



Grand Canyon Synod

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Synod Council Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom Video Conference

Saturday, February 12, 2022

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; Ms. Sue Jensen; Ms. Hannah Manzanares; Rev. Tina Mills; Ms. Laura Musfeldt; Mr. Mark Myers; Rev. Daniel Valasakos; Ms. Taylor Welch.

Synod Council members absent: Rev. Mary Louise Frenchman; Rev. Christopher Heller; Ms. Lisa Parrish; Ms. Janis Richert; Ms. Janet Santiago; 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.

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 February 12, 2022, Synod Council meeting and led an opening prayer.

Presentation

Rev. Carol Breimeier, New Spirit Lutheran Church, Tucson, AZ provided a presentation on One-Minute Faith Stories.

One Minute Faith Stories

After a presentation, synod council members were invited to work on our one-minute faith stories.

Call to Order

With a quorum present, Ms. Barbara Carl called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M.

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Mark Myers moved
MSP¹ SC22.02.01² to adopt the agenda as amended.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Hannah Manzanares moved
MSP SC22.02.02 to adopt the minutes of the December 11, 2021, meeting of the Grand Canyon Synod Council.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Glenn Austad moved
MSP SC22.02.03 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; and the ELCA Foundation Regional Gift Planners Report as presented.

¹ MSP=Moved, seconded, passed.

² SC=synod council; 22=2022; 02=the month of February; 01= The first sequential action passed by the synod council during the month of February, 2022.

Treasurer's Report

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

Ms. Sue Jensen moved

MSP SC22.02.04 to accept the Treasurer's Report dated December 31, 2021, with an increase in total assets of \$425,708.

Congregations in Transition

Rev. Glenn Zimbelman will be a coach working with congregations in transition. The costs for the new joint office that supports congregations in transition in both the GCS and Rocky Mountains Synod (RMS) will be split 70% paid for by the RMS and 30% paid for by the GCS.

Strategic Discussion and Updates

Synod Administration of Celebration Lutheran Church, Peoria, AZ

The sale of the property has been completed with a few expenses still outstanding. The records for archival from Celebration Lutheran Church, Peoria, AZ are now at the GCS office. A task force was formed by the Executive Committee through EC22.02.01 which is attached to these minutes as [Exhibit A](#).

A review, conference by conference, of possible areas to strengthen and grow within the GCS were shared with the Synod Council.

Retreat Dates

Please reserve September 23-25, 2022, for the Synod Council retreat to be held at Ascension Lutheran Church, Paradise Valley, AZ with lodging at The McCormick Scottsdale.

Synod Assembly

Information on the upcoming Synod Assembly was shared with the Synod Council. Goals for the upcoming Synod Assembly include: Reigniting a passion for being church together; creating a sense of welcome and honoring milestones; presenting the synod mission spending plan; communicating updates; creating excitement around stories of mission and ministry; equipping leaders; and worshipping together.

Constitution Updates

SC20.02.07 contains the proposed amendments to the Synod Constitution as recommended by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly and are attached to these minutes as [Exhibit B](#). These updates, passed by the Synod Council at its February 2020 meeting, will be voted on at the 2022 GCS Synod Assembly.

Synod Council Handbook

The new and updated GCS Synod Council Handbook is now ready to be produced and passed on to the members of the Synod Council.

Candidacy Update

Thirty-four candidates are in the process of becoming rostered leaders. This impressive group will have the skills and passion to lead the church into the future. New timelines are being developed to support and encourage those who are considering becoming new leaders in this church.

Growing Generosity Campaign Update

As a synod we are so thankful for the amazing contributions which have now exceeded the \$500,000 goal of the campaign. Stretch goals are being developed by campaign leadership. The Synod Council was thanked for its one-hundred percent participation in providing gifts to the campaign.

Break

Ms. Barbara Carl declared the meeting to be in recess at 11:03 a.m.

Ms. Barbara Carl called the meeting back into session at 11:13 a.m.

New Business

Christ Evangelical and Alleluia Merger

There was a brief update on the merger of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Goodyear, AZ and Alleluia Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ.

In and Out Ministry Network

The Inside Out Network ministry brings practical and spiritual help and hope to inmates and those re-entering society after being incarcerated. This ministry assists returning citizens, service providers, and churches connect with each other in effective ways to change everyone's experience of reentry. If the Inside Out Network becomes a strategic ministry of the GCS it will open avenues for grants and other support for this ministry.

Rev. David Brandfass moved

MSP SC22.02.05 to welcome and approve the ministry of the Inside Out Network as a strategic ministry of the Grand Canyon Synod.

Update to Continuing Resolution on Conference Alignments

Rev. David Brandfass moved

MSP SC22.02.06 to approve³ S12.01.A7. with the addition of the Native American Urban Ministry, a synod authorized worshipping community in the Capital Conference. Amended S12.01.A7 is attached to these minutes as [Exhibit C](#).

Roster Changes

Rev. David Brandfass moved

MSP SC22.02.07 to change the roster status of Deacon Janice L. Zimbelman from on leave from call to active as Director of Congregation Transitions for the Grand Canyon and Rocky Mountain Synods effective January 16, 2022.

Ms. Twila Burdick moved

MSP SC22.02.08 to request the Conference of Bishops extend the on leave from call status for the Rev. Cory L. Meier, on leave from call status first effective July 4, 2016 (GCS SC16.09.08).

Approve Constitution

Rev. David Brandfass moved

MSP SC22.02.09 to approve the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions for Desert Hills Lutheran Church, Green Valley, AZ.

³ Approved by a two-thirds majority per †S18.31

Concluding Discussion

The Synod Council went into breakout rooms to discuss how the exercise on one-minute faith stories went, and what did we hear in the updates from the synod conferences.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Mr. Glenn Austad moved

MSP SC22.02.10 to adjourn at 11:56 a.m.

Bishop Deborah Hutterer led a closing prayer.

Next Meeting

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

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. David Brandfass, secretary

Minutes approved April 9, 2022 by SC22.04.02

Exhibit A

EC22.02.01 to appoint Rev. Miguel Gomez-Acosta, Rev. Peter Perry, Ms. Heather Burgett and Mr. Glenn Austad to a task force that will consult with Bishop Deborah Hutterer on identifying areas to strengthen and grow the ministry of the Grand Canyon Synod with the proceeds from the holy closure of Celebration Lutheran Church, Peoria, Arizona.

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Exhibit B

SC20.02.07 to recommend the Synod Assembly adopt the recommended amendments to Synod Constitutions recommended by the action of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America with the exception of recommended amendment S8.11.01.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION FOR THE GRAND CANYON SYNOD AS APPROVED BY THE 2019 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY Recommended Provisions

Prepared by the Office of the Secretary
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
August 2019

Additions are underlined. Deletions are ~~struck through~~ in the text.

CHAPTER 7: SYNOD ASSEMBLY

S7.22. This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those ~~designated as disabled~~ granted disability status, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of ~~congregations under development and~~ authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw ~~10.02.03, 10.01.04~~, to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.

CHAPTER 8: OFFICERS

S8.14. The ~~synodical~~ bishop may have such assistants as this synod shall from time to time authorize.

CHAPTER 10: SYNOD COUNCIL

S10.08. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of the Synod Council.

S10.073.01. To the extent permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees may be held electronically or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

CHAPTER 13: CONGREGATIONS

S13.25. This synod may temporarily assume administration of a congregation upon its request or with its concurrence. Such synod administration shall continue only so long as necessary to complete the purposes for which it was requested by the congregation or until the congregation withdraws consent to continued administration.

S13.40. ~~Synodically Authorized~~ Synod-authorized **Worshiping Communities**

CHAPTER 14: ROSTERED MINISTERS

S14.14. Whenever members of a congregation move to such a distance that regular attendance at its services becomes impractical, it shall be the duty of the pastor to commend them, upon their consent, to the pastoral care of a Lutheran congregation nearer to their place of residence.

S14.17. No minister of Word and Sacrament shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Sacrament shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair-president of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

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Exhibit C

S12.01.A7. Conferences

Capital Conference (9)

- 1. Phoenix: All Saints, Native American Urban Ministry (SAWC), Faith, Grace, Iglesia Luterana Vida Nueva, Mount of Olives, Our Saviour's, St. Andrew, Trinity*

Northeast Valley Conference (10)

- 1. Carefree: Christ the Lord*
- 2. Fountain Hills: New Journey*
- 3. Paradise Valley: Ascension, Gloria Christi (a federated congregation with the Presbyterian Church - USA)*
- 4. Phoenix: La Sagrada Familia, Prince of Peace*
- 5. Scottsdale: Bethany, Living Water, New Covenant, Resurrection*

High Country Conference (9)

- 1. Clarkdale: Spirit of Joy*
- 2. Flagstaff: Living Christ, Shepherd of the Hills*
- 3. Lakeside: Church of Our Savior (an Episcopal-Lutheran congregation)*
- 4. Payson: Mount Cross*
- 5. Prescott Valley: Emmanuel*
- 6. Rock Point: House of Prayer*
- 7. Sedona: Christ*

8. *Williams: St. John's (an Episcopal-Lutheran congregation)*

Colorado River Conference (14)

1. *Bullhead City: Community*
2. *Henderson, NV: Christ the Servant, New Song*
3. *Kingman: Grace*
4. *Lake Havasu City: Mount Olive*
5. *Las Vegas, NV: Christ, Community, Good Samaritan, Holy Spirit, Living Hope, St. Andrew, The Lakes*
6. *Pahrump, NV: Saved By Grace*
7. *St. George, Utah: New Promise*

Rio Salado Conference (9)

1. *Apache Junction: Epiphany of Christ,*
2. *Queen Creek: Crossroads Queen Creek (SAWC)*
3. *Gilbert: Spirit of Joy*
4. *Mesa: Bethlehem, First Evangelical, Love of Christ, Our Savior's, Spirit of Hope*
5. *San Tan Valley: Crossroads*

Fiesta Conference (8)

1. *Arizona City: Central*
2. *Chandler: Holy Trinity, Santa Trinidad (SAWC)*
3. *Maricopa: Maricopa*
4. *Phoenix: Esperanza, Mountain View*
5. *Tempe: Desert Cross, University*

Cactus Conference (15)

1. *Buckeye: Our Saviour's*
2. *El Mirage: Pan de Vida*
3. *Glendale: St. John's, Emmanuel (SAWC)*
4. *Goodyear: Christ*
5. *Peoria: Community of Grace, Peace*
6. *Phoenix: Alleluia*
7. *Quartzsite: Covenant*
8. *Sun City: American, Shepherd of the Desert*
9. *Sun City West: Lord of Life*
10. *Surprise: Spirit of Grace*
11. *Yuma: Faith, Gloria de Cristo*

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*

Total Congregations & SAWCs: 92

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