

Minutes

Montana Synod Council
30 November 2021 – ZOOM Electronic Meeting

Present: Bishop Laurie Jungling, Vice President Dick Deschamps, Secretary Amanda Liggett, Allen Hansen, Rev. Peter Erickson, Robin Matthews, John Sheppard, Rev. Doris Tollefson, Kevin Johnson, Rev. Gretchen Wagner, Lana Buerkle, Celeste Pogachar, Rev. Wendy McAlpine, Rev. Scott Hedegaard, Associate to the Bishop Jason Asselstine, DEM Peggy Paugh Leuzinger.

Guests: none

Absent: Mary Hutchinson

Bishop Laurie Jungling welcomed the council and led a brief devotion.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Deschamps called the Montana Synod Council to order at 10:00am.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion

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

SC21.11.01

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Amanda Liggett gave her report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion

Second: Approve the minutes of the September 2021 meeting.

SC21.11.02

VOTE: APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2021 MEETING.

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF A SYNOD TREASURER

With the departure of Sue Ost as synod treasurer, we need to appoint an interim treasurer until the election at the Synod Assembly. We give great thanks to Sue for her many years of faithful service.

Motion

Second: Approve the appointment of Dave Scholten as interim synod treasurer.

SC21.11.03

VOTE: APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF DAVE SCHOLTEN AS INTERIM SYNOD TREASURER.

UPDATES FROM THE BISHOP

Boy Scouts of America Lawsuit: Bishop Jungling is in consultation with Eric Nord, the synod's attorney. Mr. Nord has been closely monitoring the lawsuit and tells us we have two options:

1. Say we want to participate in the plan by the Boy Scouts, or
2. opt out of the Boy Scouts' plan.

Mr. Nord suggests we accept option 1, in the hope this will be the end of the issue. Doing so does not imply culpability. Should the individual choose to move forward with a suit against the synod, we have a strong case for dismissal.

Synod Assembly: Bishop Jungling, in consultation with the staff, has decided to change the schedule of the assembly to begin earlier on Friday and ending on Saturday. This is largely because most people leave before Sunday anyway. The bishop reviewed the proposed schedule and invited comments. The location this year will be Billings Hotel and Convention Center.

Financial Updates: We have three endowment funds, totaling around \$400,000. The bishop would like to review the restrictions on these endowments, to determine the best way to make the money more accessible for ministry while remaining true to the spirit of the original gift.

Related to this, the stewardship task force continues to work on a new synod gift policy. They hope to craft wording that will allow the synod council more flexibility in spending restrictions, especially if a restriction is determined to be no longer applicable. This can also be done by directly approaching the givers to ask for permission.

The bishop also updated the council that two large gifts have been received. We will discuss the use of this money at the February council meeting.

The synod was gifted mineral rights from Messiah Lutheran Church in Billings and is trying to determine a good approach to their disposition.

Spirit of Life: Some things have changed, so we are moving more slowly toward the expected closure of this ministry.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Absarokee has taken one vote to leave the ELCA, which was nearly unanimous. They need to take a second vote, of which the bishop will be informed.

VP Deschamps led the council in a closing prayer.

VP Deschamps adjourned the meeting at 11:00am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Amanda Liggett
Secretary, Montana Synod

Upcoming Meetings

Synod Council Meetings

-- February 18-19, 2022, Great Falls

-- June 2, 2022, Billings

-- September 23-24, 2022, Great Falls

Assembly

--June 3-4, 2022, Billings