Synod Council Meeting -- via WebEx

June 21, 2016

Present: VP Bohling, Bishop Gonia, Jody Brammer-Hoelter, Jerry Ethridge, Dennis Reynolds, Rev. Ron Bock, Rev. Larry Davis, Deb Elstad, Susan Mitchell, Terry Cole

Absent: Rev. Kathy Armstrong, Rev. Zach Parris, Hannah Purkey, Diana Biggs, Joan Jacobson, Rev. Dana Peterson, Betty Pepin

The meeting opened with prayer at 6:05.

Requests for Changes in Clergy Status

**SC2016.06.01 Motion was made and seconded to approve the following requests regarding status of rostered leaders:**

* **An Interim Call to Rev. Bev Piro to serve at Messiah Community Lutheran, beginning April 10, 2016**
* **On-leave from call status for Rev. Deb Enquist; Rev. Marty Lettow; and Rev. Kari Bahe (for a second year)**
* **Retirement status for Rev. Michael Lundgren, effective August 1, 2016**

 **The motion carried.**

Cristo Rey Bishop Gonia

In order to reclassify Cristo Rey as a SAWC (which would allow them to access some different funding streams), we must technically close the congregation and then reopen it as a SAWC. This could also close the predecessor congregation (American Lutheran Memorial) which still appears on the constitution for Cristo Rey. What is the Synod’s share of funding under the SAWC model?

The Council requests that Pr. Van Osdol attend the next Council meeting to address these questions.

Covenant between Abiding Hope and Christ the King, Denver Bishop Gonia

Abiding Hope has offered to accompany a congregation poised for redevelopment. Instead of a redevelopment pastor being called, the pastoral leadership at Abiding Hope will fill that role. Pr. Judith has been working on a draft agreement. Christ the King will each vote on July 17, 2016. If Christ the King approves the agreement, then it will come to Synod Council for approval.

Rejoice Lutheran, Erie, CO update Earline Bohling, Dennis Reynolds

Pr. Judith vanOsdol, Pr. Ron Roschke, Dennis Reynolds, Rev. Zach Parris, Rev. Scott McAnally and Earline Bohling met with the leadership team at Rejoice June 16, 2016. The goal of the meeting was to establish better communication between Office of the Bishop and Rejoice. Rejoice is behind in its payments to the Mission Investment Fund, but their reports show that they are current. Dennis is concerned about their financial viability.

Earline notes that there is not sufficient signage, and the church is difficult to find. She asked them to express their mission, but they were unclear about that. Earline indicated that Synod Council is willing to provide the remaining funds needed to finish the flood mitigation, but that they need to work with Pr. Judith in discerning their mission. Dennis notes that they need additional money for a generator, and to fix a road that was damaged in the flood.

Both Scott and Zach encouraged the pastor to participate in the conference text studies. Jim is hopeful that this was an important first step in building a relationship with this congregation. Earline encouraged Council members to attend worship there when they are able.

Approval of substitute for Churchwide Assembly Voting member

Miguel Hernandez, from the Border Conference, a lay male member of color, is unable to attend. Bishop Jim asks for our approval to Juan de dios, or someone from Camino de Vida if Juan is unable to attend (he may be at seminary that week).

**SC2016.06.02 Motion was made and seconded to allow Bishop Gonia to find a substitute voting member for Churchwide Assembly. The motion carried.**

Visit to Women’s Prison Earline

Those planning to attend need to provide the prequalification information by June 24, 2016. An email has been sent with the information that needs to be provided.

Litany of Welcome for Interim Pastor at First in Colorado Springs Bishop Gonia

The transitional interim is Dr. Lowell Allman, former Secretary of the ELCA. His first Sunday will be July 3rd.

If Diana (who is the council rep from that conference) is not available, Earline will attend.

Approval of Installation of Acoustic Panels Earline Bohling

Two bids have been submitted; the difference between the two is minimal. There was consensus that Pr. Kent make the decision.

Strategic Planning Bishop Gonia

Bishop Gonia provided a written update. He reviewed the Tag and Mission Statement that the team has developed.

**Tag**: Christ’s Church, Better Together

**Mission:** To connect, equip, and accompany congregations, ministries, and leaders so that together we proclaim and embody God’s unconditional love for the sake of the world.

The team has identified 5 **Core** **Values**.

He asks that we talk with others about these proposals, and gather feedback. Please provide feedback!

Change of Date for July Meeting

Bishop Gonia asks that we reschedule the meeting to Sun. July 17 at 6 p.m. Earline is unable to attend, so Bishop Gonia will chair that meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Brammer-Hoelter