

**Greater Milwaukee Synod Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Special Meeting Held on 28 January 2021**

**Meeting held virtually via Zoom Technologies due to COVID-19 pandemic.**

**God's Vision:** A world that embodies the fullness of life: justice, peace, equity, hope and love for everyone, including all races, genders, identities, abilities, and social status.

**Our Mission:** We follow Jesus, form communities, love all.

**Meeting Attendance**

| <b>Name</b>                     | <b>Cluster/Position</b> | <b>Term Ends<br/>8/31</b> | <b>Present</b> | <b>Absent</b> | <b>Anti-<br/>Racism</b> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Temporarily Open                | Belle City              | 2021                      |                |               |                         |
| Joshua Kuehn                    | Kenosha/West Racine     | 2021                      |                | X             | Pending                 |
| Vickie Stretz                   | Lake Country            | 2023                      | X              |               | 10/2020                 |
| The Rev. Sarah Stobie           | Milwaukee 1             | 2021                      | X              |               | 10/2020                 |
| Janet Wunrow                    | Milwaukee 2             | 2021                      | X              |               | Pending                 |
| The Rev. Denise Mbise           | Milwaukee 3             | 2023                      |                | X             | Pending                 |
| Amber Anderson                  | Milwaukee 4             | 2023                      | X              |               | 10/2019                 |
| The Rev. Elizabeth Jaeger       | Northern Lakeshore      | 2021                      |                | X             | 4/2019                  |
| Mark Christiaansen              | Northwest               | 2021                      | X              |               | Pending                 |
| Edwin Aparicio                  | Waukesha                | 2023                      | X              |               | Pending                 |
| The Rev. Kevin Kretzmann Farrar | At Large                | 2023                      | X              |               | 4/2019                  |
| José Andrés Guerrero            | At Large                | 2023                      | X              |               | Pending                 |
| Amber Davis                     | At Large                | 2023                      | X              |               | Pending                 |
| Joyce Caldwell                  | Vice President          | 2021 (1)                  | X              |               | 11/2018                 |
| The Rev. Matthew Schlake-Kruse  | Secretary               | 2023 (1)                  | X              |               | Pending                 |
| Bob Reinders                    | Acting Treasurer        | 2021 (1)                  | X              |               | 10/2015                 |
| The Rev. Paul Erickson          | Bishop                  | 2022 (1)                  | X              |               | 10/2017                 |
| Sarah Booher                    | Youth Representative    | 2021                      | X              |               | Pending                 |
| Aliliywa Mbise                  | Young Adult Rep.        | 2021                      |                | X             | 10/2017                 |

## **Guests and Synod Staff**

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Others present included: **Sue Seidemann**, Women of the ELCA;

## **Call to Order**

**Vice President Caldwell** called the special meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. for the purposes of approving changes to Appendices 1, 2, and 3 of the Synod Constitution following the Special Meeting of the 2019 Synod Assembly on 23 January 2021. Due to social distancing precautions in place on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held over live-stream via Zoom Technologies.

## **Devotions**

**Sara Booher** opened the meeting in prayer.

### **I. New Business**

#### **A. Amendment of Appendix 3: Conference Directory (S12.01.A19.)**

The Council discussed amending the Conference Directory under S12.01.A19, to reflect the 6 conferences approved by the Special Meeting of the 2019 Synod Assembly. **The Rev. Matthew Short**, Director of Evangelical Mission, has taken the staff lead on coordinating with cluster deans to facilitate the new conference groups going forward. Each of the 6 conferences has within it at least one former cluster dean. **Anderson** noted the location of **Redemption Lutheran Church** should be Milwaukee, not Wauwatosa, as previously stated.

#### **Council Action**

##### **SC 21.01.15. Amendment to Appendix 3: Conference Directory (S12.01.A19)**

The Council voted to amend Appendix 3 of the Synod Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions (under S12.01.A19.) to a Conference Directory, consisting of 6 geographic conferences and populating the conferences with congregations.

#### **B. Amendment of Appendix 1: Nominating Formula for Churchwide Assembly Voting Membership (S9.01.01.B11.)**

**Secretary Schlake-Kruse** presented the modified and updated version of Appendix 1: the Synod's Nominating Formula for Churchwide Assembly Voting Membership, to the Synod Council. He noted that the Synod's apportionment of voting members has decreased for 2022, which required a shift in the number of at-large seats. The new tables reflect the new geographic conferences.

**Council Action**

**SC 21.01.16. Amendment to Appendix 1: Nominating Formula for Churchwide Assembly Voting Membership**

The Council voted to amend Appendix 1 of the Synod Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions (under S09.01.01.B11.) to reflect the 6 conferences of the Synod and to apportion seats based on the 2022 Churchwide Voting Member Allotment from the ELCA.

**C. Amendment of Appendix 2: Nominating Formula for Synod Council Roster (S9.10.01.A11.)**

Secretary Schlake-Kruse presented the new nomination formula and tables for the make-up of the Synod Council. With the exception of the three at-large seats currently held by **Guerrero, Davis, and Kretzmann Farrar**, all seats will be elected at the 2021 Synod Assembly, some to two-year and some to four-year terms. The Council discussed the rotational structure and the way this new system will allow people to serve two terms more easily. There was also some discussion about the inclusion of LGBTQIA+ individuals for the seats on the Synod Council.

**Council Action**

**SC 21.01.17. Amendment to Appendix 2: Nominating Formula for Synod Council Roster**

The Council voted to amend Appendix 2 of the Synod Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions (under S09.10.01.A11.) to reflect the 6 conferences of the Synod and to allow for more at-large seats to the Synod Council.

**II. Adjournment**

**Council Action**

**SC 21.01.18. Adjournment**

Reaching a conclusion of the special meeting agenda, the Council adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

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**Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> , 6:15 p.m. via Zoom.

Greater Milwaukee Synod Council Meeting Minutes  
21 January 2021  
Online Meeting via Zoom Technologies

**Scheduled 2020-2021 Council Meetings:**

Friday-Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>—May 1<sup>st</sup>: Synod Assembly

Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

Unless otherwise published in advance, all meetings begin on Zoom at 6:15 pm. Links to the meeting can be provided by the Synod Office, specifically Mary Romskog.

Signed,

The Rev. Matthew Schlake-Kruse, Synod Secretary