

**Southern Ohio Synod – ELCA
Synod Council Meeting
Southern Ohio Synod Office
300 South Second Street
Columbus, OH 43215
November 17, 2012**

Call to Order: Mrs. Barbara Klatt, Vice President of Council, called the Synod Council meeting to order at 9:20 AM

Prayer offered by Pr. Diana Gugel

Review and Approval of Minutes of 09/08/2012 Meeting:

The Minutes of the 09/08/2012 Meeting were not available for review.

Review and Approval of Agenda of 11/17/2012 Meeting:

VOTED:

SC.12.11.1 To approve the 11/17/2012 agenda with the deletion of the 2013 Expenditure Authorization. (Knilians/Vosskuehler) APPROVED.

Roll Call: Members present: Pr. Jonathan Bull, Mr. Thomas S. Counts, Ms. Marjorie Ellis, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Pr. Brian George, Pr. Diana Gugel, Mr. Roy Hart, Ms. Sue Hillger, Bp. Callon Holloway, Jr., Mr. Mike Johnsen, Mr. David M. Keck, Mrs. Barbara Klatt, Mr. Mike Knilians, Ms. Kathryn Schnierle, Mr. Charles Vosskuehler, and Pr. Mark Wildermuth

Members excused: Pr. Lisa Arrington, Mrs. Susan Clem, Pr. Dona Johnson, Ms. Edna Kettler, Pr. Robert Miller, Ms. Carol Swank, Ms. Erin Taylor, and Ms. Desiree Tryloff

Members absent: Dr. Tom Bowman, Mr. David Drumm, Mr. Malachai Herget, and Mr. Brandon Huston

Staff present: Pr. Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt, Pr. Jeff Wick, and Pr. Ed Williams, Mr. Gary Pecuch

Staff excused: None

Staff absent: None

Reports of the Officers and Executive Committee:

- Bishop:
1. Winter/Spring Strategy for Moving into the Future will include LIFT reports. Bishops are still working on the information so some of the reports are not yet available. Vision and Ministry Plan looks at evolving goals of the Synod.
 2. Synod Office Holiday Hours. The Synod Office will be closed 12/24/2012 to 01/02/2013.
 3. The Bishop and the Synod Staff are currently working with Bob Armstrong of Church Innovations to plan for conversation within the Synod during the new year through the program called “God Sightings in the New Reality”.
 4. Bp. Holloway reported that as a result of the recent situation involving the unrestricted use of alcohol by some rostered leaders at a youth-oriented confirmation retreat held at a LOMO facility, a number of persons have brought their concerns regarding this matter to him. The Bishop further reported that he personally interviewed approximately eleven persons, both clergy and witnesses. He then communicated with the ELCA attorney and consulted with other appropriate parties concerning issues of discipline which are required to be addressed in accordance with ELCA guidelines. Based upon his research, interviews, and communications with other appropriate parties, Bp. Holloway stated that he responded appropriately with those involved in the situation.
 5. The real estate tax issue related to the Synod’s building has been successfully resolved. The Synod received a refund check totaling \$111,000 to conclude the matter.
 6. Bp. Holloway reported that the Estate of Mary Roese, a former Capital University Professor, left the Synod a bequest of \$4,500.00.
 7. Bp. Holloway reported that he will be taking a sabbatical to rest. He will be on sabbatical from November 19, 2012 to

February 21, 2013. During his absence, Bp. Holloway recommends that Pr. Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt be appointed as the Acting Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod.

- Vice President:
1. Mrs. Klatt thanked everyone in attendance for coming to this special meeting and well as the last meeting. Much was accomplished with a great deal of hard work. The Vice President also thanked everyone for their willingness to make presentations at congregational meetings throughout the Synod regarding the need to be diligent in mission support.
 2. Mrs. Klatt reported that she, the Bishop, and the Synod staff met with Bob Armstrong of Church Innovations to create a more specific plan for stewardship. The Staff continued to work on the plan to create time line.
 3. Mrs. Klatt reported that she attended a Region 6 Steering Committee meeting. During the meeting, the Churchwide representative berated the Southern Ohio Synod's recent Mission Support percentage of giving to the national church. Mrs. Klatt learned that many synods were visited recently by Churchwide Mission Support representatives but were treated in a much more pastoral and collegial manner. The Vice President stated that the Mission Support percentage policy currently in use by Churchwide simply is not relevant in today's church cultures, and specifically in the church culture evident today in the Southern Ohio Synod. What is the current reality and how do we put those realities in motion? We need to be accountable but we are unique and we are who we are with our own concerns, just as the other synods are unique and they are who they are with their own concerns.
- Gary Pecuch:
1. Mr. Pecuch reported on LYO constitutional issues. The LYO dissolved on churchwide level. The focus now is on recommenndationns for service projects in places such as Charleston WV, Dayton, and Cincinnati. Mr. Pecuch recommends that the Synod Council look at this issue at its January, 2013 meeting.
- Secretary:
1. No report

- Treasurer:
1. The Synod finances are looking better. The Synod received just over \$154,000 in October compared to a normal of \$100,000. If this trend continues, unrestricted income is projected to reach \$1.623 million by year end.
 2. Mission Support to Churchwide currently stands at an average of 34% for the year. Current trends could boost this average substantially closer to 40% by year end.

VOTED:
SC.12.11.2 **To approve the Reports of the Officers. (Schnierle/Gugel) APPROVED.**

VOTED:
SC.12.11.3 **To approve Bp. Holloway's recommendation to appoint Pr. Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt as the Acting Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod during Bishop Holloway's sabbatical from November 19, 2012 to February 21, 2013. (Schnierle/Ellis) APPROVED.**

VOTED:
SC.12.11.4 **To affirm the action of Bishop Holloway requesting the LOMO Director and the LOMO Board to develop a policy restricting the use of alcohol and other substances at LOMO facilities. (Keck/Vosskuehler) APPROVED.**

General discussion occurred regarding alcohol usage and rostered leader comportment following Bp. Holloway's report regarding the recent LOMO situation. Safety of children and insurance issues appeared to be concerns.

VOTED:
SC.12.11.5 **To create a Synod policy regarding alcohol usage and rostered leader comportment. APPROVED.**

VOTED:
SC.12.11.6 **To add April 6, 2013 to the Synod calendar as an additional Synod Council meeting date. (Vosskuehler/Keck) APPROVED.**

Pr. Jeff Wick reported to Synod Council regarding the God Sightings Winter/Spring Gatherings Planning Timeline.

Dave Keck reported to Synod Council the creation of a proposed Synod Spending Guideline for the period 11/14/2012-01/31/2013 from Synod Council Committee 4.

Pr. Ed Williams updated Synod Council regarding the Macedonia Project. A year-round stewardship program is being developed that will be ongoing for the next few years. Currently the focus is upon education of congregations and parishioners.

Bp. Holloway then talked about opportunities for communication with congregations. Among those opportunities are regular Synod Council and Parish Council meetings. Other opportunities include local and synod gatherings, as well as Clusters on Mission, Identity, and Resources. Re-singled adults and age 65-plus groups are the biggest mission fields right now.

EN BLOC

VOTED:

**SC.12.11.7 To Approve En Bloc Recommendations. (Wildermuth/Keck)
APPROVED.**

Committee on Ministers, Education, and Personnel

Professional Leaders Roster – Voted En Bloc

Request on Leave from Call

Pr. William R. Barrett (1-1-11)

Pr. Lisa J. Bernheisel (6-13-09)

Pr. Joyce M. Maddux-Jennings (7-23-10)

Ms. Rebecca G. Mastalerz (Diaconal Min) (5-1-09)

RECOMMENDATION: To approve “On Leave from Call” status for Pastors William R. Barrett, Lisa Bernheisel, Joyce Maddux-Jennings, and Ms. Rebecca Mastalerz (DM)

Request for Transfer

Pr. Roy Godfrey (retired) (10-16-12)

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the transfer of Pastor Roy Godfrey to the Florida-Bahamas Synod

Retired Status

Pr. Thomas Batterman (1-31-13)

Pr. David Moreland (1-1-13)

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the retirement of Pastors Thomas Batterman and David Moreland

Extension of Call by Synod Council

Pr. Grant Eckhart to Jacob's Porch

Pr. Linda Sprick-Kruse (Diaconal Min) – one year term call

RECOMMENDATION: To extend a Synod Council call to Pastor Grant Eckhart and to Ms. Linda Sprick-Kruse – a one year term call

Board Nomination

Mr. Dave Kettlehake to the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry (LOMO) Board – 2nd term

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the nomination of Mr. Dave Kettlehake to the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry (LOMO) Board – 2nd term

New Business:

Dave Keck was recognized on his 65th birthday.

Pr. Mark Wildermuth offered a closing prayer.

The meeting was then adjourned at 11:43 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy E. Hart
Synod Council Secretary