

**Southern Ohio Synod – ELCA
Synod Council Meeting
All Saints Lutheran Church
6770 North High Street
Worthington, Ohio 43085
January 27, 2018**

Call to Order:

Ms. Marjorie Ellis called the Synod Council meeting to order at 9:36 AM.

Pr. Todd Cutter opened the meeting with prayer.

Review and Approval of Agenda of the 01/27/2018 Meeting:

The Agenda for the day was reviewed. Corrections were noted in order to remove Bob Abrams and Adam Barclay, Bellbrook, from the Bishop's report.

VOTED:

SC.18.01.01 To remove Bob Abrams and Adam Barclay, Bellbrook, from the Bishop's report and to approve the 01/27/2018 Agenda as amended. (Swank/Van Orman) APPROVED.

Review and Approval of Minutes of the 12/02/2017 Meeting:

The Minutes of the 12/02/2017 meeting were reviewed and approved.

VOTED:

SC.18.01.02 To approve the minutes of the 12/02/17 meeting. (Schnittke/Kaelin) APPROVED.

Roll Call:

Members present: Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Deborah Ashenhurst, Pr. Todd Cutter, Bp. Suzanne D. Dillahunt, Ms. Marjorie Ellis, Mr. Roy E. Hart, Mr. Mike Johnsen, Ms. Robin Kaelin, Pr. Laura Leach-Shreffler, Ms. Christine Miller, 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, Pr. Justin Van Orman, and Pr. Ralph Wolfe

Members excused: Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Mr. Brandon Huston, Mr. Ronald Moder, Ms. Melanie Powderly, Mr. Kevin Pyle, and Mr. Bennett Whitaker

Members absent: None

Staff present: Pr. Katie Kerrigan, Pr. Jeff Wick, and Ms. Kim Uemura

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

Staff absent: None

Bethel, Bellbrook, Real Property:

The Synod Attorney, Adam Barclay, was present to report on the Bethel, Bellbrook, real property situation. The property is currently leased by Centerbrook Church who wishes to purchase the property from the Synod. Centerbrook Church made an initial offer of \$200,000 while simultaneously seeking \$50,000 in credits for improvements made. Mr. Barclay reminded the Council that an appraisal was performed and the property was appraised at \$565,000 for its highest and best use. Based upon the appraisal, Mr. Barclay could not recommend selling the property for a net of \$150,000 but he felt that selling the property for \$565,000 was unrealistic because the appraisal assumed that it would take a year of marketing, paying for maintenance, insurance, etc. for a vacant building. He reported that the Synod Council Executive Committee met with representatives of Centerbrook Church at the Executive Committee meeting on January 22, 2018. Discussion focused upon the possibility of entering into a lease/option relationship with Centerbrook Church. Splitting the difference between the initial offer of \$150,000 and the appraisal of \$565,000 yields a number of \$357,500. Mr. Barclay indicated that a lease/option relationship would give the Centerbrook Church a greater chance to thrive with greater equity quicker than if there would be a sale and mortgage. The Synod would benefit by having the building occupied during the lease/option period and by requiring Centerbrook Church to pay for operating costs such as maintenance, utilities, insurance, etc. He then recommended that the Synod Council give the Synod Executive Committee authority to negotiate within certain parameters, for example, a sale price of \$300,000-\$360,000. In addition, a quiet title action will be filed by Mr. Barclay's law firm to clear the title to the property.

VOTED:

SC 18.01.03

To authorize the Synod Executive Committee to negotiate on behalf of the Synod Council with representatives from Centerbrook Church for a sales price of not less than \$300,000 for the Bethel, Bellbrook, real property. (Cutter/Kaelin) APPROVED.

VOTED:

SC 18.01.04

To authorize the Synod Council Executive Committee to make recommendations as to where net proceeds of the sale of the Bethel, Bellbrook, property will be placed. (Quay/Schriber) APPROVED.

Reports of the Officers and Executive Committee:

- Vice President:
1. Ms. Ellis had a busy and enjoyable Christmas holiday. She reported that the Synod Council Executive Committee met with representatives from the Centerbrook Church to discuss the transfer of the real property to the Centerbrook Church. Ms. Ellis was excited to see the property continuing to be used for religious purposes.
 2. Vice President Ellis reported that ELCA is in its fifth and final year of its Always Being Made New campaign.

- Secretary:
1. In the absence of Mr. Pyle, the Secretary presented the Synod Financial Report.
 2. On behalf of the Treasurer, Mr. Hart reported that the General Fund Budget Comparison February-December, 2017, shows revenues at approximately 79.85% of budget and there is a deficit year-to-date of \$64,428.07. Pr. Kerrigan indicated that subsequent to the creation of the General Fund Budget Comparison report, Mission Support follow-up and Finance Committee follow-up have produced additional revenues that have virtually eliminated the \$64,428.07 deficit.
 3. Mr. Hart reported that the Southern Ohio Synod received \$20,000.00 from the In Faith Community Foundation that originated from the sale of the St. Jacob, Tarlton, real property. The \$20,000.00 gift is restricted to Small Church Maintenance. The Executive Committee recommends the acceptance of the \$20,000.00 to be used for Small Church Maintenance as defined by the Bishop of the Synod.

**VOTED:
SC 18.01.05**

To approve the recommendation of the Southern Ohio Synod Executive Committee to accept the \$20,000.00 gift from the In Faith Community Foundation from the sale of St. Jacob, Tarlton real property, to be used for Small Church Maintenance as defined by the Bishop of the Synod. APPROVED.

4. The Bishop reported that the Synod holds a Living Christ Fund and currently the fund is endowed with \$62,498.00 which means that the

earnings are credited to the fund but only the earnings can be spent. The amount currently available for expenditure is \$28,854.00, about half of what was available at the end of last year. It is recommended by the Treasurer that the Living Christ Fund be unendowed making the entire \$62,498.00 available for the New and Renewing Congregations.

**VOTED:
SC 18.01.06**

To unendow the Living Christ Fund so as to make all monies in the Living Christ Fund available for New and Renewing Congregations. (Wolfe/Johnsen) APPROVED.

Bishop:

Bishop Dillahunt noted that her written report was distributed to the members of the Synod Council. The Bishop's Report is attached to these minutes for review.

1. The Bishop reported that for administration purposes, the salary and expenses of the Region 6 Archivist, Jennifer Morehart, will be now handled by The Capital University as the fiscal agent rather than the Indiana/Kentucky Synod.

2. The merger of The Capital University and Trinity Lutheran Seminary became effective January 1, 2018. The parties are still sorting things out.

3. Presiding Bishop Eaton invited Bishop Dillahunt to attend the Commemoration of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. in Washington, D.C. on April 4, 2018.

4. The new Southern Ohio Synod website is up and running.

5. Bishop Dillahunt met recently with officials from Oesterlen to commence a \$1,900,000 campaign to construct improvements at the Oesterlen campus to support 4-H activities, gardens, etc., for the children it serves who are not able to be placed in foster homes.

6. The Bishop met with Mr. Mike Ward, the Synod's Feasibility Study consultant, to begin creating a case statement study for a report to be made at the Synod Council's April meeting. In doing so, a Cabinet with several members is also being created to assist Bishop Dillahunt in making decisions regarding the Feasibility Study. The following pastors have been asked to serve and have agreed to serve: Pr. Bonnie Gerber, Pr.

Gil Santiago, Pr. Charlie Woodward, Pr. Mick Althaus, Pr. Larry Donner, and Pr. Barry Scott.

7. The Bishop requested the all of the congregations in the Synod to submit their parochial reports to Synod so that the reports can be, in turn, submitted to the Churchwide offices. She reminded the Council members that the parochial reports are important to the life of the ELCA.

8. Bishop Dillahunt reminded the Synod Council that the Synod Assembly will occur June 1-2, 2018. Friday night's worship service will take place at All Saints Lutheran Church in Worthington. Workshop opportunities will be available. The Bishop indicated that several elections will be held during the Synod Assembly, including the elections for voting members to the Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee in 2019; for Southern Ohio Synod Council seats; for the Southern Ohio Synod Council Vice President's position, and for the Discipline and Consultation teams

9. Pr. Ralph Wolfe and eight others traveled to Brazil to visit representatives of our companion synod, Sinodo Espirito Santo a Belem. The reason for the trip was to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation with our Brazilian partners. Representatives from Sinodo Espirito Santo a Belem plan to reciprocate with a visit here in September of 2018.

10. Upon the recommendation of Secretary Boerger, the Bishop explained that the Synod Council should affirm its Synod Council Calls which include Rostered Ministers of Word And Sacrament, Rostered Ministers of Word and Service, Synodically Authorized Ministers, and Developments and Redevelopments in the Southern Ohio Synod which are funded by the Southern Ohio Synod and the ELCA. A list of those to be affirmed is attached to these minutes.

**VOTED:
SC 18.01.07**

**To affirm the Synod Council Calls for Rostered Ministers of Word And Sacrament, for Rostered Ministers of Word and Service, for Synodically Authorized Ministers, and for Developments and Redevelopments in the Southern Ohio Synod which are funded by the Southern Ohio Synod and the ELCA. (Ashenurst/Kaelin)
APPROVED.**

11. Bishop Dillahunt then focused discussion upon a written proposal from the Synod Parliamentarian, Pr. Craig Richter, regarding Continuing Resolution +S7.21.c which is attached to these minutes. The Continuing Resolution establishes a process for allowing additional voting members for the Southern Ohio Synod Assembly and requires a 2/3 affirmative vote of the Southern Ohio Synod Council to be enacted.

VOTED:
SC 18.01.08

To remove the recommendation of the Parliamentarian and Assistant to the Bishop for Governance from the En Bloc vote. (Van Orman/Swank) APPROVED.

VOTED:
SC 18.01.09

(A 2/3 affirmative vote being required to approve). To add in parentheses the words, “(average weekly attendance)” following the word “worshippers” in 1.a., 1.b., and 1.c. and to approve the Continuing Resolution +S7.21.c as amended. (Wolfe/Swank) UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Report of Auxiliaries

1. The Synod Council received a written report from the Lutheran Men in Mission.
2. Robin Kaelin presented an oral report on behalf of the Women of the ELCA.

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

EN BLOC
VOTED:
SC.18.01.10

To approve the remaining En Bloc Recommendations. (Miller/Schnittke) APPROVED.

En Bloc Business Recommendations

Rostered Ministers Status

On Leave from Call

RECOMMENDATION:

- The Rev. Orinda H. Brinkley, 1st year (1/1/18)
- The Rev. Brent Cavendish, 1st year (11/30/17)

Family Leave

RECOMMENDATION:

- The Rev. Michael Poole, Family Leave, 1st year (2/1/18)

Retired Status

RECOMMENDATION:

- The Rev. Janet M. Hatch (4/1/18)
- The Rev. Stuart John Michles (1/22/18)
- The Rev. Carl A. Rayburn (2/1/18)

Disability Status

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Extension of Call

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Removal from the ELCA Roster

INFORMATION: N/A

Legal and Governance

RECOMMENDATION: NA

Prayer was offered by Pr. Wolfe prior to the lunch recess.

Vice President Ellis declared a recess for lunch at 11:45 AM.

Vice President Ellis reconvened the meeting at 12:27 PM.

Devotions:

Devotions were then offered by Ms. Ellis from the book, The Mission Table, by Stephen P. Bouman. Various members read aloud from the book and discussion followed.

Other Business: None

VOTED:

SC.18.01.11 To adjourn the meeting. (Johnsen/Kaelin) APPROVED.

The meeting was then adjourned at 1:40 PM. with Eucharist.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy E. Hart
Synod Council Secretary

Synod Council
January 27, 2018
Report of Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt

Grace and peace be with you in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. *Stronger and Better Together...Joining Jesus in the Restoration of the World.*

1. I trust you all had a good Christmas and New Years and are fully ready for what God has in store for us in Southern Ohio.
2. At our meeting we will have an update from Mr. Adam Barkley, SOS attorney about the Bellbrook property and news about the Oklahoma Farm Land. Adam met with executive committee earlier in the week. We will have some decisions to make.
3. Mission Support is about steady for 2017 and the Finance Team along with Kevin are monitoring the situation. At the most recent All Ohio Rostered Ministers Gathering in Huron, I thanked those present for the mission support, asked if they had not sent any in to please do so and if they had any extra to consider sending it too. Follow up has been done with those congregations who have fallen behind. Thanks has also been given to those who have exceeded their intent.
4. At this meeting we are beginning something new, as suggested by the Secretary of the ELCA, Rev. Chris Boerger. Every January we will affirm Synod Council Calls, per my request. A list will be provided at the meeting.
5. At this meeting you will affirm our developing and redeveloping congregations.
6. At this meeting you will review and approve a Process for Additional Voting Members from congregations to Synod Assembly. Each congregation may send 1 pastor/deacon; 1 lay male and 1 lay female. Some congregations, who are larger, may have the privilege of sending additional people. Pr. Craig Richter and Pr. Bob Abrams have worked on this proposal.
7. The Deadline for Resolutions to Synod Assembly 2018 is March 15. A notification has gone out.
8. Nominating Committee will be busy. We have lots of elections this year, including Churchwide Assembly, Synod Council, Vice President, Discipline and Consultation teams. We will vote electronically. The following council members are up for election:
 - Maj. Gen. Deborah Ashenhurst
 - VP Marjorie Ellis
 - Mr. Ron Moder (3 year term)
 - Ms. Melanie Powderly
 - Mr. Jim Renshaw (3 year term)
 - Mr. Steve Schnittke (3 year term)
 - Ms. Cindy Schrader
 - Ms. Carol Swank
 - Pr. Bob Swanson
 - Mr. Bennett Whitaker (3 year term)
 - Pr. Ralph Wolfe (3 year term)
9. Pastor Ralph Wolfe will give us an update on his Brazil Companion visit.
10. Pastors Advisory Cabinet for the Feasibility Study: The following pastors have been asked to serve and said "yes": Pr. Bonnie Gerber, Pr. Gil Santiago, Pr. Charlie Woodward, Pr. Mick Althausen, Pr. Larry Donner, Pr. Barry Scott. Our first meeting with Pr. Mike Ward will be on February 26.

Looking forward to seeing you all on January 27 at 9:30 at ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH in Worthington. Thanks!

January 27, 2018

Affirm the following Synod Council Calls For Rostered Ministers (Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service)

1. Rev. Robert Swanson, First Lutheran, Dayton
2. Rev. Lisa Bernheisel, Vida Eterna Iglesia Luterana, West Chester
3. Rev. Sally Padgett, First English Lutheran, Columbus
4. Rev. Alexander Sumo, African International Lutheran Mission, Columbus
5. Rev. Ipyana Mwakabonga, Ibada ya Kiswahili, Columbus
6. Rev. Elizabeth Clothier, Linden Lutheran, Columbus
7. Rev. Karen Asmus-Alsnauer, Interim Pastor, Resurrection Lutheran, Hilliard
8. Deacon Nicholas Bates, Hunger Network in Ohio
9. Rev. James Bosse, Graceworks Lutheran Services
10. Rev. Ronald Calvert, Marietta Home Health and Hospice
11. Rev. Alice Connor, Contract with Episcopal Church to serve as University of Cincinnati Campus Pastor
14. Deacon Tammy Eady, Mercy Health Fairfield Hospital, Fairfield, OH
15. Rev. Leslie Fox, Interim, David Lutheran, Canal Winchester
16. Deacon Jennifer Frantz, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio
17. Deacon/Dr. Zebulon Highben, Muskingum University
18. Rev. Callon W. Holloway, Jr. Contract with United Methodist Church, Interim Pastor
19. Deacon Daniel Jacob, Wittenberg University, Youth/Young Adult Ministry
20. Rev. Bonny Kinnunen, Church Relations, Oesterlen Services for Youth, Inc.
21. Deacon Mary Lasits, Wittenberg University, Development and Church Relations
22. Deacon Elaine Malzahn, Pastoral Care Wexner Heritage Village, Reynoldsburg
23. Deacon Rebecca Mastalerz, Hospice of Cincinnati
24. Deacon Diane Montgomery, Ohio State University Medical Center, Chaplain
25. Rev. Tracy Paschke-Johannes, Hospice of Cincinnati, Pastoral Care
26. Deacon Linda Sprick-Kruse, Director for Spiritual Formation
27. Rev. Andrew Tucker, Pastor to the University, Capital University, Columbus
28. Rev. Anders Tune, Pastor to the University, Wittenberg University, Springfield
29. Rev. Rachel Tune, Pastor to the University, Wittenberg University, Springfield
30. Rev. David Schull, Contract with Redeemer, Columbus, from United Church of Christ
31. Rev. Patricia Vargas, Chaplain, Harmar Place and Glenwood Assisted Living of United Church Homes, Marietta

To Affirm the following Synodically Authorized Ministers

Ms. Gabrielle Hudecek, to serve St. John Lutheran, Logan
Mr. John Meister, to serve Zion Lutheran, West Jefferson

To Affirm the following Developments and Redevelopments in Southern Ohio Synod which are funded by Southern Ohio and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

First Lutheran, Columbus (RD)
Vida Eterna Iglesia Luterana, West Chester (D)
African International Lutheran Mission, Columbus (D)
Ibada ya Kiswahili, Columbus (D)
Intercessor Lutheran Mission, Columbus (D)
Linden Lutheran, Columbus (RD)
Christ Lutheran, Dayton (RD)

To Affirm the following Redevelopment in Southern Ohio Synod which is not funded by Southern Ohio or Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

First Lutheran, Dayton

We rejoice with First, Cincinnati as they are still redeveloping but are self-sustaining.

Continuing Resolution as suggested by +S7.21.c

This continuing resolution requires a 2/3 vote of the Southern Ohio Synod Council

The Southern Ohio Synod Council establishes the following process for allowing additional voting members for Southern Ohio Synod Assembly.

- I. Congregations of the Southern Ohio Synod who meet the following baptized, confirmed and worship thresholds as stated on their submitted reports to the ELCA in the calendar year of the Southern Ohio Synod Assembly will receive the following additional voting members to the Southern Ohio Synod Assembly.
 - a. Congregations exceeding 750 baptized members, 500 confirmed members and 250 worshippers shall receive one additional lay voting member at the Southern Ohio Synod Assembly.
 - b. Congregations exceeding 1500 baptized members, 1000 confirmed members and 500 worshippers shall receive two additional lay voting members (one male and one female) at the Southern Ohio Synod Assembly.
 - c. Congregations exceeding 2250 baptized members, 1500 confirmed members and 750 worshippers shall receive three additional lay voting members (at least one of a different gender) at the Southern Ohio Synod Assembly.