

# MINUTES

## 87<sup>th</sup> Meeting of MNO SYNOD COUNCIL

November 17-18, 2016

Synod Office

935 Nesbitt Bay, Winnipeg MB

### Participants

#### Synod Council

**Bishop Elaine Sauer**  
**Heather Howdle** -Chair  
**Rev. Carol Janke** - Secretary  
**Jim Mair** – Metro  
**Linda Hettrick** – Aurora  
**Haakon Dagsvik** - Cambrian  
**Yolanda Yobb** - Agassiz  
**Tom Brook** – Interlake (absent)  
**Rev. Jason Zinko**- At Large  
**Rev. Bart Coleman** - At Large  
**Rev. Matthew Diegel** – At large  
*Treasurer - vacant position*  
*Westman – vacant position*  
*Brokenhead – vacant position*

#### Synod Staff

**Rev. Larry Ulrich** - Assistant to the Bishop  
**Rev. Tyler Gingrich** – Assistant to the Bishop  
**Debbie Beyer** - Executive Assistant  
**Rick Scherger** – Communications Coordinator  
(absent)

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**Thursday, November 17**

**Chaplain: Rev. Matthew Diegel**

**We gather on Treaty One territory and the Metis nation.**

**1. Gathering in God's Name**

Our chaplain Matthew Diegel led us in evening prayer including the lighting of a candle, scripture reading, reflection petitions, and singing.

1.1. A quorum was declared

## 2. We celebrate our past

2.1 **MSC SC 2016 25 that the agenda be approved as amended.**

2.2 Approval of Consent Agenda

**MSC SC 2016 26 that the consent agenda be approved**

2.3 Communication and Correspondence

We received with regret the resignation of Dale Clark, chair of the Luther Village Board. Bishop Elaine is following up with an exit interview.

## 3. We proclaim God's Word

3.1 Reports

3.1.1. Staff: a comprehensive written report, prepared by all staff members was presented. Bishop Elaine spoke of some of the priorities engaged in, and the difficulties encountered. As well she spoke highly of her team, thanking them for the work done to keep the synod healthy and viable.

Larry explained the new initiatives for *Mission as Hope* for 2017, and how congregations might be challenged to consider possible goals. Council was invited to prayerfully consider their own estimate of giving to Mission as Hope.

Larry gave an orientation for council members to make "Every Congregation Visits." They allow the MNO Synod congregations to be aware of the work of the synod, and allow the synod to learn the joys and concerns of the people/congregations of the synod.

The council expressed their thanks to Rick Scherger for his faithful service to the MNO Synod.

3.1.2 Secretary

**MSC SC 2016 27 that Rev. Lenise Francis be moved from Temporarily Without Call to On Leave from Call, First Year, effective, November 30., 2016**

- MSC SC 2016 28** that the minutes of Synod Council, April 21, 2016 be approved
- MSC SC 2016 29** that the minutes of Synod Council e-meeting, May 18, 2016 be approved
- MSC SC 2016 30** that the minutes of the Synod Council Teleconference meeting, June 9, 2016 be approved
- MSC SC 2016 31** that the minutes of the Synod Council e-meeting, June 28, 2016 be approved
- MSC SC 2016 32** that the minutes of the Synod Executive meeting, June 9, 2016 be approved
- MSC SC 2016 33** that the minutes of the Synod Executive meeting, September 22, 2016 be approved
- MSC SC 2016 34** that the minutes of the Synod Executive meeting, October 26, 2016 be approved

### 3.1.3 2016 Financial Statements

Debbie gave an overview of all financial statements including the restricted fund schedule so that we will have the information we need to make good decisions regarding the finances. We anticipate we will be able to meet the Column B commitments made to our partners Heather thanked Debbie for her dedication and hard work and the clear way they were presented to the council.

- 3.2 Kvern Scholarship (reference: Sep 22, 2016 Executive minutes)  
Since the work with Winnipeg Foundation was not complete prior to this meeting, the council was asked to give the executive permission to move this forward.

**MSC SC 2016 35 that the Synod Executive be directed to approve the documentation for the Kvern Scholarship by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016.**

- 3.2 Lundar Lutheran question: “Are there similar appeals being issued to support rural congregations in their similar ministries? “  
Council directed the chair to send a response to Lundar Lutheran Church and thanks them for initiating the dialogue and bringing this to council. We wish to clarify that the synod did not send out the appeal. The synod’s role is to provide oversight for the timing of appeals that go to congregations from any partners or recognized ministry. As well we note that Lutheran Urban Ministry is an interfaith partner of the MNO Synod, and not currently a synodically recognized ministry.

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**Minutes of the Annual Meeting  
of the  
Members of the MNO Synod Foundation for Mission and Ministry Inc.  
November 17, 2016  
MNO Synod Office, Winnipeg, MB**

Present: Haakon Dagsvik, Linda Hettrick, Heather Howdle, Bishop Elaine Sauer, Carol Janke, Matthew Diegel, Jason Zinko, Jim Mair, Bart Coleman, Yolanda Jobb,

Chair of MNO Synod Council, chaired the meeting. The following actions were taken:

- MSC Nov–Foundation 16-01 that we adopt the agenda as presented.**
- MSC Nov-Foundation 16-02 that we adopt the minutes of the November, 20, 2015 meeting.**

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on March 15, 2016 were received.

The financial statements for the year ended December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 were received.

**MSC Nov-Foundation-16 -03 that we appoint OnBusiness Chartered Accountants Inc. to perform a review engagement for the year ending December 31, 2016**

**MSC Nov-Foundation-16-04 that industry best practices for frequency of audits be investigated by the Foundation Board**

MSC Nov-Foundation-16-05

that we appoint Allan Francis to the position of Director for a three year term ending November 2019

MSC Nov-Foundation-16-06

that the Annual Meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Janke, Acting Secretary  
MNO Synod

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Refreshments

### Friday, November 18

The chaplain led us in Morning Prayer, followed by a bible study led by Bishop Elaine, using a Missional Network study entitled: "Joining God - Listening Together"

#### 4. We Present Our Offerings

The chaplain led us in a general order of blessing.

- 4.1 Questions re Standing Committee & Board Reports  
Committee for Youth Ministry: the request for an increase in the budget line for honorariums for retreats (p. 65) is referred to the budget discussion.

Luther Village Board of Trustees: the request "that the MNO Synod Professional Leader's Retreat return to Luther Village" (p.66) will be referred to the Professional Leader's Retreat Planning Committee (a full communion committee.) The Synod Council has no responsibility or input on how this committee does its work or makes decisions.

Lutheran Urban Ministries: the request for the prayers and presence of congregation members and families to the Urban in order to see its workings and needs (p. 68) must come to the synod members attention through the newsletter of the synod. We also request that the synod

members receive information from LUM regarding the results of the recent financial appeal made to the synod. And in future their reporting will be for information only.

Mission Committee: Bishop Elaine addressed some of the concerns regarding how the extensive work of this committee will be accomplished within the allotted staff hours, given what is expected of them.

**MSC SC 2016 36 that the following recommendations be approved:**

**the Mission Committee be disbanded as of January 31, 2017**

**a Global Companion Committee (formerly the Cameroon sub-committee) be formed.**

**a Canadian Mission Committee, responsible for the CECF mandate and other Canadian mission initiatives, be created.**

**a *Terms of Reference* draft be developed for the Global Companion Committee and the Canadian Mission Committee and brought to the spring 2017 synod council meeting for approval**

Refreshment Break

The chaplain prayed for wisdom and guidance.

#### 4.2 MNO Synod Constitution and Bylaws:

**MSC SC 2016 37 that we direct the Governance committee to update the changes to the Constitution and Bylaws according to the NCC recommendations.**

#### 4.3 National and Synodical Convention Fee Structure

There was excellent discussion around the implementation of this fee and how it benefits the congregation. It is equitable and helps congregational councils to keep their membership lists up-to-date.

**MSC SC 2016 38** that the synod request a grant of \$24,725 for the 2017 National Convention Fee, from the MNO Synod Foundation to fund the transition to triennial conventions. If the Foundation does not provide the grant in full or in part, then any portion not funded by the Foundation would come from Our Saviour's, Winnipeg, Closure fund.

**MSC SC 2016 39** that the National and Synod Convention Fee Structure be approved as presented.

4.4 National and Synodical Consultation: The chair is directed to respond to Bishop Susan's letter expressing our concerns and suggestions in regards to the purchase of the consultation.

4.4.1 Confidentiality Covenant: This was developed to keep the personnel policy manual current.

**MSC SC 2016 40** that we approve the MNO Synod Confidentiality Covenant for all staff and volunteers.

The chaplain led us in a Thanksgiving for Baptism.

4.5 2018 Synod Convention

4.5.1 The dates will be **April 26-28, 2018**.

4.5.2 We are seeking a location and will request that one of the following congregations would host us:

- 1.) Grace Lutheran,
- 2.) St. Marks Lutheran
- 3.) Messiah Lutheran

4.5.3 Nominating Committee appointments

**MSC SC 2016 41** that Linda Hettrick be the Synod Council representative on the Nominating Committee.

4.6 Every Council Visit

**MSC SC 2016 42** that the *Every Council Visits* be approved as presented.

4.7 In camera session

4.8 Presentation of Revised 2017 Budget

**MSC SC 2016 43** that the Bishop's compensation for 2017 be approved as presented.

**MSC SC 2016 44** that the revised 2017 budget with the request for Youth Ministry be approved.

4.9 Appointment of Auditors for 2016

**MSC SC 2016 45** that onBusiness Chartered Accountants Inc. be appointed as the auditor for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016

The chaplain gave thanks for our food.

## **5. Items Requiring Action**

**MSC SC 2016 46** that the following adjustments be made to existing allocations under the Mission as Hope New Initiatives Fund:

the unspent portion of the Beautiful Feet allocation be transferred to the Beautiful Feet fund - \$817.50

that the unspent portion of the Lay Academy allocation be transferred to the Lay Academy Fund - \$1,202.82

that the unspent portion of the Plunge, Cameroon travel, and First Call be made available for Mission as Hope Reallocation - \$3,273.06

**MSC SC 2016 47** that the following new initiatives be allocated funding from the Mission as Hope New Initiatives Fund:

Area Reformation 500 Celebrations - Lutheran/RC - \$250 for each of the eight areas of the MNO Synod, plus Flin Flon, Thompson and Ft. Francis - \$2,750

Support/participation in up to four "Circles of Reconciliation" - \$2,000

Every Council Visit – costs associated with the Every Council Visit - \$1,500

**MSC SC 2016 48** that following the theme of the Reformation Year, and CLAY, the synod intentionally engage in awareness and action to say that humans, creation, and salvation are Not For Sale.

**MSC SC 2016 49** that "YET"-Youth Engagement Trip be endorsed as a designated synod initiative in 2018.

**MSC SC 2016 50** that Ben Nickel be sent as our lay representative for the February 2017 face to face meetings in Cameroon, and that funding up to \$3500 from the Companion Synod restricted fund be used to cover the costs.

**MSC SC 2016 51** that the following partners be paid from the Interfaith Partnerships line on the 2016 synod budget:

**Manitoba Multifaith Council - \$100**  
**Interfaith Task force on Northern Hydro**  
**Development - \$3,850**  
**Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council -**  
**\$1,000**  
**Jubilee Fund - \$50**  
**Initiatives for Just Communities - \$100**  
**LUM - \$20,000 (paid from Our Saviour's**  
**Closure Fund in 2016)**

**MSC SC 2016 52** that the following 2016 year-end actions be taken with respect to the synod's restricted funds:

**Study Conference: transfer year-end surplus to general revenues**  
**2016 Synod Convention: transfer year-end surplus to general revenues.**

**MSC SC 2016 53** that "CECF Project Vision 2015/2016" fund be renamed "Acts of the MNO" fund

**MSC SC 2016 54** that \$20,000 be transferred from the Acts of the MNO Fund to the Western Synods Lay Academy Fund

**MSC SC 2016 55** that \$4,500 be transferred to the Young Adult Ministry Fund as follows:

**\$3,781 from St. John's Snow Lake Closure Fund**

**\$719 from Our Saviour's Winnipeg Closure Fund**

**MSC SC 2016 56** that the surplus of the 2015/2016 Internship remaining in the 2015-2016 Internship fund be transferred back to the Internship Fund

**MSC SC 2016 57** that Synod Executive be authorized to make interim payments of the 2016 Column B amounts during the 2016 fiscal year, if they

are satisfied that the revenues will be sufficient to support the Column B commitments, with a year end deficit of not more than \$3,000.

5.1 Appointments

5.1.1 Synod Council

Requests have been made to congregations in the Westman and Brokenhead areas for people who could be nominated for an appointment to Synod Council.

There are no suitable candidates at this time for the position of Treasurer. We will continue to seek someone with the right qualifications.

We prayed for people in need of healing.

5.1.2 Next council meetings: **April 20 – 21, 2017**  
**November 16 – 17, 2017.**

6. **We give thanks to God**

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

7. **We go out in thanks**

Chaplain Sharing the Peace  
Benediction  
Song of Sending

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Janke