Montana Synod Council (DRAFT)

June 1, 2023

Heritage Inn, Great Falls, Montana

*Opening devotion and prayer by Chaplain LPA John Sheppard*

Present: Bishop Laurie Jungling, VP Dick Deschamps, Secretary Doris Tollefson, DEM Peggy Paugh-Leutzinger, A2B Brenda Frelsi, Allen Hansen, Kimberly Bloch, Lana Buerkle, Scott Hedegaard, Kevin Johnson, Natasha Morton, Bonnie Novak, Celeste Pogachar, John Sheppard, Lorrie Vennes, Gretchen Wagner

Absent: Peter Erickson, David Scholten, Charlie Parker

Guests: Peggy Paugh-Leuzinger introduced guest Tim Brown and Bishop Laurie introduced guest Rev. Barb Lund who came to us through zoom.

Vice President Dick Deschamps called the meeting to order.

**Approve the Synod Council agenda.**

Motion

Second: Adopt the agenda with the privilege of the chair to revise.

**VOTE: SC.23.06.01 APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE PRIVILEGE OF THE CHAIR TO REVISE.**

Time was spent in conversation with our guests: Rev. Barb Lund and Tim Brown.

**Approval of the minutes of the February 2023 meeting.**

Motion

Second: Accept the minutes of the February 2023 meeting as corrected and presented.

**VOTE: SC.23.06.02 ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2023 MEETING AS CORRECTED AND PRESENTED.**

Treasurer’s Report

VP Dick Deschamps presented a PowerPoint Dave Scholten prepared. The Synod stands in a strong financial position despite a decrease in mission giving. 2022 was the lowest of mission support in the history of the synod. His presentation showed where we were, where we’ve been, and where we are going. The treasurer also proposed a budget for 2024.

**Receive the report of the treasurer.**

Motion

Second: Receive the report of the treasurer as submitted.

**VOTE: SC.23.06.03 RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE TREASURER AS SUBMITTED.**

Old Business

Synod Assembly

Council Duties

Election Committee—Allen Hansen, Lorrie Vennes, John Sheppard

Credentials Committee—Kimberly Bloch and Lana Buerkle

Ambassadors—we are all ambassadors to help people navigate the assembly.

Staff Assembly Office—Gretchen offered to help in the assembly office.

**Accept the agenda for the Synod Assembly.**

Motion

Second: Accept the agenda for the Synod Assembly.

**VOTE: SC.23.06.04 ACCEPT THE AGENDA FOR THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY.**

New Business

**Adopt the consent agenda as written.**

Motion

Second: Adopt the consent agenda as presented.

**VOTE: SC.23.06.05 ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS WRITTEN.**

The Rocky Mountain Synod—Excellence in Leadership Program has invited The Montana Synod to partner with them for the Thriving Congregation Lilly Grant.

**Approve partnering with the Rocky Mountain Synod Excellence in Leadership Program Thriving Congregation Lilly Grant.**

Motion

Second: Approve partnering with the Rocky Mountain Synod Excellence in Leadership Program Thriving Congregation Lilly Grant.

**VOTE: SC.23.06.06 APPROVE PARTNERING WITH THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP THRIVING CONGREGATION LILLY GRANT.**

Bishop Laurie explained the changes that have been made to the Synod constitution including recommended changes and required changes from the model constitution.

Approve the recommended changes to the Synod constitution resolution.

Motion

Second: Approve the recommended changes to the Synod constitution resolution

**VOTE: SC.23.06.07 APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE SYNOD CONSTITUTION RESOLUTION.**

Bishop Laurie suggested that the council consider changing the office manager position from a five-day work week to a four-day work week.

Kevin Johnson and Scott Hedegaard were recognized and thanked for their years of service to the Synod Council. Bishop Laurie thanked Dick Deschamps for his service to the Synod Council as Vice President of the Council.

There was no other new business.

Closing prayer was led. by Chaplain LPA John Sheppard

**Adjourn the meeting.**

Motion

Second: Adjourn them meeting

**VOTE: SC.23.06.08 ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Pr. Doris Tollefson

Synod secretary

Dates of upcoming meetings:

Synod Council September 14-16, 2023, in Great Falls at the Synod House. Thursday noon until early evening council retreat. Council meeting times are Friday from 8:30 until 5:00 and Saturday from 8:30 until noon.