Synod Council
Sierra Pacific Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Meeting Agenda
May 2, 2020
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Virtual Meeting by Zoom

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

Absent: John Allured

Staff: Diana Barrios, Pastor Katy Grindberg, Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson, Pastor Tita Valeriano

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Gail Kiyomura at 10:00 AM.

Opening devotions led by The Rev. Kathryn Gulbranson, Assistant to the Bishop.

Adoption of the Agenda
SC20.05.06 Agenda approved by unanimous consent.

Election to Synod Council At-Large seat vacated by Joseph Paxton
The Rev. Chad Adamik was unanimously elected to fulfill the remainder of this term (2022).

Approval of Minutes
SC20.05.07 Minutes of December 14, 2019 Synod Council meeting approved by unanimous consent.

SC20.05.08 Minutes of February 10, 2020 Synod Council meeting approved by unanimous consent.

Adoption of Consent Agenda
SC20.05.09 Consent Agenda approved by unanimous consent.
- Extend Special Synod Council Call to The Rev. Ruth Hanusa as Canon for Parish Life at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Reno, NV
• Move The Rev. Kathryn Gulbranson to On Leave From Call status, effective May 11, 2020
• Move The Rev. Daniel Solberg to the Retired Roster, effective July 1, 2020
• Approve revisions to the congregation constitutions of the following:
  o Zion Lutheran Church, Stockton, CA
  o St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Sacramento, CA
  o St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, San Mateo, CA
  o Christ the King Lutheran Church, Orangevale, CA
  o Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, San Jose, CA
  o Napa Valley Lutheran Church, Napa, CA
  o Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Merced, CA

**SC20.05.10** MSC (Holmerud/Boddu) moved reappointment of The Rev. John Valentine to a one-year term on the Finance Committee.
PASSED

**Bishop’s Report**
Spoke about the challenges of living and being church in the time of Covid-19; how and when do we go back to worshiping and communing “normally”

Explained office operations during the time of shelter-in-place

Has been missing the personal connections and driving around the synod and spending time with congregations

Acknowledged that Diana Barrios was instrumental in getting the Synod’s its PPP loan

Has been meeting weekly with the conference deans by Zoom to better learn what’s going on in the synod

**Pastor Katy:**
Has been continuing to work with call committees, though virtually; has been working with Bishop Mark on various topic-specific virtual gatherings for rostered ministers in the synod; is making herself available for preaching and devotionals

**Pastor Tita:**
Continuing to work with the Witness Discipling Team and ACTS, the synod vitality project team (A-dapting, C - connecting/collaborating, T - ransforming, S-ustaining)

**Pastor Kathryn:**
Continuing her work with Leadership Discipling Team and Interim Steering Committee; continuing to connect with pastors; announced that she will be stepping down as Assistant to the Bishop to take up a call as interim pastor at Elim Lutheran Church, Petaluma, CA
Vice President's Report
Extended kudos to Diana Barrios for putting together the application for the PPP loan, which the Synod was successful in getting

Began a weekly meeting of the Finance and Investment Committees and officers (“Financial Team”) to discuss the financial and stewardship impact of Covid-19 on the synod; worked on communication to the synod about congregations participating in the PPP

Discussed the financial gift from St. John’s, Sunnyvale to the synod and its ministries

Announced that the Financial Team is working on creating a grant program for synod congregations and ministries

Treasurer's Report/Financial Report
Thanked Debbie Cook and Diana Barrios for holding things together from a distance, while working from home and virtually

Diana discussed the current financial and mission support situation of the synod; she also mentioned that she’d be willing to do a presentation on how a congregation could apply for the Payroll Protection Plan

Property Report
Hilmar: working with Eric Nims, synod attorney, on a purchase agreement with Nova Esperança

Grace Lao, Richmond: inspections on the house have been done; house is in quite a state of disrepair; Grace Lao, as a SAWC, will need to be registered in the state of California to create a lease (use agreement) with the synod for use of the property

Sanger: SAWC in Sanger will need to be registered in the state of California to create a lease (use agreement) with the synod for use of the property

For SAWCs using synod property:
The following questions were posed for future consideration:
  • How much do we hold them responsible for rent, capital improvements, liability insurance, etc.? 
  • Do we let them charge for third-party use, and do they keep the funds or the synod?

Bay Area Office of the Bishop: landlord will not let us out of the lease; looking to sublease, but not having much luck; hoping to find other ways that we might be able to get out of the lease

SC20.05.11 MSC (Holmerud/Price) motion to approve disaffiliation of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Pacifica, CA from the ELCA.
PASSED
SC20.05.12 MSC (Holmerud/Michaelsen) motion to approve disaffiliation of New Hope Lutheran Church, Foresthill, CA from the ELCA.  
PASSED

SC20.05.13 MSC (Bense/Boddu) motion to authorize two new synod-authorized worshipping communities:
- Fuente de Gracia, Sanger, CA
- Afghani/Arab and Middle Eastern Ministry, Sacramento, CA
PASSED

SC20.05.14 MSC (Michaelsen/Adamik) motion to authorize the continuation of the following SAWCs:
- Gift of Grace Lutheran Fellowship (Fernley, NV)
- Shepherd by the Sea Episcopal/Lutheran Mission (Gualala, CA)
- Farming Hope (San Francisco, CA)
- Esperanza Bilingual Ministry (Fresno, CA)
- Christ Community Multicultural Ministry (San Jose, CA)
- Grace Lao (Richmond, CA)
- Good Shepherd South Asian Ministry (Fremont, CA)
- Mountain Ranch Lutheran Mission (Mountain Ranch, CA)
PASSED

SC20.05.15 MSC (Bense/Babcock) motion to approve Investment Committee proposal regarding investment of funds received as gift from St. John’s, Sunnyvale.  
PASSED

SC20.05.16 MSC (Babcock/Pennington) moved that the 2020 Synod Assembly, including all elections, be conducted using available technology via conferences, subconferences, or other geographic clusters.  
PASSED

SC20.05.17 MSC (Rasche/Teer) moved to recommend adoption of the following proposed action by the voting members of the 2020 Synod Assembly:

   To adopt the “Sierra Pacific Synod Standing Rules of Order for Assemblies” for the 2020 Synod Assembly.

PASSED

SC20.05.18 MSC (Michaelsen/Rasche) moved to authorize the bishop and secretary of this synod to prepare further editing and scheduling revisions that may be found necessary for the “Standing Rules of Order for Assemblies” prior to their publication in the Pre-Assembly Handbook; and to report any changes to the Synod Council at its meeting immediately prior to the Synod Assembly.  
PASSED
SC20.05.19 MSC (Babcock/Michaelsen) moved to appoint the 2020 Synod Assembly Resolutions Committee:

- Diane Hull
- Ben Monroe
- Rev. Tony Rhodes
- Jennifer Teer
- Rev. Jeremy Serrano, Chair
- Jeff Pennington, Secretary, ex-officio
- Bp. Mark W. Holmerud, ex-officio

Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A Pennington, Secretary
Sierra Pacific Synod