

# Minutes

Montana Synod Council  
2 June 2021 – ZOOM Electronic Meeting

Present: Bishop Laurie Jungling, Vice President Dick Deschamps, Treasurer Sue Ost, Secretary Amanda Liggett, Allen Hansen, Rev. Anna Merritt, Rev. Peter Erickson, John Sheppard, Robin Matthews, Kristi Lobdell, Rev. Doris Tollefson, Mary Hutchinson, Rev. Jessie Obrecht, Kevin Johnson, Rev. Gretchen Wagner, Associate to the Bishop Jason Asselstine, DEM Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, and Colter McCarty.

Guests:

Absent: Evan Ceaicovschi.

*Bishop Laurie Jungling welcomed the council.*

*Allen Hansen led the council in a devotion.*

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Deschamps called the Montana Synod Council to order at 5:42 pm. The members were invited to share what is happening in their lives and communities. This was the last meeting for Kristi Lobdell, Rev. Jessie Obrecht, and Rev. Anna Merritt.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Motion

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

### **SC21.06.01**

**VOTE: ADOPT THE AGENDA WITH THE PRIVILEGE OF THE CHAIR TO REVISE.**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion

Second: Approve the minutes of the April 2021 meeting.

### **SC21.06.02**

**VOTE: APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2021 MEETING.**

## **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Treasurer Sue Ost shared her report with the council.\*

Motion

Second: Accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

### **SC21.06.03**

**VOTE: ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT AS PRESENTED.**

## **REPORT OF BISHOP**

Bishop Jungling shared her report.

*Prince of Peace, Missoula* – The pandemic has largely put a pause on this process.

*Boy Scouts of America Lawsuit* – This issue is currently on hold, as the BSA goes through bankruptcy.

#### **REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT**

VP Deschamps delivered his report. There was no written report.

#### **2021 SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

Bishop Jungling led the council in a discussion about the plans for the synod assembly. She asked that all synod council members be connected to the assembly via zoom.

*Rules of the Assembly* – One major change since our last meeting is that nominations will be allowed, so as to preserve the democratic process. These will have to be done prior to the second plenary. Write-ins will be allowed via text message. The rules will be carefully explained during the assembly, in addition to other contacts.

*Synod Assembly Agenda* – The bishop walked through the agenda.

*Coordination/Timeline/Responsibilities* – Synod assembly members are invited to send a private chat to Peggy should they wish to say something during the assembly. Those in the room can take the microphone. You may need to push the bishop out of the way. Those who are in the room are asked to move and second the motions. VP Deschamps will make the motions and one other in the room will second.

Colter went over a few details with people who are helping out with technical issues. He feels confident that things will go smoothly. An FAQ sheet is available on the website.

Motion

Second: Adopt the rules of the 2021 Montana Synod Assembly.

**SC21.06.04**

**VOTE: ADOPT THE RULES OF THE 2021 MONTANA SYNOD ASSEMBLY.**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Roster:*

**Retirement:** Pastor Barbara Gwynn, June 1, 2021

**On Leave from Call:** Pastor Cathy Asheim-Larsen, June 1, 2021

Upcoming Meetings:

Approval of Upcoming Synod Council Meeting Date: **September 17-18, 2021**  
**Great Falls**

Motion

Second: Approve the consent agenda.

**SC21.06.05**

**VOTE: APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

*The council closed with a devotion from Rev. Jessie Obrecht.*

VP Deschamps adjourned the meeting at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Amanda Liggett  
Secretary, Montana Synod

**Synod Council Meetings**

**June 4-5, 2021, Virtual Assembly of Montana Synod**

September 17-18, 2021 Great Falls - Council

February 18-19, 2022, ZOOM - Council

June 3, 2022, Billings - Council

**June 3-4, 2022, Assembly of Montana Synod - Billings**

September 23-24, 2022, Great Falls - Council

\* Addendum

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## June 2, 2021 Treasurer's Report to the Synod Council

Due to the shortened meeting time, I'll give a brief Treasurer's Report filled with lots of numbers!

Mission Support is ahead of the budget for this year, thanks to the extra gift we received in February. To meet the budget, we need \$79,366 per month in Mission Support. So far this year, we have received:

February 98,119  
March 76,837  
April 68,220  
May 81,000  
Total 324,176 – 317,464 needed per budget.

Expenses are under budget, by about \$20,000, mostly in Programs and Travel, so we're looking pretty good right now; however, Mission Support needs to keep up with the budgeted amounts over the summer and the rest of the year.

The Synod House mortgage payments are \$2,369 per month or \$28,428 per year. This year, we've received just over \$6,000 in gifts toward that and have used what we had left at the end of last year, too. We've done several campaigns over the years, and members of the Stewardship Task Force discussed this at length. The consensus was a recommendation of not doing another fund-raising campaign but instead to look at including the mortgage in the budget (as we initially knew we'd have to do). So, we'll keep talking about this – currently it is not paid from Mission Support and it's not that way in the 2022 budget. We may have to look at a budget revision in the future.

Thanks for your support. I will be talking about the 2019 and 2020 financial statements at the Assembly, as well as presenting the 2021 and 2022 budgets for ratification and adoption.