



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

**Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 25, 2023**

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council met on October 25, 2023, at via Zoom.

**Members present:**

Rev. Shelley Cunningham, Matthew Huggenvik, Karen Myers, Sam Pollack, Rev. Marla Rotman, Deacon Amanda Sabelko, Mona Skare, Ed Taylor, Rev. Dr. Kristen Venne, Rev. John Weisenburger, Treasurer Jeff Chestnut, Secretary Rev. Josh Enderson, Vice President Lisa Dierks, and Bishop Regina Hassanally.

**Absent:** Joellen Barak, Hannah Herfindahl-Quint, Marshall Laidlaw, Brian Scott, and Carolyn Solberg.

**Staff:** Rev. Barb Streed

**CALL TO ORDER & OVERVIEW OF AGENDA**

- Vice President Lisa Dierks called the meeting to order at 3:01pm.
- She then presented the agenda.
- Treasurer Jeff Chestnut motioned to approve the agenda.

**SC23.10.44 Motion to approve the agenda.**

**Motion approved.**

**COMPENSATION GUIDELINES**

- The 2024 Minimum Compensation & Benefits Guidelines document recommendations were presented from the Task Force. These had been released to rostered leaders and congregational leaders in the synod for comment.
- Assistant to the Bishop and Rev. Barb Streed discussed the preparation process for the Guidelines, as this process was different this year than past years.
- The draft proposal, public comments that had come forward, and comparison with other synods in Regions 3 were reviewed and discussed by the council.
- Rev. Dr. Kristen Venne motioned to approve for publication the 2024 Minimum

Compensation & Benefits Guidelines document.

**SC23.10.45 Motion to approve for publication the 2024 Minimum Compensation & Benefits Guidelines document.**

**Motion approved.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- Treasurer Jeff Chestnut motioned to enter executive session.

**SC23.10.46 Motion to enter executive session.**

**Motion approved.**

- The council entered executive session at 3:26pm.

**FACILITY TASK FORCE**

- Recommendations from the Facility Task Force were presented to the council and discussed, including the recommendation of a new location for the synod office. The process of selection was reviewed.
- The following actions were taken during executive session:
- Treasurer Jeff Chestnut motioned to approve the Facility Task Force recommendation of relocating the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Office to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Northfield, to enter into a lease agreement, and to communicate this relocation information to the synod.

**SC(EC23.10.47) Motion to approve the Facility Task Force recommendation of relocating the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Office to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Northfield, to enter into a lease agreement, and communicating this relocation information to the synod.**

**Motion approved.**

- Karen Myers motioned to leave executive session.

**SC(EC23.10.48) Motion to leave executive session.**

**Motion approved.**

#### ADJOURNMENT

- Vice President Dierks declared the meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.

Submitted,  
Rev. Josh Enderson  
Synod Council Secretary

APPROVED 11/18/2023 JE