

SYNOD OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND HAWAII

COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY**Regular Meeting**

Audio-Visual Conference via Zoom.com

Saturday, October 2, 2021

CONVENE The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Commission of Assembly Chair Pat Niles.

ROLL Those present (P), absent (A), or excused (E) are indicated below. All in attendance were by video conference:

LR-Los Ranchos, PA-Pacific, RS-Riverside, SB-Santa Barbara, SD-San Diego, SF-San Fernando, SG-San Gabriel; TE- Teaching Elder, RE-Ruling Elder; SMOD-Synod Moderator, SVMOD-Synod Vice Moderator, CoAC-CoA Chair/President, SC/SE-Stated Clerk/Synod Executive

Synod Officers

P RE Chair-CoA – Pat Niles (LR)
 P TE SMOD – Suzanne Malloy (SB)
 P RE SVMOD – Janine Tanahuvia (SF)
 P RE Synod Treasurer – Susan Skoglund (RS)
 P TE SC/SE – Mark Hong (LR)

Commissioner Members

P RE Sue Currie – LR
 P RE Frances Lin – SD+
 P TE N'Yisrela Watts-Afriyie – SG
 P RE Melodee Kistner

BBIPOC Representatives

P TE Juan-Daniel Espitia (SD)
 P RE Yvonne Harmon (SG)
 E TE Joseph Shin (LR)

Presbytery Executives/Designees

P RE Sandy Thoits+ – SB *
 P TE Juan Sarmiento – SF
 P TE– Frances Lin – SD*+
 P TE Linda Culbertson – PA
 P TE Lee Ireland – RS
 P TE Wendy Tajima – SG +
 P TE Forrest Claassen – LR

Ecclesiastical Chairs

P TE David Won PA - CoRN
 E RE Sandy Thoits SB + – Polity & Records

Also Present

P TE Paula Mann – Synod Staff
 P Joanne Yi-Bortfeld – Synod Staff

TE Darrel Myers – Chair of JPIC
 RE Tom English - guest

P-Present A-Absent E-Excused

* designee

+ serving in dual capacities

OPENING PRAYER	RE Frances Lin opened the meeting with prayer.	
REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK	Stated Clerk Mark Hong presented a written report. Attachment 1	
QUORUM	The Stated Clerk reported that a quorum was present, and the Chair declared that a quorum was present: a quorum being that 12 of the 21 members are present, 5 presbyteries are represented, and there are four ruling elders and four teaching elders present.	
AGENDA	It was VOTED to approve the agenda as presented.	
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	It was VOTED approve the Commission of Assembly meeting minutes of June 6, 2021, as corrected and July 24, 2021, as written.	
SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS	No corresponding members were in attendance.	
FOR INFORMATION	Corporate Officers for 2021 President and Commission of Assembly Chair RE Pat Niles Moderator TE Suzanne Malloy Vice Moderator RE Janine Tanahuvia Stated Clerk and Corporate Secretary TE Mark Hong Treasurer RE Susan Skoglund Boundary Training Virtual Boundary Trainings were conducted on August 3 and 4, from 10 am to 12:30 pm. We had over hundred attendees. Presbytery News San Diego elected Rev. John Moser on September 21, as its Interim Executive Presbyter. Mark Hong has begun to work with the Search Committee from Santa Barbara as it seeks to call a Designated General Presbyter. Dates for 2021 Meetings The Commission of Assembly: December 11 (if necessary) The Assembly: December 4 (Sat) Dates for 2022 Meetings The Commission of Assembly: Mar 5, June 4, Oct. 1, Dec. 10 (if necessary) The Assembly: Dec. 3 (Sat)	

For Information

REPORT OF SYNOD
TREASURER

RE Susan Skoglund gave report highlighting a few areas of the Quarter 2 Financial Reports (Attachment 2).

She pointed out the summary information on packet page 41 and drew attention to the per capita line which is low year to date. The Synod will need to pull about \$75,000 more from Wilshire Reserve by the end of the year for the operating expenses.

Elder Skoglund pointed out that only 2 grants have been given during 2021. She raised this so presbytery executives would be aware of what is available.

REPORT OF
FINANCE
COMMITTEE

In addition to the written report (Attachment 3), Wendy Tajima reviewed the rewrite of the Synod Finance Policies. (Attachment 4)

The body reviewed the policies. Some minor edits were suggested. It was VOTED to recommend the revised Finance Policies to the Synod Assembly. The Finance Committee was given the authority to make editorial changes to the document as discussed in the meeting.

It was VOTED that the Synod inform PILP that the Synod will only sign off on PILP loan applications for which the Synod is a guarantor.

Lee Ireland brought up the philosophy of how we invest. The Commission discussed ways to approach reviewing the Synod's mission as part of this.

It was VOTED to have Mark Hong start the process and bring to CoA a suggested process for a strategic team formation for thinking about the mission and vision for the next 5 years and for Mark Hong to report back to next CoA meeting.

REPORT OF
PERSONNEL
COMMITTEE

Suzanne Malloy assumed the responsibility of presiding so that Chair Pat Niles could present on behalf of the Personnel Committee. The committee's primary responsibility was to do the annual staff reviews. Via Zoom, the Personnel Committee had individual appointments with each staff member. The Personnel Committee brought the following motions as a result of their work.

It was VOTED that the 2022 compensation for the four synod employees be increased by 6%, (5% for COLA and 1% merit).

It was VOTED that the three exempt employees be given an annual \$300.00 allowance toward internet fees at their home, now that the synod is a virtual office.

It was VOTED that a \$400.00 Study Leave allowance be added for the REPL Coordinator position.

REPORT OF BUDGET
COMMITTEE

The Budget Task Force was appointed by the CoA Chair per the Synod Finance Policies (Revision 2009). A new format for the budget was presented which split out the Special Funds Projections from the Operating Budget. Per capita is staying at \$2.85 per church member. Chair Niles explained some of the significant lines of the budget. The budget is Attachment 5.

It was VOTED that Commission of Assembly recommend that Synod Assembly approve the 2022 Synod Budget and 2022 Special Funds Projections with the corrections need to change Worker's Comp line and balance the budget.

On behalf of Budget Task Force, it was VOTED that CoA request that Restricted and Special Funds Committee (a) review and determine if the following "Pass through Grants" could and should be changed to direct the funds directly to the recipient organizations:

- A. Witness for Peace
- B. Union Station Foundation
- C. Franciscan Friars
- D. La Casa de San Gabriel Community Center

and (b) report back to COA by the June 2022 meeting." Moved, seconded.

For information - these are endowment funds invested with the Presbyterian Foundation.

Pat Niles resumed her role as chair of the Commission at the conclusion of her report.

REPORT OF
COMMITTEE ON
REPRESENTATION
AND NOMINATION

Commission of Assembly are recommending these names serve on the Committee of Representation and Nomination.

It was VOTED that CoA nominates the following as members of the Committee on Representation and Nomination;

Class of 2023 - TE Don Thursby RS

Class of 2024 TE David Won PA

TE Wendy Tajima SG

TE Robert Stewart RS

REPORT OF POLITY
AND RECORDS
COMMITTEE

Mark Hong reported on behalf of Sandy Thoits for Polity and Records. The consensus and understanding is that the ex officio members have voice and vote. No amendment needed at this time. The written report for the committee is Attachment 6.

For information to CoA – the Polity and Records Committee will be recommending to the Synod Assembly to amend to Article IV D 4 as shown below.

1. Those who serve ex officio serve for the term of that office. ~~The term of the members chosen to balance diversity and to represent each major non-white racial/ethnic group is three years.~~ All other members (other than those serving ex officio) are eligible to serve no more than two consecutive **3-year** terms. The classes shall be established by the Stated Clerk of the Synod. This is what the committee will be presenting to the synod assembly.

REPORT OF JUSTICE,
PEACE, AND
INTEGRITY OF
CREATION
COMMITTEE

TE Darrel Meyers addressed the body and introduced Dr. Tom English.

JPIC committee asks to affirm and recommend continuing status of Tom English as the Creation Educator of the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii. The motion was made and failed. At this time, the visitors were moved to the 'waiting room' while the members of COA continued discussion.

It was VOTED that the Synod COA appoint Dr. Tom English as Creation Care Educator as a volunteer linking person with the denominational Creation Care network and resource for presbyteries.

REPORT OF SYNOD
EXECUTIVE

Mark Hong mentioned the new mailing address for the synod. Please refer to the Stated Clerk's written report for more information (Attachment 7)

Mark Hong also share that San Diego Presbytery has called Rev. John Moser as the interim executive presbyter and that Santa Barbara Presbytery has decided to call a designated general presbyter.

OTHER BUSINESS

Pat Niles shared that the REPL report is in the packet (Attachment 8).

Susan Skoglund, on behalf of the Feminist Agenda Network, brought a request for funding. She moved that the Synod Feminist Agenda Network Request - \$750 be supported (from the Synod Training Budget) for support of Beyond Pink and Blue Family and Spiritual Care Conference on Saturday, November 6. A written report is included as Attachment 9.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm with prayer offered by TE Juan Sarmiento.

Mark Hong, Stated Clerk

Paula P. Mann, Journal Clerk