

**Sierra Pacific Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Synod Council Minutes
January 19 – 20, 2018
Office of the Bishop, Sacramento**

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

Absent: Nicholas Hayes, Pastor Tita Valeriano

Parliamentarian: Cammie Chen

Staff: Pastor Katy Grindberg, Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson, Pastor Ron Zoesch, Patty Monteiro, Diana Suruki

Visitors: Pastor Linda Boston; Pastor Trudy Franzen; Stephanie Leong; Josh Kerney, Gift Planner, ELCA Foundation; Pastor Dawn Roginski; Irv Lownes; Lou Smith

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Elaine Whitney at 2:18 PM. Pastor Gregg led an opening devotion.

Adoption of the Agenda

SC18.01.01 MSC (Michaelsen/Allured) moved to adopt agenda as updated.

Approval of Minutes of September 22-23, 2017 Synod Council Meeting

SC18.01.02 MSC (Michaelsen/Babcock) moved approval of minutes of the September 22-23, 2017 meeting.

Approval of Minutes of 2017 Synod Assembly

SC18.01.03 MSC (Lownes/Michaelsen) moved approval of minutes of the 2017 Synod Assembly.

Approval of Consent Agenda

SC18.01.04 MSC (Michaelsen/Brodt) moved approval of Consent Agenda.

- Review of Letter of Extended Service for non-ELCA pastors serving ELCA congregations
 - The Rev. Randy Knutson (Trinity, Fort Bragg) - Episcopal
 - The Rev. Diana Turner (Hope of the Sierra, South Lake Tahoe) – Episcopal
 - The Rev. Monique Ortiz (Santa Maria y Marta, SF) – UCC
 - The Rev. Deborah Hubbard (Grace Good Shepherd, McKinleyville) – PCUSA
- Move The Rev. Martha Neff Stum to retired roster

- Move The Rev. David Dykes to retired roster
- Renew on-leave-from-call status for The Rev. Tuhina Rasche

- Approval of housing allowance in order to benefit from provisions of Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code
 - Bishop Mark Holmerud

In order to permit the Rev. Mark Holmerud to benefit from the provisions of Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code, the Synod Council specifies that the total compensation paid to him during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018 includes a housing allowance.

Pastor Holmerud estimates that he will spend \$55,000 during the year for housing expenses. Since such approval by the Synod Council would permit him to deduct that amount from his taxable income and has no further effect upon the synod budget, it is RESOLVED, that the total compensation include a housing allowance of \$55,000.

 - Rev. Kathryn Gulbranson

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, 2018 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.

 - Rev. Katy Grindberg

In order to permit the Rev. Kathryn Grindberg 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, 2018 includes a housing allowance.

Pastor Grindberg estimates that she will spend \$25,000 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 \$25,000.

 - Rev. Ron Zoesch

In order to permit the Rev. Ronald Zoesch to benefit from the provisions of Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code, the Synod Council specifies that the total compensation paid to him during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018 includes a housing allowance.

Pastor Zoesch estimates that he will spend \$9,000 during the year for housing expenses. Since such approval by the Synod Council would permit him to deduct that amount from his taxable income and has no further effect upon the synod budget, it is RESOLVED, that the total compensation include a housing allowance of \$9,000.

- Rev. Nancy Feniuk Nelson

In order to permit the Rev. Nancy Nelson 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, 2018 includes a housing allowance.

Pastor Nelson estimates that she will spend \$20,000 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 \$20,000.

- Approve the revised congregational constitution of Trinity Lutheran Church, Pleasanton, CA
- Approve the appointment of Le Anne Trachok to board of Elder Care Alliance
- Approve appointments to Candidacy Committee
 - Greg Bohlman, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, San Carlos, CA
 - Myrla Seibold, Shepherd of the Valley, Merced, CA
 - Ed Marsh, Trinity Lutheran Church, Oakland, CA

SC18.01.05 MSC (Michaelsen/Brown) moved recommendation to Conference of Bishops that Sarah Schultz be extended a call to ministry of Word and Sacrament at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Passed, with one abstention

SC18.01.06 MSC (Babcock/Lownes) moved approval of the Retired Roster as presented *en bloc*.

Bishop's Report

Had a strong professional leaders academy. During the remainder of his sabbatical, Bishop Mark spent time along the Arizona- and California-Mexico border. Attended the Bishops' Academy in Vancouver, BC, Canada. Will participate in the consecration of a deacon in Eureka, CA. Will be interviewing candidates for the DEM position. Moving forward with scheduling Chrism Masses throughout the synod. Bishop's virtual assistant—managing the Bishop's scheduling and correspondence but working out of southern California.

Pastor Katy Grindberg, assistant to the bishop

- Working with youth and family ministries, working with SPSYC and their retreats; also working with the upcoming Youth Gathering in Houston, TX
- Continuing work with call processes
- Working with First Call pastors and organizing the First Call Theological meeting for Region 2

Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson, assistant to the bishop

- Is enjoying getting out into the synod to preach at congregations, meeting their council, getting to know them
- Organizing the Professional Leaders Conference
- Is devoting time to congregations in the call process

- Is working with the Interim Steering Committee
- Attended the Mobility Conference in Phoenix, AZ

Pastor Ron Zoesch, interim DEM

- Met with the Witness Discipleship Team and reviewed the applications for grants to be made in 2018-19
- Looking at the vitality of congregations that need support
- Having discussions with congregations in ways that they can partner with other congregations in their vicinity for ways to be more vital collectively

Report by the co-conveners of the Racial and Ethnic Ministry Strategies working teams

- The Cultural Competency Working Group: Pastor Trudy Franzen/Ann Carlsen, co-conveners
- The Ethnic Strategies Working Group: Pastor Linda Boston/Sheela Boddu, co-conveners
- The Anti-Racism Working Group: Stephanie Leong

Vice-President's Report

- Met with other synodical vice presidents at the meeting of the Council of Bishops in Chicago, IL
 - One thing that came out of the meeting was that leadership of the church needs to include more laity
- Attended the Mobility Conference in Phoenix, AZ
- Went to Charlottesville, VA to participate in a listening project
- Will be part of the ELCA presence at the National Council of Churches assembly in Washington, DC in April 2018 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mission narrative budgeting exercise

Elaine led an exercise in having council think about how we share the story of what is behind the budget and the support that the synod provides, but also the mission support that the synod receives. Need to be clear in telling the story of our budget in a way that anyone in a congregation can understand.

Pastor Katy Grindberg sabbatical announcement

Pastor Katy informed Council that she is planning to take a 3-month sabbatical beginning around July 4, 2018. She will attend two workshops: one on community organizing and one on an emotional intelligence, followed by two-months of rest and reading. Also intends to do some reading on racism, community development, board development. Finally spend some spiritual time in Hawaii before returning to work in October.

SC18.01.07 MSC (Pennington/Lownes) moved changes to policy 92-002 as amended.

**Policy 92 - 002 Publications of Minutes of
Synod Assembly** *Adopted by the Synod
Council, September 18, 1992 (SC92.9.7)
Amended by the Synod Council, ~~June 26, 2004~~
January 19, 2018*

The Sierra Pacific Synod shall publish annually the Minutes of the Synod Assembly. The Minutes shall be prepared for review by Synod Council no later than four months following the Assembly; and the Minutes shall be approved by Synod Council no later than six months following the Assembly. The purpose of this publication shall be to provide a complete record of the business of the Assembly, as well as various statistical and other information important for archival purposes. The publication shall include at least the following items:

1. Assembly agenda
2. Adopted budget
3. Minutes produced by the Synod Secretary, including the election report and the complete text of resolutions and other actions of the Assembly. +
4. Financial reports and audit statements for previous year
5. ~~Election report, including terms of elected persons~~
6. Complete list of members of the Synod Council, boards, and commissions, including terms of office
7. ~~Ordinations and installations, with dates and places *~~
8. Updated synod rosters, limited to name, ministry site, and roster status
9. Parochial reports and statistics
10. ~~Complete text of resolutions and other actions of the Assembly~~
11. Reports of Synod Bishop and Officers
12. Current edition of Synod Constitution and Rules of Order, including any amendments approved at that Assembly

Any additional items may be included in the publication at the discretion of the Secretary of the Synod.

The Minutes shall be published annually in both printed and electronic form. Printed copies will be provided for members of synod staff, synod council, discipling team and committee chairs, as requested. in a bound book form of approximately 6" by 9", with a minimum print run sufficient to provide copies required by the ELCA Office of Secretary and Archives, the Region II and Sierra Pacific Synod Archives, synodical officers, Council members, discipling team and committee chairpersons, executive and office staff members, all Other persons and organizations who may order printed copies on a paid subscription basis, and additional recipients designated by the Secretary of the Synod, and they will be shipped after payment for printing and shipping costs are received. If printed copies are not provided to all congregations and rostered persons of the synod, readily accessible electronic copies shall be produced and distributed to them instead The electronic form shall be readily available via the synod's website and all congregations and rostered ministers shall be notified when the documents are available. The synod staff reserves the right to password protect any documents as deemed necessary. Appropriate persons will be notified of the password as needed, in a manner deemed most appropriate by the staff for security and expediency. A copy of The Minutes shall be retained in the archives of the synod, and/or churchwide, and/or other entities identified by the Synod Secretary.

SC18.01.08 MSC (Pennington/Lownes) moved to approve changes to Synod Constitution Continuing Resolutions S10.01.A16. and S10.01.A18.

S10.01.A16. *The Synod Council shall consist of the four officers of this synod, nine members elected from the conferences, three members elected at-large, **one young adult**, and one youth member. Each nominee **to represent a Conference** shall be a voting member of a congregation in that **Conference Electoral District**. The officers, members-at-large, **young adult representative**, 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.A18. One young adult member shall be elected by the Synod Assembly for a three-year term from nominations made by the Nominating Committee or from the floor. Nominations shall take into consideration the need to ensure diversity and representational principles in elected leadership. In accordance with †S6.04.02., the term “young adult” means a voting member of a congregation of this synod between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service. Should elections to Conference positions occur in the same year as the election of the young adult member, the election of the young adult Council member shall take place after elections to Conference positions.

Property Committee report

- Grace Lao Lutheran Church, Richmond, CA: trying to find a date in February when Sue and Pastor Ron can meet with representatives of the congregation to continue the conversation
- Property in Hilmar, CA: finding realtors in the Hilmar area that may be interested in the property, also looking for other leads for entities which might be interested
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sanger, CA: has closed; working with the synod's attorneys on the wind up and dissolution of the corporation; will be deeding the property to the synod; will then be working with DEM and Witness Discipling Team to see if there might be other uses for the site or if another congregation might want to buy it or rent it for its ministry

Synod Assembly Planning report

SC18.01.09 MSC (Bense/Boddu) moved approval of the following recommendation from the Synod Planning Committee regarding Synod Assembly Registration Fees for 2018.

- Voting Member Registration: \$200 each
- Non-Voting Registration: \$120 each
- Kids meals: \$ 30 per child (covers two meals)
- Display Tables: \$ 75 each
- \$ 75 late fee for people who register after the registration deadline
- \$100 late fee for people who register on-site

SC18.01.10 MSC (Bense/Babcock) moved approval of the following recommendation from the Synod Planning Committee regarding Synod Assembly 2018 Offering Recipients.

- Financial:
 - Local: Saint John's Program for Real Change, Sacramento, CA
 - Synod: Synod Candidacy Committee for Scholarships
 - Churchwide: Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services

- In-Kind Contributions:
 - Saint John's Program for Real Change, Sacramento, CA

SC18.01.11 MSC (Bense/Michaelsen) moved that the Synod Council recommend to the Synod Assembly a change in Bylaw S7.22.01. that would reduce to 5% the total number on the retired roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament who could be selected as voting members to the Synod Assembly, beginning at the 2019 Synod Assembly.

S7.22.01. Not less than 90 days prior to the convening of the Assembly, the Secretary of the Synod shall mail a letter to all retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the combined rosters of the Synod, asking if they are willing to serve as a voting member of that year's Assembly. From the list of those who reply affirmatively, the secretary shall designate a number equal to **105%** of the total number on the combined rosters who shall be selected as voting members. The names of those replying affirmatively shall be placed in alphabetical order, and the persons selected shall be chosen alphabetically, moving down the list from the alphabetical point where the previous year's list of voting members left off. Alternates shall be designated by continuing down the list in alphabetical order, but alternates who are not seated as voting members will continue to be eligible the next year. The secretary shall notify all retired rostered persons of the results of this process.

Pursuant to †S18.21. of the Constitution of the Sierra Pacific Synod, this recommended change to bylaw S7.22.01. will be put forward for approval at the 2018 Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly.

SC18.01.12 MSC (Holmerud/Michaelsen) moved approval of the following formula for lay voting member representation to Synod Assembly.

Two Lay Voting Members per each called minister of Word and Sacrament serving a congregation shall be elected by each congregation related to this synod, normally one of whom shall be male and one of whom shall be female, to be voting members.

Congregations **where a pastoral vacancy exists** (and no interim pastor placed) should send two Lay Voting Members, normally one of whom shall be male and one of whom shall be female.

ELCA **interim pastors** serving a congregation are considered "under call" for the purpose of Synod Assembly voting member status.

SC18.01.13 MSC (Holmerud/Pennington) moved appointment of Synod Assembly Committee Chairs:

- Resolutions Committee Chair: The Rev. Steve Sabin
- Elections Committee Chair: Ms. Sue Hertless
- Credentials Committee: Mr. Randy Presuhn

SC18.01.14 MSC (Michaelsen/Lownes) moved appointment of Pastor Dan Smith, Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, Davis, CA to a 3-year term to the Mt. Cross Board.

SC18.01.15 MSC (Pennington/Bense) moved approval of the Warner Trust Committee's recommendation that all 7 applications be funded. Motion passed with one abstention.

Stories about these projects should be told—through storytellers, through the synod newsletter, at the Synod Assembly, etc.

Financial Report

Diana Suruki presented multiple dashboard reports highlighting trends over time in Mission Support.

Treasurer's Report

Linda presented the Balance Sheet and Mission Support and Designated Giving through January 17, 2018.

Annual audit set for last week in February.

SC18.01.16 MSC (Lownes/Boddu) moved approval of up to \$5000 in funds for sabbatical expenses for Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Katy Grindberg's sabbatical.

Executive Session

The January 2018 meeting of the Synod Council went into executive session at 11:43 a.m. to discuss a personnel matter. Minutes for meetings held in executive session are added to the protocol file in the Office of the Bishop.

The Synod Council returned to open session at 12:03 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.