

**SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

**SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING
January 15-16, 2010
Mercy Center, Burlingame**

Present: Pr. Susan Birkelo, Ann Brannen, Gisela Daetz, Maurie Hamilton, Pr. Newt Kerney, Karen Anderson, Pr. Sarah Isakson, Karen Goldsmith, Merle Hanson, Jay Hines-Shah, Pr. Brian Malison, Pr. Tom Beck, Perry Gray-Reneberg, Don Strauch, Pr. Adisa Armand-Miller, Bp Mark Holmerud, John Kuehner (Chair Pro Tem), Pat Cash (Secretary).

Guests: Lou Smith (Finance Committee); Pr. Jim Goldsmith, Ann Watkins and Pr. Anne Carlson (Discipling Teams), Pr. Craig Oldenberg (Mt Cross) Cindi Eckert, (Synod resource Center), Kristina Garabedian (Synod Youth Committee), Steve Krefting (Parliamentarian) Barbara Droher Kline (LSSNC), Richard From Bethlehem Oakland, Cindy Arnett (SPSW-ELCA President), Pr. Nancy Feniuk Nelson (Bishop's Associate), Pr. Harvey Blomberg, Pr. Joe Barndt, Pr. Richard Rubio-Bowley, Rev. Craig Settlage

Absent: Sharon Seegmiller

Welcome- John Kuehner, Chair Pro Tem, welcomed all assembled, opening the meeting at 2:15pm. Karen Anderson led opening devotions.

The Behavioral Covenant was read substituting the phrase *in order to do God's work with our hands* as the opening.

SC10.01.01 MSC (Isakson/Kerney) to adopt the revised agenda with additions of the Constitutional by-law change,

SC10.01.02 MSC (Daetz/ Anderson) to approve the September 25-26 Council minutes with the addition on page 2 line 3, insertion of the word 'day' before period, the addition of Anne Watkins as a guest, the addition of an 'e' to 'Mauri' throughout and the change of Shaw to Shah throughout.

SC10.01.03 MSC (Hines-Shah/Daetz) to approve the minutes of the December 12 Council meeting with the same spelling corrections.

Bishops' Report

1. Bp Mark welcomed those from the Antiracism Working Team noting the work being done on the upcoming workshop. He mentioned that the Conference of Bishops, a study was done on the book, *Privilege and Difference* by Allan Johnson.
2. Bishop Mark distributed the list of congregations taking votes about leaving the ELCA. They include
 - a. St Stephen's, El Dorado Hills (vote failed)
 - b. Grace, Redway (ALC)
 - c. Concordia, Kingsburg (LCA)

- d. St John's/Los Banos (ALC)
- e. Sierra, Auberry (ALC)
- f. Shepherd of the Valley, Galt (ALC)
- g. Life, Richmond (ELCA)
- h. Chinese, San Francisco (LCA)
- i. Gloria Dei, San Jose (ALC)
- j. Emmanuel, Lodi (ALC)

Those congregations formerly LCA or founded under the ELCA must have Synod Council approval of their departure from the ELCA due to property ownership issues. There may be SC vote required for ALC congregations. Issues that will be addressed pertain to transfer to another Lutheran body, EOCM funds that have been received, Mission Investment Fund Loans, etc. The Richmond site (Life) will revert to the Synod as per the original deed from St James. At the May assembly, there will be a 'sending' for those congregations that have finalized their departure from the ELCA.

The **Racial and Ethnic Ministries** offered a presentation to the Council. Pr Joseph Barndt and Pr Adisa Armand-Miller invited the Council, Dr Phyllis Anderson (PLTS), Discipling Team Chairs, and Synod staff to the workshop at Mt Cross March 11-13. Pr Barndt led the group in discussion of what's been done/changed and what's still needed in the arena racism and discussed the challenges between the two lists. There is racial disproportionality in every area of life. Institutions are still structured to serve white privilege regardless of the changes that have been made. The question is 'how do we restructure the system so we can be propelled to do what we are called to do and be?' The March workshop will address how we can do some of this.

Discipling Team Reports

Worship & Sacrament –Ann Watkins distributed a printed report and highlighted the successful music event held October 24 at Good Shepherd in Fresno and the upcoming Book of Faith event in Cupertino, January 30. There are/will be a total of 4 vacancies on this DT and individuals are needed in the area of music, lay leadership and Book of Faith.

Leadership- Pr Anne Carlson reported for the Team. The annual Professional Leaders Conference held at Asilomar Conference Center will begin to alternate between Asilomar and Granlibakken at Lake Tahoe. A survey indicated that the primary reason for attendance at the event was fellowship; second and third were personal growth and the speaker. The Team is continuing work on single page guidelines for congregations seeking pastors. The Team is also preparing compensation guidelines for clergy packets. Assembly workshops planned by LDT include sabbaticals and mutual ministry teams.

Mission Support Presentation

Bp Mark welcomed the **Rev Craig Settlege**, ELCA Director for Mission Support. Craig reminded the Council that the ELCA was designed not in an hierarchal fashion but as one church in three distinct expressions (congregation, synod, churchwide)--each being fully the church but not the whole church. Mission Support over the past 40 years has been declining. On average, 5% of offerings leave the congregation. 80% of what the ELCA does and all of what the Synod can accomplish is funded by this 5%. 42 positions at the ELCA offices have been cut; programs have been affected. No other church body has the effectiveness the ECLA does. The colleges and seminaries are the best in country. Council is called to the challenge to increase congregational giving

toward Mission Support. He showed a DVD with messages from himself and from Bp Hanson. The group also reviewed statistics related to the corresponding decline in membership over the past 20+ years of the ELCA.

Discipling Team reports, cont'd

Witness & Service-Pr Jim Goldsmith distributed a written report.

The team will reimburse the Synod's general fund with \$55,088 and \$38,261 from Fiscal years 2008 and 2009 respectively. It was suggested that future payment of all grant related expenses come directly from the Outreach Fund, with synod budget allocations paid to the outreach fund instead of individual ministries. The DT also approved the Council's grant request for the purpose of funding the Director of Synod Operations position for two years:\$180,000. \$90,000 will be paid annually in quarterly installments of \$22,500 beginning February 1, 2010. The DT requested that funds from Golden Gate LC, SF be directed to the Outreach fund and that the Council seriously consider the use of properties and sites of congregations leaving the ELCA for future mission starts and renewals. Pr Goldsmith indicated the need for a new chair of the committee due to his resignation and acceptance of the Synod staff position in Fresno.

Bishop's Associate Pr. Nancy Feniuk Nelson-

1. The Leadership DT Intentional Interim Ministry certification process is under development.
2. The Candidacy Committee- discussed roster issues related to those who were ordained through the Extraordinary Ordination process. They are beginning to plan the process for the synod and are moving together with Candidacy committee in all of Region 2. , considering different ways in which to add folks to the roster.
3. Nancy met with members of St Francis, SF who expressed an eagerness to rejoin the ELCA once the process for rostering the EOC clergy has been determined.
4. Mobility- 23 congregations are in process. 5 are inactive with no call committee in place as yet. She is almost current with all the congregations, the national database being helpful in the process.
5. Transition Team: staffing: Jim Goldsmith accepted the call for the Fresno position, DSO hiring will begin shortly. A screening process that will bring in folks with HR experience is planned as is the inclusion of members of the Racial and ethnic working group to assist with the initial screening process. This position is based out of Sacramento, managing 3 deployed offices and vendors
6. Office Sites- Gloria Dei, Sacramento is now unlikely because of mortgage issues. Still uncertain is the Peninsula office location-St Mark's has offered a basement office and another location is currently being reviewed as well. Fresno, Campus Ministry offices- there needs to be conversation about the project upgrades necessary there and rental figure which was increased (project seems to be larger than originally anticipated). In the meantime, Trinity, Fresno will provide temporary office space for Jim.
7. The "Cloud" arrived-IT folks are working with a new server. This project was financed by a gift from a single congregation. Many thanks.

Pr Harvey Blomberg spoke of evaluating organizational structure: do we 'staff' for mission? He is currently serving on the Asian New Starts team, and has also been working on immigration issues related to religious workers' visas. There is a need for a coordinator for Ministry Partners, which encourages churches and individuals to

support new congregations. He also mentioned communication-social networking- to reach out to the community.

Ministry Partners

Synod Resource Center-Cindi Eckert marked her first year as director and has received a lot of good feedback with conferences. She is stocking the Resource Center with new resources, and she has three volunteers who serve at the Center. She raised the issue of a policy with respect to retrieving resources from Congregations that are leaving ELCA and future distribution of resources to non-ELCA congregations. There is a link to the Center on the Synod web page.

W-ELCA Synodical President Cindy Arnett distributed the new board member list Mt Cross, Pr Craig Oldenburg, shared that the retreat for Junior high students was up 30%, the first 20 campers have already signed up for summer camp, and brochures are in mail for upcoming camper opportunities.

LSS- Barbara Droher Kline “What if no one was to blame and everyone was responsible” LSS is continuing work with veterans and their families. It is working with Concord to rezone property for affordable housing. An LCMS congregation, Trinity in Richmond/El Sobrante is closing and there is a possibility of using the site to house veterans. She noted that this issue is another area of discrimination (NIMBY) They are looking to build 40 units in Concord and 50 in Richmond. LSS has folks ready to come to congregations to do presentations. Disaster preparedness training is available. There will be a Social Ministry Conference in Visalia, hosting Social Ministry agencies from around the US. Note that for the Haiti disaster, Thrivent will match up to \$1 million at 50 cents on the dollar for Thrivent member donations.

Liaison Reports

LAMN- Tom Beck reported that the work on prisoner re-entry continues. Chief Justice James Hardisty is working with LAMN and RAIN to establish an account where funds can be held to assist the prisoners. The Chief Justice might be available to give a talk to be a speaker over breakfast at Assembly

Candidacy- Susan Birkelo- At any one time from 30-50 candidates are tracked/accompanied on their path of discernment and process of study by the candidacy committee from the time they enter seminary until they get a call and are ordained. There are three main panel interviews of the candidates during their four years and each one has a personal contact person from the committee for that time period.

Youth -Maurie Hamilton. The Youth request assistance with hotel expenses at Synod Assembly. Also, there is a request for \$700 president and one other youth to attend the national leadership retreat. The youth are also planning for a group to travel to Rwanda. Each one has to raise \$1000 in order to go. Can the Synod assist with this event as well.

Assembly planning- Perry Gray- Reneberg. The Synod website has a link to a survey for workshop feedback. Please respond.

Steve Krefting reported on the status of Golden Gate LC which is dealing with legal items with the state. The Westlake property is in foreclosure on the property. The date of the sale is Feb 16, 2010. The foreclosure process will continue until the Council stops it.

SC10.01.13MSC (Isakson/Kerney) that Finance Committee make recommendation to the Synod Council if it becomes necessary to halt the foreclosure process on the Westlake property. The Council is in unanimous agreement to conduct an e-mail vote if necessary at that point.

Warner Trust- Maurie Hamilton and Gisela Daetz to process the applications and report in the morning.

Evening Devotions were led by Karen Anderson and followed with Social time hosted by Don Strauch and Karen Goldsmith.

SATURDAY, January 16, 2010

The meeting resumed at 9:07am with Karen Anderson leading morning devotions.

Unfinished Business

1. Resolution 09-04- J. Goldsmith (green page 8)- no update
2. Resolution 09-05- Creation Task Force- Jay Hines Shah- Further discussion has been held with the maker of resolution and the Task force is still identifying participants for a synod wide task force/ad hoc committee to deal with green issues/creation care. They will prepare an item for the Synod newsletter requesting folks to identify themselves if they are interested and identify leaders who could convene a meeting of interested persons in Synod for brainstorming..

New Business

SC10.01.04MSC (Daetz/ Kerney)to approve the Consent Calendar as follows:

1. Synod Council Call to Interim Ministry: Pr Marcus Hess
2. Synod call to special service to Mission Development: Mr Ray Waespe
3. On Leave from Call effective October 1, 2009: Pr Trudy Franzen
4. **NOMINATIONS-**
 - Finance Committee: Scott Taylor, SF
Sharon Amundson, Mariposa
James Kuhl, Sacramento
Lou Smith, Moraga
Paul Kolarik, Davis
 - Candidacy Committee: The Rev Mary Stein-Weber
 - Nominating Committee: The Rev David Peters
Margie Back
The Rev Peggy White
Randy Preshun
 - Campus Ministry: Merle Hanson
 - Synod Council (District B, Lay Female)
Kay Valler (Resurrection, Granite Bay)
5. **CONGREGATION CONSTITUTION CHANGES**
 - Hope, Fresno
 - Peace, Grass Valley

SC10.01.06 MSC (Isakson/Hanson) (2 abstentions) to approve housing allowances to Synod staff as follows: Bishop Mark Holmerud - \$42,000, Bishop's Associate Nancy Feniuk-Nelson-\$55,000, Assistant to Bishop Jim Goldsmith- \$40, 000.

SC10.01.07 MSC (Daetz/Brannen) to distribute the WarnerTrust funds as follows

1. LC of Our Savior Preschool- SF: \$3000
2. United Lutheran of Oakland, health program- \$3000
3. Grace Lao - \$2500
4. Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd - \$500 Bibles
5. Grace Richmond- \$250, youth orchestra instruments
6. GSSAM, Fremont- \$200,
7. Grace, SAC- \$150 Youth Ed program

SC10.01.08 MSC that we recommend a change to bylaw SB12.01.02(d) (*d. to be a means to provide pastoral care for ~~clergy~~ rostered leaders and congregations*) to the 2010 Assembly, using language that is consistent with the rest of the Constitution where the term clergy currently is stated. This recommendation comes from the Executive Committee

SC10.01.09 MSC(Hamilton/Goldsmith) to allow SPSYC to do fundraising throughout the synod to raise funds to send youth to Rwanda this summer.

SC10.01.10 MSC (Holmerud/Daetz) to allot \$2000 total from the SPSELCA budget to cover the 2010 expenses of the Bishop's representative for Ecumenical Affairs. This is a contingency motion which provides that the Bishop, Lou Smith and Steve Krefting investigate the source of prior funding for this position.

Spending Plan

Lou Smith reviewed the projected year end figures for the spending plan for 2010. Additional items to be added are the Transition Team projections for staffing. With respect to the handling money from Golden Gate, Harvey suggested tithing to CW any special funds received.

SC10.01.11MSC (Malison/Isakson) to tithe income and allocate the funds to operating fund for transition costs from the gift from Golden Gate Lutheran. Westlake property there is a list if designed by original group. Also legal and Steve's expenses to come from that.

SC10.01.12MSC (Hines-Shah/Daetz)) to reappoint Margaret McLean and Ann Watkins to chair Leadership and Worship and Sacrament Discipling Teams, respectively.

SC10.01.14MSC (Hines-Shah/Birkelo) to set the date of March 11 at 3pm at Mt Cross for a special meeting of the Synod Council for the purpose of adopting a proposed 2011 budget for the 2010 Assembly. For the purpose of recommending a budget for Synod Assembly, the deadline for receipt of budget to Council Members is March 4, 2010.

SC10.01.15MSC (Anderson/Hines-Shah) to add to the agenda for the March 11 meeting the selection of candidates for Synod Treasurer.

The Synod Council accepted with regret the resignation of Karen Goldsmith from Council and the Finance Committee, due to Jim's acceptance of the Fresno Staff position.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05pm

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Cash
Secretary

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS:

MARCH 11, 2010 MT CROSS 3PM

MARCH 11-13, 2010 ANTIRACISM RETREAT,
MT CROSS

MAY 5, 2010, SILVER LEGACY, RENO (*Pr Adisa Armand Miller-devotions*)

EXEC. COMMITTEE MEETINGS: