



# Western Iowa Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

## Synod Council Meeting Minutes

Saturday, August 8, 2020 9:30 AM  
Zoom Meeting (Covid-19 restriction)

**Members present:** Bishop Lorna Halaas, Tracy Gayer (Vice President), Michael Jacobson (Treasurer), Judy Lang, Pr Cole McCormick, Kathy McEnelly, Pr Kim Peterson, Karen Post (Secretary)

**Members absent with notice:** Pr Scott Dalen, Nancy Peters

**Members absent without notice:** KayLynn Ridgely, Gail Schilmoeller, Brian Underwood

**Staff present:** Kay Broich (Office and Financial Administrator), Rev Judy Johnson (Pastor-Counselor), Dr Rev Mike Kroona (Assistant to the Bishop), Rev Jim Mossman (Director of Evangelical Missions)

**Guests present:** (none)

Our August Synod Council Brady Bunch:



Votes were unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

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Bishop Halaas announced, that, in accordance with Synod Constitution S8.55, Tracy Gayer has been appointed Synod Vice President. Bishop Halaas thanked Tracy for his willingness to serve in this capacity.

Tracy Gayer called the meeting to order.

Bishop Halaas offered an opening prayer.

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**SC20.08.1 APPROVE the agenda.**

Motion made and seconded by: Michael Jacobson, Kim Peterson; PASSED.

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There was no correspondence.

Karen Post relayed recent communication with the Churchwide Secretary and Synod Attorney (Jay Denne) regarding meetings/voting in current Covid restrictions. Encouraged congregations to update constitutions in sync with Model Constitution for Congregations (2019) if non-in-person congregational meetings are desired.

**SC20.08.2 APPROVE the June 13, 2020 Synod Council minutes.** (See the “Reports” Google folder.)

Motion made and seconded by: Cole McCormick, Kathy McEnelly; PASSED

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Michael Jacobson reviewed the July financial statements (see the “Reports” Google folder) and feels that our cash position is strong, helped by: the \$86,067.50 Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan received in May, and steady Mission Support received from congregations.

The Synod Council discussed sending \$25,000 to Churchwide and transferring \$25,000 to the “Reserve for Admin” (see May Synod Council minutes detailing provision S15.14 of the Western Iowa Synod constitution).

**SC20.08.3 RECEIVE the treasurer’s report, including \$25,000 to Churchwide and a \$25,000 Reserve for Admin transfer.**

Motion made and seconded by: Karen Post, Kathy McEnelly; PASSED

Discussed the upcoming April 2021 office balloon payment, potential building repairs and various office/building alternatives. Michael will investigate tax consequences of sale of the office building. Kay and Bishop will investigate the real estate market in Storm Lake and the cost of the gas line building repairs.

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Old Business: (none)

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**New Business:**

- 1) Open Synod Council positions:
  - a) Hands of Hope (Tracy Gayer replacement) – lay male (2 years remaining)  
Note: Wayne Pfannkuch’s name (clergy) was offered, but that would have been for this conference’s 2020 assembly election (those didn’t happen). Only unfilled terms are being filled at this time.
  - b) Abundant Fields – lay male (1 year remaining)
  - c) Rivers of Grace – lay female (2 years remaining)

- 2) Lizard Creek Ranch, Fort Dodge – November 21, 2020  
This is planned to be a day of thanksgiving, worship, fun, observance of rostered ministers and congregation anniversaries, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women’s ELCA ordination, an auction for the Fund for the Future, etc, (no synod assembly business). Check the e-Spirits for updates.
- 3) Synod Assembly is planned for April 9-10, 2021.
  - a) We have a tentative agreement with Fort Frenzy in Fort Dodge; the assembly may instead be held online, depending on the Covid situation.
  - b) Bishop Halaas discussed the intention to have an assembly planning committee, separate from the Assembly of Business and Counsel (ABC). The assembly planning committee would be in charge of technology, meals, logistics; leaving ABC for nominations, resolutions and business.

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Reports:

Lorna Halaas offered her Bishop's Report. Staff reports from Kay Broich, Judy Johnson, Mike Kroona and Jim Mossman were received. (See the “Reports” Google folder.)

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**SC20.08.4 APPROVE the following En Bloc items:**

- 1) Move to retired status: Rev Barbara Kopperud
  - 2) Congregation leaving ELCA: Trinity Lutheran Church, Sibley
- Motion made and seconded by: Karen Post, Michael Jacobson; PASSED
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The date of the next meeting has changed – it will be October 17, 2020. Location: to be announced.

Cole McCormick will offer devotions and prayers.

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**SC20.06.5 ADJOURN the meeting at 11:35 AM.**

Motion made by, seconded by consensus.

The meeting closed with a prayer by Bishop Halaas.

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**Upcoming Synod Council/committee events:**

September 29, 2020	6:00 PM	Executive Committee
October 17, 2020	9:30 AM	Synod Council (notice this date change)
November 21, 2020	10 AM-2 PM	“A Time for Thanksgiving” synod event in Fort Dodge
December 1, 2020	6:00 PM	Executive Committee
December 12, 2020	9:30 AM	Synod Council
January-March meetings		- to be announced
April 9-10, 2021		Synod Assembly

August 2020

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Post  
Western Iowa Synod Secretary