Present: Pastor Chad Adamik, John Allured, Treasurer Pastor Sharon Amundson, Linda Babcock, Pastor Jason Bense, Sheela Boddu, Carl Brodt, Pastor Clark Brown, Pastor Paul Clark, Sophia Hofmann, Bishop Mark Holmerud, Vice President Gail Kiyomura, Sue Michaelsen, Secretary Jeff Pennington, Luke Price, Pastor Tuhina Rasche, Jennifer Teer

Absent: Autumn Scherf

Staff: Diana Barrios, Debbie Cook, Pastor Tita Valeriano, Deacon Margy Schmitt Ajer, Pastor Bill Wong

Guests: Peggy Hahn, LEAD; Louise Johnson, LEAD; Core Team members: Diane Torry, Adam Erickson, Alan “AJ” Gaston, and Terry Knaus; Janette Drew, chair, Collaboration Grants Committee

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Gail Kiyomura at 10:03 AM.

Opening reflections and prayer offered by Linda Babcock.

Adoption of the Agenda
SC20.12.34 Agenda approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes
SC20.12.35 Minutes of September 12, 2020 Synod Council meeting approved by unanimous consent.

Adoption of Consent Agenda
SC20.12.36 Consent Agenda approved by unanimous consent.

- Approve revised constitution of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Saratoga, CA
- Approve revised constitution of Hope Lutheran Church, Walnut Creek (Rossmoor), CA
- Approve revised constitution of University Lutheran Church, Palo Alto, CA
- Approve constitution of New Revelation Community Church, ELCA, Oakland/Vallejo, CA
- Move The Rev. Bob McKee to On Leave from Call Status (three years)
- Move The Rev. Sarah Erickson to On Leave from Call for Study Status (six years)
- Move The Rev. Carl Hoppman to the Retired Roster
- Move The Rev. Nancy Feniuk Nelson to the Retired Roster
- Move The Rev. David Bates to the Retired Roster
- Approve en bloc the continuation on the Retired Roster until January 2024 of the List of Retired Clergy
• Appoint Doris Chang, joint appointee, ECA Board only, initial term expiring 2023
• Appoint Jackie Ejuwa, joint appointee, ECA Board only, initial term expiring 2023
• Appoint Val Agostino, joint appointee, ECA Board only, initial term expiring 2023
• Reappoint Steven Kim, Lutheran appointee, second term expiring 2023
• Reappoint Sr. Carol Proctor, Mercy resident representative, Mercy board only, joint appointee, initial term expiring 2023
• Approval of housing allowances in order to benefit from provisions of Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code:
  o 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, 2021 includes a housing allowance.
    Pastor Holmerud estimates that he will spend $50,000 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 $50,000.
  o Rev. William Wong
    In order to permit the Rev. William Wong 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, 2021 includes a housing allowance.
    Pastor Wong estimates that he will spend $25,000 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 $25,000.

Vice President’s Report
• Conference gatherings will be scheduled for early 2021; asked that Council members be present at their conference’s gathering
• Thanked Council members for their participation in the churchwide Vice Presidents’ survey
• Introduced Peggy Hahn and Louise Johnson from LEAD, and Core Team members who will be conducting a listening session with the Synod Council

Bishop’s Report
• Introduced Pastor Bill Wong and Deacon Margy Schmitt Ajer as our new Call Process Assistants for the Office of the Bishop, and Laurie Gaumer as new Call Process Administrator for the Office of the Bishop
• Continues to meet with the conference deans every other week
• Mentioned that there’s a new candidacy process
• Brought up the discussion at churchwide of “future church”
• Discussed how the Office of the Bishop is continuing to provide guidance for congregations regarding Covid
• Will participate in a Lombard Mennonite Mediation training
• Bishop Mark spoke about his nominations for the Consultation Committee and Committee on Discipline; these people will be voted on by the Synod Assembly
Pastor Tita mentioned that she continues to work with congregations participating in the ACTS for Vitality program

Diana Barrios brought to our attention the digital divide among congregations within our synod

Debbie Cook thanked the Council for allowing her to continue to work from home during the time of the Covid pandemic

Treasurer’s Report/Financial Report
Diana Barrios analyzed for Council the current level and trend of Mission Support through November 2020

Property Report
- Hilmar: Executive Committee has decided that the Synod will sell the property to Nova Esperança for $575K
- Grace Lao: Witness Discipling Team working with tenant of parsonage to vacate property
- Sanger: property seems to be fine; continuing to be used by Fuente de Gracia SAWC

Consideration of FY 2021-22 Budget
Treasurer Pastor Sharon Amundson reviewed the proposed budget for FY2021-22

SC20.12.37 (Boddu/Clark) moved approval of the proposed budget for FY2021-22.
PASSED

SC20.12.38 (Babcock/Rasche) moved to designate San Francisco St. Paulus as a Synod Authorized Worshipping Community Exploration of the Sierra Pacific Synod.
PASSED

SC20.12.39 (Michaelsen/Rasche) moved to allocate $140,600 for synod Collaboration Grants.
PASSED

Synod Council favored that the 2021 Synod Assembly will be held in an online format.

Pastor Tuhina Rasche offered the closing devotion and prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A Pennington, Secretary
Synod Pacific Synod