

**Sierra Pacific Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Synod Council Minutes
March 10, 2018
Office of the Bishop, Sacramento**

Present: John Allured, Sheela Boddu, Carl Brodt, Pastor Clark Brown, Pastor Paul Clark, Bishop Mark Holmerud, Gail Kiyomura, Treasurer Linda Lownes, Sue Michaelson, Secretary Jeff Pennington, Pastor Tita Valeriano, Vice President Elaine Whitney

Absent: Linda Babcock, Pastor Jason Bense, Pastor Gregg Brown, Nicholas Hayes, Bill Turner

Parliamentarian: Cammie Chen

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

Visitors: Deacon Lou Smith, Finance Committee; Pastor John Valentine, Finance Committee; Irv Lownes

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Elaine Whitney at 10:10 AM. Pastor Paul Clark led opening devotions.

Bishop Mark announced that Pastor Tita Valeriano has been named the new Director of Evangelical Mission of the Sierra Pacific Synod, starting March 19, 2018.

Adoption of the Agenda

SC18.03.17 MSC (Pastor Clark/Lownes) moved to adopt agenda as updated.

Approval of Minutes of January 19-20, 2018 Synod Council Meeting

SC18.03.18 MSC (Lownes/Bishop Holmerud) moved approval of minutes of the January 19-20, 2018 meeting.

Approval of Consent Agenda

SC18.03.19 MSC (Pastor Brown/Michaelson) moved approval of Consent Agenda.

- 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)

Treasurer's Report

- In-office audit work completed on February 28; auditors are now working on their final report.
- Has mailed out the 4th quarter statements to all congregations.
- Approximately 1/3 of the synod's congregations returned their Mission Support Intent forms.
- Discussed the Designated Giving and the Second Mile Giving reports for 2017.
- Have received Campus Ministry grant from Churchwide.
- As review of New Start/Restart congregations is underway, have not yet made New Start/Restart grants for the year.
 - Pastor Ron reported that there are major process changes underway at Churchwide regarding New Start/Restart grants, so things are in a state of flux.
- Awaiting final word from Churchwide regarding financial support for the DEM position
- Talked about the fruits of the Synod's support of the Candidacy Committee

VP Whitney led a discussion reviewing the mission narrative budget conversation held at the January 2018 Synod Council meeting.

Pastor Ron discussed mission developments in the synod, including Farming Hope, a new synodically authorized community; Christ Lutheran Church, Visalia, CA, working with the Hmong community; and Hope Lutheran Church, Fresno, CA, working with the local Spanish-speaking community.

Treasurer Lownes introduced the budget draft from the Finance Committee.

Synod Council entered Committee of the Whole at 1 p.m. to discuss the draft FY 2019-2020 budget.

SC18.03.20 MSC (Brodt/Holmerud) moved to close debate within the Committee of the Whole.

SC18.03.21 MSC (Valeriano/Boddu) moved to request the Investment Committee to study and make recommendations on additional options in investments which will help maximize return on investments. This recommendation would be forwarded to Council before the next Synod Council meeting, the pre-Assembly meeting on May 31, 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.