



Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod
Of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

MINUTES

67th MEETING OF MNO SYNOD COUNCIL

August 23-24, 2007
St. Charles Retreat Centre
323 St. Charles Street, Winnipeg

PARTICIPANTS

Officers:

Elaine Sauer - Bishop
Brian Lorch – Vice Chairperson
Carol Janke - Secretary
Don Martin - Treasurer

Staff:

Larry Ulrich – Assistant to Bishop (*Thurs. & Fri. morning*)
Debbie Beyer – Executive Assistant
Rick Scherger – Communications Coordinator

Guests

Alice Schultz (Synodical ELW) (*Fri. only*)

Council Members:

Ken Schmidt - Westman (*absent with excuse*)
Larry Skoglund - Agassiz
Michael Kurtz – At Large (*Mission*)
(absent with excuse)
Marilyn Grimeau – Aurora
Audrey Miller – Brokenhead (*C-TEL*)
Ernie Dojack – Cambrian (*Worship and Arts*)
Faye Goranson – Interlake (*Church & Society*)
Brian Keffer – At Large (*Youth*)
Trudy Thorarinson – At Large (*Christian Ed.*)
Wayne Schultz – Metro (*Luther Village*)

Presenter

Rhonda Lorch, Lorch & Associates (*Fri.*)

Thursday, August 23, 2007

Opening Devotions were led by Bishop Elaine.

There was spirited discussion as vision and value statements were revisited.

Larry Ulrich led us through a process for “Every Council Visit Program” to take place in October, November and December of 2007. These visits will be done by all council members including the executive.

Meeting recessed at 9:35 p.m.

Friday, August 24, 2007

Ernie Dojack led us in morning devotions.

SESSION I

Adoption of Agenda

MSC

SC 67-07-01

that we adopt the Agenda.

Approval of Minutes

MSC	SC 67-07-02	that we approve the Synod Council minutes of January 25-26, 2007.
MSC	SC 67-07-03	that we approve the Synod Executive minutes of February 16, March 30, May 4, June 8 and August 10, 2007.

Business Arising not elsewhere on the Agenda: no business.

Discussion on the report of the Bishop and Synod Office Staff:

It was noted that the staff does a tremendous amount of work and we are grateful for this.

Multiplying Ministry is more than a Certificate of Theology program. All our educational programs except ordination track courses are subsumed in this category. Work ahead for this committee is evaluating current content, developing courses that meet the needs of both students and congregations, both Anglican and Lutheran, all the while working under the National Church guidelines for Multiplying Ministry. Much of this work is done by office staff.

Strengthening Ministry - The hope is when congregations in our synod report to the Bishop that they are in conflict, that they will consider hiring Cathy Morris, MNO Synod Strengthening Ministry Coordinator. Her role is to facilitate a process of assessment that will help congregations become healthy and learn how to work through conflict. This is to be a congregational tool to help churches stay faithful to their call to do mission and ministry. This is not meant to download the Synod's responsibility, for this is a new initiative and a new service which has not been offered before.

Letter of Intention for the proposed development of "Sage Creek" - A property has been identified for a new church start up in this area, and by providing a letter of intent we have 5 years to evaluate and plan on whether to move forward on this.

Stewardship - Discussion followed on how we see the responsibilities being fulfilled and how we can work towards having both national and synodical mandates met. One way to move forward is to have all committees take responsibility. This represents a philosophical change in how we do ministry. Yet it was noted that having stewardship pervade all of life is what it means to be faithful.

Communication – It was noted that Rick Scherger is doing a great job. Crossword is well received. Readership is growing. Content is somewhat dependent on readers. It was noted that we will need to look at ways to increase the funding for Communication Coordinator position. This would be to accommodate the increased number of hours that Rick is working in order to facilitate the demands of growing programs.

Report of the Secretary

MSC	SC 67-07-04	that Jacob Li be moved from Temporarily Without Call to On Leave from Call, First year as of November 30, 2007
MSC	SC 67-07-05	that Gary Russell be moved from On Leave from Call, Third Year to Removed from the Roster unless he receives and accepts a call before November 30, 2007.
MSC	SC 67-07-06	that Nancy Walker be moved from Temporarily Without Call to On Leave from Call, First Year, as of November 30, 2007.

Financial Report

We are at about the same place as last year and managing well within the budget.

SESSION II

Report on the Adhoc Committee on Constitutional Review

The overarching goal of this committee was to move items from the Synod Constitution to the By-laws in order to facilitate the work of the Synod. All changes were noted by Ernie Dojack and will be moved at the January Council meeting in preparation for Convention. There was discussion on the following question: Should the Bishop also be the chair of Synod Council? The following two models were looked at:

- (a) The status Quo – The Bishop acts as both CEO and Chair or
- (b) Separation Model – The Bishop remains the CEO but relinquishes all duties relating to chairing.

What would be the best governance model for us? Consensus was that we will move towards Separation Model. It was also suggested that we look at having a Vice-Chair elected from the Synod Council membership.

Adjourned for lunch.

Report from ELW

Alice Schultz gave a verbal report on the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Women giving highlights of their endeavours. Programming is under review to make better use of financial resources. A new board is in place, and are working together well. They are looking forward to their national convention in July, 2008, in Calgary with Kelly Fryer as the guest presenter.

Council meeting is adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Annual Meeting of the MNO Synod Foundation for Mission & Ministry Inc.

Present: Don Martin, Debbie Beyer, Ernie Dojack, Faye Goranson, Audrey Miller, Trudy Thorarinson, Larry Skoglund, Alice Schultz, Rick Scherger, Wayne Schultz, Marilyn Grimeau, Brian Lorch, Bishop Elaine Sauer, Carol Janke

MSC Aug-Foundation-07-01 that we approve the minutes of the Annual Members meeting of August 25, 2006, and the Members meeting of January 26, 2007.

The minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of March 12, 2007 were noted as being received.

The audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2006 were received.

MSC Aug-Foundation-07-02 that we appoint OnBusiness Chartered Accountants Inc. as auditor of the MNO Synod Foundation for Mission and Ministry Inc. for the year ending December 31, 2007.

MSC Aug-Foundation-07-03 that we sanction the following motion that was passed at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the MNO Synod Foundation for Mission and Ministry Inc. held on March 12, 2007:

“Mar-Foundation-07-12: that we amend By-Law #62 by deleting the words “audit the accounts” and add in their place “perform the minimum of a review engagement”.

Election of Directors:

Nominations: Don Martin, James Fiebelkorn, Eleanor Lewko
Two to be elected for three year terms.

MSC Aug-Foundation-07-04 that nominations cease.

Don Martin and James Fiebelkorn declared elected.

MSC Aug-Foundation-07-04 that the ballots be destroyed.

The meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Janke

Synod Council meeting resumed at 1:40 p.m.

Synod Appeal

It was proposed that the new name for the consolidated mission appeal, which includes Youth and Campus Ministry, Focus on Mission and Second Mile Giving be renamed "In Mission for Others". Discussion followed with other names suggested. These were posted around the room for the Council to mull over.

Personnel Policy

The draft document "Personnel Policy and Procedures" was reviewed by the Council. Minor corrections were made to several categories. This will be returned to the council in January, 2008.

MNO Synod Implementation Policy of the ELCIC Policy for the Protection of Children, Youth and Other Vulnerable People

This policy covers volunteers for synodical events who are not covered by their own congregation's policy.

MSC	SC 67-07-07	that we adopt the draft Implementation Policy of the ELCIC Policy for the Protection of Children, Youth and Other Vulnerable People for implementation in the MNO Synod.
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Discussion regarding the results of the National Church Convention vote on Same Gender Blessing

How should we move forward? Bishop Elaine suggested that we provide opportunities for conversation throughout the synod. The deans have suggested this be done at the conference level. Another suggestion was to do this synodically, in order to hear different points of view.

MSC	SC 67-07-08	that we recommend conferences, in 2008, facilitate a conversation around same gender blessings with the assistance of deans, synod office and MNO Synod representatives on National Church Council.
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Luther Village Report

A verbal report was received from Synod Liaison Wayne Schultz. There is future follow up to a fine from Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources regarding a fire at Luther Village in 2006. We will await further reporting at the January council meeting.

Audited Financial Statements

Don Martin led us through the audited statements. We were given a clear review.

MSC	SC 67-07-08	that we appoint OnBusiness Chartered Accountants Inc. to complete the audit for the year ending December 31, 2007.
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Capital Campaign Update

Bishop Elaine gave details leading up to the decision to have a coordinated approach to a capital campaign, then introduced Rhonda Lorch of Lorch & Associates, who gave an overview of the timing and content of what is being planned.

MSC	SC 67-07-09	that we endorse in principle the MNO Synod Capital Campaign.
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2008 Synod Convention Arrangements

Bishop Elaine directed our attention to the changed format proposed for this convention. The hope is to change the convention to include spiritual growth, missional learning and development of community. Kelly Fryer will be the guest presenter. All planning to date has been affirmed by this council.

MSC	SC 67-07-10	that Synod Executive be given authority to appoint two women to the Nominating Committee.
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MSC	SC 67-07-11	that Randall Klaprat be appointed to the Nominating Committee.
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MSC	SC 67-07-12	that the proposed 2008 MNO Synod Convention Budget be approved.
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MSC	SC 67-07-13	that the following registration fees are set for the 2008 convention:
		Delegate Fee: \$590
		Youth Delegate Fee: \$125
		Visitor Fee: \$200
		Banquet ticket price: \$ 25

MSC	SC 67-07-14	that we invite Sperling's Church Supply to be our bookstore for the 2008 convention, and require that they register one person from their company as a visitor.
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Report of the Foundation Grants Allocations Committee

MSC **SC 67-07-15** **that the MNO Synod Foundation for Mission and Ministry Inc. monies be distributed to the following projects (to the maximum of \$5,000 which was available to be disbursed):**

LTS, Rural Ministry Institute: \$1,500.00
Youth Group, Abundant Life,
Basketball Hoop: \$ 500.00
Peer Ministry Training Event: \$1,000.00
Grace, Winnipeg,
Internship Program: \$1,000.00

\$1,000.00 will be allocated at a later date when a suitable project is identified.

Meeting recessed for supper at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting resumed at 6:15 p.m.

Lutheran Urban Ministry

MSC **SC 67-07-17** **that we transfer \$97,734.41, representing 75% of the remaining funds of the sale of First English Lutheran Church, to the now incorporated Lutheran Urban Ministry Inc., in accordance with Synod Council Motion SC 66-07-05.**

Synod Office Location

The building management for our office space has offered a new 5 year lease at \$11.00 per square foot with \$1,230.00 allowance for improvements. Drawbacks to the space are poor signage, limited parking, non-wheelchair accessibility, and wasted or poor use of space. However, without putting more money in the budget we are unable to find equivalent space at the same cost.

Council recommends the following guidelines for consideration: that we attempt to reduce the lease to 1 to 2 years, and keep looking. If a 5 year lease is necessary then move forward by realigning the office space.

Other Business: Resignation of Treasurer

Council was notified of Don Martin's resignation as Treasurer of the MNO Synod, and council regretfully accepted his resignation.

**MSC SC 67-07-18 that synod executive be permitted to appoint
an interim Treasurer due to Don Martin's
resignation.**

Council brainstormed names for an interim treasurer.

Format for Future Meetings

It was decided we would keep to the way we have meetings: Thursday evening beginning at 6:30 p.m. until Friday evening.

Next Meeting

Preferred Dates: January 24-25, 2008

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Carol Janke, Secretary