

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

**SYNOD COUNCIL MINUTES
January 27-28, 2012
Synod Office, Sacramento**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2012

Present: Kay Valler, Pr. Newt Kerney, Pr. Tom Beck, Pr. Susan Birkelo, Gisela Daetz, Pr. Jeff Johnson, Sheela Boddu, Sue Hertless, Rosie Ellis-Falik, James Anderberg, , Larry Struve, Perry Gray-Reneberg, Elaine Whitney, Joseph Husary, Pr. Adisa Armand Miller, Mark Nelson, Secretary Pat Cash, Vice-President Doug Miller, Bp. Mark Holmerud, Treasurer Pro Tem Linda Lownes.

Absent: Steve Herzfeldt, Pr. Brian Malison, Kristina Garabedian

Staff: Pr. Harvey Blomberg (DEM); Assistants to the Bishop Pastors Jose Luis laTorre-Cuadros, Katie Grinberg, Jim Goldsmith; support staff AIM Karen Idler, Laurie Gaumer; Bishop's Associate Pr. Nancy Feniuk Nelson; Pr. Cindy Beck

Other: Pr. Peggy White, Nominating Committee Chair; Discipling Team Chairs/Representatives Kent Madsen, Ann Watson, Jim White

The meeting was **called to order** at 2:15pm with a welcome by Doug Miller, Vice President.

SC12.01.01 MSC (Holmerud/Gray-Reneberg) to appoint Sheela Boddu as At-Large member for term expiring 2013.

Opening Devotions- Pr. Nancy Nelson led devotions with a focus on developing a new behavioral covenant. What is the group's expectation with respect to meeting together?

- Active listening
- Bold truth, warm love
- Respectful, empathetic listening
- Honoring deeply held convictions
- Creative and not stuck in past
- Honor diversity of expression
- Everyone has something to say
- Operating as a unit
- Honoring time, focus on content
- Everyone
- Seek consensus
- transparency in decision making and process
- honoring dissent among us
- Public Access to official documents
- Help everyone understand history
- hospitality
- Reflect Christ to and see Christ in one another
- Be prepared
- OK to laugh in a while
- Efficient use of time
- Develop mutual trust
- grounded in prayer, attentive to the holy spirit, trust the spirit
- keep eye on the prize
- once decisions are made, council speaks as one voice
- confidentiality
- no cell phones
- assume the best about others
- respect the experience behind the statement

SC12.01.02 MSC (Kerney/Struve) to adopt the agenda with additions.

SC12.01.03 MSC (Valler/Daetz) to approve the September and December draft minutes.

Announcement: Pr. Harvey Blomberg will resign his call as Director of Evangelical Mission and retire as of March 31, 2012

Staff Reports: Visioning exercise

Pr. Nancy shared the history of where we had planned to go as a Synod four years ago: start the transition process to move from 1 office to 3 and from understaffed to fully staffed. At the first full staff meeting, the group used a coach to discuss future of the SP Synod, developing a time line, looking at new approaches with the Discipling Teams, examining goals and visions within each DT that would result in an ad hoc group (one/team) to bring this back in to staff and coordinate with other pieces of visioning. It was hoped to have a report by Synod Assembly. Nancy indicated that she had also done some visioning work with Keith Mundy from CW (Stewardship).

Exercise: Describe a headline that would speak about the SP Synod 5 years from now and come up with 3-5 descriptions of what the SPS is doing in 2017 that is making a difference. These headlines and descriptions were shared within the group and noted by staff.

SC12.01.04 MSC (Beck/Whitney) to create a Stewardship Discipling Team.

Bishop Mark raised the question as to whether we wished to move the Racial/Ethnic Ministries Working Group to Discipling Team status, with the separate committees as groups under the DT umbrella.

SC12.01.05 MSC (Johnson/Gray-Reneberg) to create a Racial and Ethnic Ministries Discipling Team.

Old Business

1. New & Renewing Congregations and Innovative Ministries Committee

Desired qualities in members: creative, willing to risk, heart for ministry

SC12.01.20 MSC(Armand Miller/Beck) to table until the June Council meeting.

2. Property Management Team Duties: The executive committee shared the description of duties as they saw the position. To be discussed further at the June meeting.

3. Synod Team for Campus Ministry-Jeff Johnson offered an update. To be discussed further in June.

4. Gift Acceptance Committee: Gisela Daetz, James Anderberg, Linda Lownes

New Business

1. Consent Calendar

The Resolutions Committee was removed and the item referring to appointment of the At- Large Council member deleted.

SC12.01.06 MSC (Gray-Reneberg/Armand Miller) to approve the Consent Calendar

Appointments:

Elder Care Alliance

Chuck Ruthroff (Finance Committee chair)

Assembly Committee Chairs

Sue Hertless, Elections

Pr. John Valentine, Resolutions

On Leave from Call- extensions

Pr. Andreas Pielhoop, Pr. Trudy Franzen, Pr. Matthew Prasek, Pr. Dan Powell

Special Call to VITAS Hospice Ministry, Pr. Dale Poland

Constitutions Good Shepherd, Gilroy; Oromo Christ, San Lorenzo

SC12.01.07 MSC (Birkelo/Beck) to adopt the Assembly Resolutions Committee as follows:

Pr. Brian Stein-Webber, Jim White, Jane Okubo, Pr. Joseph Leon, Pr. Kathryn Gulbransen

SC12.01.08 MSC (Holmerud/Daetz) to agree to an e-vote on the one vacancy for the 2012 Resolutions Committee

2. LSS Request – to be discussed later in the meeting after further information is gathered.
3. Warner Trust Recommendations: suggest that the letter announcing the grant includes need for accounting report.

SC12.01.21 MSC (Kerney/ Nelson) to approve the grants as recommended:

St Johns	Sacramento	\$1000
CLIPArts	Visalia	1000
Good Shepherd	Novato	1000
St Pauls	Oakland	275
Trinity	Fresno	1000
St Marks	San Francisco	1000
SPSYC		1625
Bethlehem	Oakland	1000

4. Racial Ethnic Ministry Report Anti-racism team chair, Jennifer Tear, sent a request that the Synod support the **Remember Them** Project in downtown Oakland. An artist has created a sculpture of humanitarians.

SC12.01.09 MSC (Cash/Johnson) to grant approval for the Anti-Racism team to raise funds during the calendar year in order to have the SPSELCA become an affiliated organization with the *Remember Them* (Champions for Humanity) Project in Oakland.

5. Sabeel Sponsorship Request : “Breaking the Barriers to a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine.” March 23-24, 2012: We have been asked to co-sponsor the event

with a donation. Sabeel group is non-denominational; presenters represent Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths.

SC12.01.10 MSC (Johnson/Holmerud) to co-sponsor the Sabeel Event in the amount of \$250 to come from the Ecumenical Affairs and Partnerships.

6. LSS Request: Request for \$9333 from SP Synod to assist in the search for a new director.

SC12.01.11 MSC (Holmerud/Daetz) to amend the proposed 2012-13 Spending Plan, by adding line item 17a, to reflect the requested \$9333 for the LSS .

7. Youth Event Report:

SC12.01.12 MSC (Ellis-Falik/Holmerud) to reinstate the line item 61 for the proposed spending plan for 2012-13 to \$8000 and invite Lisa Herlocker to request a grant of \$1500 for the April youth event planned for those who will be attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.

8. LAMN- LAMN is going through a transition and has lost ELCA funding. Larry Struve is retiring from LAMN.

SC12.01.13MSC (Beck/ Whitney) that the Sierra Pacific Synod Council to authorize Pr. Jose Luis la Torres-Cuadros, Assistant to Bishop Holmerud, to work with LAMN to assure an advocacy voice for Lutherans remains present at the Nevada legislature. One abstention

9. ECA Report- Newt Kerney shared the “approval Rights of Corporate Members” to let the Council know what rights (mission/vision/values) that we might want to get into place with ECA, especially in regard to Salem Lutheran Home. The SPS is the only one that can make decisions regarding Salem LH. The reps from SPS will want input with respect to items a-g under item 1. We should have ECA folks come to June meeting to share future plans.

10. Assembly Formula-

SC12.01.14 MSC(Cash/Daetz) to adopt the following formula for voting member representation from Synod congregations for the 2012 Assembly:

Baptized members	Voting members
175 and below	1
176-300	2
301- 500	3
501- 700	4
701- 900	5
901- 1200	6
1201 and above	7

11. South Valley Conference-

SC12.01.15MSC (Daetz/Kerney) to approve that Trinity-Porterville, Christ- Visalia, Christ-Reedley and St James-Hanford become members of Central San Joaquin Conference.

12. Credit Card-

SC12.01.16_MSC (Daetz/Johnson) to authorize Karen Idler, to have a VISA Card from Lutheran Credit Union of America and, within the existing authorized combined \$15,000. Credit union for this account, to set the following limits for each card: Bp. Mark Holmerud and Bishop's associate Nancy Feniuk Nelson- \$2500 each; and Assistants to the Bishop Jose Luis la Torre Cuadros, Kathryn Grinberg and James Goldsmith, Director for Evangelical Mission Harvey Blomberg, and Associate in Ministry Karen Idler, \$2000 each.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2012

9:15 am Morning Devotions were led by Pr. Jose Luis la Torre Cuadros

Racial and Ethnic Ministries Presentation-Pr. Bill Ruth, *Multicultural Strategies Team*
Susan Birkelo shared explanations of the goals of the Mission Strategies Team and shared a list of the ministries and clergy of multicultural ministries. The team assists with shared concerns in local communities e.g. Immigration concerns, etc, offering listening post for these congregations:

Pr. Bill Ruth shared:

- There is a variety of leadership with strong ties to faith coalitions and community
- Justice issues
- Cultural competence
- Barriers exist: need for bilingual clergy/economic hardship/ funding resources

Treasurer's Report/Proposed Budget 2013-14

Finance Committee Members present: Lou Smith, Paul Kolarik, Aaron Bollack

First, Linda Lownes updated the Council on financial matters. The Audit is scheduled for March 5. Work continues on the pass through accounts along with the creation of a new treasurer's remittance form in keeping with decision to ask congregations to fund local gifts directly. The only funds passing through the Synod will be those that are Lutheran affiliated-ministry partners, etc. The old Prius was sold for 9000;

She then presented the two Budgets prepared: The Income Based Budget required by the resolution passed at the last assembly and the Mission Based Budget

The cuts required to arrive at an Income Based Budget were the following:

Ministry Partners cut 85%, local ministries cut 20%, ELCA benevolence cut 65%.

The remaining 15% in cuts spreads across remaining areas. Funds are available for 3 years to fund the proposed deficit without any increase in giving. Since the next obvious cut would be staff, increased giving is needed to maintain the mission of the Synod. Can \$500,000 be raised from congregations? It was suggested that information be provided regarding the Second Mile amounts gathered for each ministry partner.

SC12.01.17 MSC (Gray-Reneberg/Whitney) to adopt the 2012-2013 spending plan with a \$583,651 deficit.

SC12.01.18 MSC (Daetz/Valler) to approve the fiscal year 2013-2014 Proposed Budget for presentation to Synod Assembly with a deficit of no more than \$550, 683.

Call the question Carried

SC11.01.19 MSC (Daetz/Whitney) in response to Resolution 11-03, the Council will provide this 2013-2014 Income Based budget to the Assembly.

Discipling Teams Bishop's Associate Nancy Nelson reported on a Visioning Timeline for Discipling Teams. Each Synod Council Member is asked to send 3-5 names with the person's information & gifts and which Discipling Team might be a good fit, within the coming week. She will send a one line description of what each DT has to do. Also, Council members should indicate which DT they have an interest to serve on.

SC12.01.20MSC (Whitney/Ellis Falik) to have an e-vote to confirm Discipling Team membership.

SC12.01.21 (Holmerud/Daetz) to appoint Larry Struve to resolutions. (one abstention)

Awareness Items

Oakhurst Lutheran is still under the constitution even if it never adopted it. In May, Council will likely be acting on removal of the congregations

Evaluations Kristina will be asked to provide evaluation forms via e-mail

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 1:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Cash, Secretary

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

May 17, 2012	Synod Council meeting- Pueblo de Dios Lutheran, San Jose
May 18-19, 2012	Synod Assembly- San Jose Marriott
June 22-23, 2012	TBD
September 28-29, 2012	TBD
December 8, 2012	Tent TBD
January 25-26, 2013	TBD
May 1, 2013	Fresno