

**Sierra Pacific Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Minutes of the Thirty-fourth Synod Assembly
June 2 – 4, 2022
Nugget Casino Resort
Sparks, NV
and online**

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2022

Bishop Megan Rohrer opened the 34th Assembly of the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on Thursday, June 2, 2022 in the ballroom of the Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks, Nevada and online for those voting members who could not be physically present. Present on-site were synod officers Bishop Megan Rohrer, Vice President Gail Kiyomura, Secretary Jeff Pennington, and Treasurer Pr. Sharon Amundson; members of the Sierra Pacific Synod staff and synod council; ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and ELCA Interim Vice President Carlos Peña.

Assembly opened with a brief litany and prayer, followed by a worship service.

Meeting called to order at 2:09 p.m.

Pastor Charlane Lines, Dean of the Sierra Nevada Foothills Conference 4, presented greetings on behalf of the host conference.

Acknowledgement of special guests:

- The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA
- Carlos Peña, Interim Vice President of the ELCA and Churchwide Representative at this Assembly
- Parliamentarian Joannah Schumacher
- Synod Statistician Lance Kelley
- Theologians in Residence: Pastor Christian Chavarria (keynote speaker) and Pam Rucker
- Keynote Musician: Rachel Kurtz
- Assembly Chaplains: Rev. Lori Keyser-Boswell, Rev. Sarah Johnson, Rev. Monique Ortiz, and Rev. Carolyn Brodt

Introduction of voting procedures

Received video greetings from the United Church of Christ

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Bp. Rohrer called on Randy Presuhn to present the credentials report as of June 2, 2022.

LAY VOTING MEMBERS

TOTAL 252

ROSTERED VOTING MEMBERS

TOTAL 132

TOTAL VOTING 384

ALL VOTING MEMBERS

Lay	252	65.6%
Rostered	132	34.4%
Female	210	54.7%
Male	160	41.7%
Non-Binary	14	3.6%
Youth / Young Adult	21	5.5%

STANDING RULES OF ORDER

Secretary Jeffrey Pennington drew the Assembly's attention to the Standing Rules of Order for Assemblies as distributed in the Assembly Handbook.

SA22.06.01. On behalf of the Synod Council, Secretary Pennington moved adoption of the Standing Rules of Order for Assemblies. As the Standing Rules were moved for adoption by the Synod Council, it did not require a second.

PASSED

SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD ASSEMBLY STANDING RULES OF ORDER

I. MEMBERSHIP AND CREDENTIALS

- A. Voting and non-voting membership shall be as stated in the Constitution and Bylaws.
- B. Every congregation shall send the credentials of its rostered minister(s) and duly elected lay voting members to the Registrar no later than one month prior to the assembly.
- C. All ministers of Word and Sacrament rostered in Full Communion Partner Denominations who have been approved to serve by Letter of Extended Service or Letter of Pastoral Service in a congregation or ministry of the Sierra Pacific Synod shall be granted voice and vote in this Assembly.
- D. The Credentials Committee, appointed by the Synod Council, shall be responsible for the certification of all rostered and lay members and shall maintain a record of their attendance at the Assembly, including the publishing of timely credentials reports during the course of the Assembly.
- E. Because of the inability to add voting members after the authorized voting list has been finalized and transmitted to the voting application vendor prior to the assembly, the Credentials Committee will simply and singly report the

final number of members authorized to receive voting credentials as the members in attendance at the assembly. The final assembly minutes will also show any information about the number of such individuals who did not at any time join the meeting or vote.

- F. The Assembly will meet in-person and using digital conference software. The procedures for claiming the floor for speaking or motions, and other technical features of the digital platform will be announced at the meeting and discussed at training opportunities before the Assembly.

II. RESOLUTIONS and MEMORIALS

As the highest legislative body of the Sierra Pacific Synod, the Synod Assembly requests action by the three expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (congregations, synod, or churchwide) through resolutions and memorials. Therefore, the resolution process is an integral component of the business of the Assembly.

A. Submission of Resolutions and Memorials

1. Resolutions or memorials submitted by the Synod Council or the Bishop shall be presented directly to the Assembly without change.
2. Resolutions or memorials proposed or endorsed by synod congregations, authorized worshipping communities, conferences, discipling teams, task forces, affiliated organizations and institutions, or at least fifteen voting members of the Assembly shall be submitted to the Resolutions Committee for presentation to the Assembly. Synod congregations, authorized worshipping communities, conferences, discipling teams, task forces, or affiliated organizations and institutions proposing or endorsing a resolution or memorial shall provide the Resolutions Committee a copy of the body's minutes or other indication that a majority of the body's members approves proposing or endorsing the resolution or memorial.
3. All resolutions and memorials shall be accompanied by a completed *Resource Impact Reporting Form*, indicating the potential resource impact (both financial and personnel) that implementation of the memorial or resolution will have upon the churchwide organization, the synod, and/or congregations.
4. Resolutions or memorials to be presented to the Assembly through the Resolutions Committee shall be reviewed by the Synod Council prior to the Assembly, and the Council may recommend action to the Assembly.
5. Only the Bishop and groups and organizations listed in subsections 1, 2, and 3 above may submit resolutions or memorials for presentation to the Assembly.

B. Resolutions Committee

1. There shall be a Resolutions Committee consisting of seven persons, appointed by the Synod Council for staggered, non-renewable three-year terms. The Council shall designate the committee chairperson.
2. The committee shall receive, review, and prepare resolutions and memorials, in consultation with the submitters of such resolutions or

- memorials, for presentation to the Synod Assembly, and may edit or consolidate resolutions or memorials for clarity and procedural purposes
3. The Resolutions Committee shall report its recommendations on resolutions and memorials to the Synod Assembly. Such recommendations do not require a second.
 - a. When the Resolutions Committee recommends approval, the committee's recommendation shall be the main motion before the assembly.
 - b. When the Resolutions Committee recommends the adoption of a substitute or alternative resolution or memorial, the committee's recommendation shall be the main motion before the assembly. A voting member of the Assembly may move to substitute the original resolution or memorial in place of the committee's revised version of the resolution or memorial.
 - c. When the Resolutions Committee recommends referral, the committee's recommendation shall become the main motion before the assembly.
 - d. When the Resolutions Committee recommends that the assembly decline a proposed resolution or memorial, the recommendation shall be reported to the assembly. If the author or another voting member wishes to bring the declined proposed resolution or memorial to the floor, they may move the matter, and it shall become the main motion before the assembly, and the committee's recommendation shall be received for information.
 4. If the Resolutions Committee is of the opinion that a resolution or memorial is unconstitutional, it shall note that opinion when the resolution is presented to the Assembly.
 5. The Resolutions Committee may present multiple resolutions or memorials to the Synod Assembly *en bloc* for consideration, provided notice is given to the Voting Members of the Assembly prior to the adoption of the Agenda. A voting member of the Assembly may request that an individual resolution or memorial be removed from *en bloc* consideration by notifying the Synod Secretary before the close of the first plenary session of the Assembly.
- C. Timetable
1. The deadline for resolutions and memorials to be received in the Synod Office shall be sixty days before the start of the Synod Assembly each year. The purpose of this provision is to allow the Resolutions Committee time to review resolutions and memorials and to have materials distributed to voting members approximately thirty days prior to the Assembly.
 2. Any resolution or memorial submitted after the deadline will only be considered if it can be demonstrated that there is a compelling reason justifying the inability to have had the resolution or memorial submitted by the deadline. Late resolutions or memorials must also go first to the Resolutions Committee; the committee will make a judgement as to whether there is sufficient compelling reason for a late submission. If so, an assembly motion to suspend the rules for the purpose of considering the

resolution or memorial must first pass the assembly by a 2/3 vote before the resolution or memorial is allowed to be considered.

3. Resolutions or memorials that are the direct result of the Assembly's response to items that are listed on the Assembly agenda and resolutions or memorials that address issues of such an immediate and urgent nature that they clearly cannot be postponed until the next Assembly shall be placed on the agenda only after submission to the Resolutions Committee and a 2/3 affirmative vote of the Assembly. With the exception of resolutions of courtesy and thanks, no resolutions or memorials other than those submitted for consideration under these guidelines shall be introduced from the convention floor.

III. DEBATE

- A. During debate on any issue, the Chair shall, insofar as possible, alternate between those speaking in favor and those speaking against the motion on the floor.
- B. All speakers, when recognized by the Chair, shall state their name and the congregation or organization which they represent or other capacity which entitles them to speak.
- C. All motions and amendments (except those of a procedural nature) to be considered by the Assembly shall be delivered to the Chair in writing at the time of presentation. Motion forms may either be completed and forwarded electronically or may be completed by hand, signed, and sent to the Chair in order to receive consideration.
- D. During debate, no person shall speak more than two minutes or more than twice on the same motion. The Chair may rule additional time for purpose of information or clarification. Floor debate on any one resolution normally shall be limited to fifteen minutes and may be extended at the discretion of the Chair.
- E. A member obtaining the attention of the Chair for the purpose of debate may not at the same time "move the previous question" or make another incidental motion.
- F. A motion to end debate by moving the previous question shall apply only to the immediately preceding motion. A motion to end debate on all matters on the floor or more than the immediately pending question is not in order.
- G. Substitute Motions -- When a substitute motion is made, secondary amendments may be offered first to the original motion. After all secondary amendments to the original motion have been disposed of, secondary amendments to the substitute motion may be offered. When all amendments to the substitute motion have been disposed of, the vote shall be taken on whether the substitute motion is to be substituted as the original motion or be rejected.
- H. No part of this section shall be construed to apply to messages and reports by agencies, officers of the synod, or to guest speakers to whom special time has been allotted.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF THE BUDGET

- A. Any motion to amend the proposed budget shall be delivered to the Chair in writing at the time of presentation. Motion forms may either be completed and forwarded electronically or may be completed by hand, signed, and sent to the Chair in order to receive consideration. Any proposal increasing any line item expenditure in the proposed budget shall indicate from which line or lines an equal amount is to be decreased.
- B. Any proposal to appropriate funds which is presented to a meeting of the Synod Assembly without the approval of the Synod Council shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption, except that amendments to the proposed budget which do not change the budget total may be approved by a simple majority of the Synod Assembly. (S10.04.)

V. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- A. There shall be a Nominating Committee as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws.
- B. The following procedures shall apply to all nominations.
 - 1. Pictures of all candidates, if provided by the candidates, shall be made available in the Nominations Section of the Bulletin of Reports and in subsequent documents which will be distributed to voting members during the Assembly.
 - 2. Each candidate shall introduce themselves during a ninety-second appearance, giving: name, congregation, conference, and positions of service.
 - 3. Each candidate shall provide biographical information for the Bulletin of Reports.
 - 4. The initial ballot for each office shall list the names of candidates in alphabetical order. Each succeeding ballot shall list the names by order of votes received, with the highest number listed first.
 - 5. No reference to incumbency, racial or ethnic background, language, or any other distinction shall be noted on the ballot.
- C. There shall be an Elections Committee, consisting of one representative of the Nominating Committee (appointed by that Committee), and three other persons appointed by the Synod Council. This Committee shall supervise all elections at the Assembly.
- D. All elections shall be in accordance with Chapter 9 of the constitution of the Sierra Pacific Synod.
- E. The elections for all positions in the Synod shall be by electronic ballot. Unless otherwise stipulated, the Nominating Committee shall nominate at least two names for each position to be filled, and further nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee.
- F. Nominations for the nine Conference representative positions on the Synod Council shall come from the nine Conferences of the Sierra Pacific Synod. The deadline for nominations to be received in the Synod Office shall be sixty days before the start of the Synod Assembly each year. Up to two persons may be nominated by each conference. No nominations from the floor will be allowed.

- G. Nominations for all other Synod Council positions, including elected officers other than bishop, may be made from the floor by written means announced by the Nominating Committee at the opening of the assembly. Such nominations shall include a statement that consent to serve if elected has been given by the nominee, as well as any other materials necessary to fulfill requirements for nomination included in these rules. Acceptance of a nomination by the Nominations Committee places a candidate in nomination; agenda time will not be provided for verbal nominations.
- H. Unless otherwise stipulated, a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election in all elections by the Assembly. The names of the persons receiving the highest number of votes, but not elected by a majority of the votes cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot to the number of two for each vacancy unfilled.
- I. Election for Bishop
 - 1. The election for bishop shall be governed by the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Sierra Pacific Synod.
 - 2. The representative of the churchwide organization shall preside over the assembly whenever the assembly is in session and considering business related to the election of the synod bishop, or when the assembly is casting ballots in this election. Upon conclusion of balloting or of specific business related to the election, the bishop shall resume presiding over the assembly.
 - 3. The Assembly agenda shall include time for the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot to address the Assembly prior to the third ballot. Speeches shall be limited to five minutes and the sequence of the speeches shall be determined by lot. The agenda may also include other opportunities for voting members to meet or hear from candidates. The specific plans for such interaction (including time allowed, format, etc.) shall be approved by the Synod Council and adopted by the Assembly as part of the agenda.

VI. DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS AND DISPLAY SPACE

- A. Only materials authorized by the Synod Secretary or their designee(s) shall be distributed to voting members of the assembly during the assembly.
- B. Authorization for setting up displays and exhibits, and for placing posters, announcements, etc., at Assemblies of the Sierra Pacific Synod shall be limited to those agencies or groups which are affiliated with the Synod or the ELCA, or are direct beneficiaries of the synodical or churchwide budget. The selling of goods or services will not be allowed, except that the ELCA Publishing House will be permitted a commercial display area. All exceptions to this rule must be approved in advance by the Secretary of the Synod or their designee.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. The adjournment of the Assembly shall put to an end all business unfinished at the close of the session, unless delegates have specifically voted to place a

given item on the agenda of the next regular Synod Assembly. Resolutions not yet considered by the Assembly shall be referred to the Synod Council or to the relevant committee, team, or office of the Synod. Such referral shall be for study only unless specifically referred for implementation.

VIII. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

- A. The Bishop shall appoint one or more parliamentarians who shall give advice and assistance on matters of parliamentary procedure.
- B. Unless otherwise ordered, parliamentary procedure shall be in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition.

IX. PROXY VOTING PROHIBITED

- A. Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of this synod. (*S7.31.)

X. AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSION

- A. These Rules of Order may be amended or suspended for a definite purpose by a two-thirds vote of the members.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

SA22.06.02. On behalf of the Synod Council, Secretary Pennington moved the adoption of the proposed agenda as presented in the pre-Assembly handbook.

PASSED

THURSDAY, June 2, 2022

1:00pm Worship

2:00pm Business Session #1

- Greetings from Host Conference
- Introduce visitors and representatives
- Voting Practice
- Video Greetings from United Church of Christ
- Credentials Report
- Procedural Motions
- Nominating Committee Report
- Bishop's Report

3:20 pm Break

3:30pm Committee of the Whole

- Prayer
- Committee of the Whole – Discussion of recent developments regarding Bishop Rohrer

4:30 pm Break

4:45 pm Business Session #2

- Conference 6 Video
- Possible motions from the floor stemming from the Committee of the Whole
- Announcements

5:15pm Announcements & Recess
5:30 Workshops
6:30 Sierra Pacific Outdoors Fundraiser Banquet

FRIDAY, June 3, 2022

9:00am Keynote Speaker

10:15am Business Session #3

- Prayer
- Credentials Report
- Conference 1 video
- Possible motions from the floor stemming from the Committee of the Whole
- VP Election
- Conference 6 video
- Council Member-at-Large (who is a person of color) election
- Announcements Catherine Slabaugh

12:15pm. Lunch

1:00 Business Session #4

- Prayer
- Results of voting from Business Session #3
- Conference 8 Video
- Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee Report
- Credentials Report
- Second round of voting for VP (if needed)
- Financial audit report and Treasurer's report
- Budget hearing/Committee of the Whole regarding the budget (30 minutes)
- Consideration of the proposed budget

2:45 Break

3:00pm

- Results of 2nd VP ballot
- Conference 2 video
- Vice President's Report
- Conference 3 Video
- Constitutional Bylaw change
- Conference 9 video
- Resolutions
- Announcements

4:00pm Conference Gatherings

5:00pm Workshops

6:00pm Dinner on your own

7:00pm Receptions

8:00pm Beer & Hymn sing

SATURDAY, June 4, 2022

9:00am Business Session #5

- Prayer

- Credentials Report
- Conference 7 Video
- Council Member-at-Large election
- Congregational Vitality video
- Churchwide Report
- Conference 5 video
- Resolutions

10:15am Break

10:30am Worship

APPOINTMENT OF ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

Secretary Pennington announced the appointment of the following individuals to the designated committees:

Synod Assembly Planning: Ms. Catherine Slabaugh, Chair; The Rev. Chad Adamik; The Rev. Clark Brown; The Rev. Kathy Morris; Ms. Donna Nunes; Ms. Diane Torry; The Rev. Scott Trevithick; The Rev. Manda Truchinski

Planning Committee Advisory Members: Ms. Diane Niggli of Helms Briscoe Meeting Planners – consultant; Mr. Tom Hoegel and The Rev. Tim Huff, Big Dog Sound; Ms. Gail Kiyomura, Sierra Pacific Synod Vice-President

Elections Committee: The Rev. Chad Adamik, Chair; The Rev. Sharon Amundson; The Rev. Clark Brown

Credentials Committee: Mr. Randy Presuhn, Chair; Mr. Jeffrey Pennington – Synod Secretary – *ex-officio*.

Resolutions Committee: The Rev. Jeremy Serrano, Chair; Ms. Diane Hull; Mr. Ben Monroe; The Rev. Tony Rhodes; The Rev. John Valentine; Bp. Megan Rohrer – *ex-officio*.

VOICE MOTION

SA22.06.03. On behalf of the Synod Council, Secretary Pennington moved to grant voice at the Assembly to lay members of the Bishop's staff and to lay members of the Credentials Committee, Elections Committee, Nominating Committee, Resolutions Committee, and Synod Assembly Planning Committee; and to ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and ELCA Interim Vice President Carlos Peña.

PASSED

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE, PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATIONS FOR SECRETARY AND AT-LARGE POSITIONS

The Rev. Kathy Morris, Chair of the Sierra Pacific Synod Nominating Committee, read the standing rules for nominations to the Synod Council Vice President and At-Large positions.

BISHOP'S REPORT

Bishop Rohrer spoke about the developments in the synod office, including changes in space and personnel. The bishop spoke about the myriad challenges facing the congregations of the synod—aging, finances, demographic and geographic challenges, etc.; but also spoke about the various ministries happening at congregations throughout the synod. The bishop touched upon the importance of outdoor ministry and of wellness for pastors, e.g., sabbaticals or generous vacation time for pastors.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

In accordance with the adopted agenda, the assembly moved into the committee of the whole to discuss recent developments regarding Bishop Megan Rohrer.

Following a series of incidental motions, time was extended for the committee of the whole.

The assembly recessed at 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2022

The assembly reconvened on Friday, June 3, 2022 at 10:15 a.m.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Bp. Rohrer called on Randy Presuhn to present the credentials report as of June 3, 2022.

LAY VOTING MEMBERS

TOTAL 252

ROSTERED VOTING MEMBERS

TOTAL 132

TOTAL VOTING 384

APPROVAL OF REVISED AGENDA

SA22.06.04. Synod Secretary Pennington moved approval of the revised agenda. Second from the floor.

PASSED

FRIDAY, June 3, 2022

9:00am Keynote Speaker

10:15am Business Session #3

- Prayer
- Credentials Report
- Conference 1 video
- Possible motions from the floor stemming from the Committee of the Whole
- VP Election
- Conference 6 video
- Council Member-at-Large (who is a person of color) election
- Announcements Catherine Slabaugh

12:15pm. Lunch

1:00 Business Session #4

- Prayer
- Results of voting from Business Session #3
- Conference 8 Video
- Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee Report
- Credentials Report
- Second round of voting for VP (if needed)
- Financial audit report and Treasurer's report
- Budget hearing/Committee of the Whole regarding the budget (30 minutes)
- Consideration of the proposed budget

2:45 Break

3:00pm

- Results of 2nd VP ballot
- Conference 2 video
- Vice President's Report
- Conference 3 Video
- Constitutional Bylaw change
- Conference 9 video
- Resolutions
- Announcements

4:00pm Conference Gatherings

5:00pm Workshops

6:00pm Dinner on your own

7:00pm Receptions

8:00pm Beer & Hymn sing

SATURDAY, June 4, 2022

9:00am Business Session #5

- Prayer
- Credentials Report
- Conference 7 Video
- Council Member-at-Large election
- Congregational Vitality video
- Churchwide Report
- Conference 5 video
- Resolutions

10:15am Break

10:30am Worship

RESOLUTION REQUESTING BISHOP ROHRER'S RESIGNATION

SA22.06.05. The Rev. John Valentine, Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Orinda, CA, moved the following resolution; seconded from the floor.

RESOLVED that the Sierra Pacific Synod in Assembly humbly acknowledges receipt of the Report of the ELCA Listening Team dated May 31, 2022, and hereby commits itself to studying, prayerfully reflecting upon and implementing the items therein noted as 'Recommendations to the Sierra Pacific Synod'; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Sierra Pacific Synod in Assembly hereby requests that Bishop Megan Rohrer resign from their office of synodical bishop by no later than the close of the last business session of the 2022 Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly (currently scheduled for 10:15am on Saturday, June 4, 2022); and be it further

RESOLVED that (in the event that Bishop Rohrer does not resign from their position by the end of the last business session of the 2022 Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly as noted above), that the Sierra Pacific Synod in Assembly hereby petitions the Committee on Appeals to dismiss Bishop Rohrer from the office of Bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod, based on the charges listed below; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Sierra Pacific Synod in Assembly directs the synod secretary to submit this petition, including the charges below, to the Committee on Appeals in care of the secretary of the ELCA; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Sierra Pacific Synod in Assembly directs the Executive Committee to effect the temporary suspension of Bishop Rohrer from service in the Sierra Pacific Synod effective no later than noon on Monday, June 6, 2022 (per S8.57 of our synod's constitution), without prejudice, but with continuation of compensation, including benefits; and directs the Synod Council thereafter to arrange with the Presiding Bishop for the appointment of an acting bishop; and be it further

RESOLVED that this action by the Sierra Pacific Synod in Assembly is in no way to be construed as affirmation or toleration of the abusive conduct of Pastor Nelson Rabell-Gonzalez nor as a minimization of the sufferings endured by Pastor Rabell-Gonzalez' multiple victims; and be it further

RESOLVED that this action by the Sierra Pacific Synod in Assembly serves as an acknowledgment that the Sierra Pacific Synod as a whole, it's current and former leaders, it's congregations and worshiping communities, and we who are it's individual members, must conduct a systematic review of our processes, procedures and organizing documents so as to facilitate our shared commitments to anti-racism, mutual accountability and operational transparency.

The following charges are to be included in the Petition for Dismissal (the first four of which are enumerated in the Report of the ELCA Listening Team dated May 31, 2022):

Integrity: Rostered ministers must be honest and forthright in their dealings with others. Dishonesty, deception, duplicity, or the manipulation of others for personal benefit or

gain is conduct incompatible with the character of the ministerial office. Bishop Rohrer has failed to demonstrate the requisite integrity in their dealings with Mision Latina Luterana (as described in the Listening Team's Report); with the now-dissolved ELCA congregation known as Grace Lutheran Church in San Francisco (as judicially-determined by the Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Francisco in Case No CGC-18-567512); and in the course of the Bishop's Election process of the Sierra Pacific Synod (as regards the failure to disclose the above-mentioned civil action, in which then-Pastor Rohrer was involved.)

Professional attention to duties: A rostered minister of this church has made commitments through ordination and through acceptance of a letter of call or appointment. Continued neglect of or indifference toward such commitments constitutes conduct incompatible with the character of the ministerial office. Bishop Rohrer has failed to demonstrate the requisite attentiveness to duties in their dealings with Mision Latina Luterana (as referenced in the Listening Team document) and with the now-dissolved ELCA congregation known as Grace Lutheran Church in San Francisco (as judicially-determined by the Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Francisco in Case No CGC-18-567512.)

Hateful speech or actions: A rostered minister's use of harassing, abusive, discriminatory, libelous, slanderous or hateful speech or actions, at any time, whether in person or on any form of social media, is conduct incompatible with the character of the ministerial office. Bishop Rohrer has violated these standards in their dealings with Mision Latina Luterana (as referenced in the Listening Team document), in their dealings with the now-dissolved ELCA congregation known as Grace Lutheran Church in San Francisco (as judicially-determined by the Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Francisco in Case No CGC-18-567512,) and in their dealings with laypersons and rostered leaders in the Sierra Pacific Synod leading up to and in the days following December 12, 2021.

Abusive activity: A rostered minister's physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual abuse of staff, colleagues, congregation members, or others is conduct incompatible with the character of the ministerial office. Such abuse could include, but is not limited to, bullying or harassment in written or verbal form, either in person or by remote communication. Bishop Rohrer has violated these standards in their dealings with Mision Latina Luterana (as referenced in the Listening Team document), in their dealings with the now-dissolved ELCA congregation known as Grace Lutheran Church in San Francisco (as judicially-determined by the Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Francisco in Case No CGC-18-567512,) and in their dealings with laypersons, rostered leaders and staff members, in the Sierra Pacific Synod leading up to and in the days following December 12, 2021.

Willful Disregard of the Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of this Church: Persons called to the Office of the Bishop in this Church are responsible to ensure that the constitution and bylaws of the synod and of the churchwide organization are duly observed within this synod, and that the actions of the synod in conformity

therewith are carried into effect. As such, bishops are expected to live into both the letter and the spirit of these governing documents in their words and actions. Bishop Rohrer has failed to meet these standards in their dealings with Mision Latina Luterana (as referenced in the Listening Team document), and in their dealings with the now-dissolved ELCA congregation known as Grace Lutheran Church in San Francisco (as judicially-determined by the Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Francisco in Case No CGC-18-567512.)

2/3 vote needed for passage

Yes 183

No 138

FAILED

ELECTION OF SYNOD VICE PRESIDENT

Rhynnie Hollitz 25

Gail Kiyomura 118

Simon Wong 180

ELECTION OF SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBER-AT-LARGE, PERSON OF COLOR OR PERSON WHOSE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IS OTHER THAN ENGLISH

The Rev. Linda Boston 140

Kezia Darla 188

SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD YOUTH COMMITTEE

Members of the Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee (SPSYC) spoke about the importance of the committee and the work it does, including the retreats for elementary, middle, and high school students.

RECEIPT OF THE SYNOD FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT

Synod Treasurer Pr. Sharon Amundson reported that the audit report had been received and that it is included in the assembly guidebook. She asked that if anyone had questions that they contact her directly, as we are only receiving the report and not discussing it.

SYNOD BUDGET PRESENTATION

Synod Treasurer Rev. Sharon Amundson was invited to present the proposed synod budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.

SA22.06.06. On behalf of the Synod Council, Treasurer Amundson moved adoption of the proposed synod budget for fiscal year 2023-2024. The budget in the far right column known as “Council Approved Proposed” was adopted as amended.

PASSED

SPS Operating Budget

		FY 2021-22	FYE 1/31/22	FY 2022-23	FY 2022-23		FY 2023-24
		Approved Budget	Estimated Actual	Revised Council Approved Current Year	Approved by Synod Assembly May 2021	NEUTRAL PROPOSAL FYE 1/31/24	Council Approved Proposed
REVENUE:							
1	Mission Support from Congregations	1,875,000	1,447,807	1,650,000	1,875,000	1,720,000	1,500,000
2	Mission Support gifts from congregations		518,694	375,000		-	-
3	Revenue from Capital Campaign activities		100				
4	CW Campus Ministry Grant	50,890	50,168	50,000	50,890	50,000	50,000
5	CW New Start/Restart Grant	100,000	43,660	69,360	100,000	60,000	60,000
6	CW Strategic/Vitality Grants		4,500	12,700		12,700	12,700
7	CW Shared Staff Expenses	10,000	10,000	-	10,000	-	-
8	Synod Assembly Revenue	125,000	46,225	158,200	125,000	160,000	160,000
9	Covid Relief		-	-	-	-	-
10	Professional Leadership Conference Revenue	30,000	16,635	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
11	Theologians in Residence events		1,874	12,000	-	24,000	24,000
12	Other Events - Revenue		-	-	-	-	-
13	Other Revenue	6,000	9,133	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
14	Interest and Dividends	500	2,844	600	500	600	600
TOTAL REVENUE:		2,197,390	2,151,639	2,363,860	2,197,390	2,063,300	1,843,300
INTER FUND TRANSFERS							
15	Annual Transfer from SPS Mission and Ministry Endowment Fund	200,000	213,484	400,000	200,000	245,000	225,000
TOTAL INTERFUND TRANSFERS		200,000	213,484	400,000	200,000	245,000	225,000

SYNOD MISSION AND MINISTRY

	FY 2021-22	FYE 1/31/22	FY 2022-23	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2023-24
	Approved Budget	Estimated Actual	Revised Council Approved Current Year	Approved by Synod Assembly May 2021	Proposed	Council Approved Proposed
<i>Priorities funded by CW and SPS Grants</i>						
27	Mission and Ministry Grants	200,000	149,040	200,000	200,000	200,000
28	Campus Ministry Grants	69,750	120,640	120,640	69,750	120,640
<i>Priorities funded by SPS Grants</i>						
29	Sierra Pacific Outdoors (NEW)		-	-	-	-
30	Chaplaincy Corps		40,000	-	-	40,000
31	Theologians in Residence		12,000	-	22,000	22,000
32	Lutheran Disaster Response		-	-	-	-
33	Tech Grants		11,125	-	-	-
34	Collaboration Grants		89,600	-	-	-
35	Bishop's Aid Fund	2,000	4,471	5,000	2,000	5,000
36	Synod Resource Center	9,000	5,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
37	Synod Council	12,000	14,983	12,000	12,000	12,000
38	Committees	5,000	1,531	5,000	5,000	-
39	Council of Deans	1,500	-	1,500	1,500	1,500
40	Ecumenical Affairs/Partnerships	2,500	-	2,500	2,500	-
41	SPS Youth Committee	4,000	1,031	4,000	4,000	4,000
42	Discipling Teams	1,500		1,500	1,500	-
43	Congregational Life					
44	Worship for Baptismal Living					
45	Witness		217			
46	Justice & Advocacy					
47	Leadership	8,000		8,000	8,000	-
48	Stewardship			3,500	3,500	-
49	Racial / Ethnic Ministry Strategies	4,000		4,000	4,000	-
50	Young Adult Ministries					
TOTAL SYNOD MISSION AND MINISTRY		420,140	397,638	428,640	423,640	374,140
						438,640

SYNOD ASSEMBLY & CONFERENCES		FY 2021-22	FYE 1/31/22	FY 2022-23	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2023-24
		Approved Budget	Estimated Actual	Revised Council Approved Current Year	Approved by Synod Assembly May 2021	Proposed	Council Approved Proposed
51	Synod Assembly	115,000	45,983	156,000	115,000	150,000	150,000
52	Professional Leadership Conference	20,000	38,756	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
53	Other Conferences/Events		1,017	-	-	-	-
54	Pre-Retirement Seminars		-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ASSEMBLY & CONFERENCES:		135,000	85,757	176,000	135,000	170,000	170,000
STAFFING							
55	Bishop's Salary and Housing	120,000	108,043	110,000	120,000	112,000	112,000
56	Executive Staff Salary and Housing	210,000	171,252	200,000	210,000	210,000	210,000
57	ELCA Shared Staff (DEM)	120,000	99,600	110,000	120,000	110,000	110,000
58	Support Staff Salaries	125,000	129,166	275,000	125,000	275,000	275,000
59	Independent Contractors	15,000	44,465	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
60	SE Tax Allowances - Clergy	26,000	21,701	30,000	26,000	30,000	30,000
61	Payroll Taxes and Fees	16,000	14,698	25,000	20,000	25,000	25,000
62	Worker's Comp. Insurance	3,500	2,486	3,800	3,500	3,800	3,800
63	Portico Benefit Services	150,000	112,596	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
64	Medical Reimbursement	12,000	5,845	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
65	PPP Reductions		-				
66	ELCA Shared Staff Benefits						
67	Continuing Education	6,000	2,160	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
68	Staff Travel and Expenses	50,000	46,319	75,000	50,000	75,000	75,000
TOTAL STAFFING:		853,500	758,330	1,011,800	857,500	1,023,800	1,023,800

ADMINISTRATION

	FY 2021-22	FYE 1/31/22	FY 2022-23	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2023-24
	Approved Budget	Estimated Actual	Revised Council Approved Current Year	Approved by Synod Assembly May 2021	Proposed	Council Approved Proposed
69	Office Supplies	5,000	13,003	5,000	5,000	5,000
70	Liability Insurance	8,500	7,415	8,500	8,500	8,500
71	Audit & Legal	32,000	25,362	32,000	32,000	32,000
72	Training & Consulting Services			15,000	5,000	5,000
73	Licensing Fees & Memberships	500	505	500	500	500
74	Region 2 Center for Ministry	8,000	5,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
75	Postage & Delivery	3,500	1,687	3,500	3,500	3,500
76	Equipment Leases and Purchases	20,000	14,770	20,000	20,000	20,000
77	Maintenance & Repairs	1,000	1,274	1,000	1,000	1,000
78	Rents and Utilities	60,000	46,947	50,000	60,000	50,000
79	Electronic Communication	45,000	30,127	45,000	45,000	45,000
80	Miscellaneous Expenses	5,000	11,849	5,000	5,000	4,000
	TOTAL ADMINISTRATION:	188,500	157,940	193,500	193,500	182,500
81	Bishop Transition	-	42,924	-	-	-
	GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES:	2,392,640	2,524,160	2,577,440	2,405,140	2,309,440
	NET INCOME/(REVENUE)-EXPENSES:	4,750	(159,037)	186,420	(7,750)	(1,140)

Item#	Line Item Name	
2 and 17	Mission Support gifts from congregations/Special Gifts	<p>Sale of Parsonage, Richmond property. Funds were distributed as follows: 10% CW: \$51,869.44 5% SPS Property Mgmt Checking Acct: \$25,934.72 15% SPS Operating Checking Acct: \$77,804.20 Remainder to Mission and Ministry Checking Acct: \$363,086.00</p>
20	Mt. Cross / Lutheran Outdoor Ministry	Synod Council authorized a total of \$25,000 to be paid to contractor for clearing riparian corridor at Mt. Cross to cure a Planning Department Code Violation
35	Bishop's Aid Fund	Repairs to Mt. Cross
Item#	Line Item Name	
1	Mission Support from Congregations	Lowering of the anticipated Mission Support received by Congregations. Trending shows that undergoing a pandemic for 2 years, there is need for economic recovery for some congregations. We also have some knowledge of possible congregational closures in the coming year.
2	Mission Support gifts from congregations	<p>Sale of the former congregation Berea Lutheran Church in Hilmar, CA closed May 2022. The breakdown of the proceeds is as follows: 10% ELCA Churchwide: \$32,889.40 15% to SPS Mission Support: \$49,334.10 5% to Property Account: \$16,444.70 Remainder to Mission and Ministry Account: \$230,225.80</p>
3	Revenue from Capital Campaign activities	Capital Campaign efforts began in January 2022 with commitment of at least \$1.5M. For more details refer to Report of the Bishop dated February 5, 2022
5	CW New Start/Restart Grant	Strategic Ministry and Explorations, move \$8000 from farming hope
8	Synod Assembly Revenue	A fundraising event will take place at this year's assembly banquet where funds will be raised for various ministry goals
15	Annual Transfer from SPS Mission and Ministry	M&M funds our Synocially authorized worshipping communities and several positions that work to develop and manage mission and ministry activities
20	Mt. Cross / Lutheran Outdoor Ministry	Funded by capital campaign efforts. If the outcome of the capital campaign is not fully realized, this amount will be prorated by 33% of the total funds raised
23	Farming Hope	
29	Sierra Pacific Outdoors	Funded by capital campaign efforts. If the outcome of the capital campaign is not fully realized, this amount will be prorated by 67% of the total funds raised
30	Chaplaincy Corps	Will be funded by grants
31	Theologians in Residence	Will be funded by grants and revenues generated from events by Theologians
Item#	Line Item Name	

18	<i>Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary</i>	<i>PLTS and CLU funds are combined from this year forward</i>
20	<i>Mt. Cross / Lutheran Outdoor Ministry</i>	<i>funds from capital campaign</i>
23	<i>Farming Hope</i>	<i>Was formally a New Start/Restart Grant- moved to Ministry Partner</i>
24	<i>Reparations/Portico Special Fund</i>	<i>Funds will be sent to Portico Benefits with the intention to distribute to BIPOC pastors who are at retirement age, but are unable to retire.</i>
25	<i>AMMPARO</i>	<i>Newly added Ministry Partner</i>
26	<i>Lutheran Hunger Network of Fresno</i>	<i>Newly added Ministry Partner</i>

REPORT OF THE SYNOD VICE PRESIDENT

Vice President Gail Kiyomura presented her vice president's report, in which she introduced the synod council, its members, and the work of the council. She also discussed the popularity of the recently instituted quarterly congregational officers' meetings, facilitated by the synod officers utilizing Zoom technology. She reminded everyone of the importance of mission support from congregations to the synod and the aspirational budgets passed by the synod assembly. Lastly, she thanked the Synod Assembly Planning Team, synod staff, and volunteers who made the synod assembly a success.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL REVISIONS

SA22.06.07. On behalf of the Sierra Pacific Synod Council, Secretary Pennington moved adoption *en bloc* of changes to the bylaws of the Sierra Pacific Synod Constitution.

PASSED

changes are **highlighted in yellow**, additions are **underlined**, deletions are **struck through**

S9.03.02. The Nominating Committee, in consultation with ~~the Conference Cabinets and~~ other appropriate groups, shall present nominations for Synod officials (except as otherwise provided), including at-large members of the Council and Synod Churchwide Assembly delegates, and other positions as the Synod Council may designate.

S12.01.04. ~~Each conference shall elect its own officers, which shall include a Dean. Each conference shall elect a Dean and may elect its own officers at their annual Conference Assembly.~~ The Dean shall be an ordained minister on the roster of this synod who is a member of one of the congregations of the Conference. The dean shall serve a term of three years; and may serve no more than two consecutive terms. ~~The dean's responsibilities shall be to represent the conference on the Council of Deans; to assist the bishop in providing pastoral care to congregations and clergy of the conference; and to fulfill such other responsibilities as the bishop or Synod Assembly may assign. The dean may preside at meetings of the Conference Assembly and Cabinet. The dean's responsibilities shall be:~~

1. Represent the conference on the Council of Deans
 - a. be available to the bishop at the bishop's request for advice and counsel regarding clergy awaiting call;
 - b. be available to the bishop at the bishop's request for advice and counsel regarding congregations without pastor and congregations in the call process; and
 - c. assist the bishop in the general pastoral care of the clergy and congregation.
2. May convene regular meetings of the rostered ministers of the conference.
3. Shall convene the annual Conference Assembly according to S12.01.03.

S12.01.05. In the event that the office of the dean should become vacant, the ~~Conference Cabinet~~ Bishop, in consultation with the rostered ministers of the conference,

shall appoint an interim dean; the next session of the Conference Assembly shall elect a new dean.

~~S12.01.06. — There shall be a cabinet in each conference, consisting of the officers and other persons as the conference shall determine. The cabinet shall be responsible for planning the Conference Assembly and for fulfilling the purposes of the conference as listed in S12.01.02.~~

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2022

The assembly reconvened on Saturday, June 4, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Following an opening prayer, Randy Presuhn, chair of the Credentials Committee, presented the credentials report as of June 4, 2022.

LAY VOTING MEMBERS

TOTAL 252

ROSTERED VOTING MEMBERS

TOTAL 132

TOTAL VOTING 384

CHURCHWIDE REPORT

ELCA Interim Vice President Carlos Peña presented the churchwide report.

ELECTION OF SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBER-AT-LARGE (3-year term)

First-round

Rhys Jacobson 79

Joseph Johnson II 107

The Rev. Dawn Roginski 123

Run-off:

Joseph Johnson II 137

The Rev. Dawn Roginski 170

The assembly received ecumenical greetings from the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Nevada.

RESOLUTIONS

Bp. Rohrer introduced The Rev. Jeremy Serrano, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, and thanked all of the members of the Resolutions Committee for their hard work.

SA22.06.08. On behalf of the Resolutions Committee, which had vetted the resolution, Pastor Serrano moved adoption of Sierra Pacific Synod Resolution 2022-1 *Memorial to Develop a Social Statement on Homelessness.*

PASSED

WHEREAS the ELCA develops social statements for the teaching and formation of its members, for guidance in the institutional life of our church, and for its service and advocacy in settings of government and ecumenical and interfaith relationships; and

WHEREAS our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Scriptures that witness to the Word and work of God in the world call us again and again to serve and support those whose basic needs are not met; and

WHEREAS the ELCA intends that social statements “seek to discern God’s will for today” by guiding us in developing a faithful understanding of and just response to current social issues; and

WHEREAS in the most recent census the United States counted over half a million homeless individuals in January 2020, and statistics show that homelessness has been on the rise for the past five years and that the United States needs approximately 7 million affordable housing units to resolve the current housing crisis; and

WHEREAS the most recent statement on homelessness from the ELCA was a social message adopted by the ELCA Church Council over thirty years ago; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Sierra Pacific Synod in assembly memorializes the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to commit to developing a social statement on homelessness.

SA22.06.09. On behalf of the Resolutions Committee, which had vetted the resolution, Pastor Serrano moved adoption of Sierra Pacific Synod Resolution 2022-2 *Regarding Sierra Pacific Synod Compensation Guidelines.*

PASSED

WHEREAS in 2011 the Sierra Pacific Synod in assembly adopted a process for determination of appropriate compensation for its Rostered Ministers, and

WHEREAS the process presumes that – annually – the Sierra Pacific Synod in assembly will modify the "baseline compensation" as appropriate to reflect current economic realities, and

WHEREAS for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 the appropriate “baseline compensation” figure for full-time Rostered Ministers in the Sierra Pacific Synod was set at a level of \$59,314, and

WHEREAS the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, California Consumer Price Index for the

period of December, 2020 to December, 2021 acknowledged a cost-of-living increase of 7.03%, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Sierra Pacific Synod's 2022-2023 Compensation Guidelines reflect as appropriate baseline compensation for full-time Rostered Ministers the amount of \$63,484 for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, and be it further

RESOLVED that Sierra Pacific Synod's Pulpit Supply Guidelines for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 be set at:

One Service: \$300

One Service and Adult Class: \$375

Two Services: \$375

Two Services and Adult Class: \$425

and be it further

RESOLVED that Sierra Pacific Synod's Pulpit Supply Guidelines stipulate that the travel mileage reimbursement rate for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 be set at \$0.58.5 (58.5 cents) per mile, or as established per current IRS determination.

SA22.06.10. On behalf of the Resolutions Committee, which had vetted the resolution, Pastor Serrano moved adoption of Sierra Pacific Synod Resolution 2022-3 *Regarding Sierra Pacific Synod Reparations Fund*. Pastor John Valentine moved to substitute the text of the original resolution. Motion seconded and approved. Substituted text considered by the assembly.

PASSED

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and its predecessor church bodies have advocated for action against racism and racist structures for over 50 years. In 1964 the Lutheran Church in America stated that “The church must oppose such false views [racist discrimination] with all the power of the truth of God: in its prayer and worship, in its theological thought, in its nurture of the personal life, in its institutional forms, and in individual and corporate action in society.” In 1974 the American Lutheran Church stated that, “The American Lutheran Church should explore earnestly, in depth of honesty and courage, how it can make amends to its nonwhite brothers and sisters for the exploitation, injustice, and dehumanization they have suffered under its white racism.”

WHEREAS, in 2019 the ELCA committed itself to reconciliation with people of African Descent and stated that “Institutional racism currently exists in the ELCA through discriminatory treatment within the call process; inequitable compensation of clergy of color; racial segregation; divestment from black communities and congregations; systemic policies and organizational practices; and failure to fully include the gifts of leadership and worship styles of people of African descent. ... Beyond empty promises or well-meaning intentions, this church recommits to the work of racial justice,

socioeconomic equity and racial reconciliation.”

WHEREAS, in the years following the end of the Civil War, racist laws, policies, and practices prevented people of African descent from acquiring generational wealth. This took the form of violent but legal theft including but not limited to sharecropping, convict leasing, withholding GI benefits from Black veterans, segregation, denial of home and business loans, redlining, poorly funded schools, mass incarceration, and predatory lending. People of African descent face an extraordinary wealth disparity as compared with white peers that compounds over a lifetime.

WHEREAS, in the United States all people of color face discrimination and socioeconomic disadvantage.

WHEREAS, rostered leaders of African descent and of color in the Sierra Pacific Synod suffer the financial effects of past and present racist policies and practices. ELCA Churchwide data for 2020 show that full-time clergy of color earn a median of \$8,579 less per year than their white colleagues. Not adjusted for inflation, over a period of twenty years, a clergy person of color would typically earn \$171,580 less than their white colleagues, and \$17,158 less would be contributed to their pensions by the congregations they serve.

WHEREAS, by some estimates, slaveholders extracted more than \$14 trillion worth of labor, in today’s dollars, from their captives. White people continue to benefit financially from enslavement, as well as from land theft, low wages paid to people of color, and other racist financial laws, policies, and practices. This is the case whether their ancestors were personally enslavers or not, and whether they personally put into place or engaged in discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, or not. Congregations in the Sierra Pacific Synod, the majority of which are white, have attained generational wealth through the contributions of their members and the acquisition of buildings and property.

WHEREAS, the term “reparation” refers to the process and result of remedying the damage or harm caused by an unlawful act. Forms of reparation include acknowledgement of wrongs done, payment for wrongs done; cessation of wrongs done; long-term commitment to those wronged and their descendants; and closure for all parties.

WHEREAS, examples of financial reparation are found in scripture. In the book of Ezra, the King of Persia released Israelite captives to return to Judah and taxed Persian citizens to assist the Israelites in their return. Those who paid the tax may or may not have personally enslaved Israelites, and the Israelites who returned to Israel may or may not have been personally enslaved. In the gospel of Luke, Zacchaeus the tax collector encountered Jesus and repented of the wealth he had gained through legal theft. Zacchaeus promised to repay anyone he had cheated fourfold, after which Jesus said, “Today salvation has come to this house.”

WHEREAS, neither the Sierra Pacific Synod nor the ELCA has made full reparations to

people of African Descent and other rostered people of color.

WHEREAS, the Sierra Pacific Synod seeks not only to speak but to act, stating on its website: "We work hard to put our faith into action. In today's complex world, we strive to make a difference in practical, realistic ways."

RESOLVED that the Sierra Pacific Synod hereby establishes a designated Reparations Fund for the purpose of payment for wrongs done to the Sierra Pacific Synod's rostered leaders of African descent and rostered leaders of color; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Sierra Pacific Synod Council (or its designees) shall draft operational rules and guidelines concerning the aforementioned Reparations Fund for review and possible ratification for approval at the 2023 Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED that – to the extent that it is fiscally and legally responsible – the operational rules and guidelines of the Reparations Fund shall embody the following values:

a) that the Reparations Fund shall be overseen by a governing board of no less than 5 people, and that a super-majority of no less than 66% of those board members be self-identified people of African descent and/or people of color, and additionally that a super-majority of no less than 66% of those board members be laypersons; and

b) that the sources of income of the Reparations Fund shall include (but not be limited to) 10% of the monies generated from the sale of buildings and properties owned by the Sierra Pacific Synod, as well as 10% of monies generated through the sale of congregational buildings and property, and subsequently given to the Sierra Pacific Synod as undesignated funds; and

c) that annually at least 10% of the corpus of the Reparations Fund shall be disbursed to applicants who are self-identified people of African descent and/or people of color who are currently rostered in the Sierra Pacific Synod (or who have at one time been rostered in the Sierra Pacific Synod and/or in its predecessor bodies); and

d) that funds disbursed to qualified applicants shall – to the fullest extent possible – be used at the discretion of those recipients; and be it further

RESOLVED that Policy 13-001 - Policy on the Sale, Retention, and Management of Real Property, shall be amended to include the phrase "10% of the net proceeds shall be deposited into the Synod's Reparations Fund," and shall read as follows: "Upon sale of any property, 10% of the net proceeds shall be forwarded to the ELCA, 15% of the net proceeds shall be deposited into the Synod's general fund, 10% of the net proceeds shall be deposited into the Synod's Reparations Fund, up to 5% of the net proceeds shall be deposited into the Property Management Fund (not to exceed a balance of \$250,000-See 9f.) and the remainder shall be deposited in the Sierra Pacific Synod

Mission and Ministry Endowment Fund"; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Reparations Fund Governing Board shall be seated no later than the first Synod Council meeting after the 2023 Synod Assembly and that the first disbursement of funds from the Reparations Fund shall be made prior to the 2024 Synod and that an annual report from the Reparations Fund Governing Board shall be offered at the 2024 and subsequent Synod Assemblies.

Business meeting adjourned *sine die* 10:55 a.m.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION, INSTALLATION, AND CLOSING OF ASSEMBLY

The Assembly closed with a worship service presided over by Bishop Megan Rohrer and Pastor Christian Chavarría, with Pastor Chavarría preaching. During the service, Bishop Rohrer installed newly elected Vice President Simon Wong; Synod Council members Kezia Darla and the Rev. Dr. Dawn Roginski; and conference deans the Rev. Ben Colahan, the Rev. Dr. Gabriele Schroeder, the Rev. John Kuehner, the Rev. Cristina Beauchemin, the Rev. Jeremy Serrano, the Rev. Mark Price, and the Rev. Jodi Golden-Lund.

Synod Assembly concluded at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey A Pennington, Secretary
Sierra Pacific Synod

YouTube videos of the synod assembly proceedings can be found at:

Business Session 1 & 2: <https://youtu.be/82ejSE0jz1Q>

Business Session 3: <https://youtu.be/89YwphELG-o>

Business Session 4: <https://youtu.be/heixMqhsEMk>

Business Session 5: <https://youtu.be/os-ost8ZtEo>