

**Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
November 18-19, 2022
Synod Office 911 E. 86th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana**

Minutes, Friday, November 18, 2022

Present:

Officers: Pr. W. O. Gafkjen, Bishop; T. Miller, VP., P. McIntyre, Secretary; C. Walda, Treasurer.

Rostered: Pr. R. Bailey, Pr. J. Burkholder, Deacon J. Winter, Pr. V. Garber, Pr. J. Rothman, Pr. L. Webb, Pr. T. Graham, Pr. Evangeline Anderson Rajkumar, Pr. B. Limbong,

Laity: D. Zehr, D. Daniels, D. Kissling, M. Hoover, N. Lee, E. Kirk, D. Zehr, S.Hall, D. York, V. Carron.

Staff, Pr. N. Nyland, S. Swenson, Pr. D. Fugate, Pr. C. Driver, Pr. D. Forhand.

Guest: Pr. Karl Biermann, Synod Gift Policy

WELCA: T. Smith

Absent: Noah Smith

Meeting called to order by VP Miller at 7:00PM. Devotions led by Chaplains Pr. T. Graham and Mr. S. Hall, followed by introductions and sharing.

Officer Reports:

Vice-President's Report: Ted Miller referred SC to his report in Dropbox.

Secretary's Report: (See Dropbox) Pat McIntyre presented Minutes. Minutes approved as corrected. Presented Executive Committee recommendation to appoint Mrs. Julie Walda to serve as Interim Bookkeeper of I-K Synod following the retirement of Sue Miller effective 12/26/22.

Action (SC/2022/40): Accept EC proposal to appoint Mrs. Julie Walda Interim Bookkeeper. (Carried).

Treasurer's Report: (see Dropbox) Chris Walda reported decline in Mission Support. We are \$225,000 behind budget for present fiscal year. Pr. Nyland and Pr. Jerry O'Neal are working on developing new and or renewed giving from congregations. Finance Committee and staff are looking at (1) Mission Support, (2) giving trends, (3) balance

sheets, (4) income statements. The Endowment, per its governing documents, is supporting Synod staff transitions. Finance Committee believes the Synod remains financially secure for the present fiscal year. Discussion of possible renewal of “Stewardship for All Seasons.” Insufficient information so discussion tabled until January meeting.

Disclosure statements distributed to SC members’ signatures. They will be held in the Synod Office files.

Chaplains offered closing devotions. Meeting Adjourned until 9:30AM, Saturday, November 19, 2023.

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Minutes, Saturday, November 19, 2022

Meeting called to order by VP Miller at 9:30AM. Chaplains offered devotions.

Regional Gatherings: In lieu of formal Synod Assembly in 2023, generative discussion produced plan to offer three regional one-day gatherings (north-mid-south synod).

Purpose: empower, encourage, and equip people to make Christ known.

Format: Beginning worship; Keynote address; Breakout discussions; Sending worship.

Goals: address longing of members to be together; develop esprit d’ corps; focus participants on IK Synod mission; offer lay training.

Topics:

Aging church	Broken relationships
Interconnection of church relationships;	Post-Covid future/quarantine
Growing diversity	Review Social Statements
Longing for connection	Overcome isolation
Esprit d’ Corps	Judgmentalism
Mission-focus	Right-sizing Constitutions (small churches)
Support, train Laity	Embodied Justice
Full Communion relationships	Reconciled-in-Christ Congregations
Virtual worship difficulties	Youth Ministry
Going “green”	Depth of Spiritual Experience
Meaning of being “Body of Christ”	

Pr. Bailey recommended two resources: “Faith in Place,” and “The Collossian Forum.

A planning team for the events will be charged to:

1. Establish dates, venues for events,
2. Structure the events,

3. Identify both personnel and material resources,
4. Devise assessment instruments,
5. Incorporate full-communion relationship possibilities

Planning team will find host churches, local representation in the regions, resources to let the events be “a gathering of God’s people to empower and equip us to proclaim the Gospel.”

Volunteers for the Planning Team: V. Carron, Pr. T. Graham, D. Daniels, Deacon J. Winter. Pr. Dan Fugate will serve as Synod Staff person.

Pastor Fugate will convene the planning team, budget will come from fiscal '23 budget.

Review of Synod Gift Policy: Pr. Karl Biermann presented the annual review Synod gift-giving opportunities, explaining what kinds of gifts are appropriate, matching-fund opportunities, authority to distribute gifts, allocation and use, and allocation-differed gifts. His review is in Dropbox.

ACTION (SC/2022/41) SC affirm the Synod Gift-Giving Policy for use through November 20, 2023. Carried.

WELCA Report: Tina Smith reported the WELCA November 4/5, 2023 retreat results. She was reelected President of the Synod’s WELCA organization. They are in process of amending their constitution. Their focus moving forward is work against human trafficking.

Bishop and Staff Reports:

Bishop’s Report: Bp. Gafkjen is working with Debby Asberry, Good Company Consulting, on reimagining conferences to help move the church forward. His primary concerns are:

1. Staff transitions – toward renewed and refreshed culture of Synod staff,
2. Reaction to staff transitions – misinterpretation of his intentions,
3. Drop in Misison Support – staffing and programming are at risk if congregations are unable to meet their support goals,
4. State of congregations – exhaustion, division, unfilled pulpits, financial stresses.

His conclusions are that reimagining is premature. Present need is to bring stability, foster mutual trust, and promote diversity, equity and inclusion in all areas of ministry. He asked the prayers of SC for all involved and be in mutual ministry with him and the staff.

Staff transitions include housing for Prs. Dillon and Forhand. Recommended designating \$20,000 allowance for Pr. Driver and \$30,000 for Pr. Forhand.

ACTION (SC/2022/42): Accept the housing allowance designations for Pr. Dillon and Pr. Forhand as recommended. Carried

Finance Committee: Recommendation to appoint Pr. V. Garber to Finance Committee:

ACTION (SC/2022/43): Appoint Pastor Vicki Garber to Finance Committee for a second 3-year term. Carried.

Roster Concerns:

On recommendation of Bp. Gafkjen:

Action (SC/2022/44): Grant Retired Status to Pr. Thelma Megill-Cobbler (effective 12/01/2022) and Pr. Jim Wetzel (effective 11/01/2022. Carried.

ACTION (SC/2022/45): Grant on-leave status to Pr. Gretchen Freese (1st year/Family), Deacon Julie Peralta (2nd year extension), Pr. Andrea Hickey (1st year effective/moved to New York), all effective 12/01/22.

Pr. Emily Truby-Weller is serving a Methodist congregation in South Bend, IN. The congregation wishes to call her. She is under SC call. No action needed yet.

Congregational Concerns:

Zion Lutheran Church/Bristol is considering disaffiliation. They have been advised the process; decision pending.

Mara Evangelical/Indianapolis hopes to close on their building purchase 1/31/23. Pr. Nancy Nyland (DEM) is working with them on Mission Investment Fund extension.

Lunch Break

VP. Miller called SC to order at 12:30PM

Purdue Lutheran Ministry elected Pr. Kristin Rice to serve as campus minister. On recommendation of Bp. Gafkjen:

ACTION (SC/2022/46): Extend Synod Call to Pr. Kristin Rice to serve as Pastor of Purdue Campus Ministry effective January 2023. Carried.

Staff Reports:

Pr. Cory Dillon: (report in Dropbox) requested names of church members who may be ready for preparation for ordained ministry.

Pr. Dan Forhand: (report in Dropbox) advised that he will be working with transitions both in congregations and among rostered ministers and will seek to develop new formats for serving, for shared ministry, and for congregational stability.

Pr. Dan Fugate: (report in Dropbox) reported continued growth in the Growing Young program. He welcomes lay leadership and will continue to develop it.

Pr. Nancy Nyland: (report in Dropbox).

Pr. Jerry O'Neal: (report in Dropbox).

Sue Swenson: (report in Dropbox) thanked Dee Daniels for her assistance with e-news. Individuals may now subscribe by email to receive it.

Committee Reports:

Constitution Committee presented amendments to Synod Model Constitution (dropbox)

ACTION(SC/2022/47; Approve Constitution Committee's proposed changes to the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Model Constitution. Carried.

Taskforces:

Racial Justice: Members will meet with the Bishop; will continue to develop resources for congregations concerning Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Black History Month. They will hold a retreat in February of 2023, to share information. Beginning in January of 2023, they invite all to join in the *Sacred Ground* small-group film/readings series.

Taskforce for the Office of the Secretary: Three SC members appointed to solicit candidates to replace Patricia McIntyre. Her term of office ends in 2023. A new Secretary will begin service with the September, 2023 SC meeting. Taskforce members: David Zehr (Lay male), Betsy Kirk (Lay female), and Pr. Josh Burkholder (Clergy).

Mission Monitor David York summarized the meeting and offered improvements.

Next SC meeting scheduled for January 14, 2023. Chaplains and Monitors to be announced. April 2023 Chaplains: Deacon Winter and Dr. McIntyre. Monitor: Tina Smith. SC will meet in June prior to ZOOM Synod Assembly, date to be announced.

Chaplains Hall and Pr. Graham offered closing worship. Meeting adjourned by VP Miller.