

**Sierra Pacific Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Synod Council Minutes
May 31, 2018
St. John's Lutheran Church, Sacramento**

Present: John Allured, Sheela Boddu, Carl Brodt, Pastor Clark Brown, Pastor Paul Clark, Bishop Mark Holmerud, Treasurer Linda Lownes, Sue Michaelsen, Secretary Jeff Pennington, Vice President Elaine Whitney, Linda Babcock, Pastor Jason Bense

Absent: Pastor Gregg Brown, Nicholas Hayes, Bill Turner, Gail Kiyomura,

Parliamentarian: David Swartling

Staff: Pastor Katy Grindberg, Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson, Pastor Tita Valeriano

Visitors: Irv Lownes; Rebekah Turnbaugh, Community Organizer, St. John's Lutheran Church, Sacramento, CA

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Elaine Whitney at 2:15 PM. Linda Babcock led opening devotions.

Adoption of the Agenda

SC18.05.24 MSC (Lownes/Babcock) moved to adopt agenda as updated.

Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2018 Synod Council Meeting and April 16, 2018 Synod Council telephone meeting

SC18.05.25 MSC (Clark/Allured) moved approval of minutes of March 10, 2018 Synod Council meeting.

SC18.05.26 MSC (C. Brown/Boddu) moved approval of minutes of April 16, 2018 Synod Council telephone meeting.

Approval of Consent Agenda

SC18.05.27 MSC (Bense/Lownes) moved approval of Consent Agenda.

- On Leave from Call status for The Rev. David Bates
- Special Synod Council Call to The Rev. Tomas Bayou as Hospice Spiritual Counselor for Mission Hospice and Home Care, San Mateo, CA
- Special Synod Council Call to The Rev. Sandi Olson Decker as Chaplain with Bridge Home Health and Hospice in Monterey County, CA
- Extended Letter of Service for The Rev. Jim Rogers, called to serve at Trinity Lutheran Church, Porterville, CA
- Approval of changes to the congregational constitution of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Granite Bay, CA

- Appointment of The Rev. Sara Pearson, Prince of Peace, Saratoga, CA, to a 3-year term on the Mt. Cross board of directors (term ends on or about Dec 31, 2020)

Bishop's Report

Sent his Bishop's Report which will be presented at the Synod Assembly to all congregations of the Synod through the Synod's weekly newsletter.

Asked Council members to discern how each of us can give our voice in support of the Council recommended budget.

Welcoming Remarks from Host Congregation

Rebekah Turnbaugh, Community Organizer, St. John's Lutheran Church, Sacramento, CA, welcomed us to St. John's and introduced us to the work of the congregation.

Vice-President's Report

Spoke about receiving "fan mail," prompted by her written report to the Synod Assembly.

Treasurer's Report

Has almost completed the divestiture of synod funds out of Thrivent.

Mission support at end of May is \$77,000 below budget, which is \$63,000 below where we were at this time last year. May need to develop a spending plan if revenues do not increase to meet expenses.

Funds have been forwarded to New Start/Restart congregations.

Appraisal of the Sanger property came in at \$365,000.

SC18.05.28 MSC (Lownes/Bense) moved to increase the ELCA Shared Staff line (line 44) in both the Revenue Neutral Budget and the Council Recommended Budget by \$30,000.

SC18.05.29 MSC (Holmerud/Lownes) moved to increase Mission Support from Congregations line (line 1) in both the Revenue Neutral Budget and the Council Recommended Budget by \$30,000.

Property Report

Grace Lao Richmond, waiting for DEM Valeriano

Sanger: basic maintenance, getting lawn mowed, weeds pulled, locks changed; Sue and others will be going down in June to look at the property

Hilmar: basic maintenance is being done on the parsonage and the church; interviewed two real estate agents about listing the property, and will be looking for one more agent who has some experience with commercial property, and will need time to consult with Synod Council

Synod Assembly matters

SC18.05.30 MSC (Bense/Michaelsen) moved to recommend approval of the Synod Assembly Agenda.

REMSDT Scholarship

SC18.05.31 MS (Brown/Pennington) moved that the Racial Ethnic Mission Strategies Discipling Team be authorized to solicit funds for a "Scholarship for Youth/Young Adult of Color" in need. The scholarships will be available for persons of color age 30 and younger who wish to attend a Synod or Churchwide event. A small committee of three, appointed by the REMSDT, will award the scholarships based on the criteria and the funds available. The bookkeeping will be done through the Synod.

SC18.05.32 MSC (Brodt/Michaelsen) moved to refer SC18.05.31 back to the REMSDT.

Council appointed Sheela Boddu to work with REMSDT on the issues raised by Council with questions about procedure and definitions, process and guidelines, clarity, etc.

SC18.05.33 MSC (Lownes/Allured) moved to appoint the REMSDT.

Name	Congregation	Term
Sheela Boddu (Synod Council)	Good Shepherd South Asian Ministry Fremont, CA	2020
Rev. Linda Boston	Lutheran Church of the Master, Sacramento	2021
Rev. Anne Carlson	New Creation, San Jose	2020
Rev. Trudy Franzen	St. Stephen's, Eldorado Hills	2020
Stephanie Leong	First Lutheran, Palo Alto	2021
Rev. Brent Hillestand	First Lutheran, Palo Alto	2019
Frances Le Bas	St. Paul, Lodi	2019
Rev. Monique Ortiz	St. Mary & St. Martha, San Francisco	2021
Dean's Representative (to be named at the June 2018 Synod Council meeting)		2019

SC18.05.34 MSC (Holmerud/Pennington) moved to ratify the Executive Committee's authorization of the formation of a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community, in conjunction with Christ Lutheran Church of Visalia, CA, for outreach to the Lahu community of Visalia under the leadership of Pastor Samee Singkeovilay.

SC18.05.35 MSC (Michaelsen/Lownes) moved to authorize the formation of the Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community Fresno Bilingual Ministry, under the leadership of Ms. Lucy Figueroa. Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Fresno, CA, will serve as fiscal agent.

Pastor Tuhina Rasche appointed to fill Pastor Tita Valeriano's vacated Member At Large position on Council.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.