

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Southeastern Synod Council
Executive Committee Minutes
July 19, 2018 – 5:00 pm Eastern Time**

Call to order

Vice President Siddiqui called the telephone conference meeting to order from Hawaii. (Mr. Siddiqui is on his honeymoon in Hawaii.)

Opening prayer

Bp. Gordy opened the meeting with a prayer.

In Attendance

Executive Committee

The Rev. Julian Gordy, Bishop
Mr. Imran Siddiqui, Vice President
The Rev. Randy Jones, Secretary
Mr. Lee Smith, Treasurer
Mr. Stephen Schrader, Conference 7 Representative
The Rev. Kim Stover, Conference 4 Representative
Ms. Roxann Thompson, Member At-Large

Synod Staff

Dr. Sandra Gustavson, Fiscal Advisor

Bishop's Opening Remarks

The bishop reported that the evaluations from Synod Assembly were in and they were generally positive. Also the Rev. Delmer Chilton is filling in for Deacon Michelle Angalet while she is on sabbatical. He also reported that the synod offices are on schedule and the move in should be at the end of September. When Deacon Jeanette Burgess goes on sabbatical Melissa Fuller of Atonement Lutheran in Atlanta will cover for her with the candidacy committee.

The bishop explained that this meeting was being done by phone because the assumption that everyone understood what we are considering is questionable. So this allows questions to be asked and makes sure that everyone is on board with the decision.

Consideration of Housing Allowances

Dr. Gustavson presented the following action item and rationale for two housing allowances for the Rev. Crispin Ilombe Wilondja and the Rev. Mica I. Koli.

EC2018.07.01 – The following housing allowances were approved by consensus effective August 1, 2018:

- **\$675 per month for the Rev. Crispin Ilombe Wilondja, Mission Developer, Good Samaritan Ministry, Clarkston GA**
- **\$2,083.33 per month for the Rev. Mica I. Koli, Mission Developer, Resurrection Mission, Tucker GA**

Rationale & Additional Information

When no congregation is available to serve as the fiscal agent for a synodically authorized worshiping community (SAWC), the Southeastern Synod assumes that role and pays the mission developer as part of the monthly synod payroll. In that case, inclusion of a housing allowance as part of a developer's compensation package requires advance approval by the Synod Council, or the Executive Committee acting on behalf of the Council.

This situation is true for Good Samaritan Ministry (Clarkston GA) and Resurrection Mission (Tucker GA), which were both approved as SAWC's at the June 2018 Synod Council meeting. Synod-paid compensation for the mission developers will become effective as of August 1, 2018.

The amount of each proposed housing allowance was set at the request of each of the mission developers, in consultation with the synod's Directors for Evangelical Mission, and within the constraint of funds available for each SAWC. The sizable difference between the two recommended housing allowance amounts is attributable to (a) Pastor Koli's request to classify all of her compensation as a housing allowance and (b) the commitment of Resurrection Mission to remit \$1,000/month to the synod to supplement the housing allowance that would otherwise be paid. In assessing the likelihood that the SAWC payments will actually be received, Pastor Koli notes that Resurrection Mission has been compensating her \$1,000 per month for several months. The SAWC has agreed to redirect its \$1,000 payments to the synod, beginning in August.

Overall synod support for Good Samaritan Ministry and Resurrection Mission is expected to be \$4,000 each during the 2018-19 fiscal year. The source of synodical funding is the designated account entitled "Planting New Congregations Fund." The churchwide office will also be partially supporting each of these SAWC's.

Other Business

Rachel Alley will be leaving the staff and taking the Youth and Young Adult position at the Churchwide Organization. We will be electing a new bishop at the next Synod Assembly and so a new call to Rachel's position could be terminated by the new bishop. The bishop is in conversation with the Rev. Jill Henning about filling this position until the new bishop calls someone to the position. Compensation will have to be worked out for Pr. Henning based upon her current status.

Ms. Roxanne Thomas asked how our synod makes the congregations aware of the review and response period for the draft statement on women so our voting members to CWA can have a sense of how our synod feels about the draft. The bishop explained that it has been announced several times and we had hearings at Synod Assembly.

Mr. Schrader asked what the time table was for doing the conversations in the deaneries for the election of the new bishop at the next Synod Assembly. The bishop indicated that the materials would be available by the middle of September.

Closing prayer

Mr. Lee Smith closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment

There being no further business Vice President Siddiqui adjourned the meeting.