

Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
January 14, 2023

Electronic Meeting Minutes

Present:

Officers: Pr. William O. Gafkjen, Bishop; Ted Miller, Vice-President; Chris Walda, Treasurer; Patricia McIntyre, Secretary.

Rostered: Pr. J. Rothman, Deacon J. Winter, Pr. R. Bailey, Pr. V. Garber, Pr. Tim Graham, Pr. J. Burkholder.

Laity: N, Lee, D. Daniels, D. York, E. Kirk, V. Carron, D. Zehr.

Staff: Pr. N. Nyland, Pr. Cory Driver, Pr. Dan Fugate, S. Swenson, Pr. D. Forehand, Pr. K. Biermann, Hans Giller.

Guests: T. Smith (WELCA).

Absent: Pr. L. Webb, Pr. E. Anderson-Rajkumar, N. Smith, G. Hall, M. Hoover.

Saturday January 14, 2023

Call to order at 9:30AM; Welcome and devotion from Chaplains. Bp. Gafkjen introduced Hans Giller, liaison to Churchwide Council.

ACTION: SC/2023/01: Minutes approved as submitted.

Vice President's Report (T. Miller): In addition to Dropbox report: attended Racial Justice Taskforce retreat; reported on the Committee for Renewal of the Lutheran Church advising that those wishing to serve should submit applications by 03/09/23. For the SC year beginning in June of 2023, 11 positions require filling. Zoom Synod Assembly will develop a process for that.

Secretary's Report (P. McIntyre): In Dropbox.

Treasurer's Report (C. Walda): In addition to Dropbox, Mission Support is trending down post-pandemic. Analysis of budget sheets drew questions about allocation. Mrs. Julie Walda, interim Bookkeeper, is working to make allocations clear in all reports. The 2021-2022 Audit is almost finished and will be reported to SC in April. Pr. Nyland directed attention to the Future Church Fund asking support.

Stewardship For All Seasons (SAS) (Pr. Nyland): Responses from congregations indicates we need not renew the program. Churchwide is using the “Building a Culture of Generosity” platform now which is less expensive and of shorter duration for congregations. Moved, seconded:

ACTION SC/2023/02: IN-KY Synod discontinue participation in SAS. **Carried.**

BISHOP’S REPORT (BP. GAFKJEN): In addition to Dropbox:

Roster recommendations:

ACTION SC/2023/03: Pr. Jim Ward move to Retired status effective 02/01/2023. **Carried.**

ACTION SC/2023/04: Pr. Matthew Masko move to On-Leave status (1st year) effective 01/01/23 and Deacon Jody Winter move to On-Leave status (1st year) effective 12/01/22. **Carried.**

Congregational Concerns:

Disaffiliation status reported. As the disaffiliation process is contingent on rules brought into the ELCA from previous church bodies, procedures differ from one congregation to another. Bp. Gafkjen sees his work as pastoral care and will “walk with” the congregations as far as the process allows him. It is not a confrontational interaction, rather it puts focus on common mission.

Shiloh Lutheran Church, Walton, IN: service of Holy Closure scheduled for January 15, 2023. Their building is sold. The congregation is disbanding but is invited to Christ/Kokomo.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Shively, KY: They have sold their real property and will meet as a ZOOM congregation once per month.

Housing Allowances:

ACTION SC/2023/005: WHEREAS the Indiana-Kentucky Synod is a religious non-profit institution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American, and, whereas the Synod employs Bishop William Gafkjen, Pastor Dan Fugate, Pastor Cory Driver, and Pastor Dan Forehand, and whereas the Internal Revenue Service has advised the necessity of annual official action by the official body of the employing religious institution to exclude from the gross salary of clergy the estimated cost of renter payments for the purchase of a house, including down payment, mortgage principal, interest and taxes; garage rent; utilities; insurance; repairs and maintenance; furnishing; housing expenses as set forth; and

WHEREAS the following estimate of housing costs has been submitted to the Synod for the taxable year 2023 and included in the budget for the year 2023-24: Pastor Dan Forehand, \$30,000.00; Pastor Cory Driver, \$18,000.00; Pastor Dan Fugate, \$25,000.00; Bp. William Gafkjen, \$42,000.00,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Synod Council that the above amounts be designated as housing allowance, excludable from the gross salary paid for tax purposes, up to the extent they are used for said actual housing, and that any other allowance specifically designated and allocated by the Synod Council in this resolution may also be excluded for tax purposes up to the extent that any or all of them are actually used for such specific purpose. **Carried.** (Note: Pr. Nancy Nyland's housing costs are included in her deployed-staff contract with ELCA).

STAFF REPORTS:

Pr. Karl Bierman (see Dropbox): Announced online suite of resources for planned giving. It is user-friendly but he is available to assist anyone. Invited SC to suggest persons whom he might visit.

Pr. Cory Driver (see Dropbox): Asked SC to refer any person to him who expresses interest in leadership development, both lay and seminary bound. He is available to congregations to preach or teach as needed.

Pr. Dan Fugate (see Dropbox): Constitutional Call to Synod Assembly 2023 will be done by February 10, 2023. Assembly scheduled for June 10, 2023, will be virtual. Recommended registration is \$25.00 per person. Times must be set. Recommended:

ACTION SC/2023/06: SYNOD ASSEMBLY JUNE 10, 2023 will begin at 9:30am (EST). registration fee will be \$25.00 per person. Livestreams will be free to all non-voting observers. **Carried.**

(Note: Presiding Bishop Eaton is the CW representative for the Assembly but, as it is virtual, Bp. Gafkjen hopes to invite her to one of the regional events.)

Pr. Nancy Nyland (see Dropbox): Reviewed Synod authorized ministry status and recommended renewal of all three.

ACTION SC/2023/07: Approve renewal of the three Synod Authorized Worshipping Communities: Christ Lutheran Chapel in Elizabethtown, KY., So Much More Ministries (SMMM) in Fort Wayne, IN., Mara Evangelical Church in Indianapolis, IN (MECI). **Carried.**

MECI: Mara Evangelical Lutheran Church seeks a building, having a pre-approved Mission Investment Fund loan in the amount of \$400,000.00. Their chosen building price was \$700,000.00 but was appraised at \$550,000.00. The congregation is able to meet the purchase price with their own funds and the loan. If approved by MIS, their sale will close 01/21/23.

Susie Swenson: Report in Dropbox.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Constitution Committee (P. McIntyre): no report.

Secretary Nomination (D. Zehr, E. Kirk, Pr. Burkholder): contacts underway.

Regional Event Implementation Committee (Pr. Fugate): Plans to be announced at April SC meeting.

Next Meeting: April 14-15, 2023 at Synod Office. That meeting will finalize design for Synod Assembly ZOOM.

Hans Giller: thanked SC for invitation to visit. CW Council is working on enlisting one million young people in renewing the Church. Churchwide Assembly emphasized the need for call-process diversity. He serves on the Faith and Leadership Committee and the Board Development Committee for CW Council.

Mission Monitor (T. Smith): reviewed meeting.

Closing prayer Bishop Gafkjen.

Meeting adjourned 12:25PM by VP. Ted Miller.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia McIntyre,
Secretary.