

**MINUTES**  
**72<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF MNO SYNOD COUNCIL**  
**November 26-27, 2009**  
**Laureate's Landing, Winnipeg Manitoba**

**Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod**  
**of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada**

**PARTICIPANTS**

**Officers:**

**Bishop Elaine Sauer**  
**Brian Lorch** – Vice Chairperson  
**Carol Janke** – Secretary  
**Allan Francis** - Treasurer

**Council Members:**

**Ken Schmidt** - Westman  
**Ben Nickel**- Agassiz  
**Marilyn Grimeau** – Aurora  
**Rhea Galeschuk** – Brokenhead  
**Ernie Dojack** – Cambrian  
**Wayne Schultz** – Metro  
**Trudy Thorarinson** – At Large  
**Michael Kurtz** – At Large  
**Ed Mitchler** – At Large

**Staff:**

**Larry Ulrich** – Assistant to Bishop  
**Debbie Beyer** – Executive Assistant

**Guests:**

**Bishop Susan Johnson** (ELCIC)  
**Melissa Ulrich** (Synodical ELW) (Thursday & Friday night only)  
**Tom Brook** (NCC) (Thursday night only)

**Thursday, November 26th, 2009**

**Session I**

Opening devotions: Trudy Thorarinson led us in devotions using Luke 26:25-36. We sang all verses of *Prepare the Royal Highway*.

## Adoption of Agenda

**MSC SC 72-09-01** that we adopt the amended Agenda

**MSC SC 72- 09-02** that the minutes of the following Synod Council meetings be approved:

January 29, 30, 2009 (in-person meeting)

February 26, 2009 (e-meeting)

May 26, 2009 (e-meeting)

October 1, 2009 (e-meeting)

November 11, 2009 (e-meeting)

## **MSC SC 72-09-03**

That the minutes of the following Synod Executive meetings be approved:

February 6, 2009 (e-meeting)

March 13, 2009 (in-person meeting)

March 19, 2009 (conference call meeting)

May 8, 2009 (in-person meeting)

September 15, 2009 (in-person meeting)

October 30, 2009 (in-person meeting)

## **Reports:**

Report of the Synod Staff: Bishop Elaine provided an extensive written report and answered any questions arising.

Report of the Secretary:

Roster Changes:

**MSC SC 72-09-04** that Heimo Bachmeyer be moved from St. Peter's, Winnipeg to Retired effective September 30, 2009.

**MSC SC 72 09-05** that Monica Denk be moved from Temporarily Without Call to On Leave from Call, First Year, effective November 30, 2009.

**MSC SC 72-09-06** that George Johnson be moved from Redeemer, Whitemouth to Retired effective September 30, 2009.

**MSC SC 72-09-07** that Lanny Knudson be moved from Gloria Dei, Winnipeg to Retired effective July 31, 2009.

**MSC SC 72-09-08** that David Lowe be moved from Temporarily Without Call to On Leave from Call, First Year, effective November 30, 2009.

**MSC SC 72-09-09** that Jaycen Snider be moved from Temporarily Without Call to On Leave from Call, First Year, effective November 30, 2009.

**MSC SC 72 09 10** that Bruce Zinken be moved from Temporarily Without Call to On Leave from Call, First Year, effective November 30, 2009.

#### Constitutional Amendments

**MSC SC 72- 09-11** That the proposed amendments to the following congregational constitutions be approved as presented:

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Selkirk, Selkirk, Manitoba

Pinawa Lutheran Church, Pinawa, Manitoba

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brunkild, Manitoba

#### Report of the Treasurer:

The treasurer reported that the budget restructuring undertaken in 2009 is having the anticipated effect. By year-end, our 2009 financial position should be significantly improved over 2008. Most of this improvement will be used to establish a fund for 2010 Mission as Hope New Program Initiatives. This will honour our commitment to use a portion of the funds from the Mission as Hope appeal for new programs. This technique of "lagging" the expenditures by a year also provides us with the financial security of knowing that we are only spending funds that have actually been received by the Synod.

**MSC SC 72- 09-12** that a new internally restricted fund be created, known as the Mission as Hope New Initiatives Fund. The purpose of the fund shall be to provide funding for new programming identified in the Mission as Hope Appeal. Decisions on which specific new programs will be funded shall be made by Synod Council.

**MSC SC 72-09-13** that 75% of the 2009 year-end surplus, to a maximum of \$20,000, be transferred to the Mission as Hope New Initiatives Fund at year-end.

**MSC SC 72-09-14** that the Restricted Fund Summary, and the year-end actions proposed therein, be approved as presented.

**MSC SC 72-09-15** that onBusiness Chartered Accountants Inc. be appointed as auditor for the year ending December 31, 2009.

#### Policy Review

**MSC SC 72-09-16** that we approve the Spouse of Bishop Travel Expenses policy.

**MSC SC 72-09-17** that we approve the Synod Executive Approval of Programs policy.

**MSC SC 72-09-18** that we approve the Bequests and Gifts policy.

There was a discussion about the Synod's student aid policies. Council was advised that a memo would be sent to CTEL advising them of some required changes.

Because the guidelines for applying for the Synod Foundation for Mission and Ministry grants are sparse and ill defined there is a need for some work on developing criteria for the application process. As well there is no reporting back process.

**MSC SC 72-09-19** that Synod Executive review the Synod Grants Application Policy.

In anticipation that proposed Constitutional amendments introduced at the 2008 convention and the associated bylaw changes to be introduced at the 2010 convention provided the constitutional changes pass 2nd reading, Council must adopt a policy on committees.

**MSC SC 72 -09-20** that the Committees of Synod Council Policy be approved subject to the adoption of relevant by-law changes at the 2010 Synod Convention.

### **Report on Structural Renewal Taskforce:**

Allan Francis made a presentation on the work of the Structural Renewal Task Force.

Michael Kurtz led us in closing devotions using Psalm 25.

Meeting recessed at 9:25 p.m.

Session II

**Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

*Bishop Elaine and Larry Ulrich led devotions using Ephesians 4:1-13. We developed "bucket" lists of the hopes and dreams we still wish to accomplish in life, and then looked at how this might fit into God's "bucket" list for us. This assisted us as we discussed what kind of leadership would assist God's work, and what it means to be apostles, pastors, teachers, evangelists and prophets.*

### **Committee and Partnership Reports**

National Church Report

Bishop Susan Johnson reported on the work of the National Church using the five pillars through which NCC does their work – spirited discipleship, focused in framework, effective partnerships, compassionate justice, and diverse faces.

Three task forces– Structural Renewal, Human Sexuality, Resource Generation are currently up and running. She acknowledged that it can be very difficult to live with change, but in the meantime we go on, listening for God and remembering that this is God’s church and it is going to be okay.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

Committee for Christian Education: A DVD will soon be available to provide information on how our Sunday schools might support our companion synod’s – The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Cameroon – program of caring for children affected by HIV/Aid ( Fanta’s Orphans.)

Committee for Church and Society: Noted requests and suggestions for improving communication between Synod Council and the committees of the synod.

Committee for Theological Education and Leadership: Noted that Michelle Barr has received a call and will be consecrated on January 20, 2010. Annemarie Macintosh to be nominated to serve on PCLM

Committee for Worship and the Arts: Noted that Joanne Stewart has resigned from this committee.

Committee for Youth Ministry: Noted that Lindsay Byron is to be appointed to this committee to fulfill the term resulting from resignation of Scott Janke.

Luther Village: Noted that this Board has several vacancies that need filling.

Committee for Mission Report: Noted that Dave Stewart has resigned from this committee.

Lutheran Urban Ministry: Bob Whelan has made significant contributions to LUM during his tenure as a Volunteer in Mission. He has ignited interest in LUM, as there is a growing commitment in congregations to support this work

### **Policy Review**

Constitution and Bylaws: Noted that there are many minor changes having to do with numbering/lettering/name changes. However significant changes have to do with how we decide on salaries for synod staff. Synod Council will set the salary of the Bishop, and the overall salary budget, but the responsibility for setting specific staff salaries will be delegated to the Bishop, subject to policies set by Council. Synod Executive will bring draft employment policies to the next Council meeting for approval. Further limits on the authority for the Synod Executive are clearly defined; and that there be a Chair instead of Vice-Chair of Synod Council

**MSC SC 72-09-21** that we approve the proposed bylaw changes for presentation and adoption at the 2010 Synod Convention.

12.00 Lunch Break -- Michael Kurtz said grace

Session III

### **Cameroon Mission Trip**

Larry Ulrich gave some background on the Committee for Mission's Cameroon Mission Exposure Trip (CCMET). Two areas where the Cameroon church has asked us to do some work are *The Orphan Program for the Protestant Hospital in N'gaoundere* – renamed for our purposes *Kids Helping Kids*, and their Women's organization – *Femmes pour Christ*. One area we have asked for some training is in their *Lay Evangelism Training Program* which was designed to identify and train lay evangelists in the Cameroon church. Discussion followed on issues around funding, insurance, and leadership.

**MSC SC 72-09-22** that the funding structure and risk management plan for CCMET be approved as presented.

**MSC SC 72-09-23** that a contingency of \$3,826 to be added to the CCMET budget, bringing the total budgeted cost of the trip to \$40,000, and the cost per participant to \$5,000.

### **Report of Foundation Grants Review Committee**

We considered several grant applications for the remaining available funds in the amount of \$7,300. The following allocations were made:

**MSC SC 72-09-24** that the unallocated balances of the 2007, 2008, and 2009 Foundation Grants be allocated as follows:  
Sage Creek Discernment Group \$2,000 for promotional purposes as they see fit;

CCMET 5,300.

### **Financial Decisions**

Presentation and approval of 2010 budget

Proposed budgets for 2010 through 2012 follow the same basic structure as 2009, without forecasting any increase in congregational benevolence or Mission as Hope revenues, and reflect the need to live within our means. Although we have held the revenue forecast flat, we have increased some disbursements such as staff salaries. Because we lack a sufficient contingency reserve, we continue our practice of putting a proportion of national church benevolence payments into the Column B budget, with the understanding that these funds will be paid out as long as the corresponding congregational benevolence is received. The total budget requests of the Committees were accommodated, although some amounts needed to be placed in Column B. This mostly impacted on the Mission Committee, particularly in the later years when the available funds are most tightly squeezed.

**MSC SC 72-09-25** that the 2010 budget be approved as presented.

**MSC SC 72-09-26** that the 2011 and 2012 budgets be approved for presentation to the 2010 Synod Convention.

**MSC SC 72-09-27** that the Synod Executive be authorized to pay the Column B National Church benevolence during 2010 if they are satisfied that the congregational benevolence Column A budget will be exceeded.

### **In Camera Session**

**MSC SC 72-09-28** that we move in camera.

**MSC SC 72-09-29** that we move into an open session.

### **2010 Synod Convention – *In Mission with Others – Led by God's Word***

**MSC SC 72-09-30** that the Agenda for the 2010 Synod Convention be approved as presented.

**MSC SC 72-09-31** that the following registration fees be set for the 2010 Synod Convention:

Lay and rostered delegates: \$380

Visitors: \$125

Banquet only: \$35

Renewal event only: \$25

Late registration fee: \$25

Youth delegates, retired rostered ministers, OLC and TWC rostered ministers, rostered ministers in special calls where the calling agency is not responsible for fees: no charge.

**MSC SC 72-09-32** that the automobile travel reimbursement and hotel policy for the 2010 Synod Convention be as follows:

All delegates traveling from congregations or calls outside of the Perimeter Highway shall be entitled to a paid convention hotel room (double occupancy.)

All delegates traveling by car from congregations or calls located outside of the Perimeter Highway shall be entitled to travel compensation of .20 per kilometer for the driver plus .03 per passenger.

**MSC SC 72-09-33** that the convention minutes be sent electronically to delegates for insertion into their Bulletin of Reports.

**MSC SC 72-09-34** that Don Engel be asked to serve as the 2010 Synod Convention Parliamentarian.

### **Mission As Hope**

**MSC SC 72-09-35** that Synod Council endorses the 2010 Mission as Hope communication package.

### **Committee Appointments**

**MSC SC 72-09-36** that Lindsay Byron be appointed to the Committee for Youth Ministry, to fill the un-expired term of Scott Janke.

**MSC SC 72-09-37** that the Luther Village Endowment Fund and Capital Campaign can be brought to congregations between May 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 to October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

Synod Council recessed.

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting  
of the Members of MNO Synod Foundation for Mission & Ministry Inc.  
November 27, 2009  
Laureate's Landing, St. Norbert, MB**

Present: Allan Francis, Debbie Beyer, Ernie Dojack, Trudy Thorarinson, Marilyn Grimeau, Brian Lorch, Bishop Elaine Sauer, Carol Janke, Michael Kurtz, Rhea Galeschuk, Ed Mitchler, Ken Schmidt, Ben Nickel,

**MSC Nov-Foundation-09-01** that we adopt the agenda as presented.

**MSC Nov-Foundation-09-02** that we approve the minutes of August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 Annual Meeting as distributed.

Received for information were the February 24th, 2009 Foundation Board minutes.

Received for information were the Financial Statements for the year ended December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

**MSC Nov-Foundation-09-03** that we appoint onBusiness Chartered Accountants Inc. to perform a review engagement for the year ending December 31st, 2009.

The chair called for nominations for directors. Allan Francis nominated Larry Ulrich. There being no further nominations, Larry was elected by acclamation to a three year term ending 2012.

**MSC Nov-Foundation-09-04** that the annual meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Janke, Acting Secretary

Synod Council meeting resumed

Suggestion for Synod Meeting Dates for 2010 and 2010.

**MSC SC 72-09-38** that the following dates be set as future meeting dates:

March 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010; April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 at 4pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church; November 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010; April 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011; November 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

## Session IV

### **Evangelical Lutheran Women**

Melissa Ulrich reported that at the national level, the ELW has begun a process of restructuring and renewal. This new structure will give support to an event-based model of programming, and the MNO S-ELW has been chosen to pilot this new structure for the year 2010. This structure significantly simplifies the current ELW structure which in recent years has been a drain on leadership. As well they are working on new financial processes. It was noted that ELW offers many wonderful bible studies that are appropriate for many people and groups within the church.

### Structural Renewal

Discussions on the presentation of the Structural Renewal Task Force took place. Small group discussions followed by a feedback session led by Allan Francis.

### **Unfinished Business**

**MSC SC 72-09-39** that personnel issues would be recorded through in camera minutes for the Committee for Theological Education and Leadership.

**MSC SC 72-09-40** that we express our thanks to the Boards and Committees who partner with us in ministry.

**MSC SC 72-09-41** that Synod Council direct staff to facilitate an orientation workshop for chairs of synod committees in cooperation with Synod Executive.

**MSC SC 72-09-42** that Synod Council direct staff to develop a mission trip manual and bring a draft to Synod Council for approval.

**MSC SC 72-09-43** that Synod Council approve in principal the creation of a part time synod staff position of "Young Adult Ministry Facilitator," responsible for coordination of the synod Campus Peer Ministry program, as well as responsibility for assisting congregations and the synod with young adult ministries, for a three year term.

**MSC SC 72-09-44** that Synod Council delegate the following authority to Synod Executive:  
to sign off on audited financial statements;  
to act on Synod Council's behalf to deal with any Examining Committee recommendations;  
to fill vacancies on Luther Village Board.

**MSC SC 72-09-45** that Synod Executive review the Professional Leader's Study Conference funding model and report back to Council in March 2010.

Wayne Schultz led us in closing devotions and prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Carol Janke,