

Bishop's Road Show

July 15, 2009

Dear Friends:

This edition of the Bishop's Road Show will provide you with **actions of your Synod Council**, news of **a clergy family** and that of **an installation and ordination**.

The 100th meeting of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod Council (SC) took place on Saturday, July 11, 2009. Following devotions and the approval of the April meeting minutes, SC voted to approve the following additions to Synod Committees:

1. Pastor Mary Prather to Pastoral Support
2. Pastor Beth Westphal and Pastor Jackie Bussey to Church in Society
3. Pastor Roger Harms to Global Missions
4. Pastor Paul Schafer (remove from BLWL) and added to Appalachian Concerns
5. George McKinney to Worship and Spiritual Life

SC discussed the 22nd Synod Assembly. The only action from SA 2009 directed to Synod Council was the referral of the **Memorial Concerning Mountaintop Removal Mining**. SC referred the action to study this issue of Mountaintop Mining and this Resolution to the Synod Committee for Church and Society. All of the other adopted Resolutions or Memorials were e-mailed by Secretary Marjorie Wolf to the Office of the Secretary of the ELCA.

Pastor Constantine Havir wrote to SC requesting the status of "On-Leave-From-Call." SC granted her request effective September 1, 2009.

The Church Council at First, Parkersburg wrote to Bishop Dunkin requesting SC renew Pastor Harms' contract for a second year as their Intentional Interim Pastor. SC agreed to this request extending Pastor Harms call to August 24, 2010.

The Assembly agreed to SC's recommendation that we continue using the **Lombard Mediation Process**. SC did not approve funding for the education of two laity in this process. SC agreed to fund this from the budget line Congregations with Special Needs. Howard O'Cull, of St. Paul, Charleston has volunteered to be one of the laity to receive this education and to use his gifts in this process within our congregations. Bishop asked SC for additional nominees as the Assembly voted to add 2 laity to our Mediation Team. Currently Pastors Twedt, Schlak and Harms have received this important education.

Synod Council reviewed and **approved of the covenant for partnership** in Evangelism with the ELCA, Synods and Congregations. This covenant is part of the new direction of the ELCA and Synods in the use of Mission Directors on Synod Staffs.

The 2009 Synod Assembly adopted a revised budget for 2009 that was \$16,000 lower than the originally adopted budget. SC and Bishop Dunkin discussed the facts that the 2009 budget and income could

be \$15,000 to \$20,000 lower than expected. Bishop Dunkin noted that if he were asked right now what further reductions he'd make, he would most reluctantly reduce the aid we have in the budget for Seminarians. To avoid having to do this or any further budget reduction(s) Bishop Dunkin has written to 8 congregations who "might" be able to assist us this year.

Bishop noted that we have already received a Mission Support gift of \$1,000 from **Zion , Wheeling; Trinity, Wheeling** has pledged their monthly noisy offerings from September – December along with a match from their Council of what has been received. Bishop Dunkin is in hopes that the other six congregations will discuss this possibility during their July Council meetings and assist us with this need.

Bishop went on to say, "I am inviting you and your congregation(s) to **a**) do all that you can to meet your 2009 pledge at 100% and **b**) if possible consider an extra gift to Mission Support for 2009. Bishop Dunkin noted that he would probably write to all of our congregations in September to keep this issue in front of our congregations.

Less than two weeks after Synod Council enacted a "**Bequest Policy**" in April that we received a tithe of a bequest in the amount of \$600. As per your actions, a tithe of what we received (\$60) was shared with the ELCA; 25% of this gift (\$150) was placed into the Bishop's Discretionary Fund; the remainder (\$290) becomes the initial gift for a yet to be created Synod Mission Endowment Fund. This bequest came to us from First English, Wheeling.

Bishop shared with SC the last Executive Directors Report from **CLP** by Sarah Soltow. Sarah's work as the Executive Director ended at the end of June. Sherri Schafer began as the new Director of CLP on July 1, 2009. Bishop has written a thank you note to Sarah Soltow for her fine leadership as the Executive Director of CLP.

Bishop Dunkin started the **discussion of the 2010 Synod Assembly** by stating that he has floated the idea before a few pastors that we center the 2010 Assembly on Ecumenical Relations. Bishop Emeritus Donald McCoid has been invited to attend our Assembly. With Pastor McCoid serving as the Executive Director for Ecumenical Relations this seems to make good sense. Several have suggested that we ask Pastor McCoid to be the keynote speaker (say 45 minutes) and that we make use of our key partners (Bishops Lyght, Klusmeyer, Bransfield) as a panel. SC shared additional ideas about the 2010 Synod Assembly.

Assistant to the Bishop, **Helen Harms**, thanked SC for the fact that Synod Assembly 2009 has helped to launch her ministry in this synod. She had many conversations and dates set with councils and pastors to meet around issues like evangelism and stewardship.

SC will next meet over the weekend of November 13 – 14, 2009. We welcomed youth member **Amanda Maderski** and thanked **Carrie Alt** for her two years of service. In a surprise announcement, **Pastor Jeff Wick** announced that he had received a call from the Southern Ohio Synod to serve as one of Bishop Holloway's Assistants, effective September 1, 2009.

In other Synod News, and this one seemed to be long awaited, **Pastor Wendy Richter** gave birth to **Nathaniel Lloyd Richter** on Sunday, July 11 at 11:58 a.m. Nathaniel weighed 8 pounds and 14.8 ounces and was 19 inches in length. This event turned out to be an emergency C-section as Wendy's placenta was attempting to come out before Nathaniel. Mother and son are doing quite well and may come home as early as Tuesday July 14 or the 15th.

On Sunday, July 26 **Pastor Sean Smith** will be installed at services at **Good Shepherd and Messiah Lutheran Churches** . The 4 p.m. Service will be held at Good Shepherd with dinner to follow. The 7 p.m.

Service will take place at Messiah Lutheran in Moundsville. We invite you to join us for these services of celebration. Clergy who are able to join us, we invite you to vest. The color of the day is **Green**.

On Saturday, August 1, 2009 **Seminarian Sarah Kochy Schaaf** will receive the Church's gift of **Ordination** at a 2 p.m. Service at **Zion Lutheran Church, Bethlehem, Wheeling, WV**. We invite you to join us for this important service. Sarah has received a call to serve in the Northwestern Ohio Synod, in Waldo, Ohio.

One week from today, 36,000 youth and adults will descend upon New Orleans for the National Lutheran Youth event. The Tour De Revs are to join in these festivities, I think on the 23rd of July.

My prayer for you this summer is that like the Gospel text for July 19 you can find time to rest and relax.

God's blessings, + Ralph