

**Minutes of the Twenty-Eighth Synod Assembly  
of the  
Southern Ohio Synod  
of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**Theme:**

**We are Church Together... Building Up the Body of Christ...**

**What Does the Lord Require of Us?**

**Biblical Text: Micah 6:8**

**Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center  
100 Green Meadows Blvd.  
Lewis Center, Ohio**

**June 1-2, 2018**

**June 1, 2018 Morning Session**

**Opening of Assembly**

Bishop Suzanne D. Dillahunty opened the Synod Assembly at 9:35 AM. She then extended welcoming words to the members and guests of the Assembly as well as some housekeeping matters.

**Report of the Credentials Committee**

Bishop Dillahunty introduced Rev. Robert Swanson, Chairperson of the Elections Committee upon whom she called to provide the members of the Assembly with a Credentials Report. Rev. Swanson reported that at 9:30 A.M. there were 95 voting clergy members present and 122 other voting members present, including lay male, lay female, diaconal ministers, associates in ministry, and synod council members, for a total of 217 voting members. In addition, 21 non-voting members were present for a total of 238 Synod Assembly participants, both voting and non-voting. Bishop Dillahunty thereupon declared that a quorum existed to conduct the business of the Synod.

## **Approval of the 2018 Assembly Agenda**

### **VOTED**

#### **SA.18.06.01**

**To approve the pre-assembly printed agenda for the 2018 Assembly. (Moved by Synod Council and Seconded)  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **Adoption of Rules of Procedure for the 2018 Synod Assembly**

### **VOTED**

#### **SA.18.06.02**

**To adopt the Rules of the Procedure for the 2018 Synod Assembly (Moved by Synod Council and Seconded)  
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **Voting Procedures**

Rev. Robert Swanson provided the voting members with the procedures for voting on matters coming before the Assembly.

## **Words of Welcome**

Bishop Dillahunt extended words of welcome to Mr. Nick Kiger, this year's ELCA Representative. Mr. Kiger is the Associate Director for Mission Support with the ELCA Churchwide expression. The Bishop also extended words of welcome to Mr. Folabi Olagbaju who is the Director of Outreach for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. In addition, Bishop Dillahunt extended a warm welcome to Rev. Dr. Jerome Taylor, the Assembly's Keynote Speaker.

## **Greetings from Trinity Lutheran Seminary**

The Bishop then introduced Rev. Dr. Kathryn A. Kleinhans, Dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University. In her address, Dr. Kleinhans stated that she was excited about the expanded programs of Word and Service at the Seminary and about the Two Plus Two M. Div. program recently created at the Seminary.

Dr. Kleinhans asked the Assembly members: 1) to lift up candidates in the church; 2) to consider additional financial support for the Seminary; and 3) to pray for the Seminary and its students.

Dr. Kleinhans then concluded her remarks and thanked the Assembly for its attention.

Bishop Dillahunt introduced the members of the Synod Council and Rev. Craig Richter, the Parliamentarian for the Synod Assembly.

### **Nominations Committee Report**

The Bishop introduced Mrs. Michelle Riesbeck and Rev. Jonathan Schriber, Co-Chairs of the Nominations Committee.

Rev. Jeff Wick, Assistant to the Bishop and member of the Committee reported that Mr. Josh Amstutz and Ms. Kate Ellison are both to be added to Churchwide elections ballot.

It was further reported that terms for the synod council positions up for election this year vary because there was no Synod Assembly held in 2017. The affected members of Synod Council were reappointed by Synod Assembly Resolution SA16.6.3 for one year to prevent otherwise naturally-occurring vacancies between the 2016 and 2018 Synod Assemblies.

Ms. Michelle Riesbeck reported that the nominees will be presented at the June 2 Session of the Assembly.

### **Reference and Counsel Committee Report**

Bishop Dillahunty called Rev. Bob Abrams to the podium and introduced him as the Chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee. Rev. Abrams reported that the Reference and Counsel Committee has received no proposed resolutions but resolutions may still be presented to the Secretary by 3:00 PM on June 1.

The Bishop then took time to welcome the workshop leaders and vendors to the assembly.

### **Report of Synod Council Treasurer and Finance Team**

Bishop Dillahunty then introduced Mr. Kevin Pyle, Synod Council Treasurer, to the podium who, in turn, introduced the members of the Finance Team. The members include Rev. Jonathan Bull, Rev. Katie Kerrigan, Ms. Joy Hacker, Ms. Becky Witt, and Mr. Chris Clothier.

The Treasurer reported that the Synod is estimating \$1,805,000 in income and the same for expenses for the 2019-2020 Mission and Ministry Plan. Ms. Becky Witt then presented the 2019-2020 Mission and Ministry Plan in greater detail. She stated that the team wanted to be realistic and was committed to a balanced budget. The team considered potential salary increases as the Synod staff has not received any significant increases since 2014. The team also evaluated the operating expense structure and investigated opportunities to reduce costs while simultaneously keeping Southern Ohio Synod partner support levels the same.

Rev. Jonathan Bull then presented information regarding the income sources for the Mission and Ministry Plan. He reported that additional income is clearly needed. He also reported that 96% of the Mission and Ministry Plan income comes from congregations. He also reported that the team is committed to forwarding 40% of the

Synod's Mission and Ministry income to the Churchwide expression of the church. Rev. Bull asked the Assembly members to carefully consider their "first fruits" gifts and exhorted the members to be faithful together.

Mr. Chris Clothier then presented information to the Assembly regarding the expense side of the Mission and Ministry Plan. He reported that Disaster Support was removed from the Plan. He noted that expenses were generally increasing. Mr. Clothier closed his remarks by stating that 46% of the Synod's income is given to Churchwide and the Synod's partners.

### **Keynote Address by Rev. Dr. Jerome Taylor What Does the Lord Require of Us?**

Bishop Dillahunt then took the opportunity to introduce Rev. Dr. Jerome Taylor to the members of the Assembly.

Dr. Taylor commenced his address by reviewing Micah 6:8. He went on to say that we have the choice to give our lives to sin or to Jesus. His theme for his study was the case of "The People of God vs. God". Dr. Taylor compellingly explained that God created his covenant with the people and demanded strict compliance from them but the people felt that that God did not treat them rightly because they forgot what God did for them in the past. God knew that right behavior by the people would come from their compliance with the covenant. The people did not comply, and ultimately Jesus came to the people to accept punishment on their behalf in order to reconcile the people to God. Dr. Taylor wove the concept of justice into his address by stating that everyone matters when it comes to justice. If we want justice, we need to do justice and action is called for. God is not interested in our sacrifices but rather in the attitudes of people. God wants action, not just prayers. Dr. Taylor concluded his remarks and received a standing ovation.

### **Report of the Race Relations Task Force**

The Task Force based its report on 1 John 4:18. The Task Force used an unconventional method to drive home the point that Race Matters by asking many thought-provoking questions involving racial discrimination.

### **What Does the Lord Require of Us?**

The Bishop then introduced Rev. Katie Kerrigan to the Assembly members. Rev. Kerrigan is the Director of Evangelical Mission for the Synod. She stated, "What is required is that we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God". Good stewardship is living well together. Stewardship is a reflection of our relationships and

relationships are vitally important. She spoke at length about development and redevelopment ministries throughout the Southern Ohio Synod that depend upon healthy stewardship and good relationships.

### **Report of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services**

Bishop Dillahunt then welcomed Mr. Folabi Olagbaju, Director of Outreach for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services to the podium to speak about the church's Immigration and Refugee Services. He asked that our government deal with immigrants and refugees with compassion; to bring hope to those immigrants and refugees. We are all immigrants and we are all called to this mission. The government now appears to be jeopardizing immigration. Mr. Olagbaju ended his remarks with the question, "What is God calling us to do with regard to immigrants and refugees?"

Ms. Susan Barton-Nonno, the Assembly Manager, provided the members with the details and procedures regarding lunch, workshops, dinner, and worship.

The Bishop then led the Assembly in a Hymn and Table Prayer was offered by Rev. Emily Beckering, the Assembly Chaplain.

Bishop Dillahunt then declared the Assembly in recess at 12:15 PM until 8:50 AM on June 2.

### **June 2, 2018 Morning Session**

Bishop Suzanne D. Dillahunt opened the June 2 morning session at 9:00 A.M. with prayer offered by Rev. Emily Beckering and song.

### **Report of the Credentials Committee**

Rev. Robert Swanson reported that at 8:50 A.M. there were 105 voting clergy members present and 136 other voting members present, including lay male, lay female, diaconal ministers, associates in ministry, and synod council members, for a total of 241 voting members.

## **Report of the Nominations Committee**

Bishop Dillahunt introduced Ms. Michelle Riesbeck who is currently serving the Synod as the Chair of the Nominations Committee.

The Bishop then made the following nominations on behalf of the Synod Council and stated the position for which each person has been nominated. After the nominees for each position were identified, Bishop Dillahunt called for additional nominations from the floor. Receiving no additional nominations for any of the positions as each position was announced, Bishop Dillahunt individually declared the nominations for each position closed. Those positions are as follows:

### **Synod Council, Central Ohio – Lay Male (Term 2018-2021)**

Mr. Clinton Elmore

Mr. Steve Goff

### **Synod Council, Central Ohio – Clergy (Term 2018-2021)**

Rev. Mark Wildermuth

Rev. Ralph Wolfe

### **Synod Council – Vice President (Term 2018-2022)**

Ms. Marjorie Ellis (Central Ohio)

### **Synod Council, Cincinnati – Lay Female (Term 2018-2022)**

Ms. Cynthia Schrader

Ms. Mary Higgs

### **Synod Council, Dayton – Clergy (Term 2018-2022)**

Rev. Steve Kimm

Rev. Monte Stevens

### **Synod Council, Dayton – Lay Female (Term 2018-2022)**

Ms. Jeni Gray

Ms. Melanie Powderly

**Synod Council, Muskingum – Lay Male (Term 2018-2021)**

Mr. Steve Schnittke

Mr. Doug Smith

**Synod Council, Scioto – Lay Female (Term 2018-2021)**

Ms. Rebecca Clark

Ms. Carol Swank

Ms. Janis Lane

**Synod Council, At Large – Lay Male (Term 2018-2021)**

Mr. Steve Fogle (Cincinnati)

Mr. Bennett Whitaker (Central Ohio)

**Synod Council, At Large – Lay Female (Term 2018-2021)**

Ms. Peri Bonner (Northwest)

Ms. Mary Maguire (Muskingum)

The Bishop then made the following nominations on behalf of the Synod Council and stated the position for which each person has been nominated. After the nominees for each position were identified, Bishop Dillahunt called for additional nominations from the floor. The Bishop received the nomination of Rev. Anders Tune from the floor for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly, Northwest – Clergy, and thereafter closed nominations for that position. Receiving no additional nominations for any of the remaining positions as each position was announced, Bishop Dillahunt individually declared the nominations for each of the remaining positions closed. Those positions are as follows:

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Central Ohio – Clergy**

Rev. Aaron Lane

Rev. Mark Wildermuth

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Central Ohio – Lay Female**

Ms. Kriss Buss

Ms. Gabrielle Hudecek

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Cincinnati – Clergy**

Rev. Matt Byrd

Rev. Joe Schrock

Rev. Laura Leach-Shreffler

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Cincinnati – Lay Male**

Mr. Dennis Lucking

Mr. Dan Rimstidt

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Dayton – Clergy**

Rev. Carey Hovland

Rev. Brian Whitton

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Dayton – Lay Female**

Ms. Linda Lally

Ms. Jane Lane

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Muskingum – Clergy**

Rev. Ken Hacker

Rev. Catrina Hawkins-Bowles

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Muskingum – Lay Female**

Ms. Christiane Calvert

Ms. Linda Hollingsworth

Ms. Linda Schnittke

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Northwest – Clergy (As the nomination of Rev. Anders Tune was received from the floor during this session, the vote on this position will be taken during the normal second ballot during the afternoon session to allow time to for the Assembly members to consider the biographical information provided by Rev. Tune.)**



Rev. Steve Gellatly

Rev. Larry Novak

Rev. Anders Tune

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Northwest – Lay Male**

Mr. Kermit Dorsey

Mr. Doug Ware

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Scioto – Clergy**

Rev. Brian Dillahunt

Rev. Jeremy Hollingshead

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Scioto – Lay Male**

Mr. Jon Hale

Mr. Mike Johnsen

**2019 Churchwide Assembly – Lay Male Under 30**

Mr. Josh Amstutz

Mr. Matthew Hazzard (Central Ohio)

**2019 Churchwide Assembly – Lay Female Under 30**

Ms. Kate Ellison

Ms. Emma Southward (Central Ohio)

Rev. Emily Beckering was called upon to provide the Assembly with prayer prior to the elections.

**Report of the Elections Committee**

Rev. Robert Swanson reported that the First Ballot elections for the various positions were then held and the results are as follows:

**Synod Council, Central Ohio – Lay Male (Term 2018-2021)**

Mr. Clinton Elmore	66	
Mr. Steve Goff	129	Elected

**Synod Council, Central Ohio – Clergy (Term 2018-2021)**

Rev. Mark Wildermuth	89	
Rev. Ralph Wolfe	118	Elected

**Synod Council – Vice President (Term 2018-2022)**

Ms. Marjorie Ellis (Central Ohio)	Elected by acclamation
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**Synod Council, Cincinnati – Lay Female (Term 2018-2022)**

Ms. Cynthia Schrader	142	Elected
Ms. Mary Higgs	54	

**Synod Council, Dayton – Clergy (Term 2018-2022)**

Rev. Steve Kimm	105	Elected
Rev. Monte Stevens	100	

**Synod Council, Dayton – Lay Female (Term 2018 -2022)**

Ms. Jeni Gray	111	Elected
Ms. Melanie Powderly	90	

**Synod Council, Muskingum – Lay Male (Term 2018-2021)**

Mr. Steve Schnittke	109	Elected
Mr. Doug Smith	91	

**Synod Council, Scioto – Lay Female (Term 2018-2021)**

Ms. Rebecca Clark	40	
Ms. Carol Swank	109	Elected
Ms. Janis Lane	51	

**Synod Council, At Large – Lay Male (Term 2018-2021)**

Mr. Steve Fogle	(Cincinnati)	115	Elected
Mr. Bennett Whitaker	(Central Ohio)	90	

**Synod Council, At Large – Lay Female (Term 2018-2021)**

Ms. Peri Bonner	(Northwest)	90	
Ms. Mary Maguire	(Muskingum)	108	Elected

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Central Ohio – Clergy**

Rev. Aaron Lane	123	Elected
Rev. Mark Wildermuth	86	

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Central Ohio – Lay Female**

Ms. Kriss Buss	67	
Ms. Gabrielle Hudecek	147	Elected

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Cincinnati – Clergy**

Rev. Matt Byrd	38	
Rev. Joe Schrock	82	
Rev. Laura Leach-Shreffler	92	

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Cincinnati – Lay Male**

Mr. Dennis Lucking	74	
Mr. Dan Rimstidt	126	Elected

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Dayton – Clergy**

Rev. Carey Hovland	147	Elected
Rev. Brian Whitton	66	

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Dayton – Lay Female**

Ms. Linda Lally	112	Elected
Ms. Jane Lane	96	

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Muskingum – Clergy**

Rev. Ken Hacker	69	
Rev. Catrina Hawkins-Bowles	145	Elected

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Muskingum – Lay Female**

Ms. Christiane Calvert	53	
Ms. Linda Hollingsworth	92	
Ms. Linda Schnittke	60	

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Northwest – Lay Male**

Mr. Kermit Dorsey	76	
Mr. Doug Ware	127	Elected

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Scioto – Clergy**

Rev. Brian Dillahun	128	Elected
Rev. Jeremy Hollingshead	87	

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Scioto – Lay Male**

Mr. Jon Hale	107	Elected
Mr. Mike Johnsen	99	

**2019 Churchwide Assembly – Lay Male Under 30**

Mr. Josh Amstutz	81	
Mr. Matthew Hazzard (Central Ohio)	125	Elected

## **2019 Churchwide Assembly – Lay Female Under 30**

Ms. Kate Ellison	73	
Ms. Emma Southward (Central Ohio)	132	Elected

Rev. Robert Swanson, the Chair of the Elections Committee, declared the First Ballot Election closed.

Bishop Dillahunt then requested that Vice President, Marjorie Ellis, assume the Chair of the Assembly for the duration of the Bishop's Report. The Vice President assumed the Chair and introduced Bishop Suzanne D. Dillahunt who thereupon presented her report to the Synod Assembly.

### **Report of the Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod**

Bishop Dillahunt's written reports to the Synod for the years 2017 and 2018 are contained in the Pre-Assembly materials available to each of the voting members; and the following represents the verbal highlights and information supplementing the Bishop's written report.

The theme of her report is about relationships and how we are connected with each other and with God to share the Good News. We do it humbly and not for individual fame. Together with Jesus we are stronger and better together. The Synod partners with educational facilities and social services. Together, the synod and the congregations, we are church. We are called to raise up leaders—both rostered and lay. The Bishop asked each of the Assembly members to identify potential leaders and invite them into conversation, discernment, and prayer, and conversation with the Bishop, to determine if they are to be a possible seminary candidate.

Bishop Dillahunt proceeded to welcome those rostered leaders new to the Synod and recognized the many milestones and anniversaries in the Synod since the last Synod Assembly. Those welcomed and recognized include:

### **NEW TO THE SYNOD**

Rev. Raymond Branstiter	Deacon Mary Lasits
Rev. Matthew Byrd	Rev. Dale Linder
Rev. Dr. James Childs	Deacon Elaine Malzahn
Rev. Howard Clevenger	Rev. Alyssa Mazzei
Rev. Rudolph Featherstone	Rev. Larry Novak
Rev. Bradley Gee	Rev. Katie Osweiler
Rev. Rebecca Grate	Rev. Dr. Stefan Rickman
Rev. Lawrence Grunden	Rev. Sherri Schafer

Rev. Harold Hasenauer  
Rev. Wayne Hoedt  
Rev. Jeremy Hollingshead  
Rev. Alex Hoops  
Rev. Anthony Katko  
Rev. Jodi Keith

Rev. J. Lindsay Shaner  
Rev. David Shull  
Rev. Dr. Jerome Taylor  
Deacon Nancy Trimble  
Rev. Andrew Tucker  
Rev. Brian Whitton

#### **2017 – 25<sup>th</sup> ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES**

Rev. Larry Baker  
Rev. Jonathan Bull  
Rev. Brent Cavendish  
Rev. Laura Cavendish  
Rev. Peter Kruse  
Rev. Mark Nodo  
Rev. Ronald Shreffler  
Rev. Monte Stevens  
Rev. Stephen Wachtman

#### **2017 – 50<sup>th</sup> ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES**

Rev. Darryl Adams  
Rev. Stephen Foster  
Rev. Donald Hare  
Rev. Robert Heinlein  
Rev. Albert Laese  
Rev. Lawrence Myers  
Rev. David Schroeder  
Rev. Merlyn Seitz  
Rev. Calvin Sigmon

#### **2017 – 60<sup>th</sup> ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES**

Rev. George Hartman  
Rev. Robert Kelley  
Rev. Rudolph Kolberg

#### **2017 – 65<sup>th</sup> ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY**

Rev. William Schmidt, Jr.

## **2018 – 25<sup>th</sup> ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES**

Rev. Logan Dysart  
Rev. June Fryman  
Rev. Bonny Kinnunen  
Rev. Joseph Wolf, Jr.

## **2018 – 40<sup>th</sup> CONSECRATION ANNIVERSARY**

Deacon Mary Hughes

## **2018 – 50<sup>th</sup> ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES**

Rev. Walter Arnold  
Rev. Dennis Asp  
Rev. Nelson Meyer  
Rev. Peter Rudowski  
Rev. Richard Walston

## **2018 – 60<sup>th</sup> ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES**

Rev. Richard Faust  
Rev. Gerald Jacobson  
Rev. Hermann Kuhlmann, Jr.

## **2017 CONGREGATIONAL ANNIVERSARIES**

50<sup>th</sup> Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Columbus  
50<sup>th</sup> St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Enon  
75<sup>th</sup> Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbus  
100<sup>th</sup> Ascension Lutheran Church, Columbus  
125<sup>th</sup> St. Paul Lutheran Church, Columbus  
125<sup>th</sup> Trinity Lutheran Church, Englewood  
150<sup>th</sup> Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, New Lexington  
175<sup>th</sup> First English Lutheran Church, Cincinnati  
175<sup>th</sup> First English Lutheran Church, Lancaster  
175<sup>th</sup> New Lebanon Lutheran Church, Junction City  
175<sup>th</sup> St. John Lutheran Church, Logan  
200<sup>th</sup> Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Roseville

## 2018 CONGREGATIONAL ANNIVERSARIES

50<sup>th</sup> Bethel Lutheran Church, Grove City  
50<sup>th</sup> Galilee Lutheran Church, Russells Point  
175<sup>th</sup> Covenant Lutheran Church, Saint Paris  
175<sup>th</sup> Zion Lutheran Church, Hamilton  
200<sup>th</sup> Good Hope Lutheran Church, Glenford  
200<sup>th</sup> St. Paul Lutheran Church, Glenford

The Bishop recognized the excellent work of Jennifer Long Morehart, ELCA Region 6 Archivist.

Bishop Dillahunt also recognized the members of the Synod Staff who do the day-to-day work of the Synod, including Rev. Bob Abrams, Rev. Katie Kerrigan, Rev. Jeff Wick, Mr. Gary Pecuch, Ms. Gabrielle Hudecek, Ms. Susan Barton-Nonno, and Ms. Kim Uemura.

The Bishop then returned to the theme of her report:

### **What Does the Lord Require of Us?**

Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.

We must evaluate how we do church and change according to the Bishop. The church is part of our culture. We need to change the way we think about how we do church. Out of that evaluation process was born the idea of a Capital Campaign with a feasibility study.

Bishop Dillahunt then introduced Mr. Mike Ward who reported that fifty synod-wide people were interviewed about a feasibility study. He reported that there is a strong sense that the synod needs to be sustained, and in doing so, he recited highlights of the survey.

The Bishop also reported that Synod Council agreed to pursue the campaign based upon the results of the feasibility study. She indicated that a Pastor's Advisory Cabinet had been created to support the campaign. Then members of the Pastor's Advisory Cabinet spoke to the Assembly in support of the Capital Campaign including Rev. Barry Scott, Rev. Larry Donner, Rev. Gil Santiago, and Rev. Bonnie Gerber.

### **What Does the Lord Require of Us?**

Rev. Robert Abrams was introduced to the Assembly by Bishop Dillahunt as a member of the Synod staff. He then addressed the Assembly. He is excited to share that the Southern Ohio Synod Resource Team has been newly created. The purpose of the Team is to help our leaders see the larger picture. Team was trained at ELCA Systems



Academy. Rev. Abrams indicated that it is useful to understand how churches work. Rev. Abrams has been the Southern Ohio Synod participant in the ELCA Systems Academy since 2015. Because of his long-standing involvement in the ELCA Systems Academy, Rev. Abrams will become the new leader of the Resource Team. The team members were recognized and commissioned.

### **What Does the Lord Require of Us?**

Bishop Dillahunty then introduced Mr. Gary Pecuch to the Assembly. Mr. Pecuch is the Youth and Family Coach for the Southern Ohio Synod. Mr. Pecuch reported that about 800 youth will attend and represent the Southern Ohio Synod at the Youth Gathering in Houston later this year.

Mr. Pecuch said that he frequently is asked, “How can we help to create a better youth culture in our congregation?” Mr. Pecuch recited several stories about kids who are products of spiritual guidance.

At the conclusion of the Bishop’s Report, Vice President Ellis handed the gavel back to Bishop Dillahunty for the remainder of the Assembly.

A table prayer was offered by Rev. Emily Beckering prior to the lunch recess.

Bishop Dillahunty declared a recess in the proceedings until 2:15 PM.

### **June 2, 2018 Afternoon Session**

Bishop Dillahunty reconvened the afternoon session at 2:15 P.M., and Rev. Emily Beckering opened the session with prayer.

### **Report of the Credentials Committee**

Rev. Robert Swanson announced that at 2:15 PM., there were 84 voting clergy members present and 124 other voting members present, including lay male, lay female, diaconal ministers, associates in ministry, and synod council members, for a total of 208 voting members.

### **Report of the Synod Council Secretary**

Bishop Dillahunt then called upon Mr. Roy E. Hart, Synod Council Secretary, to present the Secretary's Report.

Mr. Hart reported that the 2016 Synod Assembly minutes were reviewed by the Synod Council at its April, 2017, meeting and approved with corrections by the Synod Council at its July, 2017, meeting. The minutes are available for review on the Synod website.

He also stated that since the adjournment of the 2016 Synod Assembly, the following rostered leaders have joined the Church Triumphant:

Rev. Dr. Donald Fritz, Sr. (December 10, 2016)

Rev. David Jarvis-Schroeder (January 11, 2017)

Rev. Paul Meuser (January 22, 2017)

Rev. Eldor Panning (March 29, 2017)

Rev. Philip Barnhart (May 25, 2017)

Rev. Dr. Herbert Neve (June 12, 2017)

Rev. Charlotte Anderson (July 8, 2017)

Rev. Fred Bernlohr (October 17, 2017)

Rev. Hilbert Piel (November 23, 2017)

Rev. Leslie Schulz (January 20, 2018)

Rev. James Heil (January 31, 2018)

Rev. Jack Welch

Rev. Edward Winter

Mr. Hart then reported that since the adjournment of the 2016 Synod Assembly, the following rostered leaders have retired:

Rev. Thomas Heil (September 1, 2016)

Rev. Robert Ward (September 1, 2016)

Rev. Kenneth Witt (October 1, 2016)

Rev. Carol Geselman (December 1, 2016)

Rev. Robert Skipper, Jr. (January 1, 2017)

Rev. George Gaston (January 1, 2017)

Rev. Ronald Wean (January 1, 2017)

Rev. Michael Althaus (February 1, 2017)  
Rev. James Christian (February 1, 2017)  
Rev. Denise Edwards (April 1, 2017)  
Rev. Timothy Kuenzli (May 1, 2017)  
Rev. David Westphal (June 1, 2017)  
Rev. Robert Barger (September 1, 2017)  
Rev. Robert Ashburn (October 16, 2017)  
Rev. James Wilson (November 1, 2017)  
Rev. Fredrick Cook (November 1, 2017)  
Rev. Michael Havey (November 1, 2017)  
Rev. Robert Akins (January 1, 2018)  
Rev. Carl Rayburn (February 1, 2018)  
Rev. Susan Nelson (May 1, 2018)  
Rev. Eric Moehring (May 1, 2018)  
Rev. Ronald Shreffler  
Rev. John Michles (January 1, 2018)  
Rev. Bruce Quatman (May 1, 2018)  
Rev. Janet Hatch (April 1, 2018)

Mr. Hart then stated that since the adjournment of the 2016 Synod Assembly, the following congregations have closed:

St. Jacob, Tarlton (December 11, 2016)  
Faith, Springfield (July 9, 2017)  
Roselawn, Cincinnati (December 19, 2017)  
St. Paul, Dayton (December 31, 2017)

The Secretary reported that since the adjournment of the 2016 Synod Assembly, the following congregations have disaffiliated from the ELCA:

Salem, West Alexandria (March 15, 2016)  
Christ the King, Centerville (August 21, 2016)

Grace, Westerville (November 6, 2016)

Mr. Hart then thanked the Bishop and the members of the Assembly for their attention and concluded his report.

### **Report of the Synod Council Treasurer**

Bishop Dillahunt then introduced Mr. Kevin Pyle, Synod Council Treasurer, to the Assembly. Mr. Pyle presented the 2019-2020 Southern Ohio Synod Mission and Ministry Plan recommended by the Synod Council and asked the Assembly to approve the plan.

#### **VOTED**

#### **SA.18.06.03**

**To approve the 2019-2020 Southern Ohio Synod Mission and Ministry Plan. (Recommended by Synod Council and Seconded) APPROVED.**

### **Report of Elections Committee**

Rev. Robert Swanson, Chair of the Elections Committee, reported that a second ballot is required for two elections from the Morning Session, and a first ballot is required because of the nomination from the floor.

The results from the Morning Session are as follows:

#### **2019 Churchwide Assembly, Cincinnati – Clergy**

Rev. Matt Byrd	38
Rev. Joe Schrock	82
Rev. Laura Leach-Shreffler	92

#### **2019 Churchwide Assembly, Muskingum – Lay Female**

Ms. Christiane Calvert	53
Ms. Linda Hollingsworth	92
Ms. Linda Schnittke	60

The first ballot election is as follows:

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Northwest – Clergy**

Rev. Steve Gellatly

Rev. Larry Novak

Rev. Anders Tune

Balloting for the three elections then took place and the results are as follows:

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Cincinnati – Clergy**

Rev. Joe Schrock	82	
Rev. Laura Leach-Shreffler	93	Elected

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Muskingum – Lay Female**

Ms. Linda Hollingsworth	97	Elected
Ms. Linda Schnittke	72	

The first ballot election is as follows:

**2019 Churchwide Assembly, Northwest – Clergy**

Rev. Steve Gellatly	23	
Rev. Larry Novak	91	Elected
Rev. Anders Tune	58	

Thereupon, the elections were closed.

**Report of the Constitution Committee**

Bishop Dillahunty then introduced Rev. Craig Richter, Chair of the Constitution Committee, who reported on the required constitutional mandates. He explained that various updates to the ELCA Constitution had been made at the last Churchwide Assembly, and because of those updates, various mandatory updates to the Southern Ohio

Synod now must occur. The full text of the mandatory updates to the Southern Ohio Synod is contained in the Pre-Assembly materials made available to each of the voting members of the Assembly.

**VOTED**

**SA.18.06.04**

**To approve the Southern Ohio Synod Constitution changes mandated as a result of the actions of the last Churchwide Assembly. (Recommended by Synod Council and Seconded). APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Report from the 2018 ELCA Representative**

Mr. Nick Kiger, Associate Director of Mission Development for the ELCA, was introduced to the members of the Assembly by Bishop Dillahun.

Mr. Kiger provided the members with a video regarding Mission Support and related statistical information. He emphasized how the ELCA uses Mission Support funds. Mr. Kiger underscored that 40% of all Mission Support funds used by the ELCA is received from the synods. The Southern Ohio Synod also gives to ELCA through the leadership that the synod provides. Mr. Kiger then introduced Ms. Jan Borchers as the Coordinator of the Mission Interpreter Ministry. She stated that she often is able to see the ministries which use the Mission and Ministries funds. She then recited several stories about how the use of the funds affects the lives of people.

Mr. Kiger concluded his remarks with a video message from Presiding Bishop Eaton.

**Report of the Compensation Guidelines Task Force**

Bishop Dillahun introduced Rev. Jeff Wick, Assistant to the Bishop, who presented timely and up to date information to the members of the Assembly regarding the 2019-2020 Compensation Guidelines that the Southern Ohio Synod Compensation Task Force recommended to the Synod Council for its consideration. Rev. Wick then asked the members of the Assembly for its support.

**VOTED**

**SA.18.06.05**

**To approve the 2019-2020 Compensation Guidelines. (Recommended by Synod Council and seconded). APPROVED**

### **Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee**

Rev. Robert Abrams reported that the committee received a resolution in a timely fashion from the Assembly floor. The issue for the Assembly is to determine whether or not to consider the resolution. In either case, Rev. Abrams reminded the Assembly that a 2/3 vote would be required. After reviewing the proposed resolution, the Reference and Counsel Committee recommends that the Assembly consider the proposed resolution. The full text of the proposed resolution is attached to these minutes. During the floor discussion, Rev. Calvert explained the basis for the proposed resolution.

#### **VOTED**

**SA.18.06.06**

**To consider the proposed resolution. (2/3 vote required.)  
(Motion and Second received from the floor of the Assembly)  
APPROVED. (Yes- 141 votes. No- 29 votes.).**

Discussion about the proposed resolution followed.

#### **VOTED**

**SA.18.06.07**

**To approve the proposed resolution. (2/3 vote required.)  
(Motion and Second received from the floor of the Assembly)  
APPROVED. (Yes- 153 votes. No- 17 votes.).**

### **Report and Greetings from Portico**

Portico supplied a video presentation to the Assembly regarding healthcare benefits and retirement benefits that it provides to rostered leaders and lay employees.

### **Recognition of Outgoing Synod Council Members and Installation of Current Synod Council**

Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Deborah Ashenhurst, Mrs. Robin Kaelin, Mr. Ronald Moder, Ms. Melody Powderly, Mr. James Renshaw, Rev. Robert Swanson, and Mr. Bennett Whitaker, were recognized by Bishop Dillahunt as the out-going members of the Synod Council. She thanked everyone for their dedicated and tireless work for the benefit of the Synod and the greater Church. The Bishop then installed the current Southern Ohio Synod Council with its newly-elected members in order to begin its work for the next year.

### **Expression of Thanks**

Finally, the Bishop expressed her thanks and gratitude to the many, many, individuals who devoted countless hours to making sure that the Synod Assembly took place as efficiently and as seamlessly as possible.

Bishop Dillahunt led the Assembly in a closing hymn, and at 3:35 P.M., the Bishop declared the 2018 Synod Assembly closed.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy E. Hart  
Secretary of the Southern Ohio  
Synod Council



## RESOLUTION FORM

Whereas research has shown family relationships are critical to children's development in all areas, including brain development, social/emotional development, cognitive and physical development as well as self-identity.

Whereas currently families coming to the USA seeking refugee status may be separated from each other, with children being placed in the care of others, not their families, leaving children, the most vulnerable in society, without family support.

Whereas the mission statement of the Southern Ohio Synod is 'Stronger and Better Together...Joining Jesus in the Restoration of the World', and whereas we are called as God's people to "Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly" (Micah 6:8).

Therefore be it resolved that this Assembly urge the congregations of the Southern Ohio Synod to appeal to their congressional representatives expressing their concern regarding the injustice of the separating of children from their families seeking refugee status in the United States of America.

Submitted by  
Christi Calvert  
Ron Calvert  
From St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Marietta, Ohio