

Secretary's Report

Oregon Synod Assembly, May 10-12, 2019

At each meeting of the Synod Council, its Executive Committee, and the Synod Assembly, motions are made and often passed. The numbering schema is as follows: SC stands for Synod Council, EC for its executive committee, and SA for the Synod Assembly; the date format is the year, month, and date on which the meeting occurred; and the actual number of the motion that day is the number after the hyphen. MSP or MSC is the abbreviation for moved, seconded, passed/carried. Motions that are extremely routine (e.g. approval of the agenda or a previous set of minutes) are not included in this report. As of the compilation date for this report, some minutes have not been approved. The motions approved in meetings where the minutes have not yet been approved include "draft" in their number.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2018

Motion SA2018.05.19-1: Adopt the printed rules of the 2018 synod assembly. **MSC**

Motion SA2018.05.19-2: Ratify the following constitutional changes:

S14.43. The minister of Word and Service is encouraged to become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of all. In a parish of multiple congregations, the minister of Word and Service is encouraged to hold membership in one of the congregations.

S14.47. All ministers of Word and Service under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the ministers of Word and Service of congregations are encouraged to attend the meetings of the cluster to which the congregation belongs.
MSC

Motion 2018.05.19-3: Pass a unanimous ballot for the following candidates in uncontested positions:

Manuel Borbon, Victoria Hart, Pr. Jane Baker, Lynn Ries, Pr. Aaron Couch, Tonia Lindquist, Stephanie Kistler, Mark Dickman, Bruce Anderson, Pr. David Eppelsheimer, Laurie Hackney, D. Leif Rustvold, Gregory Shea. **MSC**

Katy Rustvold, Pr. Michael Keys, Pr. Michelle Manicke, and Gene Obie were elected voting members from the Oregon Synod to the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Motion SA2018.05.19-6: Adopt the proposed 2019 General Fund Budget and the 2019 Endowment Fund Budget. **MSC**

Resolutions.

Synod Reassignment

WHEREAS St. Paul Lutheran Church is a member of the Oregon Synod and is located in Ontario, Oregon, approximately 55 miles from Boise, Idaho; and

WHEREAS the congregation is at the far end of the Blue Mountain Cluster, which is 236 miles from end to end; and

WHEREAS the congregation has voted to transfer its synod relationship to the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod; and

WHEREAS Provision 10.02.02 of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) Constitution allows any congregation in a border area to change its synod affiliation upon majority approval of the synod assemblies of the synods concerned; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the 2018 Oregon Synod Assembly approve the transfer of St. Paul Lutheran Church from the Oregon Synod to the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod; and be it further

RESOLVED that once both assemblies have voted to affirmatively allow this transfer, that it is reported to the Office of the Secretary of the ELCA so that provision 10.01.01 of the ELCA Constitution can be amended by the Churchwide Assembly to reflect this change; and be it further

RESOLVED that the congregations of the Oregon Synod graciously release the members of St. Paul Lutheran Church with thanksgiving for their time in ministry with us as we all continue to do God's work together.

Memorial on the ELCA's 50th anniversary of the Ordination of Women

WHEREAS in 1970 both the Lutheran Church in America and American Lutheran Church in their national conventions voted to ordain women; and

WHEREAS the ELCA rejoices in these actions of its predecessor church bodies and will recognize the 50th anniversary in 2020 of the ordination of women; and

WHEREAS we express our profound gratitude for the many and varied ways the gifts of ordained women have advanced God's mission through this church; and

WHEREAS we learned in the research related to the 45th anniversary of women's ordination of some progress but also significant disparities for women in the areas of preparation for ministry, all calls including first calls, mobility, compensation, ministry roles, and debt following seminary education; and

WHEREAS the same research uncovered denigrating and discriminatory experiences of many ordained women, some particularly acute for ordained women of color; and

WHEREAS the church is called to reflect in church and society its roles of advocate and model for the respect, dignity, and equal rights due all women, including the ordained women of this church; and

WHEREAS this church is simultaneously addressing justice and women in its social statement under consideration and the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that we call upon all synods in their 2020 assemblies to include celebration and special recognition of ordained women upon the 50th anniversary of authorizing this ordination practice; and

We call upon our seminaries, colleges, campus ministries, outdoor ministries, social ministry organizations, synods, and congregations to highlight women preachers, teachers, and speakers through 2020 in recognition of the diversity of gifts women's ordination has brought to our church; and

We call upon congregations throughout the ELCA to participate in the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in our church through worship services, Bible studies, and other efforts to celebrate and recognize the importance and contributions of ordained women; and

We call upon all members of this church to examine our consciences, and confess our sins and complicity in whichever circumstances by the outright or silent actions women have faced, including barriers, discrimination, or sexual harassment as they prepared for and served as ordained women in this church; and

We call upon this church to renew efforts in education on the intersection of the sins of sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, and classism, and develop healing interventions offering hope and support to those who experience these sins to the point of despair about ministry; and

We call upon our seminaries to include intentional coursework and resources to equip pastoral leaders in identifying and ministering in situations of gender-based discrimination and violence; and

We urge all congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization in 2020 to conduct a gender analysis wherein each can develop strategies to promote and protect gender equity and justice, with particular focus on addressing the areas of preparation for ministry, call process including first calls, mobility, compensation, ministry roles, and debt following seminary education; and

We call upon this church to establish goals and strategies in each synod of achieving for ordained women comparable compensation with that of ordained men in all calls by 2025, reporting the outcome of this action step at the Churchwide Assembly in 2025; and

We call upon this church to establish goals and strategies in each synod of achieving for ordained women access to ministry roles where women are currently underrepresented, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by women of color receiving viable first and second calls; and

We call upon the churchwide expression's Domestic Mission Unit to develop, undertake, and successfully complete a strategy specifically related to the debt of women of color after seminary; and

We call upon all candidacy committees to examine their practices in light of the findings in the 45th anniversary research; and

We request the Office of the Presiding Bishop to provide in 2025 updated research on achievement of these initiatives and other matters pertinent to the full and just participation of ordained women in this church; and

We request all church publications to plan features in 2020 on the ordination of women, lifting up the amazing talents and gifts this church has received from its ordained women, the barriers ordained women still experience in this church, and the steps outlines in this memorial to overcome these barriers; and

We invite the prayers of all members of this church for the successful outcome of these initiatives.

Lift Every Voice

WHEREAS Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God" (*Matthew 5:9*); and

WHEREAS the prophet Micah declares (as does Isaiah 2:4),

"God shall judge between many peoples,
And shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;
They shall beat their swords into plowshares,
And their spears into pruning hooks;
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
Neither shall they learn war anymore;
But they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees,
And no one shall make them afraid;
For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken." (*Micah 4:3-4*); and

WHEREAS Lutherans are called, as are other Christians and those of other faith traditions, to be prophetic voices of vision and conscience while working for the common good; and

WHEREAS in America today over 30,000 people die annually through gun violence, creating a public health crisis; and

WHEREAS Oregon has been home to four mass shootings in recent history, at Thurston High School, Clackamas Town Center, Reynolds High School, and Umpqua Community College, and semi-automatic guns were used in three out of those four shootings; and

WHEREAS in the 20 years since the school shooting at Thurston High School in Springfield on May 21, 1998, the current generation of Oregon children and youth from preschool to high school have lived with the threat of gun violence and the threat of mass shootings in schools, theaters, and malls; and

WHEREAS Mary spoke with power as a young woman when called by God to risk everything, declaring, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord" (*Luke 1:38*) and in the Magnificat that followed, "God has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly" (*Luke 1:52*); and

WHEREAS the prophet Jeremiah was called to be a prophet as a youth, and God said,
"Do not say, 'I am only a youth;'
For you shall go to all to whom I send you,
And you shall speak whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them,
For I am with you to deliver you,
Says the LORD." (*Jeremiah 1:7-8*); and

WHEREAS the voices of young leaders in our state and nation are speaking out with the same clarity and power as those before them, saying, "Enough is enough" and "Now is the time to end the gun violence;" and

WHEREAS our young leaders' number one priority is to call on our nation to ban the sale of assault weapons, that they may be freed from fear; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Oregon Synod of the ELCA stand with Augustana Lutheran Church, Congregation Beth Israel, the Muslim Center of Portland, and a rapidly growing interfaith and secular network in answering the clarion call of our prophetic young leaders to work to ban the sale of assault weapons and large-capacity magazines (holding more than 10 rounds) and bump stocks in Oregon; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the churches of the Oregon Synod be encouraged to take action as they deem right in this time and in their context to support this effort through

direct action and public dialogue, using scripture, church teachings, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s six principles for nonviolent direct action, and the excellent tools designed by the Oregon Synod's Advocacy team; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oregon Synod memorialize the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to join the call to ban the sale of assault weapons and large-capacity magazines in our nation in response to the prophetic voices of our young people through ongoing public action and the equipping of our congregations to act locally on this issue for the public safety of our youth and all who reside in this land; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oregon Synod Assembly affirm and recommit itself to existing ELCA social teaching regarding community violence, gender-based violence, mental illness, and suicide prevention, and to the advocacy to which we are called in these arenas.

SYNOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

Motion **SC2018.02-02-3**: Approve the en bloc consent agenda. **MSC**

1. Extend a call to Rev. Erica Spaet as Mission Developer, Story Dwelling, Bend, effective 10/01/2018;
2. Extend a call to Sr. Clare Josef-Maier, Minister of Word and Service for Christus House, Central, Eugene, as of 05/21/2017;
3. Extend a call to Pr. Michelle Manicke to Zoar, Canby, as of 11/05/2017;
4. Extend a call to Pr. Joy Proper to Our Savior's, Eugene, as of 09/10/2017;
5. Approve On Leave From Call status for Rev. Mary Anthony, effective 01/01/2018;
6. Approve On Leave From Call status for Rev. Alyssa Augustson, effective 03/01/2018;
4. Approve Retirement status for Rev. Don Voeks, effective 02/15/2018.

Motion **SC2018.02-03-4** to adjust the following accounts:

- Transfer funds from account 02-341-05935 to cover outstanding deficits in accounts 02-341-04615 FH Connect Ecumenical YA, 02-341-04425 FH Bishop's Convocation, 02-346-00005 FH Oregon Synod Assembly, and 02-348-10005 ELCA 500th anniversary;
- Transfer \$75,000 from account 02-341-05965 FH Light of Life Activities to account 02-349-10005 FH Legacy Chapel;
- To cover 2017 Synod Endowment Fund Operating fees in account 05-555-00005, transfer funds from 05-341-20055 FH Creative Ministries Earnings, 05-341-20205 FH Victoria Delk Fund, and 05-341-30055 FH New Beginnings Earnings on a pro-rata basis; and
- Consolidate accounts 05-341-30005 FH New Beginnings Corpus (Perm), 05-341-30015 FH New Beginnings Corpus (SC), 05-341-30025 FH New Beginnings (Swanson), and 05-

341-30055 FH New Beginnings Earnings. The resulting consolidated account will be identified as “temporarily restricted” (SC), not “permanent restricted,” and shall be titled, “FH New Beginnings/Synod Reserves” account 05-341-30005. **MSC**

Motion **SC2018.02.03-6** to revoke the synod financial policies approved in 1994 and adopt the 2018 financial policies prepared and recommended by the synod finance committee. **MSC**

Motion **SC2018.02.03-10** to affirm Manuel Borbon as a synodically authorized worship leader of the Mid-Willamette Valley Outreach Ministry for 2 ½ years. **MSC**

Motion **SC2018.05.18-2** to issue the following synodical calls:

- Pr. Hildegardo Gomez to half-time Latino ministry exploration in East Multnomah County, effective May 18, 2018;
- Pr. Mary Anthony to interim ministry at Faith Clatskanie, effective April 15, 2018;
- Bill Johnsen to non-stipendiary chaplaincy call, effective May 18, 2018. **MSC**

Motion **SC2018.09.21-3** to approve the following en bloc consent agenda:

1. Approve On Leave From Call Status for Rev. Sara Gross Samuelson, effective 03/01/2018.
2. Approve On Leave From Call Status for Rev. Alyssa Augustson, effective 03/01/2018.
3. Approve On Leave From Call Status for Rev. Lori Blake, effective 08/31/2018.
4. Extend a Synodical Call to Interim Ministry for Rev. Joel Westby, effective 06/24/2018.
5. Extend a Synodical Call to Interim Ministry for Rev. Brian Brandt, effective 10/01/2018.
6. Approve Retirement status for Rev. Mark Pederson, effective 03/01/2018.
7. Approve Retirement status for Rev. Walter Gustav, effective 08/01/2018.
8. Approve Retirement status for Rev. Thomas Dodd, effective 10/01/2018.
9. Approve Retirement status for Rev. Colleen Nelson, effective 10/01/2018.
10. Approve Retirement status for Rev. Douglas Adams, effective 10/01/2018.
11. Approve designation of housing allowance for Rev. Leo Bancroft.
12. Vote to allow seasonal members to vote and enjoy all provisions of C8.02 in the Oregon Synod Constitution. **MSC**

Motion **SC2018.09.21-4** to approve On Leave from Call Status for Rev. Kimberly Hester, effective April 1, 2018. **MSC**

Motion **SC2018.09.21-5** to approve the 2019 Domestic Mission grant requests. **MSC**

Motion **SC2018.09.22-1** to approve the following resolution from Treasurer Mark Dickman:

Motion **SC2018.09.22-2** to approve the expenditure of up to \$3500 for the bishop election website and other expenses to come from the Synod Assembly line item in the budget. **MSC**

Motion **SC2019.02.22-4[draft]** to approve the en bloc consent agenda, consisting of the following items:

1. Extend a Synodical Call to Interim Ministry for Rev. Brian Brandt, effective 10/01/2018.
2. Approve a Call to Ministry for Rev. Andrew Bansemer, effective 11/15/2018.
3. Approve a Call to Ministry for Kevin Kopsa, effective 02/01/2019.
4. Approve a Synod Transfer from the SE Minnesota Synod for Rev. Curtis Zieske (retired), effective 01/10/2019.
5. Approve a Synod Transfer from the Grand Canyon Synod for Rev. Dawn Keller (retired), effective 01/14/2019.
6. Approve a Synod Transfer from the Metro Chicago Synod for Rev. Justin Johnson, effective 06/25/2018.
7. Approve a Synod Transfer to the Southeastern Synod for Rev. Andrew Rickel, effective 11/29/2018.
8. Approve a Synod Transfer to the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod for Rev. JJ Dygert, effective 12/31/2018.
9. Approve a Synod Transfer to the SW Washington Synod for Rev. Dr. Marvin Langeland (retired), effective 11/28/2018.
10. Approve a Synod Transfer to the New England Synod for Rev. Karl Hester, effective 02/21/2019.
11. Approve a Synod Transfer to the New England Synod for Rev. Kimberly Hester, effective 02/04/2019.
12. Approve Retirement status for Rev. David Balch, effective 02/16/2017.
13. Approve On Leave From Call status for Deacon Sue Best, effective 02/22/2019. **MSC**

Motion **SC2019.02.22-5[draft]** to affirm the work on development of a Synod Authorized Ministry in Oregon and urge the work to continue. **MSC**

Motion **SC2019.02.22-6[draft]** to adopt proposed amendments to the synod financial policies. **MSC**

Motion **SC2019.02.22-7[draft]** to approve appointment of Deborah Chenoweth, Pr. David Knapp, Bob Cornie, Mel Ussing, and Jim Hilliker to the synod finance committee. **MSC**

Motion **SC2019.02.22-7[draft]** to adopt the Oregon Synod ELCA Mission Loan Fund Policy as printed. **MSC**

Motion **SC2019.02.22-8[draft]** to amend the synod financial policy to include the proposed policy regarding credit cards assigned to employees. **MSC**

Motion **SC2019.02.22-9[draft]** to increase the Transformational Leadership Grant by \$15,000 for a total of \$50,000. **MSC**

Motion **SC2019.02.23-1[draft]** to appoint Tamra Taylor as representative from the Columbia Coast Cluster to the synod council. **MSC**

Motion **SC2019.02.23-2[draft]** to change the language of Bylaw S10.07.01c to read “The youth representative shall serve a two-year term.” **MSC**

Motion **SC2019.02.23-8** to forward the following Invitation for Outreach resolution to the synod assembly for approval. **MSC**

WHEREAS we in the Oregon Synod are blessed with a growing diversity of cultures, people and communities in our state; and

WHEREAS we rejoice in our call and opportunity to reach out to all people with the Good News of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS we believe that in our giving both the giver and the recipient are blessed; and

WHEREAS we as a synod offer financial support from Oregon Synod reserves for a variety of new and ongoing ministries to ethnic communities, people in poverty and those who have been ignored or marginalized in our society; and

WHEREAS we have more opportunity for meaningful ministry than our resources allow us to pursue;

Be it Resolved that: congregations of the Oregon Synod be invited to become a direct part of the synod support team for one of these ministries through the reception of a special offering; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that congregations of the Oregon Synod be invited to choose from one or more of the following four ministries for support as they feel led: Mid-Willamette Latino Ministry, The Flame (LGBTQIA+ Outreach,) Living Waters (ministry in Burns with people on the Paiute Reservation), or Story Dwelling (Lutheran/Methodist new church start in Bend); and be it further

RESOLVED that congregations of the Oregon Synod seek ways to build deeper relationships with their ministries of choice and consider making a special offering or budgeted financial support for an ongoing annual commitment. **MSC**

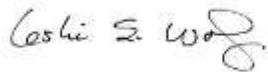
Motion **SC2019.02.23-9[draft]** to extend a call to Laura Gifford as deacon in the areas of Candidacy and Synodically Authorized Ministers. **MSC**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Motion EC2018.06.26-1 that a one-time exception to the Synod Loan Policy be approved enabling the Synod Endowment Board of Trustees to make a loan to Camp Lutherwood, assuming that the trustees are reasonably certain that the loan will be repaid. The amount of any loan made from the Synod to Lutherwood should not exceed \$50,000.00. **MSC**

Motion EC2018.06.26-2 that the Synod Loan Fund policy be reviewed in its entirety to determine whether it conforms to the Synod's needs. If changes or amendments to the policy are deemed appropriate, then any such recommendations should be sent to the Synod Council for consideration and possible adoption. The review of the policy should be undertaken by a task force made up jointly from members of the Synod Finance Committee and the Synod Endowment Board of Trustees. The Synod Treasurer should chair the task force if formed. **MSC**

Motion EC2018.11.06-1 to allocate \$2600 from the New Beginnings fund for a six-month exploration in the Tualatin/Sherwood area and to call Pr. Kim Hester to this ministry. **MSC**



Leslie S. Wong
Synod Secretary