

NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN
SYNOD COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

DATE: FEBRUARY 4, 2017 - 10 am

LOCATION: Luther Park Bible Camp, Synod Council Retreat

COUNCIL MEMBERS	ATTENDED	ABSENT	NOTES
Synod Staff			
Bishop Rick Hoyme	X		
Rev Laurie Skow-Anderson	X		
Rev John Sutherland	X		
Rev Greg Kaufman	X		
Liz Bartsch - Administration		X	
Gail Brown - Synod Staff	X		
Council Members			
Lynn Fering, Vice President	X		
Rev Lori Peper, Secty	X		
Apple River Conference			
Justin Swanson		X	
Kim Patterson		X	
Rev Marilyn Crossfield		X	
Chequamegon Conference			
Jenny Nieman		X	
Rev Bob Giese		X	
Dan Rosien		X	
Chippewa Valley Conference			
Michelle Pride		X	
Rev Sarah Semmler-Smith		X	
Tim Fehr		X	
Dairyland Conference			
Ed Johnson		X	
Rev. Rolf Morck		X	
Kathy Boe		X	
Heart of the North Conference			
Ed Peters		X	
Rev Russ Leeper		X	
Karyn Hullinger		X	

COUNCIL MEMBERS	ATTENDED	ABSENT	NOTES
Lake Superior Conference			
Rev Paul Simmons	X		
Gerry Olson		X	
Maggie Ericson	X		
St Croix Valley Conference			
Rev Erin Nelson	X		
Ed Waters		X	
Phyllis Beastron	X		
Youth Representatives			
Marisa Jasicki - Maddie LaRouso		X	
Mara Grant		X	
Persons of Color			
Steven Albarado		X	
Synodical Women's Organization			
Sue Saarem	X		
Other Specialized Ministries/ Attendees			

Meeting Called to Order and Devotions

The February 4, 2017 business meeting of the NWSynod of WI synod council was called to order by Vice President, Lynn Fering. Sue Saraam led opening devotions regarding ELCA social statement concerning Faith, Sexism and Justice, a study from the ECLA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ.

Ice Breaker

Vice President Lynn Fering led group introductions and sharing; ‘what brings peace in the midst of current political unrest and change?’

Approval of Agenda

SC17.02.01 A motion was made to approve agenda. MSC Maggie Ericson/ Michelle Pride.

Approval of Minutes

SC17.02.02 A motion was made to approve both the September 17, 2016 and the November 21, 2016 Synod Council meeting minutes. MSC Karyn /Phyllis Beastrom/Kim Patterson

Staff Reports

Written report submitted. Rev Greg Kauffman

There is a trilogy of reformation information now available to each conference, Greg is coordinating. Intergenerational activity: Luther Rose in Legos, funded by Immanuel Lutheran Foundation is available to congregations in our synod. Dates open in December, Jenny Nieman keeps schedule. SWO, Synod Resource Center, and Lay School continue the work of raising awareness regarding indigenous people groups affected negatively by the Doctrine of Discovery.

Written report submitted. Rev John Sutherland

In two weeks, John will be in Malawi. Good news, rain is falling. Drought is over! New focus: clean water. Donations already coming in for new wells. Summer trip registrations are coming in - still room. Deadline - March 1 for deposit. April 1, balance due. Never Ending Food is a program to encourage indigenous crops that are able to endure drought.

Written report submitted. Rev Laurie Skow-Anderson

Walking Together registrations open. Theme: Let’s get the world out! Begins with 3 TED Talks, music with Tangled Blue, and followed by 40 break out workshops. Congregational Renewal grant is being used for church interventions, CMR’s and leadership renewal. Rev Laurie’s current research uses a congregational vitality survey to determine whether these interventions are making measurable impact. Thus far, all congregations report having moved in a positive direction.

Michelle Pride spoke about her work with Mission Teller Program sharing what Lutheran’s are up to around the World. Along with Jed Reiten, Michelle is available to bring Mission Teller information to churches around the synod.

Written report submitted. Bishop Rick Hoyme

Joy in meeting with fellow ELCA bishops, including Elizabeth Eaton - finds that among all synods, NW Synod of WI Walking Together event is exemplary. Also leading the way in anti-racism training and leadership. October 31, 2017 will bring all Wisconsin synod bishops to Milwaukee to worship in an unprecedented way with leaders of the Roman Catholic church to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Old Business

A. Synod Capitol Appeal Update

Representatives of the capitol appeal recruited for each synod conference. Pledges sought from synod council members, electronic giving is available. Kairos has been paid for their work on the appeal. Thank you early donors!

B. Amending the Mission Plan for 2017-2018

SC17.02.02 A motion was made to approve the amended Mission Plan for 2017-2018. MSC Sara Semler-Smith/Phyllis Beaström. Approved

C. Presentation of the Proposed Mission Plan for 2018-2019

SC17.02.03 A motion was made to approve the Mission Plan for 2018 - 2019. MSC Marilyn Crossfield/Jenny Nieman. Approved.

SC17.02.04 A motion was made to give Luther Park an undesignated donation of \$1,000 dollars in support of the important work and ministry done there. MSC Sarah Semler-Smith/Phyllis Beaström. Approved.

New Business

A. Personnel Changes

SC17.02.05 A motion was made to approve personnel changes as presented. MSC Paul Simmons/Kathy Boe. Approved.

B. Synod Assembly, April 29, 2017. Synod Council members have been recruited again this year to be the assembly hospitality team, each to wear identifying T Shirt. Sign up sheet was passed for sizes.

C. Resolution - 2018 Salary Standards

SC17.02.06 A motion was made to accept the 2018 Salary Standards as presented. Cost of living increase as recommended only as set by government standards of .3%. MSC Phyllis Beastro/Karyn Hullinger. Approved.

Reports

A. Evangelical Mission Commission

Meets quarterly. See Rev Laurie Skow-Anderson's written report for details.

B. Evangelical Leadership Commission

Greg Kaufmann spoke highly of their dedication and work in support of synod leaders which includes leadership training, seminary debt reduction, candidacy, and sabbaticals.

C. Synod Women's Organization

Coming Soon: Triennial in Minneapolis. SWO is joining with the Synod Youth Committee on February 25 to offer the We Are Called event at Metropolis in Eau Claire. \$25 includes lunch.

D. Youth Representatives

Jenny Nieman spoke on behalf of youth representatives. Christ Jam at Bethany in Rice Lake on March 11.

Closing Prayer

Adjourned

** Upcoming Synod Council Retreat - 9/8-9, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev Lori Peper, Synod Council Secretary