

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

**SYNOD COUNCIL AGENDA
September 24-25, 2010
*Mercy Center
Burlingame, CA***

**SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

Present Vice-President Doug Miller, Secretary Pat Cash, Treasurer Lou Smith, Bp Mark Holmerud, Larry Struve, Pr. Adisa Armand Miller, Maurie Hamilton, Pr. Susan Birkelo, Pr. Tom Beck, Ann Bran-nen, Pr. Newt Kerney, Mark Nelson, Kristina Garabedian, Pr. Jeff Johnson, Don Strauch, Kay Valler, Suzanne O'Dea, Pr. José Luis laTorre, Gisela Daetz,

Staff: Bishop's Associate Pr. Nancy Feniuk Nelson, Assistant to the Bishop/DMS Pr. Jim Goldsmith, Director of Evangelical Mission Pr. Harvey Blomberg, DSO Laureen Sullivan, Executive Assistant Karen Idler

Discipling Team Chairs: Kent Madsen (Witness and Service), Ann Watkins (Word and Sacrament), Pr. Susan Scott (Leadership, rep)

Absent: Perry Gray-Reneberg, Pr Brian Malison

Call to order : Vice President Miller called the meeting to order at 2:13pm

Opening Devotions: Gisela Daetz led those present in song and devotions based on Psalm 103 and asked who had helped us along our faith journey, our encounter with God.

Prior to the reading of the Behavioral Covenant, Vice President Miller welcomed all present, and asked that they introduce themselves. Pr Adisa read the Covenant.

Agenda

SC10.09.47 MSC (Hamilton/Beck) to adopt the Agenda with the following additions:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Unfinished business | 2.CouncilAssignments |
| New Business | 1a. Council resignation |
| | 2a. Gloria Dei |
| | 6. Life Lutheran, Richmond |

Minutes

SC10.09.48 MSC (Valler/Kerney) to accept the June 25-26, 2010 with Section 11 to be completed.

Reports

Bishop: At the District C gathering, former members of Golden Gate Lutheran will present checks to 7 SF congregations from the proceeds of the sale of the property, plus checks to PLTS and LSS. After those checks clear, they will write a check for the balance to the Synod. They have requested that St Francis and 1st United also each receive \$20,000 from out of the Synod's portion.

The office space at St Mark's was too expensive to refurbish due to asbestos issues. At its August meeting, the Executive Committee directed the Transition Team to examine additional sites on the Peninsula-one near the airport at 500 Airport Blvd. and another at 1528 El Camino Real in San Mateo. The Airport Blvd property has been selected The cost of im-

provements will be split with the landlord and costs to the Synod spread over a three year period. (Note: Space in the former office location would have been increasing to \$3.08/ft²). The average for all three office locations is \$1.35/ft². The Fresno office move-in will be the week of September 27.

While a commercial site was not the first choice, usable space was not available at any San Francisco or Peninsula congregations.

Pr Johnson requested the consideration of another site in downtown Oakland. Pr Nelson explained the decision process of the Transition Team for office locations, based on clustering of congregations which was why the Peninsula area was selected. Gisela Daetz indicated that the Council had asked the Transition Team to do a site search and it was done with due diligence.

It was agreed that a sense vote be taken with respect to the decision of the business park site.

Sense motion: Before we sign a lease with the Business park on the peninsula, does the Council want to look at commercial space in a downtown urban center like Oakland or San Francisco?

15 no, 2 yes, 2 abstaining

Rite of Reception service One portion of the liturgy used has caused a great deal of conversation around the ELCA and the Conference of Bishops. There were a variety of options offered that people could pray for the Lord's Prayer. The option of God as Mother raised questions around it being a part of a Synodically authorized worship service (It was taken from the Goddess Rosary). Conference of Bishops e-mails have cited this and it has been taken out of context and used by some groups as an additional reason for churches to leave the ELCA. Bp. Mark will present a position paper as to why it was alright to use and another Bishop will present the opposite view at the Conference of Bishops meeting.

Elder Care Alliance- Ms Adrienne Iverson, (Director of Operations, Salem), Pr Deborah Butler (Hope, El Sobrante) and Mr. Jesse Jackson (CEO of ECA) were present to report on the strategic planning work that has been happening, especially with respect to Salem home.

Adrienne indicated that for Salem Home, the consensus was to reposition one site and relocate another. It has been suggested that the skilled nursing area remain at the current location with the rest of that campus being used for affordable housing and perhaps invest in a relocation of the independent living units. Another option would be to convert the whole campus to affordable housing and relocate both skilled nursing and independent living. The plans revolve around the fact that access to shopping, etc is difficult for independent living clients and that one of the buildings is 70 years old and would be costly to repair and bring up to code. Recommendations from Elder Care Alliance on this will go through the Synod's legal counsel and then Synod Council will need to approve the business plan.

SC10.09.57 MSC (Strauch, Daetz) for ECA, Salem, to proceed with the development of a business plan considering both options (1 abstention)

Ann Brannen- offered an update on board process over the past three months as a member of the Bd.

Bishop's Associate Pr Nancy Nelson

- Overseeing 23 Congregations in the transition process
- Ongoing work with candidacy committee

- Work with the Interim Ministry steering committee;
- Work with the professional leaders conference. Diane McGeoch has been hired to serve as registrar for the Conference...
- Recently returned from the Communicators Seminar in Chicago;
- Attended the Region 2 consultation. Discussed ways in which Synods of Region 2 can work together on mobility, Campus Ministry, and First Call Theological education. Discussions are underway to offer one regional and one local FCTE opportunity. The second day Craig Settledge discussed the financial trends affecting the ELCA throughout
- Somewhere around 300 clergy have submitted their papers with interest in moving to this Synod for a call. This does not include those within the synod who want to move.
- With the Bishop, met with Bishop of Taiwan and the first woman ordained by the Taiwanese Lutheran Church. Plans are being discussed for a reciprocal visit to Taiwan.

Staff

Pr Harvey Blomberg, Director of Evangelical Mission

- American Canyon new start- “Spirit in the Canyon” The Arends are beginning work, making connections, building relationships.
- Nine other ministries are under development. The next one to be organized will be with Pr Joseph Leon at Pueblo de Dios in San Jose.
- Pr Tita Valeriano is doing outreach to students in Hayward (Messiah Lutheran)
- In Visalia, the Lahu ministry is not yet under development but is in the discernment process.
- Conversations are underway with the Taiwan LC and how we might continue working in mission together
- Renewing congregations: Swahili speaking group, Resurrection in Oakland; St Andrew’s in San Mateo, an Arab speaking ministry.
- Pr Patricia Vargas, has arrived and will serve El Buen Pastor. It took 16 months of working with immigration for her R1 Visa.
- Livingston and Hilmar congregations have done a racism study together and are working on mission statements to see how they might partner in ministry
- Pr. Limthongviratn Executive of the Asian Ministries from the Multicultural Ministries Unit of the ELCA visited with two Asian ministries of the synod.
- Gift of Grace- Nevada- Pr. Paul Theiss has left taken a call in another synod. The community wants to continue. Harvey will be working with them.

Pr Jim Goldsmith, Bishop’s Assistant/ Director of Mission Support

- Communications, Campus Ministry, Stewardship are primary areas of responsibility
- Livinglutheran.com is a good site to visit
- Stewardship: Jim available for Consultation where finances, the well being of the congregation, and the sustaining of ministries are concerned. There will be workshops at District Assemblies. He plans to equip the Synod Council members to assist in developing the stewardship focus
- Fresno office: Currently seeking a part time assistant
- Campus ministry: A decision was made to have each synod in California deal with Campus ministry on its own and the funding from Churchwide will be directed proportionately. A new oversight board is being established. It will be necessary to do fundraising for Campus Ministries to support their work.

Treasurer -

Lou Smith reviewed expenditures. We sold the Thrivent Mutual Fund Investment and placed it into the Checking account. He also reviewed the budget vs. actual report. Projected figures show a shortfall of income. The incoming financial gift from Golden Gate will assist with the operating funds. An inquiry was made regarding the large drop in the checking account through May/June. It was explained that some expenditures were shown from that account but the funds for those expenses were not shown as credited to the checking. Additionally, numerous items came due for the transition process, Assembly, etc all at the same time. These are primarily one time expenses, such as overlap of staffing, staff severance, and the office moves.

Discipling Teams- budget requests for Discipling teams need to be into the Finance Committee as soon as possible, no later than the end of November

Leadership- Pr. Susan Scott reported

- Prof leadership Conference: 90 have registered. Next year, it will be held at Asilomar. Pr. Julie Ford will lead the Clergy women's retreat prior to the event. The Dean's retreat will also be held at the same time.
- Compensation Guidelines will be presented for our review at the January meeting. Guidelines will be brought to the Assembly for vote so the whole Synod has a by in. Other synods vote each year on the compensation package guidelines
- A preretirement seminar was held this year and perhaps another one may be offered.
- The "one page" information sheets are being prepared for congregations. These will be summaries for use in the Call process.

Word and Sacrament- Ann Watkins reported

- The Team is Still missing 2 members- an at-large member and a Dean, and a music person is needed
- At the most recent meeting, discussion was held concerning what congregations need from the team and how the team can better serve congregations.
- Music: plans to offer workshops Aug 2011 along with a possible Assembly workshop
- Book of Faith: two upcoming workshops: Good Shepherd, Reno November 6 and Christ the King, Orangevale, January 29.
- Catechumenate: February 4-6 or 11-13, training at San Damiano Retreat Center, Danville.
- Lay Leadership: a number of locations throughout the Synod along with dates in February, March and April are under discussion for workshops to build up lay leadership in congregation.
- Four members of the Team will attend the Western Mission Cluster Consultation January 21-23: Sue Heartless, Collette Koski, Pr Clark Brown and Diane McGeoch.
- The Team approved a grant of \$500 for District E to help defray the cost of speaker Mark Allen Powell for their District Gathering.

Witness and Service- Kent Madsen reported:

- a Joint meeting of the Witness and Service Discipling Team is scheduled for November 17 with the Episcopal Diocese to discuss joint ventures possibilities.
- A 5-year plan for the team of was also accomplished at the DT's September meeting.

Prior to recessing for the evening, the Bishop shared his presentation for each of the District Assembly Gatherings. It is a plan to create a safe place to think outside the box and envision

what the future might be as well as how can we foster a conversation that reflects a mix of economic, geographic, and political perspectives. His power point presentation reviewed the first and second years of his term as Bishop with a look at year three to see what it would look like if we were to be a Matthew 25 church: witness and service both; diversity; faith development; servant leadership; accompaniment model of ministry; telling the story; being the story (God's work Our Hands); seeking the least, last & lost; living into our calling as disciples; having healthy sustainable congregations; grow into a thriving "young adult" church. The question posed is: How do we get the synod to become a Matt 25 synod; how do we begin to speak about ourselves differently?

Evening devotions were led by Gisela Daetz.

Saturday, September 25

The Saturday morning session began with devotions at 9:05am.

Morning Devotions Mark Nelson led devotions on the question of becoming a Matthew 25 church. How do we, like John the Baptist, let God increase while we decrease?

Racial Ethnic Ministries Group presentation: Pr Adisa Armand Miller and Pastor Susan Birkelo shared a DVD film "A Girl Like Me" . Adisa shared from Ps 51- vs. 5b 'sinful from the time my mother conceived me' The internalization of racial superiority/inferiority still operates within us. It is vital that we name the sin/problems among us because it helps us to move beyond them. Institutions are structured to favor white people but we don't recognize it, like asking fish to describe water. It is just we have always known as being the way it is.

Other- W-ELCA, liaisons

Kristina Garabedian brought some resources from the Synod Resource Center for perusal on behalf of Cindi Eckert

Kristina also reported on the upcoming Youth High School Event. They will be collecting books for the school in Rwanda. The list of specific books on SPSYC web site. She noted that most high schools save old text books that they may be willing to give away.

W-ELCA- Pat reported on the Asilomar Retreat, with Jane Strohl as Retreat Leader

Unfinished Business

Resolution 03-10 Perry Gray-Reneberg and Pr. Tom Beck researched information regarding the changes needed. They are developing a committee. They requested an additional person to serve on the Task Force, plus additional help on financial and legal (constitutional) questions, and requested input with respect to what is actually the expectation of this resolution: just a study with a report back or a resolution leading biennial assemblies. Don Strauch offered to serve with Perry and Tom; Lou Smith will provide financial information and Laureen Sullivan will serve as staff person. A report is needed by the January Council meeting with materials ready by February 15 for inclusion in Assembly Report items.

Assignments for Council-

East Bay Conference Liaison will be Pr Adisa Armand Miller
Peninsula Conference Liaison will be Joseph Husary. He will also be asked to liaise with PLTS

New Business

Resignation

SC10.09.49 MSC (Daetz/Armand Miller) to accept with regret Jay Hines –Shah’s resignation from Synod Council.

Consent Calendar Additions are shown below. Pr Carol Been was withdrawn from the Consent Calendar and treated as new business separately

SC10.09.50 MSC (Adisa, Kay) to approve the Consent Calendar with the revisions as presented, as follows:

Rev. Jodi Golden-Lund, renewal of on leave from call status for an additional year due to family needs.

Rev Todd Eckblad, renewal of on leave from call status for an additional year.

Rev. Sanna Reinholtzen, part time, non-stipendiary, one year call to University Chapel, Berkeley as Associate Pastor

Ms Kathryn Beck, appointed as chair of 2011 Assembly Planning Team

Rev Mark Price, appointed to Mt Cross Board

Mr Joseph Husary, appointed to complete District C, Lay Male Synod Council term, through 2012.

Approved Mountain Ranch as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community.

Approved Congregational Constitutions for

St Francis, San Francisco, CA

St Mark’s Lutheran Church, Fairfield, CA

St Luke’s, Sacramento, CA

Grace, San Jose, CA

Rev Carol Been has been on leave from call and serving as executive director for Clergy and Laity United For Economic Justice. Shall we extend her on leave from call status or issue a special call to serve in this capacity.

SC10.09.51 MSC (Johnson/Daetz) to extend a 3 yr special call to Rev Carol Been to serve as Senior Organizer of Clergy and Laity for Economic Justice

Gloria Dei, Sacramento (congregation closing) gave gifts to about 20 agencies and organizations after paying off the mortgage. A gift is also being given to the Synod; its intended use being for Congregations which are struggling and it is to be dispersed at the discretion of the Bishop. Additionally, a gift is being offered in the amount of \$150,000 for a position for a special consultant to congregations of the Synod. While not tied to a specific individual, the job description was written with a specific pastor’s qualifications in mind. If another person is selected for this position, the members at Gloria Dei would want to tighten up the job description to include specific training requirements, etc. Should we move forward on this?

There was discussion about needs, process, how would it be incorporated with Interim Ministry work, how closely tied with a specific individual? This position would not only involve congregations in the Call process. It was suggested that the position be rewritten into a form that expressed the necessary training etc so that an actual position is being described. It needs to be a precise job description with the general purpose statement that they want to assist our synodical process with this gift and position.

SC10.09.52 MSC (Johnson/Beck) to encourage the Synod Staff to move forward (taking into account the concerns expressed), with thanksgiving to Gloria Dei (Sacramento), on the proposal and grant for a resource person for congregations in need. Pr. Tom Beck to assist with process as well.

Information Item: **Life Lutheran** is questioning the return of the property to the Synod. The issue has been in the hands of the Synod attorney who will continue to follow up, including an offer for them to rent back short term as they seek a new location and as decisions are made for the use of the property.

Spending plan: MS (Smith, Johnson) to adopt the spending plan as distributed to the Council, adjusting the bottom line \$128,000 with correction to the amount for the Leadership DT.

Lou explained spending plan. Income stream isn't consistent with projected amount

MSC (Holmerud, Johnson) to move into a committee of the whole for the purpose of discussing the spending plan.

Lou indicated that it would all be best addressed at the November/December meeting with Council and Finance Committee. Several comments were made regarding the policy for the Outreach Fund. Concerned was expressed that the Synod Council does not have the freedom to be creative with the Synod's assets.

MSC (Holmerud, Beck) to end committee of the whole.

Action was taken on the motion to adopt the spending plan.

SC10.09.53 MSC (Struve/Valler) to table the adoption of the proposed Spending Plan until the December Synod Council meeting (1 opposed, 1 abstention).

SC10.09.54 MSC (Cash, Daetz) to appoint Diane McGeoch to the at-large position on the Word and Sacrament Discipling Team.

Proposed Constitutional revision

SC10.09.55 MSC (Cash/ Daetz) to approve the following proposed constitutional change to 11:07 bylaws, moving those indicated into continuing resolutions. The proposal will be distributed to Congregations of the Synod as required.

S11.07. This Synod shall develop an organizational structure to carry out the mission of this synod which shall be described in the bylaws. The Synod Council shall review the actions of all organizational units so described.

SB11.07.01. A Discipling Team is a unit of the synod organization to which is assigned responsibility for an identified portion of the mission of this synod. The Discipling Team, under the direction of the Synod Council, is responsible for the development, oversight, budget, implementation, and evaluation of programs approved by the Council.

SB11.07.02. Proposals or requests for action or response may come to a Team from individuals, Conferences, congregations, the Synod Council, or the office of the Bishop.

SB11.07.03 *The number, composition, method of election and areas of responsibility of the Discipling Teams shall be described in the continuing resolutions of this Synod.*

~~**SB11.07.03.** A total of nine persons shall constitute a Discipling Team. Each of the five Electoral Districts shall elect one member to each team; two members shall be appointed by the Synod Council one of whom may be a member of the Synod Council; one conference dean shall be appointed by the bishop of the Synod; and a chair shall be appointed by the Synod Council.~~

~~**S11.07.A01.** The Nominating Committee shall present as nominees for Council's appointment to Discipling~~

Teams persons who have been determined in consultation with the Discipling Teams and the Persons of Color Network.

~~SB11.07.04.~~ Each Electoral District member of a Discipling Team shall be a member of a congregation within the district, and shall serve for a term of three years. Terms shall be staggered by the Synod Council and arranged in three classes so that approximately one-third of the terms expire each year. Team members shall serve no more than two consecutive terms; a partial term of less than two years shall not be considered a term for the purposes of this provision. The names of all committee members, as well as their designated terms of office, shall be reported by the Discipling Team chair to the Synod Secretary.

~~S11.07.B01.~~ The terms of Discipling Team members appointed by the Synod Council, other than the team chairs, shall be three years in length. Term ending dates shall be staggered by Synod Council.

~~SB11.07.05.~~ Each Discipling Team shall meet at least two times each year.

~~SB11.07.06.~~ Each Discipling Team shall be responsible to the Synod Assembly and shall report to the Synod Council in the interim.

~~SB11.07.07.~~ The Word and Sacrament Team shall be responsible for assisting congregations in equipping believers for baptismal life.

~~SB11.07.08.~~ The Witness and Service Team shall be responsible for leading and assisting congregations and individuals in public affirmation of faith through word and deed.

~~SB11.07.09.~~ The Leadership Team shall be responsible for supporting and nurturing pastors, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers on the rosters of this synod and identifying and encouraging qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel.

Addition of Continuing Resolutions:

SB11.07.C10. *A total of nine persons shall constitute a Discipling Team. Each of the five Electoral Districts shall elect one member to each team; two members shall be appointed by the Synod Council one of whom may be a member of the Synod Council; one conference dean shall be appointed by the bishop of the Synod; and a chair shall be appointed by the Synod Council.*

S11.07.A01. *The Nominating Committee shall present as nominees for Council's appointment to Discipling Teams persons who have been determined in consultation with the Discipling Teams and the Persons of Color Network.*

SB11.07.04.D10 *Each Electoral District member of a Discipling Team shall be a member of a congregation within the district, and shall serve for a term of three years. Terms shall be staggered by the Synod Council and arranged in three classes so that approximately one-third of the terms expire each year. Team members shall serve no more than two consecutive terms; a partial term of less than two years shall not be considered a term for the purposes of this provision. The names of all committee members, as well as their designated terms of office, shall be reported by the Discipling Team chair to the Synod Secretary.*

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SB11.07.08.H10 The Witness and Service Team shall be responsible for leading and assisting congregations and individuals in public affirmation of faith through word and deed.

SB11.07.09.I10 The Leadership Team shall be responsible for supporting and nurturing pastors, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers on the rosters of this synod and identifying and encouraging qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel.

Council Meeting Date December 4th– New Sacramento office site, proposed location. Location TBA

SC10.09.56 MSC (Johnson/Daetz) to establish a Task Force to review of the Outreach Fund Policy. The group will include Kent Madsen, Pr Jim Goldsmith, Lou Smith, Gisela Daetz, Pr Jeff Johnson and the members of the Finance committee.

12:57pm MSC (Garabedian, M. Nelson) to adjourn

Upcoming Dates

2010

Dec 4 Official Council Budget Meeting– Sacramento

2011

Jan 28-29 Synod Council Meeting

May 12 Synod Council--Burlingame

May 13-15 Synod Assembly--Burlingame

June 24-25 Synod Council

Sept 23-24 Synod Council

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Cash, Secretary