

## **REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE MONTANA SYNOD**

The Montana Synod Council meets three times a year and at other times when convened by the Bishop. During the past year, the Council met just prior to the Synod Assembly in June 2015, Sept. 2015, and Feb. 2016 and will meet again just prior to the 2016 Synod Assembly. The Executive Committee, made up of the officers of the Synod, Pr. Amanda Liggett, Lisa Jahraus and Neal Wedum met before each Synod Council meeting and also met in January, 2016 for an additional meeting.

### **Below is a summary of action of the Synod Council from September to February, 2016:**

- Approved the appointments of Alex Tooley, Robin Matthews, Kristi Lobdell and Dick Deschamps to the Montana Synod Council
- Approved Calls to Special Service: Pr. Laurie Jungling, Interim, AIM Nancy Wittgren to St. Patrick Hospital, Missoula, Pr. Mark Donald, to Director, Christikon Bible Camp, Pr. Linda Rose to Intentional Interim
- Moved rostered leaders to retirement: Pr. Walt Kirkegaard, Pr. Marty Dreyer, AIM Kathy Slehofer, Pr. Robert Leaverton
- Approved rostered leaders to "On Leave From Call": Pr. Kathie Larson Aasheim, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Pr. Linda Rose 1<sup>st</sup> year, Pr. Jan Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup> year, Pr. Grant Applehans, 1<sup>st</sup> year, Pr. Martin Russell, 2<sup>nd</sup> year
- Approved moving pastors to disability status: Pr. Barbara Westhoff, Pr. Leonard Shatkus
- Approved appointments: Hetzel Foundation Board: Dale Peterson, second term; Steve Martin, first term; Candidacy Committee: Amanda Nelson; NRIT: Pr. Martha McCreight (12/2018) and Tracy Tobel, LPA (12/2018); Mission Table: Pr. Arne Bergland (6/18-1); Tom Gossack (6/18-2); Pr. Eric Huseth (6/19-1); Lisette Langdorf (6/17-1); Pr. Joel Skindlove (6/17-2); Pr. Betty Lou Deuchler (6/19-1); Enid Houtari (6/19-1); Pr. Will Johnson (6/18-1); Autumn Keller, (6/18-1); Scott Southwick (6/19-1); Pr. Tamara Bull (6/19-1) John Mundinger (6/18-1); Pr. Valorie Putt (6/17-1); Pr. Jen Quanbeck (6/17-1); Pr. Andy Wendle (6/17-1); Mission Interpreter: Scott Southwick
- Approved a Continuing Resolution on the Ramseth Fund Annual Student Loan Repayment
- Approved the 2016 Salary Guidelines
- Received reports from Bishop Crist, Vice President Tom Gossack, Treasurer Sue Ost, Associate to the Bishop Jason Asselstine, Director for Evangelical Mission George Karres
- Received reports from Intermountain Children's Home in Helena
- Received updates regarding the Synod House and approved the use of ELCA Mission Builders in constructing the Synod House, beginning in 2017
- Passed the resolution on the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery
- Selected Joyce Ranum to receive the 2016 Spirit of Hope award
- Approved changes to the Synod Personnel Policy
- Reviewed the Montana Synod Sexual Misconduct document, the Articles of the Synod Constitution pertaining to the Synod Council and Montana Synod Sabbatical Policies
- Heard presentations on the Companion Synod visits to Bolivia and South Africa
- Welcomed Pr. Tom Schlotterback and Pr. Nathan Clements as Chaplains for the September and February meetings who led the Council in worship and prayer during the meetings
- Approved the revised Synod budget for 2016 and approved the 2017 Synod Budget
- Received a report about the Montana Synod Lutheran Disaster Response
- Received reports from the Reformation 500 Task Force
- Received several reflections on the Benchmarks from Council members to be mindful of them in all the reflections and actions of the Synod Council

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger  
Secretary, Montana Synod