



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

MINUTES
73rd MEETING OF MNO SYNOD COUNCIL
March 18-19, 2010
Laureate's Landing, Winnipeg Manitoba

Participants

Synod Council

Bishop Elaine Sauer
Brian Lorch - Vice-Chair
Allan Francis - Treasurer
Rev. Carol Janke - Secretary
Wayne Schultz – Metro (*Church & Society*)
Marilyn Grimeau – Aurora
Rhea Galeschuk – Brokenhead
(Thurs. Only) (*Luther Village*)
Ernie Dojack - Cambrian
Ken Schmidt - Westman
Rev. Michael Kurtz - At Large (*Mission*)
Rev. Trudy Thorarinson - At Large
Rev. Ed Mitchler – At Large (*LUM*)
Ben Nickel - Agassiz - Absent with excuse
Vacant –Interlake

Synod Staff

Rev. Larry Ulrich - Assistant to the Bishop
Debbie Beyer - Executive Assistant
Rick Scherger - Communications
Coordinator

Guests

Rev. Mark Koenker - NCC (Thurs.only)
Tom Brook - NCC

Thursday, March 18

Chaplain: Bishop Elaine Sauer

Session I

We gathered in God's name with Bishop Elaine leading. We read Isaiah 43:16-21 using the ancient practise of *Lectio Divina* which is a call to study, ponder, listen and, finally, pray God's Word. We sang all verses of *We Are Called*.

Vice-Chair Brian Lorch called the meeting to order.

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| MSC | SC 2010-02 | that we adopt the amended Agenda |
| MSC | SC 2010-03 | that the minutes of the 72nd Synod Council meetings be approved: |
| MSC | SC 2010-04 | that the e-meeting of February 25th, 2010 be approved. |
| MSC | SC 2010-05 | that the Executive meetings of January 14th, and February 5th, 2010 be approved. |

Convention Update:

Executive Assistant Debbie Beyer reported on the number of lay and clergy delegates registered to date, and that all details such as banquet, hotel and bussing are in place. It was noted that the youth delegate numbers are down for this convention. There is also concern that some congregations are only sending a rostered minister delegate.

Bishop Elaine led us in a *Prayer of Thanksgiving*.

Reports:

Report of the Synod Staff:

Bishop Elaine provided an extensive written report which included congregational updates and information that MNO Synod congregations have donated \$58,600 to the CLWR Haiti Relief Fund.

The *Mission as Hope* Information Sheet found in the staff report was presented, showing the new and ongoing initiatives for this fund.

Bishop Elaine gave an update on the funds raised and how the funds were allocated according to our mission directives.

MSC SC 2010-06 that the *Mission as Hope* new initiative funds raised in 2009 be allocated as indicated in the staff report addendum.

Communications Coordinator Rick Scherger presented the newly updated MNO Synod website, answered all questions and considered suggestions from the council. The website will be unveiled at the Synod Convention in April 2010.

Bishop Elaine reported that MNO candidates appearing before the Western Synod Examining Committee were being recommended for ordination or consecration. On the basis of these recommendations, the following actions were taken by Council.

MSC SC 2010-07 that Jennifer Marlor be approved for ordination pending completion of studies and receipt and acceptance of a call.

MSC SC 2010-08 that Jason Zinko be approved for ordination pending completion of studies and receipt and acceptance of a call.

MSC SC 2010-09 that Connor Trueman be approved for consecration pending completion of studies and receipt and acceptance of a call.

MSC SC 2010-10 that Hildegard Vickers be approved for consecration

Report of the Secretary:

MSC SC 2010-11 that we approve the following roster changes:

Thomas Lee Berry, Retired from Synod of Alberta & The Territories to Retired MNO Synod, 02/16/10

Monica Denk, On Leave from Call 1st Year, MNO Synod, to Synod of Alberta & The Territories 01/01/10

Catherine Giroux, Retired, Anglican Church Canada, to ELCIC 12/15/09

Paul Johnson, ELCIC from Temporarily Without Call 12/31/09 to On Leave from Call 1st year 05/31/10

Mark Tiefenbach, from On Leave from Call 1st Year to On Leave from Call 2nd Year 05/31/10

**Erwin Toppel, from Saskatchewan Synod to Ashern/Moosehorn
02/01/10**

**Jane Zinken, On Leave from Call 2nd Year to On Leave from Call
3rd Year 05/31/10**

Report of the Treasurer

Allan Francis reported that 2009 finished stronger than had been forecast back in November, 2009. This resulted in more funds being available for the Mission as Hope New Initiatives Fund (\$19,559 actual vs. \$13,000 projected in November.) He added that it's too early in the year to draw any meaningful conclusions from our 2010 financial data, but he will keep us informed. As well he reminded us it is time to consider payment of the balance of the First English restricted fund to Lutheran Urban Ministry.

MSC SC 2010-12 that the balance of the First English restricted fund be paid out to Lutheran Urban Ministry Inc., in accordance with SC-66-07-05.

Bishop Elaine assumed the chair.

Report on CLWR's relationship with ELCIC

Brian Lorch presented some of the highlights of the Memorandum of Understanding between the ELCIC and CLWR that came into existence on July 1, 2009. On that date, the mandate of the Global Hunger and Development Appeal (GHDA) expired and CLWR assumed its role as the humanitarian agency of the ELCIC. Congregations should now be using CLWR in place of GHDA. Monies designated toward CLWR at the congregational level should be forwarded to the Synod Office who will in turn forward them to CLWR. A portion of undesignated donations received by CLWR from known ELCIC sources is being turned back to the ELCIC to fund domestic anti-poverty initiatives.

Closing worship: Bishop Elaine read Micah 6:6-8 and lead us in the *Apostles' Creed*.

Meeting recessed at 8:50

Friday, March 19

Session II

8:45 am – We sang all verses of *Morning Has Broken*. Bishop Elaine led us in Bible study using three texts from Acts 19. Divided into three groups, we looked at the text assigned using these 3 questions: What is God doing? What was the missional strategy? What does this say to the church today?

Visioning Session:

Ken Schmidt, Marilyn Grimeau and Trudy Thorarinson reflected on the realities of doing rural ministry. Spirited conversation and discussion followed. There was excitement over the possibility of creating partnerships between rural and metro congregations.

Bishop Elaine led us in a *General Order of Blessing*

10:30 AM Refreshment Break

Update on Every Council Visits:

There was affirmation for the good work that was done preparing this information for the church. The DVD prepared by Rick Scherger has been well received. Larry Ulrich thanked synod council for their willingness to do this work on behalf of the Synod

Bishop Elaine assumed the chair.

Policy Review/Development:

Brian Lorch relinquished the chair to the Bishop and then led us through the newly developed MNO Foundation Grant Application Policy. A timeline has been established that should assist both the committee and the applicants; as well there is a process for accountability from those receiving these funds, and guidelines that will help people understand that application should be connected to initiatives that will further the synod missional directions.

MSC SC 2010-13 that the Foundations Grant Review Process, as amended, be approved.

Brian resumed the chair.

Professional Leaders Study Conference:

As requested by Synod Council in the November 2009 meeting, Synod Executive reviewed and reported back on the funding model for the Professional Leaders' Study Conference. The issue is how to fund special events, such as higher profile guest speakers, from time to time. Synod Executive proposed that a restricted fund not be established to accrue surpluses from prior year Study Conference registrations for this purpose. Rather, all Study Conferences registration fees will be budgeted at a break even level. In addition, the Synod will provide additional funds from its general expenditure budget on a regularly scheduled basis to fund the incremental costs of special events. This funding model will be reflected in the budgets to be presented at the November 2010 Synod Council meeting.

Calls to Special Services:

This policy comes before us as a recognition of the growth of diaconal ministry, which is a call to the world. While a diaconal minister may have a call to a congregation, it also and often is to an outside agency. Therefore we need a policy that will allow for accountability to the church which provides for diaconal ministers remain on the roster of the church. This policy may also allow for those pastors who are qualified in intentional interim ministry and are serving in that capacity

MSC SC 2010-14 that we accept the Call to Special Service Endorsement Policy.

Bishop Elaine assumed the chair. Discussion followed on the best practises for Synod Council members emailing, particularly when we send out confidential emails.

MSC SC 2010-15 that Synod Executive be directed to create an orientation package for new council members which would include best email practises.

12:00 Lunch (grace)

Session III

MNO Synod Young Adult Ministry Facilitator:

Bishop Elaine introduced this position. It is one that will work at building relationships between young adults, and young adults and the church.

MSC SC 2010-16 that the MNO Synod Young Adult Ministry Facilitator position for a half time three year term, renewable upon approval from synod council, subject to funding approval from the MNO Synod Foundation for Mission and Ministry be approved.

MSC SC 2010-17 that we approve up to \$143,000. for the MNO Synod Young Adult Ministry program. The sources of funds will be: Campus Ministry Restricted Fund (approximately \$50,000.) Mission Committee Budget lines (\$33,000.) and the balance from the MNO Synod Foundation for Mission and Ministry.

Protocols for severance from ELCIC:

Synod Council reviewed a draft protocol for situations where a congregation wishes to sever its relationship with the ELCIC. There was some discussion of whether the Synod would have jurisdiction to enact the protocol, and whether the National Church needs to clarify their administrative bylaws on the severance process.

MSC SC 2010- 18 that the MNO Synod Council petitions the National Church Council to review Part II, Section 5 of the ELCIC Administrative By-laws and consider amendments that would provide clarity as to when and how a congregation should involve its synodical bishop in a decision-making process that has as its potential outcome the severance of the congregation's relationship with the ELCIC.

Guidelines for Rostered Ministers Funerals and Memorial Services:

MSC SC 2010-19 that the Guidelines for Rostered Minister Funerals and Memorial Services be approved.

Call Process Manual:

Synod Office has been using a draft manual for a trial period of 2 years. It includes a visioning process that is helpful for congregations before they begin looking at their leadership needs.

MSC SC 2010-20 that the May 2009 MNO Synod Call Process Manual be approved.

Interim Ministry Guidelines:

MSC SC 2010-21 that the Interim Ministry Guidelines be approved.

Council Education Component -- Candidacy Manual

Bishop Elaine gave us an overview of some of the components of this manual in order to help in our understanding of how we prepare candidates for rostered ministry in our synod.

Bishop Elaine led us in a *Thanksgiving for Baptism*

Break

Mission as Hope Appeal:

Larry Ulrich gave us an overview of the ongoing and new and dreamed-for initiatives of the Mission as Hope Appeal. Synod Council members were asked to begin the appeal and are asked to submit their pledges by March 31, 2010.

MSC SC 2010-22 that the 2010 Mission as Hope bulletin insert be approved.

Report on the ELCIC Structural Renewal Taskforce:

Allan presented a prepared statement from the taskforce, which was an abridged version of the presentation that will be made to all of the Synod Conventions in 2010.

Appointment of Foundation Grants Committee:

The Executive will bring names to the April meeting of Synod Council.

In Camera Session:

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| MSC | SC 2010-23 | that we move in camera. |
| MSC | SC 2010-24 | that we move into an open session. |
| MSC | SC 2010-25 | that the Compensation Policy be approved. |
| MSC | SC 2010-26 | that the 2010 salary plan for the Bishop be approved as presented. |

Possible next meeting date: April 22nd, at 4 pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.
The fall meeting date is November 4th and 5th, 2010.

We give thanks to God

We offer thanks for God's presence in our ministry
We offer our prayers of intercession
We remember our partners and ourselves.

We go out in thanks

Sharing the Peace
Benediction

Meeting adjourned at 4:30
Carol Janke, Secretary

All Policies and Manuals referred to in these minutes will be posted on the MNO Synod Website www.mnosynod.org after the MNO Synod Convention in April, 2010.