



**MNO SYNOD
EXECUTIVE MINUTES
Thursday, October 26th, 2017 10:00 a.m.
Synod Office**

PARTICIPANTS:

Bishop:	Elaine Sauer
Chair:	Heather Howdle
Treasurer:	Neil Miller
Secretary:	Carol Janke [regrets]

1. Bishop Elaine opened the meeting with prayer.

2. The agenda was approved

3. Reports

3.1 Bishop: Update was given on the ongoing work of our Bishop including: the transfer of Dr. Ann Salmon to the MNO Active roster, and preparations for the Reformation activities throughout this month.

-The by-law Part V Section 3 c) Retired Clergy representation at Synod convention, needs clarification and possible amendment. We will bring the questions of clarification to the SC meeting in November

3.2. Secretary: no report

3.3. Treasurer: Reviewed the 2019-2021 compensation guidelines for rostered ministers. Reviewed Bishop compensation for 2018.-

-The use and cost of a financial review versus an audit was presented and a motion recommending an Audit be performed in a pre-convention year and financial reviews in the remaining years be done to reduce costs without compromising risk. This would require a by-law change to Part XI section 5.

-Outstanding Convention fees total \$527.00 and two reminders have been sent to the individual congregations. Bishop Elaine will follow up with these congregations.

- propose that the Study Conference surplus of \$1381.00 be used to cover the Interfaith Partners for 2017.

-Reviewed budgets for 2019-2021 and Treasurer will bring recommendations and commentary to council in regards to individual budget lines.

3.4. Financial Statement: Income statement ending September 30th, 2017 was received. We are ahead with benevolence at this time. The trend is towards a possible surplus at year end.

4. Items for Discussion / Decision

4.1 The ballot process for the MNO Synod Bishop and Chair is ecclesiastical

4.2 Secretary and Treasurer are nominated from Council

4.3 April 2018 Convention – at Grace Lutheran

a) Draft agenda and consent agenda be developed after the November Council meeting

b) We have issued an invitation to Senator Murray Sinclair to be our convention keynote presenter. We will look at other possibilities if a confirmation is not received before the Nov council meeting.

4.4 Outdated Synod Policy reviews: a list of 24 policies/protocols or guidelines and either specific review dates were established, recommendations for dissolving, or motions of no change were made. The timeframes for review have been staggered to distribute the work associated with this. We will report recommendations to council.

4.6 i) Concern was submitted related to the advertising in the MNO Synod e-newsletter for the Winnipeg Mennonite Schools. Bishop Elaine will follow-up with this concern.

ii) Clarifying the length of new Council terms post April 2018 Synod convention.

Rostered and Lay members are to review Part VII Section 1 of the Synod by-laws.

iii) Constitutional changes need clarity and notice will be given for the November Council meeting.

5. **In Camera Session**

6. **Date for next meeting:** November 16th, 2017 at 5 pm at the Boston Pizza, Pembina Hwy Location, close to the location of Epiphany Church where the council meeting will be held.

7. We adjourned at 12:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Howdle, Chair

Treasurer's Addendum

The recommendations for changes to the budget lines for discussion/recommendations about the three year cycle of budgets.

1. Interfaith partners- recommend only column A amounts be distributed before November 1st each year on a prorated basis of the total funds allocated and funds available.
 - recommend a reduction in the amount designated for Council on Hydropower
2. Recommend the Study Conference surplus of \$1381.00 be used to cover the Interfaith Partners for 2017
3. Committees- recommend the following fund changes to individual committees
 - Youth Committee, \$100 for meetings; all other costs come from appropriated funds
 - Mission Committee budget be reduced to reflect actual costs of meetings during the year
4. Staffing- recommend a 2% adjustment to the 2018 salaries line
 - recommend lowering the amount of staff travel to reflect the change in numbers and responsibilities for staff travel
5. Audit/Financial Review – Recommend the Synod move to a three year cycle – financial reviews for two years and an Audit the year prior to Convention (requires a By-law change at Convention, Part XI section 5).