candidacy Committee; term to end in 2015

**SC.11.03.14**

**PASSED: APPOINT MIKE CONNER TO THE CANDIDACY COMMITTEE, TERM TO END IN 2015**

**LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:**

Motion, second: Approve grant request of \$350 to the Lutheran Association of Christian Educators for 2011; funding to come out of program funds.

**SC.11.03.15**

**PASSED: APPROVE GRANT REQUEST OF \$350 TO THE LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS FOR 2011; FUNDING TO COME OUT OF PROGRAM FUNDS.**

**PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE:**

Dr. Chris Holler-Dinsmore presented the report.

Motion, second: Be it resolved that the following people will constitute the 2011 Montana Synod Assembly Resolution Committee: Pr. Daniel Disch, Mr. Mike Young, Ms. Sue Ost, Pr. Lowell Anderson, Pr. Avis Anderson

**SC.11.03.16**

**PASSED: THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WILL CONSTITUTE THE 2011 MONTANA**

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION COMMITTEE: PR. DANIEL DISCH, MR. MIKE YOUNG, MS. SUE OST, PR. LOWELL ANDERSON, PR. AVIS ANDERSON**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Motion, second: Appoint to the Nominating Committee: Rick Mickelson, Russ Plath, Elaine Ryan, Margie Williams, Sandy Pipal, Jason Asselstine, Glen Phelps, Al Beyer, Sandy Van Zyl, Cliff Haaland, Elaine Tjelde

**SC.11.03.17**

**PASSED: APPOINT TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE: RICK MICKELSON, RUSS PLATH, ELAINE RYAN, MARGIE WILLIAMS, SANDY PIPAL, JASON ASSELSTINE, GLEN PHELPS, AL BEYER, SANDY VAN ZYL, CLIFF HAALAND, ELAINE TJELDE**

**MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE:**

Pastor Kim Wilker presented the report.

**GIFT TO ALL SAINTS, BIG SKY**

Motion second: Gift \$2,500 to All Saints, Big Sky from the MLF because churchwide reduced their "New Ministry Grant" by \$5,000.

**SC.11.03.18**

**PASSED: GIFT \$2,500 TO ALL SAINTS, BIG SKY FROM THE MLF BECAUSE CHURCHWIDE REDUCED THEIR "NEW MINISTRY GRANT" BY \$5,000.**

**GLOBAL MISSION REPORT**

Motion, second: Bless and support Deb Peters and Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger as the MT Synod Coordinators of the Cape Orange Diocese Companion Synod relationship and that there be a review and implementation of the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the MT Synod and the COD.

**SC.11.03.19**

**PASSED: BLESS AND SUPPORT DEB PETERS AND PASTOR PEGGY PAUGH LEUZINGER AS THE MT SYNOD COORDINATORS OF THE CAPE ORANGE DIOCESE COMPANION SYNOD RELATIONSHIP AND THAT THERE BE A REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOU (MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING) BETWEEN THE MT SYNOD AND THE COD.**

**LSS SUNDAY**

Motion, second: The MT Synod support the LSS fundraising efforts in 2011 and designate May 22 as LSS Sunday in the MT Synod

**SC.11.03.20**

**PASSED: THE MT SYNOD SUPPORT THE LSS FUNDRAISING EFFORTS IN 2011 AND DESIGNATE MAY 22 AS LSS SUNDAY IN THE MT SYNOD**

The MT Synod Council was recessed for supper. A presentation by Dr. Chris Holler-Dinsmore on the Genetics Social Statement, a reception at the Bishop's home with Evening Prayer led by Chaplain Tammy Bull were held in the evening.

The Montana Synod Council reconvened at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 12, 2011.

Jeanne McCoskery led the Council in a Bible Study based on Hebrews 10:198-25.

**PLENARY III Saturday, March 12, 2011 8:30 a.m.**

Vice President Jake Block reconvened the MT Synod Council.

### **ECUMENICAL INTERN'S REPORT**

Sylvia Bull shared the ways she has been involved in the Synod as the Ecumenical intern through the year. She had the opportunity to participate in "New Fire" – a group of 18-30 year olds involved as young adults in ecumenical efforts. She was also able to participate in the National Council of Churches Assembly.

### **ROSTER AND CONGREGATIONAL STATUS REVIEW**

#### **ON LEAVE FROM CALL:**

First Year on Leave from Call: Sandy Van Zyl, Debra Abbott, Troy Ley

Motion, Second: Place on leave from call -- first year: Sandy Van Zyl, Deb Abbott, Troy Ley

#### **SC.11.03.21**

**PASSED: PLACE ON LEAVE FROM CALL – FIRST YEAR: SANDY VAN ZYL, DEB ABBOTT, TROY LEY**

Motion, Second: Place on leave from call --second year: John Rohwer, Paul Skatrud-Mickelson, Ellen Skatrud-Mickelson

#### **SC.11.03.22**

**PASSED: PLACE ON LEAVE FROM CALL – SECOND YEAR: JOHN ROHWER, PAUL SKATRUD-MICKELSON, ELLEN SKATRUD-MICKELSON**

### **SYNOD COUNCIL LETTERS OF CALL**

Tammy Bull serving New Hope Lutheran Synodically Authorized Lutheran Ministry

Motion, Second: Extend a Synod Call to Tammy Bull to New Hope Lutheran Synodically Authorized Lutheran Ministry

#### **SC.11.03.23**

**PASSED: EXTEND A SYNOD CALL TO TAMMY BULL TO NEW HOPE LUTHERAN SYNODICALLY AUTHORIZED LUTHERAN MINISTRY**

Catherine Card has received a call to RiverStone Hospice, Billings

Motion, Second: Extend a Synod Call to Catherine Card, RiverStone Hospice, Billings.

#### **SC.11.03.24**

**PASSED: EXTEND A SYNOD CALL TO CATHERINE CARD TO SERVE RIVERSTONE HOSPICE, BILLINGS.**

The Bishop reported about Pastors who have left the ELCA

Jack Shannon, has left the ELCA effective 3/7/11

Jonathon Kibler-McCabe, has left the ELCA effective 2/20/11

Clyde Seifert, retired, resigned from the ELCA roster.

### **CONGREGATIONAL STATUS:**

The Bishop reported on changes in congregations:

#### **Central Hi-Line Parish**

Hingham Lutheran has withdrawn from the Central Hi-Line Parish and Bethel Lutheran, Joplin has stated its intention to withdraw from the Central Hi-Line Parish.

**Prairie Lutheran Parish:**

Our Redeemer's, Nashua has indicated intention to withdraw from the Parish  
Bethel Lutheran, Grain has also indicated intention to withdraw from the Parish.

Christ Lutheran, Big Sandy and Messiah Lutheran in Havre are working to develop a parish

**OLD BUSINESS**

The Bishop shared the questions and the responses from Bishops that were polled by the ELCA regarding their understandings of and needs within their Synods.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Dates of Upcoming Meetings:**

- June 3, 2011, Best Western Heritage Inn, Great Falls
- September 16-17, 2011, Ursuline Centre, Great Falls
- February 24-25, 2012, Ursuline Centre, Great Falls
- June 1, 2012, Crowne Plaza, Billings
- September 21-22, 2012, Ursuline Centre, Great Falls
- February 22-23, 2013, Ursuline Centre, Great Falls

**EXCHANGE OF MINISTRY PRACTICES/IDEAS IN REGION ONE**

Motion, Second: The Montana Synod, in recognition of shared mission among the various synods in Region 1, recognizes the valuable support that is provided by the Regional Coordinator, and requests and encourages the Region 1 Coordinator for Ministry Leadership to gather and share administrative and program ministry ideas as she makes regular visits to the synod councils of Region One.

**AMENDMENT:**

That information that is gathered be communicated when possible, on Community Commons  
Motion, Second:

**SC.11.03.25**

**PASSED: AMENDMENT: THAT INFORMATION GATHERED BE COMMUNICATED, WHEN POSSIBLE, ON COMMUNITY COMMONS.**

Motion, Second:

**SC.11.03.26**

**PASSED: MOTION, SECOND: THE MONTANA SYNOD, IN RECOGNITION OF SHARED MISSION AMONG THE VARIOUS SYNODS IN REGION 1, RECOGNIZES THE VALUABLE SUPPORT THAT IS PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL COORDINATOR, REQUESTS AND ENCOURAGES THE REGION 1 COORDINATOR FOR MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TO GATHER AND SHARE ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAM MINISTRY IDEAS AS SHE MAKES REGULAR VISITS TO THE SYNOD COUNCILS OF REGION ONE, AND THAT INFORMATION THAT IS GATHERED WOULD BE COMMUNICATED, WHEN POSSIBLE, ON COMMUNITY COMMONS.**

The Montana Synod Council meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Chaplain Tammy Bull led the Council in closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger,  
Secretary, Montana Synod