

**SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
SYNOD COUNCIL MINUTES June 24-25, 2016
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP, SACRAMENTO
final, approved version**

Present: Acting Bp. Nancy Feniuk Nelson, Vice President Elaine Whitney, Treasurer Linda Lownes, Secretary Dennis Jones, Tony Burns, Stephanie Leong, Jordan Haley, Pr. Kathryn Gulbranson, Andrew Stevens, Randy Presuhn, Paula Barton, Larell Fineren, Pr. Don Haven, Sherrill Heinz, Gail Kiyomura, Ed Nelson, Pr. Tita Valeriano, Pr. Tuhina Rasche.

Staff: Pr. Katy Grindberg, Pr. Carlton Monroe

Absent: Jeff Pennington, Sue Michaelson, Teresa Landi, Pr. Patricia Vargas

Visitors: Parliamentarian Cammie Chen, Irv Lownes

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Elaine Whitney at 2:30 PM. Elaine had everyone introduce themselves and extended a special welcome to newly elected members attending their first meeting.

Adoption of the Agenda

SC16.6.33 MSC (Jones/Haven) moved adoption of the agenda with the following changes:

Added the following item to the consent agenda:

- Appoint Pr. Marv Abramson to the Mt. Cross Board to complete the term of Pr. Tim Carnahan who resigned.

Add "Treasurer's Report" after the Vice President's report.

Add to New Business:

- Call Carol Been to non-stipendiary assistant pastor position at Faith, Los Gatos
- Next steps on the Gender Identity/Inclusivity Task Force Report

Devotions

Stephanie Leong provided devotions

Approval of Minutes of June 2, 2016 Synod Council Meeting

SC16.6.34 MSC (Haven/Fineren) moved passage of the draft minutes for June 2, 2016 with the following changes:

- Page 1 Change misspelling of "prayer"
- Page 2 Omit "wit" at bottom of page
- Page 4 change "Ed Nelson" to "Mark Nelson"

SC16.6.35 MSC Elaine presented the consent calendar below as a recommendation from the Executive Committee:

- Appoint Sheila Boddu to Candidacy Committee
- Appoint Emma Northcott voting member to Churchwide Assembly replacing Nick Riner who is unable to attend
- Appoint Pr. Marv Abramson to the Mt. Cross Board to complete the term of Pr. Tim Carnahan who resigned.

Acting Bishop Nancy

Bp Nancy described life as "moving on" as she is acting Bishop during Bp. Mark's sabbatical, after which she will be leaving her permanent position as Bishop's Associate. It is her intent during this period to pass onto Bp. Mark only the information that he needs in order to participate in activities during his sabbatical. Bp. Nancy will ride in the San Francisco Gay Pride Parade representing the Synod.

Pr. Katy

Pr. Katy asked for prayers for Bp. Mark and synod staff during the sabbatical period.

Vice President's Report

Elaine shared her enjoyment in getting to know Presiding Bishop Eaton at the Synod Assembly. She discussed the challenges facing the Synod Council and the staff in using our staff and financial resources in support of the highest priorities of the synod, knowing that there is not enough staff or finances to do all that we would like to do.

She talked about life after Orlando for minorities and members of the gay community.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Linda Lownes read a letter from Churchwide that commended our synod for increasing our giving year to date to Churchwide for mission support. In comparing synod receipts, this year to last year we have increased receipts as of the end of May from \$588,459 to \$627,303.

We have an approved budget.

Behavioral Covenant

SC16.6.36MSP (Whitney/Lownes) moved that we discuss the Behavioral Covenant as a committee of the whole for no more than thirty minutes.

After discussion about keeping the covenant as it is, rewriting it completely or doing away with it, the group decided to place the covenant on the agenda for discussion at the September meeting to allow additional thoughtful consideration.

Clerical Help for Pastor Carlton, D.E.M.

SC16.6.37 MSP (Bp. Nelson/Heinz) moved that we be able to vote during an on-line meeting to approve a recommendation to provide clerical assistance to Pr. Carlton-should that recommendation be presented by Bp. Nancy. This was passed by a unanimous vote of all present .

Proposed Rule Changes for Reorganization /Provision for Election

Pr. Katy provided an updated attachment that clarified what was being proposed. There were concerns expressed by several members that both documents continued past practices in the classification of voting members despite the fact that our synod and others have groups like our Ad-hoc Committee on Gender Inclusivity that is working on updating these practices. There was a desire expressed to allow the Working Group to review the two documents further and bring recommendations back to the Council at the September meeting. After additional discussion it seemed to be the consensus that while this delay would be possible for the provisions pertaining to the election of Churchwide Voting members, the provisions for election of synod council members needed to be approved before the scheduled September 17th meeting of all the conferences.

SC16.6.38 MSC (Fineren/Barton) moved the following Provisions for election as Synod Council Members:

Provisions for election as Synod Council Members *These provisions are Continuing Resolutions*

S10.01.A126 The Synod Council shall consist of the four officers of this synod, ~~fifteen~~nine members elected from ~~five geographical electoral districts~~ the conferences, three members elected at-large, and one youth member. ~~The fifteen electoral district members shall be elected by the Synod Assembly from nominations made by the Electoral District Caucus to be held at the Synod Assembly. The Electoral District Caucus shall consist of all voting members of the Synod Assembly who are members of a congregation in that particular Electoral District. Each nominee from a conference shall be a voting member of a congregation in that Electoral District conference. The officers, members at large, and the youth representative to the Synod Council will be elected on an at-large basis at the Synod Assembly. Unless otherwise provided by the constitution~~

and bylaws, those to be elected at-large will be chosen from among nominees of the Nominating Committee and nominations from the floor.

~~S10.01. B12~~ ~~Conferences (Chapter 12) shall be grouped in five electoral districts as follows:~~
~~Electoral District A: Redwood, The Vineyard, Gateway, and Delta Diablo Conferences~~
~~Electoral District B: Northern Mountain Valley, Sierra, Foothill, and Sacramento Conferences~~
~~Electoral District C: San Francisco, East Bay, and Southern Alameda Conferences~~
~~Electoral District D: Peninsula and Monterey Bay Conferences and the Santa Clara Valley Lutheran Parish~~
~~Electoral District E: Sierra San Joaquin, Central Valley, Central San Joaquin, and South Valley Conferences~~

S10.01. ~~CB16~~ The Synod Assembly shall elect to the Council ~~one~~three ordained ministers on the roster of this Synod, ~~one~~three lay ~~man~~males, and ~~one~~three lay ~~woman~~females from each Electoral District. These Council members shall be elected for three year terms, arranged in three classes so that the term of one Council position in each Electoral District expires each year. Preliminary ~~n~~Nominations for these positions ~~may~~will be made by the conferences in the following manner: Each of the nine conferences will be represented on the Synod Council. The “classes” of those elected (Lay Female, Lay Male, and Clergy) would be rotated in a twelve year cycle.

2017 & 2020

Conferences 1, 4, 7	Conferences 2, 5, 8	Conferences 3, 6, 9
Lay Female	Lay Male	Clergy

2023 & 2026

Conferences 1, 4, 7	Conferences 2, 5, 8	Conferences 3, 6, 9
Lay Male	Clergy	Lay Female

2029 & 2032

Conferences 1, 4, 7	Conferences 2, 5, 8	Conferences 3, 6, 9
Clergy	Lay Female	Lay Male

Cycle repeats beginning in 2035.

~~;~~ ~~additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Electoral District Caucus with the consent of the nominee. Each Caucus Conference shall select two persons from among those nominated by the Conferences of the Electoral District or from the floor at the time of the Caucus. The two nominees selected by the Caucus shall be presented to the Synod Assembly; no additional nominations shall be permitted. The Assembly shall elect one of the two nominees of each Electoral District Conference to serve on the Synod Council. A member elected as a representative of an Electoral District Conference who subsequently moves out provided he or she continues to meet all other qualifications for office and holds membership in one of the congregations of the Synod.~~

S10.01C126 ~~One youth member shall be elected by the Synod Assembly for a two-year term from nominations made by the Nominating Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee. The youth member shall be eighteen years of age or younger at the time of election.~~

S10.01.D126 ~~The three members-at-large shall be elected from nominations made by the Nominating Committee. They shall be elected for three-year terms, arranged in three classes so that one at-large position is elected each year. The election of the at-large Council member at each Assembly shall take place after the elections for any other Council positions are completed, and shall take into consideration the need to ensure diversity and representational principles in elected leadership.~~

SC16.6.39 MSC (Fineren/Leong) moved to postpone the vote on proposed "Provisions for election as Churchwide Voting Members" (see below) to allow time for the Gender Identity/Inclusivity Working Group to review and provide recommendations on the document to the Council at the September meeting.

Provisions for election as Churchwide Voting Members these are bylaws changes

SB9.01.01 Voting members of the Churchwide Assembly shall be elected by the Synod Assembly in the following manner:

- a. The bishop shall automatically be a member, in accordance with ELCA Constitution 12.41.11.
- b. The Vice President shall automatically be a member.
- c. The Assembly shall elect ~~an~~ three ordained ministers on the roster of this synod, ~~one~~ three lay ~~man~~ males and ~~one~~ three lay ~~woman~~ females to serve as Churchwide Voting Members from each electoral district. Preliminary nominations for these positions ~~may be~~ will be made by the conferences. The particular nominations to be made by each conference (Clergy, Lay Male, Lay Female) shall be determined in the year prior to the election by means of a lottery conducted by the Synod Council Executive Committee. ~~additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Electoral District Caucus with the consent of the nominee. Each~~

~~Caucus shall select two persons for each position from among those nominated by the Conferences of the Electoral District or from the floor at the time of the Caucus. The~~ Two nominees for each position selected by the ~~Caucus~~ Conferences shall be presented to the Synod Assembly; no additional nominations shall be permitted. The Assembly shall elect one person for each position to serve as a member of the Churchwide Assembly. A member who subsequently moves out of the ~~electoral district~~ Conference from which he or she was elected shall continue to hold office until the next election, provided he or she continues to hold membership in a congregation of this synod.

- d. Additional members-at-large sufficient to complete the assigned delegation number shall be elected from nominations made by the Nominating Committee, with further nominations from the floor permitted. The election of the at-large members, if necessary, shall take place after the elections of the members from the ~~districts~~ conferences have been completed. In the event that the number of Churchwide Assembly members assigned to the Synod precludes electing ~~three~~ nine persons described above ~~from each Electoral District~~, the Synod Council shall determine how best to distribute the members to be elected.
- e. The runner-up in each election shall be the first alternate for the seat. In the event the elected voting member or alternate is unable to serve, the Synod Council or Executive Committee shall appoint additional alternates as necessary.

SB9.01.02. The Synod Council may recommend to the Assembly any alterations in the procedure of SB9.01.01 made necessary by the number of members of the Churchwide Assembly assigned to this synod.

S9.02. In all elections by the Synod Assembly, other than for the bishop, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.

Executive Session

There was an Executive Session on Mt. Cross which lasted thirty minutes. No votes were taken.

Assessment of synod assembly

While all of the evaluations have not been received from attendees, there were a number of positive reports both from members who have attended many assemblies and from first time attendees. There was a suggestion that registration not be cut off just before the start of each session to make it easier for voting members. Concern was expressed about the lack of clarity about council members being responsible for chairing resolution hearings at the Assembly. Most seemed to think the Assembly was perceived to be a success by most attendees.

Synod Assembly Resolutions

The "resolveds" of the six resolutions are provided below. After each Resolution, there is a summary of the actions taken or planned to be taken by the Council:

SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD: RESOLUTION 2016 B 01

REGARDING ELCA WORLD HUNGER

RESOLVED that the Sierra Pacific Synod in Assembly direct the Sierra Pacific Synod Hunger Network to urge individual members and member congregations of the Sierra Pacific Synod (SPS) to actively support the work that is being done to end hunger through direct contributions and advocacy; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Sierra Pacific Synod in Assembly encourage its member congregations to designate one or more individuals to be Hunger Advocates who interact with the SPS Hunger Network and ELCA World Hunger to promote education about and support for ELCA World Hunger; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Sierra Pacific Synod in Assembly direct the SPS Hunger Network to invite individual members and member congregations of the SPS to participate in a special annual offering for ELCA World Hunger for 3 years, to be received at the SPS Assembly in 2017-2019.

Submitted by Sierra Pacific Synod Hunger Network

Vetted by the Resolutions Committee on May 19, 2016

Linda Lownes volunteered to write a letter to the Justice and Advocacy Discipling Team asking them to oversee the Hunger Network completing the "resolveds" in Resolution #1.

SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD: RESOLUTION 2016 B 02

REGARDING SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD COMPENSATION GUIDELINES

RESOLVED that Sierra Pacific Synod's 2016-2017 Compensation Guidelines reflect an appropriate baseline compensation for full-time pastoral leaders of \$51,900¹ for the period July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017.

Submitted by the Leadership Discipling Team of the Sierra Pacific Synod.

Vetted by the Resolutions Committee on May 10, 2016.

¹This change from \$50,700 to \$51,900 represents an increase of 2.37%

Synod staff will make appropriate changes to the website and communicate the need to use the new baseline to appropriate parties. No action by the Council is required.

SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD: RESOLUTION 2016 B 03

REGARDING GROWTH IN MISSION SUPPORT

RESOLVED that the Sierra Pacific Synod in Assembly acknowledges with gratitude those congregations of the Sierra Pacific Synod striving to increase their unrestricted Mission Support by 1% during the current fiscal year (along with those which presently allocate 10% or more of congregational offerings to Mission Support), and be it further

RESOLVED that the Sierra Pacific Synod in Assembly encourage its congregations to continue an annual practice of growth giving, to the end that all may eventually allocate 10% or more of congregational offerings to Mission Support for the ministry of Christ's Church.

Submitted by the Stewardship Discipling Team of the Sierra Pacific Synod.

Vetted by the Resolutions Committee on May 19, 2016.

There was discussion about a desire for the Council to do more in this area. Several members reported that synod council members in many synods visit their congregations at least yearly and encourage mission support among other things. A suggestion was made to put an acknowledgment in the annual report of congregations who are exemplary givers to mission support. Bp. Nancy suggested that we look to Pr. Carlton and the Stewardship Discipling Team for leadership in this effort-as this falls within their responsibilities.

Gail agreed to act as the Repository for ideas from council members on how to do better contacting congregations, getting a higher percentage of parochial reports submitted (we have the lowest % compliance with parochial reports in the country), and increasing mission support.

SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD: RESOLUTION 2016 B 04

REGARDING U.S. AID TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL

RESOLVED that the Sierra Pacific Synod in Assembly memorialize the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to call for Congressional action making future U.S. aid to the State of Israel contingent on Israel's halt to all settlement-building in the West Bank and East Jerusalem; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Sierra Pacific Synod in Assembly memorialize the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to request that Bishop Eaton contact appropriate U.S. governmental officials to urge this condition be applied to U.S. aid to Israel; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Sierra Pacific Synod in Assembly memorialize the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to encourage ELCA members and congregations to study this issue and to contact their Congressional Representatives and Senators; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Sierra Pacific Synod in Assembly encourage its own members and leaders to call for Congressional action making future U.S. aid to Israel contingent on Israel's halt to all settlement building in the West Bank including East Jerusalem.

Submitted by the Monterey Bay Conference, St Stephen's Lutheran Church of Santa Cruz, University Lutheran Chapel of Berkeley and University Lutheran Church of Palo Alto.

Vetted by the Resolutions Committee on May 19, 2016.

Dennis reported that we contacted Churchwide and formally memorialized to them the first three "resolves" in this Resolution. Churchwide acknowledged receipt of them.

SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD: RESOLUTION 2016 B 05

REGARDING CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

RESOLVED that the Sierra Pacific Synod meeting in Assembly memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA to direct the Church Council (with the assistance of the Corporate Social Responsibility Review Team and taking into account its already-approved Social Criteria Investment Screens policy) to develop an investment screen addressing companies whose products and services have significantly exacerbated the conflict between Israel and Palestine and the violation of human rights of Palestinians, further preventing a just and lasting peace in the region; and be it further

RESOLVED that the CSR Review Team provide a report with possible recommendations to the first 2017 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

Submitted by 15+ Voting Members of the 2016 Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly.

Vetted by the Resolutions Committee as of May 19, 2016.

Dennis reported that we contacted Churchwide and formally memorialized to them the first "resolved" in this Resolution. Churchwide acknowledged receipt of it.

SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD: RESOLUTION 2016 B 06

REGARDING THE RACIAL ETHNIC MINISTRIES DISCIPLING TEAM

RESOLVED that the Sierra Pacific Synod Council reinstitute the Racial Ethnic Ministry Discipling Team and repopulate the membership of that team and its three working groups; and be it further

RESOLVED that the reinstated REMDT (in consultation with the Synod Council) draft a synod-wide strategy to dismantle racial injustice, social inequities and systemic racism at every level of this church's ministry with the understanding that such strategy which will be presented for adoption at the 2017 Sierra Pacific Synod assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED that the aforementioned strategy will include (but not be limited to) the development and implementation of an anti-racist curriculum, which will become a continuing education requirement for all rostered leaders under call in the Sierra Pacific Synod.

Submitted by 15+ Voting Members of the 2016 Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly.

Vetted by the Resolutions Committee on May 19, 2016.

It was reported that Pat Cash will be chairing the new Nominating Committee. Pr. Nancy and Elaine will be working with Pat on this resolution and the reconstitution of the Nominating Committee and they will have a report for the Council at the September meeting.

Treats and Devotions for Meetings

Council members volunteered for these roles. The list is attached.

Replace District D clergy & at-large council member

We have two vacant positions on the Synod Council that need to be filled by Council appointment. They are the District D clergy position that was vacated with the resignation of Pr. Gabi Schroeder and one At-Large position that was vacated when Jeff Pennington was elected Synod Secretary.

SC16.6. 40 MSC Elaine nominated Pr. Susan Birkelo for the District D Clergy position. There were no other nominations and Pr. Susan Birkelo was voted into the position for one year.

There were three nomination for the At-Large position.

- Rev. Greg Brown nominated by Larell
- Pr. Meghan Rohrer nominated by Andrew
- Pr. Dawn Roginski nominated by Elaine

SC16.6. 41 MSC On the second ballot, Rev. Greg Brown was voted into the At Large position for one year.

SC16.6. 42 MSC (Jones/Haley) moved approval of calling Carol Been to a non-stipendiary assistant pastor position at Faith Lutheran in Los Gatos. This action needs to be approved by the Council of Bishops in order to go into effect.

Executive Committee Election

Nominations were opened for the three at large executive committee members. Dennis nominated Sue Michaelson and Stephanie Leong allowed her name to be submitted after significant encouragement. No others present allowed their names to be submitted.

SC16.6. 43 MSC (Lownes/Fineran) moved that nominations be closed and Sue Michaelson and Stephanie Leong be elected members of the Executive Committee for one year by acclamation.

Postpone the following issues until the September Meeting Due to Lack of Time

- Assign Synod Council liaison person for Committees and discipling teams
- Discuss Status of Committees and Discipling Teams
- Announcement of Prayer Partners
- Selection of third At Large Member of Executive Committee

The meeting was adjourned by Vice President Whitney at 12:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Jones, Synod Secretary

Scheduled Council Meetings

September 23-24, 2016	Bishop's Office, Sacramento Devotion: Pr. Katheryn Treats: Pr. Tuhina, Gail
January 27-28, 2017	Bishop's Office, Sacramento Devotions: Randy Treats: Jordan, Pr. Tita
Feb XX	Possible one day budget meeting Bishop's Office, Sacramento Devotions: Paula Treats: Gail, Sherrill
May 3, 2017	Fresno-Pre Synod Assembly Meeting, Location to be determined Devotion s: Sherrill Treats: Larell, Andrew
June 23-24, 2017	Bishop's Office, Sacramento Devotions: Pr. Don, Treats: Gail, Paula