

**Southern Ohio Synod – ELCA
Synod Council Meeting
All Saints Lutheran Church
6770 North High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085
December 1, 2018**

Call to Order:

Vice President Ellis called the Synod Council meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Review and Approval of Agenda of the 12/01/2018 Meeting:

The Agenda for the day was reviewed.

VOTED:

SC.18.12.01 To approve the 12/01/2018 Agenda. (Miller/Johnsen) APPROVED.

VOTED:

**SC.18.12.02 To go into Executive Session. (Leach-Shreffler/Drumm)
APPROVED.**

The Council went into Executive Session.

VOTED:

SC.18.12.03 To return to Regular Session. (Wolfe/Fogle) APPROVED.

Vice President Ellis opened with prayer and presented devotions from the Wholeness Wheel. Focused upon emotional well being.

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

The Minutes of the 09/08/2018 meeting were reviewed.

VOTED:

**SC.18.12.04 To approve the Minutes of the 09/08/18 meeting. (Fogle/Skamfer)
APPROVED.**

Ms. Ellis introduced several guests who were attending the meeting. The guests included Bishop Bill Gafkjen from the Indiana/Kentucky Synod, Pr. Craig Richter, and Pr. Rebecca Grate, all of whom are members of the Call Process Task Force. Also in attendance at the meeting were Pr. Jonathan Bull, Mr. Chris Clothier, and Ms. Becky Witt, members of the Synod Finance Team.

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, Pr. Steve Mahaffey, Ms. Christine Miller, Mr. Kevin Pyle, Pr. Roger Quay, Mrs. Michelle Riesbeck, Mr. Steven Schnittke, Ms. Kathie Skamfer, Pr. Ralph Wolfe, and Ms. Susan Wyckoff

Members excused: Pr. Rob Bork, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Mr. Brandon Huston, Ms. Mary Maguire, Ms. Cindy Schrader, and Ms. Carol Swank

Members absent: None

Staff present: Pr. Bob Abrams, Pr. Katie Kerrigan, and Ms. Kim Uemura

Staff excused: Mr. Gary Pecuch and Ms. Susan Barton-Nonno

Staff absent: None

Reports of the Officers and Executive Committee:

Vice President 1. The Vice President opened her remarks with congregational mission and ministry giving reports.

2. Ms. Ellis then introduced Pr. Craig Richter and his work on the Call Process Task Force. Pr. Richter then addressed the council regarding the call process for office of bishop. The focus of the Task Force is on the call to the office of Bishop. Pr. Richter then introduced Bishop Bill Gafkjen from Indiana/Kentucky Synod and Chair of the Council of Bishops. He explained that discernment is an exploration of a call and of the call process. It is enormous for bishops. The call process is full of anxiety for a bishop and is packed with profound vulnerability for that person. Bishop Gafkjen shared his experience of being recalled to the office of Bishop for Indiana/Kentucky Synod. He went on to explain the role of our synod council in the call process to office of bishop for the Southern Ohio Synod. Bishop Gafkjen indicated that it is a delicate and sensitive time for synod staff persons. He indicated that there may also be others who are sensing an inner call to the office of bishop and an external call is confirmed by election process. Bishop Gafkjen closed his remarks by asking that we trust the Spirit, the council, and the bishop.

Pr. Richter then continued his presentation and asked the question of how do we also care for the bishop's staff? Pr. Richter identified all of the members of the Task Force and announced that the name of the task force

is now the “Call Process Task Force for the Election of Bishop”. Pr. Richter then explained entire process and concluded by asking for approval of the following proposed resolution, the full text of which is attached to these minutes. A great deal of discussion followed regarding the process. Finally, the question was called.

VOTED:
SC.18.12.05

To call the question. (Mahaffey/Kimm) APPROVED.

VOTED:
SC.18.12.06

To approve the recommendation of Call Process Task Force for the Election of Bishop Resolution for the External Phase with regard to the Discernment Process for the 2019 Bishop’s Election of the Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. A two-thirds vote is required as a continuing resolution. (Reisbeck/Mahaffey) APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A RECUSAL BY BISHOP DILLAHUNT. (A copy of the full text of the recommendation is attached to these minutes.)

Following the vote, Vice President Ellis declared a recess from 11:05 A.M. to 11:17 A.M.

3. Ms. Ellis commented on Vice President’s Gathering in Chicago. She reported that sensitivity issues explored by the North Carolina Synod. She also indicated that there are now 112 migrant sanctuaries that exist in the ELCA.

4. Vice President Ellis reminded the council that a Churchwide Assembly will take place next year. There will be more constitutional changes in addition to elections for the offices of the Presiding Bishop and Secretary. She explained that ecclesiastical ballots will be utilized for both elections.

5. Ms. Ellis reported that the Women and Justice Statement goes to Church Council in April, 2019 for acceptance. She stated that an interreligious policy has already been approved. Both the Statement and the Policy will be presented to the Churchwide Assembly in 2019.

Secretary

1. Mr. Hart reported that he attended the Region 6 Archives Advisory Board Meeting held September 21, 2018, at Trinity Lutheran Seminary. He explained that the Archives Board is still working through all of the administrative changes that occurred when the Trinity Lutheran Seminary became part of The Capital University.

2. The Secretary noted that at the most recent meeting of the Southern Ohio Synod Council Executive Committee, the Committee approved 2019 Housing Allowances for Bishop Dillahunt, Pr. Bob Abrams, and Pr. Jeff Wick. Bishop Dillahunt's Housing Allowance will be \$25,000; Pr. Bob Abram's Housing Allowance will be \$27,000; and Pr. Jeff Wick's Housing Allowance will be \$25,000.

Treasurer

1. Mr. Pyle noted that according to the General Fund Budget Comparison Report – February to October 2018, the Synod is in a fairly good financial position. He reported that the sale of the Bellbrook property was finally concluded. The Synod received approximately \$295,000 in net proceeds. The Treasurer suggested that Finance team recommend where to place the net proceeds. Discussion then occurred regarding various other items in the financial report.

2. Ms. Becky Witt, Chair of the Finance Team, reported that there are items of over-spending in the current budget. She noted that income must be added or expenses need to be cut in order to balance budget.

**VOTED:
SC.18.12.07**

To approve budget revisions to the 2018-2019 Mission and Ministry Plan recommended by Finance Team by \$10,000, to add \$2,000 to the Synod Council Line Item with added miscellaneous income to balance the Mission and Ministry Plan. (Fogle/Miller) APPROVED. (A copy of the full text of the recommendation is attached to these minutes.)

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. Thanks to the Call Process Task Force for the Election of Bishop for its work to date.
2. Thanks to Pr. Schriber for his work on Council and good wishes were extended to him in his retirement.
3. The Bellbrook property has been sold, and a check has been received by the Synod for the net sum of \$297,500.00. The Finance Team has been asked to provide the Synod Council with a recommendation as to where to place the proceeds.
4. Linden, Columbus, has changed its name to The Church on Oakland Park in order to give them a new start. The congregation has not closed.

5. Years ago, First, Dayton, had been placed under Synod Administration. This appears to be in name only as they are capable of governing themselves and handling their own assets (that they have handled all along). Bishop Dillahunt recommends that First, Dayton, be removed from Synod Administration.
6. The office building upstairs has been cleaned up and is now ready to rent. The Synod has rented out one of the available parking spaces.
7. Candidacy is in transition. Pr. Steve Kimm has been assisting the Bishop regarding the activities of the Candidacy Committee since the Southern Ohio Synod disaffiliated itself from the Multi-Synodical Candidacy Committee, effective January 1, 2019. Discussion ensued.

Prayer was then offered by Pr. Bob Abrams prior to the lunch recess.

Vice President Ellis declared a recess for lunch at 12:03 PM.

Vice President Ellis then reconvened the meeting at 12:43 PM.

8. The Capital Campaign now has a name. It is the Thrive! Campaign. The goal is to raise \$1.2 million. Pr. Steve Mahaffey is now serving on Pastors Advisory Cabinet, and the campaign activities are encouraging. The Campaign will be reaching out to congregations. The Campaign has already received significant seed money.
9. Pr. Abrams reported that Congregational Resource Team which was created at last Synod Assembly is now up and running with congregations.
10. Pr. Abrams asked council members to attend Addiction Task Force meeting to be held February 19, 2019. There will be a charge of \$20.00 per pastor, deacon, and members of synod council.
11. Pr. Kerrigan informed the Council about Stewardship Team activities. She indicated that letters regard Mission Support have been mailed out, and some pledges have already come back. She is pleased with the results so far.

12. Pr. Kerrigan provided the Council with information about The Collaborative project. She explained that it is a revitalizing effort. Training has taken place and the trainees have returned to the various congregations to begin congregational revitalizing efforts. Pr. Kerrigan has been asked by ELCA to be a part of a national revitalizing effort as well.

Report of Auxiliaries

1. The Synod Council received the written reports from the Women of the ELCA and from the Lutheran Men in Mission. Mr. Drumm and Ms. Wyckoff elaborated upon their respective reports for the benefit of the members of the Council.

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.

EN BLOC

VOTED:

SC.18.12.08

**To approve the En Bloc Recommendations. (Schnittke/Quay)
APPROVED.**

Rostered Ministers Status

On Leave from Call

RECOMMENDATION:

- The Rev. Brent Cavendish, 2nd yr (11/30/17)
- The Rev. Kevin Dudley, 1st yr (7/1/18)
- Deacon Mary Lasits, 1st yr (11/12/18)

Retired Status

RECOMMENDATION:

- The Rev. Robert Miller (2/1/18)

Disability Status

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Extension of Call

RECOMMENDATION:

- To extend a Synod Council call to The Rev. Lisa Bernheisel, to serve as a part time Associate Pastor at St. Timothy Episcopal Church, in Cincinnati OH, effective December 10, 2018.
- To extend a Synod Council call to The Rev. Neil Cadle, to serve as Hospice Chaplain at Marietta Home Health and Hospice, in Marietta OH, effective October 1, 2018.

Removal from the ELCA Roster

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Legal and Governance

RECOMMENDATION:

- To accept the resignation of Pr. Jonathan Schriber from Synod Council.
- To approve First Lutheran Church, Dayton OH to come off synod administration
- To appoint the following, for a 5 year term beginning January 2019 to January 2024, for Southern Ohio Synod Candidacy Committee: Rev. Stephen Kimm, Rev. Laura Leach-Shreffler, Rev Carey Hovland, Mrs. Linda Schnittke, Dr. Thomas Haugsby, Dr. Thomas Taylor, and Rev. Dr. Jerome Taylor.

Information:

- Name change of Linden Lutheran Church, Columbus OH to The Church on Oakland Park, Columbus, OH.

Other Business: 1. None

VOTED:

SC.18.12.09 To adjourn the meeting with Eucharist. (Miller/Wolfe) APPROVED.

The meeting was then adjourned at 1:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy E. Hart
Synod Council Secretary

**Resolution for the External Phases with regard to the Discernment Process for
the 2019 Bishop's Election of the Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America**

WHEREAS, the ELCA Required Provision †**S18.31** of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states:

†**S18.31.** This synod may adopt continuing resolutions not in conflict with this constitution or its bylaws. Such continuing resolutions may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Synod Assembly or by a two-thirds vote of Synod Council. Newly adopted continuing resolutions and amendments to existing continuing resolutions shall be reported to the secretary of this church;

WHEREAS, Provision **S9.04** of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states:

S9.04. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot;

WHEREAS, all processes with regard to the discernment process for the 2019 Bishop's Election of the Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America cannot be in conflict with †**S18.31** and **S9.04**;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the 2019 Southern Ohio Synod Call Process Task Force for the Office of Bishop recommends for adoption the following four (4) External Phases with regard to the Discernment Process for the 2019 Bishop's Election of the Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

- I. **First Phase - Many Members, One Body of Christ**
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:6-16; 1 Corinthians 12:1-14:12
Timeline: March 6 - April 26, 2019

February 28: Synod Assembly Registration Opens. Devotional materials are distributed to the congregations of the Southern Ohio Synod.

March 6: Devotional materials begin for the congregations of the Southern Ohio Synod.

April 2: Discernment Forms are distributed to congregations. Congregations fill out Discernment Forms for individuals they would like to be considered for nomination on the First Ballot. [Note: Nominations are not official until the First Nominating Ballot at the 2019 Southern Ohio Synod Assembly.]

April 26: Names for Congregational Discernment Forms are due to the Synod Office by the end of the day local Synod time.

II. Second Phase - Many Gifts, One Body of Christ

Scripture: Joshua 1:1-9; Matthew 28:18-20; Titus 1:7-8

Timeline: April 27 - May 10, 2019

April 27: Synod Council meets together. Discernment Forms may begin to be submitted to Southern Ohio Synod Office.

May 10: Completed Discernment Forms are due to Southern Ohio Synod Office by end of the local Synod time.

Part A: For congregations to continue discernment about gifts for the next Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod.

Part B: For individuals who have submitted their names on a discernment form or have had their names submitted by congregations on a discernment form.

(Note: Parts A & B will run concurrently.)

III. Third Phase - Specific Gifts, One Body of Christ

Scripture: Luke 24:13-33

Timeline: May 11 - June 8, 2019

May 23: Bulletin of Reports (with submitted & completed Discernment Forms) distributed.

IV. Fourth Phase - Sent Together as the Body of Christ

Congregational Scripture: John 20:21-23; Matthew 28:18-20

Bishop's Scripture: Exodus 18:13-27; 2 Timothy 1:13-14

Timeline: June 9-into the future, 2019

Part A: For congregations to continue doing the work God has set before us.

Part B: For the individual called to serve as Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA.

(Note: Parts A & B will run concurrently.)

The Synod Finance Team recommends the follow actions be taken by Synod Council at their meeting on December 1, 2018:

1. Amend the 2019/2020 Mission & Ministry Plan for the following:
 - a. Add \$5,000 to the line item for Synod Assembly.
 - b. Add \$2,000 to the Technology Services line item.
 - c. Decrease the Congregational Redevelopment line item by \$1,000 to a total of \$15,000.
 - d. Add a line item for the Bishop's Discernment Task Force in the amount of \$2,000.
2. The Finance Team also recommends that the Synod Council review the Synod Council line item and either re-affirm the \$0 budget amount for the 2019/2020 plan year, or revise the amount as it sees fit.

Becky Witt, Chair – Synod Finance

Synod Council Report
December 1, 2018
Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt

1. Thank you for the prayers of concern for Pastor Wick. He continues to recuperate at home and appreciates your thoughts and prayers. The transition for Pastor Abrams occurred more quickly than any of us anticipated but it is going well. Both Pastor Abrams and Pastor Kerrigan have stepped up and done what is necessary for the ministry of this synod. Thank you to the two of them.
2. We are also transitioning Candidacy. Thank you to Pastor Steve Kimm for the assistance! We welcome Rev. Dr. C. Lynn Nakamura for stepping into the Interim Candidacy position beginning January 2019. More information at our meeting about the Tri-Synod Candidacy Committee and the SOS Committee.
3. VP Marj Ellis and Pastor Craig Richter will explain to Council about the Bishop Discernment Task Force as we look to the 2019 Synod Assembly. Assembly is June 7-8, 2019 at Wittenberg University. Thanks to Council members who said yes to serving.
4. Pastors Advisory Cabinet continues its work on the Thrive! Campaign (yes we have a name) and our consultant Pastor Mike Ward has been a great partner assisting us with the Prospectus and plans for the roll out and structure of the campaign.
5. We have a realtor working with us for the leasing of the upstairs. He is a member of St. Paul, Westerville.
6. Yay! The Bellbrook property is almost sold. More at the meeting.
7. The first Collaborative Cohort Event was held at Bethel Lutheran, Grove City. Pastor Kerrigan will give a brief report on the event. Pastor Rob Bork is one of the Collaborative Team members.
8. Pastor Abrams will give us an update on the work of the SOS Resource Team.
9. Changes are happening for the ministries at First Lutheran, Dayton and Linden Lutheran, Columbus. You will be voting to affirm the name change of Linden to The Church on Oakland Park and removing the Synod Administration status of First.
10. It is with sadness but joy, that we accept the resignation of Pastor Jon Schriber from Synod Council. Pastor Schriber has decided to retire from St. John Lutheran Church in Sidney on January 31, 2019. He wants to enjoy retirement and has also decided to resign from Synod Council. Executive Committee will bring a name for your appointment to the January 2019 meeting. Thank you Pastor Schriber for your ministry and service to the synod.

Thank you all for your continued service and ministry in Southern Ohio. We are indeed Stronger and Better Together....Joining Jesus in the Restoration of the World.