Call to Order
Vice President Tom Gossack called the Montana Synod Council meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Opening Prayer
Pastor Amanda Liggett led the Council in an opening prayer.

Introductions and Announcements
Visitors were acknowledged and welcomed: Prairie Rose Seminole, Rev. Kevin Strickland, John Lorhmann, Members of the Council introduced themselves: Pastor Mark Taylor, Doug Allie, Tonya Erickson, Kristi Lobdell, Robin Matthews, Associate to the Bishop Pastor Jason Asselstine, Dick Deschamps, Neal Wedum, DEM Pastor George Karres, Treasurer Sue Ost, Vice President Tom Gossack, Bishop Jessica Crist, Eric Nord, Secretary Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, Pastor Amanda Liggett, Pastor Brenda Satrum, Alex Tooley, Pastor Linda Webster

Adoption of Agenda
Motion
Second: Adopt the Agenda
VOTE: ADOPT THE AGENDA

Greetings from Churchwide Representative: Assistant to the Presiding Bishop/Director for Worship: Rev. Kevin Strickland
Rev. Strickland thanked the Council for the work of the Montana Synod. He shared some information regarding the upcoming Rostered Leaders Gathering and also about the Strong Center Open Door gathering celebrating the anniversary of the 10th Anniversary of the ELW.

Greetings from Program Director, American Indian Alaska Native Ministries, ELCA: Prairie Rose Seminole
Prairie Rose shared about her journey into her position. She feels strongly and personally connected to the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery. She stated that the repudiation of the doctrine may not matter to most of the ELCA but it matters to the small number of Native congregations that are part of the ELCA.

Greetings and Report from ELCA Church Council: John Lorhmann
John indicated that it is a privilege to serve on the Churchwide Council. He represents the Montana Synod and the Eastern Washington/Idaho Synod. He highlighted some of the recent actions of the Churchwide Council.
Report of the Secretary: Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger
Approval of the Minutes of the February and May, 2016 Synod Council Meetings
Motion
Second: Approve the Minutes of the February 2016 meeting
SC.16.06.02
VOTE: APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2016 MEETING

Motion
Second: Approve the Minutes of the May 15, 2016 Electronic meeting
SC.16.06.03
VOTE: APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 15, 2016 ELECTRONIC MEETING

Correspondence
Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger shared the thank you notes and letters from mission partners that have been received since the last Synod Council Meeting.

Report of the Treasurer: Sue Ost
2016 Financial Report – April
Sue commented on the most recent April report that both income and expenses are coming in under budget.
Motion
Second: Receive the Treasurer’s Report
SC.16.06.04
VOTE: RECEIVE THE TREASURER’S REPORT

Report of the Executive Committee

Synod House
Vice President Tom Gossack shared information regarding the involvement from Our Redeemer’s in Helena and the Mission Builders. He communicated that the sale price is $157,500 and that the rest of the lots adjacent to the Synod Office Building are not included in the sale. The inspection of the building is scheduled for June 2, 2016. The staff will be moving to New Hope Lutheran Church on June 17th. The closing date is June 27, 2016. The staff for fundraising has been reduced; Jeanne McCoskery will continue to thank people for the giving. Bishop Crist indicated that Beth Adams, from the ELCA Foundation volunteered to help and will help host a pilot soiree in Billings on Sunday evening, June 5th. The plan is to have the slab prepared by next spring for Mission Builders to come in next summer to build the building. Sue Ost has agreed to handle the financial pieces for the building process and Bishop Crist has contacted someone to hopefully serve as construction manager. Currently there is about $434,000 in the building account and about $150,000 will be added for the sale of the Synod Office building.

Budget 2017 – short version for assembly vote
Sue shared that the Executive Committee made an adjustment in the budget for 2017.
Motion
Second from the Executive Committee: Increase mission support income for 2017 to $1,060,000 from $1,050,000

**SC.16.06.05**
**VOTE: INCREASE MISSION SUPPORT FOR 2017 TO $1,060,000 FROM $1,050,000**

**Old Business**
There was no Old Business

**New Business**
**Elect Executive Committee (S11.01.01)**

Motion
Second from the Executive Committee: Elect Neal Wedum, Lisa Jahraus, Dick Deschamps to serve on the Synod Executive Committee

**SC.16.06.06**
**VOTE: ELECT NEAL WEDUM, LISA JAHRAUS, DICK DESCHAMPS TO SERVE ON THE SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Consent Agenda**

1. **Approval of On Leave from Call Status**
Brooke Ells, AIM (entering 4th year of 6 - family leave)
Pastor Tim Spring, entering his 1st year on leave from call, May 31, 2016
Pastor Maryann Morgenstern, entering her 1st year on leave from call
Pastor Rand Drollman, entering his 1st year on leave from call, August 31, 2016
Pastor Judy Wozniak, entering 1st year on leave from call June 1, 2016

2. **Approval of Retirement Roster Status**
Pastor Mark Gravrock, July 1

3. **Annual Review of Synod Council Calls as of May, 2016**

**Synod Staff Calls**
Pastor Jason Asselstine, Associate to the Bishop
Bishop Jessica Crist

**Campus Ministry Calls**
Pastor John Lund, Emmaus Campus Ministry, Missoula

**Social Ministry Organizations**
Pastor Larry Stappler, Immanuel Lutheran Ministries, Kalispell
Pastor Karl Guhn, St. John’s Lutheran Ministries, Billings
Pastor Elisabeth Daniels, St. John’s Lutheran Ministries, Billings
Pastor Tom Schlotterback, St. John’s Lutheran Ministries, Billings

**Mission Developer Calls**
Pastor Christine Holler-Dinsmore, Spirit of Life, Fort Peck Reservation
Pastor Rob Nedbalek, Freedom in Christ, Montana State Prison, Deer Lodge

**Seminary Calls**
Pastor Kathryn Schifferdecker, Luther Seminary

**Calls to Interim Ministry**
Pastor John Allen
Pastor Kristi Bummer
Pastor Joel Westby
Pastor Linda Rose
Pastor Laurie Jungling

**Calls to Ecumenical Ministry**
Pastor Loren Gustafson, United Methodists, Lincoln
Pastor Sandy Van Zyl, United Church of Christ, Butte
Pastor Melanie Martin-Dent, United Methodists, Sidney-Richey
Pastor Ron Martin-Dent, Culbertson UMC + Medicine Lake/Froid UCCs
Pastor Len Shatkus, Baker Community Church, UCC

**Calls to Military Chaplaincy**
Pastor James Johnson
Pastor Steve Nicolai

**Calls to Camping Ministry**
Pastor Mark Donald, Christikon
Pastor Nathan Clements, Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

**Candidacy Committee Appointments**
Karla Dedman, Hope Lutheran, Anaconda, (2020-1)

Remove Pastor Tammy Bull from the Consent agenda in that she is now called to serve New Hope Lutheran Church

Motion
Second: Accept Consent Agenda en-bloc with the change to remove Pastor Tammy Bull from the Consent Agenda

**SC.16.06.07**  
**VOTE: ACCEPT CONSENT AGENDA EN-BLOC WITH THE CHANGE TO REMOVE PASTOR TAMMY BULL FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**Other Business**
Eric Nord presented information regarding the Fair Labor Standard Act regarding exempt employees who receive a salary and do not get paid overtime. Eric noted that the act will probably go into effect in July and be enforced by December of 2016. There are still questions about how and if it goes into affect. Colter would now become eligible for overtime in his position. It was reported that Colter will be asked to keep track of his hours in the next months so that the Council has data to make a decision in September.

**Workshop on Christian Unity:**
Pastor Amanda Liggett reported on attending the National Workshop on Christian Unity. Representatives from a variety of denominations were gathered speaking to the issues of Christian Unity. The ELCA representatives from Chicago were there. The Declaration “On the Way” was discussed. This will also be presented to the Churchwide Assembly.

Amanda was thanked for her service on the Synod Council. She has completed two terms totally six years.
**Synod Council Items for 2016 Assembly:**
Pastor Jason Asselstine is requesting the Synod Council members to assist with directing the Assembly participants to workshops, given the confusing layout of the building. He has maps and signs to help direct people to the appropriate space.

**Update on Business for Synod Assembly**
**Appoint Elections Committee:**
Pastor Linda Webster, Tonya Erickson and Robin Matthews

**Volunteers to Count the Offering on Sunday:**
Sue Ost and Kristi Lobdell

**Role of Council Members at Assembly**
Praying: Friday Dinner: Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, Saturday Banquet: Pastor Mark Taylor

Bishop Crist asked for feedback regarding the possibility of holding the Synod Assembly in Great Falls every year. The feedback was mostly positive to keep it in Billings every other year, with some comments on some of the advantages of having the assembly in Billings rather than having it just in Great Falls.

**COD Update:**
Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger updated the Council regarding the arrival of Pastor Edwina from the Cape Orange Diocese who will spend a month in Helena and a month in Billings in September and October. She also alerted the Council that Bishop Bowles will be retiring at the end of 2016 and that there will be an election of a new Bishop in October in the Cape Orange Diocese.

Pastor George Karres invited the Council to attend the Repudiation of Discovery Forum this afternoon.

Robin Matthews shared some information about a Tri-Lutheran Steak Fry in Helena as a fundraiser for the Synod House and Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp on Sunday, June 12th at Our Redeemer’s Lutheran in Helena beginning at 4:00 p.m. There are door prizes and raffles, silent and live auction items, too.

Bishop Crist mentioned that there are some display items for sale from the Synod and also mentioned that there is a quilt from the Bolivia trip that is for sale, all in the Assembly Display area.

The Synod Council Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger
Secretary, Montana Synod