



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

MINUTES
70th MEETING OF MNO SYNOD COUNCIL
August 21-22, 2008
Laureate's Landing, Winnipeg, Manitoba

PARTICIPANTS

Officers:

Elaine Sauer: Bishop
Brian Lorch: Vice Chairperson
Carol Janke: Secretary
Allan Francis: Treasurer

Staff:

Larry Ulrich: Assistant to Bishop
Debbie Beyer: Executive Assistant
Rick Scherger: Communications
Coordinator
Absent with Excuse

Guests:

Alice Schultz: (Synodical ELW)
(Thurs.evening only)
Tom Brook: National Church
Council

Council Members:

Diane Rey: Agassiz (*Worship & Arts*)
Marilyn Grimeau: Aurora
Rhea Galeschuk: Brokenhead
Ernie Dojack: Cambrian
Mona Johnson: Interlake (*Christian Ed.*)
(Thurs.evening only)
Wayne Schultz: Metro (*Church & Society*)
Absent with Excuse
Ken Schmidt: Westman
Michael Kurtz: At Large (*Mission*)
Ed Mitchler: At Large (*LUM*)
Trudy Thorarinson: At Large

Thursday, August 21, 2008

SESSION I

Opening Devotions were led by Bishop Elaine.

Bishop Elaine and Chair, Brian Lorch led us through a process of reviewing the synod mission statement developed in 2001 and making appropriate changes. We developed "Guiding Principles" which will provide for ways we will act and how we will make decisions and plan ministry in the synod. We were guided by the missional directives developed at the January 2008 Synod Council meeting.

Meeting recessed at 9:25 p.m.

Friday, August 22, 2008

Michael Kurtz led us in morning devotions.

The Council spent time considering what three missional directions we would wish to report to the MNO Synod Convention in 2010. A summary of Thursday evening and Friday morning's visioning sessions will be posted on the website, found under *Synod Council*.

BUSINESS SESSION I

Approval of Agenda

MSC SC 70-08-01 that we adopt the amended Agenda.

Approval of Minutes

MSC SC 70-08-02 that we approve the Synod Council minutes of April 24th, 2008.

MSC SC 70-08-03 that we approve the Synod Executive minutes of May 15th and June 20th, 2008.

Business Arising not elsewhere on the Agenda: no business.

Discussion on the report of the Bishop and Synod Office Staff: Bishop Elaine reported on the "illegal" ordination of a practicing gay man in the Eastern Synod. The bishop of the Eastern Synod has censured the pastors involved and has also appointed an advisory committee to investigate possible discipline against the congregation involved. There has been minimal response to this in our synod and congregations are not pushing for this conversation. It was noted that many congregations are focusing on survival, and others focusing on mission and ministry. It is felt that we will wait for this issue to arise out of the discernment processes that occur in the MNO Synod congregations, and then respond appropriately.

Assistant to the Bishop Larry Ulrich was commended for his wonderful work with youth ministry in our synod. We are thankful for his leadership and vision.

The exceedingly busy schedules of our Bishop and staff were noted and it was agreed we will continue to uphold them in our prayers.

Thanks were expressed to Debbie Beyer for her dedication and hard work on behalf of us all.

Report of the Secretary

MSC SC 70-08-04 that Lenise Francis be moved from Temporarily Without Call to On Leave from Call, First Year, as of November 30, 2008.

MSC SC 70-08-05 that Arthur Lechnitz be moved from Temporarily Without Call to On Leave from Call, First Year, as of November 30, 2008.

MSC SC 70-08-06 that Astrid Schlueter be moved from Temporarily Without Call to On Leave from Call, First Year as of November 30, 2008.

Correspondence will be sent to the above informing them of their status change.

Other Roster Changes:

Jim Appleby	NORD to Alberta Synod
Frank Bahr	Cross, Winnipeg to Eastern Synod
Jacob Li	On Leave from Call 1 st Year to On Leave from Call 2 nd Year, as of November 30, 2008
Ginger Patchen	Epiphany Children's Centre to Retired
Frances Schmidt	NORD to ELCIC Missionary
Nancy Walker	On Leave from Call 1 st Year to On Leave from Call 2 nd Year, as of November 30, 2008

These persons will be informed of their status prior to being moved from On Leave from Call 3rd Year to Removed from the Roster.

Financial Report - Tabled to Session IV

BUSINESS SESSION II – Policy Review

Convention Location Policy: There was spirited discussion and a variety of suggestions regarding location, format, content and time frame of the synod convention.

MSC SC 70-08-07 that the Synod staff investigate the possibility of holding a one-day convention in 2010. Their findings will be reported back to the next Synod Executive meeting.

Publication of Bulletin of Reports/Minute Book:

MSC SC 70-08-08 that the Synod Executive develop a revised policy for the printing of the Synod Convention Minute Book and report back to Council in time for presentation to the 2010 Synod Convention.

Provision for Electronic Meetings

MSC SC 70-08-09 that the ad-hoc committee on Constitution and By-laws develop a policy for electronic meetings of the Synod Council and Synod Executive in order to conduct business on behalf of the Synod.

Ad Hoc Committee on Constitution/By-law Amendments - This committee will focus their next year's work on developing a revised set of by-laws to coincide with the constitutional amendments, the first reading of which was approved at the 2008 Synod Convention.

Synod Council recessed at 2:10 p.m.

**Annual Meeting
of the MNO Synod Foundation for Mission & Ministry Inc.
August 22, 2008**

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, Diane Rey,

MSC Aug-Foundation-08-01 that we adopt the agenda as presented.

MSC Aug-Foundation-08-02 that we approve the minutes of August 24th, 2007 as distributed.

The March 11th, 2008 Foundation Board minutes were received as information.

The Review Engagement Report of the 2007 Financial Statements was received as information.

MSC Aug-Foundation-08-03 that we appoint OnBusiness Chartered Accountants Inc. to perform a review engagement for the year ending December 31st, 2008.

Allan Francis and Jim Zinko were elected by acclamation to three year terms.

MSC Aug-Foundation-08-04 that the annual meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Janke, Acting Secretary

Synod Council meeting resumed at 2:55 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION III – Items Needing Council Action
Standing Committee & Board Requests/Appointments

Committee for Missions re responsibility for LUM:

MSC SC 70-08-10 that the financial statements be adjusted to reflect the transfer of responsibility for Lutheran Urban Ministry from the Committee for Missions to Synod Council.

LUM re replacement of CECF funding: Since LUM is no longer eligible for CECF funding, LUM has requested the Synod to continue this funding in the amount of \$10,000.00.

MSC SC 70-08-11 that Synod Executive be given the discretion to reduce the hold-back of funds from the sale of First English in order to replace the CECF funding to the Lutheran Urban Ministry.

Committee appointments to fill vacant positions:

Church & Society: 1 position ending 2012 (must be clergy)
Worship & Arts: 1 position ending 2010 (clergy or lay)

MSC SC 70-08-12 that Synod Executive be given authority to fill vacancies on standing committees between council meetings.

Council liaison appointments to standing committees and boards:

Mission:	Michael Kurtz
CTEL:	<i>Synod Staff to attend Committee meetings</i>
Church & Society:	Wayne Schultz
Worship & Arts:	Diane Rey
Education:	Mona Johnson
Youth:	<i>Synod Staff to attend Committee meetings</i>
Luther Village:	Rhea Galeschuk
LUM:	Ed Mitchler

Arrangements for 2010 Synod Convention

The consensus is that for the 2010 Synod Convention we stay with the same format as was used at the 2008 convention in Dauphin. We have received an invitation to hold this convention at Trinity Lutheran Church, Winnipeg. We will investigate the viability of their space.

MSC SC 70-08-13 that we appoint Randall Klapat, Michael Kurtz, Gerlinde Berglund, and Jennifer Jantz to the 2010 Nominating Committee.

Luther Village chair, Byron Smith, made a presentation to Synod Council requesting permission to create an endowment fund to provide better facilities and grounds to campers.

Report of the Foundation Grants Allocations Committee:

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| MSC | SC 70-08-14 | that the grants recommended by the Review Committee, \$900 to Luther Village and \$1,800 to Prairie Fire, be approved. |
| MSC | SC 70-08-15 | that we re-advertise the availability of \$1,000 in matching grants for projects that relate to the MNO Synod theme "In Mission for Others – A People Called." |

Other Business:

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| MSC | SC 70-08-16 | that we appoint OnBusiness Chartered Accountants Inc, as the auditors for the year ending December 31 st , 2008. |
| MSC | SC 70-08-17 | that the proposed bylaw change to the Hilldale Lutheran Church Constitution be approved. |
| MSC | SC 70-08-18 | that the Synod Council give the Synod Executive discretion to approve the constitutional amendments of the Riverton-Hnausa Lutheran Church. |

Development of Policy Templates (*Motion from Faith, Winnipeg*)

The Synod staff will investigate the possibility of developing a library containing the policies of various congregations, to be made available for congregations as templates.

Arrangements for future Council Meetings

January 29th and 30th, 2009 at Laureate's Landing.
November 5th and 6th, 2009.

Synod Council recessed at 5:35 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION IV – Focus on Resources

Financial Report (cont'd from Session I)

The Treasurer led a review of the July 31/08 financial statements, highlighting the fact that the Synod is running a larger deficit than usual for this time of year. A discussion of options took place, emphasizing:

- the need for the Synod to honour its commitments to the various missions that depend on it for funding, even if that means running a deficit in the year;
- the need to implement new fund raising initiatives to allow the Synod to maintain the level of funding it provides in the long term.

- MSC SC 70-08-19** that we approve the implementation of the *Mission as Hope* resource development program.
- MSC SC 70-08-20** that we approve the implementation of the Luther Village *Endowment Fund and Capital Campaign*, and that congregations can be approached between March 1st and September 30th, 2009.
- MSC SC 70-08-21** that we will honor our 2008 commitments, and if that results in a deficit, the 2009 budget will contain a line item for repayment of the deficit.
- MSC SC 70-08-22** that the Synod Executive be directed to develop a list of mission opportunities that could be funded from the gift from Faith Lutheran Church, Winnipeg. The list is to be circulated to Council members by October 30th, 2008.

Council decided to defer any decision regarding disbursement of unspent funds from MNO Synod Foundation for Mission and Ministry Inc. for 2007 and 2008.

Marilyn Grimeau led in closing devotions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Carol Janke, Secretary