



SANTA CLARA VALLEY LUTHERAN PARISH
CONFERENCE #14
SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

TO: All congregations and special ministries in the Santa Clara Valley Lutheran Parish
FROM: Eugene Jewell, Dean
RE: Election of members to our new Parish Council
DATE: March 26, 1991

It is now official! At a meeting of the Synod Council of the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA March 15, the report of our Area Mission Strategy Development Team was adopted. And we are now ready, therefore, to proceed with the election of the proposed Parish Council and to begin functioning as a Santa Clara Valley Lutheran Parish.

Accordingly, I am hereby calling, in accordance with recommendation #6.h.2) on page 38 of the revised Mission Strategy document, for the election to our Parish Council of:

- 1) one lay or one clergy voting member from each of the congregations in the parish, and
- 2) one lay or one clergy voting member from each of the following four groups of special ministries within the parish:
 - a) schools,
 - b) agencies and institutions,
 - c) youth ministries, and
 - d) other special ministries not represented in any way in the above three categories.

At the meeting of the Synod Council March 15, two provisos were included in the action taken by the council in adopting our Santa Clara Valley Lutheran Parish Mission Strategy. They are:

- 1) that the parish fulfill all functions of a Conference in the Sierra Pacific Synod, and
- 2) that the inclusiveness guidelines in regard to composition of elected entities in the ELCA be included.

The first of these two provisos has already been spelled out in our Parish Mission Strategy document. The second is a guide for our use in the election of the council. It states that at least 60% of our council is to be composed of lay people, 50% of whom must be male and 50% of whom must be female, and that at least 10% of our council is to be composed of "people of color or whose primary language is other than English."

Rather than dictating, however, which of our congregations or special ministries are to elect lay members and which are to elect clergy members for this first year, or which are to elect "people of color or whose primary language is other than English," we are proposing that each congregation and each group of special ministries elect the person it feels will best represent that congregation or that group of special ministries. And then if, after having done so, it is obvious that the guidelines have not been met, appropriate adjustments can be made.

Memo to congregations and special ministries

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In order that the Parish Council can begin its work as soon as possible and do so on "a level playing field," it is essential that all those who are elected be free to attend the first meeting of the council. That first meeting will be an all-day event on Saturday, May 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Sunny View Lutheran Home in Cupertino.

The agenda for the day will include:

- 1) a get-acquainted time,
- 2) an orientation to the Mission Strategy document,
- 3) the election of a Secretary/Treasurer,
- 4) the determination of council terms,
- 5) the organization of standing committees,
- 6) ~~the assignment of responsibilities, and~~
- 7) the setting of dates and times for future meetings.

So that those who are elected have time to prepare for this first meeting, I am asking you to elect your new Parish Council member at your Congregation Council meeting (if you are a congregation) or at your special ministry caucus (if you are a special ministry) during the month of April. Then, as soon as you have done so, please send the name, address, and telephone number of your representative and the name of your congregation or your group of special ministries to our present Conference Secretary/Treasurer:

Gloria Baker
1005 Cumberland Place
San Jose, CA 95125

Make sure that she receives these names no later than April 30th!

Special ministries will need to arrange their own caucuses in order to elect their representatives. I am asking David Place to convene the schools, Jim Friedrich the agencies and institutions, Tim Huff the youth ministries, and Debbie Slifer the "other ministries."

If you have any questions in regard to these procedures, contact either David Baker, the chairperson of the Mission Strategy Development Team, or myself.

I am excited about this new parish and am looking forward to our work together. I trust you are, also.

P.S. Please note that the PARISH FESTIVAL OF UNITY, originally scheduled for Pentecost Sunday, May 19, to celebrate our new Santa Clara Valley Lutheran Parish, has been re-scheduled to Sunday, June 9, at 3:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Cathedral in San Jose. Please place this on your calendar and make plans to participate. Watch for more information.