

Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA
Summary of the Synod Council Meeting
May 27, 2015

Greater Milwaukee Synod Office
1212 South Layton Boulevard, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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Attendance

Name	Cluster/Position	Term Ends 8/31	Present	Absent	Anti-Racism
Ms. Sue Schmidt-Decker	Kenosha/West Racine	2017		X	Pending
The Rev. Steve Blyth	Lake Country	2015		X	1/2013
Ms. Ar Lee	Milwaukee 1	2017	X		10/2014
The Rev. Lisa Bates-Froiland	Milwaukee 2	2017	X		1/2011
The Rev. Carolyn Fredriksen	Milwaukee 3	2015		X	Pending
Mr. Al Van Lith	Milwaukee 4	2015		X	Pending
Mr. Tom Gauthier	Northern Lakeshore	2017	X		9/2013
The Rev. David Schoob	Northwest	2017	X		9/2013
Ms. Lynn Hooper	Racine	2017	X		Pending
The Rev. Sherrie Lorbeck	Waukesha	2015	X		1/2007
The Rev. Jay McDivitt	At Large	2015	X		Pending
Ms. Debra Taylor	At Large	2015	X		Pending
Mr. Jerry Key	At Large	2015	X		9/2013
Mr. Scott Manske	Vice President	2017 (1)	X		Pending
Mr. Matthew Brockmeier	Secretary	2015 (1)	X		1/2012
Mr. Lee Johnston	Treasurer	2017 (2)	X		Pending
The Rev. Jeff Barrow	Bishop	2016 (1)		X	1/2008
Mr. Jack Walch	Youth Representative	2015	X		Pending
Mr. Jonathan Barker	Young Adult Rep.	2017	X		9/2013

Also present were Ms. Susan Cyr, former synod vice president; and Rev. Matthew Kruse, Associate Pastor of St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa, who served as chair of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin's Bishop Election Task Force 2013.

Council Action

Approval of Voice for Visitors

The Council voted to grant voice to Ms. Susan Cyr and Rev. Matthew Kruse, who were invited by the Council to discuss the Discernment and Election Process for the Selection of a Bishop.

Action Items – Old Business

Discernment and Election Process for the Selection of a Bishop – 2016 – The Council discussed in detail the proposed policy for the Discernment and Election Process for the Selection of a Bishop, as presented by Vice President Manske and Secretary Mr. Matthew Brockmeier. Ms. Cyr and Rev. Kruse offered insights based on their experiences with past elections in the Greater Milwaukee Synod and in the selection process in the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, respectively. A number of minor revisions were agreed by consensus, including adding dates for the deadline for appointing members of the Elections Committee and for the 2016 Synod Assembly; limiting sponsors to sponsoring one prospective nominee; specifying that forum sites may not be the home congregations of prospective nominees; restructuring the requirement for self-disclosure and background checks; and removing an errant sentence regarding withdrawal of nominees at the Synod Assembly. Two other items were changed by vote.

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Council Action

Action to Amend

The Council voted to amend the policy on Discernment and Election Process for the Selection of a Bishop – 2016 to indicate that the synod’s website would be used by the Elections Committee, rather than requiring a separate website for the Committee’s use.

Council Action

Action to Amend

The Council voted to amend the policy on Discernment and Election Process for the Selection of a Bishop – 2016 to require only one sponsor for participation in the pre-Assembly process by a prospective nominee.

Council Action

Recommendation of Policy

The Council voted to recommend the policy on Discernment and Election Process for the Selection of a Bishop – 2016 to the 2015 Synod Assembly for their consent, as called for in 2009 Synod Assembly Resolution 4, Advance Process for Identifying Potential Nominees for Synodical Bishop.

Funding Policy Task Force – Mr. Manske presented the topic, with the disclaimer that if there is no consensus on proceeding, action should be deferred to a future Synod Council meeting. Questions were raised about the process and concerns about the document presented. The process, which involved activity by a Task Force called for in 2013 Synod Assembly Resolution 2, Resolution on the Use of Funds from the Sale of Greater Milwaukee Synod Church Properties, was explained by Vice President Manske and Secretary Brockmeier. It was agreed after further discussion to defer action. Rev. Lisa Bates-Froiland offered to redraft the policy document, with an additional offer of assistance from Mr. Jerry Key.

Next Meeting

Thursday, July 9, 2015 – 5:30 pm Dinner; 6:15 pm Synod Council Meeting

Bishop Jeff Barrow’s Home

Future Meetings

- Thursday, September 24, 2015 (all day) – The Lutheran Center, Chicago

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are preceded by a dinner at 5:30 pm, with the meeting beginning at 6:15 pm.

Submitted,

Mr. Matthew Brockmeier
Synod Secretary