

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD COUNCIL
SYNOD OFFICE
DENVER, COLORADO
March 11, 2011**

Members present:

Bishop Allan Bjornberg	Dave Cruson (video)
Vice President Linda Bobbitt	Peggy Fetchenhier (video)
Secretary Katherine Cruson	Miguel Hernandez (video)
Kathy Armstrong	Dana Peterson (video)
Sue Brandt	Linda Schlitt (video)
Doug Cook	Harold Stitt

Members absent: Chuck Exley, Ashley Johnson, Dennis Reynolds
Synod staff members present: Dan Bollman, Jim Hytjan, Kent Mueller
Synod staff members absent: Madelyn Busse, Linda Staats
Guests: none

Opening Prayer at 10:20am by Kathy Armstrong.
Linda Bobbitt presented five items on the agenda.

1. Black Forest Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO, on February 27, 2011, voted 191-9 to leave the ELCA.
 - a. Letter from Boulder-Broomfield conference regarding the handling of the clergy misconduct charge: Bishop Bjornberg responded to Boulder-Broomfield conference via the conference dean: Bishop accepted the admonition.
 - b. Congregation request to leave the ELCA.

MOTION:

SC2011.03.01. To allow Black Forest Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO, to leave the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Approved.

Bishop Bjornberg will write a letter to Black Forest Congregation Council that the Congregation Council leadership has a fiduciary responsibility to do full and continuing disclosure to their insurance company, the National Association of Lutheran Churches (NALC), parents of children, new members, etc. With this letter Rocky Mountain Synod would do a service to the victim as well as to others who need to know of the allegation. Bishop will continue to counsel with the victim. Kathy Armstrong read an email sent to Sue Brandt and Kathy from the Boulder-Broomfield conference. A copy of the Bishop's letter will go to Boulder-Broomfield conference as well as to Synod Council members. The conference could write a letter to NALC regarding the misconduct.

2. MOTION:

SC2011.03.02. To appoint Jerry Ethridge, Los Alamos NM as a voting member to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. Approved.

3. Bishop gave an update on the nominations for Synod Secretary, Synod Council, board and committee positions to be elected at 2011 Synod Assembly. Linda mentioned that it would be helpful for Synod Council nominees to have legal expertise and human resources expertise. Contact Janice Ladd-Horkey, Linda Bobbitt, or Bishop Bjornberg with nominations by March 16th.
4. Korean Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO has requested to be placed under synodical administration. The congregation desires to transfer the deed to their property back to Mission Investment Fund of ELCA, which provided the loan for their building. The steps necessary are outlined in an email from Enrique Rojas, Loan Administrator of the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA, to Jim Hytjan, dated March 8, 2011.

MOTION:

SC2011.03.03. To place Korean Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO under synodical administration. Approved.

MOTION:

SC2011.03.04. To approve the request of Korean Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO to transfer the deed to their property back to Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA. Synod Council has no intention of keeping the property and would support the transfer of the asset back to Mission Investment Fund, as the Synod is not in a position to maintain payments of this property until either the synod determines another ministry for this property or chooses to sell such property. Approved.

5. Updates on subcommittees
 - a. Fifth and Bannock property, Harold Stitt: Pr. Straub of ELCA will meet with Four Winds to resolve issues between Four Winds and Rocky Mountain Synod. House for All Sinners and Saints will not be part of the discussion at this time.
 - b. God's Work, Our Hands project, Kathy Armstrong: 2 videos are completed as are 1 Bible study and 1 devotion. Kari Reiquam will write all 3 devotions.
 - c. Macedonia Project: RMS requested \$15,000, has been granted \$12,000. This will help fund 2 more videos, as well as other stewardship projects. They hope to have one more video, waiting for a grant to be written.
 - d. Ministry teams leaders: Ruth Ann Loughery, Ron Roschke, Carol McDivitt, Kent, Linda Bobbitt. Ministries at Synod Assembly will be color coded by Oversight, Catalyst, or Self-Organizing. The goal is to encourage people to view the synod as more than the Office of the Bishop – it can also be a direct connection between people. Linda Bobbitt wants to gather the ministry team leaders before assembly.

Linda Bobbitt expressed thanks to all for participating today.
Closing Prayer by Doug Cook using Psalm 51:1-15.

The meeting adjourned at 11:44am.

Katherine Cruson, Secretary

Question of the day: How many Lutherans does it take to make a conference call?