

Report of the Synod Council

May 1, 2019 – April 30, 2020

Synod Officers:

The Rev. Jeffrey Clements, Bishop (2022)
The Rev. Donald Knowles, Secretary (2022)

Ms. Minnette Scott, Vice President (2023)
Ms. Tammie Farley, Treasurer (2023)

Synod Council:

Ms. Monique Castillo (2020)
Pr. Robert Franek (2022)
Pr. Brad Haugen (2021)
Ms. Grace Hoening (2020)
Ms. Nancy Lillevold (2020)
Mr. Ryan Mackey (2020)

Mr. George Sanchez (2022)
Mr. Jim Spring (2021)
Ms. Carol Swenson (2020)
Pr. Andy Tyrrell (2021)
Deacon Carla Vanatta (2022)
Pr. Janet Wold (2022)

Synod Staff:

The Rev. Denver Bitner, Assistant to the Bishop for North and Northwest Conferences
Ms. June Cain, Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant
The Rev. Michel Clark, Assistant to the Bishop for the West and Southwest Conferences
Ms. Nancy Corey, Administrative Assistant to Pastors Erickson and Nordby/Registrar
Deacon Cheryl Erdmann, Assistant to the Bishop
The Rev. Gary Erickson, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission
The Rev. Pat Esker, Assistant to the Bishop
Deacon Karin Graddy, Communication Director
The Rev. Marilyn Hanson, Assistant to the Bishop
Ms. Julie Lewis, Executive Secretary to the Bishop/Office Manager

Executive Committee:

The Rev. Jeffrey Clements, Bishop
The Rev. Pat Esker, Ex-Officio
Ms. Tammie Farley
The Rev. Donald Knowles

Ms. Minnette Scott
Mr. Jim Spring
Deacon Carla Vanatta

Finance Committee:

Ms. June Cain, Ex-Officio
The Rev. Jeffrey Clements, Bishop
The Rev. Pat Esker, Ex-Officio
The Rev. Gary Erickson, Ex-Officio
Ms. Tammie Farley
Ms. Christina King (2022)

Ms. Minnette Scott
Ms. Carol Swenson (2020)
The Rev. Andy Tyrell (2021)
The Rev. Nord Swanstrom (2020)
The Rev. Janet Wold (2019)
Mr. Russell Zeskey (2021)

Appointment/Specialized Ministry Committee:

The Rev. Jeffrey Clements, Bishop
The Rev. Pat Esker, Ex-Officio
Ms. Tammie Farley
The Rev. Donald Knowles

Ms. Minnette Scott
Mr. Jim Spring
Deacon Carla Vanatta

Synod Council Meeting Dates and Locations:

May 18, 2019 Synod Office, Rockford
September 14, 2019 Synod Office, Rockford

February 8, 2020 Synod Office, Rockford
March 23, 2020 Electronic Meeting *via* Zoom
April 18, 2020 Electronic Meeting *via* Zoom

A Summary of Administrative Actions

1. Received the bishop's report at each meeting – including reports from the bishop's staff.
2. Received and approved Synod Council minutes at each meeting.
3. Approved changes to the constitutions and/or bylaws of the following congregations:
 - a) Faith, Joliet
 - b) Gloria Dei, Rockford
 - c) St. Paul, Dixon
 - d) Salem, Sandwich
 - e) Trinity, Mt. Morris
4. Approved appointments to NIS Standing Committees, Synod Council, Synod Council Committees, Task Forces, and Synod Assembly Committees.
5. Approved the Illinois River Valley Parish Agreement.
6. Received and accepted the 2019 Synod Assembly minutes.
7. Received reports from the NIS WELCA president.
8. Approved constituting a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Taskforce.
9. Approved doing a Feasibility Study for a Stewardship Capital Appeal.
10. Approved amending SC93.03.21 regarding years of service for years of service for synod staff.
11. Approved the recommendation of the revised NIS constitution to the 2020 Synod Assembly.
12. Approved amendments to the Augustana College and LSSI Constitutions.
13. Approved the postponement/cancellation of the 2020 NIS Assembly.
14. Approved the change of the synod's Registered Agent of Record.
15. Approved the acceptance of a \$25,000 loan for the Tanzania Nursing School Project to complete payment of our gift immediately to be repaid when the original investment matures.
16. Received reports on the search for a new location for the synod offices.
17. Received reports from representatives of the synod standing committees.

A Summary of Budget and Finance Actions

1. Regularly received and reviewed the reports of the treasurer, subject to audit.
2. Received the audit report.
3. Approved the 2020 audit contract.
4. Approved authorization for the Bishop to enter into a purchase agreement not to exceed \$300,000 to secure new office space utilizing funds from the synod Endowment Fund and to intentionally approach congregations for gifts to repay the Fund.
5. Approved amendments to Continuing Resolutions regarding the Synod Lutheran Youth Organization and the Constitution Review Committee.
6. Approved a distribution from the NIS endowment fund to the Gary Wollersheim Rostered Leaders Education Debt Retirement Fund, Lutheran Campus Ministry of Illinois and Grace Place Lutheran Campus Ministry at NIU.

7. Designated the 2020 Synod Assembly offering for seminary scholarships for female identifying students.

A Summary of Personnel Actions

1. Approved, renewed or reviewed "On Leave from Call" status to the following:
 - a. The Rev. Kimberly Riebe
 - b. The Rev. Wendy Popp
 - c. The Rev. William Weidenbach
 - d. The Rev. Vincent Marolla
 - e. The Rev. Susan Davenport
 - f. The Rev. Chris Schoon
 - g. The Rev. Howard Buchholz
 - h. The Rev. Robert Franek
 - i. The Rev. Katie Gallagher
 - j. The Rev. David Turner
 - k. The Rev. Kit Neel
2. Received a report of rostered ministers not attending the 2019 Synod Assembly.
3. Reviewed the NIS Roster
4. Extended term calls to Deacon Karin Graddy, the Rev. Marilyn Hanson and the Rev. Pat Esker.
5. Approved retirement requests of rostered ministers
 - a. The Rev. Ronald Larson
 - b. The Rev. Howard Buchholz (12/1/2019)
 - c. The Rev. Chuck Olson as of 12/16/2019
6. Reviewed and renewed roster status of retired pastors.
7. Appointed/elected/called the following:
 - a. Rev. Mack Patrick, Grace Place Campus Ministry, 3-year term call.
 - b. Rev. Vince Marolla, hospice chaplain in Galesburg, 3-year term call
8. Extend/Renew Interim Pastor Call through Synod Council
 - a. The Rev. Dana O'Brien Mission Re-developer, 6-month term, 9/15/19-3/1/20
 - b. The Rev. Richard Priggie, Chaplain, Augustana College, Three-year term
9. Renew Call of Extended Service through Synod Council, one-year term
 - a. The Rev. Beth Hamilton, Swedona, Lynn Center
10. Remove from the roster of Word and Sacrament:
 - a. The Rev. Jamie Wallace

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Donald L. Knowles, Secretary of the Synod