

**Sierra Pacific Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Synod Council Minutes
January 11-12, 2019
Office of the Bishop
Sacramento, California**

Present: Lucy Allen, John Allured, Linda Babcock, Pastor Jason Bense, Pastor Clark Brown, Pastor Paul Clark, Sophia Hofmann, Bishop Mark Holmerud, Vice President Gail Kiyomura, Treasurer Linda Lownes, Sue Michaelsen, Secretary Jeff Pennington, Pastor Tuhina Rasche

Absent: Sheela Boddu, Carl Brodt, Pastor Gregg Brown, Nicholas Hayes

Staff: Pastor Katy Grindberg, Pastor Kathryan Gulbranson, Debbie Cook, Diana Suruki, Livvy Belisle

Guests: Don Hermansen, Margo Kannenberg, and David Philipps, Hope Lutheran Church, San Mateo, CA; Pastor Barbara Foltin, Stewardship Discipling Team; Pastor Sarah and Adam Erickson, Mt. Cross Ministries

Friday, January 11, 2019:

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Gail Kiyomura at 2:07 PM. Went around the room and everyone introduced themselves.

Linda Babcock led opening devotions.

Adoption of the Agenda

SC19.01.01 MSC (Michaelsen/Holmerud) moved to adopt agenda as updated.

Approval of Minutes of September 2018 minutes

SC19.01.02 MSC (Michaelsen/Allured) moved approval of minutes of the September 2018 meeting.

Approval of Consent Agenda

SC19.01.03 MSC (Michaelsen/Clark) moved approval of consent agenda.

- Appointment of C. Susan Taylor to board of LSS of Northern California
- Special Synod Council Call to Deacon Anurag Mani as chaplain with John Muir Health, Concord, CA
- Approval of relocation of Holy Trinity, Vallejo to United in Grace Lutheran Church, Vallejo
- Approval of relocation of Thanksgiving Lutheran Church, Santa Rosa
- Approval of request by the Rev. Paul Clark to be moved to on-leave-from-call status, effective February 1, 2019
- Extension of on-leave-from-call status for one year for The Rev. Pam Schaefer Dawson, pending approval from the Conference of Bishops, and to forward this

request to the Roster Committee of the Conference of Bishops for consideration at its next meeting

- Approval of the constitution of the Salinas Valley Lutheran Outreach Synodically Authorized Worship Community
- Approval of housing allowances 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, 2019 includes a housing allowance.

Pastor Holmerud estimates that he will spend \$45,000 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 \$45,000.

- Rev. Nancy 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, 2019 includes a housing allowance.

Pastor Nelson estimates that she will spend \$27,000 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 \$27,000.

- 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, 2019 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, 2019 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.

Property Report

Sanger: locks changed, maintenance being kept up; DEM Pastor Tita Valeriano is still evaluating whether or not there may be a new mission start there

Hilmar: tenants were given 90 days notice but have not vacated the property

Grace Lao: congregation is in the process of becoming a SAWC; there is some deferred maintenance needed on the church building; much deferred maintenance needed on the parsonage, so once it is vacated, need serious consideration of what is to be done with the parsonage in the future

Discussion regarding Hope Lutheran Church, San Mateo, CA

Don Hermansen, President of Congregation Council, Hope Lutheran Church, San Mateo
David Philipps, Chair of the Call Committee
Margo Kannenberg, Congregation Treasurer and Member of Call Committee

SC19.01.04 MSC (Michaelsen/Lownes) moved to forward the petition of Hope Lutheran Church, San Mateo, California, to the Church Council. **PASSED**. Bishop Mark recused himself from the vote.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Mark Holmerud:

Discussed the situation at Christ Lutheran Church, San Francisco

Attended the Bishops Academy in San Antonio, Texas, during the first week of January

Will be leaving for Taiwan as a guest of the Taiwan Lutheran Church; then traveling to a conference in Thailand on Lutheran congregations in Asia

Pastor Katy Grindberg:

Returned from sabbatical in October

Has spent a lot of time on the road visiting congregations

Will be attending the Region 2 First Call Theological Core Event in Las Vegas in February; also in February will be attending the Regions 1 & 2 Campus Ministry event in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and a gathering of Assistants to the Bishop in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson:

Continuing to work on mobility issues and on the steering committee of the intentional interim ministry committee

Also working with the Leadership Discipling Team to come up with guidelines for part-time pastors, and working with the committee for the Professional Leaders Conference in October 2019

SC19.01.05 MSC (Holmerud/Pennington) moved to approve a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Committee be developed in the San Joaquin Valley called the Greater Stockton Area Bilingual Ministry. **PASSED**

Vice President's Report

Have been visiting other congregations and events throughout the synod, including a fundraiser at Mt. Cross

Attended gathering of Synod Vice Presidents at churchwide in Chicago

Attended the SPSYC Middle School retreat at Mt. Cross

Attended an outreach gathering at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Worked on the creation of a video that highlights the work being done with and support being given to various congregations and ministry partners

Financial Reports:

Bishop Mark introduced to Council members a set of financial reporting documents developed by forensic auditor Steven Hoslett showing an alternative way of presenting the Synod's financial information.

Diana Suruki, Business Manager, Office of the Bishop, presented a report on monthly historical trends of receipt of mission support from congregations.

Treasurer Linda Lownes went over current levels of Mission Support from congregations.

Committee Appointments:

SC19.01.06 MSC (Holmerud/Bense) moved appointment of:

Randy Presuhn as chair of the 2019 Synod Assembly Credentials Committee;

The Rev. Jeremy Serrano as chair of the 2019 Synod Assembly Resolutions Committee.

PASSED

SC19.01.07 MSC (Michaelsen/Babcock) moved appointment of The Rev. John Kuehner, Sandra Schonning, and Lou Smith to the Synod Finance Committee. **PASSED**

SC19.01.08 MSC (C. Brown/Michaelsen) moved registration fees for the 2019 Assembly be the following:

Voting Member (early registration) \$100
Voting Member (late registration) \$150
Voting Member (on-site registration) \$200
Visitors \$50

PASSED

SC19.01.09 MSC (C. Brown/Babcock) moved that the cash offerings at the assembly be divided equally (thirds) between Sierra Pacific Synod Candidacy Committee Scholarships, Lutheran Social Services of Northern California for California wildfire relief, and California Rural Legal Aid.

PASSED

SC19.01.10 MSC (Bense/Clark) moved funding of Warner Trust recommendations:

- St. James, Redding = \$500, host a training for individuals wishing to learn how to work with children in crisis in the context of an emergency evacuation shelter
- Faith, Pioneer = \$1800, weeklong day-camp organized by Mt. Cross counselors
- Immanuel, Saratoga = \$1000, support for purchase of an air conditioner for the Butterflies Academy pre-school
- Mt. Cross = \$2000, support for a pilot project regarding confirmation camp
- Good Shepherd, Gilroy = \$785, for purchase of *Frolic Preschool Bible* for children at Vineyard Christian Preschool
- Grace Lao, Richmond = \$2000, support for summer music camp
- Ascension, Citrus Heights = \$1000, *Trunk or Treat* the Saturday prior to Halloween each year as an outreach project to the community, with food, candy, and prizes to be covered along with the rental of more commercial sized games

PASSED

SC19.01.11 MSC (Holmerud/Rasche) moved to request the Roster Committee and the Conference of Bishops to approve an exception to the three-year rule for Crystal Larsen.

PASSED

Saturday, January 12, 2019:

Pastor Barbara Foltin, chair of the Stewardship Discipline Team, led devotions.

Presentation about Mt. Cross Ministries by Pastor Sarah and Adam Erickson.

Pastor Foltin led a practical discussion on stewardship.

Budget Discussion

Treasurer Linda Lownes presented a memo from the Finance Committee regarding a proposed spending plan for FY2019-20 and construction of the FY2020-21 budget, as well as a draft FY2020-21 budget.

SC19.01.12 MSC (Holmerud/Clark) moved that the Total Expected Revenue (Total Revenue + Total Interfund Transfers) in the FY20 proposed budget be set at \$2,197,390.

PASSED

SC19.01.13 MSC (Lownes/Holmerud) moved a spending plan for FY2019-20 that authorizes:

1. The monthly payment of all fixed operating costs such as rent, utilities, salaries.
2. 6% payment of the budgeted amounts for all Ministry Partners and Campus Ministry Grants during each of the first 11 months of the fiscal year (February – December) with the final third payable in the 12th month (January) based on the availability of funds. Letters would be sent to the groups affected outlining this information.

PASSED

SC19.01.14 MSC (Babcock/Bense) moved to reconsider Motion SC19.01.13.

PASSED

SC19.01.15 MSC (Babcock/C. Brown) moved a spending plan for FY2019-20 that authorizes:

1. The monthly payment of all fixed operating costs such as rent, utilities, salaries.
2. 6% payment of the budgeted amounts for all Ministry Partners during each of the first 11 months of the fiscal year (February – December), with the final third payable in the 12th month (January) based on the availability of funds. Letters would be sent to the groups affected outlining this information.

PASSED. Treasurer Linda Lownes abstained.

Future council meetings:

- Friday, May 10, 2019 (pre-Assembly meeting), 2 p.m., Saint Paul Lutheran Church, Lodi, CA
- June 21-22, 2019 (Friday-Saturday), Council retreat and meeting; venue TBD
- Saturday, September 21, 2019, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; one-day meeting, with Zoom virtual meeting (video) option; venue TBD
- Saturday, December 14, 2019, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; one-day meeting budget with Zoom virtual meeting (video) option; venue TBD

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey A Pennington, Secretary
Synod Pacific Synod