

**MINUTES OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 2, 2019**

Present: Bishop Gonia, VP Earline Bohling, Jody Brammer-Hoelter, Dennis Reynolds, Diana Biggs, Todd Herreid, Rev. Terry Schjang, Ray Ferry, Susan Mitchell, Debra Dew, Rev. Dave Palma-Ruwe, Rev. Julie Brooks, Terry Cole, Jeff Fairfax, Terry Cole, Rev. Sara Wirth, Rev. Reba Kiger-Kolash, Amelia Decker, Jay Voth,

Absent: Rev. Matthew Weber, Bunga Manurung

Guests: Rev. Kim Gonia, Deniese Estrada, Rev. Kent Mueller, Rev. Matt Barnhouse, Janice Ladd-Horkey, Rev. Leslie Welton, Rev. Kristin Schultz, Ruth Hoffman, Tina Kvittek, Rev. Michael Tassler, Evan Moilan

The meeting opened at 4:00 p.m. with devotions led by Susan Mitchell and Terry Cole.

Two items were added to the consent agenda:

Levi Powers as member of the Campus Ministry Board

Treasurer's Report

Leadership Development

Rev. Kim Gonia and
Rev. Kristin Schultz

We explored the concept of *Vulnerability* per the work of Brene Brown:

Excellence in Leadership is a 2 year program for rostered and lay leaders, focused on building courageous, resilient and faithful leadership and communities. It is grounded in 5 key theories: emotional intelligence, family systems, adaptive change, transformational leadership, and Brown's work on vulnerability and shame

ACT4RMS

Rev. Barbara Berry Bailey
and Rev. Paula Strecker

ACT4RMS is contemplating a name change: ACT for Beloved Community.

Discussion of implicit bias. Implicit biases are not accessible through introspection. They must be addressed in community. The team recommends reading Subliminal by Leonard Mlodinow. They also suggested we (individually) undertake the IAT on-line instrument to identify our own implicit biases.

Motion was made by Todd Herreid and seconded by Dennis Reynolds to move to Executive Session. The motion passed.

Motion was made by Todd Herreid and seconded by Reba to leave Executive Session.

3E Grant proposal

Rev. Michael Tassler

Pr. Tassler gave a report about the Lily Foundation Grants. (see written report)

We are in the last half of the final year of the current 3 year grant. All of the money from the MEF (\$290,000) has been distributed. Gifts received exceeded our matching requirement, so emergency grants of \$1,000 are being made available.

28 congregations have joined the latest cohort for SAS. The increase in pledged giving among the 2nd cohort was \$2mm total, for 24 congregations.

A team is designing a second grant request. The request is due August 16, 2019. They will be applying for a 'scaling grant', of \$1mm, yoked with the North Carolina Synod. Rocky Mountain Synod will share its half of the grant with the Grand Canyon Synod: \$350,000 for RMS and \$150,000 for GCS. In this grant cycle, we need to match each dollar of grant money.

3 grant pillars have been identified: Ministerial Excellence Fund; Stewardship for All Seasons, as a 3-year program; and Vital Right-Sized Ministry.

The question was raised about including non-rostered ministry professionals as potential recipients of individual grants. Pr. Tassler indicated that a) Lily Foundation typically limits the grants to 'pastors'; and b) a task force has been suggested to look at this issue, but has not been formed. This is part of the Strategic Plan 2.0. The ELCA lacks a mechanism to oversee and support lay professionals. Currently, the relationship is between the professional and the congregation served.

Questions about Strategic Plan 2.0

Bishop Gonia, Earline Bohling

The current iteration was distributed. The goals under each Ministry Result Area are still being refined. Discussion is postponed until Friday.

Feasibility Study/Campaign Conversation/Planning

Evan Moilan

The report from the study done by Gronlund Sayther Brunkow was distributed. They are recommending a direct-donor campaign to raise \$600,000. Some of that money would be used to support our portion of the Lily Grant. Bishop Gonia proposes a team meet over the summer to identify likely members of the steering committee. He is asking Pr. Kent, Deacon Erin, Tina Kvitek, Susan Mitchell and Todd Herreid. All have agreed to participate.

SC 05.19.01 Motion was made by Dave Palma-Ruwe and seconded by Diana Biggs to confirm these individuals as the Planning Task Force. The motion passed.

Debra suggested we limit the initial campaign to the \$350,000 needed to support 3E, as that program has a record of success. Our needs for Messiah Mountain are still unknown.

Tina thinks that we should provide options to donors, as some will want to support programs/projects other than 3E.

Financial Policy

Dennis Reynolds

A Finance Committee was formed about a year ago. They have developed Draft Financial Policies, which they ask us to review prior to the Fall Synod Council meeting. S.11.08.A.10 will need to be changed, as it names the Executive Committee as the Finance Committee.

Roll of Council and Staff in Opening Worship

Bishop Gonia

Synod Council, as a group, will be offering the petition in the Confession about the Doctrine of Discovery.

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING MAY 3, 2019

Present: Bishop Gonia, VP Earline Bohling, Jody Brammer-Hoelter, Dennis Reynolds, Diana Biggs, Todd Herreid, Rev. Terry Schjang, Ray Ferry, Susan Mitchell, Debra Dew, Rev. Dave Palma-Ruwe, Rev. Julie Brooks, Terry Cole, Jeff Fairfax, Terry Cole, Rev. Sara Wirth, Rev. Reba Kiger-Kolash, Amelia Decker, Jay Voth,

Absent: Rev. Matthew Weber, Bunga Manurung

Guests: Rev. Kent Mueller, Rev. Matt Barnhouse, Janice Ladd-Horkey, Ruth Hoffman, Rev. Tim Orłowski, Mary Campbell, Rev. Sarah Moening

The meeting opened at 9:00 a.m. with devotions led by Susan Mitchell and Terry Cole.

SC 05.19.02 A motion was made by Dennis Reynolds and seconded by Debra Dew to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Gonia

The Conference of Bishops met in early March and endorsed a draft of "Trustworthy Servants of the People of God", which is intended to replace "Vision and Expectations", a document addressing the expectations for rostered leaders. "Vision and Expectations" had been used, in the past, to constrain LGBT people.

"Trustworthy Servants" was made available to rostered leaders for review. The ELCA Council did not adopt the document at its last meeting, and it was sent back for further comment and conversation.

Presiding Bishop Eaton attended the rostered leader conference for the Wyoming Conference.

Bishop spent a day with Border Servant Corps, as a runner. He commends the congregations and agencies engaged in hospitality at the border. Anunciation House in El Paso has established a site that can house up to 1500 people, rather than people be dispersed at hotels. Lutheran Disaster Response is being encouraged to invest in a similar effort by Border Servant Corps.

Bishop Gonia, Ruth Hoffman and Peter Severson attended the national Advocacy conference in Washington D.C. The focus was on 'Care of Creation.' Climate change has passed the point where it can be stopped. Efforts now need to be on helping people who are affected by the major events (disasters and migration) caused by climate change, as well as limiting our contributions to the causation factors.

Bishop Gonia's sabbatical will begin May 6, 2019. His focus will be on re-engaging with contemplative practices. Bishop Mark Holmrud will be our supporting Bishop. Matters of Rostered leaders go to Kent Mueller; congregational matters will go to Pr. Sarah Moening.

SC 05.19.03 Motion was made by Bishop Gonia and seconded by Terry Cole to appoint Rev. Kent Mueller as Acting Bishop during Jim Gonia's sabbatical. The motion passed.

Financial Update

Dennis Reynolds

SC 05.19.04 Motion was made by Dennis Reynolds and seconded by Ray Ferry to approve the revised 2019 revised budget and the 2020 proposed budget. The motion passed.

There is a CD in the amount of \$102,000 with Mission Investment Fund coming due May 6, 2019. The Finance Committee has recommended that this money be moved to the ELCA Foundation, as it is intended to be long-term investment.

SC 05.19.05 Motion was made by D3nnis Reynolds and seconded by Susan Mitchell to move the funds to the ELCA Foundation pooled fund A. The motion passed.

Messiah Mountain

Jeff Fairfax

The property will be signed over on September 8, 2019, God's Work Our Hands Sunday. Members will be invited to celebrate at Messiah Mountain and help with work. (Thrivent action teams can be gathered). A septic inspection still needs to be done. Jen and Matt have been asked to stay as caretakers, but compensation has not been determined. Messiah Community Church will be paying for the feasibility study and may transfer some of their reserve funds as a way to help pay for a new furnace and water heater.

Bishop Jim noted that Rev. Kent Mueller has agreed to coordinate the final actions over the summer. Jen will be involved in developing partnerships. Messiah Community Church is being asked to provide funds to compensate them. Our task is to plan for the next steps; both outdoor ministries are engaged in conversation about the ultimate vision.

Debra asked if an assessment will be done. Dennis responded that an environmental assessment and title search have been done. The county has assessed the property at \$680,000. Jeff reported that the home inspection revealed a number of issues, including roof damage. That will likely be covered by insurance. He has estimates for other repairs. Septic system repairs will cost between \$500 and \$1,000.

Strategic Plan 2.0

Discussion about how to increase awareness of climate change effects and actions. Kent recommended Interfaith Power and Light, with sites for each state.

ELCA has joined with Blessed Tomorrow, an interfaith group working with these issues.

Amelia Decker noted that about 70% of the carbon emissions released comes from 10 SC

Congregational Ministries Board/Part-time Ministry

Rev. Tim Orlowski

Rev. Orlowski, Chair of the Congregational Ministries Board, presented an updated Continuing Resolution: S11.08.G19 (replacing CR S11.08.G87)

The CMB has 3 main foci:

Lay Leadership

Curating and developing resources/materials available to congregations

Developing guidelines/recommendations for congregations addressing particular issues, e.g. severance guidelines

SC 05.19.06 Motion was made by Jay Voth and seconded by Jeff Fairfax to adopt CR S11.08.G19. The motion passed.

Part-time Ministry

A steering team has been formed under the CMB to address how to appropriately support and resource those in part-time ministry. Rev. Orłowski presented Part-Time Ministry Guidelines developed by the CMB and steering team for our review.

SC 05.19.07 Motion was made by Diana Biggs and seconded by Julie Brooks to adopt the Part-time Ministry Guidelines. Discussion about distribution of the guidelines. **The motion passed.**

A small grant of \$10,000 is available from the Lily Foundation to support our work on part-time ministry resources. There are 3 components:

- EIL
- Coaching
- Creating videos about part-time ministries in various settings

Packard Brown is working with people in part-time ministries to help them develop vocational options that are aligned with their skills and passion.

Volunteers for Worship team for Fall meeting (October 25-26, 2019): Reba Kiger-Kolash and Jeff Fairfax

Churchwide Report

Mary Campbell,
Director AAMPARO Strategy

AAMPARO is now 3 years old. 70% of its budget is used in countries of origin, and for transit support, for refugees from Central America who have been deported from the U.S. Most refugees from El Salvador and Honduras, and now Guatemala, are fleeing violence. AAMPARO also works with advocacy groups in the countries of origin.

129 congregations in 36 synods have connected with AAMPARO. Engagement in RMS is largely through Lutheran Family Services.

Rev. Phil Hirsch, a former DEM, is now executive director of domestic mission.

Congregational vitality continues to be a challenge and focus. Over \$1 mm was contributed by for congregational vitality by people in the RMS last year.

Another major challenge/focus is racial justice.

ELCA has published a social policy statement regarding immigration, as well as the AAMPARO Strategy document.

Vice President Bohling presented a gift basket to Mary Campbell.

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.