

Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA
Report of the Synod Council for 2016

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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 30th, 2015. 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://milwaukee-synod.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, SC16.03.07. refers to the seventh action taken by the Synod Council at its meeting in March 2016. 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 seven times since the 2015 Synod Assembly; with regular meetings on July 9, 2015, September 24, 2015, November 19, 2015, January 21, 2016, March 17, 2016 and May 12, 2016; and an electronic meeting on April 15-19, 2016. Regular meetings are hosted by the home congregations of Council members.

Membership – May 2016

Name	Cluster/Position	Term Ends 8/31
Ms. Sue Schmidt-Decker	Kenosha/West Racine	2017
Vacant	Lake Country	2019
Vacant	Milwaukee 1	2017
The Rev. Lisa Bates-Froiland	Milwaukee 2	2017
Ms. Claire Zautke	Milwaukee 3	2019
The Rev. Bill Knapp	Milwaukee 4	2019
Mr. Tom Gauthier	Northern Lakeshore	2017
The Rev. David Schoob	Northwest	2017
Ms. Lynn Hooper	Racine	2017
The Rev. Angela Khabeb	Waukesha	2019
The Rev. Lindsay Jordan	At Large	2019
Mr. Steven Hruska	At Large	2019
Ms. Betty Warber	At Large	6/2016
Mr. Scott Manske	Vice President	2017 (1)
Mr. Matthew Brockmeier	Secretary	2019 (2)
Mr. Lee Johnston	Treasurer	2017 (2)
The Rev. Jeff Barrow	Bishop	2016 (1)
Ms. Sarah Muller	Youth Representative	2017
Mr. Jonathan Barker	Young Adult Rep.	2017

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meetings

The Executive Committee met five times since the 2015 Synod Assembly; in teleconference meetings on July 8, 2015, November 12, 2015, January 14, 2016, March 10, 2016 and May 5, 2016. Minutes of Executive Committee meetings were presented to the next regular meeting of the Synod Council.

Membership – May 2016

Name	Cluster/Position
Rev. Lindsay Jordan	At Large
Rev. Angela Khabeb	Waukesha
Ms. Sue Schmidt-Decker	Kenosha/West Racine
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.

Council Action

SC 15.09.22. Election to Executive Committee

The Synod Council voted to elect by acclamation Ms. Sue Schmidt-Decker, Rev. Angela Khabeb and Rev. Lindsay Jordan as non-officer members of the synod executive committee for terms through August 2016.

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.

Council Action

SC 16.03.13. Approval of Allocation of Surplus Funds

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The Council voted to approve placing surplus funds from the 2015-2016 fiscal year, totaling approximately \$15,245.09, in the unrestricted general fund reserve, with instruction that it be available for use for expenses related to the transition to a new bishop.

GRANT REQUEST AUTHORIZATIONS

Council Action

SC 15.07.09. Approval of Grant Application Submission

The Synod Council voted to approve submission of a grant request to the Siebert Lutheran Foundation for \$30,000 to support clergy and lay leadership development in the areas of emotional intelligence, facilitation of healthy conversations and the cultivation of youth leadership.

Council Action

SC 15.07.11. 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.

Council Action

SC 15.09.20. Approval of Revision to Grant Application Submission

The Synod Council voted to revise the amount approved for submission of a grant request to the Siebert Lutheran Foundation in Action SC 15.07.09. on July 9, 2015 from \$30,000 to \$55,000 to support clergy and lay leadership development in the areas of emotional intelligence, facilitation of healthy conversations and the cultivation of youth leadership.

Council Action

SC 15.09.25. Approval of Grant Application Submission

The Synod Council voted to approve submission of a grant request to the Siebert Lutheran Foundation for up to \$50,000 for the Congregational Vitality Initiative.

Council Action

SC 16.01.11. Approval of Grant Submission

The Council voted to approve submission of a grant request to the Siebert Lutheran Foundation for \$50,000 to support pastoral salary and mission development for the Breaking the Chains prison congregation over a period of three years.

Council Action

SC 16.05.14. Approval of Grant Submission

The Council voted to approve submission of a grant request by Lutheran Campus Ministry to the Siebert Foundation for funds totaling \$18,500, including \$13,400 in Peer Ministry Stipends, \$3,600 in support of the Fall Training event, and \$1,500 in support of the Winter Retreat.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY – RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation of Synod Assembly Rules for Elections and Procedures

Council Action

SC 16.01.10. Recommendation to Synod Assembly

The Council voted to recommend the adoption of the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly Rules and Procedures – 2016 to the 2016 Synod Assembly, as presented.

Recommendation of Synod Assembly Agenda

Council Action

SC 16.03.12. Recommendation of Synod Assembly Agenda

The Council voted to recommend approval of the Agenda for the 2016 Synod Assembly, as presented, to the 2016 Synod Assembly, with the Synod Assembly Planning Team authorized to make minor adjustments as needed.

Use of Synod Assembly Offerings

Council Action

SC 16.03.14. Approval of Use of Assembly Offerings

The Synod Council voted to distribute offerings from the 2016 Synod Assembly equally to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Recommendation of Proposed 2017-2018 Budget

Council Action

SC 16.03.11. Recommendation of Budget

The Council voted to recommend approval of the proposed 2017-2018 synod budget to the 2016 Synod Assembly.

Presentation of Resolutions

The Synod Council acted to present three resolutions to the 2016 Synod Assembly, as shown below. Another three resolutions were presented by other authorized entities.

Council Action

SC 16.03.08. Submission of Resolution for Synod Assembly

The Council voted to submit a Resolution to Establish an Annual Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Sunday to the 2016 Synod Assembly, as follows:

Resolution Summary: This resolution encourages each congregation of the synod to hold an annual LSS Sunday in order to highlight this ministry and better serve and love our neighbor.

Establishment of an Annual Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Sunday

Whereas, the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Chapter Four, STATEMENT OF PURPOSE, states that: “to participate in God’s mission, this church shall... Establish, support, and recognize institutions and agencies that minister to people in spiritual and temporal needs” (C4.03.m) and

Whereas, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (LSS) traces its origin to 1882, when Pastor E. J. Homme opened a home for orphaned children in Wittenberg, Wisconsin; and

Whereas, LSS currently operates over 260 programs in 115 communities throughout Wisconsin and Upper Michigan; and

Whereas, in the Greater Milwaukee Synod, LSS offers many programs, including refugee resettlement, counseling, adoption and pregnancy services, birth to three program, housing services, residential treatment for addictions, day time drop-in shelters for individuals with mental illness, clothing distribution for children who are homeless, Connections (IRIS consulting services), mental health crisis residential stabilization, half-way house (Department of Corrections); and

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Whereas, the partnership between congregations of this synod and LSS, as exhibited through prayer, volunteers, in-kind donations of space and resources, and financial support, is invaluable in meeting the needs of the over 100,000 people impacted by LSS each year; therefore be it

Resolved, That congregations of this synod are encouraged to observe an annual Lutheran Social Services Sunday where this ministry of the church is remembered in prayer, information on the breadth and scope of services shared, and an opportunity for financial support made available.

Council Action

SC 16.05.12. Submission of Resolution to Synod Assembly

The Council voted to submit a Resolution to Honor Bishop Jeff Barrow to the 2016 Synod Assembly, as follows:

Whereas, the Rev. Jeff Barrow is completing his first term and sixth year as Bishop of the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

Whereas, Bishop Barrow has faithfully served the Church and this synod, the region and Churchwide through his ministry with the congregations of the synod, the Synod Council, and synod partners, including the Regional Council, the ELCA Conference of Bishops, and the ELCA Church Council; and

Whereas, Bishop Barrow has faithfully represented this synod and the ELCA in his participation on the Seminary Board of Directors, Outreach for Hope and the, and

Whereas, Bishop Barrow has promoted cross-synodical relationships with our companion synods in El Salvador and Tanzania; and

Whereas, Bishop Barrow has provided pastoral care and leadership for the Greater Milwaukee Synod candidates for rostered ministry, our ordained and other rostered ministers, and lifted up the need to support all church leaders in a holistic manner, and

Whereas, Bishop Barrow has officiated at ordinations, commissionings, consecrations, and installations as rostered leadership joined the faithful communities in the wide variety of ministries within the synod, ministry in and with camps, campuses, care centers, congregations and counseling offices, homes, hospitals; and

Whereas, Bishop Barrow was faithful to his call to interpret and advocate the mission and theology of the whole church, fostering support for the wide variety of expressions of our synod's evangelical outreach vision in emerging ministries including The Table, Breaking the Chains Church, Living Faith in Racine, Unity in Brookfield, and Emaús, ELCA; and

Whereas, Bishop Barrow has been a voice and a presence both within the church and to the wider community, including the political arena, witnessing to our call to be a public church striving for justice, peace, and the care of creation, now therefore be it

Resolved, that we, as members of this annual assembly of the Greater Milwaukee Synod, offer our appreciation and gratitude in honor of the six years of leadership and service by Jeff Barrow as Synod Bishop; and be it further

Resolved, that we, by this action, also offer thanksgiving to God for Bishop Barrow's vision, service, and faithful discipleship; and be it finally

Resolved, that we bestow upon Bishop Barrow and all with whom he continues to share life and ministry, the boundless blessings of Almighty God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and give

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thanks for the ongoing service Bishop Barrow will bring to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church and to the Lord of that church in whom we have life and salvation, now and forever.

Council Action

SC 16.05.13. Submission of Resolution to Synod Assembly

The Council voted to submit a Resolution in support of Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities to the 2016 Synod Assembly, as follows:

Whereas, there are over 90 verses in the Bible that call on people of faith to welcome the stranger and foreigner; and

Whereas the ELCA has issued many statements since its inception on Central America and refugees, calling on this Church to be a welcoming place for those seeking refuge and asylum; and

Whereas children and families from Central America have been coming to the United States seeking refuge from violence, poverty and lack of opportunities, for many years with a spike in the number coming in Federal Fiscal Years 2012-2014, along with an increase in number this fiscal year; and

Whereas companion churches, ecumenical partners, social ministry organizations and other partners are in ministry with the children and families in Central America and in the United States of America; and

Whereas it is the commitment of the ELCA as a church in the world, to accompany vulnerable children and families from Central America today and in the future using the AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities)* strategy as a guide; therefore, be it

Resolved, the Greater Milwaukee Synod in Assembly affirm the AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) strategy recently presented to the ELCA Church Council and memorialize the Churchwide Assembly to adopt it; and be it further

Resolved, that the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly affirm the ministry that is being done in this synod with children and families from Central America; and be it further

Resolved, that the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly consider ways that it can accompany, foster awareness building and advocate for the children and families in Central America in their country, in the countries in transit and in the United States of America; and be it further

Resolved, that the Greater Milwaukee Synod use the AMMPARO strategy as a guide for accompanying children and families from Central America through the Welcoming Congregations and/or Guardian Angel programs, and for advocating policies that are more just and humane and that uphold and defend the human rights of migrant children and their families.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY – RESOLUTION FOLLOW-UP

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

It was agreed by the Council without formal action to defer further action until the new bishop takes office. No action took place during the reporting year.

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

Council Action

SC 16.01.06. Recommendation to Synod Assembly

The Council voted to recommend that the 2016 Synod Assembly adopt the Policy on the Use of Funds from the Sale of Greater Milwaukee Synod Church Properties, the Procedure for the Distribution of Grants from the Sale of Greater Milwaukee Synod Church Properties, and Options for Missional Closing and Disbursement of Assets as presented, as called for in 2013 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly Resolution 2.

Report on 2014 Resolution 2 – Resolution Encouraging Voting Member Diversity and Participation

A status report was presented at the 2015 Synod Assembly, with an update to be presented this year.

Action on 2014 Resolution 3 – Resolution Encouraging Intentional, Called Interim Ministry in our Synod

Council Action

SC 15.11.06. Recommendation to Synod Assembly

The Council voted to recommend that the 2016 Synod Assembly adopt the report, based on Rev. McDivitt's letter, on Intentional, Called Interim Ministry in the Greater Milwaukee Synod.

INITIATIVES

Federated Congregation

Council Action

SC 15.07.08. Action to Approve Agreements

The Council voted to approve the Plan of Agreement and Constitution of Good Shepherd Trinity Church as a Federated Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), as revised and agreed by the Greater Milwaukee Synod and The Presbytery of Milwaukee.

Prison Ministry

Council Action

SC 15.07.10. Approval of Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community

The Synod Council voted to designate the prison ministry of Hephatha, Reformation and Cross Lutheran churches as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community of the Greater Milwaukee Synod.

Urban Internship

Council Action

SC 16.03.07. Approval of Disbursement of Endowment Funds

The Council voted to approve a one-time disbursement of up to \$28,000.00 to Ascension Lutheran Church in Milwaukee for internship support for the period of August 2016 through July 2017 from the Immanuel Lutheran Trust for Urban Internship, based on the recommendation of the Synod Endowment Committee.

PERSONNEL

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

Approval of Synod Calls

Council Action

SC 15.07.05. Approval of Synod Call

The Council voted to approve a synod call to Rev. Wendy Wirth-Brock for interim ministry for a term of one year, contingent upon placement in a suitable interim position.

Council Action

SC 15.09.07. Approval of Synod Call

The Council voted to approve a synod call to Rev. Arlen P. Solem for chaplaincy at Aurora Healthcare Hospice, effective June 15, 2015.

Council Action

SC 16.03.05. Approval of Non-Stipendiary Call

The Council voted to approve a non-stipendiary call for Rev. Michael McAllister, subject to supervision.

Council Action

SC 16.05.05. Approval of Synod Calls

The Council voted to approve a synod call to interim ministry for Rev. Kimberly A. Jordan, and a synod call to serve in a Presbyterian congregation to Rev. Matthew A. Lee.

Approval of On Leave from Call Status

Council Action

SC 15.09.06. Approval of On Leave from Call Status

The Council voted to approve On Leave from Call Status for Ms. Stephanie K. Luedtke, effective September 1, 2015 and for Rev. Kerstin L. Hedlund, effective August 23, 2015; and to recommend a two-year extension for On Leave from Call Status for Rev. Carol R. Baumgartner.

Council Action

SC 15.11.03. Approval of On Leave from Call Status

The Council voted to approve On Leave from Call Status for Rev. Linda C. Hanus, effective December 16, 2015; and a change from On Leave from Call Status to Family Leave Status for Rev. Amy R. Becker Perez.

Council Action

SC 16.01.04. Approval of On Leave from Call Status

The Council voted to approve On Leave from Call Status for Rev. Clifford R. Hanus, effective January 24, 2016; and for Rev. Phetsamone Vannavong, effective December 31, 2015.

Council Action

SC 16.03.03. Approval of On Leave from Call Status

The Council voted to approve On Leave from Call Status for Rev. Alexis A. Twito, effective February 1, 2016; and On Leave from Call Study Status for Rev. Kerstin Hedlund from regular On Leave from Call Status.

Council Action

SC 16.03.04. Renewal of On Leave from Call Status

The Council voted to renew On Leave from Call Status for Rev. Jane E. Fryda, first granted February 1, 2015; Rev. Ann Williams, first granted May 15, 2014; Rev. Maren M. Hooper, first granted October 16, 2011; Ms. Stephanie K. Luedtke, first granted September 1, 2015; and Rev. Amy R. Becker Perez, first granted September 19, 2013.

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Council Action

SC 16.05.04. Approval of On Leave from Call Status

The Council voted to approve On Leave from Call Status for Rev. Mark D. Thompson, Rev. Jennifer J. Kuhnert and Rev. Thomas M. Pietz.

Approval of Retired Status

Council Action

SC 15.07.06. Approval of Retired Status

The Council voted to approve retired status for Rev. Gary J. Liedtke, Rev. Carol N. Creitz and Rev. Margaret R. Schoewe, all effective July 1, 2015; for Rev. Joan E. Jacobson-Wolf, effective August 1, 2015; and for Rev. Suellen F. Myers, effective September 1, 2015.

Council Action

SC 15.09.05. Approval of Retired Status

The Council voted to approve retired status for Rev. Sharon D. Georgi, effective September 1, 2015 and for Rev. Mark M. Belknap, effective September 15, 2015.

Council Action

SC 15.11.04. Approval of Retired Status

The Council voted to approve retired status for Rev. David J. Keller, effective December 1, 2015.

Council Action

SC 16.05.06. Approval of Retired Status

The Council voted to approve a retired status for Ms. Ruth Schmidt, AIM, effective June 1, 2016.

Approval of Appointments

Council Action

SC 15.07.12. Appointment as Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

The Synod Council voted, upon the recommendation of Milwaukee Cluster 1, to appoint Rev. Alexis Twito, and, upon the recommendation of the Waukesha Cluster, to appoint Mr. Steven Mueller, as Voting Members of the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Council Action

SC 15.07.13. Appointment to the Synod Council

The Synod Council voted, upon the recommendation of Milwaukee Cluster 4, to appoint Rev. D. William Knapp, Jr. to the Synod Council to fill a cluster-nominated vacancy for a term ending August 31, 2019.

Council Action

SC 15.09.04. Appointments to Elections Committee

The Council voted to appoint Rev. Arthur Bergren, Rev. Elizabeth Davis, Mr. Robert Gee, Ms. MaryBeth Hoffman, Ms. Ericka Jones, Ms. Barb Loberg, Mr. Thomas Natalini, Rev. Kristin Rice, Ms. Esther Rusch, Rev. Jacob Werkheiser, and Ms. Mary Lou Zuege to the 2016 Elections Committee.

Council Action

SC 16.01.05. Appointment to Synod Council

The Council voted to appoint Ms. Betty Warber to the Synod Council to fill a vacancy for an at-large lay female member, for the period through the 2016 Synod Assembly.

Council Action

SC 16.03.10. Approval of New Endowment Fund Committee Members

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The Council voted to approve the addition of Rev. Sandra Chrostowski and Rev. Larry Westfield to the Synod Endowment Committee for terms ending June 30, 2019.

Housing Allowances

Council Action

SC 15.11.07. Approval of Housing Allowances

The Synod Council voted to approve synod clergy staff housing allowances for 2016 of \$35,000 for Bishop Jeff Barrow, \$34,000 for Rev. Jim Bickel, \$16,320 for Rev. Mary Martha Kannass, and \$17,500 for Rev. Kristin L Nielsen.

Compensation Guidelines & Actions

Council Action

SC 15.09.08. Amendment to Clergy Compensation Guidelines

The Council voted to amend PART III B. of the 2016 Compensation Guidelines for Clergy by deleting “Pastors are encouraged to work with their congregation to develop a covenant – an annual plan that includes at least 25 hours of continuing education. The ELCA provides Continuing Education Covenant forms to be worked out by clergy and congregational leadership, signed by them, and filed with the synod office.”

Council Action

SC 15.09.09. Amendment to Clergy Compensation Guidelines

The Council voted to amend PART III B. of the 2016 Compensation Guidelines for Clergy by replacing “A provision allowing the pastor to accumulate continuing education dollars and time up to a maximum of 3 years may provide for a more structured study opportunity” with “Congregations should consider allowing the pastor to accumulate continuing education dollars and time up to a maximum of 3 years to provide for a more structured study opportunity.”

Council Action

SC 15.09.10. Amendment to Clergy Compensation Guidelines

The Council voted to amend PART III B. of the 2016 Compensation Guidelines for Clergy by deleting “Another form of continuing education may be the sabbatical leave.”

Council Action

SC 15.09.11. Approval of Clergy Compensation Guidelines

The Council voted to approve the 2016 Compensation Guidelines for Clergy as amended.

Council Action

SC 15.09.12. Amendment to AIM, Diaconal and Lay Compensation Guidelines

The Council voted to amend PART III B. of the 2016 Compensation Guidelines for Associates in Ministry, Diaconal Ministers and Lay Professionals by deleting “Employees are encouraged to work with their congregation to develop a cooperative annual plan that includes at least 25 hours of continuing education. Another form of continuing education may be the sabbatical leave” and replacing “A provision allowing the pastor to accumulate continuing education dollars and time up to a maximum of 3 years may provide for a more structured study opportunity” with “Congregations should consider allowing the employee to accumulate continuing education dollars and time up to a maximum of 3 years to provide for a more structured study opportunity.”

Council Action

SC 15.09.13. Amendment to AIM, Diaconal and Lay Compensation Guidelines

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The Council voted to amend PART III B. of the 2016 Compensation Guidelines for Associates in Ministry, Diaconal Ministers and Lay Professionals by replacing Appendix A, Part II with Appendix A, Part II of the Clergy Compensation Guidelines and adding “**Fall Theological Conference***” [bold face with asterisk indicating required item] to Appendix A, Part III.

A motion to copy language from the clergy to the lay guidelines regarding the Fall Theological Conference died for lack of a second, with agreement to reframe the question.

Council Action

SC 15.09.14. Amendment to AIM, Diaconal and Lay Compensation Guidelines

The Council voted to add PART III F. to the 2016 Compensation Guidelines for Associates in Ministry, Diaconal Ministers and Lay Professionals “Fees and time for the Fall Theological Conference will be covered by the congregation separate from continuing education support.”

Council Action

SC 15.09.15. Approval of AIM, Diaconal and Lay Compensation Guidelines

The Council voted to approve the 2016 Compensation Guidelines for Associates in Ministry, Diaconal Ministers and Lay Professionals as amended.

Council Action

SC 15.09.16. Motion to Reconsider Approval of Clergy Compensation Guidelines

The Council voted to reconsider Approval of Clergy Compensation Guidelines (SC 15.09.11.).

Council Action

SC 15.09.17. Amendment to Clergy Compensation Guidelines

The Council voted to add PART III F. to the 2016 Compensation Guidelines for Clergy “Fees and time for the Fall Theological Conference will be covered by the congregation separate from continuing education support.”

Council Action

SC 15.09.18. Approval of Clergy Compensation Guidelines

The Council voted to approve the 2016 Compensation Guidelines for Clergy as amended.

Council Action

SC 16.01.07. Approval of Cost of Living Increase

The Council voted to amend the 2016-2017 budget to reflect a one percent (1%) cost of living increase for all synod office staff, effective February 1, 2016.

Council Action

SC 16.05.08. Approval of Recommended Standard Rate for Supply Pastors

The Council voted to approve a recommendation that congregations pay \$150 for supply pastors, with \$50 for an additional service.

Personnel Policies

Council Action

SC 15.11.08. Approval of Amendment to Employee Handbook

The Synod Council voted to amend the Paid Holidays section on page 18 of the Employee Handbook as follows:

A holiday falling on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday will normally be observed on the preceding Friday. A holiday falling on Sunday will normally be observed on the following Monday. The Bishop shall have discretion to schedule holiday observance for the workday before the holiday.

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Council Action

SC 16.05.11. Approval of Transition Policy for Synod Staff for 2016

The Council voted to approve the Transition Policy for Synod Staff for 2016 as amended.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Council Action

SC 15.07.14. Authorization for Executive Committee Actions

The Synod Council voted to authorize the Executive Committee to act in its place when decisions are required between regularly scheduled Council meetings.

Council Action

SC 15.09.24. Approval of Synod Office Lease Extension

The Synod Council voted to approve an extension of the synod office lease through September 30, 2016, with a 1.25% (\$27.50 per month) rent increase, to a total of \$2,235 per month.

Council Action

SC 15.09.21. Change in Event Date

The Synod Council voted to revise the dates approved for a fundraising event for Lutheran Campus Ministry in Action SC 15.01.04. on January 22, 2015 from October 24, 2015 to January 29-31, 2016.

Council Action

SC 16.01.09. Approval of Property Sale

RESOLVED, that the Proposal to Purchase Real Estate dated January 18, 2016 from Iglesia El Nuevo Pacto, M.E.A.I., Inc. to purchase the properties located at 2000 South Layton Boulevard in the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and 2623 West Rogers Street, in the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for \$80,000 in accordance with the terms and conditions stated in the offer, subject to clarification to assure that the total sale price is realized and that the property is accepted in "as-is" condition be, and hereby is, accepted; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Vice President of the Greater Milwaukee Synod be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to take all actions and perform all things necessary or desirable to consummate the transaction described in the aforesaid offer to purchase, including, but not necessarily limited to, the execution and delivery of a warranty deed conveying the properties at 2000 South Layton Boulevard in the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and 2623 West Rogers Street, in the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Iglesia El Nuevo Pacto M.E.A.I., Inc.

Council Action

SC 16.01.12. Acceptance of Congregation

The Synod Council voted to accept Parroquia Emaús as a member congregation of the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Council Action

SC 16.01.13. Approval of Hold on Grant Funds

The Synod Council voted to place a hold on distribution of funds from the Good Shepherd Grant Fund to Faith/Santa Fe.

Council Action

SC 16.03.09. Amendment of Endowment Fund Investment Option

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The Council voted to amend a portion of provision VI. of the governing documents of the Endowment Fund, as follows:

Liquid assets of the FUND shall be invested with either the Endowment Pooled Trust Fund of the ELCA or the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA.

Council Action

SC 16.04.01. Approval of Authorizing Resolution

The Council voted to approve the Authorizing Resolution naming signatories on a new account for the Greater Milwaukee Synod Endowment Fund as presented.

Submitted,

Mr. Matthew Brockmeier
Secretary, Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA
May 2016