

**Southern Ohio Synod – ELCA  
Synod Council Meeting  
All Saints Lutheran Church  
6770 North High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085  
January 26, 2019**

Call to Order:

Vice President Ellis called the Synod Council meeting to order at 9:43 AM.

Review and Approval of Agenda of the 01/26/2019 Meeting:

The Agenda for the day was reviewed.

**VOTED:**

**SC.19.01.01            To approve the 01/26/2019 Agenda. (Miller/Schnittke) APPROVED.**

Vice President Ellis opened with devotions from the Faith in Action booklet. A story was read and then the Council members focused upon two issues in small groups: 1. Identify the passion that motivated the people in the story, and 2. What new idea for ministry does this story inspire? The members then shared the responses with the whole group.

Bishop Dillahunt then opened the meeting with prayer.

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

The Minutes of the 12/01/2018 meeting were reviewed.

**VOTED:**

**SC.19.01.02            To approve the Minutes of the 12/01/18 meeting. (Drumm/Reisbeck) APPROVED.**

Bishop Dillahunt introduced several guests who were attending the meeting. The guests included Mr. Chris Clothier, Ms. Joy Hacker, and Ms. Becky Witt, members of the Synod Finance Team.

Roll Call:

Members present: Pr. Rob Bork, Bp. Suzanne D. Dillahunt, Mr. David Drumm, Ms. Marjorie Ellis, Mr. Steve Fogle, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Mr. Steve Goff, Ms. Jeni Gray, Mr. Roy E. Hart, Pr. Laura Leach-Shreffler, Pr. Steve Mahaffey, Ms. Christine Miller, Mr. Kevin Pyle, Pr. Roger Quay, Mrs. Michelle Riesbeck, Mr. Steven Schnittke, Ms. Cindy Schrader, Ms. Kathie Skamfer, Ms. Carol Swank, and Ms. Susan Wyckoff

Members excused: Mr. Brandon Huston, Mr. Mike Johnsen, Pr. Steve Kimm, Ms. Mary Maguire, and Pr. Ralph Wolfe

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:

Treasurer 1. Mr. Pyle stated that the Finance Team met and now makes four recommendations to the Synod Council. Discussion of the recommendations then took place.

The four recommendations are:

1. To move \$100,000.00 from the Living Christ Fund, a Synod Council designated fund, to unrestricted funds. Purpose: to provide positive unrestricted assets available at the end of the year.

2. Allow the carryover of Synod staff educational allowance from year to year. Purpose: to provide adequate staff educational funding on a more flexible schedule.

3. Clarify the Council's intentions of Synod contribution to the Thrive! campaign in SC 18.04.06.

Original wording: "To authorize that during the period of May 2018 through December 2020, at least fifty percent (50%) of the proceeds of unrestricted, unexpected gifts to the Southern Ohio Synod will be allocated to the campaign."

The recommendation is to revise as follows: "To authorize that during the period of May 2018 through December 2020, fifty percent (50%) of the proceeds of unrestricted and unexpected gifts from non-congregational sources be contributed to the campaign." Purpose: addresses issues identified by Synod staff in applying Council direction.

4. Designate 10% of the sale proceeds from the Bellbrook property from the Living Christ council-designated fund to the Thrive! Council-designated fund. Purpose: demonstrate Synod commitment to the campaign.

**VOTED:**

**SC.19.01.03**

**To approve the four recommendations brought to the Synod Council from the Finance Team. (Swank/Quay) APPROVED.**

2. Finance Chair, Becky Witt, reported brought Two Mission and Ministry plan recommendations to the Council. The first plan is in response to Council's request at the Council's December 2018 meeting to reevaluate the current 2019-2020 Mission and Ministry plan in order to reduce the Synod's reliance upon miscellaneous income to reach a balanced budget. Ms. Witt reported that additional evaluation was conducted and additional increases/decreases in the line items were identified and incorporated into the 2019-2020 plan in order to reach a balanced budget. The second plan is the proposed 2020-2021 Mission and Ministry plan intended to be acted upon at the 2019 Synod Assembly. The plan incorporates increases in salary for staff which have not occurred for many years, identifies known and measurable changes in other line items, and maintains the same Southern Ohio Synod partner support levels. Ms. Witt closed her remarks by saying that the Synod, by receiving expected income by January 31, 2019, will finish strong.

Discussion ensued regarding the two Mission and Ministry Plans. The full text of the recommended amendments to the 2019-2020 Mission and Ministry plan and the recommended 2020-2021 Mission and Ministry plan are attached to these Minutes.

**VOTED:**

**SC.19.01.04 To approve the Revised 2019-2020 Mission & Ministry Plan. (Fogle/Leach-Schreffler) APPROVED.**

**VOTED:**

**SC.19.01.05 To approve the presentation of the proposed 2020-2021 Mission & Ministry Plan to the Synod Assembly in June, 2019. (Swank/Miller) APPROVED.**

3. The Treasurer then noted that the Southern Ohio Synod is one of the most consistent and generous synods in the ELCA.

Vice President 1. Ms. Ellis opened her remarks with information regarding ELCA Nominations Workbook that was distributed to each member of Council. She said that the ELCA is always looking for persons to fill positions on councils, boards, and churchwide committees. The workbook is designed to assist the ELCA Nominating Committee fulfill its mission in nominating persons for election at Churchwide Assemblies.

2. The Vice President shared with the members of Council the monthly Mission Support given to the ELCA by each synod for the month of October, 2018 and for the year to date from each synod.

3. Ms. Ellis called upon Mr. Steve Fogle to update the Council on the activities of The Call Process Task Force for the Office of Bishop. Mr. Fogle stated that the Task Force is up and running. The Task Force has divided itself into two subcommittees. One subcommittee is



working on devotional material which is scheduled to be distributed to congregations in February. The other subcommittee is working on the discernment process culminating in the identification of persons to be nominated for the Office of Bishop.

Secretary

1. Mr. Hart stated that he had no report.

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. We celebrate with Mr. Richard Freudenberger as he has now finished his classwork and will shortly begin his internship program and CPE.

2. Bishops' Convocation is scheduled to take place on March 11, 2019, at Holy Trinity, Columbus.

3. At Synod Assembly this year, Gary Pecuch and Deacon Dan Jacob are putting together a young people's event which will occur simultaneously with Synod Assembly. Plans are being made to intentionally overlap the events so it will not be a surprise to see various young people drop in on the Assembly.

4. Pr. Katie Kerrigan then spoke to Council about the synod stewardship activities. The Stewardship For All Seasons program is now up and running through the Synod's consultant, Gronlund Sayther Brunkow. Two Southern Ohio Synod congregations have tested the waters and both congregations reported very successful stewardship results. The comments of the two congregations have included statements that the program cost has been the best \$2000.00 spent so far. Pr. Kerrigan is suggesting the development of one or two new cohorts to also take advantage of the stewardship program. An informational meeting about the Stewardship For All Seasons program is scheduled to take place on February 20, 2019, at Synod Office. Pr. Kerrigan is very excited about the reviews and results.

5. Pr. Kerrigan reported that approximately 30% of the synod's congregations have returned estimates of giving to support the 2020-2021 Mission and Ministry Plan. The Stewardship Team is also working hard to encourage returns. She stated that over all, most congregations will maintain their level of Mission Support or will accept or surpass the financial challenge given to each of the congregations by the Synod. The returns, thus far, have been encouraging.

6. Bishop Dillahunt then focused on the Thrive! Campaign by calling upon Pr. Steve Mahaffey who then talked about the new brochure describing the campaign. He indicated that Thrive! has been a long process to date. He stated that there are five goals that the campaign is designed to support. Those goals include Equipping Lay Leaders, Raising Up Leaders for Smaller Congregations, Strengthening Rostered Ministers, Launching New

Congregations, and Enhancing Worship Practice. Pr. Mahaffey indicated that all of the Pastor's Advisory Council members have made commitments to the campaign. Synod Council members are now being asked to make commitments to the Campaign. Pr. Mahaffey shared with the Synod Council that \$125,000.00 has already been pledged to the campaign even before the campaign has officially been launched!

Vice President Ellis then had the members of Council break out into small discussion groups to discuss the five goals of the campaign. Upon returning to the larger group, it appeared that all five of the goals of the campaign were exciting to the members of the Council. Commitment packets were then distributed to each member of the Synod Council.

7. The Bishop was pleased to report that the Southern Ohio Candidacy Committee is now up to eight members with the addition of Mrs. Josselyn Bennett to the Committee now under the leadership of Dr. C. Lynn Nakamura and Pr. Steve Kimm.

8. Pr. Bob Abrams informed the Synod Council that there will be a joint special training event with the Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati on February 19, 2019, which will focus on The Addiction Crisis. So far, over 200 people have registered for the event and will be attending. Pr. Abrams also indicated that the Congregational Resource Team is up and running.

9. Bishop Dillahunt then focused upon a newly-formed collaborative of five Southern Ohio Synod congregations located in Lancaster, Ohio. The collaborative is called Lancaster Lutherans Together. She indicated that it is now the second collaborative to be formed in the Synod. The first collaborative was formed about ten years ago in the Dayton, Ohio area and it is called Lutheran Saints in Ministry. The Bishop is excited about the creation of Lancaster Lutherans Together which was formed among the congregations not just to survive but to actually thrive. Pr. Roger Quay then described the history, purpose, and mission of Lancaster Lutherans Together. Pr. Bob Abrams is now also meeting with two other congregations to do something similar.

10. The Bishop was excited to announce that the Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, will attend the 2019 Synod Assembly as the ELCA Representative.

#### 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.**



Prayer was then offered by Pr. Roger Quay prior to the lunch recess.

Vice President Ellis declared a recess for lunch at 11:55 A.M.

Vice President Ellis then reconvened the meeting at 12:35 PM.

The En Bloc recommendations were then reviewed and amended.

**EN BLOC**

**VOTED:**

**SC.19.01.06 To approve the En Bloc Recommendations as amended.  
(Skamfer/Miller) APPROVED.**

**Rostered Ministers Status**

On Leave from Call

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Retired Status

RECOMMENDATION:

- The Rev. Herbert Maxwell (1/1/19)
- The Rev. Jonathan Schriber (2/1/19)

Disability Status

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Extension of Call

RECOMMENDATION:

- To extend a synod council call to Deacon Rachel Lammi, to serve as Associate of the Director of Worship and the Arts, at Kettering Seventh Day Adventist Church, in Dayton OH, effective January 26, 2019.

Affirmation and Renewal of Appointment of Synod Authorized Ministers

RECOMMENDATION:

- To affirm the appointment of Synod Authorized Ministers; Ms. Gabrielle Hudecek, Pr. Alvin McCay, Mr. John Meister, Ms. Patti Morrow, and Mr. John Rushmeyer.

Affirmation and Renewal of Synod Council Calls (A11)

RECOMMENDATION:

- To affirm synod council calls: Pr. Robert Abrams, Deacon Nicholas Bates, Pr. Lisa Bernheisel, Pr. Neil Cadle, Pr. Elizabeth Clothier, Deacon Tammy Eady, Pr. Leslie Fox, Deacon Jennifer Frantz, Pr. Callon Holloway,

Deacon Daniel Jacob, Deacon Elaine Malzahn, Deacon Rebecca Mastalerz, Deacon Diane Montgomery, Pr. Ipyana Mwakabonga, Pr. Sally Padgett, Pr. Tracy Paschke-Johannes, Chap. Steven Rice, Pr. Kristin Santiago, Deacon Linda Sprick-Kruse, Pr. Alexander Sumo, Pr. Robert Swanson, Pr. Andrew Tucker, Chap. Patricia Vargas-Standish, Chap. Julija Volfa, Pr. Larry Welin, Chaplain Ronald Calvert, Pr. Rachel Tune, and Pr. Anders Tune.

Removal from the ELCA Roster  
RECOMMENDATION: N/A

**Legal and Governance**

RECOMMENDATION:

- To approve congregation constitutions for:
  - Messiah Lutheran Church, Urbana OH
  - St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Marietta OH
- To appoint Ms. Josselyn Bennett to the Southern Ohio Synod Candidacy Committee.
- To appoint SOS Audit Team: Pr. Rob Bork, Mr. Chris Clothier, Mr. Steve Goff, Pr. Peter Ray, Pr. Gil Santiago.

**Other Business:**

1. Bishop Dillahunt then reported that at the April Synod Council meeting, the Council will take up a "Noisy Offering" to be contributed to the Thrive! Campaign.

**VOTED:**  
**SC.19.01.07**

**To contribute 100% of the "Noisy Offering" collected at the April, 2019 Synod Council meeting to the Thrive! Campaign. (Pyle/Bork) APPROVED.**

Bishop Dillahunt then declared the meeting adjourned with Eucharist.

The meeting was then adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy E. Hart  
Synod Council Secretary

Southern Ohio Synod of the ELCA  
Mission & Ministry Plan

INCOME	Mission & Ministry Plan 2018-2019 REVISED	2018-2019 ESTIMATE	2018-2019 ESTIMATE PERCENT	Mission & Ministry Plan 2019-2020 12/1 REVISION	Mission & Ministry Plan 2019-2020 PROPOSED REVISIONS	Mission & Ministry Plan 2020-2021 PROPOSED
<b>GENERAL FUND INCOME</b>						
1 Mission Support	1,740,000	1,640,000	94%	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,740,000
2 Interest Income	2,500	3,400	136%	4,000	6,000	6,000
3 ELCA Shared Staff Support	10,000	10,000	100%	10,000	10,000	10,000
4 Building Income	37,000	19,000	51%	37,000	20,000	40,000
5 Oklahoma Farmland	1,000	12,000	1200%	1,000	1,000	1,000
6 Gifts Designated for SOS	35,000	40,000	114%	40,000	40,000	40,000
7 Miscellaneous Income	0	5,000		23,000	14,000	13,800
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME</b>	<b>1,825,500</b>	<b>1,729,400</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>1,815,000</b>	<b>1,791,000</b>	<b>1,850,800</b>



Southern Ohio Synod of the ELCA  
Mission & Ministry Plan - Page 2

EXPENSES	Mission & Ministry Plan 2018-2019 REVISED	2018-2019 ESTIMATE	2018-2019 ESTIMATE PERCENT	Mission & Ministry Plan 2019-2020 12/1 REVISION	Mission & Ministry Plan 2019-2020 PROPOSED REVISIONS	Mission & Ministry Plan 2020-2021 PROPOSED
<b>MISSION &amp; MINISTRY</b>						
8 ELCA Mission Support	696,000 0.40	656,000 0.40	94%	680,000 0.40	680,000 0.40	696,000 0.40
<b>Outreach Ministries &amp; Support</b>						
9 Congregational Redevelopment	16,000	16,000	100%	15,000	15,000	20,000
<b>Total Outreach Ministries &amp; Support</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<b>Affiliates &amp; Partnership</b>						
10 Capital University	600	600	100%	600	600	600
11 Wittenberg University	600	600	100%	600	600	600
12 Trinity Lutheran Seminary	15,200	15,200	100%	15,200	15,200	15,200
13 Region VI	9,000	8,700	97%	9,000	9,000	9,000
14 Planned Giving	10,000	9,166	92%	10,000	10,000	10,000
15 Lutheran Disaster Response Ohio	10,000	10,000	100%	0	0	1,000
<b>Total Affiliates &amp; Partnership</b>	<b>45,400</b>	<b>44,266</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>35,400</b>	<b>35,400</b>	<b>36,400</b>
<b>Ecumenical</b>						
16 Ohio Council of Churches	1,000	1,000	100%	1,000	1,000	1,000
17 Ecumenical Participation	1,000	0	0%	1,000	1,000	500
<b>Total Ecumenical</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>TOTAL MISSION &amp; MINISTRY</b>	<b>759,400</b>	<b>717,266</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>732,400</b>	<b>732,400</b>	<b>753,900</b>

Southern Ohio Synod of the ELCA  
Mission & Ministry Plan - Page 3

EXPENSES	Mission & Ministry Plan 2018-2019 REVISED	2018-2019 ESTIMATE	2018-2019 ESTIMATE PERCENT	Mission & Ministry Plan 2019-2020 12/1 REVISION	Mission & Ministry Plan 2019-2020 PROPOSED REVISIONS	Mission & Ministry Plan 2020-2021 PROPOSED
<b>FAITH FORMATION</b>						
Youth & Family						
18 Youth & Family Program	12,000	6,000	50%	10,000	10,000	10,000
19 LOMO - Amazing Grace Program	12,400	12,400	100%	12,400	12,400	12,400
20 LOMO Direct Grant	20,200	20,200	100%	20,200	20,200	20,200
<b>Total Youth and Family</b>	<b>44,600</b>	<b>38,600</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>42,600</b>	<b>42,600</b>	<b>42,600</b>
<b>SOS - Campus Ministry</b>						
21 Jacob's Porch, OSU	25,200	25,200	100%	25,200	25,200	25,200
22 Ohio University	10,200	10,200	100%	10,200	10,200	10,200
23 Miami University, Oxford	10,200	10,200	100%	10,200	10,200	10,200
<b>Total SOS - Campus Ministry</b>	<b>45,600</b>	<b>45,600</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>45,600</b>	<b>45,600</b>	<b>45,600</b>
<b>TOTAL FAITH FORMATION</b>	<b>90,200</b>	<b>84,200</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>88,200</b>	<b>88,200</b>	<b>88,200</b>
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>						
Leadership Development & Support						
24 Candidacy	15,500	14,000	90%	10,000	14,000	14,000
25 First Call Retreat	1,500	340	23%	1,500	1,500	1,500
<b>Total Leadership Development &amp; Support</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>14,340</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>15,500</b>	<b>15,500</b>
<b>Synod Leadership</b>						
26 Synod Council	2,000	1,500	75%	2,000	2,000	2,000
27 Synod Assembly	10,000	3,588	36%	5,000	5,000	5,000
28 Committees & Task Forces	400	200	50%	400	400	400
29 Bishop's Discernment Task Force	0	0		2,000	2,000	0
30 Meals & Hospitality (Leadership)	8,500	5,200	61%	5,000	5,000	5,000
31 Bishop's Discretionary Fund	3,000	3,000	100%	1,000	1,000	1,000
<b>Total Synod Leadership</b>	<b>23,900</b>	<b>13,488</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>15,400</b>	<b>15,400</b>	<b>13,400</b>
<b>TOTAL LEADERSHIP</b>	<b>40,900</b>	<b>27,828</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>26,900</b>	<b>30,900</b>	<b>28,900</b>

Southern Ohio Synod of the ELCA  
Mission & Ministry Plan - Page 4

EXPENSES	Mission & Ministry Plan 2018-2019 REVISED	2018-2019 ESTIMATE	2018-2019 ESTIMATE PERCENT	Mission & Ministry Plan 2019-2020 12/1 REVISION	Mission & Ministry Plan 2019-2020 PROPOSED REVISIONS	Mission & Ministry Plan 2020-2021 PROPOSED
<b>MISSION &amp; MINISTRY COORDINATION</b>						
Technology						
32	Technology Applications	7,400	5,300	72%	7,000	6,000
33	Technology Services	9,000	11,000	122%	10,000	10,000
34	Technology Improvements	2,000	2,000	100%	2,000	1,000
	<b>Total Technology</b>	<b>18,400</b>	<b>18,300</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>
Office Operations						
35	Bank Service Charges	5,000	4,800	96%	6,000	5,000
36	Office Supplies	10,000	9,000	90%	10,000	9,000
37	Postage	5,500	4,500	82%	5,500	5,000
38	Telephone & Internet Access	10,500	12,500	119%	13,000	13,500
39	Equipment Rental & Repair	21,000	17,000	81%	15,000	17,000
40	Meals & Hospitality (Office)	5,000	3,400	68%	3,000	3,000
41	Insurance	5,000	2,500	50%	3,000	3,000
42	Legal Services	5,000	0	0%	2,000	2,000
43	Accounting & Auditing Fees	46,000	47,000	102%	46,000	48,000
	<b>Total Office Operations</b>	<b>113,000</b>	<b>100,700</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>103,500</b>	<b>105,000</b>
Building Expenses						
44	Building Maintenance	20,000	21,000	105%	20,000	20,000
45	Building Improvements	5,000	5,000	100%	5,000	5,000
46	Building Insurance	7,000	6,500	93%	7,000	7,000
47	Janitorial Expenses	9,000	8,600	96%	9,000	9,000
48	Utilities	12,000	7,800	65%	12,000	7,500
49	Building Taxes	3,100	2,800	90%	5,000	3,000
50	Mortgage Interest Expenses	17,500	16,100	92%	15,000	13,500
	<b>Total Building Expenses</b>	<b>73,600</b>	<b>67,800</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>73,000</b>	<b>66,500</b>



Southern Ohio Synod of the ELCA  
Mission & Ministry Plan - Page 5

EXPENSES	Mission & Ministry Plan 2018-2019 REVISED	2018-2019 ESTIMATE	2018-2019 ESTIMATE PERCENT	Mission & Ministry Plan 2019-2020 12/1 REVISION	Mission & Ministry Plan 2019-2020 PROPOSED REVISIONS	Mission & Ministry Plan 2020-2021 PROPOSED
<b>Synod Staff</b>						
51 Bishop & Assistant Salaries	285,000	286,000	100%	285,000	285,000	292,000
52 Supplemental & Support Salaries	192,000	192,000	100%	192,000	192,000	197,000
53 Portico Benefits	187,000	186,500	100%	204,000	193,000	208,000
54 Payroll Taxes & Expenses	17,000	16,000	94%	17,000	16,000	17,000
<b>Total Synod Staff</b>	<b>681,000</b>	<b>680,500</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>698,000</b>	<b>686,000</b>	<b>714,000</b>
<b>Staff Expenses</b>						
55 Automobile Expenses	24,000	16,000	67%	24,000	16,000	18,000
56 Auto Loan Interest	1,500	650	43%	1,500	500	300
57 Automobile Depreciation/Replacement	21,000	21,600	103%	16,500	22,000	25,000
58 Continuing Education	5,000	2,500	50%	5,000	5,000	5,000
59 Travel	26,000	22,500	87%	26,000	22,500	25,000
60 Professional Expenses	1,000	1,000	100%	1,000	1,000	1,000
<b>Total Staff Expenses</b>	<b>78,500</b>	<b>64,250</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>74,000</b>	<b>67,000</b>	<b>74,300</b>
<b>TOTAL MISSION &amp; MINISTRY COORDINATION</b>	<b>954,500</b>	<b>931,550</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>967,500</b>	<b>939,500</b>	<b>979,800</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,855,000</b>	<b>1,760,844</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>1,815,000</b>	<b>1,791,000</b>	<b>1,850,800</b>
<b>NET GENERAL FUND INCOME/(LOSS)</b>						
<b>BEFORE DEPRECIATION/UNBUDGETED</b>	<b>(29,500)</b>	<b>(31,444)</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Synod Council Report  
Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt  
April 26, 2019

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

1. Welcome to 2019! I do hope you all had a great Christmas and New Years and are ready for the work ahead of us for 2019. I am excited about the ministry possibilities in this mission territory. I hope you all saw the Note to the Synod letting the congregations and rostered ministers know about my intention to stand for renewal of call for bishop. The Bishop Discernment Task Force continues its work and you will hear more details at the meeting.
2. Synod Assembly planning continues. Several of you have "volunteered" to assist Susan and the planning team and we appreciate your willingness to serve. There will be ample opportunities for your help. The Theme: *Stronger and Better Together... On the Way* based on Luke 24 the Emmaus story. Our Bible Study Leader is Mr. Cory Driver. Mr. Driver has been called to serve part time in the Indiana Kentucky Synod and my hope is that we will be able, in the fall, to work with IN-KY synod and Cory to assist us in Leadership over site. More on that this summer. At our meeting I will announce who the ELCA representative will be for Assembly. I can tell you I am very excited!
3. I am happy to announce that Mrs. Josselyn Bennett has agreed to join the SOS Candidacy Committee. You will approve her appointment at the meeting. This will bring the committee membership up to 8 and at their most recent meeting they determined terms of service. Dr. Lynn Nakamura began as the Interim Candidacy Coordinator and is finding her way. Thanks to Pastor Steve Kimm for his help in this transition time.
4. Stewardship and Mission Support update for 2019. We are making progress receiving Statements of Intent. (Pastor Kerrigan will give a full report).
5. We have a second Ministry Collaborative. Lancaster Lutherans Together have signed a covenant of agreement and are working together in mission. The first collaborative is Lutheran Saints in Ministry in Fairborn. (Pastor Quay can tell us all about it).
6. February 19 is the joint Arch Diocese of Cincinnati and Southern Ohio rostered ministers event dealing with the opioid addiction crisis. This event has also been offered to the Indiana-Kentucky Synod as well.
7. I am happy to say that Deacon Dan Jacob from Wittenberg University along with Gary Pecuch are planning an event to coincide with the assembly for youth.
8. I will give a report on Thrive! (the campaign) at the meeting. Thanks to Pastors Gerber and Santiago for their leadership of the PAC. More at the meeting.
9. At the April meeting we will be busy....Mission and Ministry Plan adoption (2020-21), Audit team and Mr. Chuck Mullens attending, last minute assembly stuff so please make sure you are attending the meeting on April 27!

I know this report is shorter than normal but more information will be given at the meeting. By now you know that I feel it is important to have verbal reports. At the April meeting you will also have a preliminary staffing plan for the fall. Pastor Wick continues to recover from surgery and the rest of the Bishop's Team is doing what they can to cover the bases of ministry in the synod.

Thanks again for your leadership!