

Summary of Synod Council actions since the 2009 Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly

- Elected from its membership three persons to serve at-large on the Synod Executive Committee (in addition to the four officers of the synod): Denny Minks; Pr. Eric Lemonholm; and Tara Ulrich, DM.
- Set schedule for 2009 autumn synod council retreat and synod council meetings through the autumn 2010 synod council retreat.
- Voted on all roster matters, brought forward by the bishop, at synod council meetings.
- Approved synodical calls for persons serving in interim ministries within the synod.
- Reviewed and approved requests for changes in parish alignments.
- Gave considerable attention to financial and budgetary matters throughout the year.
- Executive committee approved a special fund appeal to individuals for mission support to the ELCA and NW Minnesota Synod.
- Approved requests by some partners in ministry for direct appeals to congregations of Northwestern Minnesota Synod (e.g. Lutheran Campus Ministry at Bemidji State University and Minnesota State University Moorhead; National Lutheran Campus Ministry; and Oak Grove Lutheran School.)
- Approved the new partnership with the ELCA program unit for Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission (EOCM) involving Pr. Keith Zeh, Director for Evangelical Mission; Ms. Cheryl Zeh, support staff for EOCM; and Pr. Steve Peterson, Assistant to the Bishop for missional faith practices.
- Approved hiring of Mr. Bill Elmstrom as Charitable Gift Planner, in partnership with “Lutheran Planned Giving of Western Minnesota” (including the SW MN Synod, the ELCA Foundation, Bible campus of the two synods, and Global Health Ministries).
- Approved changes to synodical governing documents in conjunction with Churchwide Assembly actions on the ELCA governing documents.
- Approved changes in the governance structure of Oak Grove Lutheran School, reducing the number of supporting synods from four synods down to two synods (the Eastern ND and Northwestern MN Synods).
- Reviewed and ratified appointments to all synodical leadership groups and committees: executive committee, finance committee, synod assembly planning committee, committee on reference and counsel, nominating committee, regional steering committee.
- Affirmed use of the NW MN Synod Fund for Mission to receive benevolence dollars from congregations expressing disagreement with the 2009 Churchwide Assembly actions on human sexuality by giving mission support for “synod only” purposes. This action was taken with the understanding that all such congregations will be encouraged to review their decisions and consider returning to full ELCA/synod mission support giving.
- Discussed and affirmed continuing to share 51% of mission support offerings with the ELCA churchwide organization.

- Approved, with great regret and only because of the financial shortfall, the elimination of two full-time synod staff positions.
- Reviewed and recommended to the 2010 synod assembly proposed assembly rules, 2011 compensation guidelines, revised 2010 synod budget, and 2011 synod fiscal proposal. In approving the proposed agenda for the 2010 synod assembly, the council also incorporated time for a “Committee of the Whole” discussion at the 2010 Synod Assembly to discuss *the mission of our synod in our current context*.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor John E. Martinson, Secretary