

**Southern Ohio Synod – ELCA  
Synod Council Meeting  
Christ Lutheran Church  
2314 East Main Street  
Bexley, Ohio 43209  
April 28, 2018**

Call to Order:

Vice President Ellis called the Synod Council meeting to order at 9:35 AM.

Vice President Ellis then opened the meeting with devotions.

Review and Approval of Agenda of the 04/28/2018 Meeting:

The Agenda for the day was reviewed.

**VOTED:**

**SC.18.04.01            To approve the 04/28/2018 Agenda. (Swank/Miller) APPROVED.**

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

The Minutes of the 01/27/2018 meeting were reviewed.

**VOTED:**

**SC.18.04.02            To approve the minutes of the 01/27/18 meeting. (Wolfe/Ashenhurst)  
APPROVED.**

Roll Call:

Members present:    Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Deborah Ashenurst, Pr. Todd Cutter, Bp. Suzanne D. Dillahunt, Ms. Marjorie Ellis, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Mr. Roy E. Hart, Ms. Christine Miller, Mr. Ronald Moder, Ms. Melanie Powderly, Mr. Kevin Pyle, Pr. Roger Quay, Mr. James Renshaw, Ms. Michelle Riesbeck, Ms. Cindy Schrader, Ms. Kathie Skamfer, Ms. Carol Swank, Pr. Robert Swanson, Mr. Bennett Whitaker, and Pr. Ralph Wolfe

Members excused:    Mr. Mike Johnsen, Ms. Robin Kaelin, Pr. Laura Leach-Shreffler, Mr. Steven Schnittke, Pr. Jonathan Schriber, and Pr. Justin Van Orman

Members absent:     Mr. Brandon Huston

Staff present: Pr. Bob Abrams, Ms. Susan Barton-Nonno, Pr. Katie Kerrigan, Mr. Gary Pecuch, Pr. Jeff Wick, and Ms. Kim Uemura

Staff excused: None

Staff absent: None

Bishop's Report: 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. Mr. Mike Ward was introduced by Bishop Dillahunt and he presented the Feasibility Study Report to the Council. Mr. Ward feels that we have a good report of 50 interviewees (40 is threshold) for \$2-2.5 million capital campaign. The subject questions and responses were reviewed. Then Mr. Ward reviewed the Findings and Analysis portion of the Report. The Report pointed to Fund-raising Potential of \$1.5-2 million. Mr. Ward does not recommend launching campaign at the 2018 Synod Assembly but does recommend a quiet campaign with an expanded Pastor's Advisory Committee and by seeking additional lead gifts. He also recommended a refinement of lead projects.

2. Mr. Ward's Summary Proposal includes a Campaign for Immediate Gifts, a Planned Giving Component, and a Stewardship for All Seasons/Visioning Initiative. Mr. Ward then presented a proposed calendar of events for the Campaign.

3. Bishop Dillahunt introduced the Pastor's Advisory Committee Members who will participate in the Capital Campaign. They are Pastors Bonnie Gerber, Gil Santiago, Larry Donner, and Barry Scott.

**VOTED:**  
**SC.18.04.03** To accept the Feasibility Study Report of Gronlund Sayther Brunkow and to share the results as appropriate. (Whitaker/Swank) **APPROVED.**

**VOTED:**  
**SC.18.04.04** To table a resolution authorizing the Bishop and staff to implement recommendations. (Whitaker/Moder) **DEFEATED.**

**VOTED:**  
**SC.18.04.05** To authorize the Bishop and staff to implement the recommendations of the feasibility report with funding to come from special gifts and/or from campaign proceeds. (Quay/Pyle) **APPROVED WITH ONE ABSTENTION.**

**VOTED:**  
**SC.18.04.06**

**To authorize that during the period of May, 2018 through December, 2020, at least fifty percent (50.00%) of the proceeds of unrestricted, unexpected gifts to the Southern Ohio Synod will be allocated to the campaign. (Cutter/Powderly) APPROVED WITH ONE ABSTENTION.**

4. Pr. Katie Kerrigan then reintroduced the Synod Ambassador Program and sign-up sheet to the Council members.

5. The Bishop then focused upon an April 16, 2018 letter from the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry in Ohio explaining that the LOMO Board of Directors has made a decision to enter into an agreement with The Trust for Public Land in order to develop a land conservancy at Camp Mowana because of declining camping and retreat usage. If funding is secured, Campa Mowana will become a land conservancy in August of 2019.

6. Ms. Susan Barton-Nonno presented Synod Assembly information to the Council.

Prayer was then offered 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.**

Reports of the Officers and Executive Committee:

Vice President: 1. Ms. Ellis encouraged all Council members to attend the 2018 Synod Assembly.

2. The Vice President noted that a meeting for Council Vice Presidents is scheduled to take place in Chicago in 2019.

Secretary: 1. No Report.

Treasurer: 1. The Treasurer was pleased to report that he received an Unqualified Financial Audit Report from Apple Growth Partners for the Southern Ohio Synod for the period January 31, 2018 and 2017. Mr. Pyle noted that an unqualified report is the best report available with regard to generally accepted accounting principles. The Southern Ohio Synod Audit Team consisting of Pr. Bob Bork, Pr. Gil Santiago, and Pr. Bonnie Gerber,

was present to respond to any questions from the Council members. The Team responded to one question regarding the real property that the Synod owns in Oklahoma.

2. The Southern Ohio Synod Finance Team consisting of Mrs. Becky Witt, Pr. Jonathan Bull, Mr. Chris Clothier, and Ms. Joy Hacker, was introduced by Bishop Dillahunt to the Synod Council. On behalf of the Synod Finance Team, Mrs. Witt presented four versions of the proposed 2019-2020 Mission and Ministry Plan for the Synod Council to consider. Mrs. Witt explained that the team began its task in developing the proposal with a commitment to a realistic balanced budget by evaluating the operating expense structure, by investigating opportunities to reduce costs, by incorporating known and measurable changes, and by attempting to keep partner support levels the same.

The four versions were individually reviewed and much discussion ensued among the Council members and the members of the Finance Team. Early in the discussion it became clear that the members of the Council and the members of the Finance Team were committed to a balanced budget for 2019-2020.

At the conclusion of the discussion about the 2019-2020 Mission and Ministry Plan proposal, it appeared that a consensus had developed favoring the third version with modifications.

**VOTED:  
SC.18.04.07**

**To approve the removal of \$2,000.00 from the Synod Council line-item expense listed under “Synod Leadership” of the third version of the proposed 2019-2020 Mission and Ministry Plan. (Moved and Seconded.) APPROVED.**

**VOTED:  
SC.18.04.08**

**To approve the reduction by \$2,000.00 of the Meals & Hospitality line-item expense listed under “Synod Leadership” of the third version of the proposed 2019-2020 Mission and Ministry Plan. (Moved and Seconded.) APPROVED.**

**VOTED:  
SC.18.04.09**

**To approve the addition of \$13,000.00 to the Miscellaneous Income line-item listed under “General Fund Income” of the third version of the proposed 2019-2020 Mission and Ministry Plan. (Moved and Seconded.) APPROVED.**

**VOTED:  
SC.18.04.10**

**To approve the third version of the proposed 2019-2020 Mission and Ministry Plan with the modifications detailed in Resolutions SC.18.04.07, SC.18.04.08, and SC.18.04.09, in order to achieve a balanced budget of \$1,805,000.00. (Moved and Seconded.) APPROVED.**

By passing Resolutions SC.18.04.07, SC.18.04.08, SC.18.04.09, and SC.18.04.10, the Southern Ohio Synod Council will be recommending to the 2018 Synod Assembly a balanced Mission and Ministry Plan for 2019-2020 totaling \$1,805,000.00 while maintaining ELCA Mission Support at the 40.00% level.

**Report of Auxiliaries**

1. The Synod Council received the written reports from the Lutheran Men in Mission and from 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.**

Bishop Dillahunt then focused upon the En Bloc recommendation to remove The Rev. Bruce A. Kramer from the ELCA roster. She explained that the recommendation would require a 2/3 majority vote as opposed to a simple majority for the remainder of the En Bloc considerations.

**VOTED:  
SC.18.04.11**

**To remove from En Bloc consideration, the recommendation that The Rev. Bruce A. Kramer be removed from the ELCA roster by revoking retired roster status granted by Synod Council on December 5, 2015. (Moved and Seconded.) UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

**VOTED:  
SC.18.04.12**

**To approve the removal of The Rev. Bruce A. Kramer from the ELCA roster by revoking retired roster status granted by Synod Council on December 5, 2015. (A 2/3 majority vote is required.) (Moved and Seconded.) UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

**EN BLOC  
VOTED:  
SC.18.04.13**

**To approve the remaining En Bloc Recommendations. (Moved and Seconded) APPROVED.**

En Bloc Business Recommendations

**Rostered Ministers Status**

On Leave from Call

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- The Rev. Elizabeth Buuck, 2nd year (8/15/17)
- The Rev. Elizabeth Westphal, 2nd year (6/1/17)

Retired Status

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- The Rev. Eric K. Moehring (5/1/18)
- The Rev. Susan B. Nelson (5/1/18)
- The Rev. Alicia A. Nierman (8/1/18)
- The Rev. Bruce E. Quatman (5/1/18)

Disability Status

**RECOMMENDATION:** N/A

Extension of Call

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- To extend a synod council call to The Rev. Raymond Branstiter, to serve as Chaplain, at Mercy Health, in Urbana, OH, effective February 12, 2018.
- To extend a synod council call to The Rev. Robert Swanson, to serve as pastoral care specialist, at Graceworks Lutheran Services, in Dayton, effective June 1, 2018.

Legal and Governance

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- To recommend to the 2018 synod assembly to approve the 2019 Compensation Guidelines.
- To approve the 2018 Special Rules of Procedure for the 2018 Synod Assembly.
- To approve amendment changes to Oesterlen Services for Youth, Inc.
- To approve congregation constitutions for: Lutheran Saints in Ministry Parish, Greene and Montgomery Counties; St. Peter Lutheran Church, Lancaster; Trinity Lutheran Church, Versailles.
- To recommend approval of the 2018 Southern Ohio Synod Assembly Agenda.

Other Business:

1. The Bishop then recognized the out-going members of the Council who reached the end of their current terms. She noted that all diligently served the Synod. Those members leaving the Council include Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Deborah Ashenhurst, Ms. Marjorie Ellis, Mrs. Robin Kaelin, Mr. Ronald Moder, Ms. Melanie Powderly, Mr. James Renshaw, Mr. Steven Schnittke, Ms. Cindy Schrader, Ms. Carol Swank, Pr. Robert Swanson, Mr. Bennett Whitaker, and Pr. Ralph Wolfe.

It was noted that Ms. Marjorie Ellis, Ms. Melanie Powderly, Mr. Steven Schnittke, Ms. Cindy Schrader, Ms. Carol Swank, Mr. Bennett Whitaker, and Pr. Ralph Wolfe were standing for re-election at the 2018 Synod Assembly.

**VOTED:**

**SC.18.01.14**

**To adjourn the meeting. (Moved and Seconded) APPROVED.**

The meeting was then adjourned at 3:10 PM. with Eucharist.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy E. Hart  
Synod Council Secretary

Bishop's Report  
April 28, 2018  
Synod Council  
Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt

Stronger and Better Together...Joining Jesus in the Restoration of the World.

Blessings in this Easter Season as we proclaim "Christ is Risen Indeed."

We have a lot of things to cover and important matters to discuss and decide on at this April Council meeting and I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

1. I want to thank our Audit Team for their work and for coming to the meeting. Please review the materials sent and come with questions.
2. At the upcoming Assembly, we will be updating the Synod Constitution. At our December meeting, we passed those amendments and because they are either required or simply editorial changes we will vote on them this year at assembly. There is no need to have a first reading.
3. Finance Team will be present at our meeting to discuss with you, for you to make the recommendation to the Assembly, a 2019-20 Mission and Ministry Plan, and I thank them for coming. As you know, we finished the year at about the same place we did the year before. Mission Support is steady but it isn't increased or decreasing. That's the good news. However, with stable mission support, we cannot increase spending. We remain the same. The Stewardship Team has done well this past year, and Estimates of Giving are coming in. I am thankful for the faithful congregations who send in mission support. So thanks to those of you who continue to raise up the mission of the ELCA and SOS.
4. I will have some news about LOMO and will share it at the meeting.
5. Another visitor will be Pr. Mike Ward, of Gronlund Sayther Brunkow, the consultant that we have used for our feasibility study for a Capital Campaign in SOS. Mike will give us a report. I want to thank the Pastor's Advisory Committee, Pr. Ward and Kim for their work and they, too, will be with us.
6. Thank you for your faithful work this year. Lots of things have happened and I know they will continue to happen as we move into the future together. I look forward to where God is leading and how we will move into God's future as leaders in this church. We say goodbye to several of our members who will be used in the kingdom in another way. Thank you!

I'll have more to talk about at the meeting, so see you at Christ Lutheran Church, Bexley!