

**GRAND CANYON SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**  
**Synod Council**

November 11, 2023

9:00 a.m. MST / 8:00 a.m. PST

Convened on the Zoom Platform

**Present:**

*Officers*

Rev. Deborah Hutterer, synod bishop  
Ms. Barbara Carl, synod vice president  
Rev. Stephen Springer, synod secretary

*Conference Representatives*

Mr. Glenn Austad  
Mr. Roger Bailey  
Ms. Lynn Davis  
Rev. Christopher Heller  
Mr. Jeff Michaels  
Ms. Janis Richert  
Ms. Myrna Wells-Ulland  
Ms. Wendy Weiske

*At Large Representatives*

Ms. Heather Burgett  
Mr. Mark Myers  
Ms. Karen Olson  
Rev. William Timm  
Ms. Taylor Welch

*Absent*

Rev. Mary Louise Frenchman, at large representative  
Ms. Hannah Manzanares, young adult representative  
Rev. Tina Mills, at large representative  
Mr. Erik Rehms, synod treasurer  
Ms. Hannah Roberts, youth representative

**Preliminary Work Before the Call to Order**

The Synod Council invited two leaders of the Lutheran Campus Ministry—University of Arizona: Rev. Rebecca Boardman (the campus pastor) and the board president (Michael Marty).

After an opening devotion by Pastor Boardman, they gave a presentation about the “Center of Grace” capital campaign proposal that was first shared with the Synod Council in September. There was a period of questions and answers.

**Call to Order**

Ms. Barbara Carl called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. MST, and declared a quorum.

### **Adoption of the agenda**

The Director of Administration, Ms. Theresa Thornburgh, distributed the proposed agenda to the Synod Council by email on November 3. Ms. Barbara Carl announced a few modifications to that agenda.

Mr. Glenn Austad moved:

**MSP<sup>1</sup> SC23.11.01<sup>2</sup> to adopt the agenda, as updated.**

### **Approval of the September 23, 2023 Synod Council minutes**

Ms. Lynn Davis moved:

**MSP SC23.11.02 to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2023 meeting of the Synod Council.**

### **Consent Agenda**

On November 3, 2023, the Director of Administration, Ms. Theresa Thornburgh, distributed a selection of reports bundled as the consent agenda. The consent agenda was received.

### **Review of Synod Finances**

Treasurer Mr. Erik Rehms was away from the meeting. In the packet, he included some written notes in addition to the usual financial reports.

### **Congregation Updates: Encanto Street Church Building**

The Synod Council had authorized authorized Bishop Hutterer and attorney Don Stevens to sell the property for \$350,00 or more at its September 23 meeting (SC23.09.03). On October 19, a deal was made in which the synod is providing financing to the buyer. Some of the terms are:

- Purchase Price: \$425,000
- Cash Down Payment: \$25,000
- Interest Rate: 6%
- Monthly payments for the first year: \$1,500, increasing to \$2,000 and \$3,000 in the second and third years, respectively
- Final payment to be made by December 31, 2028.

### **Congregation Updates: King of Glory (Tempe, AZ)**

Bishop Hutterer updated the council on some of the changes at this Synod-authorized Worshiping Community.

### **Congregation Updates: Living Hope (Las Vegas, NV)**

Mr. Roger Bailey, who is a member of Living Hope, reported on the closing service (which took place on October 28); current finances; and the reduction of staff. It is estimated that the congregation can now pay current costs with its current resources for as long as 20 months based on current resources. The property is listed with a realtor for the next few months.

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<sup>1</sup> MSP=Moved, seconded, passed.

<sup>2</sup> SC=Synod Council; 23=2023; 11=the month of November; 01= The first sequential action passed by the synod council during the month of November, 2023.

### **Congregation Updates: Ascension (Paradise Valley, AZ)**

Ascension Lutheran Church is selling its property. According to its own constitution, Synod Council approval is required in order for the congregation to worship in a new location.

Mr. Mark Meyers moved:

**MSP SC23.11.03 to approve the relocation of Ascension Lutheran Church's worship to Christ Church of the Ascension (Episcopal), 4015 E Lincoln Dr, Paradise Valley, beginning in April 2024, pending approval of the vestry of that congregation.**

### **Strategic Goals of the Synod Council**

The council reviewed the five goals that it had set at its fall retreat in September. Synod Council members volunteered to sign up to assist with each of them.

### **Designation of Congregations as "Strategic Ministries"**

The designation, among other things, allows congregations to apply for particular ELCA grants.

Ms. Lynn Davis moved:

#### **MSP SC23.11.04**

- To re-designate Crossroads (San Tan Valley, AZ) as a Strategic Ministry.
- To re-designate Covenant (Quartzsite, AZ) as a Strategic Ministry from its current SAWC status.
- To designate Trinity (Phoenix, AZ) as a Strategic Ministry.

### **Approval of Congregation Constitutions**

Rev. David Brandfass (Christ Lutheran Church, Sedona, AZ), former secretary of the synod, reviewed two congregational constitutions and forwarded them to the Synod Council for formal approval.

Rev. William Timm moved

**MSP 23.11.05 to approve the constitution of Mount Cross Lutheran Church (Payson, AZ) and to approve the constitution of West Valley Lutheran Young Adult Ministry.**

### **Updates to the Synod Leadership Roster**

Mr. Glenn Austad moved:

#### **MSP 23.11.06**

- To change the roster status of Rev. Gary McCluskey from active to retired, effective January 1, 2024.
- Change the roster status of Rev. Colin Melby from active to retired, effective January 1, 2024.
- Change the roster status of Pr. Kim Sterner from active to retired, effective January 1, 2024.

### **Housing Allowance Designations for Rostered Synod Staff**

Rev. Christopher Heller moved:

**MSP 23.11.07 to designate \$35,000 of the annual compensation to Rev. James Dew as housing allowance.**

Ms. Wendy Weiske moved:

**MSP 23.11.08 to designate \$60,000 of the annual compensation to Rev. Deborah Hutterer as housing allowance.**

Ms. Taylor Welch moved:

**MSP 23.11.09 to designate \$60,000 of the annual compensation to Rev. Jacqueline Pagel as housing allowance.**

Ms. Heather Burgett moved

**MSP 23.11.10 to designate \$62,000 of the annual compensation to Rev. Daniel Potaznik as housing allowance.**

### **Nominating Committee (2024 Synod Assembly)**

Mr. Roger Bailey, the chair of the committee, reported that eleven members of the Synod Council will be completing their terms in 2024. One of them, Rev. Tina Mills, has reached the term limits imposed by the synod constitution, and is not eligible to serve another term. Three of the eleven (Ms. Davis, Rev. Heller, and Mr. Michaels) occupy representative seats that must be filled by their respective conferences. The remaining seven are eligible to serve an additional term, if nominated and elected.

### **Review of Lutheran Campus Ministry—University of Arizona Proposal**

There was general discussion about the Lutheran Campus Ministry proposal that was discussed prior to the opening of the meeting.

### **Concluding Remarks and Evaluation**

Bishop Hutterer reported that Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Easton is taking a four to six month leave. Bishop Eaton has not had time off in over two years. The leave was granted by the Executive Committee of the Church Council of the ELCA.

Bishop Hutterer invited an evaluation in which each member of the council was invited to state which aspects of the meeting had been good, and which had not been good.

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Taylor Welch moved:

**MSP 23.11.11 to adjourn.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Rev. Stephen Springer  
Synod Secretary