



Manitoba Northwestern Ontario Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

MNO SYNOD
Executive Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2008

Present: Bishop Elaine Sauer, Allan Francis (Treasurer), Brian Lorch (Vice Chair)

Regrets: Rev. Carol Janke (Secretary)

1. The meeting was called to order by Brian Lorch at 1:00 PM. Bishop Elaine opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Reports

a) Bishop

Bishop Elaine reported that she has been busy the last few weeks preparing for Conference conventions as well as working with several congregations who are entering the call process. At the last Conference of Bishop's meeting, she agreed to accept a leadership role in overseeing the First Call and other leadership training initiatives.

Synod Staff have been working on a capacity audit and a communications strategy that reflects the missional directives set by Synod Council. Budget planning for 2009 will also be tuned into these five directives. The Bishop also reported that Assistant to the Bishop Larry Ulrich has been emphasizing the directives during visits to congregations.

The Mission as Hope Appeal will be launched in Thunder Bay this evening. The event will be held at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery. About 75 people are expected to attend. A second event is being planned for Gimli on November 1.

b) Secretary

Bishop Elaine reported that no roster changes have occurred since the August council meeting.

c) Treasurer

Allan Francis reported that a deficit in the order of \$33,000 is being projected for the December 31/08 year end. Some of this is expected

to be offset by the Mission as Hope Appeal. However, some of the deficit will need to be funded by releasing the restrictions on some of our internally restricted funds. The exact amount of internally restricted funds required to be released will not be known until closer to year-end, but it appears that there are adequate funds available for this purpose.

Budget planning for 2009 will be a difficult task. The 2008 deficit will likely mean that there will be no significant pool of unrestricted or internally restricted funds available in 2009 to fund a recurring deficit. This will require the Synod to be much more cautious about the expenditure commitments it makes for 2009.

3. Business Arising from the August 2008 Synod Council Meeting

a) Committee Appointments

MSC EX-Oct-08-01 That Rev Ted Chell be appointed to the Committee for Church and Society for the term 2008 - 2012.

MSC EX-Oct-08-02 That Joanne Stewart and Jennifer Sissons be appointed to the Committee for Worship and Arts for the term 2008 – 2012.

MSC EX-Oct-08-03 That Sandra Herbst-Luedtke be removed from the Committee for Theological Education and Leadership

b) Riverton-Hnaua constitution: deferred to November meeting.

c) MNO Foundation

The availability of a \$1000 matching grant for projects that reflect the theme “In Mission for Others” has been publicized in the last two issue of Crossword. The executive will review applications and make a decision at its December meeting.

d) LUM

As requested by Synod Council, Allan has investigated the risks to the Synod that might arise from making an early payout of \$10,000 to LUM from the First English fund in 2009, to offset the loss of CECF funding. He is recommending that we proceed with the early payout. This will

be taken into account when the 2009 budget is prepared for presentation to Synod Council meeting in January 2009.

e) Policy re distribution of Convention Minutes: deferred

f) 2010 Convention

Staff is recommending that the convention format used in Dauphin be repeated for the 2010 Convention (i.e., business session on Friday, renewal event on Saturday).

Staff is still researching possible locations. Consideration is being given to using two sites. Several congregations may be asked to support the convention in terms of providing coffee breaks and assisting with meals.

g) Faith Winnipeg gift

Staff have developed a number of ideas for directing the \$30,000 gift received from Faith, Winnipeg. Under the terms of the gift, the funds are to be used for ministry other than general operating expenses. A finalized list will be developed by the end of October and circulated to council members with further discussion to take place at the January 2009 council meeting.

4. New Business

a) E-meetings

The Ad Hoc Committee on By-Law Changes will be asked to develop a policy for holding electronic meetings of the council.

5. Future Executive Meetings:

Friday, November 21 (1 – 3 PM)

Friday, December 12 (1 – 3 PM)

6. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM