

Florida-Bahamas Synod Council Highlights
November 17-18, 2023 – Tampa
By: Rev Dr Kenneth Blyth – Secretary

Approved Consent Agenda:

Minutes of Synod Council meetings on: September 15-16, 2023

Synod Executive Committee Minutes of: September 21, 2023 and October 10, 2023

Reports from: A2b Rev Nicole Eastwood, A2b Rev Rob Rose, A2b-DEM Rev Khader El Yateem, A2b-DEM Rev Rob Carlson, VP, Global Mission Table, Gun Violence Task Force, V2A Grant Team, Planning & Review Committee, ELCA/Synod Gift Planner

Roster Recommendations

Received the Bishop's Report and announcement of Pr Rob Carlson's decision to end his call as A2b and return to parish ministry on or before January 31, 2024.

Received Presentation by V2A Grant Team Manager Pr Katie Carroll

Received Presentation by Rev Joe Young on ALOA and discussion of adult ministry partnership. In light of transition in place with Pr Rob Cs new call, it was voted to suspend further discussion until June, 2024.

Received Presentation and engaged in a listening session on the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church with Cheryl Stuart.

Approved Housing Allowances for all rostered ministers on 'staff' with the Office of the Bishop.

Approved 12,000 for additional coaching for 2023 V2A grant applicants who did not receive grants.

Designated April 28, 2024 as Newberry College Sunday.

Approved the transfer of Gloria Dei- Leesburg from the Pinelands Conference to the Heart of Florida Conference. Approved the transfer of St Andrew-Port St Lucie from the Tradewinds Conference to the Space Coast Conference.

Authorized the following ministries to continue as Synod Authorized Worshiping Communities in 2024: Faith's Latino Mission, Lehigh Acres; Lord of Life Latino Mission, Miami, Mision Luterana Guadalupe, Ft. Lauderdale, St. Stephen Latino Mission, Pompano Beach, The Community, ELCA, Babcock Ranch, Palms Deaf Church

To authorize the sale of the Messiah-Cocoa property for \$580,000

Received and voted on recommendations from Governance Team and Executive Committee on changes to the Synod Constitution.

Received and reviewed the Treasurer's Report for p/e October, 2023. Approved payment for the land in Babcock ranch in the amount of \$667,000 plus expenses, to accrue interest at the rate of 2% per year, amortized over 15 years – due and payable 10 years from the date of executing a note and mortgage.

Approved Partnership grants for 2/2/24-1/31/25 as follows:

Florida Council of Churches - \$8,500
Lutheran Counseling Services - \$16,000
Lutheran Social Services NE - \$4,000
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary - \$60,000
NovusWay - \$25,000
Region 9 - \$10,000
University LC – Campus Ministry - \$3,000
Jacksonville Campus Ministry - \$ 7,500
Healthy Congregations, Inc - \$ 5,250

Voted that the 2026 Synod Assembly be an in-person workshop assembly for 2 days/1 night. (Fri-Sat)

Voted that the Assembly Planning Team review and provide recommendation to Council on the feasibility of doing assembly business 'on line'.

Approved up to \$600,000 in available grant monies under the Vision to Action program through the period ending January 31, 2025.

Approved updated congregation constitutions.

Received report from WELCA