



Grand Canyon Synod

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Synod Council Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom Video Conference

Saturday, May 15, 2021

9:00 am

Attendance

Synod Council members present: Rev. Deborah Hutterer, synod bishop; Mr. Paul Gryniewicz, vice president; Mr. Erik Rehms, treasurer; Mr. Glenn Austad; Mr. Roger Bailey; Ms. Twila Burdick; Ms. Barbara Carl; Ms. Sue Jensen; Ms. Hannah Manzanares; Rev. Tina Mills; Ms. Lisa Parrish; Ms. Janis Richert; Rev. Daniel Valasakos.

Synod Council members Absent: Rev. David Brandfass, secretary; Ms. Nancy Davis; Ms. Beatrice Lopez; Ms. Laura Musfeldt.

Synod Staff present: Mr. Brian Flatgard, director of communications; Rev Miguel Gomez-Acosta, director for evangelical mission and bishop's associate for congregational vitality; Ms. Theresa Thornburgh, director for administration and events.

Visitors: Ms. Myrna Wells-Ulland, president, Grand Canyon Synod Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Dwelling in the Word

Bishop Deborah Hutterer led a discussion based on Dave Daubert and Richard E. T. Jorgensen's book, *Becoming a Hybrid Church*, (November, 2020) and how the Grand Canyon Synod is working to become a hybrid synod. The scripture for the day was Miracle of the Loaves from John 6:1-15.

The synod council broke out into small groups to discuss how we are doing as church with adaptive ways that are reorganizing us to become vibrant ministries as we go about the task of rethinking and reforming Jesus' church to be relevant in both the "inline" and online mission fields of the pandemic and post-pandemic world.

Call to Order

With a quorum present Mr. Paul Gryniewicz called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M.

Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Paul Gryniewicz moved

MSP SC21.05.01 to adopt the agenda as presented with the addition of removing a non-attending synod council member.

Adoption of Minutes

Ms. Sue Jensen moved

MSP SC21.05.02 to adopt the March 20, 2021, minutes of the Grand Canyon Synod Council.

Consent Agenda Items

Mr. Glenn Austad moved

MSP SC21.05.03 to accept the Consent Agenda Items: Bishop Report; Director of Evangelical Mission / Bishop's Associate for Congregational Vitality Report; Bishop's Associate for Candidacy and Faith Formation Report; Director of Administration and Events Report; Director of Communication Report; Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizona (LAMA) Report; 3E (Educate, Equip, Enact) Lilly Report; Grand Canyon Synod Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA) Report, and the ELCA Foundation Regional Gift Planners Report as presented.

Trends

The synod council broke out into small groups tasked with a specific report contained in the consent agenda items to discuss what trends, questions, and celebrations have been observed.

Synod council members shared appreciation for being informed of both the joyful and challenging parts of our synod's ministry. Council members were grateful that our synod is focused on God's mission and is centered in the GCS strategic plan. Other observations were that more ecumenical ministry is happening, and that there are many opportunities for learning and growth, and that the GCS is willing to deal with racism in an adaptive way.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Erik Rehms reviewed the financial statements with the Synod Council. Thanksgiving was expressed for the generosity of congregations in sharing their mission support, especially during the month of March 2021. With the additional mission support gifts, the GCS was able to increase its support of the churchwide organization. The net income for the first two months of the fiscal year 2021-2022 was \$164,094 above the budgeted amount.

The audit is being completed and will be done shortly. Mr. Clint Wasser is working with Bank of America to receive loan forgiveness in conjunction with a Paycheck Protection Program loan the GCS received. The ELCA Foundation is working to assist the leadership of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Paradise Valley, following their closure and sale of their property.

Ms. Barbara Carl moved

MSP SC21.05.04 to accept the Treasurer's Report dated March 31, 2021, with an increase in net assets of \$141,018.

2022-2023 Mission Plan Presentations

There will be presentations on the 2022-2023 Mission Plan that will be brought before the synod assembly on Saturday, May 22, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., and Monday, May 24, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. These presentations will be conducted online and hosted by Mr. Erik Rehms.

The synod council was reminded that if someone requests changes to the 2022-2023 Mission Spending Plan at the assembly, those requests will need to be in by Saturday, June 12, 2021, at 12:00 noon. In this case the Synod Council will need to be convened for a special online meeting to consider the changes during lunch on June 12th so the matter may be brought to the assembly that afternoon.

Congregations in Transition

Bishop Deborah Hutterer noted that we have a considerable number of congregations in transition.

Strategic Discussion

Appeal Update

Ms. Myrna Wells-Ulland shared that “Growing Generosity – Planting Seeds for a New Generation” materials will be available online.

The synod council was thanked for their prayers, commitment, and financial support of the appeal. Currently \$144,896 has been received or committed to, so the appeal is well on its way to meeting the threshold for the \$150,000 match.

The next steps include having the executive committee members contact synod staff to ask that they pray and consider a gift amount to the appeal. We are hoping for one-hundred percent participation from synod leadership towards the appeal. Following this step, the synod council members will be asked to suggest names for a larger group of potential donors.

Recess

Mr. Paul Gryniewicz declared the meeting to be in recess at 11:00 a.m.
Mr. Paul Gryniewicz called the meeting back to order at 11:05 a.m.

Information

Synod Assembly Updates

We have 295 registrations in the appropriate male/female, clergy/lay ratios. Thirty-eight people have expressed interest in the virtual choir. Still needed are some tech savvy volunteers to man a help desk for the assembly. A wonderful mailer will go out to voting members featuring our relationship with our global mission partners in Senegal. The estimated cost of this year’s assembly will be \$13,001.

Nomination Committee Update

Mr. Paul Gryniewicz reported that all positions have candidates and that the ballots are being worked on to fit our Zoom capabilities.

GCS Personnel Policies Handbook

Ms. Barbara Carl gave an update on progress made on the GCS Personnel Policies Handbook. The executive committee functions as the personnel committee for the synod, and the executive committee will approve the final Personnel Policies Handbook.

Synod Council Handbook

Ms. Hannah Manzanares, Ms. Laura Musfeldt and Lisa Parrish reviewed the synod handbook of the Southwest California Synod and will make modifications to it for use in the GCS.

Synod Office Lease Renewal

Ms. Theresa Thornburgh reported on behalf of Mr. Jerry Zaddack and Ms. Laura Musfeldt that the task force decided it was in the best interest of the synod to stay in the current space. A lease agreement has been negotiated at a cost per square foot slightly below our current rate. The new lease will be a four-year lease agreement so that the synod does not have a bishop election and lease agreement decision in the same year.

Compensation Guidelines

Bishop Deborah Hutterer expressed a deep sense of gratitude for Dr. Jerry Kingston's work in putting together GCS compensation guidelines. These guidelines provide an important support and resource document for our GCS congregations, especially those in the call process.

Mr. Glenn Austad moved

MSP SC21.05.05 to adopt the 2021-2022 Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Leaders in the Grand Canyon Synod.

New Business – Action

Rules of Procedure for the Synod Assembly

Ms. Twila Burdick moved

MSP SC21.05.06 that the Synod Council recommends that the Synod Assembly adopt the Rules of Procedure for the 2021 Grand Canyon Synod Assembly.

Constitution Approval

Ms. Barbara Carl moved

MSP SC21.05.07 to approve the constitution of Gloria De Cristo Lutheran Church, Yuma, Arizona as reviewed by Mr. Bryan Daum.

Synod Council Roster Change

Ms. Beatrice Lopez was elected as the young adult representative to the synod council at the 2019 assembly (SA19.06.08). Since her election she has attended two meetings and has not responded to outreach from Mr. Paul

Gryniewicz after missing five consecutive meetings. She stood for election after having served as a Young Adult in Global Mission (YAGM) and is not known to be a member of any GCS congregation as is required.

Ms. Barbara Carl moved
MSP SC21.05.08 to remove Ms. Beatrice Lopez from the Grand Canyon Synod Council roster.

Feed Back & Evaluation

What was appreciated	Needs improvement
Concise discussion	
Dwelling in the Word	
Very comfortable atmosphere	Breakout sessions
Discussion of consent agenda reports	Questions in Chat
Agenda moved along	
Personal aspects came through	
Adaptive qualities of the synod	
Began relating by relating to scripture	Too many questions in breakout session
	Post questions in chat before going into breakout session.
Dry run of voting process	
Actions seem to be cohesive	

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Bishop Deborah Hutterer led a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Special Thank You

Special thanks to Ms. Sue Jensen for recording the motions, and to Ms. Theresa Thornburgh for providing a recording of the meeting to the secretary. “Church” is a team sport. □

Next Meeting

Saturday, August 14, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Rev. David Brandfass, secretary