

Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA

Report of the Synod Council for 2015

OVERVIEW

This report summarizes actions taken by the Synod Council and the Executive Committee of the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America since the Synod Assembly held from May 29th through 31st, 2014. Copies of the complete minutes of both the Synod Council and Executive Committee are available from the synod secretary (brockmeier.gms@gmail.com) or the synod office (mary.romskog@gmselca.org), with summaries of Synod Council meetings available on the synod's website at <http://milwaukeesynod.org/who-we-are/synod-council-members/>.

Actions referred to in this report are preceded by two letters (SC for Synod Council) and sets of two-digit numbers separated by decimal points. The first two numbers identify the year and the next two numbers identify the month of the meeting in which the action was taken, while the final numbers identify the order of the action at that particular meeting. For example, SC15.05.05. refers to the fifth action taken by the Synod Council at its meeting in May 2015. Actions that are administrative in nature (e.g. approval of minutes) are not included in this report.

SYNOD COUNCIL

Meetings

The Synod Council has met ten times since the 2014 Synod Assembly; with regular meetings on July 10, 2014, September 18, 2014, November 20, 2014, January 22, 2015, March 19, 2015 and May 7, 2015; and electronic meetings on July 30-August 4, 2014, August 23-27, 2014, February 13-17, 2015, and April 15-20, 2015. Minutes of electronic meetings were approved at the next regular meeting

Membership – May 2015

Name	Cluster/Position	Term Ends 8/31
Ms. Sue Schmidt-Decker	Kenosha/West Racine	2017
The Rev. Steve Blyth	Lake Country	2015
Ms. Ar Lee	Milwaukee 1	2017
The Rev. Lisa Bates-Froiland	Milwaukee 2	2017
The Rev. Carolyn Fredriksen	Milwaukee 3	2015
Mr. Al Van Lith	Milwaukee 4	2015
Mr. Tom Gauthier	Northern Lakeshore	2017
The Rev. David Schoob	Northwest	2017
Ms. Lynn Hooper	Racine	2017
The Rev. Sherrie Lorbeck	Waukesha	2015
The Rev. Jay McDivitt	At Large	2015
Ms. Debra Taylor	At Large	2015
Mr. Jerry Key	At Large	2015
Mr. Scott Manske	Vice President	2017 (1)
Mr. Matthew Brockmeier	Secretary	2015 (1)
Mr. Lee Johnston	Treasurer	2017 (2)
The Rev. Jeff Barrow	Bishop	2016 (1)
Mr. Jack Walch	Youth Representative	2015
Mr. Jonathan Barker	Young Adult Rep.	2017

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Vacancies

Mr. Jack Walch was appointed by the Synod Council to fill a previously unfilled position as Youth Representative on the Council, for a term through August 31, 2015. Ms. Marge Puntarec resigned her seat on the Synod Council representing the Racine Cluster, which nominated Ms. Lynn Hooper to take her place for the remainder of the term ending August 31, 2017.

Council Action

SC 14.09.01. Appointment of Youth Member

The Council voted to appoint Mr. Jack Walch as the Youth Representative on the Synod Council to fill a vacancy through August 2015.

Council Action

SC 15.03.05. Appointment to Synod Council

The Council voted to appoint Ms. Lynn Hooper to fill a Synod Council vacancy for the Racine Cluster nominated position, for the remainder of the term ending August 31, 2017.

Youth Representation

With the appointment of Mr. Jack Walch as Youth Representative, both the Youth and Young Adult positions on the Council were filled.

Chair

Mr. Scott Manske, Vice President of the Greater Milwaukee Synod, serves as the chair of the Synod Council under provision S8.22. of the Synod Constitution.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meetings

The Executive Committee met eight times since the 2014 Synod Assembly; in teleconference meetings on July 7, 2014, September 3, 2014, November 12, 2014, January 14, 2015, March 11, 2015, March 17, 2015 and April 29, 2015; and in an electronic meeting on April 20-28, 2015. Minutes of Executive Committee meetings were approved at the next regular meeting of the Synod Council.

Membership – May 2015

Name	Cluster/Position
Rev. Sherrie Lorbeck	Waukesha
Ms. Debra Taylor	At Large
Mr. Al Van Lith	Milwaukee 4
Mr. Scott Manske	Vice President
Mr. Matthew Brockmeier	Secretary
Mr. Lee Johnston	Treasurer
The Rev. Jeff Barrow	Bishop

The Executive Committee includes the synod's officers (Bishop, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) and three other members of the Synod Council elected annually by the Council. The election of those three members took place at the Council's first regular meeting of its new year. Ms. Marge Puntarec served on the Executive Committee until her resignation from the Synod Council at the beginning of this reporting year.

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Council Action

SC 14.09.20. Approval of Executive Committee Members

The Council voted to elect Rev. Sherrie Lorbeck, Ms. Debra Taylor and Mr. Al Van Lith to the Executive Committee for terms through August 2015.

COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

Membership

The leaders of the Synod Council's committees and task forces are listed on the synod's website at <http://milwaukeesynod.org/who-we-are/committees/>.

Reports

The Council received regular reports from staff program directors and from affiliated organizations and committees, as well as detailed reports from Bishop Jeff Barrow.

Staff reports normally include those from the Director of Evangelical Mission, the Director of Discipleship, the Director of Rostered Leadership and the Director of Cross+Generational Ministry.

Other reports are typically made by Outreach for Hope, the Women of the ELCA, the Anti-Racism Team and Lutheran Campus Ministry.

FINANCE

Treasurer's Reports were reviewed by the Council at all regular Council meetings. An ongoing theme has been the decline in revenue from congregational mission support, coupled with discussions on efforts to reverse that decline. The beginning of fiscal year 2015-2016 saw income below projections, but generally matched by expenditures below projections. An effort to reconfigure pass-through payments, including to the ELCA and to Lutheran Campus Ministry, was the focal point of planning for the 2016-2017 budget.

Proposed 2016-2017 Budget

Council Action

SC 15.05.09. Recommendation of Budget

The Council voted to recommend approval by the 2015 Synod Assembly of the 2016-2017 Synod Budget as presented.

Synod-Wide Fundraising Efforts

Provision S15.21 of the synod's constitution requires that all fundraising appeals to ELCA congregations by congregations or organizations affiliated with the synod must be approved in advance by either the Synod Council or the Synod Assembly. The following fundraising appeals were approved by the Synod Council. The Annual Bike Ride Fundraiser to support Outreach for Hope was given ongoing approval by the Council in January 2013.

Council Action

SC 14.08.01. Approval of Fundraising Event

The Synod Council voted to approve a synod-wide fundraising event sponsored by and benefiting Lutheran Campus Ministry on Friday, October 24, 2014.

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Council Action

SC 15.01.04. Approval of Events

The Council voted to approve April 26, 2015 as Campus Ministry Sunday and October 24, 2015 as a fundraising event for Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Grant Requests

Council Action

SC 14.07.13. Approval of Grant Application Submission

The Synod Council voted to approve submission of a grant request to the Siebert Lutheran Foundation for \$20,000 to support peer ministry at the Marquette University and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campuses, including stipends totaling \$16,000 and funding for training retreats totaling \$4,000.

2015 SYNOD ASSEMBLY PREPARATION

Changes to Synod Governing Documents

Council Action

SC 14.09.25. Recommend Amendments to Synod Governing Documents

The Council voted to recommend that the 2015 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly amend the synod's constitution to reflect changes adopted by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly to provisions S7.23. and S7.26., as follows:

S7.23. The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall ~~also~~ have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.

S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of ~~mission settings formed with the intent of becoming recognized congregations~~ under development and authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.

And to recommend that the 2015 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly convert Bylaw S6.03.01. to Continuing Resolution S6.03.B15., as follows:

~~S6.03.01.~~ S6.03.B15. In order to foster liaison between this synod and the synodical women's organization:

a. The president of the synodical women's organization (or her designee) shall from time to time be invited to attend meetings of the Synod Council and to report on the activities of the organization to the Synod Council and the Synod Assembly; and

b. The bishop (or his or her designee) shall from time to time arrange to attend the organization's board meetings and conventions and to report on the activities of the synod to the organization.

And to recommend that the 2015 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly amend Bylaw S10.07.01. to reduce the required notice period for special meetings of the Synod Council from five days to one day, as follows:

S10.07.01. The Synod Council shall hold regular meetings at least three times each year. Special meetings may be called by the bishop, by the Executive Committee, or by a majority of the members of the Synod Council. The secretary shall cause notice of any meeting to be given

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to the members of the Synod Council stating the day, place, and hour of the meeting, and in the case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called. No business shall be transacted at a special meeting which does not relate to the purpose or purposes for which the meeting was called as stated in the notice of the meeting. Notice of a regular meeting shall be given in writing and shall be personally delivered or mailed to the members of the Synod Council at least 10 days prior to the meeting. Notice of a special meeting may be given in writing or by telephone and shall be given at least one day ~~five days~~ prior to the meeting. Any notice mailed shall be deemed to be given when deposited in the United States mail, with postage thereon prepaid, and addressed to the member entitled to notice. To the extent permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees may be held electronically, or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

Council Action

Nominations by Synod Council

The Synod Council voted to nominate Mr. Matthew Brockmeier for a second four-year term as Synod Secretary and Ms. Sarah Muller for a two-year term as Youth Representative on the Council.

Council Action

SC 15.03.14. Nomination for Synod Secretary

The Synod Council voted to nominate Mr. Matthew Brockmeier for a second four-year term as Synod Secretary, from September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2019.

Council Action

SC 15.03.15. Nomination for Synod Council Youth Member

The Synod Council voted to nominate Ms. Sarah Muller for the position of Youth Member of the Synod Council for a two-year term, from September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2017.

Resolutions

Two resolutions were submitted for consideration by the 2015 Synod Assembly. One of these, on the creation of Safe Haven guidelines, was conditionally approved for submission by the Synod Council, but was not forwarded to the Assembly on advice of the Synod Attorney. The other, a Resolution on Social Justice and Ministry, was submitted by St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa.

As of the preparation of this report, there were no recommendations by the Reference & Counsel Committee for the remaining resolution.

Recommendation of Synod Assembly Rules for Elections and Procedures

Council Action

SC 14.11.10. Recommendation of Synod Assembly Rules

The Council voted to recommend the 2015 Assembly Rules for Elections and Procedures, as presented, to the 2015 Synod Assembly for the Assembly's approval.

Recommendation of Synod Assembly Agenda

Council Action

SC 15.03.12. Recommendation of Synod Assembly Agenda

The Council voted to recommend approval of the Agenda for the 2015 Synod Assembly, as presented, to the 2015 Synod Assembly, with the Synod Assembly Planning Team authorized to make minor adjustments as needed.

Youth Participation in Synod Assembly

Building on a process begun with the 2012 Synod Assembly, reduced fees for congregations to send a youth or young adult as a full-time visitor were authorized by Council action in 2014. This policy continues in 2015, with a modification in the fees collected.

Synod Assembly Fee Structure Modification

The Synod Council acted to allow ongoing review of and adjustment to Synod Assembly fees as part of the annual planning process for the Assembly.

Council Action

SC 15.03.13. Authorization to Set Synod Assembly Fees

The Synod Council voted to authorize the Synod Assembly Planning Team, or its successor, to set rates for attendance at the Synod Assembly, beginning in 2015.

Deadlines for Synod Assembly Resolutions

The deadlines for resolutions were included in the rules recommended in SC 14.11.10., and were April 16, 2015 for resolutions or memorials submitted by congregations, committees or clusters; and May 7, 2015 for Synod Council initiated resolutions.

Use of Synod Assembly Offerings

Acting under direction of the Synod Council, the Council's Executive Committee voted on the distribution of offerings from worship services at the 2015 Synod Assembly.

Council Action

SC 15.04.03. Approval of Procedure to Determine the Use of Assembly Offerings

The Synod Council voted to approve the use of worship offerings received at the 2015 Synod Assembly to support one local ministry and one international ministry, with specific ministries to be decided by the executive committee.

Executive Committee Action

ECSC 15.04.01. Allocation of Offerings

The Executive Committee voted to approve the use of worship offerings received at the 2015 Synod Assembly to support Lutheran Campus Ministry and the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION FOLLOW-UP

Action on 2013 Resolution 1 - Resolution to Revise Structure of Clusters

The Cluster Task Force did not take action since the 2014 Synod Assembly, but did remain prepared to take up the issue if additional direction was received.

Action on 2013 Resolution 2 - Resolution on the Use of Funds from the Sale of Greater Milwaukee Synod Church Properties

Work continued on the development of a policy for the use of such funds and a related document offering options for congregations to consider regarding their property if they are considering closing. A draft was prepared and presented to the Council prior to the May 2015 meeting.

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Discussion by the Council focused in part on whether the proposed procedure would be mandatory or optional, with the proposal tabled until July 2015.

Council Action

SC 15.05.07. Action to Table

The Council voted to table the proposals for a policy and a document on congregational property options until the July 2015 meeting.

Action on 2013 Resolution 4 – Accompaniment, Awareness-Raising and Advocacy for the People of the Holy Land

No formal actions were taken by the Synod Council following the 2014 Synod Assembly.

Action on 2014 Resolution 1 - Resolution on Establishment of a Synod Endowment Fund (*adopted by Assembly*)

The Synod Council continued its work on the plan to establish a Synod Endowment Fund, with final action to approve the plan in September 2014.

Council Action

SC 14.09.14. Approval of Endowment Fund Plan

The Council voted to approve the Greater Milwaukee Synod Endowment Fund Plan as presented.

Further action was taken to approve the committee that will oversee the Endowment Fund.

Council Action

SC 15.01.09. Approval of Endowment Fund Committee

The Council voted to approve Mr. Larry Nines, Rev. Ted Romberg, Rev. Howard Vrankin and Rev. David Keller as the initial members of the Greater Milwaukee Synod Endowment Fund Committee.

Action on 2014 Resolution 2 – Resolution Encouraging Voting Member Diversity and Participation (*referred to Synod Council, with report due to 2015 Synod Assembly*)

The Synod Council authorized the Synod Assembly Planning Committee to review issues related to those presented in 2014 Resolution 2. Changes were made for the 2015 Synod Assembly (venue, timing and cost) as part of the synod's response to the concerns raised in the resolution. Vice President Scott Manske will present a report to the 2015 Synod Assembly.

Council Action

SC 14.07.06. Approval of Scope of Consideration

The Council voted to approve consideration of 2014 Synod Assembly Resolution 2 with discussion framed but not limited by the Assembly's action.

Council Action

SC 14.07.10. Approval of Charge to Planning Committee

The Synod Council voted to approve the referral of planning for the 2015 Synod Assembly to a planning committee, with members of the committee to be selected at a later date.

Council Action

SC 14.09.28. Approval of Subcommittee Creation

The Council voted to approve the creation of a subcommittee, based on the existing ad hoc Synod Assembly planning committee, to address the issues raised by 2014 Synod Assembly Resolution 2.

Action on 2014 Resolution 3 – Resolution Encouraging Intentional, Called Interim Ministry in our Synod *(referred to Synod Council, with report due to 2015 Synod Assembly)*

Rev. Jay McDivitt was appointed to chair a sub-committee studying the question of called interim ministry. A written report was submitted to the Council in March 2015. A report will be presented to the 2015 Synod Assembly.

Council Action

SC 14.07.12. Approval of Charge to Planning Committee

The Synod Council voted to approve the creation of a sub-committee to review the question of interim ministry in the synod, with direction for the sub-committee's work by the Synod Council, based on 2014 Synod Assembly Resolution 3.

Action on 2014 Resolution 4 – Resolution Opposing Discriminatory Legislation
(adopted by Assembly)

The Synod Council agreed to monitor issues related to this resolution, with no plans for further action unless needed.

INITIATIVES

Outreach for Hope Bylaw Amendments

Council Action

SC 14.09.22. Approval of Outreach for Hope Bylaw Amendments

The Council voted amendments adopted by the Board of Directors of Outreach for Hope, Inc., as follows, with the added provision that the Council recommends Outreach for Hope, Inc. adjust its fiscal year to match that of the synod:

Article V Directors

Section 2. Number and Qualifications of Directors.

(b) Number and Term of Directors. The number of Directors of the Corporation shall be at least seven and not more than twelve, one of whom shall be the Corporate Member's vice president, who shall serve as a Director ex officio. Except as otherwise provided with respect to (i) the terms of the initial Directors, (ii) an interim appointment to fill a vacancy, and (iii) the Corporate Member's vice president, each Director shall hold office for a term or terms of three years or until such Director's successor shall have been duly elected or until such Director's death, resignation, or removal.

(c) Term Limitations. ~~A Director may be elected to two consecutive completing a three-year terms, may not be elected to a succeeding three-year term and~~ Following completion of two three-year terms a person may not then serve on ~~be elected to~~ the Board until at least one year has elapsed. A person elected as a Director to fill a vacancy may be elected to ~~a one or more succeeding three-year terms. and a Director completing a three-year term may be elected to fill a vacancy. Subject to these exceptions, a~~

Section 15. Director Conflicts of Interest. No contract or other transaction between the Corporation and one or more of its Directors or any other corporation, firm, association, or entity in which one or more Directors are directors or officers or have a material financial interest shall be either void or voidable because of such relationship or interest or because such Director or Directors are present at the meeting of the Board of Directors or a committee thereof that authorizes, approves, or ratifies such contract or transaction or because their votes are counted for such purpose, if (1) the fact of such relationship or interest is disclosed or known to the Board of Directors or committee that authorizes, approves, or ratifies the contract

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or transaction by a vote or consent sufficient for the purpose without counting the vote(s) or consent(s) of such interested Director(s); or (2) the fact of such relationship or interest is disclosed or known to the Corporate Member and the Corporate Member has authorized, approved, or ratified the contract or transaction; or (3) the contract or transaction is fair or reasonable to the Corporation. Common or interested Directors may be counted in determining the presence of a quorum at a meeting of the Board of Directors or a committee thereof that authorizes, approves, or ratifies such contract or transaction. Notwithstanding the foregoing, however, no Director shall be permitted to vote on an allocation of funds for an organization employing such Director (or a member of such Director's immediate family) or with which such Director (or a member of such Director's immediate family) has an ongoing relationship. Consistent with the requirements of the Corporate Member, all Directors, Officers and members of all committees of the Corporation shall affirm in writing the Corporate Member's Anti-Fraud and Operational Ethics policies at the onset of their service, and thereafter at intervals determined by the Corporate Member.

Article VII Officers

Section 2. Election. The officers of the Corporation shall be chosen annually by the Board of Directors at its annual meeting, and each officer ~~except the Chair and Vice Chair~~ shall hold office for a one-year term expiring June 30 of each year or until such officer's successor shall have been duly elected and qualified, or until such officer's death, resignation, or removal. ~~The Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors shall be elected to terms of three years. However, the term of the initial Chair shall expire June 30, 2006, and the term of the initial Vice Chair shall expire on June 30, 2007. The Chair and the Vice Chair shall not be eligible to serve more than one three-year (following a partial term if initially elected to fill a vacancy). There is no limit to the number of years served in any office, subject only to overall term limits for service as a Director.~~ Election or appointment as an officer shall not of itself create contract rights.

Article X Miscellaneous

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be ~~April~~ January 1 through ~~March~~ December 31.

Council Action

SC 15.01.10. Approval of Bylaw Amendment for Outreach for Hope

The Council voted to approve an amendment to add Article VI, Section 2 (h) to the bylaws of Outreach for Hope, with the following wording:

(h) Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee is a group of individuals available to the President, the Chairperson, and the Board of Directors for consultation on special needs and interests. Members of the Advisory Committee shall permit their name to appear publicly on behalf of Outreach for Hope. Members serve terms of two years, without term limits, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

Holy Ground Youth and Young Adult Organizing Project

Council Action

SC 14.09.27. Approval of Funding

The Council voted to approve an expenditure of \$10,000 from the Bishop's Discretionary Fund to support the Holy Ground Youth and Young Adult Organizing Project.

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Cross+Generation Program

Council Action

SC 14.11.08. Approval of Cross+Generation Program Expenditures

The Council voted to approve the use of \$20,000 approved for youth ministry in Council Action SC13.01.05. for current projects, with \$4,000 to support scholarships for the synod's annual New Orleans Mission Trip and \$16,000 to support development of the Waukesha Emerging Adult Cooperative.

ELCA Capital Campaign

Council Action

SC 15.01.08. Approval of ELCA Campaign Focus

The Council voted to approve a synodical focus on congregations in the ELCA's Capital Campaign for 2015, including new and renewing congregations and disability ministries, with information provided to congregations on all campaign options.

The Table

Council Action

SC 15.03.10. Designation of Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community

The Council voted, upon the recommendation of the Greater Milwaukee Evangelism/Outreach Team, to designate The Table as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community of the Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA and to designate Ms. Venice Williams as their servant leader.

Good Shepherd Trinity Church Federation Agreement

Council Action

SC 15.05.08. Action to Table

The Council voted to table the proposed federation agreement for Good Shepherd Trinity Church, at the Call of the Chair.

Spirit Alive! Real Estate Funding

The Council decided not to act on a renewal of approval for Spirit Alive! to receive up to \$150,000.00 from the synod to purchase real estate, allowing this authorization to lapse. Action to approve this use of funds was taken in May 2013, and was renewed in May 2014.

PERSONNEL

The Synod Council regularly addressed personnel action, including synod calls, status changes for rostered leaders, and other appointments.

Approval of Synod Calls

Council Action

SC 14.08.03. Approval of Call

The Synod Council voted to approve hiring Rev. Gabriel Marcano as an employee of the Greater Milwaukee Synod to provide pastoral services to Emmaus/Emaús Evangelical Lutheran Church in Racine for the period from September 1, 2014 through November 30, 2014 at a cost not to exceed \$7,500.00, with funds to come from available synod funds including the new mission starts and Rogers Street property funds and the bishop's fund account.

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Council Action

SC 14.09.09. Approval of Call

The Council voted to approve a call to Jeanne Solik, AIM, to serve as Chaplain at Children's Hospital, Milwaukee.

Council Action

SC 15.02.01. Approval of Call

The Synod Council voted to approve a Call to Rev. Kristin Nielsen as the Greater Milwaukee Synod's Director of Rostered Leadership.

Approval of On Leave from Call Status

Council Action

SC 14.07.04. Approval of On Leave from Call Status

The Council voted to approve On Leave from Call Status for Rev. Wendy Wirth-Brock.

Council Action

SC 14.09.08. Approval of On Leave from Call Status

The Council voted to approve On Leave from Call Status for Rev. Paula Canby and Rev. Earnest Tate.

Council Action

SC 15.01.03. Approval of On Leave from Call Status

The Council voted to approve On Leave from Call status for Rev. Jane E. Fryda, effective February 1, 2015; and Rev. David J. Keller, effective April 24, 2014.

Council Action

SC 15.03.06. Approval of On Leave from Call Status

The Council voted to approve a continuation of On Leave from Call status for Rev. Carol R. Baumgartner, Rev. Cheri M. Johnson, Rev. Maren M. Hooper, Mr. Michael J. McAllister, Rev. Amy R. Becker Perez, Rev. Ann E. Williams, Rev. Earnest E. Tate and Rev. Wendy J. Wirth-Brock.

Council Action

SC 15.05.04. Approval of On Leave from Call Status

The Council voted to approve a change from standard On Leave from Call status to On Leave from Call Family Status for Rev. Amy R. Becker Perez.

Approval of Retired Status

Council Action

SC 14.09.10. Approval of Retired Status

The Council voted to approve retired status for Rev. James O. Olia, effective August 1, 2014.

Council Action

SC 14.11.03. Approval of Retired Status

The Council voted to approve retired status for Rev. Ned E. Dorau, effective December 1, 2014; Mr. Dennis Schultz, AIM, effective November 10, 2014; and Rev. Richard M. Druckrey, effective November 1, 2014.

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Council Action

SC 15.01.05. Approval of Retired Status

The Council voted to approve retired status for Rev. Richard A. Peterson, effective January 1, 2015.

Council Action

SC 15.03.08. Approval of Retired Status

The Council voted to approve retired status for Rev. Clifford J. Schmidt, effective August 2, 2014.

Council Action

SC 15.05.05. Approval of Retired Status

The Council voted to approve retired status for Rev. Mary L. Janz, effective May 1, 2015; and for Rev. Gary J. Liedtke, effective July 1, 2015.

Approval of Disability Status

None

Approval of Transfer

Council Action

SC 14.09.11. Approval of Transfer

The Council voted to approve the transfer of Rev. Dr. Martin J. Lohrmann from the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod to the Greater Milwaukee Synod.

Approval of Appointments

Council Action

SC 14.07.05. Approval of Synod Representative

The Council voted to approve Venice Williams as the synod's representative to the Lutheran Office of Public Policy in Wisconsin.

Council Action

SC 14.07.09. Approval of Continuation of Service for Synod Attorney

The Synod Council voted to approve the continuation of the open-ended appointment by Bishop Jeff Barrow of Attorney Stephen L. Knowles, of Davis Kuelthau as the Synod Attorney, at a new hourly billing rate of \$225.00 per hour, and to report this change to the Synod Assembly and the ELCA secretary, in conformity with synod constitutional provision †S8.13.

Council Action

SC 14.09.01. Appointment of Youth Member

The Council voted to appoint Mr. Jack Walch as the Youth Representative on the Synod Council to fill a vacancy through August 2015.

Council Action

SC 15.03.07. Approval of LSTC Board Representation

The Council voted to appoint Mr. Dale Landgren as a member of the Board of Directors of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago for a second full term, through September 30, 2018.

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Council Action

SC 15.03.16. Appointment to Nominating Committee

The Synod Council voted, upon the recommendation of the Racine Cluster, to appoint Ms. Betty Warber to a three-year term on the Nominating Committee, from the end of the 2015 Synod Assembly through the end of the 2018 Synod Assembly.

Council Action

SC 15.05.10. Appointment to Nominating Committee

The Synod Council voted, upon the recommendation of the Northern Lakeshore Cluster, to appoint Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe to a three-year term on the Nominating Committee, from the end of the 2015 Synod Assembly through the end of the 2018 Synod Assembly.

Nominations for Synod Assembly Election

Council Action

SC 15.03.14. Nomination for Synod Secretary

The Synod Council voted to nominate Mr. Matthew Brockmeier for a second four-year term as Synod Secretary, from September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2019.

Council Action

SC 15.03.15. Nomination for Synod Council Youth Member

The Synod Council voted to nominate Ms. Sarah Muller for the position of Youth Member of the Synod Council for a two-year term, from September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2017.

Housing Allowances

Council Action

SC 14.11.06. Approval of Housing Allowances

The Council voted to approve synod clergy staff housing allowances for 2015 of \$35,000 for Bishop Jeff Barrow, \$34,000 for Rev. Jim Bickel, \$26,400 for Rev. Chuck Brummond, and \$16,000 for Rev. Mary Martha Kannass.

Council Action

SC 15.03.17. Approval of Housing Allowance

The Council voted to approve a synod clergy staff housing allowance for 2015 of \$17,500 for Rev. Kristin Nielsen.

Compensation Guidelines & Actions

Council Action

SC 14.09.24. Approval of Compensation Guidelines

The Council voted to approve the 2015 Compensation Guidelines for Clergy and the 2015 Compensation Guidelines for Associates in Ministry, Diaconal Ministers and Lay Professionals as amended to correct a typographical error.

Council Action

SC 14.11.09. Approval of Cost of Living Increase

The Council voted to approve a 2.0% 2015 cost of living increase for all staff with at least one year of service by February 1, 2015.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Council Action

SC 14.09.15. Rejection of Contribution Request

The Council voted to reject Pastoral Counseling Service's request for a contribution of \$1,000.00 to offset the impact of financial fraud.

Council Action

SC 14.09.19. Approval of Fiscal Agency

The Synod Council voted to approve the synod acting as fiscal agent for Rev. Gabriel Marcano to provide pastoral services to Emmaus/Emaús Evangelical Lutheran Church in Racine for the period from December 1, 2014 through August 31, 2016, expenditures not to exceed \$57,000. Synod Council and staff will make an intentional effort to invite support across the whole synod to support this ministry.

Council Action

SC 14.09.23. Approval of Modified Synod Office Lease

The Council voted to approve a cost of living lease payment increase for the synod's office space at Ascension Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, for the period from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015 at a revised rate of \$2,212.00 per month.

Council Action

SC 14.11.07. Approval of Lease Amendment

The Council voted to approve an amendment to the synod's office lease for 2014-2015, showing a reduction from the anticipated 2.0% rate increase to an increase of 1.7% for the current lease period from the rate in the previous lease period.

Council Action

SC 14.09.25. Recommend Amendments to Synod Governing Documents

The Council voted to recommend that the 2015 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly amend the synod's constitution to reflect changes adopted by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly to provisions **S7.23.** and **S7.26.**, as follows:

S7.23. The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall ~~also~~ have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.

S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of ~~mission settings formed with the intent of becoming recognized congregations~~ under development and authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.

And to recommend that the 2015 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly convert Bylaw **S6.03.01.** to Continuing Resolution **S6.03.B15.**, as follows:

~~**S6.03.01.**~~ **S6.03.B15.** In order to foster liaison between this synod and the synodical women's organization:

a. The president of the synodical women's organization (or her designee) shall from time to time be invited to attend meetings of the Synod Council and to report on the activities of the organization to the Synod Council and the Synod Assembly; and

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b. The bishop (or his or her designee) shall from time to time arrange to attend the organization's board meetings and conventions and to report on the activities of the synod to the organization.

And to recommend that the 2015 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly amend Bylaw **S10.07.01**, to reduce the required notice period for special meetings of the Synod Council from five days to one day, as follows:

S10.07.01. The Synod Council shall hold regular meetings at least three times each year. Special meetings may be called by the bishop, by the Executive Committee, or by a majority of the members of the Synod Council. The secretary shall cause notice of any meeting to be given to the members of the Synod Council stating the day, place, and hour of the meeting, and in the case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called. No business shall be transacted at a special meeting which does not relate to the purpose or purposes for which the meeting was called as stated in the notice of the meeting. Notice of a regular meeting shall be given in writing and shall be personally delivered or mailed to the members of the Synod Council at least 10 days prior to the meeting. Notice of a special meeting may be given in writing or by telephone and shall be given at least one day ~~five days~~ prior to the meeting. Any notice mailed shall be deemed to be given when deposited in the United States mail, with postage thereon prepaid, and addressed to the member entitled to notice. To the extent permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees may be held electronically, or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

Council Action

SC 14.11.11. Revision of Appendix 1

The Council voted to approve replacement of the existing Appendix 1, related to S9.01.01.B11., with the proposed revised version for selecting Churchwide Assembly Voting Members.

Council Action

SC 14.11.12. Amendment of Continuing Resolution

The Council voted to approve amending Continuing Resolution S10.07.A13. as follows:

S10.07.A13. A14. All members of the Synod Council, and all Synod employees, shall participate in an approved multi-day anti-racism training program within one year of the beginning of their term (Synod Council) or their date of hire (Synod employees). Participation fees for anti-racism training shall be paid by the Synod. Sufficient funding for training all Synod Council members and Synod employees shall be provided in the synod's annual budget for three-day anti-racism training, with retraining every four years. The synod's annual budget shall also provide funding to support related activities by the Anti-Racism Team or its successor.

Council Action

SC 14.11.13. Motion to Table

The Council voted to table the question of converting Continuing Resolution S10.07.A14. to a Bylaw, at the Call of the Chair.

Submitted,

Mr. Matthew Brockmeier
Secretary, Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA
May 2015