

**Southern Ohio Synod – ELCA
Synod Council Meeting
Trinity Lutheran Seminary
Columbus, Ohio 43209
January 28, 2017**

Call to Order: Vice President Ellis called the Synod Council meeting to order at 9:40 AM.

Review and Approval of Agenda of the 01/28/2017 Meeting:
The Agenda for the day was reviewed and approved.

VOTED:
SC.17.01.01 To approve the 01/28/17 Meeting Agenda. (Schnittke/Ashenhurst)
APPROVED.

Devotions were offered by Ms. Ellis. Members shared in reading Chapter 2 from the book The Mission Table by Stephen P. Bouman. Discussion of the readings ensued. Prayer was then offered by Marjorie Ellis.

Review and Approval of Minutes of the 12/03/2016 Meeting:
The Minutes of the 12/03/2016 meeting were reviewed and approved.

VOTED:
SC.17.01.02 To approve the minutes of the 12/03/16 meeting. (Wolfe/Swanson)
APPROVED.

Roll Call:

Members present: Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Deborah Ashenurst, Bp. Suzanne D. Dillahunt, Ms. Marjorie Ellis, Mr. Roy E. Hart, Mr. Brandon Huston Mr. Mike Johnsen, Pr. Laura Leach-Shreffler, Ms. Christine Miller, Mr. Ronald Moder, Ms. Melanie Powderly, Mr. Kevin Pyle, Pr. Roger Quay, Mr. James Renshaw, Ms. Michelle Riesbeck, Mr. Steven Schnittke, Ms. Cindy Schrader, Pr. Jonathan Schriber, Ms. Kathie Skamfer, Ms. Carol Swank, Pr. Robert Swanson, Mr. Dave Tipton, Mr. Bennett Whitaker, and Pr. Ralph Wolfe

Members excused: Pr. Todd Cutter, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Ms. Robin Kaelin, Pr. Justin Van Orman

Members absent: None

Staff present: Pr. Katie Kerrigan and Pr. Jeff Wick

Staff excused: Pr. Bob Abrams and Mr. Gary Pecuch

Staff absent: None

Reports of the Officers and Executive Committee:

- Vice President:
1. Ms. Ellis reported that the Synod Staff is forming a Synod Council Ambassador Program. Fifteen council members indicated an interest in serving on the Ambassador Team.
 2. The Vice President informed the Council that the ELCA Campaign has reached 51% of its \$198,000,000 goal as it has received \$102,000,000 in 34 months. Ms. Ellis noted that the campaign has 2 years remaining to reach its goal. Global Mission and Young Leaders have provided 60 students with full scholarships to enable them to engage in seminary studies for a full 3 years.
 3. Ms. Ellis attended a Region 6 meeting recently in addition to a meeting at Trinity Lutheran Seminary. The Archives program was reviewed at that time.
 4. The Vice President reported that Council collected \$100 as a gift for Barbara Klatt who resigned her position of Vice President in July of 2016.
 5. As a result of the abolishment of the Region Coordinators due to occur in March, the Bishops are trying to determine how to reassign Coordinator's responsibilities to others. Ohio candidacy will remain the same.
 6. The Vice President then reported that she attended NEOS Meeting. Northeastern Ohio has a good Mission Interpreter training program. Ms. Ellis participated in a good Mission Support exercise that Southern Ohio might want to do, too.
 7. Ms. Ellis reported that the African Descent Lutheran Association Event will be held in Philadelphia in July of this year. Bishop Abraham D. Allende from the Northeastern Ohio Synod is to be a keynote speaker.

Secretary: 1. Mr. Hart had nothing to report.

Treasurer: 1. Mr. Pyle reported that the General Fund Budget Comparison February to December 2016 shows a \$16,872.63 deficit year-to-date. He reported that the Synod received a \$20,000.00 check from the Oklahoma farm – apparently a good year for Oklahoma cotton. Mr. Pyle anticipates a positive balance at year end.

2. The Treasurer then generally reviewed the Mission & Ministry Plan.

3. Pr. Kerrigan stated that the Synod Estimates of Giving are coming in strong and things are looking good.

4. Bishop Dillahunt reported that the \$25,000.00 gift from Holy Trinity, New Lexington, is now earmarked for telecommunications.

Recommendation from the SOS Executive Committee:

**VOTED
SC.17.01.03**

To approve the temporary restriction until September, 2017, of \$133,193.23 in unrestricted funds received from the Advancing God's Mission Foundation upon its dissolution, to pay the remaining expenses of the Advancing God's Mission Foundation dissolution from said funds, and to determine at the September, 2017 Synod Council meeting where best to place the remaining funds on an unrestricted basis. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bishop Dillahunt declared a recess for lunch at 11:17 AM.

Vice President Ellis reconvened the meeting at 11:31 AM.

5. Mr. Pyle and his wife spent four months on a mission trip to Tanzania in 2010. He discussed those events as they relate to "kitchen tables" which was the focus of today's devotions presented by the Vice President.

Bishop: The Bishop's written report is attached to these Minutes to be reviewed. Highlights of the report follow, to-wit:

1. Bishop Dillahunt reported that the Reformation Commemoration has started in Charleston, South Carolina. Hebrew Union School in Cincinnati has recently been victimized by hate crimes. Bishop Dillahunt wrote a letter in solidarity with Hebrew Union School. This past week the Bishop, Pr. Abrams, and Pr. Wick participated in a meeting with the Archbishop of the Cincinnati Diocese. Conversations with the Archbishop will continue. The Bishops' Convocation will take place March 13, 2017. The Refugee and Immigration Task Force is on front line for the Church. The Bishop requests prayers for the Task Force members. Bishop

Dillahunt reminded the council members that the Southern Ohio Synod currently has five companion relationships. St. Jacob, Anna, has gifted the Synod with \$20,000.00 to be used for Synod travel expenses. Part of this gift enabled the Bishop to travel to Peru recently.

2. The Southern Ohio Synod Personnel Policies Handbook is now out. Work on the Handbook started during the Summer of 2016. The Handbook has been expanded from a 10-page document in 2001 to a current 42-page document.

3. Bishop Dillahunt reported that instruction at the Lay School in Dayton has begun and was very good. She is looking forward to the classes coming up in February and March.

4. A Sabbatical Policy will be brought to Council for its review and vote in April.

5. Pr. Kerrigan reported that a Mission Interpreter Program is being developed and will be brought to Council for its review in April. Lent is a special time of giving has been in works since last Fall. It will take the form of a booklet and a video devotion series. It will also be accessible online.

6. The Bishop reported that later in the meeting, Council will consider extending a call to Pr. Tracy Paschke-Johannes and will consider appointing Becky Witt and Allison Adams to the Synod Finance Team.

**VOTED
SC.17.01.04**

**To approve the Employees Handbook, effective March 1, 2017.
(Wolfe /Powderly) APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Report of Auxilliaries

1. The Synod Council received a written report from the Lutheran Men in Mission which is attached to these Minutes.
2. The Synod Council received no report from the Women of the ELCA.

The Reports of the Officers, Executive Committee, and Lutheran Men in Mission were received by the Synod Council.

Discussion then focused upon the En Bloc recommendations.

EN BLOC

VOTED:

SC.17.01.05

**To approve the En Bloc Recommendations. (Powderly/Whitaker)
APPROVED.**

En Bloc Business Recommendations

Professional Leaders Roster

Retired Status

RECOMMENDATION:

- Pr. Michael Althaus (2/1/17)
- Pr. James R. Christian (2/1/17)
- Pr. Ronald H. Wean (1/1/17)

Extension of Call

RECOMMENDATION:

- Pr. Tracy Paschke-Johannes to extend a synod council call to serve as Hospice Chaplain with Hospice of Cincinnati, beginning 1/1/17.

Legal and Governance

Committees, Task Forces and Partnerships

RECOMMENDATION:

- To appoint Allison Adams and Becky Witt to serve on the new Southern Ohio Synod Finance Team, for a 2 year appointment.

Bishop Dillahunt presided over the closing Eucharist.

The meeting was then adjourned at 1:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy E. Hart
Synod Council Secretary

January 28, 2017
Bishop's Report
Suzanne D. Dillahunt
Synod Council
Stronger and Better Together...Joining Jesus in the Restoration of the World

1. As we look to 2017, I am encouraged by our commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The world is changing and we have the Good News to share and proclaim, so let's fulfill our baptismal calling and talk about our faith.
2. The Reformation Commemorations are beginning. In Southern Ohio, I am encouraging pastors and Deacons to invite area priests to study together "From Conflict to Communion" and to invite them, as their guests, to the Bishops Convocation on March 13th at Holy Trinity, Upper Arlington where Bishop Donald McCoid and Father John W. Crossin will speak about Roman Catholic/Lutheran Dialogue and what this means for the future of the Church.
3. First Call Theological Education Coaching is underway. Thanks to several offerings and a generous gift, coaching, with Pr. Mike Weaver and Dr. Lynn Nakamura, is offered to first call ministers-the first six months are free. We hope to expand the coaching in the future.
4. The basement work, after the flood, is complete. The next time you're in the area, please stop by and check it out.
5. The discussions between Capital and Trinity Lutheran Seminary continue as both boards work to make the reunion happen by the fall.
6. If there is one thing that continues to concern me as we finish out the 2016 fiscal year and begin 2017 is Mission Support. This year, we will have a Symposium with the ELCA to talk about mission support going forward. The Stewardship Team has worked hard this past year to address giving. Giving in the fall was ok. Giving in December was not. We depend on the last quarter for the bulk of giving. At the meeting, I will ask Pr. Kerrigan to tell you about the Special Giving for Lent and devotions that will be available.
7. Finally, I look forward to our year together as we move ahead with Stronger and Better Together....Joining Jesus in the Restoration of the World.

Thanks!

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LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION
SYNOD REPORT
JANUARY 2017

Our vision is that every man have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through an effective men's ministry in every congregation

The board met with the Lutheran Men in Mission Region 6 representatives Bernie Bresson and Tom green. Also meeting with us was Dale Netting, the National Lutheran men in Mission Director of Development.

Dale remarked that all over America, communities were better off because of the way our men are engaging with others. Houses are being built, handicapped ramps are being constructed, food and medical services delivered and peoples lives are being enhanced as a result of men spending time with them.

The board voted to host two events for 2017.

The first is our annual men's gathering at the Capital University Men's Basketball Game. The game is scheduled for Saturday, February 11 at 2:00pm. The event includes a luncheon meeting at noon and a talk by Jeff Benning a representative of the Fellowship of Christian Athletics.

The second event will be a **ONE YEAR TO LIVE**. This event will be held in the early fall at the Lutheran Memorial Camp. The event centers around men gathering around scripture and feeling that they need to do something, but wonder what they should do.

MEN IN THE MIRROR, a new Lutheran Men in Mission resource web-site designed for pastors and leaders with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. These are wonderful tools for congregations looking to start or jump start a men's group.

There are two items that can be obtained for a men meeting.

A gold pin with the Lutheran men in Mission logo can be purchased for 10 dollars from David Drumm, (dadrumm@yahoo.com)

A wooden cross necklace can be purchased for 10 dollars from Mike Mock, (mmock@aol.com)

David Drumm, President
Southern Ohio Synod
Lutheran Men in Mission.