

INDIANA-KENTUCKY SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes

Friday June 7, 2024: 9:00am – 11:30am EDT

Hancock Room

Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport
830 Phillips Lane, Louisville, Kentucky 40209

Present: Bishop Bill Gafkjen, Bimen Limbong, Jane Rothman, Debbie Zehr, Mike Hoover, Chris Walda, Ryan Bailey, Betsy Kirk, LaDona Webb, Evangeline R. Anderson, Dee Ann Daniels, Emmanuel Penumaka, Vicki Garber, Nicole Lee, Tim Graham, Ted Miller, Jody Winter, Dianna Hunsinger

Absent: Julie Slavens, Noah Smith, Ella Engelau

Staff Present: Nancy Nyland, Dan Forehand

Guests: Karl Biermann, Region 6 ELCA Foundation Representative, Josh Tatum, Synod Attorney, Sue Rothmeyer, ELCA Secretary

Ted Miller called the meeting to order at 9:00 with the information that today is Daniel Boone Day. (In 1769 he crossed the Cumberland Gap.)

Opening Prayer led by Bishop Bill, including devotions on Philippians, Chapter 4.

Bishop Bill introduced Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, who brought greetings from the Churchwide Office.

SC2024/31: Ted Miller asked for a motion to approve the minutes from April Synod Council meeting: Mike Hoover moved and Tim Graham seconded. Approved by the Synod Council.

Ted Miller stated his report was in Dropbox. He noted that Bishop Bill and Chris Walda will remain on the Executive Committee until August 31. He also thanked Jody Winter for taking minutes of this council meeting in the absence of Secretary Julie Slavens. Ted also read a letter from the Lutheran Foundation that will be distributed at the Assembly. The letter stated the Foundation was praying for the Assembly and gave thanks for Bishop Bill's years of service.

Karl Biermann provided an update on the Gafkjen Endowment Fund. He noted there will be a flyer in Assembly packets. The current balance is

approximately \$13,000. All individuals and congregations will be invited to contribute. The offering at the Friday evening service will go to this fund. The ELCA Foundation will manage the fund once it hits \$25,000. The plan is to make grants beginning next spring.

SC2024/32: Karl Biermann listed the members of the Planning Team to be appointed by the Synod Council as follows: Karl Biermann, Ted Miller, Julie Slavens, Charley Smith, Peter Iversen, and Barb Limbach. LaDona Webb moved to appoint the members to the Planning Team. Chris Walda second. Motion passed.

Ted Miller reported the Executive Committee met May 28th but there was no action to report as the committee mostly discussed the Synod Assembly logistics. The committee will probably have a Zoom meeting later this summer.

Chris Walda reported his report was in Dropbox and the synod had a great February in terms of income and this was a good start to the year over last year. Chris also reported there is an informational sheet on Missional Budget in the Synod Assembly folder.

SC2024/33: Bishop Bill recommended Alexa Kvande be appointed to the Finance Committee. The council approved the recommendation of Bishop Bill to appoint Alexa Kvande to the Finance Committee.

Bishop Bill Gafkjen Report:

SC2024/34: Bishop Bill recommended John Roberts be appointed as Dean of Northeast Indiana Conference. The council approved the recommendation to appoint John Roberts as Northeast Conference Dean.

Roster Concerns:

Pastor Joshua Burkholder requested one more year of On Leave From Call status. This is the fifth and final year of his extension.

SC2024/35: Bishop Bill recommended to the council to grant the one year of extension from leave of call to Joshua Burkholder. The council approved the recommendation of the Bishop.

Congregational Concerns:

Bishop Bill reported the Mara Evangelical Church in Indianapolis (MECI) needs the Synod Council to receive them as a congregation in the IK Synod. It is a Burmese refugee congregation with approximately 130 members participating in the congregation. SAM Kai Cho is due for approval for ordination on August 8 and ordination on August 31. If approved, the congregation will be welcomed by the Synod Assembly on Friday during the Bishop's first report.

SC2024/36: Bishop Bill recommended the council recommend the Synod Assembly to accept and welcome MECI as an IK Synod congregation. The council approved the recommendation of the Bishop.

Update on Grace, Syracuse disaffiliation process: Bishop Bill reported they are in the 90-day waiting period, which ends June 17. The second vote will probably happen after that date. The Synod Council will eventually have to vote on its disaffiliation and holding the property for remaining EELCA members.

Bishop Bill also reported on the relocation of Come2Go ministries in Fort Wayne to Faith Lutheran Church. There was a discussion to affirm the type of ministry done at Come2Go and So Much More ministries in addition to other congregations coming together in the Faith facility. The move has already taken place and the Bishop recommends approval.

SC2024/37: Bishop Bill recommended the approval of the relocation of Come2Go ministries to Faith Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne. The council approved the recommendation of the Bishop.

Other Synod Staff Concerns:

Dan Forehand explained the need for the expansion of the Candidacy Committee and requested the following persons be appointed to the Candidacy Committee:

First five-year term:

- Mr. Larry Gajderowicz, Newburgh, IN
- Ms. Karen Hernes, Valparaiso, IN
- Rev. Kathy VanOsdol, Indianapolis, IN
- Rev. Lee Zandstra, Fort Wayne, IN

Second five-year term:

- Rev. Matt Masko, Avon, IN
- Rev. Wendy Piano, Fort Wayne, IN

Chair, 1-year term, annually appointed

- Deaconess Carrie Svobola (current member of the committee)

SC2024/38: Bishop Bill recommended the appointment of the members of the Candidacy Committee as presented by Dan Forehand. The council approved the recommendation and appointments.

Dan Forehand also noted his report is in the Dropbox.

Nancy Nyland stated her report is in the Dropbox. She also reported the E-connect grant continues into 2025. She is planning for the transition of Synod staff so that the program may continue and also possible/planning to extend into 2026. There will be new cohorts starting in the Fall, 2024. She is looking for sustainability of transformational ministry. Bimen shared what a blessing this program has been for their congregation.

2024-2025 Executive Committee Members

A lay male and a lay female member of the council is to be elected to the executive committee by the council on an annual basis. In addition, a rostered member of the council is to be elected on an annual basis.

Eligible lay female members: DeeAnn Daniels, Ella Engela, Dianna Hunsinger, Deb Zehr, and Nicole Lee.

Eligible lay male members: Mike Hoover and Noah Smith

Eligible rostered members: Evangeline Rajkumar, Ryan Bailey, Vicki Garber, Bimen Limbong, Tim Graham, Emmanuel Penumaka, LaDonna Webb, and Jody Winter.

SC2024/39: Paper ballots were submitted by each council member and the following persons were elected: Mike Hoover on the first ballot, DeeAnn Daniels on the second ballot, and Pastor Tim Graham on the fourth ballot.

Preview of Synod Assembly: Bishop Bill and Ted Miller shared information about the assembly and details about its program, agenda, and the voting process for the Bishop election.

Schedule for upcoming Synod Council meetings:

There will be a special Zoom meeting for Saturday, August 3, from 9:30 am to noon. The November 2024 meeting dates are November 8 and 9. The January 2025 Zoom meeting date will be Saturday, January 11, 2025, and the April 2025 meeting dates are April 4 and 5, 2025.

The next regular meeting of the Synod Council will be September 13-14, 2024, at Lutheran Hills Camp, Morgantown IN.

Reflections from Departing Synod Council Members were given by Jane Rothman, Betsy Kirk, Chris Walda as treasurer, Nancy Nyland, and Bishop Bill.

Meeting Review: Jody Winter provided the meeting review: Thankful for all the work that has been done. Synod Council sincerely appreciates the service of these individuals and the time and energy they have given to this part of ministry in our synod.

The Meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Slavens
IK Synod Secretary