

SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
Synod Council Meeting
June 22-23, 2012
Synod Office, Sacramento, CA

Present: Mark Holmerud, Doug Miller, Dennis Jones, Linda Lownes, James Anderberg, Susan Birkelo, Gisela Daetz, Rosie Ellis-Falik, Krtistina Garabedian, Sue Hertless, Steve Herzfeldt, Jeff Johnson, Newton Kerney, Sarah Meckler, Mark Nelson, Kay Valler, Carl Wilfrid, Joseph Husary

Staff: Bishop's Associate Nancy Feniuk Nelson; Assistants to the Bishop Pastors Jim Goldsmith, Katy Grindberg, Jose Luis la Torre Cuadros; Karen Idler, AIM, Executive Assistant; Administrative Assistant Laurie Gaumer

Absent: Sheela Boddu, Adisa Armand-Miller, Larry Struve, Elaine Whiting, Perry Gray-Reneberg

Guests: Adriene Iverson, Irv Lownes, Cheryl Hoyer, Jesse Jansen

The meeting was **called to order** at 2:08 PM by Vice President Doug Miller. Mark Nelson offered the opening devotion.

SC12.06.35MSC (Valler/Hertless) to adopt the Agenda

SC12.06.36MSC (Daetz/Johnson) to approve May council minutes

New Member Orientation

Vice President Miller presented the document "Overview of the Synod Council and its Members" highlighting areas in which there have been changes.

SC12.0637MSC (Johnson/Daetz)

Invite the secretary to coordinate a process that will produce a draft revision of "Overview of the Synod Council and its Members" by the next Synod Council meeting.

Reports

Addendum to Bishop's written report. The Bishop has had follow up tests that indicate no active cancer. He does NOT need to start chemotherapy in July and he will be able to go to youth gathering in New

Orleans. Bishop Mark and Debi will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary next month, right before their grandson will be baptized.

Nancy reported she has been very busy- especially with pastoral vacancies. For the first time, the Synod does not have enough “intentional interim pastors” to support all congregations needing them. The Synod currently has 28 vacancies.

The “Macedonia Project”, based on Paul’s letter to the Macedonians to increase stewardship, will begin soon. It will impact all congregations. We will receive \$10K to support this project from a grant that Linda Lownes developed. The project includes education materials based on the book “100 Dresses” that will be provided to congregations to assist in educating groups, children and adults.

Old Business

SC12.06.38MSC (Daetz/Nelson) to appoint Linda Lownes treasurer for a 4 year term.

SC12.06.39MSC (Johnson/Kerney) In order to permit the Rev. Cindy Beck to benefit from the provisions of Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code, the Synod Council specifies that the total compensation paid to her during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012 includes a housing allowance.

Pastor Beck estimates that she will spend \$23,000 during the year for housing expenses. Since such approval by the Synod Council would permit her to deduct that amount from her taxable income and has no further effect upon our budget, it is RESOLVED, that the total compensation include a housing allowance of \$23,000.

Life Lutheran in Richmond Settlement Agreement

Bishop Mark provided a letter from Life Lutheran Church thanking the Bishop and Synod for the agreement reached between them and the Synod. The congregation will quit claim the ownership of the church property to the Synod and the Synod will withdraw the pending lawsuit with prejudice.

SC12.06.40MSC (Executive Committee) Motion to approve the settlement agreement and mutual release between Life Lutheran Church in Richmond and the Synod. Authorize the Bishop to sign the Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release on the Synod’s behalf

Synod Council Representation

The synod needs to select 13 voting members to attend the Church-wide Assembly in August 2013 in Pittsburg. Our Bishop and Vice President are two of the thirteen. At the recent synod assembly, we elected 15 potential voting members from our five districts. From that 15, the Executive Committee selected 11 proposed voting members using a process that gave preference for youth and persons of color and had a goal of maintaining a balance between clergy and lay and male and female. That process resulting in the following:

Those recommended as voting members are Molly Calhoun, Jason Bense, Mariah Spring Seitzinger, Paul Larson, Linda Boston, Amanda Briggs, Dale Loepp, Anita Warner, Stephanie Leong, Joseph Haletky,

Merle Hanson, Mark Holmerud, and Doug Miller. Alternates in priority order were: Sharon Seegmiller, Jim Goldsmith, Catherine Gulbrantson, and Jeff Rinders

SC12.06.41MSC (Executive Committee) Motion to approve the process and the results of the process selecting 13 voting members from the Synod at Church-wide Assembly in August 2013.

Synod Assembly Resolution 2112-08

Item postponed until report and recommendation is received from the Resolutions Committee

Mt. Cross Update

Synod representatives are meeting with Speed Leas, facilitator from the Urban Institute. He is scheduling a meeting with representatives of our synod and the LCMS to discuss the camp's future .

2112 Assembly Feedback

Steve Herzfeldt suggested that the Synod Council develop a program using Synod Council members to assist congregations. This discussion continued the next morning where the proposal became more specific as follows:

Individual synod council members do the following with 18 selected congregations

- Administer a survey on knowledge about the synod, its programs and finances
- Visit the church on a Sunday
- Visit a subsequent church council meeting
- Establish efforts to assist congregation with problems they identify,
- Measure the effectiveness of this program

SC12.06.42 Consensus decision to ask Steve Herzfeldt and James Anderberg to work with a designated staff member to develop and implement a "Synod Council Outreach to Congregations" project involving synod council members. Steve and James agreed to spearhead this effort and they will develop a proposal to move forward by July.

Elder Care Alliance (ECA) Presentation

Adriene Iverson and Jesse Jansen talked to the Synod Council in its role as a corporate member of the ECA. Adriene indicated they may sell Salem Lutheran Home and develop a new health care community with the proceeds. They are working on developing a vision statement for the ECA.

New Business

Consent Calendar

SC12.06.43MSC (Executive Committee) CONSENT AGENDA

Renewal of Pr Reinholtzen non-stipendiary call to University Lutheran Chapel in Berkeley

Shepherd of the Valley, Merced, CA Constitution

Gift of Grace, Fernley, NV Constitution and Bylaws

Pr. Carol Been Request for Leave from Call

SC Executive Committee Election

Our constitution provides that we need to elect 3 Executive Committee members each year from the Synod Council membership. Current members on the Executive Committee representing the Council are Newt Kerney, Adisa Armand-Miller, and Jeff Johnson.

SC12.06.44M Nominated Jeff Johnson, Gisela Daetz, Adisa Armand-Miller, and Mark Nelson to the three Executive Committee vacancies

SC12.06.45MSC (Meckler/Ellis-Falik) moved nominations be closed.

Adisa Armand-Miller, Jeff Johnson, Mark Nelson were elected.

SC 12.06.46MSC. (Daetz/Valler) Moved to approve the vote of Oakhurst Lutheran Church congregational council in 2011 to disaffiliate from the ELCA based on Chapter 9.62g of the ELCA Constitution .

SC 12.06.47MSC (Daetz/Valler) Appoint Jeff Johnson to serve on the New and Renewing Congregations Committee

SC12.06.48MSC (Wilfrid/Daetz) Appoint Jack Pease (with his agreement) to serve on the New and Renewing Congregations Committee

SC12.06.49MSC (Daetz/Garabedian) Moved that the Executive Committee be authorized to act on the Synod Council's behalf in selecting the final two members for the Investment Committee.

Liaison Assignments

Liaisons to Mission Partners:

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS) Elaine Whitney

Mt. Cross- Gisela Daetz

Lutheran Social Services (LSS)-Sue Hertless

Warner Trust-Carl Wilfred, Kristina Garabedian, Rosie Ellis-Falik

LAMN-Larry Struve

Lutheran Office Of Public Policy-Joseph Husary

Elder Care Alliance (ECA)-Newt Kerney

Candidacy Committee-Susan Birkelo

Council of Deans-Carl Wilfrid

Global Mission-Jeff Johnson

Liaison to Conferences

Redwood-Perry Gray-Reneberg

Vineyard-Newt Kerney

Gateway-Newt Kerney

Delta/Diablo-Sue Hertless

Northern Mountain Valley-Doug Miller

Sierra Nevada-Carl Wilfrid

Foothill-Kay Valler

Sacramento-James Anderberg

San Francisco-Elaine Whitney

East Bay-Rose Ellis-Falik

Southern Alameda-Joseph Husary

Peninsula-Joseph Husary

Santa Clara-Gisela Daetz

Monterey Bay-Mark Nelson

Central San Joaquin- Sarah Meckler

Central Valley-Steve Herzfeldt

Central San Joaquin-Kristina Garabedian

We made the following appointments of Synod Council members:

- Campus Ministry
 - Sarah Meckler
- Discipling Teams
 - Witness –Still Open
 - Stewardship-Gisela Daetz

- Leadership-James Anderberg
- Gift Acceptance Committee
 - Treasurer Linda Lownes,Chair
 - James Anderberg
 - Gisela Daetz
- Investment Committee
 - Bishop or Designee
 - Linda Lownes
 - Jim Goldsmith
 - Two members elected by Synod Council
 - Executive Committee will finalize the last two members
 - Linda Smith-Good Shepard, Reno a possibility
- New and Renewing Congregations Committee
 - Bishop or Bishop's designee
 - Linda Lownes (one member of the Executive Committee)
 - Jeff Johnson and Jack Pease (if he agrees)
 - Director for Evangelical Mission-when filled
- Two members of synod assembly planning committee
 - Kristina Garabedian
 - Kay Valler
- Liaison to Council of Deans
 - Carl Wilfrid

Prayer Partners

Elaine Whitney-Linda Lownes	Kay Valler and Sue Hertless
Carl Wilfred and Gisela Daetz	Mark Nelson and James Anderberg
Sarah Meckler and Rosie Ellis-Falik	Larry Struve and Katy Grindberg
Doug Miller and Jeff Johnson	Jim Goldsmith and Dennis Jones
Joseph Husary and Nancy Nelson	Kristina Garabedian and Adisa Armand-Miller
Karen Idler and Susan Birkelo	Perry Grey-Reneberg and Jose Luis La Torre
Mark Holmerud and Newt Kerney	Laura Gaumer and Steve Herfeldt

Schedule for Devotions and Snacks

Meeting	Devotions	Snacks
September 2012	Husary/Stewardshp	Kay Valler/Sue Hertless/Linda Lownes
December 2012	Newt Kerney	Joseph Husary/James Anderberg
January 2013	Carl Wilfrid	Steve Herzfeldt, Gisela Daetz
May 2013	Sarah Meckler	Mark Nelson

September 2013

Susan Birkelo

The meeting was adjourned by Vice President Doug Miller at 11:50 AM on June 23, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Jones

Synod Secretary