

MINUTES

**Nebraska Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Synod Council Minutes**

June 2, 2022

APPROVED

Voting Members present:

Tanny Akerson	Pr. Mariam Blair	Sharon Bohling	Pr. Sarah Cordray
Gwen Edwards	Dan Friedlund	Nancy Hinrichs	Pr. Cara Jensen
Leann Kersten	Pr. Lori Kitzing	Bp. Brian Maas	Elysia McGill
Pr. Nathan Metzger	Gary Overfield	Pr. Travis Panning	R LaDene Rutt
Pr. Ellen Stelzle	Dara Troutman		

Staff and Organizational Presidents present:

Pr. Juliet Focken	Diane Harpster	Lisa Kramme	Pr. Carol Mapa
Pr. Jon Mapa	Pr. Megan Morrow	Dn. Sunni Richardson	Dn. Timothy Siburg
Dn. Connie Stover	Pr. Kristen Van Stee		

Also Present (briefly for reports):

Ramona Edwards Dn. Sue Rothmeyer, ELCA Secretary/Churchwide Representative

Absent:

Bill Biggs	Juan Castro	Pr. Donald Hunzeker	Stephanie Lusienki
Hannah Ruch	Morgan Tranmer		

Vice President Dara Troutman called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

The roll was called, and a quorum was present.

MOVED and SECONDED to approve the agenda as presented. APPROVED.

MOVED and SECONDED to approve the minutes of March 19, 2022. APPROVED.

Dn. Connie Stover led everyone in a spiritual practice. She shared an exercise and led us in small groups using *Community Builders*. Reminding us we are leaders guiding other leaders. She closed with a prayer from *Centering Prayers*.

Meeting recessed at 12:05 for lunch and fellowship.

Meeting resumed at 12:35 p.m.

ELCA Secretary Dn. Sue Rothmeyer Remarks:

Dn. Sue shared her experiences with Campus Ministry. She reported there are sixteen synods in Assembly this weekend. At the upcoming Churchwide Assembly (CWA), a new Vice President will be elected; there will be a *preview* of the social statement, Church and State; and noted the 2022 CWA is being held in the same room as the CWA thirty-five years ago when the ELCA was constituted. She provided a brief synopsis of Sierra Pacifica Synod. Also reported there will be ten elections held this Synod Assembly season, April to June.

Staff Reports: Written reports were available.

Lisa Kramme, Pr. Jon Mapa, Dn. Timothy Siburg, and Dn. Connie Stover indicated they had no additional information to be add beyond their verbal reports. **Pr. Carol Mapa** reported there are forty-seven current certified PMAs, twelve students, and two who discerned to step out of the program. **Pr. Kristen Van Stee** shared there is a lack of transitional pastors, she is not concerned about churches calling pastors-the concern is transitional pastors to help them through the process. She has asked her congregations if they would be creative in their worship, perhaps later in the day with a neighboring pastor, etc. **Diane Harpster** reported our voting packets were distributed at our seats, we still need to pick up our voting device and a bag. **Pr. Megan Morrow** reported the LCMC seem to be more active and she has congregations having conversations about leaving the ELCA. **Dn. Sunni Richardson** asked, “how do we move forward?,” with Emmanus. **Pr. Juliet Focken** reported there is a Synod dropping local churches in other Synods. There was a meeting with five different Synod Bishops and staff. These local churches are gathering and watching worship, they are hoping to receive support from local ministries. Hope Lutheran in Iowa said there are about 120 members watching and they recognize satellite sites.

Bishop’s Report: A written report was available.

Bishop Brian shared Bill Biggs is moving to California and still wants to review congregational constitutions remotely. Candidacy rates are increasing with more candidates coming. He highlighted the good work of the Synod. There are two ordinations within the next few weeks with a possibility of more before August 30.

SC22.06.15: ADDITIONS TO BISHOP’S REPORT

RECOMMENDED: That the following rostered persons be approved for On Leave From Call status for one year:

Name	Date
Steven Lindley	6/1/22
Sarah Ruch	6/22/20, 2021 2nd yr, 2022 3rd yr
Rich Sheridan	8/1/19 (study leave-6 years), 2020 2nd yr, 2021 3rd yr, 2022 4th yr

RECOMMENDED: That the following rostered persons be approved for transfer to the retired roster:

Greg Olson	April 1, 2022
Steven Berke	May 1, 2022

RECOMMENDED: That a synod council call be extended to the following roster persons:

The Rev. Eric Finsand, to serve as transitional/interim minister, three-year renewable. He will serve as Transitional Minister at Southwood Lutheran, Lincoln, effective May 1, 2022.

RECOMMENDED: That the following Synod Council call be renewed:

The Rev. Robert Corum, to serve as Pastor, Followers of Christ Prison Ministries, Lincoln, NE; Director of Prison Ministries, Nebraska Synod. Call is three-year renewable.

Note: Glenn Palmer remains on leave from call, study leave, effective 11/1/20. He resides in South Carolina and is in communication with the Southeastern Synod about a possible transfer. The synod council call to interim/transitional ministry as issued at the March 2022 meeting is not appropriately issued at this time

MOVED – SECONDED – APPROVED

SC22.06.16: EN BLOC

1. CONGREGATIONS:

RECOMMENDED: That the constitution for United Lutheran, Hampton, be approved.

2. COMMITTEES:

RECOMMENDED: That the following appointments to the PMA Steering Committee be affirmed, effective May 2022:

Joyce Kolbo, three-year term
Jim Kvasnicka, student representative, one-year term
Pr. Steve Meysing, three-year term

RECOMMENDED: To approve the following as chairs of synod committees:

Audit Committee – Rob King
Budget & Finance Committee – Kevin Karas
Candidacy Committee – Pr. Kathy Gerking
PMA Steering Committee – Maurine Roller, PMA

3. AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS:

RECOMMENDED: To affirm the Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. (NeLCM) Board of Directors' recommendation of the following appointment to the board:

Mr. Nick Holle, to complete a first three-year term on the NeLCM Board commencing June 30, 2022 through May 31, 2024, with the opportunity for an additional three-year term following. Mr. Holle is an alumnus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and active alumnus of the Lutheran Center. Nic and Monica, his spouse, are members of St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Omaha.

RECOMMENDED: To affirm the request of the Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries' Board of Directors' recommendation of the following to the board, following a special election meeting on May 12, 2022:

Recommend to the Synod Council of the Nebraska Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that the following candidates be elected as Directors of the Board of Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, Inc. for terms beginning June 1, 2022:

- Tami Lewis-Ahrendt of Lincoln, Nebraska
- Scott McCollister of Omaha, Nebraska

Addition of these people are in compliance with NLOM's bylaws for membership. (Bios are included in the Supporting Documents section)

MOVED – SECONDED – APPROVED

SC22.06.17 RECOMMENDED: That the following individuals be appointed as members of the 2023 Synod Assembly Planning Team:

- Pr. Emily Johnson-Christ, Louisville
- Pr. Heidi Wallace-Bethany, Lyons
- Ric Miller, Morning Star, Omaha
- Ron Lofgren, St. John's, Norfolk
- Pr. Jan Peterson, Augustana, Omaha
- Elizabeth Florian-Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Hastings
- Pr. Elisabeth Pynn Himmelman, Campus Ministry/Kearney & First, Kearney
- Morgan Tranmer, Nebraska Synod staff
- Timothy Siburg, Nebraska Synod staff

SPONSOR: Bishop Brian Mass

MOVED – SECONDED – APPROVED

SC22.06.18 RECOMMENDED: That the Synod Council adopt the FY2022 Amended Budget, as proposed.

SPONSOR: Dan Friedlund on behalf of the Synod Budget and Finance Committee

APPROVED

SC22.06.19 RECOMMENDED: to appoint two members of the Nebraska Synod Council to the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee of the Synod for **two-year renewable terms**.

The following members stated their interest: Pr. Miriam Blair, Dan Friedlund, Nancy Hinrichs, and Pr. Cara Jensen

SPONSOR: Bishop Brian Mass

MOVED – SECONDED – APPROVED

SC22.06.20 RECOMMENDED: That the recommendation of the PMA Steering Committee that following be certified as a Parish Ministry Associate be approved.

- Annette Block (Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Syracuse)
- Joyce Kolbo (American Lutheran Church, Gothenburg)
- Fred Bredehoeft (Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Syracuse)
- Dwight Brummels (St. John's Lutheran Church, Randolph)
- Glen Andersen (First Lutheran Church, Blair)

SPONSORED BY: Bishop Brian Maas, on behalf of the PMA Steering Committee

APPROVED

Reports of Officers and Organizations

Vice President's Report: Dara thanks the Synod for the opportunity to serve.

Secretary's Report was accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Friedlund stated Mission Share is coming in as expected with the amended budget. He highlighted the strengths of the Nebraska Synod.

Nebraska Synod Women's Organization: Elysia McGill reported their next board meeting is late June. A discussion was held.

Bishop Election Committee Report

Ms. Ramona Edwards reported that interviews with candidates and biographical information was added to the website to help the Assembly make an informed decision. Meet the nominees will take place this evening at 7:00 p.m. Each candidate will be asked the same two questions. A new item added for the process this year was a Chaplain for the candidates: Pr. Kathy Gerking, St. Timothy's Lutheran Church/Omaha.

Old Business:

- Seeking the Spirit Within Business Plan – Ms. Ramona Edwards provided an update, and a discussion was held.

New Business: None

Open Comments/Feedback:

The meeting was closed with prayer.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gwen Edwards
Secretary