

Southern Ohio Synod – ELCA
Synod Council Meeting
All Saints Lutheran Church
6770 North High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085
September 8, 2018

Call to Order:

Vice President Ellis called the Synod Council meeting to order at 10:17 AM. Greetings were extended to the new members of Council.

Review and Approval of Agenda of the 09/08/2018 Meeting:

The Agenda for the day was reviewed. Discussion focused on the closing of Good Shepherd, Washington Courthouse. It was decided to address the closing after devotions and to go into Executive Session after devotions as well.

VOTED:

**SC.18.09.01 To approve the 09/08/2018 Agenda as amended twice.
(Swank/Riesbeck) APPROVED.**

Vice President Ellis then opened the meeting with devotions from the Wellness Wheel.

The Bishop addressed the matter of closing Good Shepherd, Washington Courthouse. She explained that Good Shepard needs to close in order to establish a new joint Lutheran Episcopal Federated Congregation to be located at the St. Andrew Episcopal site in Washington Courthouse, Ohio.

VOTED:

SC.18.09.02 To go into Executive Session. (Schnittke/Kimm) APPROVED.

The Council went into Executive Session.

VOTED:

SC.18.09.03 To return to Regular Session. (Wolfe/Quay) APPROVED.

The matter of the donor-restricted fund titled “Ministerial Education” was discussed at length. Pr. Steve Kimm then called the question.

VOTED:
SC.18.09.04

The spendable portion of the Donor Restricted Fund titled "Ministerial Education" be utilized to cover stipends paid to persons engaged to cover vacancy related services for the Synod during the period from January 2019 through August 2019. (Finance Team Recommendation/Schrader) APPROVED.

Review and Approval of Minutes of the 04/28/2018 Meeting:
The Minutes of the 04/28/2018 meeting were reviewed.

VOTED:
SC.18.09.05

To approve the minutes of the 04/28/18 meeting. (Goff/Johnsen) APPROVED.

Roll Call:

Members present:

Bp. Suzanne D. Dillahunt, Mr. David Drumm, Ms. Marjorie Ellis, Mr. Steve Fogle, Mr. Steve Goff, Ms. Jeni Gray, Mr. Roy E. Hart, Mr. Mike Johnsen, Pr. Steve Kimm, Pr. Laura Leach-Shreffler, Ms. Christine Miller, Pr. Roger Quay, Mrs. Michelle Riesbeck, Mr. Steven Schnittke, Ms. Cindy Schrader, Ms. Kathie Skamfer, Ms. Carol Swank, Pr. Ralph Wolfe, and Ms. Susan Wyckoff

Members excused:

Pr. Rob Bork, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Mr. Brandon Huston, Ms. Mary Maguire, Pr. Steve Mahaffey, Mr. Kevin Pyle, and Pr. Jonathan Schriber

Members absent:

None

Staff present:

Pr. Bob Abrams, Ms. Susan Barton-Nonno, Pr. Katie Kerrigan, Mr. Gary Pecuch, and Ms. Kim Uemura

Staff excused:

Pr. Jeff Wick

Staff absent:

None

Reports of the Officers and Executive Committee:

Vice President

1. Ms. Ellis reported that Pr. Justin Van Orman resigned his position on Council as he has relocated outside of the Synod and that Pr. Steve

Mahaffey will fill that seat. Ms. Ellis likewise reported that Pr. Todd Cutter has resigned his position on Council after having accepted a new call outside of the Synod and that Pr. Rob Bork will fill that seat.

2. Vice President Ellis shared a letter from Presiding Bishop Eaton which indicates that Mission Support for 2017 exceeded giving for 2016. Additional information from Churchwide regarding Mission Support Reports from January, 2018 through June, 2018 indicate that 2018 year-to-date is close to 2017 but down 3.2% from June 30, 2017.

3. Ms. Ellis reported reviewed the 2018 Synod Assembly and indicated that this year's assembly was smaller but enthusiastic. She sensed that the assembly members were "forward looking." At the same time the Southern Ohio Synod Capital Campaign was introduced.

4. An Assembly Preparation Team is being constructed to prepare the election process for a synod bishop in June of 2019.

5. The Synod Ambassadors Team Project is being reinvigorated to pass information along to the congregations in the Synod. Pr. Kerrigan is taking charge of this project.

6. The Vice President stated that various committees support the production of the Assembly, and because of this, there are opportunities for council members to participate.

7. Ms. Ellis concluded her report by informing the council members that there will be a Vice Presidents meeting in Chicago next October 19-21, 2018

Secretary

1. No Report

Treasurer

1. Synod Finance Team Chair, Ms. Becky Witt, along with Team members, Mr. Chris Clothier and Pr. Jonathan Bull, presented the financial report in the absence of Mr. Pyle. She reported that the Synod was slightly below revenue expectations. Total revenues for the first six months of the fiscal year were at 43.05% of budget. She indicated that the upstairs renter in the Synod building vacated, and therefore, that revenue stream has ended.

2. The Finance Team is looking closely at financial services provided to the Synod, i.e., bank charges and fund investment services in order to increase income and to reduce expenses.

3. Ms. Witt stated that the Finance Team has a realistic and optimistic outlook regarding the Synod's financial state.

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. The following are highlights:

1. The Bishop extended greetings and welcomed the new members to council, including Mrs. Susan Wyckoff, Mr. David Drumm, Mr. Steve Fogle, Mrs. Jeni Gray, Mrs. Mary Maguire, Mr. Steve Goff, Pr. Steve Mahaffey, Pr. Rob Bork, and Pr. Steve Kimm.
2. Bishop Dillahunt indicated that there are now 33 vacancies in parishes of the Synod. Many are part time ministries which are difficult to fill. The Synod staff has been busy responding to this situation.
3. Pr. Roger Quay shared information about a new collaboration being created in Lancaster among five parishes. The collaboration is called "Lancaster Lutherans Together." It is an experiment regarding the sharing of resources and exploring what the participating congregations can accomplish together without merging. The collaboration expects to become a legal entity with the intent of securing 501(c) 3 status recognized by the IRS.
4. Mr. Gary Pecuch was introduced to the members of the Council. He relayed information about the various active youth programs within the Synod. As one example, the Amazing Grace Day Camps served 400 young persons in eight camp locations in 2018.
5. In her report, Pr. Katie Kerrigan spoke to the members of Council about the activities of the Synod Stewardship Team which oversees annual finances and grows leadership within the Southern Ohio Synod. A Stewardship Academy has been created to provide basic financial information for some congregations as well as sharing information about retooling for other congregations with a need for more advanced stewardship training.
6. Pr. Kerrigan then spoke about a new Congregational Vitality Initiative. She is working with congregations that are starting to "lose steam". The team will implement plans to help revitalize those congregations.

Prayer was then offered by Pr. Jonathan Bull prior to the lunch recess.

Vice President Ellis declared a recess for lunch at 12:16 PM.

Bishop Dillahunt then reconvened the meeting at 12:52 PM.

7. The Bishop and Pr. Kerrigan further explained Lutheran Episcopal closures in order to create the new federated entity. The Southern Ohio Synod is assisting with help in dealing with constitutional issues from the Lutheran perspective.
8. Bishop Dillahunt then focused upon her expectations of council members. She urged each member to pray for each other and for synod staff. The Bishop expects support for the upcoming Synod Capital Campaign. She reported that the Pastors Advisory Cabinet has been expanded. She expects everyone to have fun together as members of Council. She stated that once a decision is made by the Council, we leave as one mind and move forward. Bishop Dillahunt stated that she expects the members of Council to be advocates for Mission Support.
9. December 1 is the date for the next Council meeting-come to the meeting! What does it mean to be a synod going into a Bishop's election? Bishop Gafkjen from the Indiana-Kentucky Synod has been invited to our meeting on December 1 to explain the election process.
10. Ms. Jocelyn Bennett is now filling the position of Synod Mission Interpreter. Her experience runs deep, and she knows how to tell the story. A copy of an overview of the ELCA Mission Interpretation Ministry is attached to these minutes.

Report of Auxiliaries

1. The Synod Council received the written reports from the Women of the ELCA and from the Lutheran Men in Mission.

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

The En Bloc recommendations were then reviewed. It was determined that the language used in the recommendation to approve the closing of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Washington Courthouse, Ohio, and to approve of the establishment of a new joint Lutheran Episcopal Federated Congregation at St. Andrew Episcopal Church in Washington Courthouse, Ohio, needs to be used in the Summary of En Bloc contained in the day's Agenda.

EN BLOC

VOTED:

SC.18.09.06

To approve the En Bloc Recommendations as amended. (Kimm/Miller) APPROVED.

Rostered Ministers Status

On Leave from Call

RECOMMENDATION:

- The Rev. Bonny Kinnunen, 1st yr (9/21/18)

Retired Status

RECOMMENDATION:

- The Rev. Jarl Andeer (9/1/18)

Disability Status

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Extension of Call

RECOMMENDATION:

- To extend a Synod Council call to The Rev. Karen Asmus-Alsnauer, to serve as Pastor at Resurrection Lutheran Church, in Hilliard OH, for a term call, from September 1, 2018 to September 1, 2019.
- To extend a synod council call to The Rev. Steven Rice, to serve as Advanced Chaplain Practitioner, for OhioHealth, at Riverside Methodist Hospital, Columbus OH, effective September 1, 2018.
- To extend a synod council call to The Rev. Kristin Santiago, to serve as Chaplain, at Mount Carmel Hospice and Palliative Care, in Columbus, OH, effective October 1, 2018.

Removal from the ELCA Roster

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Legal and Governance

RECOMMENDATION:

- To approve the appointment The Rev. David Buchenroth, to Oesterlen Board of Directors, effective June 2018 to June 2022.

- To approve the appointment The Rev. Rachel Tune, to Oesterlen Board of Directors, effective September 2018 to September 2022.
- To approve the appointment of Mr. Scott Haligowski to serve a second term on the board of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio, from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021.
- To approve congregation constitutions for: Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Springfield OH and St. Paul, Ironton OH.
- To approve the closing of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Washington Courthouse, OH; and to approve the establishment of a new joint Lutheran Episcopal Federated Congregation residing at the St. Andrew Episcopal site in Washington Courthouse, OH.
- To accept the closing of North Pointe Congregation, at Peace Lutheran Church, in Gahanna, effective July 1, 2018.

Other Business:

1. Ms. Christine Miller raised a question regarding Mission Support Reports received at Synod Assembly. Information was shared that the reports are generated at the ELCA offices in Chicago. The age for members is eighteen according to Ohio law. Assembly name tags were to show a member's home church but did not.
2. The deletion of the lunch expense line item in the budget begins in the next fiscal year.

VOTED:
SC.18.09.07

To adjourn the meeting with Eucharist. (Fogle/Riesbeck)
APPROVED.

The meeting was then adjourned at 1:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
 Roy E. Hart
 Synod Council Secretary

September 8, 2018
Synod Council
Bishop's Report
Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt

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

1. Welcome to Synod Council. Welcome back to some of you and welcome to our new members Mrs. Susan Wyckoff, Mr. David Drumm, Mr. Steve Fogle, Mrs. Jeni Gray, Mrs. Mary Maguire, Mr. Steve Goff, Pr. Steve Mahaffey, Pr. Rob Bork, Pr. Steve Kimm. Remember, God has called you to this council and I look forward to working with you this coming year.
2. The Bishop's office staff has been busy this summer. We have 33 vacancies, the highest in a while so our congregations are undergoing some leadership changes. The Synod Resource Team is now up and functioning in congregations with conflict, call process and where needed. Pastor Abrams will give an update at the meeting. The Stewardship Academy and Stewardship for All Seasons has continued and begun and Pastor Kerrigan will give an update at the meeting.
3. The SOS Campaign work has continued with Pr. Mike Ward and Pastors Advisory Cabinet. The case has been updated and refined and new members of PAC are fully engaged in the process. A name will soon be chosen for the Campaign and the entire synod will be brought up to date with what is happening. The Feasibility Study recommendations have become part of the strategy and we will hear from PAC at this meeting.
4. ELCA Youth Gathering was held in Houston, TX and from SOS we had over 800 participants along with a number of pastors and adults who volunteered. It was a great event and the young people I spoke to during and after the gathering were excited about what they heard and experienced during their time. Synod Day was great and I want to thank Deacon Alexander and Gary Pecuch for all their work. Synod Day rocked! Plans are beginning for Minneapolis. We were blessed by having in our group 2 students from Brazil thanks to the generosity of St. Jacob, Anna.
5. We continue our lay education opportunities throughout the territory. Lay School of Theology begins again. We had another Lay Eucharistic Minister training, in Cincinnati, in August. Since this event began last year, we have trained over 100 people. And today, we begin the SOS Lay Preaching Course taught by Rev. Dr. Jerome Taylor.
6. Congregational Vitality Collaborative has begun and Pastor Kerrigan will tell us all about it at the meeting.
7. Amazing Grace Day Camps in SOS had another grace-filled and Spirit led summer.
8. Call Process Changes. I will report to you at this meeting some of the changes we are beginning to implement in congregational call processes.
9. My work with the ELCA continues. As some of you know I currently the Chair of the Synodical and Churchwide Relations Committee for the Conference of Bishops, Represent Region 6 at the assignment table, chair for Region 6 bishops, represent the Conference of Bishops at the ELCA Foundation Board, and Region 6 Bishop at the Church Council, and represent ELCA and Bishop Eaton on the Christian Churches Together Steering Committee. Bishop Eaton has asked me to serve on a task force looking at the current Always Being Made New Campaign and studying the feasibility of a continuing ELCA campaign. So SOS is well represented on the churchwide level. I also serve on the Capital University Board.
10. The Germans are coming. September 13-16 we will host a member of our Global Companion Synod here in SOS. Thanks to the hospitality of Pr. Steve Wachtman and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbus for making this possible. On September 16-19, in Chicago, Pastor Wachtman, Pastor Abrams and I will attend a German Consultation hosted by the ELCA. Similar consultations have been held in the past in Tanzania, Brazil and Germany. This past August I did not attend the consultation in Tanzania because of financial stewardship. Thanks to the Global Mission Team for their continued ministry with us.
11. Race Relations Team continues to meet and is in the process of planning a Fall 2019 event for the territory.
12. The Opioid Joint Task Force of SOS and the Arch-Diocese of Cincinnati Roman Catholic Church, as we live out beyond Reformation 500, continues its work. Thanks to Pastor Abrams and his leadership along with Pastor Michelle Terry.

Again, I want to thank you for hearing God's call to serve on this Council and I look forward to what we can do better together as we join Jesus in the restoration of the world.