

SOUTHERN OHIO SYNOD - ELCA  
Synod Council Meeting,  
Trinity Lutheran Seminary Alumni Room  
Columbus, Ohio 43209  
April 22, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: Vice President Ellis called Synod Council meeting to Order at 9:39 a.m.

Review and Approval of Agenda for the April 22, 2017 Meeting:  
The agenda for the day was reviewed and approved.

**VOTED**

SC.17.04.01 To approve the April 22, 2017 Meeting Agenda (Wolfe/Moder)

**APPROVED**

Devotions: Readings from "The Mission Table" by Stephen R. Bouman  
Pr. Schriber closed with prayer

Roll call:

Members present: Major General (Ret) Ashenhurst, Rev. Cutter, Bishop Dillahunt, Mr. Johnson, Rev. Leach-Shreffler, Mr. Moder, Ms. Powderly, Mr. Pyle, Rev. Quay, Mr. Renshaw, Mr. Schnittke, Ms. Schrader, Rev. Schriber, Ms. Skamfer, Ms. Swank, Rev. Swanson, Mr. Whitaker and Rev. Wolfe.

Members excused: Mr. Freudenberger, Mr. Hart, Mr. Huston, Ms. Kaelin, Ms. Miller, Mr. Tipton and Rev. Van Orman.

Members absent: None

Staff Present: Pr. Kerrigan, Pr. Wick, Pr. Abrams, Ms. Hacker

Staff absent: None

Staff excused: None

Reports of Officer and Executive Committee:

The Financial Statement prepared by Apple Growth Partners for the year ended January 31, 2017 was presented by Chuck Mullens from Apple Growth, Rev. Peter Ray of the Audit Committee and Joy Hacker. The last day of field work on the audit was April 1, 2017.

Points of emphasis included the following:

Assets of the Synod are set forth on Page 4 of the report.  
Liabilities of the Synod are set forth on Page 5 of the report  
Current liabilities do not include the Balloon payment due in 2018.  
The Synod had a profit of \$126,674 for the year.  
In the statement of Financial Expenses, on Page 8, an explanation is provided with respect to Administrative v. Program Expenses  
Note B provides an explanation of restricted and unrestricted funds  
Valuation of the Bell Brook property and negotiations with the Centerburg church Attorney Adam Barclay is searching the title for the deed to the Centerburg church  
The Bishop and Treasurer are aware of the long term indebtedness due in 2018  
Note K dealt with the Oklahoma property

Due to the fact that there will be no Southern Ohio Synod meeting for 2017, a copy of the audit report and other reports will be mailed to each congregation. The goal is to be transparent. The documents will also be on line.

**VOTED**

**SC.17.04.02 To approve report of the audit committee. (Whitaker/Schriber)  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

The Vice President recessed the meeting for lunch at 11:40 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 12:25 p.m. Pr. Abrams offered a post lunch prayer.

**VOTED**

**SC.17.04.03 To approve the minutes of the January 28, 2017 meeting of the Synod Council. (Riesbeck/Schriber) APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Vice President Report:**

1. Concluded business meeting at the end of March, 2017. Documents will be forthcoming.
2. Her term ends in August for the Church wide council;
3. 1.63 million positive cash flow over budget to be applied to 2018 mission activities.
4. 2019 churchwide assembly will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin
5. A churchwide program of Call Forward Together. This can be viewed at [elca.org/future](http://elca.org/future).

The goals of the program include:

- A. Spreading the gospel;
  - B. Equip baptism vocation;
  - C. To be an inviting and welcoming church through diversity;
  - D. To be a visible church to work ecumenically;
  - E. To be well governed, connected and sustainable church.
6. She received an award for serving 6 years.
  7. Bishop Easton will be speaking at the National Cathedral, Washington, D.C. on October 29, 2017. A resource for congregations to use is [ELCA500.org](http://ELCA500.org).

Treasurer Report:

The audit, mission and ministry plan was done well.

With respect to ministry in mission plan, small increases were made to LOMO (\$20,000 to \$20,200) and Jacob's Porch (\$25,000 to \$25,200)

**VOTED**

**SC.17.04.04 To approve the Motion for Assignment of Endowment Investments(Pyle//Powderly) PASSED UNANIMIOUSLY**

Bishop Report.

1. The implementation of the Synod Council Ambassadors program. Jan Borchers, synod mission coordinator, Pr. Kerrigan and Pr. Abrams will lead this program. The program's goals are to be a bridge between the congregation and council, a relationship builder and to listen to concerns of the congregation. A guideline for the ambassador is as follows:

- a. Thank the congregation for its generosity;
- b. The ambassador will be provided with the issues of the congregation and monetary giving report;
- c. Take notes;
- d. Build goodwill and give thanks
- e. Provide information of happenings in synod and churchwide;
- f. Good news to share with the Bishop;
- g. Advise Synod office with findings;
- h. Send thank you note with pictures and stories to be shared.
- i. Provide assurances that their concerns will receive a response from the synod

2. Pr. Kerrigan reported on Mission Support and Intents for the current year; She received a response of 57% of the congregations. 80% of those responding will give as much as they did in the past year. 43% of the congregations did not respond. More communication and connection is needed between the parish and synod office. A vision strategy entitled "Called Forward Together" is to be implemented. The goal is to have rostered and lay leaders spearhead this program. A set of prayer petitions for congregations to raise up leaders is to be furnished after May 1.

3. The new President for Wittenberg is Mike Franzen.
4. April 21, 2017 is the inauguration of Pr. Beth Paul as President of Capital.
5. The merger of Trinity Seminary and Capital University should be in place by July 1, 2017. 25 positions are to be eliminated.
6. A search committee has been formed to hire a new dean for Trinity Seminary;
7. There has been a constitutional change for LOMO. The change is to enable new board members to be from out of state. This would increase the possibility of having a board member from the North American Lutheran Church and other non-ELCA members.. The issue to approve the request by LOMO to change iis constitution should be removed from the EN BLOC

resolutions. Southern Ohio Synod funds LOMO through a grant and through Amazing Grace. LOMO requested an 30% increase in funding which was not granted as the budget had been approved. Camp Mowana has not kept up with the times which has resulted in lower participation.

8. There are changes to be made to the Candidacy Manual and Rostered Leader manual effective March 31, 2017.

9. Two churches are closing, St. John, Tarlton and Roselawn, Cincinnati. \$175,000 was received from St. John with the proceeds being used for an archivist, small church building and maintenance, Amazing Grace Day Camp and Scholarships. A buyer for the building of Roselawn has been attained. The vote must be taken to close the congregation.

10. Malaria goal was met and exceeded.

#### Secretary Report:

The Synod Assembly Minutes from June 4, 2016 were presented for review and acceptance. Several corrections had to be made.

#### **VOTED**

**SC.17.04.05 To table approval of the Synod Assembly Minutes from June 4, 2016 until the meeting scheduled for July 8, 2017. (Quay/Pyle) Passed Unanimously.**

Lutheran Men in Mission - no report  
WELCA presented a written report.

**The reports of the Officers and WELCA were received by the Synod Council.**

#### **VOTED**

**SC.17.04.06 To accept the reports of the Officers and WELCA (Whitaler/Ashenhurst) Passed Unanimously**

Discussion then focused on the En Bloc Recommendations.

#### **EN BLOC**

#### **VOTED**

**SC.17.04.07 To approve the En Bloc Recommendations except for LOMO constitution change. (Ashenhurst/Powderly) Passed Unanimously.**

#### Professional Leaders Roster:

To approve on leave from call:

Pr. Stuart John Michels, 4<sup>th</sup> year (4/1/14)  
Pr. Tina Schueller, 1<sup>st</sup> year (7/16/17)  
Pr. Elizabeth Westphal, 1<sup>st</sup> year (6/1/17)

To approve retired status:

- Pr. Denise L. Edwards (4/1/17)
- Pr. Timothy J. Kuenzli (5/1/17)
- Pr. Robert E. Skipper (1/1/17)
- Pr. David H. Westphal (6/1/17)

Extension of call

- To extend a call to Pr. Leslie Fox, to serve as Interim Pastor at David's Lutheran Church, Canal Winchester, effective April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018
- To extend a call to Ms. Elaine Maizahn, to serve as Christian Chaplain At the Wexner Heritage Village, effective June 10, 2017 upon consecration
- To extend a call to Deacon Rebecca Mastalerz, to serve as Hospice Chaplain of Cincinnati effective April 1, 2017.

Committees, Task Forces and Partnerships

- To approve Personal Leave for Faith Sabbatical Proposal
- To approve Compensation Guidelines
- To approve St. Jacob Lutheran Church, Jackson Center, OH constitutional up date as approved by the SOS Constitution Committee
- To authorize synodically authorized worshipping communities Ihada ya Kiswahili, Columbus, Oh and Intercessor Lutheran Mission, Columbus, Ohio

**VOTED**

SC.17.04.08 To table change in LOMO constitution until conference call on July 8, 2017 (Pyle/Whitaker) PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

**VOTED**

SC.17.04.09 To accept the closure of St. John, Tarlton and Rowelan, Cincinnati (Cutter/Powderly) PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meetings: Saturday, July 8, 2017 Conference call  
Saturday, September 9, 2017 9:30 a.m. at Trinity Seminary

No Executive Session

Bishop Dillahunt presided over the closing Eucharist.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Steven P. Schnittke