

**WEST VIRGINIA-WESTERN MARYLAND SYNOD  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
MINUTES**

**SYNOD COUNCIL  
Synod Office  
Fairmont, West Virginia  
January 31, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The ninety-eighth meeting of the Synod Council of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod was called to order by the Chair, Vice President James Hansen, at 10:03 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

James Hansen	The Rev. Ralph W. Dunkin, Bishop
Adam Hoke	The Rev. Brian Bennett
The Rev. Matthew Riegel	Carrie Alt
The Rev. Deborah Gable	The Rev. Sally Bartling
Lynda Grymala	James Snyder
Grace Lauver	Marjorie Wolf, Secretary

**EXCUSED**

Tim Proietti  
Sherri Schafer  
The Rev. Jeffrey P. Wick  
Pat Keller

**VISITORS**

William Lloyd, ELCA Church Council  
Sarah Soltow, Community Lutheran Partners Executive Director

**DEVOTIONS**

The Rev. Ralph W. Dunkin, Bishop, led the opening devotions by asking Synod Council members to use Chapter 6, Statement of Purpose, of the synod constitution as a litany. This clearly identifies the partnership between congregations, synods and churchwide. Bishop Dunkin closed the devotions with prayer.

**SPECIAL ORDER**

William Lloyd, a member of the ELCA Church Council, shared highlights of the November Church Council meeting and other information that was helpful to Synod Council members, including some items of business to come before the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

Sarah Soltow, Community Lutheran Partners Executive Director, presented an update of plans and activities. They are seeking a possible expansion to a third 'operative' to work with other denominations in the southern part of the state. Sarah also shared their 2008 financial summary.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Each person present was asked to introduce him/herself.

### **VOTED:**

SC09.1.1

The minutes of the November 21-22, 2008, Synod Council meeting were approved as distributed.

James Snyder agreed to fill the unexpired term of J. Philip Melick, on Synod Council and he will also replace Philip on the Budget and Finance Committee.

### **BISHOP'S REPORT**

The Bishop gave a report of his itinerary from November 12, 2008, to January 25, 2009 and reported on pastoral changes and vacancies within the synod.

### **VOTED:**

SC09.1.2

To grant On Leave From Call status to The Rev. David Rockwood and that he complete all points on the information form concerning the On Leave From Call. Pastor Rockwood is encouraged to seek professional counseling, a spiritual director or whatever may help him in his discernment.

The Rev. Brian Bennett requested that it be recorded that he abstained from voting.

### **RECESS**

Synod Council recessed for lunch at 12:00 noon following a prayer by Sarah Soltow.

### **RESUMED BUSINESS**

Synod Council resumed business at 12:30 p.m.

### **VOTED:**

SC09.1.3

To approve the proposed registration, room, and meal fees for the 2009 Synod Assembly. (Voting members package, double occupancy, four meals and breaks, \$180; visitors package, double occupancy, four meals and breaks \$130)

### **PROPOSED RULES OF PROCEDURE**

The Proposed Rules of Procedure for the 2009 Synod Assembly were moved and seconded. It was moved and seconded that item #8 be struck.

### **COMMON CONSENT**

That the vote on the proposed amendment and the proposed Rules of Procedure be postponed until the April Synod Council meeting.

**VOTED:**

SC09.1.4

To recommend to the 2009 Synod Assembly that the 2011 Synod Assembly be held at Snowshoe Resort over the dates of June 3 and 4 with the Eucharistic Worship Service to be held at the Chapel on the grounds of Snowshoe; that the Mountain Parish be the host congregation for the Assembly (Upper Tract, Faith, New Hope, and St. John's Lutheran Churches) and that their pastors will serve as Chaplains for the Assembly. Rooms were negotiated to a lower rate (\$55 each for a double room) which is guaranteed for the 2011 Assembly.

**DEANS FOR THE MONONGAHELA VALLEY-MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE**

Bishop Dunkin named The Rev. Linda Muhly and The Rev. Randy Nairn to serve as Co-Deans for the Monongahela Valley-Mountain Conference. Pastor Muhly will cover the I-79 corridor, and Pastor Nairn will be the Dean of Garrett County, Maryland.

**VOTED:**

SC09.1.5

To approve the new auditing firm, Parks, Foster & Morris, PLLC to audit the synod books. Their proposal for examining the synod books is \$5,850. (The auditors the synod used previously are no longer auditing the books of non-profits.)

**VOTED:**

SC09.1.6

To grant Resurrection Lutheran Church, Weirton, \$200 per month as a congregation with special needs.

It was moved and seconded that Cross of Grace Lutheran Church, Hurricane, be granted \$300 per month as a congregation with special needs.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the grant of \$300 per month to Cross of Grace be through April 20, 2009, at which time Synod Council should have a more specific request.

**VOTED:**

SC09.1.7

To approve the amendment.

**VOTED:**

SC09.1.8

To approve the original motion with the amendment, which now states that Cross of Grace will be granted \$300 per month through April 20, 2009.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

The Rev. Matthew Riegel, Treasurer, reviewed various financial reports and answered a few questions.

The Synod Council Committees had nothing to report.

**SYNODICAL WOMEN’S ORGANIZATION**

Marjorie Wolf gave a brief report on the work and plans of the Synodical Women’s Organization.

**LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT GETTYSBURG**

The Rev. Matthew Riegel reported on the state of affairs at Gettysburg. Enrollment has remained good, and tuition will increase only 5%.

Synod Council will meet July 11, 2009, for their summer meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**VOTED:**

SC09.1.9

To adjourn the meeting at 1:54 p.m. All joined in praying The Lord’s Prayer.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

March 28, 2009	All-Committee Day, Grace, Fairmont
April 25, 2009	Synod Council, Synod Office, Fairmont
June 5-6, 2009	Synod Assembly, Wisp Resort
July 11, 2009	Synod Council, Synod Office, Fairmont