

These are not the 'official' minutes until reviewed and approved at the September 2006 meeting.

**SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

**DRAFT MINUTES
SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING
June 23-24, 2006
Mercy Center, Burlingame, CA**

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Anderson, Tom Beck, Diane Bowers, Ann Brannen, Pat Cash, Sarah Isakson, Steven Krefting, Annabel Landaverde, Michelle Martin, Vice President Larry Moeller, Bishop David Mullen, Kelly Nesheim, Jane Okubo, Moses Penumaka, Treasurer Karl Smith, Tom Stoffregen, Michael Telleen, Paul Theiss and Secretary Kathy Werfelmann.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Donna Burroughs, David Flakoll and Robert Miller

OTHER PARTICIPANTS: Noreen Meginness, Charles Ruthroff and William Wong (staff); Todd Bertani and Dick Stahlke (Discipling Team Chairs).

OPENING: Vice President Larry Moeller welcomed all, especially our newly elected council members and called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Pr. Sarah Isakson gave a devotion based on Ephesians 4 and closed with prayer.

AGENDA: A motion was made and seconded (Smith/Stoffregen) to adopt the agenda noting that our guest speakers would not be present. The motion carried. **SC06.06.01.**

MINUTES: A motion was made and seconded (Cash/Beck) to approve the minutes of May 18, 2006 with the following changes. (1) Ann Brannen was present. (2) Page one, Bishop's report, first line should read "Bishop Mullen spoke about his meeting with the cultural competency task group and the invitation to have speakers attend our June Synod Council meeting to speak on anti-racism." (3) On page 3, the Indemnity Agreement and Release paragraph, should read "Closer contact with the Executive Committee of the Synod Council and not just...." (4) Mike Telleen's name misspelled throughout. The motion carried. **SC06.06.02.**

REPORTS:

Bishop Mullen thanked the Council for its participation in the Assembly. Pray first! Bishop Mullen appreciated the long, substantive discussion on the Saturday night of Assembly regarding the budget and budget cuts. It was clear that all care deeply about carrying out God's mission. Lead by example. Though there is not complete agreement with every decision, as leaders in the church, we all need to be supportive of the serious work ahead. All denominations are experiencing change but we must remember that the Church belongs to God. Building up the body. We have tools for building up the body: Natural Church Development, Heartsprings, coaches, and funds for new starts. Living Waters Project. A new activity for the Bishop is a congregational visit each month, not focused on problems or conflict. Listening and learning about hopes, dreams and joys, he meets with lay and clergy leaders each month in a different location. This brings him great joy and also helps the leaders see how much positive ministry is taking place.

Bishop Mullen and a group of 14 others leave early in July to visit the leaders of our companion synod and people of Rwanda. Bishop Mullen reports that Rwandan Bishop Kalisa has been meeting with the president of Rwanda and working toward reconciliation.

Treasurer Karl Smith presented the **financial report** shown on Green Pages 1 through 14, noting that we will be working with the 2007 budget passed by the Assembly along with Second Mile Giving. Karl has sent letters to all the voting members of the Assembly, and congregational presidents, treasurers and Ministry Partners, reminding them to support the 2007 budget and also encouraging them to submit their congregation's 2007 Statements of Intent. Karl reported that current income is down but spending is down also, resulting in a small surplus.

Todd Bertani, chair of the **Leadership Discipling Team**, reported on some additions coming in the future; the annual Leadership Conference will continue, but two retreats for rostered leaders will also be held each year. Pastors and lay professionals will be encouraged to attend one of the two retreats in addition to the October conference. The team is distilling the results from the listening posts held with rostered leaders around the Synod.

Dick Stahlke, chair of the **Witness and Service Team**, reported that the team has not met since our last meeting.

Ann Watkins, chair of the **Word and Sacrament Discipling Team**, was not present due to recent surgery. Tom Stoffregen reported that **Mt. Cross** is beginning the search for a permanent director. Candidates with a business background might be possible candidates.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Council member appointments Vice President Moeller explained that the **Executive Committee** meets three times a year and once immediately before Assembly. The committee consists of the Bishop, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and three Council Members elected for one year terms. Floor nominations for the 3 vacancies were submitted. A motion was made and seconded (Cash/ Isakson) to close the nominations. A vote by ballot was taken. Declared elected were Dave Anderson, Tom Stoffregen and Diane Bowers.

Dick Stahlke then spoke to the Council about liaisons assigned to institutions and agencies in the synod. He stated that Ministry Partners have no direct link to the Synod Council except through these liaisons. The only times Ministry Partners come before the Council is to make specific requests such as requesting permission for fundraising. He stressed that this link between the Ministry Partners and the Council needs to be strengthened so that information flows between the two entities.

Larry Moeller then asked each Council member to list his/her top three preferences for liaison assignment, noting their current assignment. It was agreed that the new Executive Committee would make the **liaison assignments** and announce the appointments after dinner.

The meeting recessed at this time for dinner and resumed at 7:00 pm.

Liaison assignments :

Assembly Planning	Sarah Isakson and Jane Okubo
Candidacy	Kelly Nesheim
Warner Trust	Annabel Landaverde and Moses Penumaka
Elder Care	Ann Brannen
LOPP	Steven Krefting
LOM	Tom Stoffregen
LSS	Michelle Martin
Tri Synod Campus Ministry	Donna Burroughs
PLTS	Pat Cash
LAMN	Tom Beck

A motion was **made and seconded** (Anderson/Smith) confirming the liaison assignments for the coming year.
SC06.06.03.

Conference Assignments

Redwood	Pat Cash
Vineyard	David Flakoll
Gateway	Diane Bowers
Delta Diablo	Bob Miller
Northern Mtn Valley	Larry Moeller
Sierra NV	Paul Theiss
Foothill	Jane Okubo
Sacramento	Tom Stoffregen

San Francisco	Steven Krefting
East Bay	Sarah Isakson
So Alameda	Ann Brannen
Peninsula	Mike Telleen
Monterey Bay	Kelly Nesheim
Santa Clara Valley	Michelle Martin
Sierra San Joaquin	Donna Burroughs
South Valley	
Central Valley	Dave Anderson
Central San Joaquin	Kathy Werfelmann

Bishop Mullen noted that in the absence of the anti-racism speakers for Saturday morning's session, Sarah Isakson would be leading the Council in a discussion on reconciliation and our role as Synod Council members.

The Consent Calendar was presented with the addition of letter F. Leadership Discipling Team, District A, appointment of Rowena Henry. **A motion was made and seconded** (Theiss/Nesheim) to remove the item Special Call to Pr. Paul Theiss from the Consent Calendar. **Motion carried. SC06.06.04.**

A motion was made and seconded (Werfelmann /Isakson) to approve the modified Consent Calendar items *en bloc* as listed below.

Special call to Pr. Lyle Beckman, San Francisco Night Ministry (3 year term).

On leave from call : Pr Janie Blakeley and Pr Rebecca Schlatter.

Appointments : Judith Larsen to Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary Board (term 2112), Ron Gibson to Nominating Committee (term 2009), James White to Documents Committee (2009), Pr. Judith Morgado to Word and Sacrament Discipling Team (2007), Rowena Henry to Leadership Discipling Team (2008) Tony Tanke and James Friedrich to Candidacy Committee (2010) This **motion carried. SC06.06.05.**

Special Call: **A motion was made and seconded** (Krefting/Stoffregen) to approve the Special Call to Pr. Paul Theiss as mission developer at Fernley Lutheran Mission, Fernley, Nevada (2 year term). Vice President Moeller invited Pr. Theiss to address the Council concerning the call. Paul noted that he will be meeting with cell groups as well as the Sunday morning congregation. He talked about the discernment process, noting that research has shown that mission developers don't necessarily have 10 to 15 great characteristics that make them successful, but have found that the best predictor of future behavior is past behavior. Paul was interviewed by two mission developers outside our Synod and found to be suited for this ministry. The vote was then taken and this **motion carried. SC06.06.06.**

Appointment :Synod Council At Large **A motion was made and seconded** (Krefting/Theiss) to appoint Pr. Cora Aguilar (Messiah/Hayward) to the position of Synod Council Member At Large, as recommended by the Nominating Committee. The Assembly had approved a motion to refer the appointment to the Council. The constitution calls for a candidate(s) from the Nominating Committee. Another section allows for nominations from the floor for all elections. The Nominating Committee had not submitted nominees to the Assembly. Discussion followed concerning the make up of the Council and the balance needed for male/female (50/50),and lay/clergy (60/40) as required by the constitution.. A motion to refer this item back to the Nominating Committee failed. The original **motion carried** and Pr. Cora Aguilar was elected. **SC06.06.07.**

Synod Assembly Report Pr. Meginness reported on the recent Synod Assembly. Percentage of attendance at Assemblies has remained strong (82.79%), but declining membership in congregations results in fewer voting members. Assembly-goers rated almost all areas of the evaluation good to excellent. With 5 being excellent, 4 good and 3 average, the lowest scores were Displays receiving a 3.8 and Closing Eucharist receiving a 3.9. Pr. Williams received a 4.9 and our keynote team received a 4.2.

Prayer Partners A drawing was held to establish Prayer Partners for the coming year. They are as follows:

Ann Brannen	Michelle Martin
Harvey Blomberg	Dave Anderson
Larry Moeller	Tom Beck

Mike Telleen	Steve Krefting
Bill Wong	Diane Bowers
David Flakoll	Tom Stoffregen
Kelly Nesheim	Jane Okubo
Bob Miller	Todd Bertani
Moses Penumaka	Sarah Isakson
Kathy Werfelmann	Annabel Landaverde
Noreen Meginness	Karl Smith
Bud Egdahl	David Mullen
Ann Watkins	Chuck Ruthroff
Pat Cash	Richard Stahlke
Paul Theiss	Donna Burroughs
Cora Aguilar	Diane Bowers

Evening Devotion Pr. Sarah Isakson began by asking us to think about these questions: What is reconciliation? What in our individual life needs reconciling? What in our church, our congregation, and the greater church is in need of reconciling? As Synod Council members, what can we do to be reconciling? What is our place in reconciliation? Sarah then presented the evening devotion from Isaiah 61.

The session recessed for the evening and reconvened at 9:11 am Saturday morning.

There was a short discussion regarding the Golden Gate Lutheran Church situation.

The Council then entered a *committee of the whole* using 2 Corinthians 5:14 as a basis. How can we become reconciling, inclusive ambassadors? At the end of our discussion time, the Bishop suggested that this passage be read at the beginning of every meeting.

The **meeting evaluation** of January 27-28, 2006 was reviewed and verbal evaluations of this meeting were solicited. Blank forms for written evaluations of this meeting were distributed. It was suggested that we have a handout listing each of our liaison positions along with a brief description of the expectations, the time commitment, location of meetings, etc. Thankfulness was offered for the wisdom of the Assembly in electing our new members. Apologies were made for the cancelled speakers; it was hoped that members found the discussion time meaningful. Please send requests for future agenda items to Kathy, Noreen or Bishop Mullen.

A closing prayer was offered along with the laying on of hands on Bishop Mullen and those traveling with him to Rwanda (by proxy), asking for blessings on the delegation and their visit, and asking for traveling mercies. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Werfelmann
Secretary