

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

SYNOD COUNCIL
Ramada Inn and Conference Center
Morgantown, West Virginia
July 21, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

George Friedline	The Rev. Ralph W. Dunkin, Bishop
David Whitacre	Jason Felici
Marc Shideler	The Rev. Erik Nielsen
The Rev. Frederick A. Soltow, Jr.	Grace Lauver
The Rev. Matthew Riegel	James Hansen
	Marjorie Wolf, Secretary

EXCUSED

The Rev. Judith K. Marlow

ABSENT

Sophia Kelz
Connie Twedt
Joyce Arnold

NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT

The Rev. Jeffrey P. Wick
J. Philip Melick
Pat Keller
Carrie Alt

NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS EXCUSED

The Rev. Deborah Gable
Tim Proietti

DEVOTIONS

The Rev. Ralph W. Dunkin, Bishop, led the opening devotions by reading a portion of John 20, the story of Mary Magdalene being surprised when she met her risen Lord. Mary Magdalene was chosen to be the first to share the good news with others. We must follow her example and go tell the good news today. The devotions closed with prayer.

INTRODUCTIONS

Each person present was asked to introduce him/herself and share something of interest from the last month.

VOTED:
SC07.7.1

To approve the minutes of the April 21, 2007 Synod Council meeting, and the Executive Committee minutes of April 25, April 30, May 3 and May 28, 2007, as distributed.

BISHOP'S REPORT

Bishop Dunkin gave a summary of his itinerary from April 17, 2007 to July 12, 2007 including an update on vacancies and pastoral changes. He stated that 32,919 miles have been driven on the 2006 synod vehicle as of July 12, 2007.

VOTED:
SC07.7.2

To cover the cost (hotel, meals, and transportation) of Vice President George Friedline to attend the 2007 Churchwide Assembly as he is not a voting member. To cover the transportation cost for newly-elected Synod Vice President, James Hansen, to attend the vice president orientation and participate in part of the Churchwide Assembly. (Half of the cost would come from savings and half from the bishop's discretionary fund.)

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Marc Shideler, Treasurer, reviewed the various financial reports and responded to questions and comments.

Since Calvary, Brandywine, has not given any mission support to the Synod recently, Synod Council requested a report from Briana Richardson, Lay Church Worker at Calvary by the next Synod Council meeting in November.

REPORTS

The only Synod Council committee that had anything to report was the Budget and Finance Committee, which needs to complete their work on developing a synod policy on the use of money from bequests and the bishop's discretionary fund.

SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

Marjorie Wolf, President, made a few comments about the Synodical Women's Organization Convention August 3-4, 2007, at Bishop Hodges Pastoral Center. She also stated that a new president and vice president would be elected at the convention.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN PARTNERS, INC

The Rev. Frederick Soltow, and The Rev. Brian Bennett, Board Member, shared recent information about CLP. We must continue to be advocates for those whose voices are not heard. One new area of concern is clean drinking water for everyone.

EVALUATION OF 2007 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Evaluations from the 2007 Synod Assembly were reviewed and various comments and suggestions were considered. One of the main concerns seemed to be the poor sound system. Synod Council felt that close attention needs to be paid to this concern, and if the assembly site cannot provide an adequate system for the assembly's needs, the synod may need to rent a sound system.

RECESS

Synod Council recessed for lunch at 11:55 a.m. following a prayer by George Friedline.

RESUMED BUSINESS

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

SYNOD ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Synod Council members made comments and raised concerns about the Report of the Resolutions Committee which was made at the 2007 Synod Assembly. The committee's report was one of resolutions of substance rather than the usual courtesy resolutions. While most thought the report was appropriate, some thought at least some of the resolutions could have been considered earlier in the assembly, rather than when attendees were thinking about leaving for home.

One resolution directed Synod Council to deliberate on matters related to mission support patterns across the ELCA and to report back to the 2008 Synod Assembly.

VOTED

SC07.7.3

To invite The Rev. Craig Settlage, ELCA and The Rev. William C. Ridenhour to attend the January or April Synod Council meeting to discuss issues related to the inequities of mission support across the ELCA.

VOTED

SC07.7.4

To explore a "per capita" model of mission support funding at the November Synod Council meeting and in its deliberations, initiate a region-wide deliberation with sister synods in Region 8 of the ELCA.

2008 MISSION SUPPORT

VOTED

SC07.7.5 To invite congregations to share 15% of line 20a of the ELCA parochial report on "normal congregational giving." That if a congregation is below the 15% level, that we invite them to grow by 2% and if they are at or above the 15% level, we invite them to grow by 1%.

George Friedline was thanked and applauded for his service as Synod Vice President for sixteen years.

George Friedline crafted a clock for each Synod Council member who had completed his/her service on Synod Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Synod Council adjourned at 2:08 p.m. following a prayer by George Friedline.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

September 29, 2007	All-Committee Day, Grace, Fairmont
November 16-17, 2007	Synod Council Retreat, Ramada Inn, Morgantown
January 26, 2008	Synod Council, Ramada Inn, Morgantown
February 2, 2008	Snow Date
March 29, 2008	All-Committee Day, Grace, Fairmont
April 26, 2008	Synod Council, Ramada Inn, Morgantown
May 30-31, 2008	Synod Assembly, Morgantown
July 19, 2008	Synod Council, Ramada Inn, Morgantown