

**Sierra Pacific Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Synod Council Minutes  
June 22-23, 2018  
Passionist Retreat Center, Citrus Heights, CA**

**Present:** John Allured, Linda Babcock, Pastor Jason Bense, 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

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

**Parliamentarian:** Cammie Chen

**Staff:** Laurie Gaumer, Pastor Katy Grindberg, Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson, Diana Suruki, Pastor Tita Valeriano

**Deans:** Pastor John Kuehner, Pastor Charlane Lyons, Pastor Kirsten Moore, Pastor Sylvia Mueller, Pastor Ned O'Donnell, Pastor Bill Wessner

**Discipling Team Chairs:** Pastor Linda Boston (REMSDT), Pastor Dawn Roginski (Witness Discipling Team)

**Facilitator:** The Rev. Brian Stein-Webber

**Friday, June 22, 2018:**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Elaine Whitney at 2:20 PM, who led opening devotions.

**Addition to the Consent Agenda**

**SC18.06.36 MSC** (Lownes/Holmerud) moved addition of the following items to the Consent Agenda:

- Renewal of on-leave-from-call for The Rev. Pamela Schaefer Dawson
- Appointment of The Rev. Manda Truchinski and Ms. Elaine Whitney to the Candidacy Committee

**Adoption of the Agenda**

**SC18.06.37 MSC** (Michaelsen/Boddu) moved to adopt agenda as updated.

**Approval of Minutes of May 31, 2018 Synod Council Meeting**

**SC18.06.38 MSC** (Lownes/Michaelsen) moved approval of minutes of the May 31, 2018 meeting.

**Bishop's Report**

Returned from a long sojourn, where in Arizona he attended the Grand Canyon Synod Assembly, which elected the first woman bishop in Region 2.

Will be riding in the SF Pride Parade on Sunday, June 24, together with the two other bishops of synods in California.

Will be attending the Youth Gathering in Houston, TX.

### **Vice President's Report**

Reflected on her seven years on Synod Council.

Will be sharing her reflections on her sojourn to Charlottesville, VA in a three-part article in the Synod Newsletter.

### **Introductions**

Went around the circle, everyone introducing themselves

At 3 PM, Synod Council entered retreat with Conference Deans and Chairs of the Discipling Teams.

### **Saturday, June 23, 2018:**

Synod Council resumed its business meeting at 9:15 AM.

### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

**SC18.06.39 MSC** (Pastor Paul Clark/Lownes) moved approval of Consent Agenda

- Renewal of the special synod call to The Rev. Steve Churchill as chaplain at Alma Via of San Rafael, CA
- Renewal of on-leave-from-call for The Rev. Pamela Schaefer Dawson
- Appointment of The Rev. Manda Truchinski and Ms. Elaine Whitney to the Candidacy Committee

**SC18.06.40 MSC** (Bense/Michaelsen) moved to approve the request for consideration by the Roster Committee of the Conference of Bishops of the non-stipendiary call to The Rev. Michael Meyer, St. John's Lutheran Church, Sacramento, CA "Healing Ministries."

### **Treasurer's Report**

Linda introduced Council members on how to read the various financial reports and briefed them on the financial procedures and practices of the Synod.

### **Synod Assembly Wrap-up**

The office is receiving the post-Assembly survey results, and the trend is that most respondents are saying that they would come back to another Assembly and they would recommend to others to attend a Synod Assembly.

Some find a regular Assembly to be long and trying, with the inclusion of all of the reports and presentations, etc. Is there a way to shorten the overall time we spend listening to reports and sitting in our chairs.

Include "silly exercises" and "brain breaks" to get people out of their chairs.

Some enjoyed having the Saturday night "off" in order to socialize, i.e., better to have just one dinner/banquet on one evening, rather than planned dinners on both nights.

Need to consider how to “package” the Synod Assembly and the explain/express the work of the Assembly as the work of the church.

Having the Council come up during the budget presentation to the Assembly worked very well.

**Property Report**

Sanger: maintenance going on; on July 25, DEM Pastor Tita Valeriano, Witness Discipline Team Chair Pastor Dawn Roginski, and Sue Michaelsen will be going down there to start the evaluation process

Hilmar: necessary repairs have been made; recommendation will be that we give the tenants notice to vacate before we put the property on the market

**Election of At-Large position**

Move to open nominations (Michaelsen/Babcock)

Lucy Allen, Our Saviour's, Fresno, unanimously elected to the open Member-at-Large position

**Administrative Matters**

Elaine will send out new list of prayer partners.

Next Synod Council meeting to be held on September 14-15, 2018, Sacramento office of the bishop; John Allured volunteered to provide treats

John Allured will share his notes from the budget discussion at the Assembly.

Pastor Clark Brown will refresh the letter that was sent out prior to the budget discussion so that Council members will have something to refer when they go out to speak with congregations.

Sheela Boddu and Carl Brodt have been reaching out to those congregations in their respective conferences who do not provide any mission support to the Synod.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey A Pennington, Secretary  
Synod Pacific Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America