



**MINUTES**  
**91<sup>st</sup> Meeting of MNO SYNOD COUNCIL**  
**September 14-15, 2018**  
**MNO Synod Office 935 Nesbitt Bay**  
**Winnipeg, MB R3T 1W6**

**PARTICIPANTS**

**Synod Council**

|                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Rev. Jason Zinko              | Bishop, acting Chair |
| Heather Howdle                | Chair-regrets        |
| Neil Miller                   | Treasurer            |
| Rev. Courtenay Reedman Parker | Secretary            |
| Linda Hettrick                | Region 1             |
| Carol Bilinski                | Region 2, regrets    |
| Dorleen Dyrland               | Region 3             |
| Michael Kvern                 | Region 4             |
| Heather Werboweski            | Region 4             |
| Rev. Leslie Poulin            | At Large             |
| Rev. Trudy Thorarinson        | At Large, Chaplain   |

**Synod Staff:** Rev. Tyler Gingrich (regrets), Assistant to the Bishop; Debbie Beyer, Financial Administrator; Colleen Dacquay, Administrative Assistant

**ELCIC:** Bishop Susan Johnson, National Bishop, Jeff Buhse, MNO Lay Rep

Bishop Jason welcomed synod council, our representatives from the ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson and Jeff Buhse, NCC representative, and Synod Office Staff before opening worship.

1. **Gathering in God's Name**  
Rev. Trudy Thorarinson, Chaplain, gathered us in scripture, prayer, reflection, communion and song.
  - 1.1. A quorum was declared
2. **We celebrate our past**

**MSC SC 2018 - 37 That the agenda be approved as amended.**

The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda:

**MSC SC 2018 - 38 That the minutes of Synod Council meetings April 26 and April 28, 2018 be approved.**

**MSC SC 2018 - 39 That the minutes from the Synod Council e-meetings, June 27, 2018 and August 1, 2018 be approved.**

\*\*Note that the following editorial change will be made adding a period: that Synod Council explore the feasibility of funding an additional full time pastoral call for each of the Brokenhead shared ministry and Interlake Regional Shared Ministry to develop lay **ministry. Funding** to be drawn from internally or externally restricted funds, for a period not exceeding three (3) years; and that Synod Council proceed with call processes if satisfied sufficient funds exist. MSC MNO 17-2018-11

**MSC SC 2018 - 40 That the Executive minutes for be May 15, 2018 and June 19, 2018 approved with corrections.**

2.3 Communication and Correspondence

2.3.1 LWF - Luther Garten - Letter from LWF inviting the synod to participate in a project Luther Garten in Wittenburg. The synod has been invited to sponsor the planting of a tree to stand in solidarity with LWF and to commentate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The cost is 500EU (roughly \$750 Cdn) for upkeep. We are also invited to plant a tree on our end. [www.luthergarten.de](http://www.luthergarten.de)

2.3.2 Bishop Susan: Date request for Synod Council Meetings in 2018 and 2019

The Chaplain led us in a prayer of thanksgiving

**3. We proclaim God's Word**

**3.1. Reports**

3.1.1. Staff

Bishop Jason submitted a written report of the missional directions of the synod. Included in the report is thanks to

outgoing Bishop, Rev. Elaine Sauer for her ministry within the synod.

### 3.1.2. Secretary

The secretary provided a brief report that work has not yet started on the orientation package for council members, or the triennial calendar or synod events.

### 3.1.3. Treasurer /financial statements

The treasurer presented a detailed written report to synod council and provided a summery verbal report. The challenge before us is that benevolence is 7% behind what is budgeted. While spending is on track, there is a deficit anticipated because of decreased benevolence.

Included in the report was a motion and information put forward to NCC on the ELCIC Task Force for benevolence.

### 3.1.4. National Office

Bishop Susan provided a verbal report of updates stemming from the National Church Council (NCC) meetings September 7-8, 2018. Highlight include:

- Rev. Vince Solomon, Urban Indigenous Minister for the Diocese of Rupert's Land gave a presentation. One of the stories that stuck out for Bishop Susan that Rev. Solomon shared was the first experience of being othered as a result of being indigenous.
- One of the actions was to approved in principle a motion anticipated coming to National Convention and General Synod (ACC) in 2019 A Common Word Between Us and You (Muslim-Christian Dialogue). This will help us live out our 2017 commitments to being in relationship with peoples of different faiths.
- A final report from Task Force on Decisions at the End of Life. Resolution coming to National Convention the call to faithfully journey with those who are dying, as well as request from the task force and supported by NCC, to invite the church to dwell in the word as we enter into this process. Discussion around National Convention 2019. Theme is "Called to Journey Together:

The Ministry of Reconciliation” looking at themes of reconciliation.

- Some ongoing conversations:
  - youth representation at National Convention (who is defined as youth) Task Force in place to look at this further
  - develop code of conduct for national church events that would lay out expectations for how we are in relationship to and with one another. Specifically how to address specific complaints, and how to hold people accountable in a pastoral and timely way

3.2 Synod Staff led a presentation and demonstration on Zoom

3.2.1 Bishop Jason led a presentation on the use of technology and sharing of documents for synod council

*The Chaplain led a prayer to close the evening.*

The meeting reconvened at 8:50am Saturday September 15. Chaplain, Rev. Trudy Thorarinson welcomed us to Treaty 1 Territory and the home of the Metis Nation before leading us in Morning prayer.

### **Visioning**

Bishop Susan presented on the National Church’s four strategic directions and provide a handout with an outline of the goals which include: courageous innovation, reconciliation, one body working together, empowered disciples.

Bishop Jason followed up with the missional directions for the synod:

1. Embracing Passionate a Call to Spiritual Renewal Through:  
Prayer, Study, Scripture, Worship, Give, Tell, Service
2. Strengthening God’s People for Discipleship
3. Celebrating the Abundance of God’s Gifts
4. Nurturing relationships with Neighbouring Congregations and the Community at Large
5. To Build a Ministry of Presence with the Synod

Plan to review the missional directions to more accurately describe our priorities, to focus on those areas that reflect those priorities. Visioning will be a process and we will plan to look at the ELCIC's National Priorities, and hope to align our priorities to theirs.

Looking to have something that is "tweetable" - easy to know, easy to communicate, will give focus and direction to the synod and serve as an evaluative tool for ongoing and new ideas . Looking for congregational feedback about what is needed from the synod (tools the synod can provide), what the synod can/should stop doing. Asking Rostered Ministers, Synod Council and Congregations:

1. Two things we must keep
2. Two things we should stop
3. Two things we should spend more time/resources developing

The chaplain prayed a prayer of blessing ahead of our refreshment break.

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

- 4.1 The treasurer presented an interim report on the feasibility of the motion coming from Reference and Counsel that Synod Council explore the feasibility of funding an additional full time pastoral call for each of the Brokenhead shared ministry and Interlake Regional Shared Ministry to develop lay ministry. Funding to be drawn from internally or externally restricted funds, for a period not exceeding three (3) years; and that Synod Council proceed with call processes if satisfied sufficient funds exist. MSC MNO 17-2018-11

Synod Council will continue to discern and discuss the feasibility of this motion looking at the financial viability and that it aligns with our strategic plan. That is to say, until we have completed our strategic plan, we will not make any decisions related to this motion.

Chaplain led us in prayer

- 4.2 We discussed the Agenda for November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting by Zoom

- 4.2.1 Treasurer presented that the coming budget will have only one column rather than two columns (A and B).
- 4.2.2 Standing Committee Reports
  - Canadian Mission
  - Global Mission
  - Youth
  - Candidacy
- 4.2.3 Other reports
  - LV
  - The Urban
  - Eco-Reformation
- 4.2.4 Synod Convention 2021 - Date and Location
- 4.3 Governance committee Reports
  - Severance Protocol from ELCIC
- 4.6 Reports
  - Staff
  - Treasurer
  - Secretary
    - A. Roster Changes
    - B. Approval of Congregational Constitution

4.3 In camera session

## 5. Items Requiring Action

- 5.1 Motions/Requests stemming from Standing Committees
  - 5.1.1 Governance Committee: Policy updates re :
    - A. Severance Protocol from ELCIC (Tabled at the request of the governance committee),
    - B. Dissolving a congregation (table)
    - C. Authority Delegated to Executive - governance committee report September 13, 2018

**MS SC 2018 - 41 Implement recommended actions from the governance committee report for the Synod Policy on Authority Delegated to Synod Executive.**

**MSC SC 2018 - 42 To divide motion into 2 separate motions.**

**MSC SC 2018 - 43 To amend the Policy on Authority Delegated to Synod Executive by replacing "MNO Bylaws Part VIII Section 2b with "MNO Bylaws Part VIII Section.**

**MSC SC 2018 - 44 The the Policy on the Authority delegated to Synod Executive be amended to add item (d) Approval of revisions to the constitution or bylaws of congregations.**

**MSC SC 2018 - 45 That the Candidacy Committee, in consultation with GSI and the Synod Office, review the Call Manual in light of the new employment agreement from the ELCIC.**

**MSC SC 2018 - 46 That the Accessibility Standards for Customer Service document as submitted be approved.**

5.2. Approval of Congregation Constitutions:

**MSC SC 2018 - 47 That the Constitution and Bylaws of First United Lutheran Church, Flin Flon as presented be approved.**

The Chaplain led grace before lunch.

The Chaplain led us in a Thanksgiving for Baptism

5.2.2 The following Constitutions have been received and sent back to congregational councils with further instructions/recommendations from the governance committee, or did not re-submit in time for this meeting:

1. Christ Lutheran, Waldersee
2. Erickson Lutheran, Erickson
3. Faith Lutheran, Winnipeg
4. Gloria Dei Lutheran, Winnipeg

5.3 Appointments

**MSC SC 2018 - 48 That Rev. Leslie Poulin be appointed to the Grants Committee as the Synod rep for a 3-year term ending April 2021.**

**MSC SC 2018 - 49 That Deacon Michele Barr be appointed to the Margie Kvern Scholarship Committee for a 3-year term ending April 2021.**

**MSC SC 2018 - 50 That Rev. Trudy Thorarinson be appointed to the Governance Committee for a 3-year term ending April 2021.**

**MSC SC 2018 - 51 That Justine Hesselbart be appointed to the Youth Committee for a three-year term ending in 2021.**

5.4 Motions/ Requests stemming from Staff / Officer Reports

**MSC SC 2018 - 52 That the Handbook of Personnel and Office Policies and Procedures be amended under Section 2.1 - Daily Office Procedures to include the requirement the Cheque Register be sent at the end of each month to the Executive members for review.**

Developing criteria for the Synod Council Leadership Award - tabled to next meeting (look at guidelines from the National Church and Eastern Synod)

5.4.3 Secretary's Report - Roster Statuses

**MSC SC 2018 - 53 Deacon Kris Taylor from Faith Lutheran, Winnipeg to call to Specialized Service to St. Boniface Hospital Spiritual Care.**

**MSC SC 2018 - 54 Rev. Elaine Sauer - MNO Synod call to specialized service, Bishop, to St. Chad Anglican, Winnipeg.**

**MSC SC 2018 - 55 Rev. Jason Zinko - Sherwood Park Lutheran, Winnipeg to call to Specialized Service to the MNO Synod, Bishop.**



**MSC SC 2018 - 56 Rev. Daren Gallivan Bethesda Lutheran, Kenora to Rural Beausejour Lutheran Parish.**

**MSC SC 2018 - 57 Rescind MSC SC 2018 - 13.**

**MSC SC 2018 - 58 MSC to remove Rev. Mark Koenker from On Leave from Call, year three Active Roster to Retired Roster effective May 31, 2018.**

5.4.4 Treasurer's Report

**MSC SC 2018 - 59 That the net assets from the sale of the Synod vehicle be transferred to the Bishop's Discretionary internally restricted fund.**

**MS SC 2018 - 60 That an Internally Restricted National Worship Conference fund be established by transferring \$500 per year from the Synod operating funds to provide funds for attendees from the MNO Synod or provide funding directly to this biannual Conference.**

**MS SC 2018 - 61 Table MS SC 2018 60**

Motions arising from correspondence:

**MSC SC 2018 - 62 To approve participation in the LWF Luther Garten at a cost not to exceed \$1200 and funding be secured through donations from individuals or congregations within the Synod. Any appeals for fundraising will conform to our standardized time frame for appeals. Any donations above actual costs will be directed to the Mission as Hope Fund.**

5.4.5 2018/19 Budget Review

5.5 Enabling motions:

**MSC SC 2018 - 63 That executive have the authority to approve appointments to ELCIC 2019 National Convention and to approve appointments to the Canadian Mission Committee.**

5.6 **Other Business**

5.6.1 Bishop Jason outlined there will be a review of Synod Policy & Guidelines

5.6.2 Bishop Jason outlined the role of synod council representatives on Luther Village and The Urban Boards and asked council members to consider serving as a synod council representative, to be determined at a future meeting.

5.6.3 There was no other business arising from the minutes of other synod councils

5.7 Next Synod Council meeting: be one day only  
Friday November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 8:30am to 4:30 pm

5.7.1 Dates for upcoming meetings:  
Spring 2019 - April 5-6, 2019

Chaplain for our next meeting: Rev. Leslie Poulin

## **6. We give thanks to God and go out in Thanksgiving**

The Chaplain led us in a closing prayer, sharing of the peace and benediction and sending hymn.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm