

**SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
SYNOD COUNCIL MINUTES May 28, 2015-Final
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 17TH AND L SACRAMENTO**

Present: Bp. Mark Holmerud-2020, V.P. Elaine Whitney-2018, Treasurer Linda Lownes-2016, Joseph Husary-2015, Pr. Carl Wilfrid-2015, Jack Pease-2016, Sheela Boddu-2016, Pr. Tuhina Rasche-2017, Pr. Patricia Vargas-2015, Pr. Adisa Armand-Miller-2015, Pr. Kathryn Gulbranson-2017, Pr. Jeff Johnson-2016, Larell Fineren-2017, Eileen Fite-2016, Gisela Daetz-2015, Pr. Gabriele Schroeder-2017

Absent: Secretary Dennis Jones-2016, James Anderberg-2017, Jordan Haley-2016, Sue Hertless-2015, Ed Nelson-2017, Mark Nelson-2016, Nicki Shedler-2015, Pr. Gabriele Schroeder-2017

Visitor: Bishop's Associate Nancy Feniuk Nelson, Parliamentarian Cammie Chen, Assistant to the Bishop Katy Grindberg, DEM Carlton Monroe, Steve Solberg, Pr. Ron Glusenkamp, Pat Cash

V.P. Elaine Whitney called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Pr. Vargas provided an opening devotion.

SC15.5.30 MSC (Armand-Miller/Daetz) moved adoption of the agenda.

SC15.5.31 MSC (Daetz/Husary) moved approval of the March 28, 2015 minutes.

SC15.5.32 MSC (Armand-Miller/Johnson) moved the consent agenda below after removal of the item pertaining to Pr. Jim Goldsmith

- Appoint Rev. Ronald Valadez to serve on the Candidacy Committee
- On Leave from call status for Pr. Jason Niemi
- On Leave from call status for Pr. Jo Ann Neal
- Remove Rev. William S. Griffith and Rev. Patrick J. Ryan from the Roster
- Approve revised bylaws and constitutions for Belfry, Christ the King (Orangevale), Our Redeemer, SSF
- Accept Scott Rowley's request he be removed from Resource Center Board

Bishop's Report/Staff Reports

Bp. Mark referred attendees to his Synod Assembly report especially the material on the realignment of conferences which will be discussed at the assembly.

He indicated that both Karen Idler and Pr. Jose Luis will be on leave from call effective June 1 and available for other positions.

He discussed the potential negative impact the reduction of these positions will have in responding to the needs of congregations.

Bp. Mark welcomed and introduced Pr. Ron Gluskamp who will be attending the Synod Assembly representing the ELCA.

Pr. Gluskamp brought greetings from Bishop Eaton and talked about an experiment at churchwide which will begin in 2016 when five synods will reduce their support to the ELCA to approximately 38% while picking up the costs of a number of programs historically funded by churchwide including the DEM salary and funding for new and renewing congregations. We are not one of the five congregations but are discussing with churchwide the possibility of jointing the other five synods.

Mt. Cross

Steve Solberg, the new Director of Mt. Cross, distributed copies of his biography and facts about Mt. Cross. He discussed several things he would like to see the camp focus on:

- Developing a new marketing program
 - Make itself better known
 - Partner with more synods
- Develop more retreats for adults.
- Develop a capital campaign to support infrastructure

There was spirited discussion about how the LCMS and the ELCA should address long standing issues between them regarding the camp including the ownership of the camp and problems created by disparate beliefs between the LCMS and the ELCA that are impacting the operation of the camp. There was disappointment expressed with the lack of progress in addressing these long standing issues.

The council requested that Steve bring a board report back to the Synod Council possibly at the September meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Linda Lownes talked about the pre-assembly budget meetings that were held and the good suggestions and conversations that occurred during the meetings. She provided an updated proposed budget that incorporated some of the suggestions such as having a single line item for all the Discipling Teams and deletion of the income based budget.

She described the benefit that could occur if the budget included the authority for the Council to spend additional mission support if the receipts for mission support come in at a level higher than is anticipated by the budget.

The treasurer reviewed the Audit Report and Final Management Letter from Gilbert Associates. Council members discussed the e-mails they had received from members of the Finance Committee. Council members expressed an interest in having the Finance Committee present ideas at a future Council meeting about how to address issues raised in the Final Management Letter.

SC15.5.33 MSC (Lownes/Wilfrid) moved that a tithe be sent to the ELCA for the \$14,000 bequest recently received from St. Andrew's Lutheran.

SC15.5.34 MSC (Holmerud/Schroeder) moved that the Synod Youth Committee be given permission to sell 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering shirts at the synod assembly.

There was discussion of how to distribute the approximately \$9,000 that is currently set aside for “sister synods”. Linda is going to report back on this issue in June.

Review Action Item Report/Discuss Items

Item 8- it is not a Synod account. It was set up by the San Joaquin valley coalition fund new starts in central valley. It should be removed from our list.

Item 10- Bp. Mark indicated that Resolution 2014-6 Income Equality was not reviewed by the Justice and Advocacy Discipling Team and no other action has been taken. It should be removed from our list.

Synod Resource Center

SC15.5.35 MSC (Holmerud/Pease) moved that Janet Lane be named new director of the Synod Resource Center upon the completion of three criteria. Documentation of the completion of the three criteria should be sent to the Executive Committee within two weeks for their review along with the existing reports.

SC15.5.36 MSC (Holmerud/Daetz) moved that the request from the Resource Board to develop and implement a fundraising effort to increase funding available to support the Resource Center as well as expanding their existing Board to include members from other areas be Tabled for discussion at the June meeting

SC15.5.37 MSC (Daetz/Armand-Miller) moved the approval for presentation to the Synod Assembly the following Resolution Regarding the Campaign for the ELCA-(see attached)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

During the Executive Session the Council approved “On Leave from Call” status for Pr. Jim Goldsmith.

Synod Assembly

SC15.5.38 MSC (Daetz/Armand-Miller) moved adoption of the Synod Assembly Agenda and assigned moderators: Resolution one-Joseph, Resolutions 2 and 4 Pr. Katheryn and Resolution 3 Jack.

Pr. Patricia provided a closing devotion.

Elaine closed the meeting at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Dennis Jones (based on notes taken by Pat Cash)