

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Southeastern Synod Council Executive Committee  
Minutes  
November 20, 2019, 7pm – by phone**

In attendance:

- Bishop Kevin Strickland, President
- Imran Siddiqui, Vice President
- Steve Gehret, Treasurer
- Rev. Randy Jones, Secretary
- Rev. Beverly Shaw
- Stephen Schrader
- Roxann Thompson
- Pastor Karen Boda, Staff Liaison

**1. Call to Order**

Vice President Siddiqui called the meeting to order.

**2. Opening Prayer: Bishop Kevin Strickland**

Bishop Kevin Strickland opened the meeting with a prayer.

**3. Adoptions of the Agenda (Agenda)**

**EC2019.11.01** – The agenda was approved as presented.

**4. Approval of Great Commission Fund (GCF) – Multicultural Education Grant**

Proposed Action recommended by the Mission Outreach and Renewal Committee:

To approve the Multicultural Education Grant award of \$1,200 to the following, payable during December 2019:

- St Luke Lutheran Church Cordova, Tennessee

Background:

The synod's Great Commission Fund is maintained on an endowment basis. The Mission Outreach and Renewal Committee is recommending that this amount be awarded to the applicant as requested for a local Martin Luther King Jr. celebration.

**EC2019.11.02** – The action was approved as presented.

## 5. Authorization of Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities

### Proposed Action:

Resolved, that the Synod Council authorizes the following Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community:

- Table Grace, Nashville, TN

### Background:

Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community “Table Grace” in the Nashville area starting December 1, 2019 was approved at the New Start Table on November 13 by Churchwide Staff pending approval from the Executive Committee of Southeastern Synod Council.

Table Grace will be a Mission focused on the LGBTQIA+ community including, but not limited to single mothers who are economically disadvantaged and people who have been impacted by the Prison Industrial Complex. It is a Word and Sacrament Ministry aimed at healing of wounds inflicted by society and the church on these populations as well as the building of community around the Gospel of Jesus Christ to strengthen these people and send them back out into the world as ambassadors of God’s grace to others who are marginalized. Worship will initially be monthly around table and meal with Word and Sacrament as well as in companion congregations in the Deanery where Ms. Dawn Bennett will be preaching. This process is two-fold:

1. Build relationships among those gathered around the Gospel and the Sacramental meal generating a sense of community and a foundation for the ministry.
2. Generate a larger community of support in the local congregations for the acquisition of resources needed to do successful ministry with these targeted population groups. The congregations of the Deanery will provide spiritual and financial support to the new ministry in different ways, including but not limited to: sharing of furniture for set up of a worship space, payment for supply preaching and economic support through clothing and food drives.

**EC2019.11.03** – The action was approved as presented.

## 6. Approval of Funding for Table Grace

### Proposed Action:

Resolved that Synod Council approves the funding for this ministry in the amounts of \$12,000, \$10,000 and \$13,000 respectively for three years.

Background: This amount is requested to support the New Start Ministry Table Grace from the Strategic Initiatives Fund. An additional amount for salary support comes from churchwide. Other funds may come from a private donor. The Mission Developer is also required to continue raising funds each year.

**EC2019.11.04** – The action was approved as presented.

**7. Approval of Synodically Authorized Ministers of Table Grace**

Proposed Action:

Resolved that the following Synodically Authorized Minister appointment by the Bishop of the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA be affirmed.

· Ms. Dawn Bennett: Table Grace, Nashville, TN

Bishop Strickland is to appoint her as the SAM for Table Grace 12/1/2019 until she is ordained and the Executive Committee is asked to affirm that decision. On 1/12/2020 she will be ordained with the title Mission Developer and that will be approved by the Council as a normal action.

**EC2019.11.05** – The action was approved as presented, with the addition of the approval for ordination and recommendation for a synod call.

Resolved that the Synodically Authorized Minister appointment of Ms. Dawn Bennett by the Bishop of the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA be affirmed. *In addition, be it resolved that Ms. Dawn Bennett be put forward for a synod call at the Southeastern Synod Council meeting January 10-11, 2020 and approved for ordination on January 12, 2020.*

**8. Approval of Short Term Inspiritus Lease – Exhibits A.1, B.2**

Proposed action:

Resolved that the synod Council approves the lease (Exhibit B.2) for the property at 1622 Rosa Parks Boulevard, Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee from December 1, 2019 through November 30, 2020 for the amount of \$1.

Background:

This proposal is for St. Paul's facility to be used by Inspiritus and the Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community of Table Grace. The building is in great need of maintenance and will be considered for tear down with the approval of the ELCA Southeastern Synod. An update will be provided prior to the Southeastern Synod Assembly in June 2019.

Exhibit A.1 – Red lined lease agreement

We addressed the items that were noted in the version sent by Bishop Strickland last week. Our Board member, Marc Bussone, an attorney living in Nashville and member of our St. Paul's Redevelopment task force, recommended the changes. He does not believe that use of parking for Inspiritus needs to be explicitly stated in the lease since the lease covers the entire parcel of property that the St. Paul's building is located on.

## Exhibit B.2 – Short Term Lease Agreement

**EC2019.11.05** – The action was approved as presented (Exhibit B.2) with the additional requirement that we consult our Synod Attorney, Charles Bridgers, to add an exhibit to the Short Term Lease Agreement to specify that maintenance costs may not exceed \$5000. If additional funds are needed, Executive Committee approval is required.

Pastor Karen Boda will draft the Addendum and contact Michelle Angalet to inform her of the additional exhibit. Bishop Strickland will contact Charles Bridgers.

11/22/19 - Addendum approved by Synod Attorney Charles Bridger reads:

Section 9, MAINTANENCE, shall be **modified as follows**:

9. MAINTENANCE. Tenant shall, at its expense, provide utilities and janitorial services. The Landlord shall, at its expense, maintain, repair and replace as needed the exterior and structural portions of the Premises, including but not limited to the roof, walls, gutters, downspouts and foundations, together with all utility lines, electrical wiring and fixtures, plumbing, heating, venting and air conditioning systems. Such repairs shall be at Landlord's cost. **Maintenance, repair, and replacement costs exceeding a yearly total of \$5000 will require ELCA Southeastern Synod Executive Committee approval.** If Landlord fails to perform its obligations hereunder, Tenant may perform the same and offset the cost thereof against the Rent, **not to exceed \$5000.**

### 9. Repurposing of Council-Designated Account “Doraville Property Administration” - Exhibit B.1

**EC2019.11.06** – The action was approved as presented.

### 10. Gordy Scholarship Fund

Proposed action: Resolved that the Synod Council designate \$30k from the Strategic Initiative Fund (Doraville sale) for the **Gordy Scholarship Fund**.

Two copies need to be signed by Imran Siddiqui (Southeastern Synod Vice President) and Bishop Strickland and mailed to: ELCA Foundation, Attn: Linda Vargas, 8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631-4101.

Background: the money is given now to the fund so that it may be endowed by the ELCA and the funds may be given to seminary students in the year 2020. This is in addition to the \$3K collected during the Bishop Installation Service.

**EC2019.11.07** – The action was approved as presented.

**11. Closing Prayer – Imran Siddiqui**

Vice President Siddiqui closed the meeting with prayer.

**12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Vice President Siddiqui.