

Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA
Summary of the Synod Council Meeting
January 19, 2017

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		10/2015
Vacant	Lake Country	2019			-
Vacant	Milwaukee 1	2017			-
Rev. Lisa Bates-Froiland	Milwaukee 2	2017	X		1/2011
Ms. Claire Zautke	Milwaukee 3	2019	X		Pending
Rev. Bill Knapp	Milwaukee 4	2019		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
Rev. Angela Khabeab	Waukesha	2019		X	10/2015
Rev. Lindsay Jordan	At Large	2019	X		2/2016
Mr. Jerry Key	At Large	6/2017	X		10/2016
Ms. Amber Davis	At Large	2019	X		Pending
Mr. Scott Manske	Vice President	2017 (1)	X		10/2015
Mr. Matthew Brockmeier	Secretary	2019 (2)	X		1/2012
Mr. Lee Johnston	Treasurer	2017 (2)	X		Pending
Rev. Paul Erickson	Bishop	2022 (1)	X		Pending
Ms. Sarah Muller	Youth Representative	2017		X	Pending
Rev. Jonathan Barker	Young Adult Rep.	2017	X		9/2013

Also present were Rev. Kristin Nielsen, Director of Rostered Leadership, and Ms. MaryBeth Hoffman, Chair, GMS Reconciling in Christ Ministry Team.

Council Action

Appointment to the Synod Council

The Council voted to appoint Mr. Jerry Key to the vacant lay male, person of color position on the Synod Council, for service until the 2017 Synod Assembly, when this position will be filled for the term ending August 31, 2019.

Vice President's Remarks

Vice President Scott Manske focused his remarks on the retreat scheduled for January 28th, engaging with the Council in discussion regarding priority topics and possible outcomes. High on the list was discussion of race. In working to tighten the focus of the topic, discussion moved to Mr. Jerry Key's idea of creating a core group from the Council that would explore ways of taking action to implement anti-racism, moving beyond the historic role of the Anti-Racism Team in creating awareness and dialogue, and providing training. Mr. Key noted that the "Team is meant to give support;" the "governing body must take these actions."

Additional discussion dovetailing with the discussion on racism included the idea of dialogue across political divides, as well as finding better ways to share issues with congregations. It was agreed that the retreat would, at least in part, be designed to lay the groundwork for the creation

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of the core group suggested by Mr. Key. The retreat agenda will be created and reviewed over the next week.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Paul Erickson began by reporting on the joy of his experience participating in the installation of Bishop Kitoi in the Meru Diocese, including his experience preaching at the special service the day before the installation. He also noted the new Outreach for Hope Lenten devotion series, to which he is a contributor.

He spoke in detail about the process he is initiating to work with consultants The Missional Network, and especially with Alan Roxburgh. This group has experience working with bishops and heads of other church bodies as they address rapid change. Rev. Roxburgh is also slated to be keynote speaker for the Synod Assembly, with a goal of beginning a process "for congregations to get tools for active listening in their neighborhoods." A key early step will be the synod staff retreat in February.

It was agreed that final action to approve a contract with The Missional Network would be taken at the Council retreat on the 28th. There was significant excitement from clergy present about Rev. Roxburgh's future work with the synod.

The bishop then provided an outline of the Cluster Assembly scheduled for February 25th at Mt. Hope Lutheran Church in West Allis, before reviewing in detail the question of lay people authorized to preside at Holy Communion that was discussed in his written report. Finally, the bishop noted that interviews for the new Director of Evangelical Mission are scheduled for January 27th.

Roster Matters

Council Action

Approval of Synod Call

The Council voted to approve synod calls to Rev. Mark D. Thompson to Mission Development at Breaking the Chains, a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community, effective February 1, 2017; to Rev. Timothy L. McIntosh to Chaplaincy at Badger Hospice, effective November 14, 2016; and to Rev. Michael J. Mueller to Ecumenical Ministry at the Racine Interfaith Coalition, effective February 1, 2017.

Council Action

Approval of Retired Status

The Council voted to approve retired status for Rev. David P. Raben, effective February 1, 2017.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Lee Johnston reported that December results for income were not quite what was expected, but were still relatively good. Some congregations have had short-term issues, which may keep the \$2 million goal for FY2017 from being met. If income falls short, some ministries would not receive the full amount budgeted for the year.

Council Action

Accept Financial Statements

The Council voted to accept the synod's financial statements as of December 31, 2016 as presented.

Old Business – Action Items

2016 Resolution 1 – Access to The Emergency Food Assistance Program – The Council was updated on follow-up to this resolution. A letter to congregations is being drafted to relay the Assembly's call to action.

2016 Resolution 2 – Resolution to Establish an Annual Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Sunday – The Council was updated on actions taken in support of this resolution. Funding for LSS is now done as a direct appeal to congregations rather than funding by the synods.

2016 Resolution 4 – Resolution and Memorial to the Churchwide Assembly on Justice for the Holy Land through Responsible Investment – The Council was updated on the status of existing investment funds and on the disposition of this resolution by the ELCA. An investment screen will be based on Human Rights, not on the Holy Land specifically, and will also not include reference to specific companies. No other synod has asked these questions about the ELCA's investment policies. Mr. Manske provided an overview of his investigation of other funds (contained in a written report). Mr. Brockmeier provided information on the ELCA's disposition of the synod's resolution. It was agreed that the originators of the resolution would be updated, with additional review by the Council in March.

New Business – Action Items

Council Action

Approval of Cost of Living Increase

The Council voted to approve a cost of living increase of one percent for synod staff, with the exception of the bishop, effective February 1, 2017.

Synod to Permit Seasonal Memberships in Congregations – In order to provide clarity to congregations considering seasonal memberships, as conditionally allowed by the 2016 ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations, the Council considered allowing seasonal memberships as described in constitutional provision *C8.02.e.

Council Action

Approval of Seasonal Memberships

The Council voted to approve the option for congregations to grant seasonal memberships consistent with constitutional provision *C8.02.e.

Modification of Compensation Guidelines on Vacation for Part-Time Ministers – Revised guidelines for Clergy Compensation were reviewed by the Council. In discussion, some technical details were modified for consistency and/or accuracy.

Council Action

Approval of Compensation Guideline Modifications

The Council voted to approve modifications to the 2017 Compensation Guidelines to clarify vacation time for part-time pastors, deacons and lay professionals.

There was additional discussion regarding the role of synod guidelines for congregational employment, with the fact that the synod is a resource only, and not the employer, emphasized.

The bishop may work on additional modifications to language for carry-over of vacation time from year to year.

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Deadlines for Submission of Memorials and Resolutions – Deadlines for memorials and resolutions submitted for consideration by the 2017 Synod Assembly were discussed by the Council, with action on a proposal to move the deadline forward from previous years for all memorials and resolutions, except resolutions presented by the Synod Council.

Council Action

Approval of Deadlines for Memorials and Resolutions

The Council voted to approve deadlines for memorials and resolutions to be considered by the 2017 Synod Assembly of Friday, March 31, 2017 for congregations, committees or clusters and Thursday, May 20, 2017 for the Synod Council.

Reports

Director of Evangelical Mission – No report submitted.

Director of Discipleship – No report submitted.

Director of Rostered Leadership – A visual and verbal report was presented by Rev. Nielson, with a focus on maps of the synod. These newly-created maps provide a visual guide to congregational location and size, serving as a tool to look at the distribution of ministry sites across the greater Milwaukee area. Discussion on ministry characteristics and dynamics ensued.

Cross+Generational Ministry – Position Vacant – No report submitted.

Lutheran Campus Ministry – No report submitted.

Reconciling in Christ – A written report was presented.

Anti-Racism Team – A written report was presented.

Women of the ELCA – No report submitted.

Outreach for Hope – A written report was presented.

Council Action

Approval of Change in Meeting Location

The Council voted to approve a change in location for the March 16, 2017 Synod Council meeting from Christ the King Lutheran Church in Delafield to the synod offices in Milwaukee.

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 16, 2017 – 5:30 Dinner; 6:15 Meeting

Greater Milwaukee Synod Office, 1212 South Layton Boulevard, Milwaukee

Future Meetings

- Thursday, May 18, 2017 – Martin Luther Lutheran Church, 9235 W Bluemound Rd, Milw.
- Thursday, July 20, 2017 – To Be Determined
- Thursday, September 21, 2017 – The Lutheran Center, 8765 W Higgins Rd, Chicago*

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

*The Lutheran Center meeting in September 2017 will be an all-day session.

Submitted,

Mr. Matthew Brockmeier
Synod Secretary