

Southern Ohio Synod – ELCA
Synod Council Meeting
Telephone Conference
July 8, 2017

Call to Order:

Vice President Ellis called the Synod Council meeting to order at 10:04 AM. A quorum was declared at 10:29 AM. All official action taken and all voting took place only after a quorum had been declared.

Ms. Ellis opened the meeting with prayer.

Review and Approval of Agenda of the 07/08/2017 Meeting:

The Agenda for the day was reviewed and approved.

VOTED:

SC.17.07.01 To approve the 07/08/17 Meeting Agenda. (Schriber/Kaelin)
APPROVED.

Review and Approval of Minutes of the 04/22/2017 Meeting

The Minutes of the 04/22/2017 meeting were reviewed.

VOTED:

SC.17.07.02 To approve the minutes of the 04/22/17 meeting with editorial
corrections to be made. (Powderly/Kaelin) APPROVED AS
CORRECTED.

Roll Call:

Members present: Bp. Suzanne D. Dillahunt, Ms. Marjorie Ellis, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Mr. Roy E. Hart, Mr. Mike Johnsen, Ms. Robin Kaelin, Ms. Melanie Powderly, Mr. Kevin Pyle, Pr. Roger Quay, Mr. James Renshaw, Ms. Michelle Riesbeck, Mr. Steven Schnittke, Pr. Jonathan Schriber, Pr. Robert Swanson, and Mr. Bennett Whitaker

Members excused: Pr. Todd Cutter, Pr. Laura Leach-Shreffler, Ms. Christine Miller, Mr. Ronald Moder, Ms. Cindy Schrader, Ms. Kathie Skamfer, Ms. Carol Swank, Pr. Justin Van Orman, and Pr. Ralph Wolfe

Members absent: Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Deborah Ashenhurst, Mr. Brandon Huston, and Mr. Dave Tipton

Staff present: Pr. Katie Kerrigan, Mr. Gary Pecuch, and Pr. Jeff Wick

Staff excused: Pr. Bob Abrams

Staff absent: None

Presentation by Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio Executive Director, Penny Christensen:

Penny Christensen, Executive Director of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio, addressed the Synod Council regarding proposed changes to the LOMO constitution. She explained that finances for the organization are challenging, and therefore, to meet the challenge, the LOMO Board has determined that changes in its constitution are needed. The strategy of the LOMO Board is to develop new partnerships in order to raised new sources of imcome. To change board membership depending on The LOMO Board reasons that new partnerships would also entail new board memberships while maintaining the core values of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio. Ms. Christensen was clear that no partnerships would be sought with any organization associated with the NALC. The three Ohio Synods appoint members to the LOMO Board and assumption is that ELCA members would be appointed. Several questions were presented to Ms. Christensen regarding board membership.

Reports of the Officers and Executive Committee:

Vice President: 1. The Vice President participated in meeting at the Synod Office on June 20, 2017, with Mr. Mike Ward to explore the concept of a synod-wide capital campaign for the Southern Ohio Synod.

Secretary: 1. Mr. Hart had nothing to report other than to present the Minutes of the 2016 Synod Assembly for approval.

VOTED:
SC.17.07.03 To approve the Minutes of the 2016 Synod Assembly as corrected. (Johnsen/Whitaker) APPROVED.

Treasurer: 1. Mr. Pyle reported that the General Fund Budget February-May 2017 shows a deficit of \$30,503.21 year-to-date. LOMO funding was also discussed.
2. The Advancing God's Mission final tax return has been filed and a clean audit was given.

3. The focus of the Treasurer's Report then turned to the refinancing of the \$360,000 note and mortgage for the Synod building. Mr. Pyle indicated that there were different options available with payments ranging from \$3600 to \$3796 per month through the Mission Investment Fund for a ten year period at a fixed interest rate of 4.875%. 1st Commonwealth also offered financing at an adjustable interest rate of 4.45% for a ten year period. The Treasurer stated that he prefers the Mission Investment Fund proposal. Bishop Dillahunt also checked with Fifth Third Bank for a proposal; however, she received no reply. The Bishop stated that she desires to have the refinance process completed before September of 2017.

**VOTED:
SC.17.07.04**

**To authorize Bishop Dillahunt and Mr. Kevin Pyle to negotiate and refinance the current \$360,000 note and mortgage for the Synod building with the Mission Investment Fund at a fixed interest rate not to exceed 5.00% for a ten year period. (Schnittke/Schriber)
APPROVED.**

Bishop:

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

1. Bishop Dillahunt reported that the July 8 Report of the Bishop was sent to the Southern Ohio Synod congregations along with the Synod Audit
2. Pr. Katie Kerrigan has been working on recruiting Synod Ambassadors.
3. On October 22, 2017, a synod-wide worship event for the Reformation Commemoration will occur at Prince of Peace, Dublin at 4:00 PM. Then a service of Common Prayer will be held on November 5, 2017, at Epiphany, Centerville, with our Roman Catholic sisters and brothers.
4. Stan Olsen was appointed Interim President of Trinity Lutheran Seminary on July 7, 2017.

Report of Auxiliaries

1. The Synod Council received no report from the Lutheran Men in Mission.
2. Ms. Robin Kaelin presented an oral 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 and the desire to remove the recommendation to approve the LOMO constitution changes from the En Bloc vote.

VOTED:

SC.17.07.05

To remove from En Bloc consideration the request of the LOMO Board to make changes to its constitution and to address that matter separately. (Schriber/Powderly) APPROVED.

EN BLOC

VOTED:

SC.17.07.06

To approve the remaining En Bloc Recommendations. (Whitaker/Kaelin) APPROVED.

En Bloc Business Recommendations

Professional Leaders Roster

On Leave from Call

RECOMMENDATION:

- Pr. Shelley Nelson-Bridger, 1st year (7/1/17)
- Pr. Michael L. Poole, 3rd year (6/15/15)

Retired Status

RECOMMENDATION:

- Pr. Robert L. Barger (9/1/17)

Extension of Call

RECOMMENDATION:

- To extend a synod council call to Pr. Elizabeth L. Clothier, to serve as Interim Pastor, at Linden Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH, effective July 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

- To extend a synod council call to Pr. Callon W. Holloway, to serve as Pastor at the Centenary United Methodist Church, Columbus, OH, effective July 8, 2017 to June 30, 2018.
- To extend a Letter of Invitation to Extended Service for an Ordained Minister of a Full-Communion Partner Church to Pr. David Shull, to serve as Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH, effective June 25, 2017.

Legal and Governance

Committees, Task Forces and Partnerships

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the closure, with regret, of Fifth Lutheran Church, Springfield OH (7/9/17).

The focus of the Synod Council returned to consideration of the request of the LOMO Board's request to change its constitution. It was determined that the constitutional issue had been tabled at the April 22, 2017 Synod Council meeting.

VOTED:

SC.17.07.07

**To approve taking the LOMO constitutional issue off the table in order to consider the LOMO Board request. (Pyle/Powderly)
APPROVED.**

Discussion ensued regarding the requested changes to the LOMO constitution as presented by Ms. Christensen earlier in the meeting.

VOTED:

SC.17.07.08

To approve the changes in the LOMO constitution as presented by Ms. Christensen. (Moved and Seconded) DISAPPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion then turned to the suggestion that Article 5, Section 1 of the LOMO constitution read, "The LOMO Board shall consist of up to fourteen members, at least eleven of whom must be members of Ohio ELCA congregations."

VOTED:
SC.17.07.09

**To approve the language, “The LOMO Board shall consist of up to fourteen members, at least eleven of whom must be members of Ohio ELCA congregations.” as an alternative to the proposed language found in Article 5, Section 1 of the LOMO constitution.
(Powderly/Schnittke) APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Upon approval of the alternative language for Article 5, Section 1 of the LOMO constitution, the Synod Council Secretary was directed to send a letter to Ms. Christensen informing her of the action of the Synod Council and of the suggested alternative language which the Synod Council has approved unanimously.

Other Business: None

The meeting was then adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy-E. Hart
Synod Council Secretary

Southern Ohio Synod of the ELCA
General Fund Budget Comparison
February to May 2017

Accounts	Annual Budget (2017-2018)	YTD Actual (2017-2018)	% of Annual Budget Used (2017-2018)	Annual Budget (2016-2017)	YTD Actual (2016-2017)	% of Annual Budget Used (2016-2017)
Revenues						
General Fund Income						
Mission Support	1,717,000.00	499,974.13	29.12 %	1,700,000.00	496,702.28	29.22 %
Interest Income	1,000.00	429.15	42.92 %	1,000.00	132.21	13.22 %
ELCA Shared Staff Support	15,000.00	10,000.00	66.67 %	15,000.00	11,000.00	73.33 %
Building Income	26,000.00	12,443.76	47.86 %	26,000.00	11,545.95	44.41 %
Oklahoma Farmland	11,000.00	1,032.09	9.38 %	11,000.00	434.00	3.95 %
Gifts Designated for SOS	50,000.00	13,397.56	26.80 %	50,000.00	15,286.14	30.57 %
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	159.50	0.00 %	0.00	237.12	0.00 %
Total General Fund Income	1,820,000.00	537,436.19	29.53 %	1,803,000.00	535,337.70	29.69 %
Total Revenues	1,820,000.00	537,436.19	29.53 %	1,803,000.00	535,337.70	29.69 %
Expenses						
MISSION & MINISTRY						
ELCA Mission Support	686,800.00	199,989.66	29.12 %	680,000.00	198,680.91	29.22 %
Outreach Ministries & Support						
Congregational Redevelopment	12,000.00	3,999.96	33.33 %	12,000.00	3,999.96	33.33 %
Global Mission Partners	200.00	0.00	0.00 %	200.00	0.00	0.00 %
Church & Society	200.00	0.00	0.00 %	200.00	0.00	0.00 %
Total Outreach Ministries & Support	12,400.00	3,999.96	32.26 %	12,400.00	3,999.96	32.26 %
Affiliates & Partnership						
Capital University	600.00	150.00	25.00 %	600.00	150.00	25.00 %
Wittenberg University	600.00	150.00	25.00 %	600.00	150.00	25.00 %
Trinity Lutheran Seminary	15,200.00	3,800.00	25.00 %	15,000.00	3,750.00	25.00 %
Region VI	15,000.00	2,908.00	19.39 %	15,000.00	5,349.96	35.67 %
Planned Giving	10,000.00	0.00	0.00 %	10,000.00	0.00	0.00 %
Lutheran Disaster Response OH	10,000.00	2,500.00	25.00 %	10,000.00	2,500.00	25.00 %
Total Affiliates & Partnership	51,400.00	9,508.00	18.50 %	51,200.00	11,899.96	23.24 %
Ecumenical						
Ohio Council of Churches	1,000.00	250.00	25.00 %	1,000.00	250.00	25.00 %
Ecumenical Participation	1,000.00	100.00	10.00 %	1,000.00	445.00	44.50 %
Total Ecumenical	2,000.00	350.00	17.50 %	2,000.00	695.00	34.75 %
Total MISSION & MINISTRY	752,600.00	213,847.62	28.41 %	745,600.00	215,275.83	28.87 %
FAITH FORMATION						
Youth & Family						
Youth & Family Program	12,000.00	267.63	2.23 %	12,000.00	3,102.33	25.85 %
LOMO - Amazing Grace Program	12,400.00	12,400.00	100.00 %	12,200.00	12,200.00	100.00 %
LOMO Direct Grant	20,200.00	5,050.00	25.00 %	20,000.00	5,000.00	25.00 %
Total Youth & Family	44,600.00	17,717.63	39.73 %	44,200.00	20,302.33	45.93 %
SOS - Campus Ministry						
Jacob's Porch, OSU	25,200.00	6,250.00	24.80 %	25,000.00	6,250.00	25.00 %
Ohio University, Athens	10,200.00	2,500.00	24.51 %	10,000.00	2,500.00	25.00 %
Miami University, Oxford	10,200.00	2,500.00	24.51 %	10,000.00	2,500.00	25.00 %
Total SOS - Campus Ministry	45,600.00	11,250.00	24.67 %	45,000.00	11,250.00	25.00 %
Total FAITH FORMATION	90,200.00	28,967.63	32.11 %	89,200.00	31,552.33	35.37 %
LEADERSHIP						
Leadership Dev. & Support						
Candidacy	15,500.00	4,974.30	32.09 %	15,500.00	9,027.92	58.24 %
First Call Retreat	1,500.00	1,044.33	69.62 %	1,500.00	1,245.00	83.00 %
Congregational Leaders Day	2,000.00	0.00	0.00 %	2,000.00	0.00	0.00 %
4G Networking / Stewardship	1,000.00	0.00	0.00 %	1,000.00	0.00	0.00 %
Total Leadership Dev. & Support	20,000.00	6,018.63	30.09 %	20,000.00	10,272.92	51.36 %
Synod Leadership						
Synod Council	2,500.00	62.85	2.51 %	2,500.00	604.61	24.18 %
Synod Assembly (net)	10,000.00	0.00	0.00 %	10,000.00	0.00	0.00 %
Committees & Task Forces	600.00	0.00	0.00 %	600.00	260.00	43.33 %
Meals & Hospitality (Leaders)	7,000.00	3,661.49	52.31 %	7,000.00	2,501.79	35.74 %
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	3,000.00	1,000.00	33.33 %	3,000.00	1,000.00	33.33 %
Total Synod Leadership	23,100.00	4,724.34	20.45 %	23,100.00	4,366.40	18.90 %

These financial statements have not been subjected to an audit, review, or compilation engagement, and no assurance is provided. These financial statements do not include statements of financial position and cash flows. Substantially all disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States are not included.

Southern Ohio Synod of the ELCA
 General Fund Budget Comparison
 February to May 2017

Accounts	Annual Budget (2017-2018)	YTD Actual (2017-2018)	% of Annual Budget Used (2017-2018)	Annual Budget (2016-2017)	YTD Actual (2016-2017)	% of Annual Budget Used (2016-2017)
Total LEADERSHIP	43,100.00	10,742.97	24.93 %	43,100.00	14,639.32	33.97 %
MISSION & MIN. COORDINATION						
Technology						
Technology Applications	4,000.00	2,014.36	50.36 %	4,000.00	2,112.52	52.81 %
Technology Services	9,000.00	3,929.21	43.66 %	9,000.00	2,337.63	25.97 %
Technology Improvements	2,000.00	666.67	33.33 %	2,000.00	666.68	33.33 %
Total Technology	15,000.00	6,610.24	44.07 %	15,000.00	5,116.83	34.11 %
Office Operations						
Bank Service Charges	5,000.00	1,614.33	32.29 %	5,000.00	1,581.21	31.62 %
Office Supplies	14,000.00	2,981.81	21.30 %	14,000.00	2,852.57	20.38 %
Postage	8,100.00	1,514.76	18.70 %	8,100.00	1,629.00	20.11 %
Telephone & Internet Access	10,500.00	3,928.63	37.42 %	10,500.00	3,999.07	38.09 %
Equipment Rental & Repair	21,000.00	7,691.79	36.63 %	21,000.00	5,568.80	26.52 %
Meals & Hospitality (Office)	5,000.00	1,286.81	25.74 %	5,000.00	1,373.17	27.46 %
Insurance	5,000.00	1,044.17	20.88 %	5,000.00	1,044.17	20.88 %
Legal Services	5,000.00	0.00	0.00 %	5,000.00	204.60	4.09 %
Accounting & Auditing Fees	48,000.00	30,428.31	63.39 %	48,000.00	26,106.41	54.39 %
Total Office Operations	121,600.00	50,490.61	41.52 %	121,600.00	44,359.00	36.48 %
Building Expenses						
Building Maintenance	16,000.00	8,218.77	51.37 %	16,000.00	8,009.54	50.06 %
Building Improvements	5,000.00	1,666.67	33.33 %	5,000.00	1,666.68	33.33 %
Building Insurance	7,000.00	2,735.83	39.08 %	7,000.00	2,972.92	42.47 %
Janitorial Expenses	6,000.00	2,809.37	46.82 %	6,000.00	2,900.00	48.33 %
Utilities	13,400.00	1,989.94	14.85 %	13,400.00	2,084.91	15.56 %
Real Estate Taxes	3,100.00	1,211.00	39.06 %	3,100.00	0.00	0.00 %
Mortgage Interest Expense	21,500.00	5,732.64	26.66 %	21,500.00	6,262.10	29.13 %
Total Building Expenses	72,000.00	24,364.22	33.84 %	72,000.00	23,896.15	33.19 %
Synod Staff						
Bishop & Assistant Salaries	260,000.00	80,832.72	31.09 %	260,000.00	87,408.84	33.62 %
Supplemental & Support Sal.	196,000.00	63,718.68	32.51 %	196,000.00	63,553.57	32.43 %
Portico Benefits	172,000.00	57,520.02	33.44 %	163,000.00	58,281.74	35.76 %
Payroll Taxes & Expenses	17,000.00	5,471.87	32.19 %	17,000.00	4,612.61	27.13 %
Total Synod Staff	645,000.00	207,543.29	32.18 %	636,000.00	213,856.76	33.63 %
Staff Expenses						
Automobile Expenses	21,000.00	4,200.42	20.00 %	21,000.00	3,377.65	16.08 %
Auto Loan Interest	3,000.00	296.21	9.87 %	3,000.00	405.50	13.52 %
Auto Depreciation/Replacement	18,500.00	6,166.67	33.33 %	18,500.00	6,166.68	33.33 %
Continuing Education	5,000.00	2,740.87	54.82 %	5,000.00	687.50	13.75 %
Travel	32,000.00	11,818.45	36.93 %	32,000.00	3,462.36	10.82 %
Professional Expenses	1,000.00	150.20	15.02 %	1,000.00	400.00	40.00 %
Total Staff Expenses	80,500.00	25,372.82	31.52 %	80,500.00	14,499.69	18.01 %
Total MISSION & MIN. COORDINATION	934,100.00	314,381.18	33.66 %	925,100.00	301,728.43	32.62 %
Total Expenses	1,820,000.00	567,939.40	31.21 %	1,803,000.00	563,195.91	31.24 %
Net General Fund Income/(Loss)	0.00	(30,503.21)	0.00 %	0.00	(27,858.21)	0.00 %

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July 8, 2017
 Synod Council
 Report of the Bishop
 Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt
 Stronger and Better Together; Joining Jesus in the Restoration of the world

Grace and Peace be with you in name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
 Thanks for taking the time on a Saturday in July to come together for the work of the Southern Ohio Mission Territory. The work today, although lighter than usual, is important. So thank you.

1. Stronger and Better Together: Joining Jesus in the Restoration of the World is the vision we share in Southern Ohio. Here is a brief update on how ministries are progressing:

- Coaching for First Call Rostered Ministers is ongoing
- Coaching for all Rostered Ministers will kick off in the fall
- Re-vitalizing congregations through leadership development has begun with our DEM, Pr. Kerrigan. Four pastors have been or will be trained with the ELCA and Domestic Mission on revitalization.

-If you remember the synod was given a gift of \$25,000 to use for equipment to connect congregations, rostered ministers and teams to better carry out our ministry together. That is happening through communications. New website design which will focus on the vision and mission of SOS; new internet provider that will meet our needs; and equipment including camera, screens and software.

-Synod Resource Team (The team will name itself, but for now it's the Synod Resource Team). For the past 2 1/2 years Pr. Bob Abrams has been attending the Systems Academy of the ELCA, and was brought on full time one year ago, to work with congregations, lay and rostered leaders to promote health in congregations. The Resource Team is a large part of this healthy approach. The following people have agreed to serve: Pr. Steve Wachtman; co-chair, Mr. Richard Boettcher, Ms. Kathy Rotolo, Mr. Richard Grove, Pr. Janet Hatch, Pastor Brad Gee, Pastor Leslie Fox and Pastor June Wilkins. Thank you to these servants as they begin a new ministry in SOS.

-Synod Council Ambassadors: Get ready for your assignments!

-Materials that would have been sent out as pre-assembly stuff will be sent to congregations this month along with a full copy of the audit. We want to make sure people know what has gone on this past year in the synod and ELCA.

2. At the March 2017 Conference of Bishops meeting, we as a conference lifted up the need to pray for our current and past rostered leaders who have served and are serving the church. We also realize that we need to pray that God lift up leaders who will come after us, both lay and rostered. Prayers were written for use in the congregation under the theme "The Harvest is Plentiful". I encourage you as council to also engage in prayer and discernment as to what God is calling you to be....and to lift up potential leaders. If you have someone in mind, let me know how I can assist. One of the things I have asked pastors to do when I visit is to identify a youth or two or three to be my chaperone. Don't be afraid to say to someone that you think they might have gifts for ministry....how about any of you?

3. Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America every three years come together in convention. This year they gather in Minneapolis later this month. In August, the first All ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering happens in Atlanta. I will be attending both events and look forward to the people I will meet. And remember the Youth Gathering is 11 months away in Houston, TX.

4. Reformation @ 500: Save the Dates: October 22, 2017 at Prince of Peace, Dublin, OH at 4:00PM we will gather for a synod wide worship event for the Reformation Commemoration with supper to follow

and then we will join together with our Roman Catholic sisters and brothers at Epiphany, Centerville, OH for a joint Common Prayer Service at 7:00PM. I had the privilege of attending and participating in the service of ordination with the United Methodist Western Conference. Bishop Greg Palmer invited me and so, in the spirit of full communion and striving for unity in the church, I represented Southern Ohio up at Lakeside.

5. Financial Matters:

-Kevin will be asking for the Council to authorize the executive committee and finance committee to approve the refinancing of the Synod Office building before our next council meeting. I have been in the process of gathering information from 4 institutions about refinancing and now the decision needs to be made about which institution we will use. The amount of the refinance is \$360,000. If you remember there is a balloon payment due May 2018, but Kevin and I would like this to be done sooner rather than later since interest rates will go up. If you are in the area, stop by the Synod Office and see what's changed.

-Executive Committee, stewardship committee, and I met last month with Mr. Mike Ward about the possibility of doing a feasibility study for a capital campaign going forward in the synod. More information will be coming at the September Council meeting.

Finally, just a reminder that during the summer festivals in downtown Columbus, from time to time we need to close the office on Fridays because of road closures. We remind people of this via the website, Facebook and word of mouth.

Looking forward to talking on July 8th from 10:00-12:00. Kim will send Call-In information when you get all of your reports and agenda on Wednesday or Thursday.

Bishop Dillahunt