

SYNOD COUNCIL MINUTES

Central/Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA

Saturday, January 19, 2013

The Synod Council of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod (“C/SIS” or “synod”) met at the Synod Office in Springfield, Illinois, on January 19, 2013, with the following members in attendance:

Bishop S. John Roth	Pastor David Eidson	Ms. Hayley Beals, Youth Representative
Ms. Jeanne Rapp	Pastor Ed Hudelson	Mr. Martie Eyer
Pastor Patricia Heath	Pastor John Rothfusz	Ms. Connie Frankenfeld
Mr. Lyle Hallock	Pastor John Setterlund	Mr. Terry Goff
	Pastor Mike Thomas	Mr. Henry Harms
	Pastor Glen VanderKloot	Mr. Jerry James
		Ms. Diane Maertens
		Mr. Michael Mason
		Ms. Tiana Montgomery
		Ms. Muriel Paul
		Mr. Steven Rapp

Staff Present:

Cindy Koonce

Pastor James Reents, Assistant to the Bishop

Also present:

Daniel Schwick, LSSI Vice President for Church and Community Services

Carol Maertens

Vice President Rapp called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Welcome and introductions made.

DEVOTIONS

Tiana Montgomery offered devotions based on John 2, the wedding at Cana.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC13.01.01 Moved and seconded to approve the Agenda as amended.

Deleted:

Vice President’s Report

A. Director of Evangelical Mission ~~Call (tan attachment)~~

Added:

NEW BUSINESS

E. Recommendation to Conference of Bishops Regarding Extending On Leave from

Call Status to:

1. Philip Witkop

2. Christopher Hale

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Printing of Assembly Book

BISHOPS’S REPORT *(written document submitted)*

Each time I preach in one of the congregations of our synod, I preface the sermon with “I greet you on behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ throughout the Central/ Southern Illinois Synod, and indeed the entire ELCA. The Central/Southern Illinois Synod spans 76 counties of the 102 counties of Illinois, east and west across the state, north to a line running from Kankakee to Nauvoo, and south to the tips at Cairo and Metropolis.”

Our assistants to the bishop and I have worshiped with roughly 70 of our 132 congregations over the past 17 months. There is a profound joy in these worship experiences: the joy of growing appreciation for the ministries of the pastors and congregations, the joy of feeling more connected with them in the body and blood of the coming new-born King, the joy of being welcomed, and the joy of reciprocal gratitude to God for one another. These visits are an affirmation of who we are together by God's grace and why we are here in view of God's purposes for us. Additionally, we have met with congregation councils and call committees of about a dozen churches of our synod with whom we have not yet worshiped, further living out our shared mission and ministry.

Among my reflections in previous reports on "why we are here," I have mentioned that "In an overarching sense, the purpose of the C/SIS is to support, equip, assist, and advise the congregations of the synod in their calling from God in such a way that the well-being of all the congregations of the C/SIS and the well-being of the ELCA as a whole are enhanced, for the sake of our witness to the gospel." Our synod staff time with congregations shapes our responses to this basic purpose. This brings me to an observation I ask you to consider with me.

Broadly across the synod, I see a two-fold ministry challenge/opportunity increasing over the next decade: 1) to connect the gospel with the growing number of people who have no true familiarity with the message of reconciliation and new life with God through Jesus Christ, stretching the healthy, vibrant congregations we have to extend themselves in this direction for the sake of Christ; and 2) to accompany, care for, and support Word and Sacrament ministry in congregations that have loved and served their Savior for decades, that have produced and nurtured faithful Christians who worship and serve in new home congregations, and that now find themselves in the twilight of their congregational life. When I visit churches of the latter type, observe their historical photos, and listen to their stories, I am reminded of the down-to-earth saints in Carrie Young's *Nothing to Do but Stay: My Pioneer Mother* and Richard Lischer's *Open Secrets: A Spiritual Journey Through A Country Church*; I commend both books to you.

Of course, actual congregations do not divide themselves neatly into these two types. And we never discount the power of the Holy Spirit to stir up and to turn around a congregation that by all statistical metrics is reaching the completion of its faith journey. As we prayed on Advent 3 last month, "Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance."

Please keep the initial three foundational questions in view constantly: Who are we? Why are we here? What then shall we do?

Implications of the Illinois Civil Union Law for ELCA Pastors

In the spring of 2011, Bishop Wayne Miller of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod fashioned a paper to help the pastors and congregations of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod understand the implications of Illinois civil union law for our life together in the church. It is neither an official ELCA statement nor a legal dictate from the bishop. It represents his pastoral guidance to that synod based on his understanding both of the Illinois civil union law and of the ELCA, particularly in light of resolutions regarding sexuality adopted at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly 2009. At this time, Bishop Miller's paper serves as my pastoral approach and guidance to the Central/Southern Illinois Synod. He gave me permission to duplicate and distribute it. I have shared this paper with numerous pastors who have inquired about how to respond to requests to conduct a civil union ceremony. If you would like a copy, contact our C/SIS office and the synod office will send you a copy via e-mail attachment or as a hard copy.

Let me supplement Bishop Miller's paper with a very brief summary of my view. The ELCA social statement "Human Sexuality Gift and Trust" (adopted 2009) states, "The historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions have recognized marriage as a covenant between a man and a woman, reflecting Mark 10: 6–9: 'But from the beginning of creation, God made them

male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one put asunder.” A key corollary to this recognition is reflection on the church’s appropriate care for those who are divorced. Turning to the subject of same-gender couples, the social statement later adds, “Recognizing that this conclusion differs from the historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions, some people, though not all, in this church and within the larger Christian community, conclude that marriage is also the appropriate term to use in describing similar benefits, protection, and support for same-gender couples entering into lifelong, monogamous relationships. They believe that such accountable relationships also provide the necessary foundation that supports trust and familial and community thriving. Other contractual agreements, such as civil unions, also seek to provide some of these protections and to hold those involved in such relationships accountable to one another and to society.” It is important to note that the social statement acknowledges a conviction that diverges from the historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions, and neither commends nor dismisses that conviction. Carefully worded, the social statement does not advocate for an understanding of marriage other than the understanding recognized by historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions. Still later in the document, the social statement reflects on the church’s appropriate care for those who are in same-gender monogamous relationships and concludes that “consensus does not exist concerning how to regard same-gender committed relationships, even after many years of thoughtful, respectful, and faithful study and conversation. We do not have agreement on whether this church should honor these relationships and uplift, shelter, and protect them or on precisely how it is appropriate to do so.” To address both the lack of consensus and the desire provide appropriate care, the social statement turns to the Christian community to discern procedures and practices that would be appropriate in a given context: “(the ELCA) encourages all people to live out their faith in the local and global community of the baptized with profound respect for the conscience-bound belief of the neighbor. This church calls for mutual respect in relationships and for guidance that seeks the good of each individual and of the community.” Nothing in the social statement suggests that pastors act independently with regard to conducting civil union ceremonies. Trying to be as helpful as I can be, my counsel is that the most faithful reading of the ELCA social statement and the most responsible path for pastors wishing to conduct civil union ceremonies leads to the pastor doing so only when it is in concert with the consensus will of the pastor’s congregation as expressed in a congregational vote. Let me voice my appreciation for the pastors and congregations of our synod whose regard for the wider body of Christ in the C/SIS and in the ELCA as a whole has led them to choose this more measured path. I believe that in doing so we reflect the apostle Paul’s vision: “Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2).

A particular anomaly arises in view of the counsel that I give in the previous paragraph, namely, guidance to ministers serving under a Synod Council Call to Special Service when they consider conducting or not conducting same-gender civil union ceremonies. Typically, pastors serving under a Call to Special Service are not in a situation of mutual accountability with an ELCA congregation as a conventional parish pastor is. They are likely to be senior residence chaplains, hospital chaplains, college/university chaplains, and prison chaplains; and the institutions they serve may have little, if any, association with the ELCA. The calling body is the Synod Council, yet the Synod Council is hardly that minister’s congregation, and the minister can hardly be considered the Synod Council’s pastor. There are multiple possible ways establish a policy: for example, one could determine that the called pastor may perform such a civil union ceremony if the employing institution does not prohibit it, or more restrictively, may perform such a civil union ceremony if the employing institution expressly permits it; or one could determine that the called pastor is may follow his or her own conscience without reference to employing institution or to the Synod Council; or one could determine that the Synod Council

decides what is or is not permissible. However, in none of these scenarios is communal discernment of the sort advanced by the ELCA social statement present. Keep in mind that the right of the same-gender couple to a Civil Union is never in question here; the couple has this right under Illinois law. Same-gender couples have multiple options for formalizing a Civil Union. A key question is “What practice by ministers serving under a Synod Council Call to Special Service builds up the body of Christ and contributes to the well-being of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod and ELCA?” I would imagine that there are those in our synod who would say that permitting ministers under a Synod Council Call to Special Service does indeed build up the body of Christ by extending the services of ELCA clergy to people who were previously not served by us and does indeed contribute to the wellbeing of the C/SIS and the ELCA by encouraging diversity and acceptance of sexual minorities; I would also imagine that there are those in our synod who would say that it would not build up the body of Christ specifically because it is unrelated to the life of any actual congregation and that it detracts from the wellbeing of the C/SIS and the ELCA because it goes outside of what the ELCA in assembly has adopted and further fractures our already by strained church body in that it demonstrates disregard for those who struggle with recent changes in the ELCA. A second key question is more outward looking: “What practice by ministers serving under a Synod Council Call to Special Service communicates God’s grace to the same-gender couple, and what shows care for them?” At first blush, the answer to this question looks simple; in our cultural context, grace and caring are often equated with agreeing in point of view and action, and so it appears obvious that performing a Civil Union ceremony when requested to do so is the action that communicates grace and caring. But this is a naïve view of both God’s grace and Christian caring, and in this context may even undermine the Christian understanding of grace as the salvific love of God that does not affirm us for who we are but embraces us despite our fallenness, our unworthiness. I don’t have a good answer to this dilemma, and I think that I don’t have a good answer because we in the church do not have a clear vision for the relationship between the minister in a Call to Special Service and the church.

Public events from my calendar (up to the March 16, 2013 Synod Council Meeting):

January 2-7	Conference of Bishops
January 13	Install Laura Kamprath (St. John, Campbell Hill / St. Peter, Steeleville)
January 17	West Central Conference Bishop’s Colloquy
January 18	Deans Meeting / Synod Council Executive Committee Meeting
January 19	Synod Council Meeting
January 20-22	Crossings Theological Conference, Belleville, IL
January 27	Install Pastor Krista Stokke (Zion, Loogootee / St. James, Vandalia)
February 7-8	Region 5 Mobility Conference in Madison, Wisconsin
February 17	Install Pastor Jennifer Hartweg-Brown (Grace, Rankin)
February 19-20	ELCA Seminary Graduate Assignment Meeting
February 24	Worship with Zion, Batchtown
February 26	LSSI Executive Board Meeting
February 28-March 5	Conference of Bishops
March 10	Preach at American, Gibson City
March 10	Northeast Conference Assembly at St. Paul, Pontiac

A. Assistant to Bishop Reports (*written documents submitted*)

1. Pastor Wayland Middendorf

Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy sponsored and lead two hearings on the social statement on Criminal Justice (one at St. John Bloomington and the other at Prince of Peace Mt. Vernon). The attendance was small at both hearings, but I think Jane Otte from LSSI received some good feedback as they prepare to finalize the statement for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. We will meet by conference call in February and as a group later in the spring to approve

requests for grants and we will review the progress and reports from this year's grant recipients.

The Synodically Authorized Ministry Subcommittee met at the synod office, September 8, 2012. We discussed those in the program, those who have completed the program and have not met the requirements for continuing education during the year. We will send out letters as a reminder to those members that did not meet the requirements of twelve hours. Failure to comply will result in probation and failure to make up the deficiencies and comply the following year will result in them being removed from S.A.M. list and the synod's pulpit supply list. The S.A.M. Handbook has been approved and is now available for those wishing to review the requirements and guidelines for becoming a S.A.M. At this meeting the subcommittee accepted with regrets, Jeff Storm's resignation as the Education Coordinator for the S.A.M. program. Jeff will be greatly missed. Our next S.A.M. Subcommittee will meet February 2, 2013 at the synod office.

Global Mission Committee met September 8, 2012 at the synod office. We continue working on plans for the trip to our companion synods in Madagascar for Bishop Roth and what we hope will be one or two members from each conference in 2014. We have also begun looking at what the Rocky Mountain Synod is using for their screening process and application process. At the present we are hoping to keep the cost per person to around \$6,000. The committee with the help of the congregations in the synod intends to cover the cost of Bishop Roth and his wife, but others would be required to find funding for themselves. Global Mission will meet by conference call on January 26, 2013.

During the past year I have visited 12 congregations on Sunday mornings, attended two conference assemblies, attended a retreat with the Southern Conference clergy and lay leaders, attended two conference pastor gatherings and the two hearings. In addition I have attended several other events as the synod's representative during the past year.

2. Pastor Ron Moorman

I continue to divide my time at the synod between two main activities: the Call Process and Candidacy.

Relative to the Call Process the majority activity is scheduling and conducting Mission and Ministry Studies with congregations currently experiencing pastoral vacancies or who will be in that situation in the near future. This also involves follow-up with these congregations to answer any questions they might have, to check on their progress, to encourage them in their work, etc. Since the last Council meeting I have worked with St. Matthew Church in Urbana, Holy Cross in Decatur, Resurrection Lutheran in Bloomington, Trinity Lutheran in Carthage, St. John's in Hartsburg, and Immanuel Lutheran in Lincoln.

Many of these congregations have distributed forms to their members soliciting input on priorities for the church as well as the new pastor, and as to where things stand in the congregation at the present time—needs and concerns, etc. I have been taking this material and condensing and consolidating the input into a document for the Church Council/Call Committee to use in their work. This allows the process to be, as much as possible, factual and objective; we have received many favorable comments about the utility of this process.

Another component of this process has been to screen the Rostered Leader Profiles (RLPs), looking for matches between the identified needs of the congregations and the profiles that are listed on line. Pastor Jim Reents has been the initial screen of these names and sending on the possible candidates for my review and follow-up. As I have mentioned before, this, by its very nature, is a time consuming detailed process. While there are quite a few RLPs listed on-line, we continue to find the quality of these RLPs to be less than stellar. We are finding it particularly difficult to identify possible female candidates as well as candidates for part-time pastoral care—these are very difficult to find and call for consideration of more creative approaches to meet these needs. Past practice had been to give names one-by-one to the congregation/Call Committee. Our current practice is to give, upon specific request from the Church Council, three names to allow congregations to get at broader perspective as to what type of pastoral talent is available. While this hopefully is the best process, it also means that we have to identify three times as many individuals to fill current vacancies. This has, at times, proven to be quite difficult.

The other aspect of my current job responsibilities is the relationship to the Candidacy Subcommittee of the synod. As I mentioned in my last report this includes meeting with the committee and then providing follow-up on the identified needs and concerns relative both to the individuals in various stages of the ELCA call process as well as the process itself. I have conducted initial interviews with two prospective candidates during this time period—reviewing with them their interest in ministry in one of its present forms as well as outlining with them the next steps in the process. They have then gone on to do a formal initial interview with representatives of the Candidacy Subcommittee who have or will make a formal recommendation to the Candidacy Subcommittee relative to their status.

I was a part of the Illinois Multi-Synodical Candidacy Committee that met in Bloomington in October to review the status of candidates from the various synods and to take action relative to approval/denial of next steps in the process. That committee will be meeting again in January in the Chicago area.

We also continue the discussions as to how to best support candidates from this synod as they move through the process. Each candidate has an appointed relator who follows the candidate throughout the process—encouraging and assisting them in many different ways. We have stressed the critical role that these relators play in this process. We also continue to discuss ways in which the subcommittee can provide support to candidates in the various stages, and ways in which we can encourage individuals from our congregations to consider ministry as a vocation. I want to give a big public “thank you” to Pastor Elaine Olson who chairs the Candidacy Subcommittee—she is providing excellent leadership (and considerable time and energy) to the process and is a great support to the on-going work of the committee.

The New and Renewing Congregation Committee continues to meet and to explore ways in which the synod can better support and encourage the vitality and growth of the synod’s congregation. I had a time conflict with the last meeting on that committee, and am feeling the need to devote more time to the work of this critical committee.

I also had the privilege of attending the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Faith Lutheran Church in Augusta—it truly was a joy and an inspiration to be a part of

that process and to recognize the great work and ministry that is being provided by the members of that congregation.

3. Pastor Jim Reents

My main responsibilities are to read the Rostered Leader's Profile (RLP), relate to the Leadership Subcommittee, and relate to the congregations of the Northern and Northeast Conferences. I attend monthly meetings with Bishop Roth and the other Assistants and the monthly meetings of the Professional Leaders in each conference.

On November 30, 2012, I retired from St. John's Lutheran, Bloomington. That will make it easier to work for the C/SIS. I have completed the "get acquainted" visits with the pastors of both conferences. I appreciate the opportunity to get to know them better and their warm hospitality. In 2013 I'll concentrate on visiting congregations on Sunday am to visit, preach, and/or teach. On January 8, 2013 both Conferences will meet at St. John's Lutheran, Bloomington, to hear a presentation from the Portico representative, Andrea Arey, (formerly Board of Pensions).

Pastor Visits

September 26	Pastor Maureen Stein, Canton
October 3	Pastor Ryan Anderson, Toluca Pastor Steven Mall, Chillicothe
December 4	Pastor John Bates, Washington Pastor Barbara Stroud-Broth, Mt. Pulaski
December 5	Pastors Stephen Barnes & Elise Rothfusz, Peoria Pastor Bill Dohle, Peoria Pastor Steven Tibbetts, Peoria
December 6	Pastor Harlan Kaden, Glasford
December 11	Pastor Mike Jones, Bartonville
December 12	Pastor Ray Barclay, Minonk Pastor Wendy Popp, Lacon
December 13	Pastor Dennis O'Brien, Morton

C/SIS Activities

September 17-19	Professional Leaders Conference, Carlinville
September 27	Resurrection Lutheran, Bloomington, with Bishop Roth and Church Council
September 29	Social Statement Hearing on Criminal Justice, Bloomington
October 13	Association of Downtown Lutheran Churches, Grace, Springfield
November 14	Installation of Pastor Brian Goke, St. John's, Bloomington
November 21	Preached and taught adult forum at Grace & Peace, Peoria
November 28	Trinity, Olney-met with Church Council to explain Ministry Site Profile
November 18	Officiated at Installation of Pastor Christine McNeal, St. John's, Bloomington

May the light of Epiphany continue to be our guide.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Director of Evangelical Mission Call (*written report provided*)

ELCA has issued a Letter of Call for a three-quarter time Director of Evangelical Mission for C/SIS. This person will begin in the synod as of March 1, 2013. A one-quarter time C/SIS staff position as Coordinator of Communication and Networking

has been created by the synod so as to facilitate a full time working situation for the newly-called synod-level DEM. Compensation for this staff position will be the same as assistants to the bishop with no additional benefits. Benefits are being provided by Churchwide.

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC13.01.02 Moved and seconded that it be communicated to the newly-called DEM that Synod Council is eager to meet this person and welcome him/her into our synod.

B. ELCA Churchwide Funding Discussions

Representatives from the ELCA Church Council, ELCA churchwide staff and synod bishops have been exploring the current funding structure between synods and the ELCA. Various models have been proposed, but no decisions or recommendations have been made.

C. Personnel Committee (*written documents provided*)

The Personnel Committee has reviewed its own documents in light of evolving synod staffing, making additions/corrections as necessary. Added to its Job Description/Responsibilities has been the auditing of staff vacation time and personal days.

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC13.01.03 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that it approve the following changes to the synod's Personnel Policies (Addition in CAPS; deletions ~~striketroughs~~):

3.2B Part-time employees on a regular schedule of 20 hours or more are eligible for holidays, time off for voting, sick leave, and the benefits provided for absences from work, on a prorated basis, reflecting their fraction of full-time employment. THE EXCEPTION WOULD BE FOR A STAFF POSITION THAT, FROM THE OUTSET, DOES NOT INCLUDE THESE BENEFITS.

10.2D Part-time employees will receive prorated vacation, as described in Section 2. THE EXCEPTION WOULD BE FOR A STAFF POSITION THAT, FROM THE OUTSET, DOES NOT INCLUDE THESE BENEFITS.

4.4 Add following paragraph 2:
BACKGROUND CHECKS AND SCREENING SHALL BE REQUIRED AND COMPLETED FOR PERSONS NOMINATED AS ASSISTANTS TO THE BISHOP AND SUPPORT STAFF PRIOR TO THEIR SELECTION, IF POSSIBLE, OR AS SOON AS PRACTICAL AFTER THEIR ELECTION. THE SPECIFIC PROCEDURES AND TIMING OF BACKGROUND CHECKS AND SCREENING SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE SYNOD COUNCIL.

8.1 Core Office Hours: paragraph 1, Line 4
Delete the word "~~excluding~~" and change to "INCLUDING".

9.0 EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS
Wherever "Board of Pensions" appears in the document:
Delete: ~~Board of Pensions~~ and
Add: PORTICO BENEFIT SERVICES

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC13.01.04 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that in response to requests made of C/SIS by Church Mutual, our liability carrier, the following documents be added to the C/SIS Personnel Policies: (*written documents submitted*)

1. At-Will Employment Policy
 2. Anti-Harassment Policy
 3. Child and Youth Abuse Prevention Program
 4. Employment Application
- D. Constitution Committee
Committee continues to work on reviewing all actions taken at C/SIS synod assemblies that would have constitution or bylaw implications and harmonizing all governing documents in accord with said actions.
- E. Facility improvements update: Current wall repair and painting project completed; gathering estimates for exterior window replacement.
Incremental improvements are continuing to be done to the building. No further action has been taken regarding any relocation as no one has expressed interest in buying the building.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC13.01.05 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council the approval of the Minutes of the Synod Council, Saturday, September 15, 2012.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Update

In light of current giving trends, there is a likelihood that the synod will finish fiscal year 2012 with a small surplus. Giving appears to have stabilized at approximately \$1.4 million.

Received for filing:

Central Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA, Key Financial Statistics, As of December 31, 2012; Congregational Benevolence Comparisons, As of December 31, 2012; Central Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA, Designated Giving, February, 2012-December, 2012; Central Southern IL Synod, ELCA, Analysis of Revenues & Expenses – Detail, December 2012; Central Southern, ELCA, Balance Sheet, December 2012; Central Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA, Restricted and Designated Fund Balances, December, 2012.

CONSENT AGENDA

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC13.01.06 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council the approval of the Consent Agenda.

A. Approval of On Leave From Call Status

1. Pastor Paul Balaban, Year 2, effective February 1, 2013
2. Pastor Jill Flynn, Year 2, effective February 1, 2013
3. Pastor Viktoria (Halmagyi) Parvin, Year 2, effective February 1, 2013
4. Mr. Terry Moore, DM, Year 2, effective February 1, 2013
5. Pastor Jan Worms, Year 3, effective January 1, 2013
6. Ms. Patricia Caley, AiM, Year 3, effective January 1, 2013

B. Approval of Retirement Status

1. Pastor Daniel Tuhy, effective January 1, 2013

C. Roster Changes

1. Transfer to the Church Triumphant: Pastor Joseph Bleakley
2. Transfer to Grand Canyon Synod: Pastor Lane Knause
3. Transfer to Nebraska Synod: Pastor Rachel Ziese Hacker
4. Transfer to Greater Milwaukee Synod: Pastor Andrew Nyren

5. Removed from Roster by October 2012 Conference of Bishops:
 - a. Ms. Lynette A'Hearn, Diaconal Minister
 6. Approval of Extended On Leave from Call Status by October 2012 Conference of Bishops:
 - a. Pastor Lisa Goodwin for 2 years
 - b. Pastor Mark Marius for 2 years
 7. Ordination of Christine McNeal, November 14, 2012; Installed as Assistant Pastor at St. John's, Bloomington, November 17/18, 2012
- D. Conference Reports (*written documents submitted*)
1. Easter Central, Pastor John Setterlund
 2. Northern Conference, Pastor John Rothfusz
 3. Northeast Conference, Pastor Ed Hudelson
 4. Northwest Conference, Pastor Mike Thomas
 5. Southern Conference, Pastor David Eidson
 6. West Central Conference, Pastor Glen VanderKloot

COMMITTEE REPORTS (*written documents submitted*)

1. New and Renewing Congregations Committee
Connie Frankenfeld, Synod Council liaison
Committee continues to meeting basically monthly, choosing to meet virtually due to travel costs.
2. Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy Committee
Diane Maertens, Synod Council liaison
Committee sponsored two hearings on the proposed ELCA Social Statement on Criminal Justice. Neither workshop was well attended.
3. Mission Support and Stewardship Education Committee
Steve Rapp, Synod Council liaison
Committee has drafted a stewardship survey that has been sent out to congregations and is working on data compilation. The committee has also developed a stewardship pamphlet for distribution and is working on putting together a database of stewardship resources and working stewardship models being used in the synod.
4. Global Mission Committee
John Setterlund, Synod Council liaison
As submitted.
5. Professional and Lay Leadership Committee
 - Synodically Authorized Ministry Subcommittee
Ed Hudelson, Synod Council liaison
Subcommittee has not met since the last Synod Council meeting but is scheduled to meet later in January 2013.
 - Candidacy Subcommittee
Glen VanderKloot, Synod Council liaison
Currently there are 13 candidates engaged in varying levels of candidacy. Seminary education is changing in response to our changing world, this includes more use of distributive learning models.
 - Leadership Support Subcommittee
Jerry James, Synod Council liaison
Committee just recently met and is looking ways to augment compensation for rostered leaders that are not necessarily salary based. Committee is working on proposed guidelines for parental/maternal leave as well as establishing a synod

sabbatical policy. An increase of 2% is being considered for the 2014 Roster Leader Compensation Guidelines.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Update

Committee has not met since the September 2012 Synod Council meeting but will be meeting soon to prepare a budget proposal for 2014. The expectation is that while fiscal year 2012 may end with a small surplus, fiscal year 2013 will include closer to budget numbers for programs and staff due to restricting being completed and synod staffing plan being filled out, which could mean deficit spending.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Follow-up on congregations disbanded

1. Union, Gila

Treasurer Lyle Hallock continues to be in conversation with representatives from the congregation. It has been discovered that the property on which the church building once stood has not been deeded over as previously agreed upon. No further action has taken place on the congregation's behalf, including erection of any memorial. Mr. Hallock will continue to follow up on the situation.

2. Trinity, Alton

No interest has been expressed by any party in buying the parsonage and/or church property. A former member is continues to provide property upkeep. Former members will continue to work on the disposition of the real property.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Elect for Nomination Two Individuals for Churchwide Church Council

C/SIS is responsible for nominating two lay males for an open position on the ELCA Church Council. To date, candidates for nomination have not been identified.

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC13.01.07 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that Synod Council authorize the Executive Committee to establish a slate of two candidates for the open ELCA Church Council position for presentation to the C/SIS Synod Assembly for ratifications.

B. Synod Council Non-stipendiary Call to Rev. Heather Arnold as Pastoral Associate at First English Lutheran Church, Peoria. (*written document submitted*)

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC13.01.08 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that upon the approval of the ELCA Conference of Bishops, a non-stipendiary call be extended to The Rev. Heather Arnold as Pastoral Associate at First English Lutheran Church, Peoria.

C. 2012 Reference and Counsel Assembly Resolution Referral (*written document provided*)

Resolution was referred to Synod Council by 2012 Synod Assembly Reference and Counsel.
Discussion held.

Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that it acknowledge and thank the movers of Resolution 2012.05 and communicate to them that Synod Council declines the adoption of Resolution 2012.05.

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC13.01.09 Moved and seconded to call the question.

As to recommendation:

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC13.01.10 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that it acknowledge and thank the movers of Resolution 2012.05 and communicate to them that, after prayerful consideration, Synod Council declines the adoption of said Resolution.

D. 2013 Bishop S. John Roth Housing Allowance Resolution

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC13.01.11 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council the approval of the House Resolution as submitted and that \$18,000 be designated as the 2013 Housing Allowance for Bishop S. John Roth.

E. Recommendation to the Council of Bishops the extended On-Leave From Call Status:

1. Philip Witkop

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC13.01.12 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that, in accord with correspondence received by Bishop Roth, Synod Council recommends to the ELCA Conference of Bishops that an extended on-leave-from-call status be granted to Pastor Philip Witkop.

2. Christopher Hale

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC13.01.13 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that it recommend to the ELCA Conference of Bishops that extended on-leave-from-call status be granted to Pastor Christopher Hale upon the receipt by Bishop Roth of appropriate correspondence from Pastor Hale requesting such status.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Printing of Assembly books

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC13.01.14 Moved and seconded that C/SIS discontinue the printing of the annual Synod Assembly Report booklet and make information that was previously contained in that booklet available on the C/SIS website, except for the roster leader information.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC13.01.15 Moved and seconded that Synod Council enter into Executive Session.

Synod Council entered Executive Session at 11:42 a.m.

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC13.01.16 Moved and seconded that Synod Council exit from Executive Session.

Synod Council exited Executive Session at 12:28 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Having concluded business, Vice President Rapp declared the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

CLOSING PRAYER

Tiana Montgomery closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Patty Heath, Secretary