

# SYNOD COUNCIL MINUTES

Central/Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA  
Saturday, March 16, 2013

The Synod Council of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod (“C/SIS” or “synod”) met at the Synod Office in Springfield, Illinois, on March 16, 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. Terry Goff
Pastor Patricia Heath	Pastor John Rothfusz	Mr. Henry Harms
Mr. Lyle Hallock	Pastor John Setterlund	Mr. Jerry James
	Pastor Mike Thomas	Ms. Diane Maertens
		Mr. Michael Mason
		Ms. Tiana Montgomery
		Mr. Steven Rapp

## Absent:

Ms. Martie Eyer	Ms. Muriel Paul
Ms. Connie Frankenfeld	Pastor Glen VanderKloot

## Staff Present:

Pastor Robert Dealey, DEM	Pastor James Reents	Ms. Cindy Koonce
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## Also present:

Ms. Carol Maertens

Vice President Rapp called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

## DEVOTIONS

Pastor Patty Heath offered devotions based on Romans 11 and being surprised by grace.

## WELCOME

Vice President Rapp welcomed council members and shared announcements.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**VOTED:** Motion carried.

SC13.03.01 Moved and seconded to approve the Revised Synod Council Agenda.

## BISHOPS’S REPORT

### Congregational Visits

The assistants to the bishop and I continue to make Sunday morning visits to congregations of the synod regularly. You will recall that each quarter-time assistant to the bishop position calls for such visits a minimum of eleven Sundays per year.

### Portico Health Assessment

For the past few years, Portico Benefit Services (previously named the ELCA Board of Pensions) has asked all participating members to take the Mayo Clinic Health Assessment. This attention to wellness is now industry-wide, and not unique to Portico Benefit Services and Blue Cross/Blue Shield, with whom we work. As an incentive to completing the health assessment, extra dollars are available to all ELCA-Primary health coverage participants who fill out the assessment (\$150 per person), and a 2% discount on medical/dental premiums is given for a year to each congregation of any synod in which at least 65% of that synod’s Primary health coverage participants took the Mayo Clinic Health Assessment. In addition, the synod itself receives a monetary bonus if the 65% participation threshold is met in that synod. The unpleasant truth is that our congregations have never received the discount because our participation has never reached the 65% threshold. The synod office has encouraged pastors via e-mail and announcements at conference gatherings;

but at this point the encouragement appears not to be bearing fruit. What can we do?

### **Synod Assembly 2014**

Please be aware that due to rising costs at the Crowne Plaza, we are intently seeking and evaluating other venues for the Synod Assembly.

### **First Call Assignments, Spring 2013**

Twice a year, ELCA Regional Coordinators and two bishops from each Region gather at the Lutheran Center to assign every candidate entering rostered ministry in the ELCA to a Region. (Candidates are assigned to a Region at this meeting; candidates are assigned about two weeks later to a specific synod by the bishops of the synods in that Region.) I went to the spring 2013 regional assignment meeting, February 19-20, as one of the bishops acting on behalf of Region 5, which is comprised of the 12 synods of Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. What an enlightening experience it was!

I think that it would be good for more people around the synod to have some sense of what goes into the regional assignment process in general. Here are the basic elements.

- Bishops estimate the number of openings their synod has for first call candidates, specifically, ministry settings at which a candidate can interview within three months and be called within six months.
- Bishops have access to the Rostered Leader Profiles of all of the candidates and may list as many candidates as they choose, in order of preference. This list, along with the number of openings, is submitted to the bishops who are acting for the Region in the assignment process.
- ELCA Church-wide staff totals the Regions' numbers of the requests for candidates (i.e. first call openings) and compares that total of openings with the total number of candidates available, then assigning each Region an allotment. This spring, there were 220 requests □ (openings) and 139 candidates seeking assignment; Region 5 requested 37 candidates and was allotted 23 candidates.
- Regional representatives come to the assignment meeting with the number of openings and the candidate preferences of all of the bishops in their Region. Regional representatives do their best to accommodate all of the synods in their Region. Names and requests go around the room many times. Eventually, every candidate is assigned to a Region; but it is not necessarily the case that every Region receives its allotted number of candidates.

### **Call Processes**

The assistants to the bishop and I spend a significant amount of time and energy assisting congregations with pastoral vacancies and call processes. There are currently nine congregations seeking a full-time pastor (including Prince of Peace, Mt. Vernon, which whom we have entered into a 3-year Mission Partnership Agreement). I have made nominations to four of them; four others have completed their preliminary work and are ready to receive nominations.

### **Follow-up on Synod Council conversation (January 2013) on Implications of Illinois Civil Union Law on ELCA Pastors**

Let me clarify what was and what was not the matter that I sought to lift up to the Synod Council in my Bishop's Report. The matter was not whether civil unions of same-gender couples are appropriate or inappropriate, moral or immoral, to be applauded by ELCA pastors or to be lamented by ELCA pastors. In other words, my interest was not to survey opinions on Civil Union Law. That matter was finding an appropriate framework for pastoral practice in our Illinois context, based on 1) adherence to the ELCA social statement "Human Sexuality, Gift and Trust" (adopted by the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly), 2) an ELCA pastor's responsibility to the whole of the ELCA and responsibility for the unity of the ELCA, and 3) an ELCA pastor's special relationship with a particular Christian community as a result of the pastor's call from that community.

When the ELCA pastor is called by an ELCA congregation, this congregation is the Christian community, called for in the social statement, to discern policies and practices that would provide appropriate pastoral care for same-gender couples in that community's context. When the ELCA pastor has a call to a non-congregational setting, particularly a call to special service issued by the Synod Council, identifying the Christian community where this discernment can suitably take place is not simple; it should rightly be a community that, like an ELCA congregation and an ELCA pastor, draws guidance from ELCA social statements, has a responsibility to the whole of the ELCA and for the unity of the ELCA, and functions with this pastor as the community's pastor.

In my view, we need more conversation about this matter. I believe, also, that the basic issues for ELCA pastors and congregations arising from Civil Union Law will be the same for us if the state of Illinois legalizes

same-sex marriage.

**Public events from my calendar (up to the June 6, 2013, Synod Council Meeting):**

March 17	East Central Conference Assembly
March 19	LSSI Board of Directors
March 23	Worship at American, Bourbonnais
March 24	Install Pastor Emily Horrell (American, Bourbonnais)
March 27	Preach at 175 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Zion, Mt. Carmel
April 6	Preach at St. Matthew, Urbana
April 7	Preach at St. Matthew, Urbana
April 14	Northern Conference Assembly
April 15-16	First Call Theological Education (Toluca)
April 23	East Central Conference Bishop's Colloquy
May 7	Northwest Conference Assembly
May 8	Lutheran Day at the Illinois State Capitol
May 19	Preach at St. Peter, Glasford
May 21	LSSI Board of Directors Executive Committee

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

1. Pastor Wayland Middendorf

Social Ministry, Justice, and Advocacy is receiving grant applications at the present time. The committee held a conference call February 7, 2013 at 7 p.m. to update members on grant applications and how much is available for the committee to issue. The committee will meet in the synod office at 10 a.m. April 20, 2013 to review the applications and begin approving grants for the coming year. We are also offering one time stipends for special ministries. In order to better define our mission and call we will also begin a conversation that will help the committee focus on why we exist and what are some areas of ministry we as a committee can become more involved in beyond issuing grants. The hope is that we can expand our mission and ministry to include areas we can actively promote and become involved.

The Synodically Authorized Ministry Subcommittee met in the synod office, February 2, 2013 at 10 a.m. One area of concern discussed involved finding a replacement for Jeff Storm, the Education Coordinator. An e-mail was sent to all current S.A.M.'s and we have someone who is interested. I will contact the person and discuss what is expected and required of the Education Coordinator. Until a replacement is found I continue to provide the needed information and guidance, with the help of the Rev. Dr. Michael Hoy, to insure the program continues and the quality of education does not suffer. The spring course information and registration material has been sent to all who are in the program and those who have expressed an interest. Several members of the subcommittee expressed that they would like to see S.A.M.'s receive a blanket authorization for a year at a time. However, that presents additional concerns. As a result, the present method of authorizing on a case by case basis will continue. Our next subcommittee meeting will be April 14, 2013 at 10 a.m. in the synod office.

The Global Mission Committee met by conference call January 26, 2013 to discuss our planned trip to Madagascar in 2014. Our hope is to keep the cost at \$6,000 per person. We intend to invite two people from each conference along with Bishop Roth and his wife. We also discussed our plan to provide Bibles for the homes in our companion synods in Madagascar. Currently, we are having difficulty getting a price and a source for Bibles in the Malagasy Language. We still hope to provide the Bibles, but it may take longer than anticipated to accomplish the program. Our next meeting will be a conference call March 9, 2013.

I continue to visit congregations on Sunday mornings for worship and Bible Study. I also attend conference events when possible.

2. Pastor Ron Moorman

The majority of my time since the last report has been spent on identifying possible candidates for congregations who are currently in the Call Process. At this point there are seven congregations seeking a full time pastor and with each congregation receiving a list of three names that means we need to identify a minimum of twenty-one possible candidates. That follows the recent

completion of providing three names to four other congregations currently in the selection process. There is also time spent in looking for possible candidates for congregations which are currently seeking to find part-time pastoral coverage---positions for which the options are not very plentiful. All that said, it certainly has proven to be a very active process. We have had good success thus far, but one thing is for sure, it is constant. In addition to the identification process, as you know, I also have been meeting with congregations as they begin the actual call process to go over with them the Mission and Ministry study process, answering any questions they may have, checking on their progress, serving as a resource as they work their way through the process. I have also been trying to meet with these congregations shortly before they begin the actual interviewing process, to go over with them the steps in the process, the format of the process—to insure that each of the three candidates are treated in a uniform and consistent manner.

I also relate to the Synod's Candidacy Subcommittee. This subcommittee, under the able leadership of Pastor Elaine Olson, relates to the various candidates who are currently seeking rostered standing in the ELCA. This is an excellent, hardworking committee which is seeking to provide oversight to the candidacy process and well as support for the individual candidates. Since the last Council meeting, the subcommittee held a day-long training session aimed at familiarizing all members—new and old—with the details of the candidacy process-particularly the techniques for interviewing at the various stages in the process—the Initial Interview, the Entrance Interview, the Endorsement Interview, and the Approval Interview. This training was conducted by long-standing committee member (now retired), Pastor Greg Busboom and Pastor Elaine Olson, the current chair, and provided a wealth of information useful to both current and new members of the committee. The subcommittee has been working diligently to strengthen the relationship between the synod and the individuals currently involved in the various stages of the candidacy process. We will continue to look for ways in which the candidates will be both recognized and supported by all segments of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod both in prayer and in hands-on activities.

On February 24, 2013 I participated in the official beginning of the internship process for Patrick Monroe, who has currently been serving the synod as a Diaconal Minister. Patrick has decided to take the necessary steps to become a rostered pastor in the ELCA. Earlier in his life Patrick had successfully completed the educational components of the rostering process but had not completed an Internship. To that end he has formally entered into an Internship Year utilizing his current pastoral setting(s) at Zion, Liberty and Salem, Mendon and operating under the supervision of Pastor Gayle Pope as well as the Internship Committee organized between these two congregations. This formal process includes regular reporting to the synod on all aspects of the intern process. We congratulate Patrick on this step and urge your prayers for him in the weeks and months to come.

### 3. Pastor Jim Reents

In this Lenten Season “Let us look to Jesus as the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame.” (Hebrews 12:2)

I have finished visiting the Pastors in the Northern & Northeast Conferences. I am now visiting the congregations on Sunday morning. I bring greetings from Bishop Roth and the CSIS. My goal is to get to know the congregations better and for them to get acquainted with me. Many people aren't acquainted with the mission of the synod. I enjoy visiting the congregations, and I believe we are building relationships of trust.

I preached in the following congregations:

January 6	Immanuel, Minonk & Bethany, Wenona
January 13	Trinity, Canton
January 20	St. Paul's, Forrest
January 27	American, Gibson City
February 17	St. Peter's, Dwight
February 24	Salem, Peoria
March 3	Community, Cornell & Trinity LC, Chenoa
March 16 & 17	Resurrection, Bloomington

I have also attended text studies and the Northern & Northeast Pastor Conference Meetings. March 7-10, 2013 I'll represent the synod at a Gathering of Bishop's Assistants & Associates in San Antonio, Texas, sponsored by the ELCA under the theme, "Go, therefore...But How? Finding our way in a new Missional Landscape." Thank you for this opportunity. The Leadership Subcommittee considered issues such as salaries, parental leave, Sabbaticals, and mentoring new pastors at our meeting on January 12, 2013. I am taking computer classes at Heartland Community College to build my knowledge and confidence in the use of computers.

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- A. Director of Evangelical Mission, Pastor Robert Dealey  
Pastor Dealey introduced to Synod Council.
- B. Constitution Committee  
Committee members have been reviewing enacted synod legislation to bring all synod-level governing documents into alignment.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

- VOTED:** Motion carried.
- SC13.03.02 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council the approval of the Minutes of the Synod Council, Saturday, January 19, 2013.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- A. Update
- VOTED:** Motion carried.
- SC13.03.03 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that the Treasurer's Report be accepted for filing as presented.

Received for filing:

Central/Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA, Key Financial Statistics, As of January 31, 2012[sic]; Congregational Benevolence Comparisons, As of January 31, 2013; Central/Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA, Designated Giving, as of January, 2013; Central/Southern IL Synod, ELCA, Analysis of Revenues & Expenses – Detail, January 2013; Central/Southern, ELCA, Balance Sheet, January 2013; Central/Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA, Restricted and Designated Fund Balances, January, 2013.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- VOTED:** Motion carried.
- SC13.03.04 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council the approval of the Consent Agenda.
- A. Approval of On Leave From Call Status
    - 1. Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner, Year 1, effective April 1, 2013
    - 2. Pastor Mary Armstrong-Reiner, Year 1, effective April 1, 2013
    - 3. Ms. Diane Runyan, DM, Year 2, effective May 15, 2013
  - B. Approval of Retirement Status
    - 1. Pastor Paul "Ed" Rowley, effective April 1, 2013
  - C. Roster Changes
    - 1. Pastor Krista Stokke, transfer received from Southeastern Minnesota Synod, installed January 27 at St. James Lutheran Church, Vandalia and Zion Lutheran Church, Loogootee
    - 2. Pastor Jennifer Hartweg-Brown, removed from On-Leave-From-Call status, installed February 17 at Grace Lutheran Church, Rankin
    - 3. Pastor Viktoria Halmagyi Parvin transferred to the Virginia Synod

4. Pastor Robert Dealey, transfer received from Northern Illinois Synod
  5. Pastor Emily Horrell, transfer received from Northeastern Iowa Synod, accepted call to American Lutheran Church, Bourbonnais
  6. Pastor Heather MacIver Arnold, transfer received from Eastern North Dakota, accepted non-stipendiary call to First English Lutheran Church, Peoria
- D. Conference Reports (*written reports 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

1. New and Renewing Congregations Committee  
Pastor Ed Hudelson, *committee member*  
Five people have completed training in transformational ministry and are able to assist others with training in this area. Pastor Dealey is now in the synod as the Director of Evangelical Mission.
2. Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy Committee  
Ms. Diane Maertens, *Synod Council Liaison*  
Committee held a conference call on February 7, 2013 to review the grant applications received. Its next meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2013. The committee continues to review its role and do visioning.
3. Mission Support and Stewardship Education Committee  
Mr. Steve Rapp, *Synod Council Liaison*  
Committee has not met since January Synod Council meeting.
4. Global Mission Committee (*written report received*)  
Pastor John Setterlund, *Synod Council Liaison*  
Committee held a conference call meeting on March 9, 2013. A trip to Madagascar is planned for the fall of 2014. It is hoped that two people from each conference, at their own expense, will be able to participate in the trip, together with the bishop and spouse. A brochure will be put together regarding the planned trip and will be available at the 2013 C/SIS Synod Assembly. Cost is estimated to be approximately \$5,000 - \$6,000 per person.
5. Professional and Lay Leadership Committee
  - Synodically Authorized Ministry Subcommittee  
Pastor Ed Hudelson, *Synod Council Liaison*  
Subcommittee has met and discussed replacement of former members, use of the SAMs guidelines and upcoming classes
  - Candidacy Subcommittee  
No report.
  - Leadership Support Subcommittee  
Mr. Jerry James, *Synod Council Liaison*  
Subcommittee has not met since January Synod Council meeting.

**VOTED:** Motion carried.

SC13.03.05 Moved and seconded that Synod Council approve the Guidelines for Compensation of Rostered Leaders for 2014, with the suggested increase in the monetary compensation category not to exceed 2%.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

A. 2014 Proposed Budget

**VOTED:** Motion carried.

SC13.03.06 Moved and seconded that Synod Council recommend the 2014 proposed budget as submitted by the Finance Committee for presentation at the 2013 C/SIS Synod Assembly.

**OLD BUSINESS**

A. Follow-up on congregations disbanded

1. Union, Gila

Discussions continue between C/SIS Treasurer Lyle Hallock and members of this former congregation. Concerns raised regarding legal ownership of real property and liability.

2. Trinity, Alton

Disposition of the real property remains in the hands of two congregational officers who have authority to act on behalf of the congregation. No productive offers have been received.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Synod Assembly update, June 6-7-8, 2013

The 2013 C/SIS Synod Assembly will have two separate times for people to attend forums. While some forums will be offered at both times, others will be offered only once. Electronic voting devices will be used for the 2013 C/SIS Synod Assembly. The Assembly speaker will be Pastor Susan Briebl, and the banquet speaker will be Robert Sampson.

B. Approval of 2013 Synod Assembly Rules and Procedures

**VOTED:** Motion carried.

SC13.03.07 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council the approval of the 2013 Synod Assembly Rules and Procedures as amended.

Amended:

**Voting Procedures**

VOTING ~~Elections~~ will be by written ballot, electronic voting, VOICE, or by show of voting ...

C. Appointment of Parliamentarian for 2013 Synod Assembly

**VOTED:** Motion carried.

SC13.03.08 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that Mr. Daniel Simmons be appointed as the parliamentarian for the 2013 C/SIS Synod Assembly.

D. Appointment of Nominating Committee for 2013 C/SIS Synod Assembly

**VOTED:** Motion carried.

SC13.03.09 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that Ms. Cindi Eidson (chair), Pastor James Davis, Mr. Bob Mueller, Ms. Sue McLennan, Mr. Brian Days, and Mr. Ken Bergo be appointed as the Nominating Committee for the 2013 C/SIS Synod Assembly.

E. Appointment of Reference and Counsel for 2013 Synod Assembly

**VOTED:** Motion carried.

SC13.03.10 Executive Committee recommend to Synod Council the appointment of Pastor Robert Rasmus (chair), Ms. Debbie Peterson, Ms. Lynne Culkin, Ms. Carol Ladwig, Pastor Tony

Metz, Mr. Mike Mason, and Pastor Ben Fiore as the Reference and Counsel Committee for the 2013 C/SIS Synod Assembly.

- F. Nomination of Young Adult for Synod Council Election at the 2013 C/SIS Synod Assembly

**VOTED:** Motion carried.

SC13.03.11 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that the name of Katlyn Brown (First English, Peoria) be placed in nomination at the 2013 C/SIS Synod Assembly for the young adult opening on Synod Council.

**VOTED:** Motion carried.

SC13.03.12 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that the name of Mathew Spencer (St. Petri, Flanagan) be placed in nomination at the 2013 C/SIS Synod Assembly for the young adult opening on Synod Council subject to his agreement to that nomination. Should he decline the nomination, that Executive Committee be empowered to place an alternative name in nomination.

- G. Appoints to Covenant and Program Committees

**VOTED:** Chair declared motion carried.

SC13.03.13 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that the document entitled *Synod Council Appointments/Nomination, March 16, 2013*, be the framework for making the selections and nominations as specified in that document and that those persons therein named be appointed.

**VOTED:** Motion carried.

SC13.03.14 Moved and seconded that members of Synod Council take the document entitled *Synod Council Appointments/Nomination, March 16, 2013*, and the remaining appointments back to their conferences to secure additional names to fill the appointments, and submit those names to the Synod Office by the end of May 2013, so that those names can be voted upon at June 2013 Synod Council meeting.

- H. Approval of Used Book Sale/Pastor Wendy Popp at 2013 C/SIS Synod Assembly

**VOTED:** Motion carried.

SC13.03.15 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that Pastor Wendy Popp be approved to host a used book sale at the 2013 C/SIS Synod Assembly.

- I. Approval for Sale of Items from Mr. Thomas Hocker of Tree of Life Imports at 2013 Synod Assembly

**VOTED:** Motion carried.

SC13.03.16 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that Thomas Hocker be approved to offer Tree of Life Imports for sale at the 2013 C/SIS Synod Assembly.

- J. Approval for Sale of Fair Trade Items, Ms. Pat Caley, AiM, to provide oversight at 2013 Synod Assembly

**VOTED:** Motion carried.

SC13.03.17 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that it approve the sale of fair trade items at the 2013 C/SIS Synod Assembly with Ms. Pat Caley to oversee operations.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Synod Council Materials Distribution (on-line/US mail)

A request has been made by a member of Synod Council that all Synod Council materials be provided to Synod Council members through a secured, on line location rather than through the U.S. Mail or by email.

**VOTED: Motion carried.**

SC13.03.18 Moved and seconded that Synod Council materials be distributed electronically unless a member of Synod Council specifically requests to have hard copies provided, beginning with the June 2013 Synod Council meeting.

Further discussions have been held with a representative from Church Mutual regarding the updating of synod insurance coverage. Based on actions by the Synod Council, many items are now in place to facilitate the securing of the requested coverage with any additional requirements to be addressed administratively.

Chiara Center, a Franciscan-operated retreat and conference center in Springfield, will be the location of the September 2013 Synod Council meeting. Overnight accommodations will also be at the center.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None needed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**VOTED:** Motion carried.

SC13.03.19 Moved and seconded to adjourn.

Having concluded business, Vice President Rapp declared the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

**PRAYER**

Pastor Patty Heath closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Patty Heath  
Secretary