



Grand Canyon Synod

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Synod Council Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom Video Conference

Saturday, December 11, 2021

9:00 am

Attendance

Synod Council members present: Rev. Deborah Hutterer, synod bishop; Ms. Barbara Carl, vice-president; Rev. David Brandfass, secretary; Mr. Erik Rehms, treasurer; Mr. Glenn Austad; Mr. Roger Bailey; Ms. Twila Burdick; Ms. Heather Burgett; Rev. Mary Louise Frenchman; Rev. Christopher Heller; Ms. Sue Jensen; Ms. Hannah Manzanares; Ms. Laura Musfeldt; Mr. Mark Myers; Ms. Janis Richert; Rev. William Timm; Rev. Daniel Valasakos; Ms. Taylor Welch.

Synod Council members absent: Rev. Tina Mills; Ms. Lisa Parrish; Ms. Janet Santiago.

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.

Guests: Rev. Carol Breimeier, New Spirit Lutheran Church, Tucson, Arizona; Ms. Myrna Wells-Ulland, chair, GCS Growing Generosity Campaign.

Welcome

Bishop Deborah Hutterer welcomed the council and visitors to the December 11, 2021, regular Synod Council meeting.

Presentation

Rev. Carol Breimeier, New Spirit Lutheran Church, Tucson, AZ provided a presentation on How to Start and Maintain Spiritual Conversations.

Break Out Rooms

The synod council members were invited to breakout rooms for discussion on starting and maintaining spiritual conversations. An opening devotion was included.

Call to Order

With a quorum present, Ms. Barbara Carl called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Janis Richert moved

MSP¹ SC21.12.01² to adopt the agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Sue Jensen moved

MSP SC21.12.02 to adopt minutes of the October 9, 2021 meeting of the Grand Canyon Synod Council.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Mark Myers moved

MSP SC21.12.03 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 (including a report on youth ministry); Director of Administration and Events Report; Director of Communication Report; Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizona (LAMA) Report; and the ELCA Foundation Regional Gift Planners Report as presented.

The synod council was invited to the chat rooms to discuss the Bishop Report; Director of Evangelical Mission / Bishop's Associate for Congregational

¹ MSP=Moved, seconded, passed.

² SC=synod council; 21=2021; 12=the month of December; 01= The first sequential action passed by the synod council during the month of December, 2021.

Vitality Report; Director of Administration and Events Report; and the Director of Communication Report. When the council came back from the chat rooms each group gave a brief report on what stood out from the report they were assigned to discuss.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Erik Rehms led a review of the current financial statements showing very good results for the first nine months of the fiscal year.

Mr. Glenn Austad moved

MSP SC21.12.04 to accept the Treasurer's Report dated October 31, 2021, with an increase in total assets of \$399,274.

Congregations in Transition

Synod staff has been busy keeping up with recent installations. There are two upcoming ordinations on the calendar.

Deacon Janice L. Zimbelman has accepted the call to be Director of Congregation Transitions for the Rocky Mountain and Grand Canyon Synods. Because of this, a new transition coach will be needed for the GCS.

Alleluia Lutheran Church and Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Arizona and The Lakes and Good Samaritan Lutheran Churches in Nevada are working on merger plans. Living Christ Lutheran Church, Flagstaff, Arizona has sold its property and will be relocating to another ministry site.

Strategic Discussion and Updates

Synod Administration of Celebration Lutheran Church, Peoria, AZ

The sale of the property will likely close in January 2022. Ms. Twila Burdick reported that Ms. Theresa Thornburgh is assisting with the administrative and archival issues involved in this closure and sale. The trustees have all worked very hard to assure this process has moved forward with grace. Future discussion will be on how to best use these resources for new ministries and opportunities.

Lutheran Campus Ministry

The Rev. Jacqui Pagel reported that Canterbury (Episcopal Church – USA) and Lutheran Campus Ministry, Flagstaff (LCMF) are working together and

are staffed by a lay person from each church body. Rev. Pagel and her counterpart in the EC-USA recommend moving towards a common staffing with one ordained person serving the common ministry of both LCMF and Canterbury. This recommendation has been communicated to the board and they are working on a four-year plan to assure this happens.

Lutheran Campus Ministry, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ is moving to the Our Savior Lutheran Church, Tucson, AZ campus. Ministry is going very well at the Lutheran Campus Ministry in Tempe, AZ at Arizona State University.

Campus Christian Center (CCC) in Tucson, Arizona

Ms. Sue Jensen moved

MSP SC21.12.05 to go into executive session at 10:37 a.m.

Rev. David Brandfass moved

MSP SC21.12.06 to adjourn this executive session at 10:59 a.m.

February Synod Council Meeting

The February 12, 2022, meeting of the GCS Synod Council will be held via Zoom.

Retreat Dates

Please reserve September 16-18, 2022, and September 23-25, 2022, as possible retreat dates for the Synod Council. More information will be forthcoming.

Nominating Committee

There will be several elections required at the 2022 GCS Synod Assembly, including electing a new secretary. Mr. Roger Bailey is heading up the Nominating Committee.

Constitution Update and Timeline

The current update which will be presented at the February Synod Council meeting will include changes that the synod secretary is mandated to make to be in compliance with the changes made by the 2019 Churchwide

Assembly. In addition, we need to update the continuing resolution on GCS conferences and the congregations that form them.

Break

Ms. Barbara Carl declared the meeting to be in recess at 11:05 a.m.
Ms. Barbara Carl called the meeting back into session at 11:10 a.m.

Strategic Discussion and Updates (continued)

Growing Generosity Campaign Update

The campaign has exceeded its goal for this point in its plan and is just short of raising \$485,000. The leadership team of the campaign is planning an abundance goal in the event the campaign exceeds its \$500,000 goal. The leadership team is so grateful for how the Holy Spirit is leading people and congregations to be generous.

Stewardship for All Seasons was lifted up as an example of how the appeal was making a difference throughout the GCS.

New Business

Synod Call

Rev. David Brandfass moved

MSP SC21.12.07 to issue a synod call to the Rev. Mark D. Wickstrom to serve as part-time interim pastor of The Lakes Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, NV effective October 5, 2021.

Supply Pastor Compensation

The Executive Committee moved

MSP SC21.12.08 to set the supply pastor stipend rate to \$200.00 plus \$50.00 for each additional worship service led over a weekend with mileage reimbursed at the current IRS rate and overnight accommodations provided if overnight travel is necessary.

Grants Report

The synod council was updated on the grant process for 2021. The committee was impressed with the passion for mission which congregations have expressed during this particular cycle with its many challenges.

Moving into the 2022 grant cycle, the webinar that was introduced this year will continue along with other ways to inspire innovation as priorities change as we lean into a post-pandemic world.

Ms. Hannah Manzanares moved

MSP SC21.12.09 to accept the grants report with thanksgiving.

Ms. Sue Jensen moved

MSP SC21.12.10 to move \$20,000.00 from the Council Designated fund to the TEEM fund.

Gloria Christi Articles of Incorporation

Ms. Twila Burdick moved

MSP SC21.12.11 to approve the Articles of Incorporation of Gloria Christi Federated Church, Paradise Valley, Arizona as presented.

Concluding Discussion

The Synod Council went into breakout rooms to discuss and process the meeting asking, "What stood out to you during this packed meeting?" The council reconvened out of the breakout rooms for a time of sharing. Highlights were: the abundance of healthy conversations and generosity; a concern for ministries that have used PPP loans to survive; and, thanksgiving for a synod staff that makes things look easy.

A follow up evaluation piece will come to the council by email.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

With all agenda items complete, Ms. Barbara Carl declared the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Bishop Deborah Hutterer extended Advent and Christmas blessings to all and led a closing prayer.

Next Meeting

Saturday, February 12, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. David Brandfass, secretary

Minutes approved February 12, 2022.
SC22.02.02