

**Southern Ohio Synod – ELCA  
Special Synod Council Meeting  
Southern Ohio Synod Office  
300 South Second Street  
Columbus, OH 43215  
January 12, 2013**

Call to Order: Mrs. Barbara Klatt, Vice President of Council, called the Synod Council meeting to order at 9:15 AM

Devotions: Mrs. Barbara Klatt presented a selection from *Dwelling in the Word*. Members then paired up to discuss what they heard, and the results were then shared with the whole group.

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

The Minutes of the 09/08/2012 Meeting were approved.

**VOTED:**

**SC.13.01.1 To approve the minutes of the September 8, 2012 meeting.  
(Keck/Bull) APPROVED.**

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

One correction was noted in that Pr. Robert Miller was excused from the meeting rather than being counted as absent. Otherwise, the Minutes of the 11/17/12 Meeting were approved.

**VOTED:**

**SC.13.01.2 To approve the minutes of the November 17, 2012 meeting as  
corrected. (Bull/Wildermuth) APPROVED.**

Review and Approval of Agenda of 01/12/2013 Meeting:

**VOTED:**

**SC.13.01.3 To approve the 01/12/13 agenda. (Vosskuehler/Wildermuth)  
APPROVED.**

Roll Call: Members present: Dr. Tom Bowman, Pr. Jonathan Bull, Mr. Thomas S. Counts, Mr. David Drumm, Ms. Marjorie Ellis, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Pr. Brian George, Mr. Roy Hart, Ms. Sue Hillger, Pr. Dona Johnson, Mr. David M. Keck, Ms. Edna Kettler, Mrs. Barbara Klatt, Mr. Mike Knilans, Pr. Robert Miller, Ms. Kathryn Schnierle, Ms. Carol Swank, Ms. Desiree Tryloff, Mr. Charles Vosskuehler, and Pr. Mark Wildermuth

Members excused: Ms. Susan Clem, Pr. Diana Gugel, Bishop Callow W. Holloway, Jr., and Ms. Erin Taylor

Members absent: Pr. Lisa Arrington, Mr. Malachai Herget, Mr. Brandon Huston, and Mr. Mike Johnsen

Staff present: Pr. Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt and Pr. Jeff Wick

Staff excused: Pr. Ed Williams

Staff absent: None

Reports of the Officers and Executive Committee:

- Vice President:
1. Many members are not receiving some or all of the reports prior to each meeting. Mrs. Klatt wants the members to let her know about success/failure of email receipts so that the problem can be resolved.
  2. Thanks for continued prayers for Bill Newell, Barbara Klatt's father, who suffered a stroke recently.
  3. Council Minutes are posted on the Synod website after they are approved by the Synod Council. Minutes which are awaiting approval are not posted.
  4. Mrs. Klatt reminded the Council members that confidentiality is expected during council deliberations and the members are not free to discuss matters dealt with in the Council meeting until the minutes of each particular meeting are approved in order to eliminate misunderstandings and misinformation.
  5. Congregational visits bring into focus how we communicate with congregations. Mrs. Klatt reported that she has had positive experiences with very small congregations.
- Secretary:
1. LOMO Response: The Secretary, by correspondence dated December 12, 2012, notified Penny Christensen, Executive Director of LOMO, of the action of the Southern Ohio Synod Council to affirm Bishop Holloway's request to the LOMO Executive Director and Board to review and adopt a policy restricting the use of alcohol and other substances at LOMO facilities. (Copy of December 12, 2012 letter attached) In response, Ms. Christensen replied by letter of December 19, 2012,

that she would share our December 12, 2012 letter with the LOMO Board at their February, 2013 meeting. She included an excerpt of their July 28, 2012 Board meeting minutes which stated:

“The Board discussed concerns from Carla Becker regarding LOMO’s alcohol policies; Carla was a volunteer nurse for one week at LMC in June. A motion was made by Linda, second by Bob, to uphold the current alcohol policies and believe they serve our purposes adequately. Motion approved.”

Ms. Christensen then concluded her response by requesting a copy of the November 17, 2012 Synod Council meeting and a copy of the Southern Ohio Synod’s Alcohol Policy. (Copy of December 19, 2012 reply letter attached)

Discussion ensued regarding the activities that occurred by a council member who was present at the time. After the discussion, it was determined that resolution of the matter should occur among Bp. Holloway and the affected individuals as Bp. Holloway has all of the facts of the situation. The consensus of Synod Council is to accept the response of the LOMO Executive Director and to move forward with the creation of a synod policy concerning comportment.

2. Update on A Call to Peaceful Resolution of the Conflict with Iran Synod Assembly Memorial: The Executive Committee of the Church Council received the resolution and referred it to the Office of the Presiding Bishop in consultation with the Public Policy Procedures Group. PPPG recommended that a letter be written acknowledging the work of the current White House administration and encouraging a position consistent with the Southern Ohio Synod resolution. PPPG further recommended that copies of the letter be sent to the U.S. Senators and Representatives from Ohio. The Office of the Presiding Bishop supported these PPPG recommendations. The Church Council then acted to request the Office of the Presiding Bishop to continue with the recommendations proposed by the PPPG and to notify the Southern Ohio Synod of its action.

Discussion ensued that some things in the memorial are just not true, that the memorial appears to be filled with assumptions and conclusions – but not fact. We should be more careful about future memorials that we create and for which we vote.

Treasurer:

1. In August of 2012, Mission Support was reduced to 25% temporarily as the total unrestricted income expected to be received by the Synod was reduced from \$1,815,000 to \$1,515,000. Mission Support income to the Synod increased during October and November but then declined in December to \$128,000. So far, Synod Mission Support giving to Churchwide is at 34.8% for the year 2012. In accordance with the action taken by Synod Council at its 09.08.12 meeting, the amount of the January, 2013 payment to Churchwide will range between 25% and 40% of unrestricted income. The level of Mission Support to be paid to Churchwide during the beginning months of 2013 still must be decided.

Acting Bishop:

1. 4G Project formerly known as the Macedonia Project. Pr. Dona Johnsen explained that the project is intended to reach across age and gender lines to keep stewardship in front of people 24/7 during 2013 2014 and 2015. Thrivent presented statistics regarding congregational participation and giving. Thrivent suggested that that we are experiencing a “religious recession”. The mission is to grow faithful and generous disciples, and to move from belief to action. New networking opportunities are being developed. 4G is developing new bible studies. Resources for preaching are also to be developed in order that church leadership can teach. Website newsletters and resources for reaching the new generation are also being developed. Thrivent research indicates that it takes 17 new family units to replace the loss of one older member. Stewardship has to be taught. This is an aggressive approach to the year 2013. The 4G Project brings self-awareness to a higher level.

2. Thanks to those who have made Mission Support congregation visits. As a result of the Bishops mission support appeal, 56 statements of commitment have been received by the Synod to date.

3. God Sightings in a New Reality. Town meetings are being scheduled in January to talk about where they see God in our congregations and the synod, and how God is leading us in this new reality. These events are the synod’s way off letting folks talk. After January 30, the assistants to the Bishop will gather and organize the information with the help of Bob Armstrong, who will then present the same to Cal when Cal returns from sabbatical.

4. Family Ministry Proposal to replace LYO. The Lutheran Youth Organization on a national level no longer exists. Gary Pecuch

recommends the dissolution of the current LYO structure, including the LYO Board, the LYO Constitution and the LYO Synod Council position, and further, recommends the acceptance of the proposal of the Director of Youth and Family Ministry in moving children's, youth, and family ministry forward in conjunction with the new vision of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network.

**VOTED:  
SC.13.01.4**

**To dissolve the current Southern Ohio Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) structure, including the LYO Board, and LYO Constitution and accept the proposal of the Director of Youth and Family Ministry in moving children's, youth, and family ministry forward in conjunction with the new vision of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network. (Schnierle/Tryloff) APPROVED.**

**VOTED:  
SC.13.01.5**

**To approve the Reports of the Officers. (Wildermuth/Keck) APPROVED.**

Report of the Auxiliaries – Written

Women of the ELCA  
Lutheran Men in Mission

**VOTED:  
SC.13.01.6**

**To approve the Reports of the Auxiliaries. (Vosskuehler/Miller) APPROVED.**

Financials

1. 2012 YTD Figures. Financials are in written form. The Synod is not in great shape but is hopeful for 2013. Projected figures for 2013 Mission Support were discussed. The Synod will end 2012 at about 35% in Mission Support.
2. 2013 Spending Authorization. Treasurer, Mike Knilans, proposes sending 36% in Mission Support to Churchwide for the first few months of 2013. This action would also restore previous levels for 2013. Substantial Discussion ensued. Synod Council is committed to 40%. Communication and education is necessary to explain to the congregations why 40% is necessary. Council then focused on

a “we” and “us” discussion about the relationships among the congregations and the synod.

**VOTED:**  
**SC.13.01.7**

**To set the 2013 (February) spending authorization for Mission Support at 36% with a goal of increasing Mission Support to 40% through the intentional communication of the need to give to the greater church. (Counts/Miller) APPROVED WITH FIVE DISSENTING VOTES.**

**EN BLOC**  
**VOTED:**  
**SC.13.01.8**

**To Approve En Bloc Recommendations. (WILDERMUTH/BULL ) APPROVED.**

**Committee on Congregations and Assemblies**

**Congregation Constitutions – Voted En Bloc**

St. Matthew Lutheran, Ithaca  
Grace Lutheran, Lancaster (Colfax)  
Faith Lutheran, Baltimore

**RECOMMENDATION:** To approve the congregation constitutions of St. Matthew, Ithaca; Grace, Lancaster (Colfax); and Faith, Baltimore

**Committee on Ministers, Education, and Personnel**

**Professional Leaders Roster – Voted En Bloc**

**Request on Leave from Call**

Pr. William Wong (1-21-12) 2<sup>nd</sup> yr  
Pr. Violet Meek (1-1-13) 1<sup>st</sup> yr

**RECOMMENDATION:** To approve “On Leave from Call” status for Prs. William Wong and Violet Meek

**Retired Status**

Pr. William Rush (10-01-12)

**RECOMMENDATION:** To approve the retirement of Pr. William Rush

**Extention of Call by Synod Council**

Pr. Mary Laymon (1-12-13)

**RECOMMENDATION:** To extend a Synod Council call to Pastor Mary Laymon to St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Terrace Park, Ohio

New Business: None

Pr. Robert Miller offered a closing prayer.

The meeting was then adjourned at 11:51 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy E. Hart  
Synod Council Secretary