



**Southeastern Minnesota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
 God's work. Our hands.

**Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 12, 2022**

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council met on November 12, 2022 via Zoom.

Members present: Rev. Collette Broady-Grund, Rev. Jenna Couch, Rev. Shelley Cunningham, Rev. Kris Ferkin, Matthew Huggenvik, Marshall Laidlaw, Deacon Amanda Sabelko, Gary Schindler, Ramona Skare, Carolyn Solberg, Rev. Dr. Kristen Venne, Dr. Mary Veiseth, Treasurer Jeff Chestnut, Secretary Rev. Josh Enderson, Vice President Lisa Dierks, and Bishop Regina Hassanally.

Absent: Hannah Herfindahl-Quint, Karen Myers, and Rev. John Weisenburger.

Staff: Rev. Emily Carson.

**WELCOME & DEVOTIONS**

- Vice President Lisa Dierks welcomed the council to the meeting.
- She then began the meeting with a devotion.

**CALL TO ORDER & OVERVIEW OF AGENDA**

- Vice President Dierks called the meeting to order at 9:02am.
- She then presented the agenda. The following items were added to the agenda:
  - Discussion of the Minimum Benefits & Compensation Guidelines Committee.
  - Discussion of 2024-2025 Spending Plan for Mission and Ministry (or Budget).
- Rev. Shelley Cunningham made a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

**SC22.11.48 Motion to approve the agenda as amended.**  
**Motion approved.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- September 24, 2022 Synod Council Meeting Minutes

- Treasurer Jeff Chestnut made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

**SC22.11.49 Motion to approve the consent agenda.**  
**Motion approved.**

**REPORTS FROM STAFF, COMMITTEES, & TABLES**

- Reports from the staff were discussed by the council. Highlights from the reports were:
  - Lifted up the extra work that Rev. Emily Carson is doing right now and asked if she needs some assistance with this at this time.
  - Noted that many churches are in the same situation right now and are struggling with staffing issues and open calls.

**VICE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

- Vice President Dierks then gave the following comments to the council:
  - She noted that the call committee is beginning its work and highlighted the positions that they will be working to fill before the next Synod Assembly in May 2023.

**BISHOP'S COMMENTS**

- Bishop Regina Hassanally gave an update on the work and ministry of the Office of the Bishop. Some of the items lifted up were:
  - The Bishop has just returned from her first global visit, which was to Tanzania. Covid had put this off until now. She had made the visit for the consecration of the new bishop to the Central Diocese of Tanzania.
  - The annual Fall Theological Conference for Rostered Leaders will be coming up November 13-15.
  - Following the Theological Conference, she and her staff will be attending the Region 3 gathering of bishops and Assistants to the Bishop in Alexandria.
  - The Bishop will be working with the staff after Thanksgiving to recalibrate and readjust job descriptions following the recent shifts within the staff.
  - She noted that the synod Assembly planning team is beginning its work.

- The New to the Synod and Retired Rostered Leaders gatherings took place recently.
- Advent worship services will be held in December for Rostered Leaders and other church leaders.
- She mentioned that the Housing Insecurity Task Force is coming together but is in need of a few lay members.
- The Synod Office Space Task Force is also in need of a few people.

#### FINANCIAL REPORTS

- Treasurer Jeff Chestnut reviewed the September financial reports.
- Jeff noted that our investments have taken a significant loss, which shows up in our profit/loss documents.
- He lifted up a report from Rev. Carson that shows our current Mission Support pledges compared to what has been given. We are currently \$400,000 behind in those pledges. He noted that some will come in closer to the end of the year.
- Mary Veiseth made the motion to receive the September financial report.

**SC22.11.50      Motion to receive the September financial report.**  
**Motion approved.**

#### 2024-2025 BUDGET DISCUSSION

- Bishop Hassanally presented an updated timeline for this year's budget approval. This allows for more discussion of changes before assembly, rather than have it all happened on the floor of the assembly.
  - The goal is to release the Proposed Spending Plan for Mission and Ministry with the pre-assembly report, rather than as an addendum later, with the Synod Council recommending the budget for approval at its February meeting.
- She then presented the first draft of the 2024-2025 Spending Plan for Mission and Ministry (or Budget).
  - She lifted up Mission Support Trends over the past years to give the council an idea of where to start with income numbers, as well as a summary of the Dedicated and Restricted accounts.

- She then walked through the 2024-2025 Budget, lifting up highlights and changes that are being proposed in this plan from previous plans.
- The council then discussed the draft document.

#### MINIMUM BENEFITS & COMPENSATION GUIDELINES COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- Rev. Barb Streed, who is the liaison to the Minimum Compensation & Benefits Guidelines Committee, requested that the council discuss an opening for a council member on this committee.
  - She sent along a message, noting that the makeup of this committee is changing, and that all positions are filled except for the council member position.
  - Rev. Kris Ferkin put his name forward to serve on this committee.
- Matt Huggenvik motioned to cease nominations.

**SC22.11.51      Motion to cease nominations for the council member position on the Minimum Benefits & Compensation Guidelines Committee.**  
**Motion approved.**

- Treasurer Jeff Chestnut motioned to approve Rev. Kris Ferkin to the council member position on the Minimum Benefits & Compensation Guidelines Committee.

**SC22.11.52      Motion to approve Rev. Kris Ferkin to the council member position on the Minimum Benefits & Compensation Guidelines Committee.**  
**Motion approved.**

#### STAFF HOUSING ALLOWANCES FOR 2023

- Bishop Hassanally presented the proposed housing allowances for Bishop Hassanally, Rev. Matt Larson, and Rev. Barb Streed. The amounts proposed were:
  - Bishop Hassanally: \$40,000
  - Rev. Matt Larson: \$15,750
  - Rev. Barb Streed: \$18,000

- Bishop Hassanally made the motion to approve the proposed housing allowances in the amounts presented.

**SC22.11.53 Motion to approve the housing allowances for Bishop Regina Hassanally at \$40,000, Rev. Matt Larson at \$15,750, and Rev. Barb Streed at \$18,000 for the calendar year 2023 and all future years unless otherwise provided.**

**Motion approved.**

#### PARTIAL ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE RETIREMENT ROSTER

- One-third of the names (Last Names H-O) of rostered leaders on the retirement roster was reviewed.
- After review, it was determined that no action was needed to be taken on any of the names reviewed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

- The Synod Council then entered into executive session at 10:20am to discuss and make changes to the roster.
- Rev. Jenna Couch made a motion to enter executive session.

**SC22.11.54 Motion to enter executive session.**

**Motion approved.**

- The following action items were made during this session.

#### ROSTER CHANGES

- Call to Interim Ministry/Bridge Ministry Through Synod Council (Needs Approval)
  - Rev. Shawn Brooks, Western Iowa Synod to Bridge Interim at Faith, St. Charles. Effective: 10/01/2022. Approved at Synod Council Meeting 11/12/2022.
  - Rev. Dr. Scott Olson, Intentional Interim at Good Shepherd, Wells to Intentional Interim at Christ, Preston. Effective: 10/16/2022. Approved at Synod Council Meeting 11/12/2022.
  - Rev. Joseph Smith, Intentional Interim at Grace, Fairmont to Intentional Interim at Good

Shepherd, Wells. Effective 10/16/2022. Approved at Synod Council Meeting 11/12/2022.

- Bishop Hassanally motioned to approve the Call to Interim Ministry/Bridge Ministry Through Synod Council Roster Changes.

**SC(ES22.11.55) Motion to approve the Call to Interim Ministry/Bridge Ministry Through Synod Council Roster Changes.**

**Motion approved.**

- Call to Specialized Ministry Through Synod Council (Needs Approval)
  - Rev. Peter Carlson Schattauer, Minneapolis Area Synod to Associate Director of the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community at St. Olaf College, Northfield. Effective: 11/28/2022. Approved at Synod Council Meeting 11/12/2022.
  - Rev. Erica Cunningham, On Leave from Call to Hospice Chaplain at Moments Hospice, Mankato. Effective: 03/28/2022. Approved at Synod Council Meeting 11/12/2022.
- Bishop Hassanally motioned to approve the Call to Specialized Ministry Through Synod Council Roster Changes.

**SC(ES22.11.56) Motion to approve the Call to Specialized Ministry Through Synod Council Roster Changes.**

**Motion approved.**

- Retirement Status (Needs Approval)
  - Mr. Larry Iverson, Synodically Authorized Minister. Effective 01/01/2023. Approved at Synod Council Meeting 11/12/2022.
- Bishop Hassanally motioned to approve the Retirement Status Roster Change.

**SC(ES22.11.57) Motion to approve the Retirement Status Roster Change.**

**Motion approved.**

- Death (Acknowledge Only)

- Rev. Theodore (Ted) Vinger,  
09/11/2022.
- Rev. Kip Groettum, 10/07/2022.
- On Leave From Call (New)
  - Rev. Cheryl Indechar, 1<sup>st</sup> Request.  
Start Date: 10/01/2022. Approved at  
Synod Council Meeting 11/12/2022.
- Bishop Hassanally motioned to approve the  
On Leave From Call (New) Roster Change.

**SC(ES22.11.58) Motion to approve the On  
Leave From Call (New) Roster  
Change.**

**Motion approved.**

- Gary Schindler made the motion to leave  
executive session.

**SC(ES22.11.59) Motion to leave executive  
session.**

**Motion approved.**

- The Synod Council left executive session at  
10:26am.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- Vice President Dierks declared the meeting  
adjourned at 10:30am.

The next meeting of the Synod Council will be  
held on February 25, 2023, from 9:00am-  
12:00pm, via Zoom.

Submitted,  
Rev. Josh Enderson  
Synod Council Secretary

APPROVED 02/25/2023 JE