Minutes of the Montana Synod Assembly

(to be approved by the assembly in June 2023)

“Equipping for the Gospel”

June 3-4, 2022

Billing Hotel and Convention Center

Billings, Montana

Friday, June 3, 2022

**Opening of the Assembly**

Bishop Laurie Jungling opened the 32nd Montana Synod Assembly at 9:00 a.m. with an opening litany.

**Call to Order & Opening Worship**

Bishop Laurie Jungling called the Assembly to order which was followed by worship. Bishop Laurie assisted by Pr. George Goodrich and his wife Kathy Goodrich led the Assembly in opening worship. Pr. JP Carlson was installed as pastor for the Lutheran Campus Ministries at MSU Bozeman.

Plenary I: 10:30 AM - Noon

**Introductions**

The following people were introduced to the assembly:

*Synod Council Officers:* Vice President Dick Deschamps, Interim Treasurer David Scholten, and Acting Secretary Doris Tollefson.

*Staff*: Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger – DEM, Candi Standall, Colter McCarty, Pastor Jason Asselstine – Associate to the Bishop, and Jenny Kunka – Director of NRIT.

*Parliamentarian*: K’Lynn Harris

*Churchwide Representative*: Rev. Dr. Carmelo Santos, ELCA Director for Theological Diversity and Engagement, who is unable to be with us in person, but will speak to the Assembly by Zoom.

*ELCA Region 1 Church Council Representative:* Loni Taylor

*Special Guests*: Prs. Stephanie White and Molly-Sasser Goehner, Deacon Allen Sasser Goehner, and LPA Kristen Le Ve

*Thanks*: Sue Ost, Pr. Amanda Liggett, Robin Matthews, Mary Hutchinson, Pr. Wendy Alpine, Evan Ceaicovschi.

**Credentials Report**

Gretchen Wagner presented the Credentials Report:  
Clergy: 72

Lay: 114

Total Voting Members: 186

Visitors: 36

Total in Attendance: 222

**Receive the Credentials Report**

Motion

Second: Receive the Credentials Report

**SA.22.06.01**

**VOTE: RECEIVE THE CREDENTIALS REPORT**

**Adopt Agenda with Privilege of the Chair to Adjust**

Motion

Second: Adopt the agenda with privilege of chair to adjust

**SA.22.06.02**

**VOTE: ADOPT THE AGENDA WITH PRIVILEGE OF CHAIR TO ADJUST**

**Sierra Pacific Synod:** Bishop Laurie shared briefly what has and is happening in the Sierra Pacific Synod. She told the Assembly where they may find the report of the ELCA Listening Team which Bishop Eaton released recently. This document is on the Montana Synod website if anyone wishes more information.

**Adoption of the Rules of the Assembly**

Motion

Second: Adopt the rules of the Assembly

**SA.22.06.03**

**VOTE: ADOPT THE RULES OF THE ASSEMBLY**

**Secretary’s Report**

Dick Deschamps presented the secretary’s report. The minutes of the 2021 Montana Synod Assembly were presented which are available on the assembly website and links to this website have been sent out in the synod weekly newsletter.

**Adopt the Minutes of the 2021 Montana Synod Assembly**

Motion

Second: Adopt the minutes of the 2021 Montana Synod Assembly

**SA.22.06.04**

**VOTE: ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE 2021 MONTANA SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

A video from the Presiding Bishop Eaton was presented to the Assembly.

**Treasurer’s Report and Presentation of the 2023 Budget**

Interim Treasurer David Scholten presented the treasurer’s report.

A video for Harp for Healing was viewed.

Announcements were made by Bishop Laurie.

The Emmaus Campus Ministry video was viewed.

*Bishop Laurie led the Assembly in prayer. The Assembly was recessed for lunch.*

Plenary II: 1:30 - 2:45 PM

**Credentials Report**

Robin Matthews presented the Credentials Report:  
Clergy: 72

Lay: 116

Total Voting Members: 188

Visitors: 38

Total in Attendance: 226

**Receive the credentials report**

Motion

Second: Receive the Credentials Report

**SA.22.06.05**

**VOTE: RECEIVE THE CREDENTIALS REPORT**

**Report of the Nominating Committee & Election**

Scott Kiehn presented the report of the Nominating Committee. Nominations from the floor were invited. There were no nominations from the floor, and the ballot was distributed.

**Report of the Elections Committee**

Nominations:

* Synod secretary: Doris Tollefson
* Synod Treasurer: Dave Scholten
* Youth at Large: Charlie Parker
* Shepherd Cluster: Natasha Morton
* Great Divide Cluster: Lorrie Vennes
* Golden Triangle Cluster: Kim Bloch
* Fort Peck Cluster: Rev. Bonnie Novak
* Synod Nominating Committee: Margie Fiedler
* Synod Committee on Discipline: Marve Johnson
* Consultation Committee: Rev. Peter Erickson, Rev. Greg Holler-Dinsmore, Alicia Moe, Rev. Phil Wold
* Kogudus Board: Rev. Paul Anderson, Charles Strait

**Accept the slate of nominations as presented.**

Motion

Second: Accept the slate of nominations as presented.

**SA.22.06.06**

**VOTE: ACCEPT THE SLATE OF NOMINATIONS AS PRESENTED.**

A video from FLBC was viewed.

**ELCA Churchwide Council Region 1 Representative**

Churchwide Council Representative Loni Taylor brought greetings from the Churchwide Council. The CW council is preparing for the churchwide assembly which will be held in Columbus, Ohio this summer. Loni serves as well on the Executive Committee of the CW council.

The Assembly viewed a video from Freedom in Christ.

**Report of the Bishop**

Bishop Laurie Jungling presented her report to the assembly and advised those present to read her written report in the packet of Assembly reports. She led a conversation on Equipping Us for Where God is Leading Us. Yearning for the past: constantly trying to bring the past glory days; being stuck in the past; looking at those times with rose colored glasses. Clinging to the past is not helpful for the church. Nostalgia: remembering what happened while looking forward to the future; formation of faith by reminding us how God has been present with us in the past; grieve and lament what was lost; honor those who came before; learn from the past. The bishop shared some trends occurring in the church today.

*The Assembly was recessed for afternoon workshops, followed by a banquet dinner and evening prayer. Milestones in Ministry were recognized.*

**MONTANA SYNOD ASSEMBLY JUNE 4, 2022**

*The assembly was opened in prayer by Molly Sasser-Goehner, Allen Sasser-Goehner, and Jason Asselstine. LPA graduates were recognized.*

Plenary III: 9 AM – 12:30 PM

**Credentials Report**

A credentials committee report nor an elections committee report were needed at this time.

***ELCA Churchwide Representative***

*Rev. Dr. Carmelo Santos brought greetings from the churchwide expression of the ELCA and offered a report.*

The Assembly viewed a video about Immanual Lutheran Homes.

Bishop Laurie Jungling led the Assembly in conversation about the Future Church.

*The Assembly was recessed for worship and lunch.*

Plenary IV: 2 – 4:30 PM

**Credentials Report**

Robin Matthews presented the Credentials Report:  
Clergy: 73

Lay: 117

Total Voting Members: 190

Visitors: 40

Total in Attendance: 230

The Assembly viewed a video on the racial justice task force.

**Budget Conversation and Vote**

Treasurer Dave Scholten led the Assembly in a conversation about the budget.

**Approve the 2022 budget as presented.**

Motion

Second: Approve the 2022 budget as presented.

**SA.22.06.07**

**VOTE: APPROVE THE 2022 BUDGET AS PRESENTED.**

The Montana Synod total offering to the Montana Jewish Project is $5,000.

The Assembly viewed the Portico video.

**Churchwide Assembly**

Bishop Jungling presented information on the 2022 Churchwide Assembly and introduced the Montana Synod voting members.

**Old Business**

There was none.

**New Business**

A motion was made from the floor that the Montana Synod Assembly be held on or around the first weekend in May beginning in 2023. An amendment was made to the original motion for the synod council to consider alternative dates for the Synod Assembly. The motion was seconded. After discussion on the question, the amendment was withdrawn with the permission of the one who made it. A substitute motion for the original was changed to read: Refer to the Synod Council for reconsideration of the date for future Synod Assemblies starting in 2023.

The yes vote prevailed, so therefore the original motion dies.

Points of consideration: school graduations, high school graduations, State music festival, agricultural activities, school sports and activities, spring weather.

**Refer to the Synod Council for reconsideration of the date for future Synod Assemblies starting in 2023.**

Motion

Second

**SA.22.06.08**

**VOTE: REFER TO THE SYNOD COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE DATE FOR FUTURE SYNOD ASSEMLIES STARTING IN 2023.**

There was no other new business.

*Bishop Jungling led the assembly in worship and the assembly was adjourned at 3:08 PM.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Doris Tollefson

Secretary, Montana Synod