



Grand Canyon Synod

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Synod Council Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom Video Conference

Saturday, April 9, 2022

9:00 am

Attendance

Synod Council members present: Rev. Deborah Hutterer, Synod Bishop; Ms. Barbara Carl, Synod Vice-President; Rev. David Brandfass, Synod Secretary; Mr. Erik Rehms, Synod Treasurer; Mr. Glenn Austad; Mr. Roger Bailey; Ms. Twila Burdick; Ms. Heather Burgett; Rev. Mary Louise Frenchman; Ms. Hannah Manzanares; Rev. Tina Mills; Ms. Laura Musfeldt; Mr. Mark Myers; Ms. Lisa Parrish; Ms. Janis Richert; Rev. Daniel Valasakos; Ms. Taylor Welch.

Synod Council members absent: Rev. Christopher Heller; Ms. Sue Jensen; Rev. William Timm.

Synod Staff present: Mr. Brian Flatgard, Director of Communications; Rev Miguel Gomez-Acosta, Director for Evangelical Mission and Bishop's Associate for Congregational Vitality; Rev. Jacqui Pagel, Associate to the Bishop for Candidacy and Faith Formation; Ms. Theresa Thornburgh, Director for Administration and Events.

Welcome

Bishop Deborah Hutterer welcomed the council and visitors to the April 9, 2022, Synod Council meeting.

Break Out Rooms and Check In

Using Luke 23:26-27 Rev. Jacqui Pagel led the opening devotion and time of sharing. The council heard about Simon's Project. In Zoom breakout rooms council members and staff discussed what celebrating diversity brings. Summaries of the discussion were then shared with the whole council.

Call to Order

With a quorum present, Ms. Barbara Carl called the meeting to order at 9:25 A.M.

Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Hannah Manzanares moved
MSP¹ SC22.04.01² to adopt the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Glenn Austad moved
MSP SC22.04.02 to adopt the minutes of the February 12, 2022, meeting of the Grand Canyon Synod Council with the day of the week corrected to Saturday and corrected to include the listed exhibits.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Glenn Austad moved
MSP SC22.04.03 to accept the Consent Agenda Items: Bishop Report; Vice President Report; Director of Evangelical Mission / Bishop's Associate for Congregational Vitality Report; Bishop's Associate for Candidacy and Faith Formation Report, including Youth Report; Director of Administration and Events Report; Director of Communication Report; Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizona (LAMA) Report; Congregations in Transition Report; and the ELCA Foundation Regional Gift Planners Report as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Erik Rehms led a review of the current financial statements. The Audit is currently under way. The synod staff followed up with congregations that did not turn in a mission support pledge for the current fiscal year and the results were helpful.

¹ **MSP**=Moved, seconded, passed.

² **SC**=synod council; **22**=2022; **04**=the month of April; **01**= The first sequential action passed by the synod council during the month of April, 2022.

Bishop Deborah Hutterer suggested the Executive Committee review sending synod funds to Lutheran Disaster Response for Ukraine and Eastern European relief.

The GCS staff was recognized for their amazing support of the synod's ministry and the Executive Committee was tasked with assuring that salaries reflect the staff's excellent work.

Mr. Glenn Austad moved

MSP SC22.04.04 to accept the Treasurer's Report dated February 28, 2022, with a decrease in total assets of \$122,437 for the period January 31, 2022, through February 28, 2022, subject to audit.

Annual Report

The Annual Report of Don Stevens was reviewed.

Rev. David Brandfass moved

MSP SC22.04.05 that with great thanksgiving the Grand Canyon Synod Council recognizes the ministry support given by Mr. Don Stevens, Mr. Peter Westby, and Mr. Bryan Daum in their assistance to the Grand Canyon Synod, its congregations, and ministries.

Break

Ms. Barbara Carl declared the meeting to be in recess at 9:49 a.m.

Ms. Barbara Carl called the meeting back into session at 9:59 a.m.

Strategic Discussions and Update

Mission Spending Plan Update

Mr. Erik Rehms presented the 2023-2024 Mission Spending Plan for the ministry of the Grand Canyon Synod. In this plan significant funds are budgeted to be released to support increased ministry in the Grand Canyon Synod.

The Executive Committee moved

MSP SC22.04.06 that the Synod Council forward the 2023-2024 Mission Spending Plan, as presented, with a net income loss of \$400,000, to the Synod Assembly for adoption.

Synod Assembly

A report was received from the Synod Assembly Planning Team. Sixty-two voting members representing twenty congregations have registered. There will not be the usual exhibitor tables so as to allow for better physical distancing during the assembly.

Synod Council members will be assigned to sit at each table to increase communication and assist the voting members in discussion about positive techniques for sharing one's faith and developing their own one-minute faith stories

Congregation Closure

Bishop Deborah Hutterer reported that Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Douglas, Arizona is now officially closed, and the corporation is dissolved.

Mount Olives Lutheran Church, Phoenix

Bishop Deborah Hutterer shared that Mount of Olives Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ has sold its property and is seeking to find a new home.

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church & Alleluia Lutheran Church

Alleluia Lutheran Church of Phoenix, Arizona, and Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Goodyear, Arizona are working on merging their ministries. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was reviewed.

The Lakes & Good Samaritan Merger

The Lakes Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, Nevada and Good Samaritan Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, Nevada are working toward merging their ministries as one congregation with two sites. The members of both congregations are very positive about this new development and are doing wonders to bring this vision to fruition. Both congregations have voted on the merger and the new congregation will be known as Good Samaritan at the Lakes Lutheran Church.

Merger of Two Conferences

Rev. David Brandfass reported that the Sunrise and Santa Cruz Conferences have elected to merge forming the new Kino Conference. The new conference will have one representative on the Synod Council.

Mr. David Swartling Seminar on Parliamentary Procedure

On April 26, 2022, Mr. David Swartling, past Secretary of the ELCA will host a seminar titled, "Bob's Rules of Order," on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, 6:00 p.m. Arizona Standard Time via a Zoom link available by signing up through the synod office.

Active Shooter Training

Synod Council members were encouraged to both attend and urge congregation councils and leaders to attend an active shooter seminar on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Arizona Standard Time via a Zoom link available by signing up through the synod office.

Hunger Gift

Ascension Lutheran Church, Paradise Valley, AZ, generously announced a significant restricted gift to be used by the synod for global and local hunger. The generous gift will be announced at the upcoming Synod Assembly with the hope of inspiring other congregations to make similar gifts. The Grants Committee is working on developing hunger grants to make use of this gift.

Mission and Ministry Sustainability Task Force

Ms. Heather Burgett reported on work of the Mission and Ministry Sustainability Task Force with its goal of encouraging diverse and new emerging ministries. They are in the process of mapping out guiding principles for long term mission. A proposal may be brought to the June 2022 Synod Council meeting.

Growing Generosity Update

Bishop Deborah Hutterer shared the good news that \$533,000 has been committed. Funds raised in a stretch goal of \$750,000 will be used to further support new and emerging ethnic ministries.

New Business

Bylaw Update

Rev. David Brandfass moved

MSP SC22.04.07 that the Grand Canyon Synod Council recommend to the 2022 GCS Synod Assembly that bylaw S7.11.01 be amended to read, “The time and place of the Synod Assembly shall may be held annually. The time and the place (in-person or online) for the Synod Assembly as shall be scheduled by the Synod Council.”

Continuing Resolution Change to Reflect Conference Merger

Rev. David Brandfass moved, and the Synod Council passed with a two-thirds majority³

MSP SC22.04.08 “to amend continuing resolution S12.01.A22 to reflect the closure of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Douglas, AZ, and the merger of the Sunrise and Santa Cruz Conferences into the new Kino Conference as follows: “S12.01.A22 ...

~~...Sunrise Conference (8)~~

- ~~1. Douglas: Emmanuel~~
- ~~2. Benson: St. Raphael in the Valley (an Episcopal Lutheran congregation).~~
- ~~3. Sierra Vista: Sierra Evangelical~~
- ~~4. Tucson: Abounding Grace, Church of the Foothills, New Spirit, Streams in the Desert, Tanque Verde~~

Santa Cruz Conference (10)

- ~~1. Green Valley: Desert Hills~~
- ~~2. Oro Valley: Resurrection~~
- ~~3. Tucson: American, Beautiful Savior, Dove of Peace, Lord of Grace, Mount Zion, Our Saviour's, San Juan Bautista, Santa Cruz~~

Kino Conference (17)

- 1. Benson: St. Raphael in the Valley (an Episcopal-Lutheran congregation)**
- 2. Green Valley: Desert Hills**
- 3. Oro Valley: Resurrection**
- 4. Sierra Vista: Sierra Evangelical**
- 5. Tucson: Abounding Grace, American, Beautiful Savior, Church of the Foothills, Dove of Peace, Lord of Grace, Mount Zion, New Spirit, Our Saviour's, San Juan Bautista, Santa Cruz, Streams in the Desert, Tanque Verde**

³ †S18.31 “... Such continuing resolutions may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Synod Assembly or by a two-thirds vote of Synod Council...” Emphasis from Secretary Brandfass.

Total Congregations & SAWCs: 9291”

Support of Leaders and Congregations

The Executive Committee moved

MSP SC22.04.09 that the Synod Council support Grand Canyon Synod leaders and congregations by moving \$56,000 from the General Fund to the Bishop Leadership Fund.

Roster Changes

Rev. David Brandfass moved

MSP SC22.04.10 to change the roster status from active status to retired status for Rev. Lowell D. Nelson effective February 1, 2022, and Rev. Randall G. Olson effective June 1, 2022.

Approve Reviewed Constitutions

Mr. Glenn Austad moved

MSP SC22.04.11 to approve the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions for Community Lutheran Church, Bullhead City, AZ and Grace Lutheran Church, Kingman, AZ.

General Questions and Announcements

Ms. Hannah Manzanares shared with the council Camp Aloma, Prescott, Arizona is seeking counselors age 18 and above for the summer camping season, and volunteer camp nurses to serve throughout the summer.

Discussion was held on how religious people and leaders come together to end the horrific violence taking place in Ukraine.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Ms. Hannah Manzanares moved

MSP SC22.04.12 to adjourn at 11:19 a.m.

Bishop Deborah Hutterer led a remembrance of the seventy-seventh anniversary of the death of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and led the closing prayer.

Next Meeting

Thursday, June 9, 2022, 5:00 p.m. at Love of Christ Lutheran Church, Mesa,
Arizona.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. David Brandfass
Synod Secretary