



MINUTES

93rd Meeting of MNO SYNOD COUNCIL
 Friday, April 5th - Saturday, April 6th, 2019
 Anglican Lutheran Centre 935 Nesbitt Bay
 Winnipeg, MB R3T 1W6

We gather on Treaty One Territory and the home of the Metis Nation

PARTICIPANTS

SYNOD COUNCIL

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

SYNOD STAFF (Friday at 3:00PM)

Rev. Tyler Gingrich	Assistant to the Bishop
Debbie Beyer	Financial Administrator
Collen Dacquay	Administrative Assistant

GUEST(S) (Friday 9AM - 4:30PM)

Rhonda Honke	inVision Edge
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Friday April 5, 2019 9:00AM - 4:30PM Synod Council Visioning Day.

Friday, April 5, 2019 –Synod Council Business Session

The meeting was called to order by Heather Howdle, Chair at 5:06PM.

Chaplain Heather Werboweski led Synod Council in singing ELW 798, Will You Come and Follow Me and opening prayer.

A quorum was declared.

MSC SC 2019 - 01 Approval of Agenda as amended.

MSC SC 2019 - 02 Approval of Consent Agenda.

The following items are included in the consent agenda:

- i. That the minutes of Synod Council meeting November 9, 2018 be approved.
- ii. That the minutes of Synod Council e-meetings February 13, 2019; February 15, 2019 and March 12, 2019 be approved.
- iii. That the minutes from Executive meetings December 18, 2018; February 7, 2019; March 11, 2019 be approved.

There was no communication or correspondence to respond to at this time.

Chaplain Heather Werboweski led Synod Council in singing ELW 857 Lord I Lift Your Name on High.

Reports were presented as follows:

Bishop Jason presented the following:

- i. A verbal report accompanied the written staff report. A healthy discussion regarding candidacy and filling vacancy followed upon looking at the upcoming retirements in the synod.
- ii. An updated Call Process Manual was presented in draft form.
- iii. A Guide for Retirement of Rostered Ministers was presented for information and input. A robust conversation followed regarding how to be supportive of rostered ministers, their families and congregations through the transition, and the professional ethics of leaving a call.

The Secretary's report included the following:

- i. There are no roster changes to report at this time.
- ii. Constitution/By-Law Approvals
 - a. Gloria Dei, Winnipeg, Constitution - final version submitted for approval.
 - b. First United Lutheran, Flin Flon, Bylaws - discussion about the bylaw change made at the 2019 AGM as well as the ongoing practice of suspending the bylaw for term limits on council terms.
 - c. Good Shepherd Lutheran, Selkirk
- iii. Location of the 2021 Synod Convention was discussed. Four congregations were asked to consider hosted the 2021 convention: Redeemer, Brandon; Cross, Morris; Interlake Regional Shared Ministry (Good Shepherd, Selkirk as site), and Pinawa Lutheran, Pinawa. Of those congregations only the IRSM responded that they were willing to consider hosting.

The Treasurer's Report was presented, including a verbal update on the finances of the synod.

- i. We are still waiting for the financial review to be completed. When it becomes available it will be distributed to Synod Council. Two options are available. A motion can be passed to enable Executive to approve the financial review. A second, and preferred, option is to have Synod Council hold a e-meeting to approve the report. Council decided by consensus to have the report distributed and approved by Synod Council by e-vote.
- ii. Foundation report also included (in addendum). Awaiting Foundation's compilation from OnBusiness. When it is available it will be distributed to Synod Council for review. While the Foundation has requested an additional board member, Synod Council's recommendation is to instead have a member of Synod Council attend as a guest. Treasurer Neil Miller volunteered to serve in this capacity.

Committee and partner reports were presented as followed:

- i. Candidacy Committee - report submitted
- ii. Canadian Mission Committee - no report submitted
- iii. Global Mission Committee - no report submitted
- iv. Youth Committee - report submitted. Conversation around the scope and role of the youth committee re: young adult ministry
- v. Governance Committee - no report

- vi. Luther Village - report submitted. Conversation around upcoming plans and the need for synod council approval (i.e spending over \$15,000).
- vii. Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon - No report submitted, but note event @ Faith Lutheran, Winnipeg May 22nd to talk about the future of LTS with LTS President Bill Harrison.
- viii. Acts of the MNO Synod - written report submitted. Conversation about how to increase visibility of the committee so that we are able to distribute the money (which means that people need to know funding is available and to apply). What we don't want to happen is have to return unused funds.

Conversation emerged about grant committees, and whether we should merge all granting bodies to one committee to handle grants. Will follow up at future meeting.

Chaplain, Heather Werboweski led a closing prayer.

The meeting was called to recess at 7:37PM.

The meeting reconvened Saturday, April 6, 2019 at 8:31AM

Chaplain Heather Werboweski led a prayer of blessing.

Report of the 2019 MNO Synod trip to Companion Synod

Bishop Jason presented a verbal report of the 2019 trip to the Cameroon.

Participants included: Bishop Jason Zinko, Rev. Tyler Gingrich, Assistant to the Bishop, Melissa Colquhoun, Kyle Kempe-Collins.

Highlight include: First week, met in Yaounde, where the national church is located. Met with groups individuals including: women, evangelism, Christian Education, finances; female pastors and students, as well as first woman who was the director of *Femmes Pour Christe* (Women for Christ), visited youth groups, Fanta and Chaplain who oversees orphans program, the seminary. Met a lot of people, heard a lot of stories. There are some cultural pieces that present some challenges. Multiple requests for funds fro MNO were received which Bishop Jason had to decline.

There are 1,500 churches and 400 pastors. There are some pastors who have 50-point calls. The pastors are supported by lay people who preach, lead bible studies, etc. The pastors are not only available for sacramental ministry, but for coaching and supporting the lay leaders and the ministry.

Funding for the trip - in the application, there was an application fee of \$500. The application indicated that the participants would be expected to pay the remaining cost. One of the participants was able to obtain a grant. Following the applications being made, there were conversations between the bishop and assistant to the bishop about the synod funding the remaining costs of the trip (minus supplies and inoculations). There is funding available to cover the cost, and there is an expectation that the lay participants will tell the story within and throughout the synod. Synod council discussed the way in which trips to our companion synod are planned, taking into account the need for Synod Council approval ahead of the trip taking place for transparency. Synod Council will approve the funding of the trip once the expenses has been finalized and the specific available funds have been identified through an e meeting.

MSC SC 2019 - 03 to approve the lay participants' (Melissa Colquhoun and Kyle Kempe-Collins) remaining trip costs for the 2019 trip to Cameroon be paid through available synod funding.

Discussion of the appointment of lay and rostered delegates to 2019 ELCIC National Convention. Much of the conversation was around the limitations of our own bylaws which we have lived out 2 consecutive conventions.

Use of technology and sharing of documents - in 2 weeks MNO Synod office will be switching servers to BOX, a secure file sharing service. Included will be a file for Synod Council with everything Synod Council needs.

Discussion about possibility of putting together renewal/training/development event in 2020. If we brought together a number of speakers/presenters as a curriculum based conference. Could invite neighbouring synods as well as the Diocese of Rupert's Land to attend. Build in not only learning events, but time to worship as well. Because of the surplus funds from 2018 Convention we could have an affordable event, that brings the synod together, that provides tools to equip people and congregations. Looking to plan at a time that isn't around harvest (possibly June). Discussion about holding the event outside the city, potentially at a retreat centre. Looking right now at possibilities. Consensus from Synod Council for Bishop Jason to continue exploring the possibility of an event.

Draft of MNO Synod Council Leadership Award Criteria. Synod Council watched a YouTube video ([here](#)) of Bishop Elaine speaking about the Leadership Award. Conversation amongst the council looked possible criteria for the award, lifting up people's giftedness is not always the person who is on all the committees or does all the things (we are after all saved by faith and not by works!). It's not all about doing, it's about being. Shift looking at calling it a discipleship recognition rather than leadership award. Heather Werboweski and Michael Kvern offered to work on draft

together.

MSC SC 2019 - 04 That we move in camera.

MSC SC 2019 - 05 That we move out of camera.

MSC SC 2019 - 06 That the following at-large lay delegates be appointed to the 2019ELCIC National Convention Devin Vermette (Church of the Cross, Morris), and Linda Hettrick (First United Lutheran, Flin Flon).

MSC SC 2019 - 07 That the following rostered delegates be appointed to the 2019 ELIC National Convention: Rev. Erik Parker (Sherwood Park, Winnipeg) and Rev. Trudy Thorarinson (Grace-St. John's, Carman).

MSC SC 2019 - 08 That Rev. Trudy Thorarinson be appointed the MNO Synod Council Representative to the Lutheran Urban Ministry (The Urban) Board for a three-year term, ending in 2021.

MSC SC 2019 - 09 That Synod Council approve the Call Process Manual.

MSC SC 2019 - 10 That planning and funding for all synod trips to our Companion Synod in the Cameroon be approved by Synod Council.

MSC SC 2019 - 11 To approve the Constitution and Bylaws of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, as presented at their Annual General Meeting, February 24, 2019.

MSC SC 2019 -12 that Synod Council accept the bylaw change for First United Lutheran Church, Flin Flon (FULC) MSC AGM 2019-6.

MSC SC 2019 - 13 that Synod Council accept the Constitution and Bylaws of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Selkirk from February 3, 2019, with the editorial change as follows: "removal of the (no fewer than six (6)) from the By Laws Part VII - Section 1".

MSC SC 2019 - 14 to extend a formal invitation to the Interlake Regional Shared Ministry (IRSM) to host the 2021 MNO Synod Convention, April 22-24, 2021 at Good Shepherd Lutheran, Selkirk.

MSC SC 2019 - 15 that Heather Werboweski and Michael Kvern develop a draft for the MNO Synod Council Discipleship Recognition (formerly MNO Synod Council Leadership Award) for the fall 2019 Synod Council meeting.

Break for lunch 12:15PM.

Meeting called back to order at 1:12PM

Chaplain Heather Werboweski led us in a prayer of thanksgiving.

Other Business:

Synod Policy & Guideline Reviews - to date the Call Process Manual and Guidelines for Retirement of Rostered Ministers have been started, and in the case of the Call Process Manual approved.

Follow up on the ELCIC national and synodical officers decision for synods and the NCC to share circulate minutes but Synod Council have not found it effective. Consensus that Heather Howdle, Chair, will send written feedback to NCC to this effect.

New Business:

Follow up on Visioning Day, including discussion about what we want/need to include in our plan going forward. Once we have the draft feedback from Rhonda Honke of inVision Edge, it will be distributed to Synod Council for review.

Next Synod Council meetings:

In person meeting - Friday June 7 8:30AM-4:30PM to review visioning material. Rev. Courtenay Reedman Parker to serve as Chaplain.

Zoom - Friday November 8, 2019 8:30AM - 4:30PM

Sharing of our Faith as we go Forward - Chaplain, Heather Werboweski led us in taking time to reflect on how we have seen God working in our lives this week. We concluded our meetings giving thanks to God through prayer, in singing (ELW 720 We Are Called), and sharing the peace.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:26PM.