

Bishop's Road Show – part 2, July 15, 2010

The Season of Pentecost

Dear Friends:

Your Synod Council (from here on out SC) met on Saturday, July 10 at the Synod Office in Fairmont. We met with the full-council, meaning those newly elected joined us to learn from the present council members. The three council members who go off of council do so on August 31. Those newly elected begin their terms on September 1, 2010.

SC began with Mike Propst sharing his report of Camp Luther 2010. This was Mike's first year as Director of Camp Luther. Copies of the daily Camp newsletter are on the camp web site along with the annual booklet of campers and staff who attended this year. Mike's first goal for Camp Luther is to create a constitution or some form of governing document. SC thanked Mike for a good first year and start to his time as Director.

SC then spent time on the Resolutions that the Assembly referred to SC for action and or for future work.

Two Resolutions, "Teaching Statements" and "On the Lictiness of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly Actions," have been sent on to Chicago by Secretary Wolf. SC spent time working upon the other 8 Resolutions.

Resolution "**Living into the Future Together**" called for us to create a task force that is to report to the April SC meeting with recommendations or with Resolutions to the 2011 Synod Assembly. Bishop Dunkin sought volunteers for this Task Force prior to SC's meeting. SC voted to appoint the following to serve on this one year Task Force:

Helen Harms (facilitator); Pr. Craig Richter – Mountain Lutheran Parish; Pam Pritt – New Hope, Minnehaha Springs; Pr. Fred Soltow, Shepherdstown Lutheran Parish; John Unger, Stated Supply at St. John's, Harper's Ferry; Pr. Wanda Childs, St. Luke, Beckley; Mike Bauzenberger, Christ, Wheeling; Don Sincell, St. Mark's, Oakland, MD; Ray Carr, Grace, Fairmont; Pr. Al Schafer, Retired, St. Mark, Wheeling.

Resolution "**North American Lutheran Church**" called for the Bishop to send the Synod's Ecumenical Officer, Pastor Jerry Kliner, and one other observer to the new Lutheran church body that may be created in August. Bishop recommended to SC that Pastor Beth Westphal represent the Synod too, and SC concurred.

Resolution "**Frequency of Synod Assembly**" invited SC to explore the possibility of the implementation of biennial Synod Assemblies. SC decided to create a small E-mail task force that will meet between now and October. They have been charged with reporting to SC during it's October retreat. Serving on this committee will be Pr. Wanda Childs, Chair; Pat Keller, Paul Wangerin, and Pr. Matthew Riegel.

Resolution "**Draft Social Statement on Genetics**" required the Synod Committee for Church and Society to provide a timeline for SC to approve and to share with the Synod. SC reviewed this time line and requested that it be included in a July Bishop's Road Show. SC thanks Church and Society for their quick response.

Resolution “**Tour De Revs Act II: Homecoming**” was unclear to SC as to what was being asked. Bishop Dunkin was asked to get clarity for the October meeting.

Resolution from **St. Mark’s, Clarksburg** was discussed and decided that the Bishop would write to them thanking them for their work. Basically their requests have been fulfilled by SC but this Resolution will be kept in mind as we attempt to finalize the 2011 spending plan.

Action was taken during the Synod Assembly to try to restore in full the budget amount for Gettysburg Seminary. SC members Pr. Sally Bartling and Tim Proietti asked SC to wait on an action plan for this motion. **Trinity, Keyser** has received a bequest that Trinity’s council had discussed as a challenge fund for this Synod to match their gift.

SC adopted the **2011 Mission Support Formula** that has been the same formula since 1999. This formula and Mission Support letters will be mailed in early August for 2011 budget planning.

Bishop had announced at Synod Assembly that all 3 of our seminarians starting classes in September would share the 2011 gift from the **Fund for Leaders**. What he did not know was that Joshua Thompson would receive a full Fund for Leaders scholarship for tuition to Southern Seminary. Steve Lauver-Simmons and Beth Chapman will now share the Synod’s Scholarship of roughly \$3,400.

SC decided that we will **no longer** print the post Synod Assembly book. We will announce when the minutes from Synod Assembly are available for anyone to read on-line. We will leave on our Web Site the pre-assembly reports for folks to read and then add the ELCA’s compilation of all of the congregational reports that have been sent to Chicago. The Synod Office will print 5 copies of all of these items for anyone who contacts us for hard copies. (This if for those who do not have computers).

The Synod Committee on Pastoral Support has prepared and submitted the **Pastoral Compensation Expectations for 2011**. As SC reviewed the work of the committee we want all of our congregations to understand that we are well aware of the current economic situation. So as to not fall much further behind when compared to other synods, SC voted to recommend increases for 2011 of 2% but not less than \$1,000 to the base salary. This document will be posted on the Synod Web Site in the near future.

The Shepherdstown Lutheran Parish applied for, submitted an application for “**A Seed Planted**” grant. These grants are for \$2,000 and must meet the criterion of a new evangelism emphasis. This request has met the criterion and a check for \$2000 has been sent. This is the third request in 2010 and is the last for this year.

Helen Harms gave her report noting how much more she is doing for this synod compared to last year. She also reported on the Sept. 25 Festival of Faith that will be held in Clarksburg. Everyone was encouraged to attend. Brochures are available and have appeared in congregational bulletins. Should you need a registration form please contact Helen at Helen.harms@elca.org.

Your Synod Council will next meet in Retreat over the dates of October 29-30 at the Synod Office. We will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Friday night, October 29.

Yours in our Lord's service,
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