

SYNOD COUNCIL MINUTES

Central/Southern Illinois Synod ELCA
Thursday, June 7, 2012

The Synod Council of the Central / Southern Illinois Synod (“CSIS” or “synod”) met at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, Illinois, on June 7, 2012, with the following members in attendance:

Present

Bishop S. John Roth
Ms. Jeanne Rapp
Mr. Lyle Hallock

Pastor David Eidson
Pastor Priscilla Geerdes
Pastor Gayle Pope
Pastor John Rothfus
Pastor John Setterlund
Pastor Kenneth Tegtmeier

Ms. Mary Anderson
Ms. Martie Eyer
Ms. Connie Frankenfeld
Ms. Diane Maertens
Mr. Michael Mason
Ms. Muriel Paul
Mr. Steven Rapp
Mr. Vernon Veal

Staff Present

Pastor Jim Reents

Also Present

Pastor Ed Hudelson

Pastor Glen VanderKloot

Ms. Carol Maertens

Absent

Pastor Patricia Heath

Ms. Hayley Beals

Ms. Tiana Montgomery

Vice President Rapp called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Devotions

Muriel Paul led devotions reflecting on Philippians 1:3-4 “I (Paul) thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.” Who are we as council members? Thanking God with joy and gratitude for the gifts that each member brings to the council.

Welcome

Vice President Rapp welcomed Synod Council members. Introductions made.

In the absence of Secretary Pastor Patricia Heath, Vice President Rapp asked for a motion to appoint Muriel Paul as Secretary Pro-Tem.

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC12.06.01 Moved and seconded to approve Secretary Pro-Tem

Approval of Agenda

VOTED: Motion carried

SC12.03.02 Moved and seconded to approve the Revised Agenda.

Bishop’s Report (written reports provided)

First Call Placements

Our synod requested and received two seminary graduates this spring. Ms. Christine McNeal and Mr. Ryan Anderson are currently interviewing with congregations.

Assistants to the Bishop

Pastor Jim Reents began work as an assistant to the bishop on May 1, 2012. His area of primary responsibility is Mobility, i.e., he works with pastors and pastoral candidates relative

to the call process. Pastor Reents also relates to the Professional and Lay Leadership Committee with respect to the Subcommittee for Leadership Support. Pastor Reents lives in Bloomington.

Let me recap the primary responsibilities and committee relationships of our other current assistants to the bishop. Pastor Moorman carries two areas of primary responsibility, Candidacy and Call Process, i.e., with this latter responsibility he works with congregations relative to call processes. Pastor Moorman relates to the New and Renewing Congregations Committee and to the Professional and Lay Leadership Committee with respect to the subcommittee for Candidacy of Rostered Leaders. Pastor Middendorf also carries two areas of primary responsibility, Synodically Authorized Ministry and Global Mission. Pastor Middendorf relates to the Professional and Lay Leadership Committee with respect to the Subcommittee for Synodically Authorized Ministry, to the Social Ministry, Justice, and Advocacy Committee, and to the Global Mission Committee. I retain responsibility for First Call Theological Education, an area that previously was assigned to an assistant to the bishop; for the present, I relate to the Mission Support and Stewardship Education Committee.

Congregations moving toward leaving the ELCA

St. John, Metropolis

Following a congregational vote on December 7, 2011, adopting a resolution to dissolve its relationship with the ELCA, and following a consultation with me on February 5, 2012, St. John adopted on April 15, 2012, its second resolution to dissolve its relationship with the ELCA: 47-12 (79.7%). Having voted twice to dissolve its relationship with the ELCA by a greater than two thirds majority of voting members present, St. John Lutheran Church, Metropolis, has removed itself from the ELCA, effective April 15, 2012. Having formerly been a member congregation of the ELCA, St. John's action does not need to be ratified by the Synod Council.

At the same time, I received a request from the Congregation Council of St. John that I permit ELCA Pastor Richard Hertenstein to continue serving St. John until May 31, 2012, so that he may preside at worship on Confirmation Sunday, May 27. I granted that request.

Lutheran Church of Mahomet, Mahomet (LCM)

By the time you read this report, LCM will have taken its "second vote" to dissolve its relationship with the ELCA. The congregational meeting for this vote is scheduled to be on May 20, 2012, and the resolution was adopted: 97-43 (69.3%). I conducted a consultation with the congregation on March 19, 2012.

Other Congregational Transitions

Trinity, Alton

By the time you read this report, I will have conducted the rite of closing a congregation at Trinity on May 29, 2012. The congregation will have formally ceased operation on May 31, 2012.

Christ, Harrisburg

All matters having to do with the closing of Christ Lutheran Church, Harrisburg, have been completed. Mr. Pete Childress, the treasurer of the congregation and the person who shepherded the closing process, delivered the church records to me on May 15, 2012, along with a check to the C/SIS for residual assets of the congregation, \$157,079.67. This amount will go into the fund for Renewing Congregations established by the Synod Council in January, 2012.

Director of Evangelical Mission (DEM)

The Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit (CSM) of the ELCA, with my approval, has appointed Pastor Jean DeVoll-Donaldson, DEM in the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, to be interim DEM in our Synod. Pastor DeVoll-Donaldson's first task is to assemble the

appropriate forms and materials needed to apply for a 2013 Partnership Mission Support grant from the ELCA to Trinity, Kankakee. Pastor DeVoll-Donaldson has committed to being the interim DEM in our synod through this summer; as we get into August, CSM, Pastor DeVoll-Donaldson, Bishop Mike Girlinghouse (AR-OK Synod), and I will see where our DEM situation stands. the meantime, the DEM position (half-time) will be listed as an employment opening on the ELCA website.

Public events from my calendar (up to the September 15, 2012 Synod Council Meeting):

June 7, 8, & 9	Synod Assembly
June 10	LSSI Board of Directors
July 5-9	Vacation
July 18-22	ELCA National Youth Gathering
July 26-29	Vacation
August 3	LYO Leadership Lab
August 12	St. Peter, Crescent City – 125 th Anniversary
August 19	Luther Memorial, Quincy – Installation of Pastor Tony Metz
August 24-25	Madagascar Consultation, at the Lutheran Center, Chicago
August 26	Cross Parish (Cluster) LutherFest
August 28-30	Region 5 Bishops' Mtg., Marquette, MI

Assistant to the Bishop Reports

a. Pastor Ron Moorman

Since my last report to the Synod Council, I have done Mission and Ministry studies with a number of congregations as the first step in the call process: St. Martin of Tours in Mascoutah on Sunday, March 18, 2012; St. James in Vandalia (2nd visit) on March 31, 2012; Trinity Lutheran Church in Golden on May 20, 2012; and St. Timothy in Wyoming June 3, 2012. These meetings outline the steps congregations must take as they begin the call process for a new pastor, answer questions that the congregation might have, assist them with filling out the required forms, etc. ... I also receive numerous calls with questions relating to both the process and the mechanics of filling out the necessary forms. On May 2, 2012 I also met a second time with the Call Committee at Faith in Jacksonville to answer questions they had about the overall process. Bishop Roth and I also met with the Call Committee of Christ Lutheran Church in Nauvoo on April 12, 2012 to talk with them about their situation and the possibilities for finding a pastor for them. The Bishop and I also met on May 13, 2012 with members of the church council at St. John's Church in Hartsburg to discuss their pastoral coverage and their options.

On May 15, 2012 I met with the church council at Prince of Peace Church in Mt. Vernon to assist them in doing a self-assessment relative to their current situation and as a prelude to them taking the next steps in initiating a call for their congregation.

I have been working on finding speakers for our fall Synod Fall Worship in Carlinville (September 17-19, 2012). My main focus has been on finding a speaker to address both the issues with and the possibilities of the social media. As many congregations (and individuals) move forward with utilizing these new communication methodologies, it is a critical importance we take a look at the issues related to these new methodologies. In doing my research on the issue I came across the Social Media Guidelines developed by the United State Conference of Catholic Bishops, and found them to be excellent. I talked with the author of those guidelines, Helen Osman, and she has agreed to do a presentation on these issues at our fall meeting. Her presentation will give an overview of the Church and the Social Media, present the guiding principles of utilizing these new media, define terms, talk specifically about such issues as Social Networking with Minors, Personal Sites, how to report and monitor usage, etc. etc. It should be a very timely and useful presentation.

We hope to have a presentation on the “Parish” concept sometime in the early summer for congregation in the western part of the synod. This will be presented by individuals for the Wartburg Parish and will address issues related to the generation of such an arrangement, organizational and development issues, benefits, concerns, etc. etc. There has been interest expressed in various parts of the synod about this concept and the possibility of replicating in other areas. We haven’t nailed down a presentation date as of yet, but hope to do so soon.

I continue as the staff person for the Candidacy Committee. In addition to the on-going activities and responsibilities of this committee, we have organized a Meet and Greet luncheon for all of our candidates on Thursday, June 7, 2012 the first day of the Synod Assembly. This will be with the members of the Candidacy Committee and all of our candidates who are able to make the meeting. We are also planning on recognizing our candidates at the Synod Assembly—they will be there as our guests and we will seek to minimize their expenses whenever possible. This will give us all a chance to meet them and most of all, to support them both by our words and our prayers. We had a very useful meeting with Pastor Carl Richard Evenson, Region V Coordinator; he gave us an excellent overview of the Candidacy Process as well as tips on the interviewing process. I also staff The New and Renewing Congregation Committee. One of its main items of agenda is the development of a needs assessment which will be distributed to synod congregations to help identify existing as well as new and emerging needs of our congregations. The committee will be promoting this assessment at the Synod Assembly and hope to have some types of initial report sometime in later June. The Leadership Support Subcommittee is continuing its work on Compensation Guidelines for the synod. It is time for such a review and an updating of these guidelines including looking at the format for base salaries. While this is not yet completed, the committee hopes to have this done in the near future. This committee hopes also to develop models for clergy-lay leadership interaction, training on Mutual Ministry models, utilizing technology for both identifying and meeting congregational needs.

I continue to provide some staff support for our upcoming Synod Assembly. By far the most work is being done by Cindy and by the meeting planner we hired for this purpose. One item that I have taken the lead on is getting the ELCA to develop and produce an evaluation tool that we can use to assess the impact of the Assembly along with suggestions for development and change. The staff at Higgins Road has been very helpful in this effort and have produced a document that will give us the kind of input and feedback that will be very helpful as we look to future Assemblies. And the best part of it all is that it isn’t costing us anything. We are still putting the final touches to this document, and when it is done, the ELCA will run it off, send it to us, and then will tabulate the results when it is completed. All in all, a very nice cooperative effort!

With the addition of Jim Reents to our staff, he will take over much of the activity related to scanning the ELCA Rostered Leader Profiles that are on the ELCA web-site (a task I was filling up to this time). He will then forward his findings to me, and I will utilize those results in trying to match those identified individuals with the congregational profiles that are developed thru the Call documents I will be working with congregations to develop. Following that process, I will be making recommendations to Bishop Roth relative to those congregations. This will hopefully contribute to greater efficiency and a speedier timeline in identifying possible candidates for our vacant pastoral sites.

So it has been a busy but interesting two months or so. As always, there is more agenda than there is time, but that’s the very nature of the work. I am looking forward to having the

time to continue to explore some of the systemic possibilities both for communication as well as programmatic modification and development.

b. Pastor Wayland Middendorf

Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy met April 21, 2012 at the synod office. We completed a brochure to be handed out at the Synod Assembly to increase awareness of what the committee is involved in and also inform ELCA members about issues in our communities. We meet at 11 a.m. June 7 at the Synod Assembly to review and issue the remaining grant funds.

The Synodically Authorized Ministry (SAM) Subcommittee met April 28, 2012 at the synod office. We discussed the recent retreat as well as issues with some SAM members not completing the required continuing education during the past year. It was decided that we would review each SAM's folder and those who failed to complete the required continuing education would be placed on probation until they complete the requirements for 2011 and 2012. At that time the probation would be lifted. Failure to comply could result in their being removed from the SAM roster until they meet the requirements. We also discussed the possibility of setting up an information table at the Synod Assembly. Jeff Storm, Shirley Arnold and I reviewed the suggested changes and made some revisions to the SAM Handbook. The subcommittee will review the revisions in August.

Global Mission Committee met May 12 2012 in the synod office. We plan to sell Fair Trade Chocolate at the Synod Assembly to raise awareness of the Fair Trade products. We are also beginning to plan for a trip to our companion synods in Madagascar, for Bishop Roth and possibly others from the Central/Southern Illinois Synod in 2014. We also have an opportunity, if there is someone interested, to have a representative from the Central / Southern Illinois Synod to join a group from the Rocky Mountain Synod on their trip in 2013. Right now it looks like the cost for the Rocky Mountain Synod will be a little over \$6,000. This trip would be a big help in planning our trip in 2014, if there is an interest.

c. Pastor James Reents

This is my first report to the Synod Council as Assistant to Bishop Roth. I'm thankful for this opportunity to serve our church, and I believe God is calling me to this position. At the present time I'm balancing part-time positions at St. John's Lutheran Church, Bloomington, and the C/SIS. I'll continue at St. John's until a new Senior Pastor is in place.

As I understand my responsibilities, I'll relate to congregations in the Northern and Northeast Conferences. My anchor responsibility is to work with mobility especially from the pastor's perspective. In addition I'll relate to the Professional and Lay Leadership Committee with respect to Leadership Support.

So far I have participated in three events: (1) I represented Bishop Roth at the Lutheran Campus Ministry Board at Illinois State University. (2) I met with Bishop Roth and the other Assistants to the Bishop at our monthly meeting. (3) I met with John Bandy (IT) and Pastor Ron Moorman to learn about Roster Leaders Profiles. I have enjoyed meeting all these people.

Sunday is Pentecost. Let us thank God for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Vice President's Report

1. Facility Review

After the Association of Realtor's reviewed the facility compared to the appraised price, they felt the purchase of the facility would not be cost effective for them. The council

recommended that facial maintenance be done before contracting with a realtor for the sale of the facility.

Secretary's Report

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC12.06.03 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council the approval of the Minutes of the Synod Council, Saturday March 17, 2012 as presented.

Treasurer's Report

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC12.06.04 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that the Treasurer's Report be accepted for filing as presented.

The audit has been completed for the fiscal year 2011 but the written report has not been received. The treasurer noted that the staff positions are not fully filled. The report shows synod assembly income but assembly expenses have not been paid.

Received for filing:

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

Amended Consent Agenda

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC12.06.05 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council the approval of the Amended Consent Agenda.

- A. Approval of On Leave From Call Status
 - 1. Pastor William Veith, effective June 1, 2012
 - 2. Pastor Thomas Kamprath, effective August 1, 2012
 - 3. Pastor Rachel Ziese Hacker effective July 1, 2012
- B. Approval of Retirement Status
 - 1. Pastor Lane Knouse, effective June 1, 2012
 - 2. Pastor Gary Ryden, effective September 1, 2012
- C. Roster Changes/Transitions
 - 1. Pastor John Sutton to Southeastern Synod
- D. Conference Reports (blue attachment)
 - 1. East Central, Pastor John Setterlund
 - 2. Northern Conference, Pastor John Rothfusz
 - 3. Northeast Conference, Pastor Priscilla Geerdes
 - 4. Northwest Conference, Pastor Gayle Pope
 - 5. Southern Conference, Pastor David Eidson
 - 6. West Central Conference, Pastor Ken Tegtmeier, Dean pro-tem

Committee Reports (yellow attachment)

- 1. New and Renewing Congregations Committee
- 2. Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy Committee
- 3. Mission Support and Stewardship Education Committee
- 4. Global Mission Committee
- 5. Professional and Lay Leadership Committee
 - a. Synodically Authorized Ministry Subcommittee
 - b. Candidacy Subcommittee
 - c. Leadership Support Subcommittee

Finance Committee Report – Chairman Vernon Veal

Old Business

- A. Follow-up on congregations disbanded
 - a. Union, Gila
No new action
 - b. Christ, Harrisburg
God's grace has filled the closing events of Christ, Harrisburg. The check for \$157,079.67 has been delivered to the synod office.

New Business

- A. Appointment of Pastor Elyse Nelson Winger to Lutheran Social Service of Illinois Board of Directors.

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC12.06.06 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that Pastor Elyse Nelson Winger be appointed to Lutheran Social Service of Illinois Board of Directors.

- B. Interim Director of Evangelical Mission (DEM)

VOTED: Motion carried

SC12.06.07 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that Pastor Jean DeVoll Donaldson be employed as interim Director of Evangelical Mission (DEM) through the summer of 2012.

- C. Update on Congregational Voted to Disaffiliate from the ELCA

The Lutheran Church of Mahomet called for a congregational meeting on May 20, 2012 for the second vote to dissolve LCM's relationship with the ELCA. The vote did not pass. The congregation had decided previously that if the second vote did not pass, the congregation would not take another vote for five years.

Other Business

Vice President Rapp thanked out going council member for their faithful service to the synod:

- Pastor Priscilla Geerdes, Northeast Conference Dean (one three-year term)
- Pastor Gayle Pope, Northwest Conference Dean (two three-year terms)
- Pastor Ken Tegtmeier, West Central Conference Dean, pro-tem (one year)
- Mr. Vernon Veal (two three-year terms)
- Ms. Diane Maertens (one three-year term, standing for re-election)
- Ms. Mary Anderson (two three-year terms)
- Ms. Connie Frankenfeld (one two-year fill-in term, awaiting re-appointment)

Adjournment

Having concluded business, Vice President Rapp declared the meeting adjourned.

Prayer

Muriel Paul closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Muriel Paul
Secretary Pro-tem