

Saskatchewan Synod Council meeting notes
March 13 & 14, 2025
Luther College, Regina

The gathering began in the Luther College chapel with Bishop Ali leading the Holden Evening Prayer worship and Luther Chaplin Brooklynn Lane presiding over Holy Communion.

Prior to Chair Cindy calling the meeting to order, all in attendance participated in a round table check in followed by the treaty land acknowledgement.

Bishop and Ministry Teams (Child, Youth & Young Adult and Global Mission) Reports:

- Bimonthly newsletter (Saskatchewan Synod Messenger) has been well-received, with good attendance at PARLEZ (zoom leadership gatherings).
- Continuing visits to congregations and establishing connections inside the Synod as well as outside partners like Luther Care Communities and Luther College.
- Five area ministries (clusters) rostered leader groups with coordinators have been established. Provision for engagement with lay leaders is also being considered.
- Other areas discussed included Social Justice, Indigenous Ministry and Black History event(s).
- The Global Companion Team is organizing the study tour titled 'New Spirit Trip' to Argentina from June 12-23, 2025.
- Synod Youth Coordinator, Sean Bell provided an update on work to develop and oversee a program that strengthens youth engagement across our Synod. Child, Youth and Young Adult strategy is underway with emphasis on the Youth at this point, and then will incorporate children and young adult ministries. CLAY and SK Synod / Kinasao youth retreat are coming up, and thank you to Pastor Sean and Pastor Ron for their work.

Roster motions passed by Synod Council, that:

- Bishop Sid Haugen be moved on the roster from Active to On Leave from Call as of August 31, 2024.
- Rev. Murray Halvorson be moved on the roster from Active to Retired as of December 31, 2024.
- Rev. Stewart Miller be moved on the roster from Active to On Leave from Call as of April 1, 2025.
- Hanley Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hanley, be accepted as closed as of December 31, 2024.

Nominations for the 2025 National Convention delegates are still being accepted. Brooklynn Lane was approved as a rostered delegate, and Doug Schmirler was approved as a rostered delegate alternate. There are vacancies for the lay delegate nominees.

The 2025 SK Synod budget was reviewed and approved. There will be some adjustments throughout the year, due to the generosity of the BC Synod which has provided a gift of their 2024 Mission Funds.

Written reports were received from the Congregational Constitution Committee, Candidacy Committee, and Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Information and reports were shared our ministry partners: CLWR, Indigenous Christian Fellowship, LuMinHoS, Lutheran Theological Seminary, LutherCare Communities, St. Paul Lutheran Home Melville, Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, Kinasao Lutheran Bible Camp, Luther College.

The Facing Today, Dreaming for The Future (Synod Officers Consultation) report has been accepted by National Church Council, and was shared with Synod Council. Cindy Hoppe (lay) and Victoria Mwamasika (rostered) were appointed to the Facing Today, Dreaming for The Future national steering committee.

Synod Council will meet again on June 4 (via zoom), and September 18&19 (Saskatoon).

Munye Mtata served as meeting chaplain, providing opening and closing readings and prayers. The meeting was adjourned just before noon on March 14.