

**Sierra Pacific Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Synod Council Minutes
September 14-15, 2018
Office of the Bishop
Sacramento, California**

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

Absent: Sheela Boddu, Pastor Gregg Brown, Bill Turner

Staff: Debbie Cook, Diana Suruki, Pastor Tita Valeriano

Guest: Irv Lownes

Friday, September 14, 2018:

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Gail Kiyomura at 2:00 PM. Went around the room and everyone introduced themselves.

Pastor Tuhina Rasche led opening devotions.

Synod Council 101

Gail led the Synod Council through the Synod's "Welcome Handbook" and reviewed Robert's Rules of Order.

Addition to the Consent Agenda

SC18.09.41 MSC (Holmerud/Michaelson) moved addition of the following items to the Consent Agenda

- Pastor Robin Ressler to be moved to the Retired Roster, effective immediately
- Pastor James Elder to be moved to the Retired Roster, effective October 1, 2018

Adoption of the Agenda

SC18.09.42 MSC (Michaelson/Lownes) moved to adopt agenda as updated.

Approval of Minutes of 2018 Synod Assembly

SC18.09.43 MSC (Pastor Paul Clark/Pastor Tuhina Rasche) moved approval of minutes of the 2018 Synod Assembly as corrected.

Approval of Minutes of June 22-23, 2018 Synod Council meeting

SC18.09.44 MSC (Linda Lownes/Linda Babcock) moved approval of minutes of the June 22-23, 2018 meeting.

Approval of Consent Agenda

SC18.09.45 MSC (Linda Babcock/Michaelsen) moved approval of consent agenda.

- Ratification of the appointment by the Executive Committee of Mr. David Anderson, Our Redeemer/Nuestro Redentor, Livingston, CA, and the Rev. Chad Adamik, St. Paul's Lutheran Family, Carson City, NV, to the Consultation Committee for a 5-year term to expire in 2023 (see attachments)
- Approval of revised Congregation Constitution of Atonement Lutheran Church, Sacramento, California
- Pastor Robin Ressler to be moved to the Retired Roster, effective immediately
- Pastor James Elder to be moved to the Retired Roster, effective October 1, 2018

Bishop's Report

Noted that Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson was not present because of her attendance at a board meeting at Mt. Cross.

Went to Houston, TX for the National Lutheran Youth Gathering. Lifted up Pastor Tuhina Rasche for her leadership role at the gathering.

Attended the installation of the new bishop of the Grand Canyon Synod.

Managed to spend some time with his family, with children and grandchildren.

Bishop Evalister Mugabo of the Lutheran Church of Rwanda will be in the Sierra Pacific Synod in October.

Organizing the "chili with the bishop" gatherings throughout October to December.

Conference of Bishops meeting in October, and will be making a seminar visit to the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in South Carolina.

Looking forward to Professional Leaders Conference in mid-October.

Working with the Conference Deans to find more volunteers to serve on Discipling Teams, Synod Committees, etc.

November 6-11, will be traveling to El Salvador for a gathering being organized by the Salvadoran Lutheran Church.

DEM Report

Introduced Council to the [ELCA Future Directions 2025](#) goals and priority areas for the ELCA.

Introduced the 10 New Starts/Restarts: Bilingual Fresno, Lahu in Visalia, Farming Hope, Our Redeemer/Nuestro Redentor, Salinas Valley, Middle Circle, Miracles of Hope, Grace Lao, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Good Shepherd South Asian Ministry

Vice President's Report

Assumed office on August 1, 2018.

Will be attending the Mt. Cross fundraising event on September 28-29.

Will be attending the Synod Vice Presidents' meeting at churchwide in October.

SC18.09.46 MSC (Linda Lownes/Pastor Jason) moved that we remove Elaine Whitney as a check signer on the Synod's credit union account, and add Gail Kiyomura as a signer.

PASSED

Introduction of synodical Committees, Discipling Teams, and Ministry Partners

Discussed the work of liaisons to the various ministry partners, committees, and discipling teams, and council members volunteered to serve as liaisons to these.

Who's being uplifted by what we, the Synod, do?

We are all part of a big family.

Things we do better together than individually, e.g., YAGM; LSS and Disaster Relief.

Being Church *Better* Together.

Property Report

Sanger: maintenance has been done on the building and property, and gardener continues to take care of the property and does the maintenance; lot of personal and small property that has been left, e.g., vestments, stoles, Bibles, toys, etc.

Witness DT and DEM continue to ask questions about possible uses for the property for ministry.

Hilmar: notice has been given to the tenants, hope to be able to get the property on the market by the beginning of the year.

Grace Lao: discussions are underway for them to possibly become a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community.

Fresno Office of the Bishop: executive committee recommends closing the Fresno Office of the Bishop.

SC18.09.47 MSC (Michaelsen/Bense) moved to close the Fresno Office of the Bishop.

PASSED

Saturday, September 15, 2018:

Pastor Tuhina led devotions.

Elections for Executive Committee

Sue Michalesen
John Allured
Pastor Paul Clark

Churchwide Assembly Elections

- Pastor Mary Lou Petitjean, Sierra Nevada Foothills Conference 4 Clergy
- Doug Miller, Mt. Diablo Conference 7 Lay Male

Financial Reports:

Diana Suruki, Business Manager, Office of the Bishop, went over the Current Budget.

Treasurer Linda Lownes went over current levels of Mission Support from congregations and Current Account Balances.

Administrative Matters

January 11-12, 2019 meeting: Linda Lownes, Lucy Allen (treats); Linda Babcock, devotions
May 10, 2019 meeting: Pastor Clark Brown, treats; Linda Lownes, devotions

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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