



SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING
Ambassador Hotel, Amarillo, Texas
April 22-23, 2009

The Future of DiscipleLife: Bishop Kanouse engaged the Synod Council in a discussion of the challenge he planned to lay before the Synod Assembly – to “deconstruct” parts of the synod’s administrative functions in order to “construct” new ways for the synod to become a Missionary movement. He described the way this emerging vision has come from the grassroots as many different groups of leaders have engaged in conversations at the bishop’s “Summit” meetings. Conversations with the Briarwood and Mission Endowment Fund boards have also been encouraging. While the exact destination is still being discerned, all seem to believe that it is (past) time to begin a journey toward profound change. As the journey evolves, so will the clarity about the need and purpose of a Funds Appeal to support the changes.

Update on Synod Responses to the Churchwide Policy Decisions: Bishop Kanouse and Vice President Varnum have been tireless in their travels to meet with congregational leaders and members to discuss the meaning and ramifications of the Churchwide Assembly’s decisions regarding Ministry Policies. **Congregations:** three congregations have taken a successful first vote to leave the ELCA; two others are anticipated. One mission start (Lutheran Church of the Way – Asian) has withdrawn from the ELCA. Twenty-one congregations have filed the Declaration making it their policy not to call a rostered leader who is in a publicly-accountable, lifelong, monogamous same-gender relationship. ELCA-wide, 89 congregations have left the ELCA. **Mission Support:** Treasurer Michael Weir reported that the synod received a clean audit and that we ended 2009 with a \$36,000 deficit. Income thus far in 2010 has been well below normal. The 2010 Spending Plan was therefore reduced from \$1.46 million to \$1.34 million. It is expected that there will be a reconfiguration and reduction of synod staff in the near future.

Actions: (1) Adopted a resolution of thanks to Mr. Ed Halter for his service as *Mission Partners* coordinator for over 20 years. (2) Adopted Standing Committees and amendments to the *Rules of Organization* for the assembly. (3) Granted or continued *On Leave from Call* status for nine rostered leaders.



Information: (1) A new Indonesian Ministry is beginning in Plano, and a new Hispanic outreach is beginning in south Dallas. The outreach in Farmers Branch (San Pablo) has been discontinued. (2) Twenty-five congregations have not yet filed their annual Parochial Report (due a couple months ago). (3) Leadership training for Hispanics is taking place at the Parish Lay Ministry Academy and in retreats for leaders, youth and children. (4) The ELCA has produced a new Social Statement on Genetics and expects to slow down the pace of undertaking future Social Statements. (5) The 2011 Synod Assembly will likely be at the new Irving Convention Center on April 29 – May 1. (6) Faith, Flower Mound, presented a special gift of \$1186 to help support Pr. Kate Warn, as well as \$841 to bolster the Bishop’s Discretionary Fund for congregations and rostered leaders in distress. (7) The 41 youth attending the assembly’s Youth Convo plan to help pack the boxes of medical, educational and building supplies into the shipping container that is headed to Sierra Leone.

The Synod Council is a group of leaders from across the synod elected by the Synod Assembly to carry on the work of the synod in between assemblies. They are charged with the tasks of caring for our present ministries, planning for the future mission work of the synod, and connecting congregations, leaders and conferences to each other and to the ministry we share.