

SOUTHERN OHIO SYNOD - ELCA  
Synod Council Meeting  
Trinity Lutheran Seminary Alumni Room  
Columbus, Ohio 43209  
April 23, 2016

Call to Order: Vice President Klatt called Synod Council meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Review and Approval of Agenda for the April 23, 2016 Meeting:

The agenda for the day was reviewed and approved.

**VOTED:**

**SC.16.01.1 To approve the April 23, 2016 Meeting Agenda. (Tipton/Swank)  
APPROVED**

Dwelling in the Word Devotions were offered by Vice President Klatt based upon Ephesians 4:1-8, 11-13, 15-16 and Colossians 3:17. Council considered the remaining four questions posed by Bishop Eaton about the direction of the ELCA i.e., "What are the most important ministries we should be engaging?", "What institutional structures do we need for the future?;", "How do we recruit and invest in leaders to become the church God is calling us to be?" and "What does this mean for you as a member and leader in this church?" Responses were shared with other members of the council and Bishop.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Pr. Todd Cutter, Bp. Suzanne D. Dillahunt, Ms. Marjorie Ellis, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Mr. Mike Johnson, Ms. Jodi Keith, Mrs. Barbara Klatt, Ms. Christine Miller, Mr. Ronald Moder, Ms. Melanie Powderly, Mr. Kevin Pyle, Pr. Roger Quay, Mr. James Renshaw, Mrs. Michelle Riesbeck, Mr. Steven Schnittke, Pr. Jonathan Schriber, Ms. Carol Swank, Pr. Robert Swanson, Mr. Dave Tipton, Pr. Justin Van Orman, and Mr. Bennett Whitaker

Members Excused: Mr. Roy E. Hart, Mr. Brandon Huston, Ms. Robin Kaelin, Pr. Katie Kerrigan, and Pr. Ralph Wolfe.

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Pr. Bob Abrams and Pr. Jeff Wick

Staff Excused: None

Staff Absent: None

Review and Approval of Minutes of the January 30, 2016 Meeting:  
The minutes of the January 30, 2016 meeting were reviewed.

**VOTED:**

**SC.16.01.2 To approve the minutes of January 30, 2016 meeting.  
(Schriber/Johnson) APPROVED**

Reports of the Officers and Executive Committee:

Vice

President

1. The Synod's contribution to the National Church is \$92,000.00
2. The Vice President will not be speaking at the Synod Assembly and will be presenting a written report.

Secretary

In absence of the Secretary, Vice President Klatt presented the Minutes of the 2015 Synod Assembly

Treasurer

1. Joy Hacker, bookkeeper, was present
2. Base budget is more realistic picture of Synod's financial numbers.
3. LOMO and Amazing Grace funding is advanced before these projects occur.
4. Mission support: presented actual 2015-2016 income and expenses.
5. General fund is reduced by \$100.00
6. Synod janitorial expenses decreased due to change in service provider
6. Funds for new mission to come from Living Christ fnd from Congregations that have sold a building.
7. Audit report prepared by Apple Growth Partners was presented. Reference was made to the last paragraph on Page 1 of the Audit report captioned "Opinion." The Treasurer will be looking at unrestricted funds during the summer of 2016 and restricted funds, some of which have been in existence since 1928.

**VOTED**

**TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE AUDIT REPORT FOR JANUARY 2016 AND 2015. (SWANK/KEITH) PASSED**

Vice President Klatt called for a brief recess at 10:59 a.m. and resumed the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Bishop ;

1. Pr. Barry Scott, Chair of the Vision Implementation presented an oral report. The three values of Vision Implementation are **CLARIFY, CULTIVATE and COLLABORATE**. The team has been working since September, 2015. Also discussed development of resources for same gender marriage.
2. Pr. Peter Kruse and Diane Schwiger-Alexander AIM presented their report on Compensation for Ordained Ministers - Parsonage provided, Compensation for Ordained Ministers - No parsonage provided and Compensation for Lay Rostered Leaders. Discussion was had concerning the difference between highest valuation and lowest valuation of compensation. Pr. Cutter noted that he would realize a decrease of \$6000 to \$7000 under the guidelines dues to housing cost. Response was that local realities must be taken into consideration when determining compensation. Mr. Pyle remarked that pastor to be called must exercise due diligence about the cost of living where he/she is planning to accept a call. Pr. Wick explained that there must be flexibility in the call process which can be found and explained in the ELCA web site. Bishop Dillahunt stated that the Compensation Task force needs to continue its work.

The second part of the report pertained to the policy for Personal Leave for Faith. This program differs from vacation and sabbatical. A personal leave for faith is to renew faith in Jesus Christ that will propel the nurturing of the rostered leader and the congregation. It is not intended to replace sabbatical leave. The proposal would allot ten (10) days paid personal leave for faith per year. The rostered leader shall be excused from all congregational duties while on this leave. Pr. Wick noted that this proposal does not replace sabbaticals. Further work needs to be done on this policy.

**MOTION**

**TO REMOVE FROM CONSIDERATION PERSONAL LEAVE OF FAITH FROM EN BLOC RECOMMENDATIONS, (CUTTER/TIPTON) PASSED.**

Bishop Dillahunt offered prayer for lunch. Vice President Klatt declared a recess of the meeting at 12:35 p.m and reconvened the

meeting at 1:04 p.m.

**Bishop Report Continued:**

3. The offering at the Synod Assembly will be designated for ELCA World Hunger.
4. Bishop Gerhard Ulrich, presiding bishop of the North German Church will address the Synod Assembly. A gift of a stole will be presented to him. This relationship between SOS and the North German Church is the only sanctioned partnership by the German government
5. One applicant out of twelve is to be interviewed for the position of Director of Evangelical Mission.. Disappointment was expressed in the quality of the applicants.
6. Two positions are to be elected at the Synod Assembly. Pr. Wendy Richter will chair the Elections Committee. Pr. Bonnie Gerber will chair the Reference and Council Committee.
7. The basement of the Synod Office was flooded. A new sump pump was installed. The kitchenette is to be removed and replaced with an organized storage order. Mold was found during the restoration.
8. Pastor Barry Scott will repeat his presentation of Vision Implementation at the Synod Assembly as part of the Bishop's report.
9. A quarterly letter will be sent to the churches in the Synod about Mission Support.
10. Mr. Charles Burnette began work with ELCA/Southern Ohio Synod/Indiana-Kentucky Synods and will be attending the Synod Assembly.
11. The Synod has done well in meeting 40% of its Mission Support.
12. The second resolution to be presented pertaining to Same Gender Family report will be included in the Pre Assembly Materials. There is a distinction between Social Statement (broad

in scope) and Social Message (limited Scope). Social Message is adopted by the Church Council. The National Church Council has been directed by Bishop Eaton to develop alternate liturgies to be used as resources for same gender marriage.

13. "Living Lutheran" is the new title of the old Lutheran Magazine.

14. Voting Members for the church wide Assembly will meet on July 9 at the Church of the Resurrection in Hilliard.

15. The two items for election at the Church wide Assembly are the election of the Vice President and Future Direction of the Church.

16. Thanks to Ms. Melanie Powderly, Mr. David Tipton and Pr. Roger Quay for materials provided to Chris Burnette.

17. Marjorie Ellis reported from the National Church Council:

A. Encourage each congregation to answer the questions propounded by Bishop Eaton in devotions.

B. The Church wide Assembly is in August at New Orleans.

C. Credit Unions will commence in June. This can be reviewed at the ELCA website.

D. Constitution and By-Law changes will be discussed at Church wide Assembly.

E. 2017 - Lutherans world wide will be celebrating in Leipzig, Germany.

18. Pr. Craig Richter was absent for an emergency. Bishop Dillahut presented his report.

19. During the 2016 Synod Assembly in Wittenburg University, lunch and worship costs are not included in the price. The Assembly will be divided into two units for lunch. Cincinnati, Dayton, and Muskingum conferences in one group. Central, Northwest and Scioto are in the other group.

20. Council voted that the Assembly will close at the end of Worship.

21. 2016 Rules of Assembly Procedure will be approved

as part of the EN BLOC resolution.

22 There will be no 2017 Synod Assembly. Six council members are scheduled for election in 2017: Bennett Whitaker, Carol Swank, Jodi Keith, James Renshaw, Pr. Ralph Wolfe and Steven P. Schmittke. It is proposed that these six be reappointed for an additional one year with election to occur in 2018. At that time these members would run for a three year term instead of a four year term. Jodi Keith will become a rostered leader and would not be eligible to continue her position as a lay member.

23. The 2017 Compensation Guidelines will be presented at the Synod Assembly. The 2018 Compensation Guidelines will be determined by Council. The 2018 Assembly will determine personal leave for pastors.

24. The only Resolution to meet the March 15, 2016 deadline was by Pr. Joe Schrock - Memorial for Military Personnel, Veterans and their families.

25. Lunch breaks and Break out sessions are to be added to the Synod Assembly Agenda.

Reports of the Auxiliaries:

Lutheran Men in Mission written report received.  
Women of the ELCA - no report

**VOTED:**

**SC.14.11.22**

**To approve the Reports of the Officers and Executive Committee and the Lutheran Men in Mission. (Pyle/Schriber) APPROVED**

**VOTED:**

**To return Personal Leave to the task force and remove from En Bloc consideration. (Pyle/Johnson) APPROVED**

**EN BLOC**

**VOTED**

**SC.14.11.23**

**To approve the En Bloc Recommendations as amended. (Moder/Whitaker) APPROVED**

En Bloc Business Recommendations:

Professional Leaders Roster:

On Leave from Call

RECOMMENDATION

- \* Pr. Brian K. Nunnally (03/13/16)

Retired Status

RECOMMENDATION

- \* Pr. Thomas J. Heil (09/01/16)

**Appointments:**

RECOMMENDATION

\* To appoint Ms. Rachel Stukey to serve on the Trinity Lutheran Seminary Board for a period of three years, from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019.

**Leadership:**

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE

- \* Compensation Guidelines 2017
- \* Compensation Guidelines 2018

**Information Notes:**

1. Pr. Seth Bridger to serve as Director of Admissions at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, effective March 1, 2015
2. Salem - West Alexandria to disaffiliate from the ELCA to NALC (3/15/16)

**Other Business:** None

2:15 p.m. Bishop Dillahunt excused herself due to a personal matter.

Eucharist was performed by Pr. Wick

Mrs. Barbara Klatt, Vice President of the Synod Council, declared the meeting adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

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Steven P. Schnittke, Acting Secretary