

APPROVED Minutes
Sierra Pacific Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Synod Council Minutes, December 10, 2016
Office of the Bishop, Sacramento

Present: Bishop Mark Holmerud, Vice President Elaine Whitney, Treasurer Linda Lownes, Secretary Jeff Pennington, Pr. Patricia Vargas, Pr. Tita Valeriano, Sue Michaelsen, Stephanie Leong, Andrew Stevens, Paula Barton, Larell Fineren, Pr. Don Haven, Sherrill Heinz, Pr. Susan Birkelo, Gail Kiyomura, Ed Nelson, Pr. Tuhina Rasche, Randy Presuhn

Staff: Pr. Katy Grindberg, Pr. Kathryn Gulbranson, Laurie Gaumer

Absent: Jordan Haley, Pr. Gregg Brown, Theresa Landi, Tony Burns

Visitors: Adriene Iverson, CEO, Elder Care Alliance; Lou Smith and Pr. John Valentine, members of the Budget/Finance Committee; Irv Lownes

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Elaine Whitney at 10:10 AM. Paula Barton led an opening devotion.

Adoption of the Agenda

SC16.12.57 MSC (Leong/Heinz) moved adoption of the agenda with the following changes:

- Add “Move Pastor Carlton to the Retired Roster effective January 1, 2017” to consent agenda
- Add Warner Trust Committee at 11:30 a.m.

Approval of Minutes of September 23-24, 2016 Synod Council Meeting

SC16.12.58 MSC (Barton/Michaelsen) moved passage of the draft minutes for September 23-24, 2016 .

SC16.12.59 MSC Elaine presented the consent agenda as a recommendation from the Executive Committee.

- Special Synod Call to the Rev. Hans C. Hoch to serve as Chaplain for On Lok Lifeways in San Francisco
- On Leave from Call status for Rev. Barbara Foltin
- Move Pastor Carlton to the Retired Roster effective January 1, 2017

SC16.12.60 MSC (Michaelsen/Leong) moved passage of the consent agenda as presented.

Bishop Mark's Report

Thanked Council members for making time for the visioning of the proposed synod budget.

Reported on his recent travel schedule, including a 5-day trip to congregations and communities in Northern California.

Has asked Bridges Conference dean Pastor Ned O'Donnell to keep him apprised of any connections and concerns following the Oakland "Ghost Ship" conflagration and the people who perished

Briefed Council on ELCA actions and concerns regarding the Council of Bishops' stand on Standing Rock protests.

Was in DC to attend his first meeting on the advisory committee for Federal chaplaincy (military chaplaincy, Federal correctional facilities chaplaincy); there are approximately 175 chaplains in Federal correctional facilities alone

Introduced Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson, new assistant to the bishop in the Bay Area

Was in Southern California at a Mobility Conference, together with Pastor Katy and Pastor Kathryn, to learn about the latest churchwide developments, including the dissolution of the position of Regional Coordinators

Is in conversations with churchwide on a new Director of Evangelical Mission, following the retirement of Pastor Carlton

Report on Elder Care Alliance (ECA CEO Adriene Iverson and Bishop Mark)

Introduced ECA and its strategies, especially its growth strategy, including acquisition of a new property in San Mateo

Diversification of service mix, i.e., how to reach out to the local community and serve those, especially with dementia and education for those caring for a loved one with dementia

Aдриene answered questions regarding the acquisition and development of the proposed property in San Mateo

SC16.12.61 MSC (Michaelsen/Lownes) moved approval of the *Resolutions of the Corporate Members of Elder Care Alliance* regarding approval of the Acquisition Transaction and General Authorization to Proceed with Transactions.

SC16.12.62 MSC (Haven/Fineren) moved to offer our assent to the approval of the *Resolutions of the Board of Directors of the Salem Lutheran Home Association of the Bay Cities, Inc.*

Fond Farewell to Pastor Don Haven, who'll be retiring in January 2017.

Warner Trust Committee, appointment of Pastor Tita, Stephanie Leong, and Jeff Pennington

SC16.12.63 MSC (Haven/Lownes) moved to adopt a policy of limiting retired rostered ministers serving as voting members at the Synod Assembly to those who reside within the territory of the synod for at least six months of the year, to be effective starting with the 2017 Synod Assembly.

Reformation 500 – to ask Pastor Bowers for a formal request to Council to be presented to the January Council meeting

Treasurer's Report

Linda presented the Balance Sheet as of November 30, 2016.

Audit will begin on the last Monday of February 2017; have asked for final audit report no later than the beginning of April.

Has sent letters to congregations regarding mission support.

Has requested that congregations return their 2017 Mission Support plan by January 22, 2017.

SC16.12.64 MSC (Lownes/Stevens) moved the following:

In order to permit the Rev. Kathryn Gulbranson 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 ending December 31, 2017, includes a housing allowance.

Pastor Gulbranson estimates that she will spend \$30,000 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 the synod budget, it is RESOLVED, that the total compensation include a housing allowance of \$30,000.

SC16.12.65 MSC (Lownes/Nelson) moved to issue to Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson credit cards (American Express, American Christian Credit Union Visa, United Visa) that she would be using as staff member on synod business.

SC16.12.66 MSC (Lownes/Haven) moved to increase American Express and American Christian Credit Union Visa card line of credit by \$2000 each.

SC16.12.67 MSC (Lownes/Leong) moved opening a synod United Visa credit card account for Pastor Gulbranson with a credit limit of \$6000.

Preliminary discussion of budget outline.

The meeting was adjourned by Vice President Whitney at 3:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Pennington, Synod Secretary