

SK Synod Council Meeting Notes from October 23, 2020

SK Synod met for their semi-annual board meeting by Zoom, Friday, October 23. Guests welcomed from National Council; Bishop Susan Johnson, Iris Kristjansdottir, and John Nilson. In addition to Bishop Sid, Synod staff participating were Judy Parker, Monica Johnson, Jerry Borkowsky and Dennis Serfas.

Bishop Sid presented his report and spoke to the strange times we are in where all we knew has been cancelled and in most cases rebooted to an online format. He enumerated the stresses our clergy are under and how the COVID state has emphasized how important gathering, being with people are to the ministerial job. He also held up the innovation that is happening and how Synod staff has helped support congregations. He and Bishop Susan spoke to how it is breaking down barriers and increasing co-operation across the church. She said people are accessing worship services across the country and may view up to 5 services a day. The resource the Bishops put forward this summer of providing sermons was very well received.

- Website update has happened; additions are a table listing our congregations, searchable Resource Directory, and a new look to the Funding Available page to provide information about available project funding.
- Office has been relocated to #6-2220 Northridge Drive. Many thanks to Anna-Marie and Judy for their work in making this happen.
- Consultation and Synod guidelines for re-opening of worship spaces; Bishop Sid and Pastor Ali Tote met virtually with lay and rostered leaders across the Synod.
- Joint ELCIC Bishops' letter on racism in Canada was released.
- Strategic Plan visual was completed and added to the website. The detailed plan and work plan were completed and provided for information.
- LAURC celebration; signing of a covenant to work more closely with the Anglican, Ukrainian and Roman Catholic dioceses in our Synod. Celebration delayed by COVID.
- Adoption of the SK Synod Pulpit Supply Policy: 20% of the SK Synod churches are served by pulpit supply at this time. This policy recognises the constraints of small church budgets, the difficulties accessing ordained leadership in rural locations, and possible worship resources closer to home.
- Monica spoke to CEWS funds eligibility from the Federal Government. The Synod will be eligible for the first 3 periods because of the revenue drop in March and going forward. Congregations have continued giving but the budget will likely be under as most congregations have sustained reduced donations due to COVID. The special initiatives fund (CECF Synod Mission) will likely be extended as is the ELCIC Women of Faith Fund (funds remaining in the ELW legacy).
- Governance Committee's work on updating Sections 2 and 3 of the policy manual, a Code of Conduct policy based on the National ELCIC policy, and a revised policy on the Youth Ministry Fund were approved.
- The Mission in Ministry Committee's recommendation that Christ the King Sunday, November 22, become an annual Mission event, was approved.
- Due to uncertainty over COVID, the Synod Convention in June 2021 will be a virtual convention. In the experience of synods in the ELCA, some synods have reported more people being able to participate virtually than would have in the usual in person format.