

# MINUTES

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

November 16-17, 2017

Epiphany Lutheran Church

Winnipeg MB

### Participants:

#### *Synod Council:*

Bishop Elaine Sauer

Heather Howdle – Chair

Neil Miller – Treasurer

Tom Brook - Interlake

Jim Mair – Metro

Haakon Dagsvik – Cambrian

*Vacant* - Westman

Pr. Jason Zinko – At Large

Pr. Bart Coleman – At Large (Fri.)

Pr. Matthew Diegel – At Large/ Acting Secretary

#### *Synod Staff:*

Pr. Tyler Gingrich – Assistant to the Bishop (Thurs.)

#### *Guests:*

Bishop Susan Johnson – National Bishop

#### *Regrets:*

Pr. Carol Janke – Secretary

Linda Hettrick – Aurora

Yolanda Yobb – Agassiz

Diana Fosty – Brokenhead

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### Thursday, November 16

6:30 p.m.

#### **1. Gathering in God's name**

The Chair, Heather Howdle, welcomed all, and reminded us that we gather as guests on Treaty One territory and the Metis Nation, in a sense of respect.

The Chair welcomed Bishop Susan Johnson, National Bishop of our ELCIC.

The Meeting's Chaplain, Tom Brook, led us in evening prayer, through scripture, reflection, prayer, and song.

The Christ Candle was lit.

1.1 A quorum was declared by the Chair.

6:45 p.m.

#### **2. We celebrate our past**

2.1. Approval of the Agenda

**MSC SC 2017 16 That the agenda be approved as amended**

2.2. Approval of Consent Agenda

**MSC SC 2017 17 That the Consent Agenda be approved:**

- a) That the Minutes of Synod Council, April 20-21, 2017 be approved.
- b) That the Minutes of Synod Council e-meeting, Sept. 11, 2017, be approved.
- c) That the Executive Minutes for April 27, Sept. 19, and Oct. 26, all 2017, be approved.

2.3 Communication and Correspondence

### 2.3.1 Committee on Nominations

The Chair shared the appointments of the following to the Committee on Nominations: Pr. Trudy Thorarinson, Pr. Matthew Diegel, and Heather Howdle. The committee met earlier in the day via Skype. A letter is being formatted to send out to call for nominations. The deadline to submit names is Feb. 1, 2018.

The chaplain offered a prayer of thanksgiving.

## 3.1 We proclaim God's Word

### 3.1 Reports

#### 3.1.1. Staff

Bishop Elaine shared how the past few months have been a chaotic time at synod office, for various reasons. She offered thanks for the support of the Anglican partners in the office. The position of Administrative Assistant is open.

#### 3.1.2 Secretary

See Roster Changes, Bulletin of Reports, p. 31.

#### 3.1.3 Treasurer/Financial Statements

The Treasurer, Neil Miller, highlighted his report, as found in the Bulletin of Reports, pp.32-43

- Note: the correct title of the first partner listed is 'Inter-church Council on Hydropower'

#### 3.1.4 National Office

Bishop Susan gave a verbal report and thanked the synod volunteers at the national convention. She noted that they really came through at the end, becoming the backbone of an excellent convention. The 'positive chaos' leading up to the convention had paid off!

- Bishop Susan shared some of the many highlights of the convention, and noted there had been much positive feedback re the new convention format.
- Thanks are also due to those congregations participating in the Reformation Challenge. The response has been astonishing, seemingly without affecting general benevolence. When a vision is shared, there always seems to be new energy.
- The Sept. NCC meeting began its working through the development of a new Strategic Plan. The 5 Strategic Directions it is presently refining are: Courageous Innovation, Reconciliation and Relationship, Healthy Church, Clear Theological Identity, and Empowered Disciples.
- Bishop Susan noted that more and more the ELCIC is becoming an outward-looking, missional church, 'In Mission for Others'. While still facing challenges, we seem healthier than we have been in a long time.
- Taskforce on Global Mission – this initiated because evaluation required of existing Global Mission companion agreements
- Date for ordination of new MNO Bishop needs to be examined, as all Bishops need to be present (including Bishop Elaine) – it's an ELCIC expense.
  - o Time granted for discussion of this matter

- o New Bishop will take office July 1
- o Consensus: to hold the Ordination on Sat. Sept. 8, in the afternoon, immediately following the fall NCC meeting(held in Winnipeg)
- o Bishop Susan has agreed to lead the election process for the Bishop.

3.2 Constitution clarification – see 3.3

3.3. By-Law Part V.3.c clarification

The phrase in question is ‘all retired rostered ministers’.

- Consensus: the Convention Handbook needs to be changed from ‘registered’ to ‘eligible’.
- Consensus: By-law also needs to be changed, to add ‘eligible’

#### **4. We Present Our Offerings**

4.1 Questions re Standing Committee reports:

a) Youth (Bulletin of Reports, pp.57ff)

- Youth delegates for synod convention are already in fee structure
- Restricted Funds are held for youth ministry – Bishop Elaine to do follow-up to explain how they can access this fund.

b) Global Mission (Addendum, p.22f)

- North American Cameroon Network meets once a year plus has regular conference/Skype calls between partners and Cameroon church. Bishop Ngozo re-elected in May.

c) Canadian Mission (Addendum, p.24f)

4.2 Discussion re National/Synodical Consultation, Dec. 1-3, 2017

- All officers of each synod/national church have been invited (24).
- Consultation to centre on NC 95-11 (National/Synodical responsibilities).
- Agenda includes areas that we haven’t been emphasizing collaboration.
- An external facilitator has been hired for the meeting.
- Synods have been able to add to the agenda.
- Rather than a decision-making meeting, it is an opportunity for building relationships, and finding consensus paths for beginning to move forward.
- Bishop Elaine outlined how NC 95-11 is reflected through MNO appointments and relationships

8:45 p.m. Refreshments

#### **Friday, November 17**

##### **4. We Present Our Offerings, continued**

8:45 a.m. The Chaplain opened the session with Responsive Prayer.

9:00 a.m. Bishop Elaine facilitated ‘Dwelling in the Word’ Bible Study on Acts 16:6-15.

9:30 a.m. 4.3 2018 Synod Convention, April 26-28, at Grace Lutheran Church – Winnipeg (Bulletin of Reports, pp. 75-84)

4.3.1 Agenda (Addendum, pp.31-34)

Synod Council will ensure there is delegate orientation for the election of a bishop process

- The Elections Committee members are NOT delegates and will be volunteers from Grace Lutheran

**MSC SC 2017 18**      **That the 2018 Synod Convention Agenda be approved as amended.**

4.3.2 Budget

**MSC SC 2017 19**      **That the 2018 Synod Convention be approved as amended, renamed 'Contingency' to 'Guest Speaker'.**

4.3.3 Travel Allowance

**MSC SC 2017 20**      **That the travel reimbursement and hotel policy for the 2018 Synod Convention be as follows:**

- a. Delegates travelling more than 50 km to the convention site shall be entitled to travel compensation of 20 cents per km for the driver plus 3 cents per passenger (who must be a delegate) for km driven over 50 km each way.**
- b. Delegates travelling by air to convention will be entitled to reimbursement of economy airfare.**
- c. Delegates travelling more than 100 km to the convention site shall be entitled to a paid convention hotel room (double occupancy).**

4.3.4 Visitor Fee – discussed/set in 4.3.2

4.3.5 Committee on Nominations

Heather Howdle, Pr. Trudy Thorarinson, and Pr. Matthew Diegel have been appointed

4.3.6 Theme/Speaker

- Jim will follow up with possible speaker re the invitation

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**MSC SC 2017 21**      **That the theme for the 2018 Convention be 'Bearing Fruit on the Vine'.**

Rationale: John 15:1-8, with emphasis on v.4; based on the idea that we cannot bear fruit if we are not connected and building relationships to and with creation through God, ourselves, and others.

4.3.7 Nominations and Appointments

**MSC SC 2017 22**      **That SC nominate the following for officer positions:**

- Chair – Heather Howdle**
- Treasurer – Neil Miller**

An Enabling Motion will be voted on later for the Executive to seek requests for nominations for Secretary, with a SC e-meeting to be held to confirm the final nomination.

10:15 a.m. In camera session

10:20 a.m. **MSC SC 2017 23** **That the Bishop's compensation for 2018 be approved as presented in camera.**

**MSC SC 2017 24** **That the 2019-2021 Compensation Guidelines be recommended for approval to the 2018 Synod Convention.**

Clarification: **Compensation** Guidelines can only be changed by a convention; SC has authority to amend synodical budgets between conventions.

10:25 a.m. The Chaplain offered a prayer for Wisdom and Guidance prior to the Refreshment Break.

10:50 a.m. **5. Items Requiring Action**

5.1 Motions/Requests stemming from Standing Committees

5.1.1 Grants Committee

**MSC SC 2017 25** **That Terms of Reference for the Grants Committee be revised to include a length of term of three (3) years.**

5.1.2 Term for Governance Committee – no action needed

5.2 Appointments

5.2.1 Appointment of Luther Village Board members  
(Pr. Jason recused himself from voting.)

**MSC SC 2017 26** **That the following be appointed as members of the Luther Village Board: Andrew Bosma and Megan Swartz.**

5.3 Motions stemming from Staff/Officer Reports

5.3.1 Staff Report

**MSC SC 2017 27** **That Lutheran Theological Seminary be approved to hold an annual fall appeal for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020.**

Clarification: This is an Annual Appeal, not a Capital Campaign. It does not overlap with other appeals in the synod. Approval for such an appeal is to be revisited by SC at the end of this 3-year period.

- MSC SC 2017 28** That the MNO Synod establish standardized timeframes for synod partners' annual appeals.
- MSC SC 2017 29** That ALIGN receive a grant of \$20,000 from the CECF Special Funding (ACTS of the MNO Synod) for its second cohort proposal beginning Jan. 2018.
- MSC SC 2017 30** That the Beautiful Feet Initiative be dissolved.
- MSC SC 2017 31** That the Beautiful Feet internally Restricted Fund be transferred to the LTS Lay Academy Internally Restricted Fund.
- MSC SC 2017 32** That the following persons be reappointed to the ACTS of the MNO Synod Committee: Pastors Nancy Ringham and Erik Parker; both for a one-year period.
- MSC SC 2017 33** That the Beautiful Feet Externally Restricted Fund be transferred to a new LTS Lay Academy Externally Restricted Fund.

Note: funds have been given for the purpose of Beautiful Feet.

Rationale: Lay Academy is a related purpose, but funds cannot be put in Internally Restricted Fund (see SC 2017 31) due to CRA regulations.

#### 5.3.2 Secretary's Report

- MSC SC 2017 34** That Pr. Larry Ulrich be moved from Temporarily Without Call to On Leave from Call, Year 1, effective Nov. 30, 2017
- MSC SC 2017 35** That Pr. Lynn Granke be moved from Call to Special Services, Victoria General Hospital – Winnipeg, to Retired.

#### 5.3.3 Treasurer's Report

- MSC SC 2017 36** That \$4,500 be transferred from Our Saviour's Closure Internally Restricted Fund to Young Adult Ministry Internally Restricted Fund to cover the expenses of the

**Young Adult Ministry programme up to the end of 2017.**

Note: funds not used to end of 2017 will be kept in fund.

**MSC SC 2017 37** That Synod Executive be authorized to make interim payments of the 2017 Column B amounts during the 2017 fiscal year, if it is satisfied that the revenues will be sufficient to support the Column B commitments

**MSC SC 2017 38** That the following 2017 year-end actions be taken with respect to the synod's restricted funds:  
That the Study Conference surplus be transferred to Revenue.

**MSC SC 2017 39** That OnBusiness Chartered Accountants Inc., be appointed as the auditor for the fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2017.

**MSC SC 2017 40** That Synod move to a 3-year financial cycle, with Financial Reviews for two years and an Audit for the year prior to the convention.

Note: By-law Part XI. Section 5 now needs to be amended.

**MSC SC 2017 41** That the 2018 Mission as Hope Appeal package be approved as presented.

**MSC SC 2017 42** That the following adjustments be made to the existing allocations under the Mission as Hope New Initiatives Fund:

- The unspent portion of the Area Reformation 500 Celebrations (\$250), the Every Council Visits (\$1103.75) be made available for Mission as Hope reallocation.
- The unspent portion of the Circles of Reconciliation be reallocated to the Proposal for the Development of Awareness and Action for Faith and the Environment.

5.3.4. Budget Review – dealt with under 3.1.3

**MSC SC 2017 43** To recommend that the SC send the 2018-2021 Budgets to the 2018 Synod Convention for approval as presented.

5.4 Synod Constitution and By-laws: amendments, clarifications  
- dealt with under 3.3 and 5.3.3

**MSC SC 2017 44 To recommend that Bylaw V.3.c. be presented at the 2018 Synod convention for revision.**

Note: this will be given to the Governance Committee.

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12:05 p.m. 5.5 AGM of MNO Synod Foundation

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Members of the MNO Synod Foundation for Mission and Ministry Inc.  
November 17, 2017  
Epiphany Lutheran Church, Winnipeg MB

Present: Haakon Dagsvik, Heather Howdle, Bishop Elaine Sauer, Pr. Matthew Diegel, Pr. Jason Zinko, Jim Mair, Pr. Bart Coleman, Neil Miller, Tom Brook

Chair of MNO SC, Heather Howdle, chaired the meeting. The following actions were taken:

**MSC Nov – Foundation 17-01 That the agenda be adopted as presented.**

**MSC Nov – Foundation 17-02 That the Minutes of the last AGM, Nov. Nov. 17, 2016, be adopted.**

The Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on April 12, 2017, were received.

The Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2016, were received.

**MSC Nov – Foundation 17-03 That OnBusiness Chartered Accountants Inc. be appointed to perform a review engagement for the year ending Dec. 31, 2017.**

**MSC Nov – Foundation 17-04 That Jim Zinko be elected to the position for Director for a three-year term ending Nov. 2020.**

Thanks were given to all those who serve on the Foundation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pr. Matthew Diegel, Acting Secretary

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The Chair thanked Jim Mair for his years on the Inter-Church Council on Hydropower [ICCH] since 2007.



12:30 p.m. After Grace was sung, a delicious lunch was shared.

1:00 p.m. The Chaplain offered Thanksgiving for Baptism.

#### 5.6 Enabling Motions

**MSC SC 2017 45** That Synod Executive be authorized to take action on the following items prior to the April 2018 SC meeting:

- a. Amend the convention Agenda as needed
- b. Approve the 2017 audited financial statements
- c. Correct typographical errors, and, if necessary, make minor editorial changes to the revised By-Laws prior to inclusion in the 2018 Synod Convention Bulletin of Reports, and to approve recommendations from the Governance Committee.

**MSC SC 2017 46** That Synod Executive seek nomination from SC members for Secretary, and that Executive hold a SC e-meeting re approval of the recommended nomination.

#### 5.7 Other Business

##### 5.7.1 Synod Policy and Guideline Reviews

**MSC SC 2017 47** That approval be given for the revised Call to Special Services Endorsement Policy.

**MSC SC 2017 48** That SC recommend amending the Guidelines for Rostered Ministers Funerals, replacing 'Deans' with 'to the local clergy or Area Team Leader'.

**MSC SC 2017 49** That SC recommend no change to the Policy on Bequests for Gifts.

**MSC SC 2017 50** That SC recommend no change to the Compensation Policy.

**MSC SC 2017 51** That SC approve the Confirmation of Eligibility to Serve as Directors Protocols.

**MSC SC 2017 52** That SC send the Guidelines for Dissolving a Congregation, and the Protocol for Severance from the ELCIC to Executive, for review and consolidation, to be brought back to SC in an e-meeting, prior to April 2018.

**MSC SC 2017 53** That SC dissolve the Foundation Grants Review Process.

5.7.2 Call to Special Services, Regional Pastor, Interlake Shared Ministry

**MSC SC 2017 54**      **That a Call to Special Services, Regional Pastor to Interlake Shared Ministry, be extended to Pr. Erik Parker, pending receipt of a 2018 Employment Agreement.**

5.7.3 Other

**MSC SC 2017 55**      **That SC dissolve the Policy on Electoral Regions and the Policy on Procedures re National Conventions.**

Rationale: these were transitional procedures now covered in the Bylaws.

**MSC SC 2017 56**      **That the Treasurer be authorized to pay all Inter-faith partners, except LUM, their Column A amounts at the beginning of each fiscal year.**

5.8 Next Synod Council Meeting

- Grace Lutheran Church – Winnipeg, Fireside Room, 3 p.m. April 26, 2018

**6. We give thanks to God**

The Chaplain led us in the Sharing of the Peace, prayers, and Blessing for Travel.

1:55 p.m.

**7. We go out in thanks**

There being no further Business, the Chair declared the 89<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MNO Synod Council to be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pr. Matthew Diegel,  
SC Member-at-large,  
Acting Secretary