

SYNOD COUNCIL MINUTES
INDIANA-KENTUCKY SYNOD, ELCA
JUNE 9, 2016
SUITES 13-14 (LOWER LEVEL) ~ CENTURY CENTER
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

ATTENDANCE

Officers: Bishop Bill Gafkjen, Vice-President Ted Miller, Secretary Judy Bush, Treasurer Sue Miller

Clergy: Pastors Amy Beitelschees-Albers, Jessica King, Dana Lockhart, Jerald Mielke, Randy Schroeder, and Pamela Thiede

Laity: Michael Anderson, Bernie Augenstein, Rebecca Jane Daum, Elizabeth Gaskins, Clyde Knigga, Danielle Nuss, Laura Richcreek, Marilyn Saum, Noah David Smith, Paul Trickle, and E. Louise Williams

Staff: Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Rudy Mueller

Synod Attorney: Josh Tatum

Auxiliary Representative: Linda Doerge, president of the I-K Women of the ELCA

Churchwide Council Representative: Rev. Vicki Garber

Guests: Rev. Chris Boerger, ELCA Secretary, Bishop Izani Bruch of the IELCH, Sharon Brinker, HKBP Ephorus Willem Simarmarta, Pastor Bimen Limbong and two other guests from the HKBP

Absent: Pastors Charles Strietelmeier and Karen Strietelmeier, Amy Kruse, Pattiann Meeks, Nancy Walter, DEM Nancy Nyland, Leslie French, and Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Heather Apel

DEVOTIONS

The Synod Council met in Suites 13-14 of the Century Center, South Bend, Indiana, the site of the 29th annual Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly held from June 9 through June 11, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 9:14 a.m. by Vice-President Ted Miller. Bishop Gafkjen opened by reading from Isaiah 61 which begins with, “The spirit of Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to...” The theme of our assembly is Spirit Filled, Spirit Sent. He has been struck with the word ‘because’. God has work for us to do to be the Body of Christ. God sends us to do the work of Jesus. He stated that the assembly members will think about two questions “how are we filled with the Spirit and where is the Spirit sending us? He closed with prayer.

INTRODUCTIONS AND REMINDERS

International guests who are leaders of global companion synods of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod were present; they would be guests of the Synod Assembly. Bishop Izani Bruch of the IELCH (Iglesia Evangelica Luterana en Chile) and Sharon Brinker who was Bishop Bruch’s translator were introduced. Bishop Bruch shared greetings translated by Ms Brinker; she brought

greetings and prayers that God blesses the assembly. HKBP Ephorus Willem Simarmarta, Pastor Bimen Limbong and two other guests were next introduced. Rev. Dr. Willem Simarmata is Ephorus of the Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP) and Rev. Bimen Limbong is associate pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Jeffersontown, KY. Ephorus Simarmarta brought greetings. He noted that the HKBP church has a membership of 4.7 million. They strive to promote peace and not to be an exclusive church. They have five congregations in the United States; they approve global mission. They are everywhere in the world, worship together, serve the world together, and serve Jesus Christ. Bishop Gafkjen noted that this was the first time to have companion synods with the Synod Assembly and that he was looking forward to their words in plenary sessions. He thanked them for being with us. Bishop Bill then introduced Rev. Chris Boerger, who is secretary of the ELCA and former bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod. Secretary Boerger remained for the meeting.

Bishop Gafkjen apologized for not having a printed agenda; it was available on Dropbox. He introduced Rev Vicki Garber who is a member of the ELCA Church Council and Pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Crestview Hills, KY. He noted that there will be four of the other five bishops in our region visit the Synod Assembly. He mentioned the other bishops from our region that would be present: Bishop Abraham Allende (NE Ohio), Bishop Suzanne Dillahunt (Southern Ohio), Bishop Don Kreiss (SE MI), Bishop Marcus Lohrmann (NW Ohio). Also scheduled to speak to the assembly will be Kathryn Johnson (ELCA Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations), Rev. Andre Gingerich Stoner (Director of Interchurch Relations and Holistic Witness for the Mennonite Church, USA). President Rick Barger (Trinity Lutheran Seminary) and Rev. Matthew Riegel, Bishop of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod will also be present during the assembly; the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod is the domestic companion synod with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. Bishop Gasfkjen spoke about each expected guest.

Vice-President Ted Miller welcomed Synod Council members and guests. He noted that conversation with Secretary Boerger would occur next with synod council business to follow.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS CONVERSATION WITH CHRIS BOERGER

Secretary Boerger began by stating that we need to listen to the church to see where God is calling us today and we need to hear from people in the pews. The Future Directions Conversations need to be reported by the first of July. He urged everyone to take part in the process. There are no right answers. It is extremely important. He strongly emphasized that piece; i.e., that there are no right answers. He stated that we need to hear from all expressions of the church. In 1988 we decided that all three expressions are the church. All three expressions are the ELCA. Chicago is the churchwide expression. Congregations are the ELCA in their communities. The synod is the ELCA in Indiana and Kentucky. It would be good to have congregations have conversations with full communion partners.

He noted that all should be prepared for significant constitutional amendments. Most of those amendments have to do with changes in the Word and Service roster. It will be one roster and no lay roster; there will no longer be Associates in Ministry, diaconal ministers, and

deaconess. There will be significant changes in congregational constitutions. He then engaged in Questions and Answers exchange. A question was asked about congregation constitutions and proposed changes. There are certain items that are required in congregational constitutions according to the ELCA constitution. If one item of the congregation constitution is amended, it needs to be updated to the required portions of the model constitution. He discussed the Grace Gathering in conjunction with the churchwide assembly in August. Declaration on the Way describes the consensus agreements between the ELCA and Roman Catholics in the United States; it is a model for moving on together. It could be approved at the churchwide assembly. It is a significant document. There is a lot of agreement. He thanked the group for Pastor Vicki Garber who has been serving on the churchwide council. She reminds the group to take time to pray. Is there a clearinghouse to assist individuals who want to reduce costs to attend Grace Gathering? His answer was 'Yes'.

ASSEMBLY DETAILS AND TASKS

Bishop Gafkjen reminded Synod Council members to attend the Welcome and Orientation for First Time Attendees session at 1:00 p.m. in the Recital Hall on the Lower Level.

MennoHof event will occur after the assembly on Saturday afternoon. Bishop Bill noted that the notice was late. Many didn't hear about the event due to it being sent as blind copy. Bishop Gafkjen noted that all were welcome to attend. It is a local museum about the Mennonite conference; it details the history of the Anabaptist Mennonite. It is a powerful story. This event was planned as he began working with Rev. Andre Stoner about how to facilitate working together. The hope was that Rev. Stoner, Bishop Gafkjen and Kathryn Johnson would dedicate the exhibit. There will be dinner at the Blue Gate which would be a typical Amish dinner. Lutherans killed Anabaptists over their differing belief about infant baptism. When Lutherans asked the Mennonites to forgive them, they realized that much of their tradition was built around being victims. The MennoHof location is about an hour drive from South Bend; the event will last about an hour.

TED MILLER, VICE-PRESIDENT

Vice-President Miller referred to his written report in the Dropbox. He thanked everyone for their sense of mission and commitment. There will be several new people coming on as members of Synod Council. He discussed those going off the Synod Council. Pastors Jerry Mielke, Charles Strietelmeier, and Pamela Thiede have served two consecutive terms. Paul Trickel has served two consecutive terms; his conference will now be represented by a lay female. Pattiann Meeks and Nancy Walter have served one three-year term but their conferences will be represented by a lay male. Danielle Nuss will have completed a three-year term as young adult member. Treasurer Sue Miller has completed a four-year term and decided not to serve another term. Sue's help in preparing for the pilot project with MIF is greatly appreciated. He stated that during his synod assembly report he will introduce those on Synod Council. He asked for input regarding mentoring for the new members.

ELECTION OF 2016-2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vice-President Ted discussed the executive committee and the membership of the committee. The executive committee is composed of the four Synod Council officers, one clergy member, one lay female and one lay male member. The executive committee is chaired by the bishop. It meets prior to Synod Council meetings to provide input regarding the agenda and meets between Synod Council meetings to act on behalf of the Synod Council on matters that must be decided prior to a Synod Council meeting. Members on the executive committee include Pastor Amy Beitelschees-Albers, Paul Trickel, and Liz Gaskins. Clergy eligible to serve for the next year are Pastors Amy Beitelschees-Albers, Jessica King, Dana Lockhart, Randy Schroeder, and Karen Strietelmeier. Lay females eligible to serve are Rebecca Jane Daum, Elizabeth Gaskins, Amy Kruse, Laura Richcreek, Marilyn Saum, and E. Louise Williams. Lay males eligible to serve are Michael Anderson, Bernie Augenstein, Clyde Knigga, and Noah Smith. Papers were distributed for individuals to write the names of one clergy, one lay female, and one lay male as one's choice to serve on executive committee.

JUDY BUSH, SECRETARY

Secretary Bush referred for consideration the previously distributed draft minutes of the April, 2016, Synod Council meeting. Liz Gaskins moved that the minutes be approved. Laura Richcreek seconded the motion and the Synod Council

VOTED: SC/2016/25: that the minutes of the April 15-16, 2016, Synod Council meeting, pages 2253-2279 be approved.

SUE MILLER, TREASURER

Treasurer Sue Miller referred to her report in the Dropbox. The report reflects figures as of the end of April. Mission Support was at \$388,000 which is behind the \$425,000 budget projection by \$37,000. Operating Cash is at \$792,000 due in large part to the proceeds from the sale of the Calvary (Louisville) building. The Operating Bottom Line is \$42,000 positive to budget due in part to positive variances in administrative expense and the Assembly. The endowment principal remains intact; the principal is at \$4.1 million of which \$1.2 million is in excess of historic gift value.

We are in the middle of conversion with MIF SFS. We are not getting the reports that we are used to. But bills are paid and receipts are credited. Bishop Gafkjen said all of the synods are having trouble with the pilot program. Sue is going to Chicago to work with them to get reports that we need to get. It has been frustrating more than incorrect.

PAUL TRICKEL, FINANCE COMMITTEE

Paul Trickel, chair of the Finance Committee, reported on four items. The Finance Committee talked about the MIF SFS. They are concerned but don't think it is a substantive problem. Sue's willingness to work with them is a huge help. In the long run it will be a positive move. Second, we had an insurance review at the last Finance Committee meeting. One difference the review revealed was that the square footage which was used to calculate rates was not accurate. He

reported that the committee is waiting to see if the rate will be modified with the new numbers. Third, the committee reviewed the Bishops' recommendation about the Calvary funds to see how the funds will be distributed. Fourth, the audit was completed. The Dropbox has the audit report. There was concern about how it would go. It was a clean audit with no issues, a very good audit report. He stated, "Hats off to Sue, Bishop and office staff for making it happen."

REPORT ON ELECTION:

The teller's report for the clergy is as follows:

Number of votes cast	21
Necessary for election	11
Randy	2
Dana	4
Amy	12
Jess	2
Karen	1

Pastor Amy was reelected to the executive committee.

The teller's report for lay female is as follows:

Number of votes cast	21
Necessary for election	11
Liz	10
Laura	7
Louise	1.
Rebecca	2
Amy	1

No one received the required number of votes for election so there will be another election between Liz and Laura.

The teller's report for lay male is as follows:

Number of votes cast	21
Necessary for election	11
Bernie	7
Clyde	2
Noah	1
Mike	11

Mike Anderson was elected to the executive committee.

CHURCHWIDE COUNCIL REPORT

Pastor Vicki reported that the campaign for the ELCA is going well; the malaria campaign goal had been met; the drive for hunger alleviation was coming in higher than planned;

and 6-7 scholarships have been awarded throughout the world. Churchwide experiences the same challenge as synods in terms of mission support and how it is to be generated. She reported that some synods are doing DEM differently and we are looking at that. Pastor Vicki expressed, "Thank you so much for Mission Support from our synod." She stated that it has been wonderful to work with treasurer Linda Norman. Funds are well managed by those who know what they are doing. The council and staff have been preparing for churchwide assembly. There is lots of email coming in on a daily basis. Most enjoyable are the relationships with others on church council. She was asked to work on Future Directions Called Forward together for Christ. Thanks to God for Ken Innskeep for his analysis of reports. We have a consultant from Australia who is also helping with reports. We have extra duties on the council and hers has been to be a liaison with Presbyterian Church USA. All of council members serve with other partners. She expressed that it has been a joy to serve even though it is a lot of work. She goes off the churchwide council in 2017. There are 34 on church council plus 4 officers. It has been a joy to see the diversity on council. She will retire in January.

REPORT ON ELECTION

The tellers' report on the run-off election for lay female on the executive committee was as follows:

Number of votes cast	21
Necessary for election	11
Liz	12
Laura	9

Based on tabulation of ballots, the Synod Council

VOTED: SC/2016/26: that, pursuant to S11.01.01., Pastor Amy Beitelschees-Albers, Mike Anderson, and Liz Gaskins were elected to one-year terms as members of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Executive Committee.

I-K WOMEN OF THE ELCA REPORT

Linda Doerge, president of the I-K Women of the ELCA, reported on the Women of ELCA. There are many women who have assumed things that are not correct about the organization. They have had three boot camps to inform about the women of ELCA. The boot camps are 3.5 hours long and have been very popular. She has had a request to do another boot camp. During the boot camps they talk about the structure of the Women of the ELCA and the relationship with the congregation and the ELCA. They also talk about where the money goes and discuss the cluster level. Having the boot camps has been a positive thing. She is willing to come and talk to congregations or other groups. They have been working on planning the service project of assembling health kits during the Synod Assembly, thanks especially to women in the North Central conference. They have an ideal board and would love to have others to help. Region 6 is having a regional gathering next week. She stated that since Liz is here, she needed to mention the triannual of the Women of the ELCA which will be July 2017 in Minneapolis.

BISHOP BILL GAFKJEN

ROSTER CONCERNS

Bishop Gafkjen reported that there were no retirements to consider at this time. There were two for whom he was recommending synod council calls. The Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade has been an ELCA pastor for nearly sixteen years, most recently in the Upper Susquehanna Synod. She is moving to Lexington, Kentucky, to assume a position as the new Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship at Lexington Theological Seminary. In addition to teaching courses on worship and preaching, she will be leading worship and presiding at communion for the seminary. She would also welcome the opportunity to be a supply pastor to teach, preach and administer the sacraments within the synod. After presentation of the recommendation, the Synod Council

VOTED: SC/2016/27: that The Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade be issued a Synod Council Call as Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship at Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, Kentucky.

Bishop continued. Rev. Chuck Miller has been on leave from call. At this time, he has discerned to serve in interim ministry. Based on Bishop Gafkjen's recommendation, the Synod Council

VOTED: SC/2016/28: that Rev. Chuck Miller be issued a Synod Council Call to interim ministry as the Interim Pastor at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Carmel, Indiana.

Rev. William Chamberlain has resigned his call; he will be in a full time CPE residency program and is willing to serve the mission and ministry of the church in the Indiana-Kentucky Mission Territory. Bishop Gafkjen is recommending on-leave-from-call status and the Synod Council

VOTED: SC/2016/29: that Rev. William Chamberlain be granted on-leave-from-call status for the first year beginning June 1, 2017.

Bishop Gafkjen reported that Rev. Jared Lee has resigned his call and has requested to move to on-leave-from-call status for discernment. Bishop Gafkjen is recommending the change. The Synod Council

VOTED: SC/2016/30: that Rev. Jared Lee be granted on-leave-from-call status for the first year beginning June 10, 2017.

Pastor Rudy Mueller reported that there are changes in interim ministry assignments. Pastor Jim Merkel will be serving at Word of Hope in Lexington and Jeff Iacobazzi will be serving at Bethany in Indianapolis.

CONGREGATION CONCERNS

The Congregational Constitution Task Force has reviewed several congregations' constitutions. Josh Tatum referred to the written report in Dropbox. The constitution for Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bryant, Indiana, and the constitution for St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Bloomington, Indiana, were approved. The constitution for Bethlehem, Indianapolis, Indiana, was approved conditioned with several exceptions and the addressing of conditions in September, 2015; the conditions have been addressed so the constitution is approved. The constitution for Trinity Lutheran, Linton, Indiana, was approved conditioned upon addressing concerns in January, 2015; addressing the conditions and submitting a revised constitution by April, 2015, would result in an approved constitution. Trinity, Linton, has not resubmitted a revised constitution so the approval is revoked. The constitution for Our Saviour Lutheran, West Lafayette, Indiana, was approved conditioned upon addressing several items and returning a revised constitution by April, 2016; a revised constitution was not resubmitted by April, 2016, so the approval is revoked.

Josh noted that we are always looking for help with reviewing constitutions. Individuals willing to help should contact Josh or another member of the task force.

REPORT, INCLUDING STAFF

Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Heather Apel reported that the synod assembly planning team has explored options for the 2018 Synod Assembly and is recommending that Fort Wayne be the site for the 2018 Synod Assembly. The Synod Council

VOTED: SC/2016/31: that site of the 2018 Synod Assembly for the Indiana-Kentucky Synod be Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Bishop Gafkjen reported that the eighth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana will be with us on Friday. Douglas Sparks, who has had a relationship with the Mennonite Church, will be the eighth bishop and his consecration will be at Trinity English in Fort Wayne later in June.

Bishop issued a reminder that they are changing things in the office. Starting next week, two offices are going away, the chapel will be expanded and will be set up for projection. Individuals' offices are moving. There will be a commuter office for those who work primarily off site. There are some changes in administrative assistant staff assignments which seem to be working well.

He will be out of the country as a result of being chair of the conference of bishops during the last week of August. He will have other responsibilities at churchwide assembly and may not be able to sit with the synod delegation the entire time. He will be in Namibia in May, 2017, for the World Lutheran Federation Assembly.

ASSIGNMENT OF ACTION ITEMS

The Synod Council will meet September 23-24, 2016, with the conference Deans in Waycross, Morgantown, Indiana. Pastor Amy Beitelschees-Albers and Bernie Augenstein volunteered to lead the meeting worship and have devotions. Mike Anderson will be the mission monitor of the meeting.

MEETING REVIEW

Individuals were asked to reflect on the meeting. The following questions could be a guide in the reflections.

What was a moment of high energy in the meeting?

What could have been done differently, more effectively, more helpfully?

What one thing do you take with you from the meeting?

Responses/reflections were the following: treat to have guests, excited about work with Mennonite, great to have Chris's report, inspiring and encouraging to hear about the churchwide expression, great to hear about work with Roman Catholic agreement, think that the three expressions of the church is correct, been good to be on Synod Council.

PRAYER AND MEAL

At 11:45 a.m. Pastor Pamela Thiede led the group in prayer. Box lunches were provided for lunch.

Respectfully Submitted in His Service,



Judith A. Bush, Secretary

2016-2017 Synod Council Meeting Dates

September 23 – 24, 2016 @ Waycross Conference Center, Morgantown, IN

November 18 – 19, 2016 @ IN-KY Lutheran Center

January 13 – 14, 2017 @ IN-KY Lutheran Center

April 28 – 29, 2017 @ IN-KY Lutheran Center

June 1 – 3, 2017 – Synod Assembly @ Covington, KY