

**Southern Ohio Synod – ELCA
Synod Council Meeting
Southern Ohio Synod Office
Columbus, OH 43215
April 28, 2012**

Call to Order: Barbara Klatt, Vice President of Council, called the Synod Council meeting to order at 9:30 AM

Devotions: Barbara Klatt: From Julia Betancourt. Barbara shared some of the author's thoughts on "spiritual spring cleaning" interspersed with several scripture passages. The devotion serves as a reminder that we are all cleansed from sin on a daily basis.

Opening prayer was offered by Pr. Suzanne Dillahun.

Review and Approval of Minutes of 03/10/2012 Meeting:

Two corrections were noted, to-wit: on page 3, David Keck reminds the Secretary that he is not ordained, and on page 2 a spelling error occurred.

VOTED:
SC.04.28.1 To approve minutes of the March 10, 2012 meeting as corrected.
(Bull / Keck) APPROVED.

Review and Approval of Agenda of 04/28/2012 Meeting:

VOTED:
SC.04.28.2 To approve the 04/28/2012 agenda. (Vosskuehler/Swank)
APPROVED.

Roll Call: Members present: Pr. Lisa Arrington, Mr. Tom Bowman, Pr. Jonathan Bull, Mrs. Susan Clem, Mr. Thomas S. Counts, Mr. David Drumm, Ms. Marjorie Ellis, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Pr. Brian George, Mr. Roy Hart, Pr. William (Will) Hartfelder, Ms. Sue Hillger, Bp. Callon Holloway, Jr., Pr. Dona Johnson, Mr. David M. Keck, Ms. Edna Kettler, Mrs. Barbara Klatt, Mr. Mike Knilians, Ms. Kathryn Schnierle, Ms. Carol Swank, Ms. Erin Taylor, Ms. Desiree Tryloff, and Mr. Charles Vosskuehler.

Members excused: Pr. Diana Gugel, Mr. Malachi Herget, Mr. Mike Johnsen, and Pr. Robert Miller

Members absent: Mr. Brandon Huston

Staff present: Pr. Suzanne Darcy Dillahun, Pr. Jeff Wick, and Pr. Ed Williams

Staff excused: None

Staff absent: None

Reports of the Officers and Executive Committee:

- Vice President:
1. Participated in a churchwide conference call with members of the ELCA Secretary's office regarding congregational renewal and transformation. Priorities include congregation vision statements and strategic plans; guiding principles; partnerships within the community; and unique congregation gifts.
 2. The Churchwide financial situation has improved and budgeted expenses for the year have increased.
 3. The Malaria Campaign for Liberia is an immediate call for action as evidenced by Bishop Hanson's recent communication.
- Secretary:
1. Participated in a Region 6 Archives Advisory Board conference call.
- Treasurer:
1. \$55,000 in real estate taxes paid in calendar year 2012 were properly expensed to 2011.
 2. The synod has experienced a year-to-date loss of \$25,206. Income for March, 2012 is \$5,000. 2012, therefore, is starting out not so badly.
 3. The 2013 Fiscal Proposal will be coming before council later today.
- Bishop Holloway:
1. Presented his report on synod financials. The synod cannot practice good stewardship when Churchwide Mission Support is unilaterally reduced without prior notice.
 2. Conflict in congregations within the synod is increasing. Bishop Holloway believes this conflict is caused by lack of mobility (inability to sell homes in the present economy) and the health, both physical and emotional, of rostered leaders.
 3. Staff transitions are continuing and improving. It is intense but smooth.

4. Thanks to Pr. Will Hartfelder for attending and representing Bishop Holloway at the National Workshop on Christian Unity held recently in Oklahoma City, OK. There were forty participants.

5. Calvary Lutheran Church in Lancaster, Ohio, will be welcomed into the Southern Ohio Synod at Synod Assembly in June.

6. Planning remains difficult because reports from rostered leaders and congregations are slow in coming into the office.

7. Funds from the “Roll Away the Stone Program” will be channeled to Faith Trek activities.

8. Contact by youth and young adults with the Bishop has increased.

9. The Bishops of Region 6 recently held meeting with Bishop Hanson. Bishop Holloway described the meeting as “a lot of listening” going on.

VOTED:

SC.04.28.3

To approve the reports of the Officers and the Executive Committee. (Schnierle/Clem) APPROVED.

VOTED

SC.04.28.4

To approve the submitted written reports of WELCA and LMM. (Swank/Johnson) APPROVED.

Susan Barton-Nonno shared information with the Council regarding SynodFest. She spoke of the importance of connecting and reconnecting as children of God. In essence, SynodFest is a family reunion.

The Council broke into committees to perform committee work at 11:05 AM

The committees finished their individual committee work, and the members returned to the council as a whole at 11:57 A.M.

Marjorie Ellis, both a member of this synod council and of the ELCA Church Council, presented her summary report of the most recent ELCA Church Council meeting. Elections will be held at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly to fill the Offices of Bishop and Secretary. Rev. Susan C. Johnson, National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, addressed the ELCA

Church Council. The ELCA Church Council is beginning to plan for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Prayer was offered by Pr. Lisa Arrington prior to lunch.

The meeting recessed at 12:12 P.M. for lunch.

The meeting reconvened at 12:47 P.M.

EN BLOC

VOTED:

SC.04.28.5 (Tryloff/Keck) Approved with one dissenting vote.

Committee on Congregations and Assemblies-REPORT

SYNODFEST 2012 (Update)

INFORMATION:

2012 Synod Assembly Resolutions

“A Call to Peaceful Resolution of the Conflict with Iran”

“100 Anniversary of LSSCO”

RECOMMENDATION: To endorse the two 2012 Synod Assembly Resolutions, “A Call to Peaceful Resolution of the Conflict with Iran” and “100th Anniversary of LSSCO”

Consolidation of St. Mark Lutheran Church, New Carlisle and First Lutheran Church, Donnellsville

INFORMATION:

June Pre-Assembly meeting

RECOMMENDATION: Business to be referred to Executive Committee between April 29 and September 8, 2012

Committee on Ministers, Education and Personnel-REPORT

Professional Leaders Roster - Voted En bloc

Request on Leave from Call

Ms. Linda Sprick-Kruse (AIM) (2-4-07) 6th yr.

Pr. Catrina Hawkins-Bowles (4-1-12) 1st yr.

Pr. Deborah Dingus (4-6-12) 1st yr.
Pr. Melvin Musser (4-3-12) 1st yr.
Pr. Thomas Heil (1-1-2009) 4th yr.
Pr. Lisa J. Bernheisel (6-13-09) 4th yr.
Ms. Rebecca G. Mastalerz (Diaconal Minister) (5-1-09) 4th yr.

RECOMMENDATION: To approve on “Leave from Call” status for Ms. Linda Sprick-Kruse, Pastors Catrina Hawkins-Bowles, Deborah Dingus, Melvin Musser, Thomas Heil, Lisa J. Bernheisel, and Ms. Rebecca G. Mastalerz.

Request for Transfer

Pr. David Hanford (retired) to South Carolina Synod
Pr. Benell Boehm (retired) to Southern Ohio Synod
Pr. Gerald Jacobson (retired) to Southern Ohio Synod

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the transfer of retired Pastors David Hanford to the South Carolina Synod, Bernell Boehm to the Southern Ohio Synod, and Gerald Jacobson to the Southern Ohio Synod

Remove from ELCA Roster

Pr. Robert L. Forsberg (3-12-12)

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the removal from the ELCA Roster for Robert L. Forsberg.

Retired Status

Pr. Ronald Timmons (1-1-07)

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the retirement of Pastor Ronald Timmons

2013 Compensation Guidelines

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the 2013 Compensation Guidelines for Ordained Ministers and the 2013 Compensation Guidelines for Lay Rostered Leaders

Committee on Mission, Planning and Legal Matters-REPORT

Correction of “date” of April 2, 2011 Synod Council minutes

RECOMMENDATION: To approve date correction of the April 2, 2011 Synod Council minutes

Mental Illness Task Force

INFORMATION:

Constitution Update

INFORMATION:

Electronic Meetings

INFORMATION:

2013 Chruchwide Assembly Credentials

INFORMATION:

Receiving Information and Recommendation Process for Screening Volunteers Who Work with Children for Synod Events

RECOMMENDATION: To disseminate to all planning teams for Southern Ohio Synod Events

Committee on Communication, Administration and Support-REPORT

2012 Expenditure Authorization – updated

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the 2012 Expenditure Authorization

2013 Fiscal Proposal

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the 2013 Fiscal Proposal

Balloon Mortgage

INFORMATION:

Preliminary Audit

INFORMATION:

Congregational Loan

INFORMATION:

Other Business: Bishop Holloway spoke about building relationships for the greater good of church. Much discussion ensued.

New Business: 1. Discussion focused upon the need to authorize the Synod Treasurer to sign necessary instruments for the ongoing management of the Synod's farm located in Tillman County, Oklahoma.

VOTED:

SC.04.28.6

In accordance with his responsibilities as Treasurer of the Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Michael Knilians is explicitly granted authority to sign any and all instruments related to the operation and management of the Tillman County, Oklahoma farm consisting of 160.00 acres, more or less, and otherwise designated as Parcel No. 0000-12-03S-17W-3-000-00 by the Tillman County, Oklahoma Treasurer, including but not limited to the authority to execute any power of attorney instruments to those leasing and operating said Tillman County Oklahoma farm for greater local farm management efficiency. (Hartfelder/Schnierle) APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Marjorie Ellis reported on the Criminal Justice Social Statement to be considered at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. She further reported that the Southern Ohio Synod was recognized at the recent ELCA Church Council meeting for Southern Ohio Synod's increased mission support.

Closing Prayer offered by Pr. Will Hartfelder

VOTED:

SC.04.28.7

To Adjourn. (Schnierle/Bull) APPROVED.

The meeting was then adjourned at 2:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy E. Hart
Synod Council Secretary