69. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dr. Dale Sattgast on April 12 at 12:30 p.m. with voting members Ms. Heidi Abegg, Mr. David Hawk, Dr. Richard Nuffer, Dr. Dale Sattgast, and the Rev. David Totsky attending. Advisory members Dr. George Gude, representative of the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM), Dr. John Sias, Secretary of the Synod, and Mr. Frank Simek, Chief Administrative Officer of the Synod were also in attendance.

70. Welcome

Chairman Sattgast welcomed all and thanked them for their attendance.

71. Opening Devotion

The Reverend Dr. Richard Nuffer served as meeting chaplain and led the commission in praying Responsive Prayer 2 (Lutheran Service Book [LSB], 285). His devotion was based on Col. 1:19.

When the commission reconvened on Saturday at 8:00 a.m., Dr. Nuffer led the commission in praying Responsive Prayer 1 (LSB, 282). A hymn, “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,” was sung. His devotion was based on Col. 1:19.

72. Review /Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was presented. Motion and second to adopt as e-mailed. Motion carried.

73. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to ratify the electronically approved minutes of the January 18, 2019 Zoom meeting of the commission. Motion carried.

74. Unfinished Business

The commission addressed a number of COH Issues previously identified in its tracking list.


- COH Issue 16-043: Update on Amendment Proposal, CUS and College/University Bylaws (2016 Res. 7-02B Task Force)
  7-02B Task Force has submitted Overture 7-01, “To Amend Bylaws Related to Structure and Governance of the Concordia University System.” They have also submitted Overture 7-02 to direct the presidents to develop a plan to restructure CUS.

- COH Issue 16-044: Update on Amendment Proposal, Bylaw 3.8.3 Task Force
  The 3.8.3 Task Force assigned by the President of the Synod has not yet produced a proposal for amending the wording of 3.8.3. It is uncertain whether there will be an additional late report submitted prior to the floor committee meetings.

(B) Unfinished Business – Other Items:

- COH Issue 16-037: Clarification of faculty (Bylaws 1.5.1.1; 3.1.4.2; 3.10.5.6.2 [a]; 3.10.6.6.2 [b][4]; 3.10.5.7; 3.10.5.7; 3.10.6.7; 2.8.2)
The commission adopted proposals for bylaw changes in COH Omnibus Ov. 16G. These are included in the Convention Workbook as Ov. 9-41, Section B. Since our last meeting, concern has been addressed concerning an apparent conflict of interest in 3.10.5.7 concerning graduate assistants as “faculty.” It was noted to the commission: “The bylaw implies that ‘graduate assistants’ at a seminary are ‘faculty’ of that seminary…. Graduate assistants are students at a seminary who are enrolled in one of the seminary’s post-M.Div. degree programs. Graduate assistants, as the title suggests, assist the faculty of the seminary. If they were faculty, they would be in the strange position of being faculty and student at the same time. It seems … that there would be an inherent conflict of interest, especially in such matters as evaluating a fellow student’s fitness for the pastoral office and academic performance.” It was decided that greater attention to Bylaw 3.10.5.7 (b) is needed. This item is to be placed on the tracking as item 19-001 for the 2019–2022 triennium.

75. New Business / Other Matters

(A) Possible Constitution and Bylaw clarifications/amendments originating from CCM Op.19-2903

The CCM was asked whether an ordained minister who is serving as a called professor at a college, university, or seminary of the Synod, and thus being an advisory member of Synod under Const. Art. V B, but who is also serving as a called part-time associate or assistant pastor can be selected as a pastoral voter in the election of the Synod President. As the CCM reviewed this, it realized that the matter is much broader, noting inconsistencies caused by various changes in the Constitution and Bylaws that impact on the matter of congregational representation. Because the COH is already proposing constitution changes concerning congregational representation in Ov. 9-18, the COH may wish to review this matter prior to the upcoming floor committee meetings and possibly recommend appropriate additional constitution and/or bylaw changes.

A discussion of the history of the issue of “pastor” and “helper pastor” was presented. The phrasing “not in charge of congregations” [Const. Art. V B 2] has become “meaningless” or “anachronistic.”

After discussion it was determined that Dr. Gude and Dr. Sias will look at Ovs. 9-18 and 9-39 and collaborate on consolidating these into a working document to consolidate and address the issue(s) for COH discussion in a Zoom meeting tentatively to be completed by May 3.

(B) Review of 2019 submitted overtures

The commission reviewed the overtures submitted for the 2019 Synod Convention. Those calling for changes to the Handbook or would or could have an impact on its current content were especially noted and discussed. Several overtures were identified as items for which the COH representative(s) to the floor committee(s) should be particularly aware and prepared.

(C) Assignment of COH members to floor committees:

The members of the commission were assigned to the floor committees as follows:

FC01 (National Witness): Totsky
FC02 (International Witness): Nuffer
FC 03 (Mercy): Abegg
FC 04 (Life Together): Hawk
FC 05 (Theology & Church Relations): Nuffer
FC 06 (Pastoral Ministry and Seminaries): Nuffer
FC 07 (University Education): Abegg
FC 08 (Finances) Hawk

**FC 09 (Structure and Administration): Sattgast, Totsky**

**FC 10 (Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution): Hawk, Sattgast**

**FC 11 (Church and Culture): Totsky**

**FC 12 (Retention: Schools, Family, Youth, and Young Adults): Abegg**

Floor committees listed in boldface type have overtures which directly impact or call for changes to the *Handbook*.

(D) **Correspondence:**

None

(E) **“New” Matters Concerning Possible Constitution or Bylaw Changes:**

None

(F) **Appreciation for service on COH:**

Chairman Sattgast expressed appreciation to commission members for their service the past triennium. Current terms for members Nuffer and Hawk end in 2019. Both are eligible for reappointment, but nomination by district boards of directors will be necessary. The appointment process will take place as soon as possible after Sept. 1.


The commission reviewed and updated the tracking document, noting new and completed items, as well as items in process.

Item 19-001 was added to the 2019-2022 Tracking Document (see under item 16-037, above).

77. **Next Meeting**

The commission has established the following dates for its upcoming meetings.

a. COH Zoom Meeting: May 3, 2019 10:00 a.m. CT
b. Floor Committee Meetings: May 31 (begin at noon) — June 3, 2019 (International Center, STL)
c. Synod Convention: July 19 (begin at 8:30 a.m.) — 25, 2019 (Tampa, FL)
d. First Post-Convention Meeting: TBA

78. **Adjournment**

Having completed business on the present agenda, the commission closed with Dr. Nuffer closing with prayer. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Reverend David W. Totsky

*Secretary, Commission on Handbook*