

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Southeastern Synod Council Executive Committee
Agenda, July 20 6:30 pm, ZOOM**

In attendance:

Bp. Kevin Strickland

Mr. Imran Siddiqui, Vice President

Rev. Randy Jones, Secretary

Ms. Elaine Schwartz

Rev. Beverly Shaw

Mr. David Haigler

Not attending: Steven Gehret (vacation)

1. Call to Order

Vice President Siddiqui called the meeting to order.

2. Opening Prayer

Vice President Siddiqui opened the meeting with prayer.

3. Approval of Agenda

EC2020.07.01 – The agenda was approved.

4. Distribution of funds from the sale of Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Hiram, GA – Exhibit A.1

EC2020.07.02 - Resolved, that funds from the Holy Closure of Holy Cross, Hiram, GA designated for “Pastor and Deacon Training” in the amount of \$49,763.82 and “New and Renewing Congregation Endowment” in the amount of \$49,763.82 be placed into the Strategic Initiatives Fund, with the designations to remain.

Background and Rationale: Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Hiram, GA recently celebrated a Holy Closure and donated the proceeds from the sale of their building and property. The total amount was \$331,758.77. Of this, funds were donated to the ELCA Southeastern Synod for “Pastor and Deacon Training” in the amount of \$49,763.82 and “New and Renewing Congregation Endowment” in the amount of \$49,763.82. We give God thanks for this legacy gift from Holy Cross.

By placing these funds under the Strategic Initiative Fund, they will be able to draw a higher percent interest, retain their initial designation, and be used in years to come as intended by Holy Cross.

Elaine Schwartz will assist the bishop with Pastor and Deacon Training.

David Haigler will assist the bishop with New and Renewing Congregation Endowment.

5. Strategic Initiative Fund – Diversity and Justice Training

EC2020.07.03 - Resolved, that \$10K be set aside from the Strategic Initiative Fund, “Pastor and Deacon Training”, to be used for Diversity and Justice work.

Background and Rationale: In this time of racial unrest in our country, plus considering the Synod Strategic Vision Team’s goal for racial justice, this money will be used to provide facilitated racial justice training for staff, deans, and all rostered ministers.

This training will also satisfy the boundary training requirement for all rostered ministers in the Southeastern Synod. A first training is planned for October 12 and 26 with Dr. Catherine Meeks. She is the director for the Center for Racial Healing sponsored by the Episcopal Church in Atlanta.

<http://www.centerforracialhealing.org/>

6. Strategic Initiative Fund – support during the pandemic

EC2020.07.04 - Resolved, that \$10K and a contingency (on the possibility that we don’t get the ELCA grant) of \$10K be set aside from the Strategic Initiative Fund. These funds will be used to assist rostered ministers in the Southeastern Synod during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Background and Rationale: \$30K was approved for this purpose at the Executive Committee Meeting on April 14, 2020. The Synod’s \$30K was combined with two \$10K grants from the ELCA, and to date, \$49,800 has been distributed to 19 congregations (16 received \$2700, 3 received \$2200).

We have one unmet request plus the need to support rostered ministers who are between calls and experiencing serious financial hardship. This additional \$10K will assist in providing this support.

At the end of July, our Synod will apply for a third ELCA grant. If our synod receives this ELCA grant, the monies will be returned to the Strategic Initiative Fund.

7. **Inspiritus, Nashville Property**

Bishop Strickland reported that the Nashville property (used to be St. Paul Lutheran) is being used by Inspiritus to continue the ministries there. There are repairs that need to be made to the parsonage. The cost will be around \$1200. The roof also needs to be repaired which could cost as much as \$1500.

The bishop asked that if the improvements for the property are under \$5000 that he be allowed to approve these improvements.

EC2020.07.05 – Resolved, that the bishop be allowed to approve up to \$5000, based upon estimates, in improvements for the St. Paul, Nashville, TN property.

8. **Latino/a/x Ministry Designated Funds** – Bishop Strickland

EC2020.07.06 - Resolved, that designated funds in the following amounts be used, as designated, to fund Latino/a/x Ministry:

Designated Fund: Latino/a/x Developer, North Atlanta, \$113,443.49

Hold for New Start: N. Atlanta Latino/a/x, \$1200

Elaine Schwartz recused herself from this action item.

Background and Rationale: We have an immediate need to lift up and embrace the growing Latino/a/x Community in the Southeastern Synod.

This funding will be used to call a pastor to serve half time as a Latino/a/x developer on the synod staff. Objectives will be to identify Latino/a/x ministry needs across the synod, lift up leaders and candidates in those communities, work ecumenically within these communities, and be an advocate and voice for the Latino/a/x Communities in our synod. This pastor will also engage in the wider work of the ELCA, specifically Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries. Initial focus will be on Jackson, MS and areas around Atlanta, GA.

The pastor will also serve part time at Amazing Grace, Lilburn. This congregation came together with Sagrada Familia in September 2019 and ministers to both the Anglo and Latino/a/x communities as a single congregation through worship and outreach. Additional focus by a Spanish speaking pastor will assist this congregation to reach further into the Latino/a/x community, encourage full participation, lift up leaders, and better serve their needs.

Funding will come from the synod designated funds (\$114,643) and \$10K/year for three years from Amazing Grace. We will continue to seek additional funding from the synod's Mission Outreach and Renewal Committee, ELCA Multicultural Ministries, synod's designated fund "New and Renewing Congregations", and Latino/a/x grants.

9. En Bloc: Roster changes – Imran Siddiqui

EC2020.07.07 – The En Bloc actions were approved.

- a) Resolved, that the ELCA-Southeastern Rev. Terri Landers be granted On-Leave-From-Call – SL (Study Leave) status first year, beginning June 6, 2020.

Background Rationale: Rev. Terri Landers was approved by the Synod Council on June 6, 2020 for On-Leave-From-Call, first year, beginning June 6, 2020. Rev. Landers will now begin a 12-month CPE Residency Program at the VA Hospital in Augusta, GA starting September 2020.

Per the Roster Manual, A person already granted on-leave-from-call status, whose life circumstances change, may apply for a change to study leave. The Synod Council may approve such a change; however, the original date the leave began remains the same, thus allowing a maximum leave of six years.

Her status needs to be changed from OLFC to OLFC-SL, with the leave extended from the original three years to a maximum of six years.

- b) For information, Wanza Tina Trice-Culpepper has been assigned by Bishop Kevin Strickland to serve as a Synod Authorized Minister at Celebration of Grace, Canton Ga, beginning July 6, 2020.
- c) Resolved, that minutes from the Executive Committee emails dated April 6, 2020, April 22, 2020, and July 8, 2020 be approved.

April 6, 2020 - authorization for Sandra Gustavson to apply for the PPP loan on behalf of the synod

Resolved, Exhibit B.1, **EC2020.04.01**

Background Rationale, **Exhibit B.2**

April 22, 2020 – authorization to use \$30K from the Strategic Initiatives Fund for Synod COVID-19 grants.

Resolved, Exhibit C.1, **EC2020.04.02**

Background and Rationale, **Exhibit C.2, C.3**

July 8, 2020 – election of Executive Committee Member David Haigler.

Resolved, **Exhibit E.1**

10. Closing Prayer

Ms. Elaine Schwartz closed the meeting with prayer.

11. Adjournment

Vice President Siddiqui adjourned the meeting.