

African Descent Lutheran Association (ADLA) Los Angeles Chapter
General Session Meeting – June 22, 2024, 9A
Christ The Shepherd, Altadena
Meeting Minutes

Approved – August 24, 2024

Present: Rev. Scott Adams, DN Tempie Beaman, Renee Brandt, VP Andrea Clarke, Haundrea Clarke, Gavin Curry, Marquita Curry, Katherine Ellis, President Carolyn Foster, Randall Foster, Willa Glover, Enid McGraw, Kenisa McKee, Thomas McKee, Phoebus Lee, Rev. Charlene Limenih, Zetta Robinson, Mary Shipp, Judith Tutt-Starr

Guests: Dawn Horton, Carlotta LaRue, Georgetta Perry

Excused: Jeanne Armstrong, Rev. Kenneth Davis, DN Gwen Jackson, Gilbert Jernigan, Patricia Jernigan, Rita Lee, Carolyn Pate, Rev. Albert Starr, DN Dale Washington

- I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 9:03A by President Foster
- II. **Devotions and Prayer** – A prayer for ‘divine kindness, caring, and understanding’ was extended by TEEM Pastor, MaryAnn Harrison, Christ The Shepherd (congregational host).
- III. **Self-Introductions** - in the form of one’s name and congregation - were offered by all.
- IV. **Approval of the Agenda** – President Foster requested that her remarks be moved to Open Discussion as she had some announcements to make. The agenda was accepted with that change. (MSC)
- V. **Approval of the April 27, 2024 Meeting Minutes** – Corrections were made to the attendees and excused listings and subsequently approved. (MSC)
- VI. **Treasurer’s Report** – The written report for the period **April 19th – June 17th** was presented with selected highlights noting: 1) The Trout Robe was a gift from the Trout Family that constituted the graduate attire worn by Rev. Dr. Nelson W. Trout upon receiving his doctorate degree. It has been cleaned, framed and hung in the Trout Chapel at the Synod Office. 2) HTELC received the award for the largest number of members in this year’s campaign. 3) Ascension received the award for the largest number of NEW members in this year’s campaign. 4) Membership dues to National has been sent and received, representing the largest expense for the period (\$2,045).
Beginning Balance - \$4,909.34
Ending Balance - \$2,560.26
- VII. **Region II Representative’s Report** – DN Gwen Jackson was excused, noting that there hasn’t been a formal meeting at the national level and her report is predicated on that information being received.
- VIII. **ADSPT** – The written report by the African Descent Strategy Planning Team was reviewed with emphasis on the postponement of the End of Summer Gathering due principally to the absence of funding. It was indicated the subcommittee would be reconvening in October to focus its attention of Young Adult collaborations in concert with the Advent and Christmas season.

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Old Business

- IX. **Synod Assembly** –There were marketed changes to the Synod’s registration process and data accumulation from 2023 to 2024. Those changes altered rather significantly the overall efficiency of the registration process. A meeting called by Bishop Bos to address registration, balloting and any other related functions overseen by ADLA during the assembly has been arranged for June 26th.
- X. **National ADLA Goals** – While ADLA Los Angeles has continued to address previously issued national goals related to ecumenism and chapter development, it awaits new direction from ADLA National following its inaugural meeting of the new cabinet.
- XI. **Rev. Dr. Nelson W. Trout Endowment** – The present balance in the ELCA Endowment account is just under \$7,000. ADLA – LA has raised close to \$13,000; noting that \$6,000 was used to secure the naming of the Synod Chapel in honor of Dr. Trout and to adorn it with an African Descent motif.
- XII. **Eyeglass wear/Collection and Distribution** – Eyeglasses are still be collected and given to the Lions Club, Inglewood. They, in turn, refurbish the glasses and administer free eye exams, offering the eyeglasses as a gift. Please continue to bring your unused glasses for recycling.
- XIII. **Aluminum Pull Tabs** – The Long Beach Miller’s Children’s Hospital is the direct recipient of the proceeds secured from recycling the aluminum pull-tabs. They provide cost offsets to families with chronically ill children in the form of housing, transportation expenses. A pound of tabs requires 1,264 individual items. ADLA has submitted some 116 pounds thus far!
- XIV. **ADLA Apparel** (e.g., Polo Shirts, Jackets) can be acquired through mail order. An order must have at least 20 purchases before the vendor will ship the finished product to each home. There was a general interest on the part of members to make their order request known.
- XV. **Cell Phones for Soldiers** – This hasn’t been on the agenda for a couple of years because it was thought that the program had ceased. Members indicated that they have old cell phones that they wish to donate. President Foster will look into that possibility and advise.

New Business

- XVI. **ADLA Chapter Presidents’ Meeting** – June 20th. The ADLA Presidents that met in North Carolina decided that two essential things should come of that gathering: 1) intentional and informed contact and 2) information sharing. President Foster chaired the 1st such meeting among the ADLA Presidents on June 20th. The New Jersey Chapter will chair the next meeting on August 20th.
- XVII. **National ADLA Biennial Assembly** – Will be in Phoenix, Arizona, July 24-27, 2025 preceding The Churchwide Assembly.

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- XVIII. End of Summer Gathering** - This annual event bringing some 14 ADLA/ NCP congregations together for worship, prayer and solidarity has been postponed for 2024, principally due to the absence of grant funds to cover the operations cost (facility & equipment rentals, food & beverages, etc.). Members felt compelled to find ways of contributing to an annual fund that would help offset the expense, which could include adding a line item to congregational budgets for this purpose and, thus, offered this approach for consideration. Members also felt that the planning for this event should begin no later than February 2025, identifying the location with the needed deposit (\$1,200 - \$1,500). Extended thanks to Willa Glover and NCP for their intercession in getting the insurance binder each year!
- XIX. Lutheran Night at Dodgers' Stadium** – Friday, September 6, 2024, tickets are \$35/person and transportation is free on the Dodgers' Bus Express.
- XX. Viejas Casino Trip** – Saturday, September 7, 2024 (next morning at 8A) participants shall be leaving Olivet Lutheran via 53-passenger bus. Funds obtained will be directed to the Trout Endowment. Chapel of Peace is also sponsoring a bus trip to Viejas on the same day. Let's all have a great time!
- XXI. God's Work, Our Hands Sunday** – This past year's efforts were directed to High School, College and University students who are experiencing food insecurity and/or financial hardships in general. Backpacks comprising school supplies, hygiene products, snacks, Bombas socks, emergency blankets were distributed and shall be the focus of this year's outreach. CLU, CSUDH and Pasadena City College (via Christ The Shepherd) were recipients of this outreach. The Lions Club was also given an allocation of backpacks. The student demand for assistance continues to grow and is becoming more pervasive. It was mentioned that the CLU pantry can be filled to its maximum and in 48 hours it is depleted based on the demand! Kenisha McKee presented a motion to offer this outreach each semester; in the Spring and Fall. It was MSC that ADLA take on this responsibility. Donations for GWOH in the amount of \$20/kit can be sent to ELCA –ADLA (see flyer). Note: Pr MA Harrison gave \$20 in cash as her contribution. It was also recommended that this initiative be accompanied by a detailed fundraising campaign involving each congregation.
- XXII. Grown Women, Real Talk** – This biblically based forum for women, especially young adults is scheduled for October 4th and 5th, the former at CLU and the latter at a local congregation to be announced. There will be an early evening session at CLU. The Interim President's wife also has this type of encounter in mind and will likely support the initiative. Childcare can be provided.

Open Discussion

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XXIII. Southeast Pennsylvania Synod – President Foster announced the retirement of The Rev. Dr. Patricia Davenport (Southeast Pennsylvania Synod). Her retirement event – over three days – commences on August 9 and concludes on the 11th. At least five LA Chapter members have plans on attending. It was moved that ADLA – LA purchase the ‘back cover’ of the program booklet at a cost of \$200. Several members donated towards this expense at \$100 each (Starr, Clarke, Foster), totaling \$300.

XXIV. Congregational Updates & Events

1. Women of the ELCA – Summer gathering @ \$10/person (see flyer)
2. Olivet – High Tea @ \$20/person (see flyer)
3. St. Mark’s – Tea, July 7th, 4-6P
4. CLU – Black History Month Chapel Services in February 2025
5. Christ The Shepherd – Arts & Crafts Ministry begins June 25th
6. CLU Interim President – Rev. Dr. John Nunes

Pending Projects

7. Popcorn Fundraiser – Double Good @ 50% proceeds, monies directed to the Trout Endowment
8. Ascension – A 2nd leadership conference is being held, guided by TEEM Pastor Maggette. There was no additional information to share on this topic.

XXV. Next Meeting – HTELC with Devotions by Marquita Curry

XXVI. Meeting concluded at 11:06A

Recording Secretary
Randall (Randy) Foster
Randall S. Foster