

**Lutheran Church of the Reformation
Council Zoom Meeting Minutes**

**Washington DC
Tuesday, October 18, 2022**

Council members present: Emily Andre, Scott Binde, Karen Carlson, Ivy Finkenstadt, Craig Haas, John Hagood, Elizabeth Hann, Suzanne Hazard, Judith Mangubat, Lyndon Smith, Jessica Snowden, Laura Swanson, Elizabeth Wirick.

Guests: Emily Sollie, Interim Executive Director, Southeast Ministry; Rasheen Carbin, Board Member, and Rev. David Wolf, Executive Director, Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington

Staff present: Jarrod Jabre

Motion approved (*unanimous unless otherwise noted*)

1) Approve minutes of the September 20, 2022 Council meeting (Hagood, Binde).

Discussion Items and Reports

Council Nominees, 2023-2025 term: Karen Carlson, for the Nominating Committee, reported that Dina Finkel, Jennifer Novak, Evan Schrage and Mike Thompson have agreed to run for Council for three-year terms beginning in 2023. Calvin Cunningham has agreed to run for the one-year youth member term. The election will occur at the congregational meeting December 11.

Southeast Ministry (SEM): Emily Sollie briefed the Council on SEM's intention to pursue a merger with Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington. As a separate organization, SEM does not need approval from Reformation for the merger. Given SEM's history and connection to Reformation, however, the SEM Board wanted to ensure the members of Reformation were aware of the impending merger and understand the reasons behind it. Samaritan Ministry also hopes that Reformation would continue to provide the support that they have given SEM to Samaritan Ministry after the merger. (Reformation has provided \$45,000 annually to SEM and individual Reformation members contribute another \$10-20,000 each year.) When the merger is complete, Samaritan Ministry will also invite Reformation to join its Partner Council, which would give Reformation two members on the Partner Council. Neither continued financial support nor Reformation joining the Partner Council is a condition for the merger.

SEM lost a significant amount of DC Government funding and was unable to replace it with other funding sources. The Boston Group provided pro bono consulting as SEM considered its options, and ultimately SEM decided to seek a merger partner. The SEM Board discussed a potential merger with one other organization and Samaritan Ministry. Without the merger, SEM would have to close and services to the community would be lost. Samaritan Ministry is committed to continuing and expanding the services available at the current SEM location, which will retain signage with the SEM name as well as Samaritan Ministry. Current SEM staff will transfer to Samaritan Ministry.

The SEM Board will vote on the merger October 23; the Samaritan Ministry Board will vote October 25, and the SEM Partner Council will vote on the merger November 29. SEM will be conducting a final fundraising drive to cover its expenses until the merger is finalized.

Paul Leavitt anniversary: Worship, Music and Arts is planning to commemorate Paul's 20 years of service at an upcoming coffee hour.

Interim Pastor Russ Gordon: Pastor Russ visited and proposed returning as interim pastor for approximately three weeks, from the beginning of November until the Sunday before Thanksgiving, to assist with the transition to Pastor Kevin. He would live in the 220 parsonage so that work on the main parsonage can proceed. Pastor Russ indicated he would only return for this period if the entire Council approved.