

Minutes from the
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
of the Central States Synod
May 2, 2024
via Zoom

Present: Bishop Susan Candea, Nancy Nagel (Vice President), Scott Schulte (Treasurer), Rev. Chad Langdon (Secretary), Terrence Freeman, Rev. Janice Hawley, Chelsea Deines

Absent: none

CALL TO ORDER

Nancy called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

- Bishop Candea led us in a devotion by Richard Rohr on simplicity, and then she led us in prayer.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chad presented the minutes from the Synod Council meetings on March 22-23, 2024 and April 18, 2024.

- **SEC 24.05.02.A32** It was MSC to approve the minutes from the Synod Council meetings on March 22-23, 2024 and April 18, 2024.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Scott presented a written treasurer's report:

Financial Status as of 2/29/2024, after 1 month of the fiscal year, ending January 31, 2025.

Income from congregations

- \$115,927 received
- The amount received is \$11,760 more than what was anticipated in our revised spending budget, a 10.1% variance
- The amount received is \$26,404 more than received last year, a 22.8% variance

ELCA Churchwide Contribution

- \$57,964 contributed to Churchwide
- This is \$5,881 more than anticipated in the revised spending budget, a 10.1% variance
- The amount contributed is \$13,516 more than last year, a 23.3% variance

Synod Expenditures

- \$61,709 spent
- The amount spent is \$118 more than budgeted, a 0.2% variance
- This is also \$8,567 less than spent last year, a -13.9% variance

Total Support & Revenue vs. Total Expenditures

- \$128,324 received in Total Support & Revenue, \$14,650 more than anticipated and \$16,634 more than last year
- \$119,673 in Total Expenditures, \$5,999 more than anticipated, and \$4,949 more than last year
- Net surplus of \$8,651 as compared to a \$3,034 deficit last year

Analysis of Financial Status

- The contribution amount from the congregations was encouraging for several reasons. We received just under \$116,000. This is not a large amount, but it does represent some good news. First, it is a good start to the fiscal year. Often February contributions are

disappointing. Second, it exceeds the average monthly contributions amount needed to support our budget by about \$12,000. Lastly, it exceeds the amount we received from the congregations last February by \$26,000.

- Synod expenditures are right on budget for the month. They are less than last year due to the following: lower Campus Ministry expenses due to the pastoral vacancy at the KU site and lower operating expenses. Travel is higher than last year at this time, but there are many variations for travel plans from year to year.
- Generally speaking, February was a good month from a financial perspective. Congregational giving was greater than expected, our expenses are line with the budget and we contributed more to Churchwide than expected. I will temper my enthusiasm by pointing out that this is just for one month. There is plenty of time for challenges to arise. Our contributions received for the month were good compared to the budget and last year, but this needs to be viewed within the overall context of continued decline in congregation support. It does suggest that we have budgeted correctly to address that situation.

AUDIT REPORT

Scott has talked with our auditors. We were hoping for an audit report for 2021 sometime in May, but it looks like it may be June at the earliest.

BISHOP'S REPORT

- Bishop Candeia & Rev. Dave Whetter have completed the rostered minister's boundary trainings. Together they led 5 possible sessions and had about 100 rostered ministers attend a session. Not all of our rostered ministers attended a session unfortunately, but there is a record of who did and did not attend.
- Ben Godwin has taken a new position. He continues to help out a little around the office, but we're not sure how much longer that will last. Dave & Tim Anderson are interviewing new possible administrators on May 9th.
- Bishop Candeia would really like a date when the new bookkeeper will start. We have hired a new bookkeeper, but we have not yet notified our current bookkeeping firm of our desire to change. We have not gotten recent reports from our current bookkeeper and we are ready to move on from them. Scott will set up a meeting between our new bookkeeper and Bishop Candeia so that we can transition as soon as possible.

SYNOD CARS

Bishop Candeia reported that our synod cars are becoming unreliable. She would like us to purchase and replace our two current cars. We decided that we start working on getting new cars in late June.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST SYNOD RESOLUTION

Bishop Candeia is hosting a couple of upcoming Zoom sessions to discuss the Reconciling in Christ resolution. These discussion sessions will happen in May before Synod Assembly and are open to anyone.

PEACE LUTHERAN, NEW CAMBRIA, KS

Earlier this week, the president of Peace Lutheran in New Cambria, KS called Bishop Candeia and said that they would like to disaffiliate with the ELCA. They said that they don't feel like they are supported by the synod. Bishop gave them information on the process of disaffiliation. We will add this to the agenda and discuss it with the whole Synod Council at our meeting in June.

BETHANY LUTHERAN, WEBSTER GROVES, MO

The closing date for this property has moved from May 3 to June 3 because there have been delays with the title companies. There are some unresolved issues with the lawsuit and the city, and we are trying to get this all taken care of as quickly as possible. We are praying it all gets wrapped up by the new closing date.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY UPDATE

Bishop Canda gave us an update on the Synod Assembly. Registration is up to 262 people. We talked about the schedule that the synod staff has put together and how we will approach some of the resolutions.

- Resolutions Committee – There have been 5 resolutions that have been properly submitted. Topics include:
 - Reconciling in Christ
 - Bethany College
 - Companion Synod
 - Peace and Climate Justice
 - Pastoral Leadership Transition in the Central States Synod
- Nominations Committee – They have submitted the following nominations:
 - Synod Council:

▪ Western Kansas Conference	Logan Simon
▪ Osage Conference	Rev. David Frerichs
▪ Eastern Missouri Conference	Rev. Gissela Varinia Espinosa
	Rev. Kristina Reyes
▪ At Large Male POC	Rev. Richard Ashley
▪ At Large Female	Diane Bottorf
	Ingrid Peterson
	Alesia Roccia
 - 2025 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

▪ Eastern Missouri Conference	still unidentified
▪ Osage Conference	Vickie Donnell
▪ Border Conference	Melodee Blobaum
	Laura Kamienski
	Sarah Thomas
	Joyce Uber
▪ Central Kansas Conference	Carol Swenson
▪ Western Kansas Conference	Rev. Lee Bennight
▪ At Large POC	Kaylie Ines
▪ At Large POC	Terrance Freeman
▪ At Large Youth/Young Adult	Brianna Dehn
	Megan Mong
▪ At Large Youth/Young Adult	Sam Neff
 - **SEC 24.05.02.A33** **It was MSC to approve the Nominations Committee report as presented.**
- Compensation Guidelines Committee – They have done their work and are recommending two changes:
 - A pulpit supply rate from \$170 to \$180 for one worship service plus \$60 for each additional service.

- The baseline figure for ministers to increase by 4.1%, which is based on the 2023 inflation index.
- **SEC 24.05.02.A34** **It was MSC to accept the updated compensation guidelines as presented and recommend them for approval by the Synod Assembly.**

CONSTITUTIONS

Kent Memorial, Sunrise Beach, MO has made changes to their constitution. Everything is in order.

- **SEC 24.05.02.A35** **It was MSC to approve the updated constitution for Kent Memorial, Sunrise Beach, MO.**

CLOSING

Nancy closed us with a benediction.

UPCOMING DATES

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| • Synod Council | June 6 | 3:00-5:00 | in person, in Olathe, KS |
| • Synod Assembly | June 6-8 | | in person, in Olathe, KS |

ADJOURNMENT

We adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Chad Langdon
Central States Synod Secretary