

**Southern Ohio Synod – ELCA  
Synod Council Meeting  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Columbus, OH 43215  
September 8, 2012**

Call to Order: Barbara Klatt, Vice President of Council, called the Synod Council meeting to order at 9:40 AM

Review and Approval of Minutes of 08/11/2012 Meeting:

Two corrections were noted, Carol Swank was excused (not absent) and Joyce Maddux-Jennings is not on Leave from Call.

**VOTED:**

**SC.09.08.1 To approve minutes of the August 11, 2012 meeting as corrected.  
(Keck/Drumm) APPROVED.**

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

The En Bloc recommendation to approve the 2013 Expenditure Authorization is to be removed from the Agenda.

**VOTED:**

**SC.09.08.2 To approve the 09/08/2012 agenda with the deletion of the En Bloc recommendation to approve the 2013 Expenditure Authorization.  
(Schnierle/Johnson) APPROVED.**

Roll Call: Members present: Pr. Lisa Arrington, Mr. Tom Bowman, Mr. Thomas S. Counts, Mr. David Drumm, Ms. Marjorie Ellis, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Pr. Brian George, Pr. Diana Gugel, Mr. Roy Hart, Bp. Callon Holloway, Jr., Mr. Brandon Huston, Mr. Mike Johnsen, Pr. Dona Johnson, Mr. David M. Keck, Ms. Edna Kettler, Mrs. Barbara Klatt, Mr. Mike Knilans, Ms. Kathryn Schnierle, Ms. Desiree Tryloff, Mr. Charles Vosskuehler, and Pr. Mark Wildermuth.

Members excused: Pr. Jonathan Bull, Mrs. Susan Clem, Ms. Sue Hillger, Pr. Robert Miller, and Ms. Erin Taylor

Members absent: Mr. Malachai Herget and Ms. Carol Swank

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:

Bishop:                   1.     No report

Vice President:       1.     The Synod received a letter dated August 24, 2012, from Eric and Emma Worringer regarding the reduction in funding for the Jacob's Porch mission at The Ohio State University. The letter has been commended to the Bishop for a reply.

2.     The Vice President presided over the election for the two at-large seats on the Synod Council Executive Committee. Several members of the Council were in the running. Mr. Thomas S. Counts and Pr. Jonathan Bull were re-elected to the positions.

Secretary:             1.     No report

Treasurer:            1.     The month of August, 2012 ended "in the black".

2.     Bp. Holloway and Treasurer Mike Knilans reduced the mission support percentage for August, 2012 from 40% to 25% which drew an immediate response from Pr. Craig Settlege, Director for Mission Support for the ELCA. Pr. Settlege and the Synod Council Executive Committee met August 29, 2012 at the Synod office. The historical numbers of income and expenses were reviewed. Since 2008, the Synod maintained its expenses and mission support level at 40% through the use of reserves but the Synod has reached a point where it cannot continue to do so. At the formation event of the ELCA, sharing of mission support from congregations to the synods was set at 10-15%, and synods would then share mission support with churchwide with 50% of the synods' unrestricted receipts from its congregations. The Treasurer then reported upon matters discussed at the Executive Committee meeting with Pr. Settlege.

3.     Treasurer, Mike Knilans, then moved the adoption of the following motion: Southern Ohio Synod Council affirms the

August 2012 spending authorization and directs the Bishop and Treasurer to accrue mission support at 25% of mission support received each month effective with August income. Synod Council further directs the Bishop and Treasurer to make further adjustments upward or downward so that the synod has break even financial results for the last half of fiscal 2012. Synod Council affirms the commitment in the 2013 Approved Budget to mission support at 40% subject to available income. Synod Council commits to making additional efforts to encourage congregations to provide sufficient income to make this possible.

Much discussion then occurred about the Synod's finances and its mission support to churchwide. It was noted that the 2007 Churchwide Assembly the ELCA goal was set at 55% in mission support from synods and actual giving was set at 45%. It was further noted that 29 synods increased in mission support from 2011 and 36 synods decreased in mission support from 2011.

A procedural motion was then made and seconded to table further discussion on the Treasurer's motion until after the scheduled training session. Upon a vote, the motion was approved.

Synod Council proceedings were recessed at 10:45 AM in favor of the scheduled training session.

Upon the conclusion of the training session, Synod Council proceedings resumed at 12:10 PM.

Discussion prompted by the Treasurer's motion continued. On a related note, Pr. Ed Williams spoke about the Macedonia Project to put a face on the things the Synod does so that mission support can occur on a conference level. The Macedonia Project is expected to kick off in the Spring of 2013. Churchwide has committed \$10,000 to the Synod to fund the project. The Council then reviewed each sentence of the motion moved by Treasurer Knilans.

**VOTED:**  
**SC.09.08.3**

**To approve the first sentence of the motion moved by Treasurer Knilans, as revised, which now reads, "Southern Ohio Synod Council affirms the August 2012 spending authorization and to accrue mission support at 25% of mission support received each month, effective with August income." (Vosskuehler/Johnson) APPROVED.**

**VOTED:  
SC.09.08.4**

To approve the second sentence of the motion moved by Treasurer Knilans, as revised, which now reads, "Synod Council further directs the Bishop and Treasurer to make further adjustments with approval of the Synod Council Executive Committee so that the Synod has break even financial results for the last half of fiscal 2012." (Bowman/Knilans) APPROVED.

**VOTED:  
SC.09.08.5**

To approve the third sentence of the motion moved by Treasurer Knilans, as revised, which now reads, "Synod Council affirms the commitment in the 2013 Approved Budget to mission support at 40 %." (Tryloff/Schnierle) APPROVED.

**VOTED:  
SC.09.08.6**

To approve the fourth sentence of the motion moved by Treasurer Knilans, as revised, which now reads, "Synod Council commits to develop intentional short and long term goals and a plan to achieve said goals to encourage congregations to provide sufficient income to make this possible." (Schnierle/Arrington) APPROVED.

Additional discussion then took place regarding the reasoning and rationale for the four approved sentences.

**VOTED:  
SC.09.08.7**

To approve the following "Whereas provisions" which will precede the foregoing four sentences approved as SC.09.08.3-6:

Whereas the Southern Ohio Synod has experienced years of declining mission support income, and

Whereas the Southern Ohio Synod has reduced expenses by \$860,000 in the past four years which have included significant staff reductions and program cuts, and

Whereas reserves have been used to cover expenses and maintain mission support, and

Whereas the Southern Ohio Synod Council affirms its crucial partnership role in the greater church, and

Whereas year to date there is a \$167,000 shortfall in congregational mission support income,

(Moved/Seconded) APPROVED.

Prayer was then offered by Pr. George prior to voting on the full resolution.

**VOTED:**

**SC.09.08.8 To approve the following full resolution:**

**WHEREAS, the Southern Ohio Synod has experienced years of declining mission support income, and**

**WHEREAS, the Southern Ohio Synod has reduced expenses by \$860,000 in the past four years which have included significant staff reductions and program cuts, and**

**WHEREAS, reserves have been used to cover expenses and maintain mission support, and**

**WHEREAS, the Southern Ohio Synod Council affirms its crucial partnership role in the greater church, and**

**WHEREAS, year to date there is a \$167,000 shortfall in congregational mission support income,**

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

**The Southern Ohio Synod Council affirms the August 2012 spending authorization and to accrue mission support at 25% of mission support received each month, effective with August income; that Synod Council further directs the Bishop and Treasurer to make further adjustments with approval of the Synod Council Executive Committee so that the Synod has break-even financial results for the last half of fiscal 2012; that Synod Council affirms the commitment in the 2013 Approved Budget to mission support at 40%; and that Synod Council commits to develop intentional short and long term goals and a plan to achieve said goals to encourage congregations to provide sufficient income to make this possible.**

**(Knilians/Vosskuehler) APPROVED with two dissenting votes.**

**VOTED:**

**SC.09.08.9 To approve the reports of the Officers and the Executive Committee. (Schnierle/Drumm) APPROVED.**

No reports were received from the Women of the ELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, nor the Lutheran Youth Organization.

Business – Plenary En Bloc

2013 Housing Allowance

**RECOMMENDATION FROM SYNOD COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** To approve the proposed housing allowance for the Bishop and Assistants

Arise in Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Donnelsville constitution

**RECOMMENDATION:** To approve the congregation constitution of Arise in Christ Evangelical, Donnelsville

**VOTED:**

**SC.09.08.10**

**To approve the Plenary En Bloc Recommendations.  
(Vosskuehler/Kettler) APPROVED.**

Pr. Dona Johnson offered closing prayer.

Meeting was then adjourned at 1:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy E. Hart  
Synod Council Secretary