

**SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
SYNOD COUNCIL MINUTES
May 12, 2010
Hyatt Regency
Burlingame, CA**

2:00pm Welcome- Doug Miller, Vice President

Present: Ann Brannen, Gisela Daetz, Pr. Jeff Johnson, Merle Hanson, Pr. Brian Malison, Mark Nelson, Perry Grey-Renenberg, Kristina Garabedian, Mauri Hamilton, Pr. Tom Beck, Pr. Adisa Armand Miller, Pr. Susan Birkelo, Pr. Newt Kerney, Kay Valler, Joseph Husary, Pr. Jose Luis la Torre, Don Strauch, Larry Struve, Bishop Mark Holmerud, Vice President Doug Miller, Treasurer Lou Smith, Secretary Pat Cash.

Guests/Staff: Linda Lownes and Irv Lownes (Finance Committee); Discipling team Chairs Margaret McLean (Leadership), Kent Madsen (Witness & Service), Ann Watkins (Word & Sacrament); Pr. Harvey Blomberg (Director of Evangelical Mission), Bishop's Associate Pr. Nancy Nelson, Pr. Jim Goldsmith (Assistant to the Bishop, Director of Finance and Administration), Cindi Eckert and Laurie Gaumer (Administrative Assistants), Karen Idler (Executive Assistant to the Bishop), Pr. Randy Pabst, Mark Meyers, Pr. Bob Hutson,

Opening Devotions- Mark Nelson led the group in opening devotions.

Guests – Doug welcomed Mark Meyers from the ELCA Church Council, Pr. Bob Hutson, Assembly Parliamentarian and Pr. Randy Pabst, Bethel, Cupertino

SC11.05.25 MSC (Daetz/Brannen) to adopt the agenda with the following additions

Under Old Business: Item 2. Remittance Policy

Item 3. Status of policy development for the New and Renewing
Congregation Fund

Under New Business: Item 5: Council Vacancy-Lay Female District A

Item 6: Synod Board for Campus Ministry

SC11.05.26 MSC (Daetz/Johnson) to approve the January minutes by deleting the word 'agenda' and adding 'minutes' to the heading and by changing the bulleted items in the report on Policy 97-002 to 'lettered' items for clarity.

Executive Committee minutes: the question was raised with respect to the Clergy Compensation Guidelines: whether the baseline amount would be the item proposed for approval annually at the Assembly. The response was that that would be the item up for approval each year.

Reports Pr. Harvey Blomberg distributed his written report which highlighted his last quarter's activities which included meetings with Witness & Service DT, Mission Developer meetings, conferences and CW staff meetings.

Bishop's Associate Pr Nancy Nelson also presented a written report delineating the meetings she has attended and congregations visited. There are currently 30 congregations involved in some stage of pastoral vacancy, 19 for which she has direct responsibility. All mobility issues are under her purview, however.

Regarding Mt Cross, she reported that she has been in conversation with Jim Whaley, her counterpart in the LCMS and with Eric Ackerman, the chair of the Mt Cross Board. Speed Leas has been hired to do an assessment of the situation and work with the board. SPS has offered to contribute \$400 toward Speed Leas' fees.

Old Business

1. Budget Presentation – Linda Lownes will present the information on the proposed budget and the Assembly will be opened to a 'Quasi Committee of the Whole' for discussion, questions. Item postponed until Linda was present with the Council.
2. Remittance Policy- the question was raised as to whether the Synod office should continue processing *all* designated giving from congregations. It was suggested that congregations send their gifts for local ministries directly to the ministry site and that the remittance forms and work of the Synod staff be designated only for Mission Partners and various ELCA agencies and programs. The time (and therefore money) involved in tracking and remitting checks to so many different ministries has been problematic.

Currently the Director of Finance and Administration, Pr. Jim Goldsmith, is clarifying the records for those designated gifts and says that it will be possible also to track the Second Miles gifts and provide a report for those as well.

Jim Goldsmith and Lou Smith were asked to present a revised Congregational Remittance form at the June meeting.

3. Status of policy development for New and Renewing Congregations Fund Policy
No work has been done as yet. The original Task force will present something at the June meeting.
4. Discussion ensued regarding how the report of the Task Force on Policy 97-02 be conveyed to the Synod. Should it be distributed now or wait until the new policy has been adopted? It was pointed out that now that the minutes have been approved it can be on the website for all to see.

It was also pointed out that if we do not follow the bullet points as passed at the January meeting, all work needs to halt with respect to the hiring of staff for the three offices. The funding is there to fund the budget and using seed money to get us through the current budget year gets us through the commitments we have agreed to do.

Budget discussion: discussion of the budget and its presentation continued

We have funds (from Golden Gate) available to cover the proposed budget and since we have \$830,000 from GG for the next two years, we should move forward in the ministries that we have already voted to support.

MS (Johnson/ laTorre) to amend the budget as follows: Strike footnotes 4 and 5, transferring 217,000 designated & 56,800 to the liquid funds amount and away from the designations.

Publish new second page of budget-

'Call the Question' failed. Discussion continued.

MSC (Johnson/Valler) to table until revised page is prepared and distributed.

Mark Meyers, ELCA Church Council member Greetings brought greetings. He reported that to date 449 congregations have left the ELCA., twelve here in Sierra Pacific Synod. With the cutbacks at the Churchwide offices, the Church and Society Unit no longer has enough resources to handle developing more than one Social Statement at a time. The ELCA malaria initiative had a goal of \$20 million over a 5 year period and has readjusted that to \$15million over 4 years. It will be proposed that it be incorporated into World Hunger for 2012 instead of Lutheran World Relief.

New Business

Outreach Mission Fund Request. Pr. Randy Pabst(Bethel, Cupertino) highlighted the materials sent in advance to the Council, explaining that the City of Cupertino is requiring the upgrade of the restrooms in the Stelling property (owned by the SP Synod) in order for the facility to continue to be used. Fencing and landscaping need also need to be added. This facility has been a location where Bethel has been able to do ministry which cannot be done at its home site and allows for important work to be accomplished in the area, particularly ministries that are not self sustaining. These are ministries that may be brief, but can be revamped as needs change. The request is for \$68,000 to proceed with renovations of bathrooms, with the option of pay back through the rental.

MS (Daetz/Kerney) to approve the \$68,000 from the "Outreach Fund"

SC 11.05.27 MSC (Johnson/Beck) to amend the motion that the funds be a grant rather than a loan; and that we affirm the ministry being accomplished there.

SC11.05.28 the amended motion **carried**.

Anti-Racism Workshop: Pr Joseph Barndt presented information on the Antiracism Workshop to be held June 2-4, 2011 at Mt Cross. The Bishop encouraged all Council members to attend.

Old Business

Budget discussion was removed from the tabled and the revised page distributed and explained

SC11.05.28 MSC (Johnson/ Daetz) to amend by consolidating the two 'from outreach funds'

SC11.05.29 the original motion to present the second page with changes **carried**

Budget presentation Linda Lownes briefly highlighted her presentation for the Assembly which will focus on the theme that the Budget is about *Mission* and our focus needs to be on *Mission*. The budget is a function of our mission. Following Linda's explanations, there will be a motion to move to a quasi-committee of the whole to allow for questions and discussion.

Anticipated questions were raised and discussed, based on questions raised at the synod wide budget sessions and those with which the Council has struggled, such as "how do we deal with a shortfall in the future when the funds have already been utilized?" Responses on the overall budget topic included the fact that stewardship efforts will be forthcoming (something that has been missing for several years) and that an economic upswing seems to be starting and will hopefully continue. Additional comments raised the parable of the talents and that investing

the gifts received in mission is what we are called to do, and that mission is not only new starts but the work of the Synod through the office of the Bishop in support of the congregations which are centers for mission.

In order to facilitate questions that might arise during the discussion time and the actual adoption of the budget, Bishop Mark requested that members of the Council identify themselves and their willingness to come forward onto the dais to be available to respond. After some discussion Pr Newt Kerney, Gisela Daetz, Kay Valler, Pr Jose Luis laTorre, Larry Struve and Pr Tom beck agreed to do so.

SYC Funding Request- The Synod Youth Committee requested approval to solicit funds at the Assembly to assist in covering costs for visitors from Rwanda coming this summer **SC11.05.30MSC** (Hanson/Daetz) to approve the request.

Lay Female, District A- Two names were raised. After receiving information on a candidate, the council agreed to having an e-vote. This will enable the new council member to participate in the June meeting.

Synodical Board for Campus Ministry- Jeff Johnson presented the following motion:

I move that the Synod Council authorizes the Executive Committee in consultation with campus ministries within our Synod to create a Synodical Board for Campus Ministry; and

that the Synod Council authorizes the Synodical Board to coordinate, oversee and empower, and financially strengthen campus ministries within our synod; and

that the Synod Council authorizes the Synodical Board for Campus Ministry to create and implement a fundraising strategy with and among congregations of the synod for 2012;

and that the Synod Council authorizes the Synodical Board to create, expand, and deepen our partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California and other Episcopal dioceses with the territory of our synod toward the creation of a joint strategy to financially sustain and grow Lutheran/Episcopal campus presence at colleges and universities throughout our synod.

MS (Johnson/Daetz)

MS (Kerney/Valler) to make the following amendment to the motion: to delete the word 'implement' in the third paragraph and insert *present for approval to Synod Council*
The amendment **carried**

SC11.05.31 The amended motion **carried**

Information Item: "For the Love of God: Care for Creation" is the theme for the 2012 Assembly which will be held in San Jose. Speakers will be Larry Rasmussen (Bible Study and Workshop leader) and the Rev. Sally Bingham, Keynote.

Consent Calendar

SC11.05.32MSC (Valler/Daetz) to approve the Consent Calendar as follows

Synod Council Call to Karen Idler (AIM) to work in the Synod Office of the Bishop (Sacramento) as Executive Assistant to the Bishop.

Candidacy Committee appointments:

Rev Jason Bense, pastor, Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Sacramento (2011, completing term)

Mr. Bob Fredrickson, member, Trinity, Pleasanton (2013)

Mr. Steven Wright, member of Peace, Danville, (2011, completing term)

Constitution/ By-law Approvals: St Francis, San Francisco By-Laws; St Mark, San Francisco By-Laws; St Paulus, San Francisco By-laws; Faith, Murphys Constitution & By-laws; Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Sacramento Constitution

Special Request

The Council has been asked to give consent for The Rev Rick Kristoff, who is on leave from call, to provide pastoral ministry under contract with First, Tulare (NALC) for six months while awaiting call in the ELCA. This involves approving a call to a non-ELCA congregation.

SC11.05.33 MSC (Malison, Kerney) to approve.

Assembly Matters

SC11.05.34 MSC (Johnson, Kerney) to approve division of the Assembly offering between Swords to Plowshares' Coalition for Veterans, LC El Salvador

Facilitators for the Resolution Hearings

Resolutions 01	Brian Malison
Resolution 02	Merle Hanson
Resolution 03	Kay Valler
Resolution 04	Mark Nelson
Resolution 05	Perry Gray-Reneberg

Kristina Garabedian will assist with counting the offerings.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Cash, Secretary

