

Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council  
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America  
May 31, 2023

Electronic Meeting Minutes

**Present:**

Officers: Bp. William O. Gafkjen, VP. Ted Miller, Secretary Patricia McIntyre, Treasurer Chris Walda.

Rostered: Pr. E. Anderson-Rajkumar, Pr. R. Bailey, Pr. V. Garber, Pr. J. Rothman, Pr. L. Webb, Deacon J. Winter.

Laity: M. Hoover, B. Kirk, N. Lee, N. Smith, D. Zehr,

Staff: Pr. Dan Fugate, Pr. Cory Driver, Pr. Dan Forehand, Pr. Nancy Nyland, Susie Swenson.

Excused: Pr. J. Burkholder, Pr. B. Limbong, D. Daniels

SC called to order by VP Miller at 7:30PM. Bp. Gafkjen welcomed members and offered devotions.

Minutes of previous meetings (Secretary McIntyre was not present at April meeting so required two actions):

**SC/2023/18: Approve January SC Minutes as revised. Carried.**

**SC/2023/19: Approve April SC Minutes as revised. Carried.**

**VP Report: Ted Miller**

Referred members to meeting report in Dropbox and his annual report in the Bulletin of Reports for Synod Assembly. He thanked the Council for its service and cited retiring members D. Zehr and P. McIntyre.

**Secretary Report: Patricia McIntyre**

No EC report this month. Reported work of Constitution Committee regarding congregational constitution updates in progress.

**Treasurer Report: Chris Walda**

Referred members to report in Dropbox. Mission Support still rebounding from pandemic effects. Reviewed income/expense sheets and restricted fund distribution.

Balance sheet is out of balance by \$9,000.00 but will be reconciled by the end of the 2022-23 audit.

Interim Bookkeeper Julie Walda continues to serve the Synod posting books, correcting past errors, and assisting the auditors. The audit team will serve an additional eight hours to complete all assigned work.

### **Bishop's Report: Bp. Gafkjen**

BP. reminded SC that "Restricted Accounts" have been an issue for some time. Mission Investment Fund introduced a multi-synod accounting system that failed to achieve its purpose. Accounting is now back in-house and J. Walda is making a line-by-line search to guarantee funds are and will be posted properly. Bp. recommended (1) the revised permanent posting structure be approved and, (2) as this recommendation does not come from Finance Committee yet, that they approve restructuring:

**SC/2023/20: Approve revised line structure for posting restricted account disbursements. Carried.**

**SC/2023/21: Direct Finance Committee to approve restructuring of designated distribution accounts per recommendations generated through staff research. Carried.**

Bp. Gafkjen further recommended:

**SC/2023/22: Extend appointment of Julie Walda to interim service as Bookkeeper (20 hours per week) for three months, until August 31, 2023. Carried.**

### Roster Concerns:

Bp. recommended three changes, to adopt *en bloc*:

**SC/2023/23: Move Pr. Erik Grayvold to On-Leave for Study status for one year. Approve Pr. Carolyn Lesmeister for sixth year On-Leave for Family. Extend Pr. Aaron Stamper On-Leave for another year. Carried.**

### Synod Council Calls:

Pastor Evangeline Anderson-Rajkumar has been under Synod call to St. Paul's and Gethsemane (Corydon) per her immigration status. Her status now being secured, she has been called by St. Paul's (Olean). Thirty days from May 31, 2023 she will move from Synod Call status to Congregational Call status.

### Retired Status:

**SC2023/24: Move Pr. Mark Kloess from Disability to Retired status effective 3/01/23. Move Pr. David Hewett to Retired status effective 7/01/23. Carried.**

Congregations:

Zion/Bristol met with Pr. Forehand in early May and will meet with Bp. Gafkjen on June 14, 2023, to advance their disaffiliation with ELCA. They were previously an LCA congregation so will require two votes and SC approval to leave the ELCA. Bp Gafkjen and Pr. Forehand both are guiding them to complete the process properly.

**Staff Reports:**

See Dropbox for individual reports.

Pr. Dan Fugate updated SC on nominations for offices to be filled at Synod Assembly. A new Secretary will be in nomination, the person's name to be announced. Regional Gatherings to be held *in lieu* of in-person assembly will be held on October 7, 2023, October 14, 2023, and November 18, 2023. Workshop leaders and topics are in place and will be announced synod-wide through all available media.

Synod Assembly: ZOOM log-in information must be conveyed to individuals rather than synod-wide media as it contains voter log-in data. To date, 245 people are registered. Pr. Fugate believes the low cost and reduced schedule supported increased participation this year. Synod Assembly 2024 is scheduled for Crown Plaza, Louisville, June 7-9, 2024. Room rate is \$149.00.

Chris Walda will host a budget ZOOM prior to the Assembly. No resolutions were submitted before the deadline for assembly consideration.

Pastor Evangeline Anderson-Rajkumar gathered 30 membr from St. Peter's to create an icon for the Synod Office. It is made of bulletin covers.

Bp. Gafkjen thanked the retiring SC members, Patricia McIntyre and David Zehr, ad asked them for their reflections. Both expressed high regard for the Council and the service it offers to the ministry of Indiana-Kentucky Synod.

VP. Miller announced final advice for Synod Assembly and plans for fall meetings:  
 September 15-16: IN-Ky Lutheran Center  
 November 3-4: Benedict Inn, Beech Grove, IN. (Retreat)  
 January 20, 2024: ZOOM  
 April 12-13, 2024: IN-KY Lutheran Center.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia McIntyre,  
Secretary.