



**Southeastern Minnesota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
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**Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 10, 2024**

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council met on July 10, 2024, via Zoom.

**Members present:**

Rev. Shelley Cunningham, Jennifer Levison, Karen Myers, Sam Pollack, Deacon Amanda Sabelko, Mona Skare, Carolyn Solberg, Ed Taylor, Dr. Joyce Thompson, Rev. Dr. Kristen Venne, Secretary Rev. Josh Enderson, Vice President Lisa Dierks, and Bishop Regina Hassanally.

Absent: Joellen Barak, Rev. Jessica Bakken Busch, Matthew Huggenvik, Marshall Laidlaw, Rev. Sam Mailleue, Brian Scott, Rev. John Weisenburger, and Treasurer Tammy Dahlvang.

**CALL TO ORDER & OVERVIEW OF AGENDA**

- The council began with those present introducing themselves to one another.
- Vice President Lisa Dierks called the meeting to order at 7:09pm.
- The agenda was presented. The following item was added to the agenda:
  - Request for task force for reviewing financial policies.
- Karen Myers motioned to approve the agenda as amended.

**SC24.07.25 Motion to approve the agenda as amended.**

**Motion approved.**

**SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY, PERSONNEL POLICY, AND FINANCIAL POLICY: 2024 POLICY REVIEW PROCESS**

- Bishop Regina Hassanally presented a request to put together a task force to update our Sexual Misconduct Policy, which needs a significant overhaul, and the Personnel Policy. She will be looking for members for this task force, but also requested names be sent to her if council members had suggestions.
- Bishop Hassanally motioned to approve a task force to review the Sexual Misconduct Policy and the Personnel Policy and bring

recommendations for updates to the council for approval.

**SC24.07.26 Motion to approve a task force to review the Sexual Misconduct Policy and the Personnel Policy and bring recommendations for updates to the council for approval.**

**Motion approved.**

- Vice President Dierks brought forward a request from Rev. Emily Carson to assemble a task force for the purpose of reviewing the synod's financial policies. The policies to be reviewed are those which have been lifted up by the auditors.
- Vice President Dierks made a motion to approve a task force for reviewing the synod's financial policies.

**SC24.07.27 Motion to approve a task force for reviewing the synod's financial policies.**

**Motion approved.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- Jennifer Levison motioned to enter executive session.

**SC24.07.28 Motion to enter executive session.**

**Motion approved.**

- The council entered executive session at 7:17pm.
- The following action items were taken during this session:
- Call to Interim Ministry/Bridge Ministry Through Synod Council (Needs Approval)
  - Rev. Kris Ferkin, Interim at First, Kenyon to Interim at St. Olaf, Austin. Effective: 08/01/2024. Approved at synod council meeting 07/10/2024.
  - Rev. Kary Jonas, LaCrosse Area Synod to Bridge Interim at First, Lake City. Effective: 05/20/2024. Approved at synod council meeting 07/10/2024.
- Bishop Hassanally motioned to approve the Call to Interim Ministry/ Bridge Ministry Through Synod Council Roster Changes.

**SC(ES24.07.29) Motion to approve the Call to Interim Ministry/ Bridge**

**Ministry Through Synod  
Council Roster Changes.**

**Motion approved.**

- Retirement Status (Needs Approval)
  - Rev. Steven Rheingans. Effective: 07/01/2024. Approved at synod council meeting 07/10/2024.
  - Rev. Elizabeth Hermeier. Effective: 07/01/2024. Approved at synod council meeting 07/10/2024.
- Bishop Hassanally motioned to approve the Retirement Roster Status Changes.

**SC(ES24.07.30) Motion to approve the  
Retirement Roster Status  
Changes.**

**Motion approved.**

- Death
  - Rev. Donald Roberts, 05/04/2024.
  - Rev. Theodore Granquist, 05/12/2024.
  - Rev. Carl Ames, 06/28/2024.
- On Leave From Call (New, Needs Approval)
  - Rev. Mary Kaye Ashley, 1<sup>st</sup> Request. Start Date: 05/05/2024. Approved at synod council meeting 07/10/2024.
  - Rev. Mark Van House, 1<sup>st</sup> Request. Start Date: 06/09/2024. Approved at synod council meeting 07/10/2024.
- Bishop Hassanally motioned to approve On Leave From Call (New) Roster Changes.

**SC(ES24.07.31) Motion to approve On Leave  
From Call (New) Changes.**

**Motion approved.**

- On Leave From Call (Yearly Renewal, Needs Approval)
  - Rev. Cynthia Fisher-Broin, 3<sup>rd</sup> & Final Request. Approved at synod council meeting 07/10/2024.
- Bishop Hassanally motioned to approve On Leave From Call (Yearly Renewal) Roster Changes.

**SC(ES24.07.32) Motion to approve On Leave  
From Call (Yearly Renewal)  
Roster Changes.**

**Motion approved.**

- Jennifer Levison motioned to leave executive session.

**SC(ES24.07.33) Motion to leave executive  
session.**

**Motion approved.**

- The council left executive session at 7:24pm.
- Vice President Dierks declared the business meeting adjourned at 7:24pm. The council then moved into an orientation session for new members.

The next meeting of the council will be on September 7, 2024, at 9:00am at St. John's in Kasson, MN.

Submitted,  
Rev. Josh Enderson  
Synod Council Secretary

**APPROVED 09/07/2024 JE**