

Synod elects Jim Koon as its director of financial services

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies completed its search process for a new director of financial services and voted Monday, Dec. 18, to hire Jim Koon, its treasurer and acting director of financial services, to fill the full-time position.

The synod followed the recommendation of its search committee, voting to hire Koon, who has been handling the operations function of the synod's financial office on a part-time, volunteer basis since Nov. 1. He has been serving as the synod's treasurer since Jan. 1.

The synod initiated its search process Nov. 15. Ted Coppock, a synod commissioner from the Presbytery of Des Moines, who chaired the synod's search committee, said the committee made its recommendation after reviewing applications, conducting reference checks, a background check and a leadership assessment.

Koon is a ruling elder and serves on numerous local boards in the Twin Cities, including Westminster Counseling Center. A member of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church of Bloomington, Minnesota, he chairs the Oak Grove Presbyterian Budget and Finance Committee. He currently serves on a full-time basis as business administrator at a church in Minneapolis.

He is also founder and director of SafeNights Service Corp. of the Twin Cities, a program that partners with area churches to provide localized shelter services to displaced high school students.

Prior to devoting his time to church and non-profit work, Koon served in executive roles within the banking industry for more than 25 years.

At the synod, Koon can be reached by sending e-mail to jikoon@lakesandprairies.org, or calling his direct line at 651.357.1144 or 651.357.1140, extension 201.

Others on the search committee were Julie Hopp from Homestead Presbytery; Lance Loveall, chair of the synod's finance committee, from the Presbytery of Milwaukee; and Sarah Moore-Nokes, clerk of the committee and general presbyter of Winnebago Presbytery. Elona Street-Stewart, synod executive, served as staff support for the committee.

The synod dismissed the search committee with gratitude.