

**Sierra Pacific Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Synod Council Minutes
May 10, 2019
Saint Paul Lutheran Church
Lodi, California**

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

Absent: Nicholas Hayes, Pastor Tuhina Rasche

Staff: Pastor Katy Grindberg, Pastor Tita Valeriano

Parliamentarian: Lorenzo Cuesta

Guests: Victoria Flood, Director for Mission Support in the churchwide expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Irv Lownes

Friday, May 10, 2019:

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Gail Kiyomura at 2:12 PM. Everyone went around the room and everyone introduced themselves.

Linda Lownes led opening devotions.

Adoption of the Agenda

SC19.05.19 (Michaelsen/Lownes) moved to adopt the agenda as updated.

Approval of Minutes

SC19.05.20 MSC (Lownes/Clark) moved approval of:

- minutes of January 11-12, 2019 Synod Council meeting
- minutes of February 15, 2019 Synod Council teleconference meeting
- minutes of March 29, 2019 Synod Council teleconference meeting.

Presentation by Pastor Katy Grindberg on Rwanda Delegation

Delegation of about 20 people from Sierra Pacific Synod going to Kigali, Rwanda to share in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Lutheran Church of Rwanda, scheduled for Reformation Sunday 2019.

SC19.05.21 MSC (Holmerud/Michaelsen) moved approval of Rwanda 25th Anniversary Celebration Group to do appropriate fundraising within the Synod.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Mark Holmerud:

Hosted visitors from the Taiwan Lutheran Church, which has led to a greater discussion of outreach in our Synod to Asian communities.

Gave a brief update on preparations for voting members going to churchwide assembly.

Explained that ELCA Church Council voted to delay the vote on "Trustworthy Servants;" thanked the Council for passing the resolution that was sent to Church Council regarding the "Trustworthy Servants" process.

Discussed the administration and logistics of holding the Assembly in Lodi; reminded us that 2022 would be the next "window" of having a shorter Assembly.

Vice President's Report

Discussed the results of making a video to reach out to congregations, e.g., regarding stewardship, where does mission support go?, etc.

Has visited a number of congregations throughout the Synod; need to work on changing the image of the Synod, of what the Synod does.

Announced that the Investment Committee is now up and running; now need to populate the Endowment Committee.

Announced the June Synod Council meeting will be a retreat at Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center, June 21-22, 2019.

Financial Reports:

Treasurer Linda Lownes recommended using copies of "Stories of Faith in Action" to show how mission support is used.

Went over current levels of Mission Support and designated giving from congregations.

Mentioned that she was able to resolve issues with wire transfers to Lutheran Church of Rwanda.

Has been adhering to the approved spending plan.

Distributed the annual audit findings to Council members.

Property Report

Sanger: maintenance being kept up; DEM Pastor Tita Valeriano is still evaluating whether or not there may be a new mission start there; has had 3 groups who contacted us about the possibility of purchasing the property.

Grace Lao: congregation is in the process of becoming a SAWC; working on an MOU and liability issues.

Hilmar: tenants have vacated the property; locks have been changed and the parsonage/house and the church have been secured; some contents of the house and the church need to be cleared out; one possibility could be to ask Our Redeemer/Nuestro Redentor in Livingston to see if they would be willing to help clear out the house, etc.

Discussion of 2019 Synod Assembly:

SC19.05.22 Synod Assembly agenda adopted by unanimous consent.

Sue Michaelsen briefed Council members on how to be vote counters and tellers. There will be a training session at 9 a.m. at the dais.

Gail Kiyomura went over the roles of Council members within the Conference Gatherings.

Report from Churchwide representative Victoria Flood, Director for Mission Support in the churchwide expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Introduced herself, mentioned her family connections to Lodi and the northern California area.

We're not an "us vs. them, we are a 'we'".

Will be joining the Council for the June retreat.

"Mission support is about our relationships and our faith."

Asked the Council to consider that the percentage the Synod commits is a commitment the Synod has with the congregations of the Synod and with other Synods, i.e., the *interconnectedness* of our giving.

Discussed the challenges between "designated giving" and "undesignated giving," i.e., mission support.

Question arose of a possible capital campaign; Bishop Mark said that maybe that would be one thing to consider when lifting up a new bishop.

Nominating Committee Appointments:

SC19.05.23 MSC (Michaelsen/Pennington) moved appointment of Pastor Chad Adamik, St. Paul's Lutheran Family, Carson City, NV, and Pastor Kathy Morris, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Reno, NV, to the Nominating Committee.

Discussion of financial request from Immanuel, San Jose

Bishop Mark introduced the situation at Immanuel, San Jose; Immanuel's proposal with Mid Pen Housing; and their request for financial support for reconfiguration of their sanctuary and fellowship space.

Report from Janet Lane, director of the Synod Resource Center, Fresno, CA

Introduced the work of the Synod Resource Center, especially the system of having pastors review materials and curricula and then sharing the reviews through the Synod Resource Center Newsletter.

Shares space with Lutheran Campus Ministry at California State University, Fresno, which seems to be working out well.

Presentation by Pr. Kemp Segerhammar, Leadership Discipling Team, regarding Shared-Time Ministry policy recommendations

Pastor Kemp introduced the members of the Team and gave a brief history of the need for a policy regarding part-time ministry. He then walked with the Council through the new recommended guidelines.

Discussion of Grace Lao Lutheran (Richmond, CA) synodically authorized worshipping community

SC19.05.24 MSC (Boddu/Lownes) moved approval of Grace Lao Lutheran, Richmond, CA, as a synodically authorized worshipping community.

Before adjourning, Synod Council member Pastor Gregory Brown raised up the life and work of the late Ron Dellums, former U.S. Congressman from the East Bay and former mayor of Oakland, CA.

Meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Future council meetings:

- June 21-22, 2019 (Friday-Saturday), Council retreat and meeting; Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center, 6520 Van Maren Lane, Citrus Heights, CA 95621
- 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

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey A Pennington, Secretary
Synod Pacific Synod