

MINUTES
MONTANA SYNOD COUNCIL
September 17-18, 2010
Ursuline Centre, Great Falls, Montana

Worship with Holy Communion and Installation of new Council Members was held in the Ursuline Chapel, with Bishop Crist presiding, and Rev. Doug Peterson serving as Chaplain for the Council.

PLENARY I—Friday, Sept. 17, 2010 9:15 a.m.

PRESENT: Bishop Jessica Crist, Vice President Jake Block, Treasurer Harold Spilde, Secretary Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, Pastor Gary Cockrell, Sue Ost, Chris Holler-Dinsmore, Wayne Young, Cheryl Muncy, Mike Young, Pastor Al Beyer, Tom Gossack, Meredith Hamann, Pastor George Karres, John Munding, Pastor Dave Peters, Director for Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission, Pastor John Allen, Associate to the Bishop, Pastor Tim Spring, MSU Campus Pastor, Pastor Doug Peterson, Chaplain to Synod Council, Susan Hedahl, Synod Staff

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Jake Block called the Montana Synod Council meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Move, second: Approval of the agenda as presented

SC10.09.01

PASSED: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

INTRODUCTIONS OF OFFICERS, COUNCIL MEMBERS, VISITORS

Vice President Block requested that all introduce themselves

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Move, second: Approval of June 4, 2010 MT Synod Council Minutes

SC10.09.02

PASSED: APPROVAL OF JUNE 4, 2010 SYNOD COUNCIL MINUTES

Correspondence

Thank you letters from Tom Jolivette, from Luther Seminary, and Lee Kluth, from PLU were read thanking the MT Synod for Mission Support.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Harold Spilde presented the financial report through August, 2010:

\$527,271.72 income to date

\$554,843.62 expenses to date

The expectation is that the budget will end up at about a 10% decrease from the previously budgeted amount.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Crist led the Council in a Bible Study on Luke 16:1-13, the upcoming text for Sunday,

Sept. 18.

The Bishop emphasized to the Council the Constitution's "Statement of Purpose", Chapter 6 of the MT Synod Constitution. The whole Council engaged in a discussion on the Statement of Purpose.

The Bishop shared her written report with the Council:

**Report of the Bishop to the Montana Synod Council
September 17, 2010**

Grace and peace to you, dear members of the Montana Synod Council. At this meeting we welcome 2 new members: Pastor Al Beyer of Culbertson from the Northeast Cluster, and youth representative Wayne Young from Ryegate. And we welcome back Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, beginning her second term as Synod Secretary. Thanks to all of you for your good and faithful service. In this past year, in particular, many of you have been called on for extra duty attending consultations and congregational votes. This service, while tedious and contentious, is part of what it means to be leaders of the church in these unusual times.

As of this writing, we have had 17 congregations leave the ELCA. Two more have had a first vote, but not yet a second. (Devon and Melville.) One has a first vote scheduled for September 12 (St. Paul, Fairfield.) One is being pushed to have a vote by some strong advocates, including their pastor. (Big Timber) One congregation that voted to leave (Faith, Great Falls) is still in litigation between the members who wanted to stay in the ELCA and the members who wanted to leave.

A particular problem that the Synod Council may need to note in the future is when one congregation of a yoked parish leaves the ELCA and the other/s do not. Technically, when a congregation leaves a parish (for whatever reason), the parish dissolves, and has to be re-formed. Under special circumstances the Synod Council can approve a parish made up of ELCA and non-ELCA congregations. In that case, the ELCA congregation/s would call an ELCA pastor, and the Synod Council, at the request of the congregations, would approve a contract in which the ELCA pastor also served the non-ELCA congregation.

But life and ministry go on. God is calling us to move forward, to proclaim the love of God in Christ in word and deed. And we are.

Our Mission Table is up and running, working with Pastor Dave Peters. They met immediately prior to our Synod Council meeting. They continue to look at outreach strategy and support new and transforming ministries. And they have spearheaded the mission interpretation "Here We Are," that is being sent out to all the congregations this fall to help them understand the importance of their benevolence. We have a group working on a prison congregation, and a group serving as support to our pastor at Rocky Boy.

We have candidates entering into the candidacy process, and candidates finishing up the process. Bonnie Novak, TEEM candidate from rural Nashua, was ordained on September 11, finishing up a process that began with her being asked to be a lay preacher at Bethel of Grain. We have a new class of LPAs starting next month, and a class of LPAs in the Far East who are half way through their training. We have a reunion/continuing education event for LPAs in

October as well. Kathy Johnson and Pr. Greg Holler-Dinsmore continue to work with LPAs. We are looking at getting a Synod Committee to assist them.

We have “Growing in God’s Field: God’s Story Going Viral” in October, a third version of our very popular congregational evangelism and enrichment event. I hope that members of the Synod Council will attend, along with members of their congregations. Jeanne McCoskery and a team of volunteers are hard at work planning this event.

We had a well-attended Glocal Mission Event in Billings in August that raised awareness of mission, both global and local. Kay and Paul Hanson chaired it, assisted by Deb Peters, and a group of local volunteers. Followup includes ongoing relationships with both our companion synods, including a companion synod Sunday, and awareness of local and global mission opportunities. Two members of our Bolivia committee, Pr. Bob Nilsen and Margie Holland, will be attending a consultation for synods with Latin American companion churches. And youth members of the most recent visit to South Africa from Wolf Point will be asked to speak at the MLYO.

We have a weekly prayer email that goes out to all of our pastors and congregations. Each week we include individuals and congregations in special circumstances needing prayer, and ministries from the Montana Synod in rotation. The prayer email is a way to stay connected with one another, and to bear one another’s burdens. Seminary graduate Kris Mitzman writes the prayer “bookends” for us, and the staff fill in with requests we receive.

Three from our Synod went to a Partners in Evangelical Worship organizing event, and we have set up a network of worship resource people to write articles, assist congregations, and put on an Engaging Worship event in Havre next August. Pastor Darius Larsen and Mr. Tom Keesecker are our Worship Coordinators.

We have a number of congregations in pastoral transitions, and a record number of intentional interim pastors helping our congregations. Pastor Lon Bechtel in Helena has initiated a gathering of other interims, both trained and not, and has created a support group for them. Pastor John Allen has completed a new Guide for Interim Ministries for the Montana Synod, for use in congregations in Transition.

We have an Ecumenical Intern working in our office on a part-time basis, as a volunteer. Former Synod Council member Sylvia Bull is doing a survey of congregations on their ecumenical work, and is also working with MAC, and as a Senior Steward for the National Council of Churches Assembly. Pastor Elizabeth Roebke, in her first year of ordained ministry, is one of a dozen ELCA delegates to the NCC. We have had several celebrations of full communion with the United Methodists—at Harlowton and at Shelby, as well as having a visiting bishop at the annual gathering. The week after Bishop Elaine Stanovsky attended and preached at our Synod Assembly, I attended and preached at and participated in ordinations at the Yellowstone Annual Conference. In addition, we formally welcomed the Lutheran and Episcopal congregation of All Saints in Big Sky at the Assembly. We have the Episcopal Bishop Frank Brookhart tentatively scheduled to preach at next year’s assembly.

We have a strong Hunger program. Coordinator Mark Goetz works with congregations and other groups to educate them on issues of hunger, both global and local. He led a workshop at the Glocal event, has participated in global immersion events, and coordinates our Synod's response to the domestic hunger grants that come from agencies and ministries within our borders.

The Hetzel Foundation stewards the resources of a visionary family, who left their estate to be used for youth and elderly. Each year camps and nursing homes, campus ministries and youth programs in our synod benefit from the estate of Blanche and William Hetzel. And a board of volunteers administers the fund.

We are working to be a healthy synod. Elaine Ryan, our wellness coordinator, is working with us to find ways to encourage healthier living for both clergy and lay. Our Synod was the only synod in Regions I and II that had enough of our rostered leaders take the Board of Pensions' Health Risk Assessment to qualify for a 2% discount on the health insurance premiums for every BoP member in the Synod. Plan members can still take the HRA until September 30, and receive additional personal benefits. The BoP will be offering the same opportunities in 2011 for members to take the HRA and benefit the whole synod. With tough times and tight finances it is difficult to imagine why anyone would not take the 20 minutes to do the assessment and help save everybody money. Please encourage your pastors to participate. We all benefit.

Rural ministry is important in the Montana Synod. Pastor Arden Barden heads up a group of laity and clergy who are interested in supporting and enriching rural ministry in its various forms. Once again, in January 2011, we will join with the Synod of Alberta and the Territories (of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada) for a cross-the-border Can-Am rural event. Synod Council members are not the only synod leaders who have been called on to do more in the last year. The Deans have had several conference calls with me, and have also been called on to attend consultations with congregations leaving. In particular, Dan Heskett, Barb Westhoff, Greg Holler-Dinsmore, Patty Callaghan, Steve Paugh Leuzinger, Brad Ulgenes and Doug Vold have been called upon to do extra duty. I am grateful to the Deans for all their extra work and support. While the focus on leadership inevitably falls on the Bishop and staff, the participation of Deans and Synod Council in visible public leadership is an effective demonstration of the shared leadership that we really have.

It is with the Deans' encouragement as well that we are having our first-ever Bishop's Convocation in October, immediately before Growing in God's Field. The purpose of the event is to bring together the ministerium and give us a chance to converse as colleagues about the issues facing the church. Using some of the LIFT (Living into the Future Together) questions as a starting point, I hope to be able to dream and plan about the future of the interdependent church with colleagues who have a stake in it. (I was asked by a colleague whose vocation it is to question everything I do and say why we weren't including pastors who had left the ELCA. The answer is simple: they have chosen to leave and no longer have a say in the future of the ELCA.) We are moving forward, and need all the voices to be part of the conversation.

We are in the second year of a 5 year set of emphases adopted by the Synod Council from my recommendations from 2007. ("I would like us to be a Synod that...") Year 1 was an emphasis on Word and Sacrament. ("First and foremost, I want us to be a Synod that faithfully practices Word and Sacrament. I want this to be our top priority.") Year 2 is an emphasis on Education. ("I'd

like us to be a church that savors learning.”) Year 3 is an emphasis on Shared Ownership. (“Third, I want us to be a people who have ownership of this church.”) Year 4 is an emphasis on Ecumenical and Interfaith and Multicultural. (“I want us to be a people who are open and hospitable and ecumenical and interfaith.”) Year 5 is an emphasis on Engaging the World. (“Fifth, I want us to be a church that looks outward, not inward.”)

In this year of Education, we have been able to devote our Synod Theological Conference to the theme, “ Learning in Christ, Living in Faith.” Our keynote speaker, the Rev. Dr. Jessicah Duckworth teaches Christian Education at a seminary that is a seminary of a full communion partner, and our Bible Study featured our Book of Faith Coordinator, the Rev. Dr. Mark Gravrock. Workshops were designed to cover various aspects of education, including the ELCA’s social statement on education. They were coordinated by an AIM Candidate, Kathy Slehofer, as part of her AIM candidacy learning. Morning devotions, coordinated by Linda Rose, were the project of the Eastern Montana LPA class, as part of their learning. We also celebrated the 40th anniversary of NRIT, connected with Lutheran Association of Christian Educators and continued to highlight education opportunities for laity and clergy.

Of course we do not neglect other areas while we hold up one emphasis. Preaching and teaching the Word, and administering the Sacraments continue to be central to what we are as a church. Our participation in the PEW training, and our recruiting of additional resource people are evidence of our ongoing commitment, as is our plan for a 2011 user-friendly worship conference. It is the Bishop’s responsibility to see that Word and Sacrament takes place appropriately in our congregations, and that is why we have the licensing process when a congregation is without a pastor. While it may seem cumbersome, it is a way that we maintain good order. And there have been times when I have denied permission for an individual to preach and preside.

Shared Ownership is part of what we have been struggling with in this last year of changes. Who is the ELCA? It is not “them.” It is “us.” But many fail to see that interdependence means for better or for worse. Many fail to understand what it means to “bear one another’s burdens.” I think that the many conversations about what it means to be church are part of developing and re-imagining this sense of shared ownership, shared accountability, shared leadership, shared burden, shared joy. I am hopeful that our Synod Assembly will help us address these issues. Our keynote speaker is Pr. John Nunes, President of Lutheran World Relief, and a powerful speaker.

Ecumenical and Interfaith and Multicultural Hospitality is an ongoing part of who we are and what we do. In addition to the ecumenical events listed above, we celebrated the yoking of our Lutheran and Presbyterian congregations in Hot Springs, with both the Bishop and the Executive Presbyter present. The Hot Springs folks are so positive and enthusiastic about their journey that they have volunteered to assist any other congregations considering yoking. We are in conversation with Presbyterians, Episcopalians, United Methodists and United Church of Christ about cooperative ministries in some of our rural communities. Lutherans are leaders in state ecumenical associations. Pastor Tim Trippel presides over the Wyoming Association of Churches, and 2 of the 6 at-large Montana Association of Churches Board members are ELCA— Pastor Patricia Harant, and Dr. Ron Mathsen. Pastor Kendra Wilde chairs the Church and Society committee for MAC, and various Montana Synod people teach MAC-LMI courses (Dr. Tom Lee, Pr. Greg Holler-Dinsmore, Bp. Jessica Crist, and others have taught in previous years.) And on October 24, we are scheduled to celebrate the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, with 2 Roman Catholic and 1 ELCA Bishop.

We continue to make ministry with our American Indian neighbors a priority. One instance of this is the Apology we adopted at the Synod Assembly. We have entered Dr. Christine Holler-Dinsmore into candidacy with the intention of serving tribal people on the Fort Peck Reservation. We have established a support network for Pastor Linda Webster at Rocky Boy, and more Montana Synod Congregations are connecting with the congregation and ministry there.

Engaging the World is part of our Christian calling and something I have been involved with for a long time. Not all Lutherans are comfortable with this. I hear regularly that “the church should stay out of politics.” and “we don’t need social statements—the Bible is enough for us.”

On the first comment: The church cannot and does not engage in partisan politics—that would be inappropriate and would jeopardize our tax-exempt status. We do not do that. But the church does have a moral obligation to address issues, including war and poverty and human rights. In my time as Bishop I have been involved with the ELCA Bishops Ready Bench on Domestic Issues, as well as with some state issues. I have worked for health care reform through letters and emails and editorials in the public media and a resolution at the Churchwide Assembly. I have worked for child nutrition reauthorization through synod and churchwide media channels and through the public media, including a Great Falls Tribune editorial and a Minneapolis radio station interview. And in Montana I have testified in the Legislature and written letters and articles supporting abolition of the death penalty. And in none of these endeavors have I worked alone. Pastors and laity from our congregations and our partners work tirelessly on these issues. We do not have as long a history of public engagement as some denominations. But it is an important part of who we are, and I think it is important for the Bishop to be a public leader. It does not mean that everybody in our synod agrees on these issues. We do not require unanimity of opinion.

On the second comment: Social Statements of the ELCA are a gift. Congregations that take the time to study the statements find great wealth in them. (Northridge spent the last year studying them.) Social statements are the church’s way of using our rich biblical and theological resources to help us cope with issues that are not addressed in the Bible. Each statement is carefully crafted by a task force representing a variety of perspectives and experiences. There is ample time for review of the draft, review of the final statement and revision before it is adopted. Pastor Steve Rice of Miles City is on the task force putting together the statement on criminal justice, scheduled for 2013. Great Falls native Anne Schmidt was a member of the task force that produced the 2007 education statement. Bishop Rich Omland was on the health care task force that produced the 2003 statement. Helen Waller of Circle was on the economic justice task force.

We have had hearings in our synod on the three most recent statements: education, human sexuality, genetics. We also had a workshop on the genetics statement at our assembly. The deadline for responses is October 15, so you and your congregation can still respond. Unfortunately, there is misinformation circulating about the draft statement that could be refuted if people would read the statement. The statement is pretty broad, and expresses concern for people before profit, about making technologies accessible and appropriate, and about supporting people with difficult decisions. The final statement will come out in March 2011, and will be voted on in August of 2011.

Social Statements generally take 6 years from start to finish. The 2009 Churchwide Assembly voted to take on a social statement on justice for women for 2015, but has not yet begun the process.

Looking to the Future: The church is not the same as it was 10 years ago, 20 years ago, 50 years ago, 100 years ago. Nor should it be. Society has changed, culture has changed, the world has changed. I keep returning to the first verse of the hymn:

“The church of Christ in ev’ry age beset by change, but Spirit-led,
Must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.”

The financial and ecclesial challenges that we face as a church today are stretching us to think beyond the familiar, beyond the comfortable. Change is inevitable, change is natural, but God is faithful. That is our prayer, that is our hope, that is our promise.

Bishop Jessica Crist

The Council was recessed for lunch

Following lunch, Vice President Jake Block declared the MT Synod Council in session.

Pastor Dave Peters, Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission Director of the Montana Synod presented the “**Here We Are**” packet of information for congregation councils and then led the Synod Council through that material. He especially encouraged the Council members to ensure that their own congregations make use of these resources.

He also described the Mission Table Strategy for Mission Outreach and Mission Support supported with additional information.

Report from Campus Ministry

Pastor Tim Spring, Campus Pastor at Montana State University presented a report.

The Synod Committees gathered for their respective meetings.

Plenary II— Friday, Sept. 17, 2010 3:30 p.m.

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

Executive Committee

Jake Block gave the report of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee has met three times in the last three weeks in order to guide the Administration and Finance Committee in revising the 2011 Budget.

The Committee assignments will stand as last year with Wayne Young assigned to Education and Society and Al Beyer to Mission and Outreach Committees.

The Executive Committee spent some time evaluating itself. The Committee suggested that materials be sent a week in advance of all meetings so that all members can become familiar

with the materials pertaining to each meeting. There was some discussion regarding the replacement of Synod Council members at the elections of Council members in 2011.

Jake shared some responses from the ELCA Bishops regarding LIFT.

Jake stated that the Executive Committee set the salary for the Bishop at the level of 2009.

The Committee also met to direct the Administration and Finance Committee on budget priorities for 2011.

Finance and Administration Committee

Gary Cockrell gave the report of the Finance and Administration Committee.

The Administration and Finance Committee presented a revised budget of \$954,500.00 income and expenses of \$952,315.73

BUDGET REVISION FOR 2011

Move, second: Adopt the 2011 Revised Budget of \$954,500.00 in income and \$954,315.73 in expenses

SC.10.09.03

PASSED: ADOPT THE 2011 REVISED BUDGET

Gary also extended a thank you to the staff for all their work, especially in light of the change to the budget and with the decision to reduce the full time position of the Associate to the Bishop to .6 time.

USE OF MONIES IN TEMPORARY RESTRICTED ACCOUNTS TO LOWER EXPENDITURES IN 2010

Move, Second: Adopt policy to use monies in the temporary restricted accounts to lower the expenses in 2010.

SC.10.09.04

PASSED: USE MONIES IN TEMPORARY RESTRICTED ACCOUNTS TO LOWER BUDGETED EXPENDITURES IN 2010

ADOPT THE MT SYNOD 2011 COMPENSATION GUIDELINES FOR ROSTERED PERSONS

Move, Second: Adopt the 2011 Compensation Guidelines and benefits for rostered persons in the Montana Synod.

SC.10.09.05

PASSED: ADOPT THE 2011 COMPENSATION GUIDELINES FOR ROSTERED PERSONS

Planning And Organization Committee

Chris Holler-Dinsmore gave the report for the Planning and Organization Committee.

The Committee received a report from Sylvia Bull, serving as an Ecumenical Intern in Great Falls. The Synod website and the MAC website were examined and commended to all.

2011 SYNOD ASSEMBLY DEISIGNATED TO LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Move, Second: Be it resolved that the 2011 Synod Assembly offering be designated to Lutheran World Relief

SC.10.09.06

PASSED: THE 2011 SYNOD ASSEMBLY OFERING DESIGNATED TO LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

The Committee discussed ideas about how to better get information out to congregations.

Report by the chair of the Anti-racism task force was given by Pastor Patricia Harant

The committee offered the suggestion of Rev. Eric Law from Kaleidoscope as a possible speaker at the Synod Assembly in 2011

The Committee suggested as a follow-up to the Apology to the Native People, a strategy of response, including a letter to the tribal leaders with a copy of the apology, a visit to each reservation by the Bishop and a gift. The Bishop requested accompaniment in responding.

Mission And Outreach Committee

The report was given by Mike Young.

ADAM BARNHART APPOINTED TO THE MISSION TABLE

Move, second: Appoint Adam Barnhart to the Mission Table

SC.10.09.07

PASSED: APPOINT ADAM BARNHART TO THE MT SYNOD MISSION TABLE

The Mission Table offers three top priorities as motions.

TOP MISSION PRIORITY IN THE MONTANA SYNOD: PRISON MINISTRY

Motion, second: the MT Synod Council supports the Freedom in Christ Project, both fully in spirit and communication and through increasing financial contributions. We are deeply encouraged by the recent Deaconess Community and ELCA EOCM grants to this ministry project and the continued support of many individuals within the synod. We currently hold this as the top mission priority in our synod, will be acting upon this conviction, and encourage the council to do so as well.

SC.10.09.08

PASSED: DECLARE THAT THE “FREEDOM IN CHRIST PROJECT” IS THE TOP MISSION PRIORITY IN THE MONTANA SYNOD

ESTABLISH A NEW AMERICAN INDIAN MINISTRY ON THE FORT PECK RESERVATION THROUGH THE LEADERSHIP OF TEEM CANDIDATE

Move, second: that the Synod Council and Bishop Jessica Crist establish a new American Indian ministry on the Fort Peck reservation through the leadership of a TEEM candidate (Ms. Christine Holler-Dinsmore). This new American Indian strategy priority “to seek out, initiate, and support contextual new starts.”

SC.10.09.09

PASSED: ESTABLISH A NEW AMERICAN INDIAN MINISTRY ON THE FORT PECK RESERVATION THROUGH THE LEADERSHIP OF TEEM CANDIDATE

SUPPORT THE APPOINTMENT OF PR. DOUG PETERSON AND ERIC BUELING TO EACH FORM A 3 PERSON TASK FORCE TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EMERGENT MINISTRY

Move, second, that the Synod Council supports the appointments of Doug Peterson and Eric Bueling to each form a three person task force to investigate the possibility of an emergent ministry. These task forces will study current models that exist throughout the US and within the ELCA to help determine the type of model that might best serve a local context and they will consider communities within the MT Synod that offer a likely setting or fertile ground for such a ministry.

SC.10.09.10

PASSED: SUPPORT APPOINTMENT OF PR. DOUG PETERSON AND ERIC BUELING TO EACH FORM A 3 PERSON TASK FORCE TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EMERGENT MINISTRY WITHIN THE MONTANA SYNOD

DESIGNATE FEB. 20, 2011 AS GLOBAL MISSION/COMPANION SYNOD SUNDAY AND AUTHORIZE A SPECIAL OFFERING FOR OUR COMPANION SYNOD GLOBAL PARTNERS

Move, second: Designate February 20, 2011 as Global Mission/Companion Synod Sunday and that the Synod Council authorize a special offering for our companion synod global partners on that Sunday.

SC.10.09.11

PASSED: DESIGNATE FEB. 20, 2011 AS GLOBAL MISSION/COMPANION SYNOD SUNDAY AND AUTHORIZE A SPECIAL OFFERING FOR THE COMPANION SYNOD GLOBAL PARTNERS

Letter from Global Mission about support to be requested from congregations who are not supporting missionaries was acknowledged.

Education And Society Committee

John Mundinger gave the report.

Jenny Kunka, director of NRIT gave a report about the events that NRIT is sponsoring.

The Committee had a conversation about Lutheran Campus ministry and the challenges presented to them.

Report by Greg Holler-Dinsmore about the LPA program in the Synod: 62 graduates actively serving in the MT Synod! A new cycle beginning in October.

John Allen gave the candidacy report; there was some conversation regarding the changes in the candidacy situation in the ELCA.

APPOINT KATHY JOHNSON TO THE CANDIDACY COMMITTEE

Move, Second: Appoint Kathy Johnson to the candidacy committee.

SC.10.09.12

PASSED: APPOINT KATHY JOHNSON TO THE MT SYNOD CANDIDACY

COMMITTEE

A report was received from Andy Arnold, the current adult leader for the MLYO. There was some discussion regarding the place and purpose of Youth/Family in the Synod. Due to the pressing financial issues and the need for a group of adult leaders to formulate the needs in the Synod regarding this issue, John was encouraged to facilitate a group of people in the Synod before the next Synod Council meeting to determine the best way to address these issues.

There was an introduction to the speaker this evening: Pastor Ken Thurow.

Plenary III—Friday, Sept. 17, 2010 5:00 p.m.

ON LEAVE FROM CALL:

Move, Second: The Bishop recommended that the Synod Council place the following on leave from call:

First Year:

Doug Nemitz

SC.10.09.13

PASSED: PLACE DOUG NEMITZ ON LEAVE FROM CALL

Move, Second:

Second Year:

Mitch Jones

Sue Thompson, AIM

SC.10.09.14

PASSED: PLACE MITCH JONES AND SUE THOMPSON (AIM) ON LEAVE FROM CALL, SECOND YEAR

Move, Second:

Third Year:

David Aaseng

Kay Tostengard

SC.10.09.15

PASSED: PLACE DAVID AASENG AND KAY TOSTENGARD ON LEAVE FROM CALL, THIRD YEAR

PASTOR MOVED FROM DISABILITY TO ON LEAVE FROM CALL:

Move, Second

Collette Paul –moved from disability to First Year on Leave

SC.10.09.16

PASSED: PLACE COLLETTE PAUL ON LEAVE FROM CALL (MOVED FROM DISABILITY)

PASTORS PLACED ON DISABILITY:

Move, Second: place the following on disability:

Barbara Westhoff

Al Baglien

Louise Christensen

Patricia Harant

SC.10.09.17

PASSED: PLACE BARBARA WESTHOFF, AL BAGLIEN, LOUISE CHRISTIANSON, PATRICIA HARANT ON DISABILITY

CALL TO SPECIAL SERVICE:

Move, Second: Doug Peterson issue call to serve as Hospice Chaplain at the Marcus Daly Hospice Center, Hamilton

SC.10.09.19

PASSED: ISSUE CALL TO SPECIAL SERVICE TO DOUG PETERSON

The meeting was adjourned.

The Council members attended a presentation at Our Savior's Lutheran Church by Pastor Ken Thurow on his view of human sexuality and the decision of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

Pastor Doug Peterson led the Council in Evening Prayer at Our Savior's.

On Saturday, Sept. 18, 2010, Pastor Doug Peterson led the Council in Morning Prayer.

Upcoming Synod Council Meetings:

- March 11-12, 2011, Ursuline Centre, Great Falls
- June 3, 2011, Great Falls (prior to Synod Assembly)
- September 16-17, 2011, Ursuline Centre, Great Falls
- February 25-26, 2011
- September 16-17, 2011
- February 24-25, 2012
- June 8-10, 2012, Assembly and Theological Conf., Billings
- September 21-22, 2012

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger
Secretary, Montana Synod