SYNOD COUNCIL MINUTES
INDIANA-KENTUCKY SYNOD, ELCA
JUNE 1, 2017
KENTUCKY ROOM, MARRIOTT HOTEL
COVINGTON, KY

ATTENDANCE

Officers: Bishop Gafkjen, Vice-President Ted Miller, Secretary Judy Bush, Treasurer Chris Walda
Clergy: Pastors Amy Beïtsches-Albers, Teri Ditslear, Rebecca Grate, Jessica King, Randall “Randy” Schroeder, and Michael Vinson
Laity: Michael Anderson, Rebecca Jane Daum, John Huchko, Clyde Knigga, Don MacMillan, Matthew Pope, Laura Richcreek, Marilyn Saum, Noah David Smith, E. Louise Williams, and Linda Wray
Staff: Assistants to the Bishop Pastors Heather Apel and Dan Fugate and Tom Dearchs
Synod Attorney: Josh Tatum
Auxiliary Representative: Linda Doerge
Churchwide Representative: Rev. Vicki Garber
Guest: Mikka McCracken
Absent: DEM Pastor Nancy Nyland, Pastor Dana Lockhart, Elizabeth Gaskins, Amy Kruse, and Jim Swinford

DEVOTIONS

The Synod Council met in the Kentucky Room of the Marriott Hotel, Covington, Kentucky, the site of the 30th annual Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly held from June 1 through June 3, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice-President Ted Miller. He expressed that we would try to close the meeting by 11:30 a.m. He extended welcome to everyone on the 225th anniversary of the birth of Kentucky. Bishop Gafkjen opened by reading from Bread for Today, Psalm 33 which begins with, “Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous…” He reflected on the reading, one of the things that came to mind are the famines in some parts of the world and how to address them. There are other famines also that we should be mindful of; that the eye of the Lord is upon them and upon us as we come to this meeting. Our soul waits for the Lord and we can be glad in Him. He mentioned a text message from Liz Michael whose husband Terry died unexpectedly Tuesday. She texted that she is praying for us and for the assembly. He closed by leading the group in prayer. Vice-President Ted also mentioned that the group should keep in prayer Jim Swinford who could not be with us due to health issues as well as Liz Michael.

INTRODUCTIONS AND REMINDERS
INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Bishop Gafkjen introduced Tom Dearchs who is the new synod communications coordinator plus. He also introduced Pastor Dan Fugate who is the new Assistant to the Bishop for Discipleship and who will be focusing on Lifelong Faith Formation, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Synod
Assembly: Program, and Global Mission: HKBP. He and Tom will be working very closely with Bishop Gafkjen on the youth emphasis. They are a welcome addition to synod staff. They said that they are pleased to be working with all.

Also, he introduced Mikka McCracken who is the churchwide representative to the Synod Assembly and who serves with ELCA World Hunger as Director for Planning and Engagement. She worked on the Lutheran World Federation preassembly youth conference in Namibia where she demonstrated global leadership. She mentioned her favorite thing of the Lutheran World Federation Assembly was hearing the Lord’s prayer in everyone’s language. It is her pleasure to share the churchwide report and she will also lead a spark talk. Called Forward Together in Christ is a primary emphasis from churchwide. She will express thanks to this synod for mission support. She will share about herself. Bishop Bill mentioned the way the groups of the church are working together is exemplified in the Called Forward Together in Christ document.

APRIL 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Secretary Bush referred for consideration the previously distributed draft minutes of the April Synod Council meeting. Linda Wray moved that the minutes be approved and Becky Daum seconded the motion. The Synod Council

VOTED: SC/2017/32: that the minutes of the April 28-29, 2017, Synod Council meeting, pages 2341-2358, be approved.

REVIEW OF THIS MEETING’S AGENDA

Vice-President Ted Miller reported that we will begin with his report and the congregational concern listed later in the agenda will be addressed under his report. He also stressed that there will be budget discussion and bylaw change discussion so the group would have to move expeditiously.

ASSEMBLY DETAILS AND TASKS

REVIEW OF ASSEMBLY AGENDA

ATTENDANCE AT NEW VOTING MEMBER ORIENTATION

OTHER GUESTS FOR THE ASSEMBLY: PR. VICKI GARBER (ELCA CHURCH COUNCIL), BP SUZANNE DILAHUNT (SOUTHERN OHIO), PRESIDENT BETH PAUL (CAPITAL UNIVERSITY/TRINITY SEMINARY)...

Vice-President Ted reviewed some of the details regarding the Synod Assembly. The orientation for new Synod Assembly attendees is at 12:15 p.m. in Ballroom D. He encouraged all Synod Council members to attend.

TED MILLER, VICE-PRESIDENT

Vice-President Ted reviewed the membership on the executive committee as specified in the Synod constitution S11.01.01. The membership of the Executive Committee consists of one lay male, one lay female, one clergy and the four officers. He read off who is eligible to serve in each position. He asked Bishop Bill to lead in prayer and then asked each synod council member to list
one lay male, one lay female and one clergy member to serve on the Executive Committee. He asked Josh Tatum and Pastor Vicki Garber to tabulate the ballots.

Vice-President Ted thanked those who are completing their terms on Synod Council – Noah Smith (two years on the council) and Marilyn Saum (six years on the council). Jim Swinford and Amy Kruse who were not present are also completing their terms. Pastors Amy Beitelschees-Albers, Jessica King, and Randall Schroeder are completing a three-year term but are running for re-election.

CONGREGATION CONCERNS

GLORIA DEI, MULBERRY, IN (DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER)

Vice-President Miller discussed the situation at Gloria Dei, Mulberry. He mentioned that there are many steps in the process dealing with a conflict within a congregation leading to discipline of a member as outlined in the congregational and churchwide constitutions. Rita Betts is now the congregation president. Pursuant to *C15.02, the Synod Vice-President selects five members of the Synod Consultation Committee required by †S11.02. (including two of the clergy members and three of the lay members) and whose functions further are described in Chapter 20 of the ELCA Constitution and Chapter 17 of the Synod Constitution. The constitution requires the Synod Consultation Committee to address the situation. If further action is needed after the 45-day period of notification by the congregation council that the Synod Consultation Committee will address the situation, then the Executive Committee of the Synod Council will need to appoint from the Synod Council a non-voting chair of the discipline panel derived from the Synod Discipline Committee. The discipline hearing is a due process panel that will be attended by Josh Tatum as synod attorney. Vice-President Ted thought that it might be appropriate to appoint a chair of the Discipline Committee since there has not been a designated chair. The Executive Committee is recommending that Jim Moore be asked to be chair the Discipline Committee; and if he is unable to serve as chair, then the Executive Committee is recommending that Pastor Amy Beitelschees-Albers be asked to be the chair. The Synod Council

VOTED: SC/2017/33: that Jim Moore be asked to be chair of the Synod Discipline Committee and Pastor Amy Beitelschees-Albers be appointed chair if Jim Moore is not able to serve as chair.

Pastor Mike Vinson volunteered to be the non-voting chair of the discipline panel if needed.

REPORT ON ELECTION

Josh Tatum returned and announced the results of the Executive Committee election. All were reelected as follows:

The tellers’ report for election of the lay female on the executive committee was as follows:

- Number of votes cast: 21
- Necessary for election: 11
- Becky Daum: 2
- Laura Richcreek: 14
Louise Williams  3  
Linda Wray  2  
Laura Richcreek was elected to the executive committee.

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

Number of votes cast  20  
Necessary for election  11  
Mike Anderson  15  
Don MacMillan  2  
Matthew Pope  3  
Mike Anderson was elected to the executive committee.

The teller’s report for clergy is as follows:

Number of votes cast  21  
Necessary for election  11  
Amy Beitelschees-Albers  11  
Randy Schroeder  7  
Teri Ditslear  2  
Mike Vinson  1  
Amy Beitelschees-Albers was elected to the executive committee.

Based on tabulation of ballots, the Synod Council

VOTED: SC/2017/34: that, pursuant to S11.01.01., Pastor Amy Beitelschees-Albers, Mike Anderson, and Laura Richcreek were elected to one-year terms as members of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Executive Committee.

JUDY BUSH, SECRETARY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT AND RELATED DECISIONS; SYNOD ASSEMBLY RELATED CONCERNS; FINAL LOOK AT PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES REGARDING DEANS

Secretary Judy Bush shared that the Congregation Constitution Task Force has reviewed the policy statement regarding Conference Deans and the possible new position of conference Chaplain for the Ministrium with review of the possible changes to the synod constitution bylaws. Bishop Gafkjen discussed the process with the deans and their input. Secretary Bush read the proposal of changes to the Synod Constitution bylaws. It was offered as a recommendation from the Task Force. The proposed process for selection of deans was discussed. Also, the role of the chaplains was discussed. If the Synod Council approves the proposed bylaw changes, then they would be distributed Friday morning during the Synod Assembly when the Bishop discusses his report. The plan would be that the assembly vote would be Saturday morning. After discussion, the Synod Council
VOTED: SC/2017/35: that the proposed changes to bylaws S12.01.06. and S12.01.11. be approved for presentation to the 2017 Synod Assembly for action.

BISHOP BILL GAFKJEN

Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Heather Apel reported that Rev. Paul Offhaus (St. John, Fort Wayne, IN) agreed to serve on the IK Synod Candidacy Committee last summer after the June synod council meeting. We requested that he be appointed before the August Candidacy Meeting, and she thought she had shared that request with the executive committee, but it could not be found in any of the synod council minutes. She asked that the Synod Council please appoint him to a five-year term, retroactive to August 2016. The Synod Council

VOTED: SC/2017/36: that Rev. Paul Offhaus (St. John, Fort Wayne, Indiana) be appointed to the IK Synod Candidacy Committee for a five-year term retroactive to August 2016.

Bishop Gafkjen asked that Roster concerns be addressed. Pastor Dennis Wenzel and Pastor Robert Rohrman are requesting approval of retirement status effective July 1, 2017. Approval by the Synod Council allows the retired individuals to remain on the roster of the church and serve as ordained clergy as specified in the ELCA constitution 7.41.07. The Synod Council


Pastor Libby Manning has requested a Synod Council call to continue her work at Wabash College and continue her service and remain on the roster of Word and Sacrament. With Bishop Gafkjen’s recommendation, the Synod Council

VOTED: SC/2017/38: that Pastor Libby Manning be called to Interim Ministry to serve as Associate Director of Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program effective April 24, 2017.

Bishop Gafkjen discussed the fact that Pastor Chuck Miller is requesting disability status. After discussion, the Synod Council


There were two requests for On Leave from Call. Pastor Bill Chamberlain is requesting a second year renewal of his on leave from call status. And Deacon Becky Swanson is requesting on leave from call. The Synod Council

VOTED: SC/2017/40: that Pastor Bill Chamberlain be granted a second year of on leave from call status and Deacon Becky Swanson be granted on leave from call status.

Bishop discussed the interim status of pastors. There were no new changes. He noted that St. Paul Lutheran Church (Bluffton, Indiana) is closing in July.
There is a $10,000 bequest from the Betty L. Eigelbach Living Trust/Calvary Lutheran Church, Louisville, Kentucky. The synod staff recommendation is the following: $1,000.00 to Region 6 archive (for closed congregation) and $9,000.00 in support of anti-racism and boundary training. The Synod Council

**VOTED: SC/2017/41:** that the $10,000 bequest from the Betty L. Eigelbach Living Trust/Calvary Lutheran Church, Louisville, Kentucky, be distributed as follows: $1,000.00 to Region 6 archive (for closed congregation) and $9,000.00 in support of anti-racism and boundary training.

Bishop Gafkjen discussed his experience at the Lutheran World Federation Assembly. He was able to meet the new Ephorus of the HKBP synod. It was a young delegation. It is wonderful to have the relationship growing again. There are other Lutherans in Indonesia; the HKBP is the largest. Bishop Bill noted that he has had a Facebook relationship with another of the Indonesian leaders. The IELCH Chilean group was not there; Pastor Heather has been working with them. They have a new bishop.

There is the possibility of a resolution being presented provided that 50 signatures are obtained by 5:00 p.m. Thursday. One conference (the Evansville Conference) voted to submit the resolution; Bishop did not check his email since he was in Namibia and was unaware that they had submitted it. E. Louise Williams moved to accept the resolution from the Evansville Conference; Mike Vinson seconded the motion. After discussion, the Synod Council

**VOTED: SC/2017/42:** that the Evansville Conference resolution be considered timely and be considered by the Synod Assembly.

**CHRIS WALDA, TREASURER AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

First, treasurer Chris Walda discussed the treasurer’s report for the first three months of the year, ending April 30, 2017. Mission Support was down $30,000 more than last year. Operating cash dropped from a positive $8,000 in March to a negative $5,900 in April. The operating bottom line will be updated once the audit is finished in May. The audit is being done with all six synods at the same time. The good news is that the endowment is continuing to improve. The MIF SDS report is also in the dropbox.

**DISCUSSION OF 2018-2019 BUDGET PROPOSAL**

Treasurer Chris discussed the fact that only $6,495 of council designated funds was needed to balance the budget which is much lower than in the past. There was a request to open the discussion to give to Trinity Lutheran Seminary what has been done in the past. Bishop felt the decision made during the April Synod Council meeting may have been made on incomplete and incorrect information. He felt that this may be the wrong time to reduce funds; this may be the time that support is needed. The decision is very difficult for him to defend as a bishop. Pastor Terri Ditslear moved that the decision be reconsidered, seconded by Pastor Randy Schroeder. After much discussion, the Synod Council
VOTED: SC/2017/43: that the proposed 2018-19 budget be restored to the way it was presented by the Finance Committee in April.

REPORT OF SYNOD ATTORNEY

Josh Tatum reported that he is making it a goal to make a bylaw change to addressing resolutions. It is a lot easier for the chair to react to items; it is useful to let the chair know ahead of time. Amendments presented in writing for instance.

ASSIGNMENT OF ACTION ITEMS

Pastor Dan Fugate and E. Louise Williams were volunteered to have the September meeting worship and devotions. Pastor Teri Ditslear volunteered to be the September mission monitor.

Vice-President Ted reminded everyone to be there at 12:15 for orientation.

PRAYER AND MEAL

Bishop Bill led the group in prayer prior to lunch.

2017-2019 SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING DATES

- September 15-16, 2017 – Benedict Inn, Beech Grove, IN (reserved)
- November 17-18, 2017
- January 19-20, 2018
- April 20-21, 2018
- May 31, 2018 (Synod Assembly, 5/31-6/2, 2018)
- September 14-15, 2018 - Benedict Inn, Beech Grove, IN (reserved)
- November 16-17, 2018
- January 18-19, 2019
- April 26-27, 2019

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted in His Service,

Judith A. Bush, Secretary
Treasurer’s Report  
Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA  
May 29, 2017

Financial Update (3 months ended 04/30/17):

1. **Mission Support** started slowly in February as it has in past years and recovered a bit in March. April was much well below budget leaving us $80k below budget and $30k below this time last year.

2. **Operating cash:** Operating cash dropped from a positive $8k in March to a negative $5.9k in April. April 2016 is not comparable since the Calvary cash was counted as cash on hand because it had not yet been designated yet.

3. The **operating bottom line** will be updated once the audit is finished in May.

4. The **endowment**'s accumulated undistributed earnings keep growing and are currently over one third of the total $4.73 Million in endowment net assets. Principal is intact.

Detailed financial reports are available upon request. Please feel free to contact me at 260-249-7268 (cell) or via email at CJWaldo@Yahoo.com.

Respectfully,

Chris Walda
**IN-KY Synod, ELCA**  
**Endowment Principal Intact?**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Historic Gift Value:</th>
<th>LPL Financial @ 08/31/15</th>
<th>LPL Financial @ 10/31/15</th>
<th>LPL Financial @ 12/31/2016</th>
<th>LPL Financial @ 03/31/2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
<td>$1,532,119</td>
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<td>$1,532,119</td>
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<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<td>Council Designated</td>
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<td>$312,438</td>
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<td><strong>Total Endowment Historic Gift Value</strong></td>
<td>$2,949,084</td>
<td>$2,949,084</td>
<td>$2,949,084</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Earnings in Excess of HGV @ month end</strong></td>
<td>$1,343,404</td>
<td>$1,287,948</td>
<td>$1,432,647</td>
<td>$1,712,249</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Endowment Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td>$4,237,032</td>
<td>$4,381,731</td>
<td>$4,661,333</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Is principal intact?</strong>*</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>amount in excess</strong></td>
<td>$1,343,404</td>
<td>$1,287,948</td>
<td>$1,432,647</td>
<td>$1,712,249</td>
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<tr>
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<td>31.30%</td>
<td>30.40%</td>
<td>32.70%</td>
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***principal is intact if Earnings in Excess of Historic Gift Value is positive***