



Southeastern Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Synod Council Agenda
September 12, 2020 9am-4pm EDT

SESSION ONE (9:00-10:30am):

1. **Welcome**—Imran Siddiqui, Vice President [10 minutes]
2. **Opening Devotions and Prayer for the Opening a Meeting** (Exhibit J.1)—Bishop Kevin Strickland [10 minutes]
3. **Adoption of proposed agenda** (Exhibit Z.2)—Imran Siddiqui, Vice President [2 minutes] Note: Removal of En Bloc items must be requested by 12pm, prior to the lunch break to the Vice President.
4. **Approval of Minutes** (Exhibits B.1, C.1-2)—Rev. Randy Jones, Secretary [3 minutes]
Proposed: Resolved that the minutes from the Southeastern Synod Executive Committee meeting July 8 and July 20, 2020 and from the Southeastern Synod Council meeting June 6, 2020 be accepted.
5. **Proposed, that these persons be elected for said terms to the position of Synod Council Conference Representatives.**
Conference 8, Ms. Carol Hawkins, Advent, Murfreesboro, for a two-year term.
6. **Synod Council 101**—Imran Siddiqui, Vice President [15 minutes]
 - a. Purpose and Responsibilities of the Synod Council
 - i. Synod Council Covenant (Exhibit J.5/example from NWMN Synod)
 - ii. Synod Council Members each as a liaison to a committee/task force/group (Exhibit F.1)
 - b. Consensus Based Decision Making (Exhibit J.6)
 - c. Legal Responsibilities (Exhibit J.7)
7. **Synod Council Getting to know one another**---Bishop Kevin Strickland and Imran Siddiqui, Vice President [20 minutes]
 - a. Breakout Groups [12 minutes/3-4 people per group]
 - i. Question One: Tell who you are briefly but what is one important memory of your faith story you would like to share?
 - ii. Question Two: What is one thing about you people would be surprised to know or find out?
 - iii. Question Three: What is your hope for this church in this synod for such a time as this?

- b. Total Group Sharing [8-10 minutes]
8. **Report from the Bishop** (Exhibit A.1)—Bishop Kevin Strickland [15 minutes]
 9. **COVID-19 Report**—Bishop Kevin Strickland and Rev. Jill Henning [10 minutes]
 - a. Openings and Closings
 - b. Synod Action Steps and Moving Forward
 - c. Grants to congregations and individuals (Exhibit L.5)

BREAK 10:30-10:45am

SESSION TWO (10:45-12noon):

10. **Strategic Vision Update**—Bishop Kevin Strickland and Ms. Rhonda Clay [10 minutes]
11. **Diversity and Justice Task Force** (Exhibit F.2)---Bishop Kevin Strickland [5 minutes]
 - a. Proposal to create a task force
 - b. Update on the progress
 - c. Next Steps
12. **Presentation from the ELCA Foundation**—Rev. Ana Lugo, Regional Gift Planner, Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA Foundation and Rev. John Eggen, Director for Gift Planning [30 minutes/11-11:30am]
13. **Presentation about the LifeLine Fund**—Rev. John Mocko [15 minutes/11:30-11:45am]
14. **Ministry Funding Plan and Conversation concerning Mission Support** (Exhibits D.1-5)—Mr. Steve Gehret, Treasurer and Bishop Kevin Strickland [15 minutes]
 - d. Treasurers Report and review of Strategic Initiative Fund
 - e. Conversation around Mission Support with guest Rev. Paul Summer, member of the Budget and Finance Committee
 - f. Action Steps and Synod Council Commitment (conversation to continue after lunch)
15. **Noon Day Prayer**--- (Rev. Susan Thisell)

BREAK 12:15-1:15pm for Lunch

SESSION THREE (1:15-2:30pm):

16. **Continued Conversation on Mission Support and Synod Council Action**—Mr. Steve Gehret, Treasurer and Bishop Kevin Strickland [15 minutes]
17. **Deferral of FICA taxes for lay synod staff for the remainder of calendar year 2020** (Exhibit L.8) - Bishop Strickland and Treasurer Mr. Steve Gehret

Proposed Action: Decline to be a participating employer in the optional federal payroll tax deferral program in effect from September 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

The Executive Committee, action EC2020.09.04, recommends that we approve this proposed action and decline to be a participating employer in the optional federal payroll tax deferral program.

18. **Latino Ministry Strategy Proposal**—Bishop Kevin Strickland [15 minutes]
 - a. Approve 3-year Proposal
 - b. Approval Additional 2-year funding from Strategic Initiative Fund
 - c. Confirm the recommended call for *Assistant to the Bishop for Latino Ministry Strategy and Associate Pastor of Amazing Grace, Lawrenceville, GA.*
19. **Visitor Presentations**
 - d. **Inspiritus, The Rev. John Moeller** [10 minutes/1:30-1:40pm]
 - e. **ELCA Church Council Rep, Mr. Gary Pederson** [10 minutes/1:40-1:50pm]
 - f. **Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, The Rev. Dr. Mary Shore, Dean and Rector** [15 minutes/1:50-2:05pm]
20. **Compensation Guidelines** (Exhibits F.3a-c)—Mr. Mark Ritter, Compensation Committee [20 minutes/2:05-2:25pm]
Resolved, that the 2021 Compensation Guidelines recommended by the Compensation Committee be adopted.
21. **Synod Faith Formation Events**—Bishop Strickland and Rev. Michael Jannett [5 minutes/2:25-2:30pm]
 - g. Lay Fall Faith Formation Events
 - h. Rostered Ministers Advent Lectionary and Worship Study
 - i. First Call

BREAK 2:30-2:45pm

SESSION FOUR (2:45-4:00pm):

22. **Group Work on Building a Synod Council Covenant**—Bishop Kevin Strickland and Imran Siddiqui, Vice President [20 minutes/2:45-3:05pm]
23. **Committees and Task Forces** (Exhibit F.1) [10 minutes/ 3:05-3:15pm] – Bishop Strickland and VP Siddiqui
 - a. **Conversation around governance structure to clarify committee/task force/working group/etc.**
 - b. **Formation of Committees and Task Forces:**
 - i. **Proposal to create Advocacy *Committee* from Advocacy *Task Force*** (Exhibit F.6)
 - ii. **Proposal to create Diversity and Justice Task Force** (Exhibit F.2)
 - iii. **Proposal to create a Strategic Vision Task Force** (Exhibit F.3)

24. Election of Holding Corporation Member—Imran Siddiqui, Vice President [5 minutes/3:15-3:20pm]

- c. Resolved, that The Rev. Beverly Brown Shaw be elected as a member of the ELCA-Southeastern Holding Corporation for a one-year term.

25. En Bloc

- d. **Proposed, that the Roster status changes be approved** (Exhibit L.2)
- e. Accept the recommendation of Pastor Delmer Chilton to **approve the Constitution and Bylaws of Holy Trinity, Daphne, AL** (Exhibits L.3a, L.3b)
- f. **Proposed, that the following guidelines to the Nominating Committee for its use in planning for the elections to take place at the 2021 Synod Assembly be approved** (Exhibit L.4)
- g. **Approval of moving/merging/cancelling of designated accounts**
 - i. Proposed: to move the “Book of Faith Initiative” Fund (\$3,680.76), the “Evangelism Support” Fund (\$7,510.56), the “Leadership Support” Fund (\$653.60), and the “Pre-Retirement” Conferences Fund (\$234.89) all totaling \$12,079.81 to a consolidated fund called the “Formation” Fund and for it to be listed under “Programmatic”. Formation of lay, rostered, congregations as we equip, empower, and enhance all people to love and serve. This could look like educational retreats, webinars, etc. for all ages.
 - ii. Proposed: to move the “Green Team TF” Fund (\$3,569.69) to the Advocacy Program.
 - iii. Proposed: to move the “Hold for New Start MS Delta” Fund (\$3,065.33) to the new “Latino Ministry Strategy” Fund.
 - iv. Proposed: to move “Hunger Huddle Conference” Fund (\$564.41) and the “Hunger TF” Fund (\$453.85) totaling \$1,018.26 to be added to the “SES Match, COVID-19” Fund for Food Insecurities through our Synod Disaster Ministry Team.
 - v. Proposed: to close the “Lutheran Men In Mission” Fund (\$2,903.35) and to grant permission for the Bishop and Staff to give these funds to congregations who have active Lutheran Men in Mission ministry before the end of 2020.
- h. **Appointments to committees, task forces, and boards**
 - i. Proposed, that the following persons be appointed to the committees and task forces as specified
 1. **Personnel Committee**: Rev. Lewis Groce (St. Timothy, Henderson, TN) for a three-year term
 2. **Compensation Committee**: Rev. Carolyn Hayford (Shepherd of the Hills, Birmingham) for a three-year term.
 3. **Disaster Committee**: Chris Mallette (St. John’s, Knoxville TN), Al Kates (All Saints, Lilburn, GA) and Rev. Morgan Gordy (Christ Lutheran, Nashville, TN) for three year terms. Officers are Rev. Katie Pasch, chair; John Boettner, vice-chair; Rev. Tom Clark, recorder.

4. **Mission Outreach and Renewal Committee (MORC):** Rev. Carolyn Hayford (Shepherd of the Hills, Birmingham), Vickie Horst (All Welcome, Tifton), Kim McCray (St. Stephen, Decatur), Laurie Tinc (Epiphany, Suwanee), Linda Barnes, SAM Peace, Nashville for two year terms.
- i. **Proposed, that the reports of staff, committees, agencies, and conferences be accepted**
 1. Report of the Vice President, Mr. Imran Siddiqui (Exhibit A.2)
 2. Report of the Secretary, Rev. Randy Jones (Exhibit A.3)
 3. Synod Staff (Exhibits G.1-5)
 4. Budget and Finance Committee Report (Exhibit D.6)
 5. Candidacy Committee (Exhibit F.8)
 6. Mission Outreach and Renewal Committee (Exhibit F.4)
 7. Disaster Ministries Committee Report (Exhibit F.9)
 8. Summary of Vacancies and Progress on Inclusivity Goals (Exhibit F.7)
- j. **Proposed, that the recommendations by the Mission and Outreach Committee for Scholarships and Grants be accepted.**
 - i. Great Commission Fund Grants
 1. All Welcome Worship, Tifton, GA (Exhibit L.6a)
 2. Peace Lutheran, Nashville, TN (Exhibit L.6b)
 3. Lutheran Church of Malaysia, Companion Synod, Malaysia; Attachment C + D (Exhibit L.6c)
 4. Kiswahili Lutheran Mission, Nashville, TN (Exhibit L.6d)
 5. Trinity, Tullahoma, TN (Exhibit L.6e)
 6. St. James, Brunswick, GA (Exhibit L.6f)
 - ii. Linn Fund Grants
 1. The Table, Nashville, TN (Exhibit L.7a)

26. **Future Meeting date:** January 8-9, 2021 via ZOOM at this point

27. **Closing Prayer:** (Mr. David Haigler)