

Southern Ohio Synod – ELCA
Synod Council Meeting
All Saints Lutheran Church
6770 North High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085
April 27, 2019

Call to Order:

Vice President Ellis called the Synod Council meeting to order at 9:41 AM.

Ms. Ellis then opened the meeting with prayer.

Review and Approval of Agenda of the 04/27/2019 Meeting:

The Agenda for the day was reviewed.

VOTED:

SC.19.04.01 To approve the 04/27/2019 Agenda. (Quay/Miller) APPROVED.

Vice President Ellis opened with devotions from the Faith in Action booklet. A story was read regarding “the Widow’s Might” from the Gospel of Mark, and then the Council members focused upon four questions in small groups. The members then shared the responses with the whole group.

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

The Minutes of the 01/26/2019 meeting were reviewed.

VOTED:

SC.19.04.02 To approve the Minutes of the 01/26/19 meeting. (Johnsen/Skamfer) APPROVED.

Roll Call:

Members present: Pr. Rob Bork, Bp. Suzanne D. Dillahunt, Mr. David Drumm, Ms. Marjorie Ellis, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Mr. Steve Goff, Ms. Jeni Gray, Mr. Roy E. Hart, Mr. Mike Johnsen, Pr. Steve Kimm, Ms. Christine Miller, Mr. Kevin Pyle, Pr. Roger Quay, Mrs. Michelle Riesbeck, Mr. Steven Schnittke, Ms. Kathie Skamfer, and Pr. Ralph Wolfe

Members excused: Mr. Steve Fogle, Mr. Brandon Huston, Pr. Laura Leach-Shreffler, Ms. Mary Maguire, Pr. Steve Mahaffey, Ms. Cindy Schrader, Ms. Carol Swank, and Ms. Susan Wyckoff

Members absent: None

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

Staff excused: None

Staff absent: None

Reports of the Officers and Executive Committee:

- Vice President
1. Ms. Ellis reported that there are 14 candidates now identified for the position of ELCA Secretary.
 2. A social statement on Violence against Women will be considered and voted upon at the upcoming Churchwide Assembly.
 3. Nominee partners are needed from council for the next Synod Assembly to assist the Bishop nominees through the election process when the nominees are reduced to seven.
 4. Call Process Task Force information was presented by Pr. Craig Richter. The Discernment and Devotional subcommittees were created and each subcommittee focused on either discernment or devotions. Pr. Richter explained nomination and election process as well as the Synod Assembly Rules of Procedure.

VOTED
SC.19.04.03

To adopt the Rules of Procedure for the 2019 Synod Assembly (Schnittke/Kimm) APPROVED.

5. Pr. Richter then talked about an election flowchart developed by Mr. Steve Fogle. He discussed all of the balloting procedures for the election of Bishop.

Treasurer

1. Mr. Pyle introduced Mr. Chuck Mullens from Apple Growth Partners who then presented the Auditor's Report. Apple Growth Partners determined that the financial statements of the Synod present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Synod as of January 31, 2019 and 2018 without qualifications. Mr. Mullens explained that the opinion expressed is the best opinion that can be given. Mr. Chris Clothier from the Synod Finance Team explained that an internal controls audit was also performed and the Synod was found to be in good shape. **Informational note:** Mr. Clothier stated that Finance team recommends that Apple Growth Partners be retained for 2019 Audit.

The Treasurer then thanked the Audit and Finance Teams for their work. Mr. Pyle explained that the audit report will be part of the preassembly materials that are to be distributed to the Synod Assembly voting members.

2. Mr. Chris Clothier presented information from the Finance Team citing revenue shortfall. He explained that the shortfall resulted from inclement weather in January and from the tenant vacating the leased space in the Synod building. In spite of the challenging financial picture, Mr. Clothier and the Finance Team recommended that the 2019-2020 Mission and Ministry Plan be presented to the Synod Assembly for approval. Other financial matters were presented to the Synod Council by Mr. Clothier, among them included the marketing of the upstairs space at Synod Office. The upstairs will be difficult to market because there is no elevator in the building.

3. Treasurer Pyle then presented the February 2019 to March 2019 Financial Reports. The reports show that the Synod has lost \$17,190.73 year-to-date.

VOTED
SC.19.04.04

To approve the Apple Growth Partners Audit and to insert the audit into the 2019 preassembly materials. (Finance Team/Wolfe) APPROVED

Vice President,
continued

6. Pr. Richter then turned his attention to the proposed Synod Assembly Agenda as contained in the En Bloc considerations. Discussion occurred regarding matters in the agenda that needed to be adjusted.

VOTED
SC.19.04.05

To remove the 2019 Synod Assembly Agenda from En Bloc consideration. (Wolfe/Johnsen) APPROVED.

VOTED
SC.19.04.06

To approve an edited 2019 Synod Assembly Agenda for the Synod Assembly. (Pyle/Miller) APPROVED.

Vice President Ellis then declared a recess at 11:10 AM

Vice President Ellis reconvened the meeting at 11:18 AM

Secretary

1. Mr. Hart brought the Minutes of the 2018 Synod Assembly to the Synod Council for its consideration and approval. The Minutes were reviewed.

VOTED:

SC.19.04.07

**To approve the Minutes of the 2018 Synod Assembly. (Skamfer/Bork)
APPROVED.**

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. Bishop Dillahunt reported that Pr. Gil Santiago and Pr. Bonnie Gerber are the Co-Chairs of the Pastors Advisory Committee and that the Committee has grown to 12-16 persons. The Committee has produced two videos to present at the Synod Assembly. Pr. Larry Donner has been appointed as the Thrive Campaign Chairman. To date, the Synod has received \$133,331.01 in individual pledges.

2. Pr. Kerrigan reported that the Stewardship For All Seasons program has been confirmed through a testimonial from participants, Pr. Steve Kimm and Peace, Beavercreek. Pr. Kerrigan is developing cohorts for 2019 and six congregations are currently enrolled.

Prayer was offered by Pr. Bob Abrams.

Vice President Ellis declared a recess for lunch at 12:08 PM.

Vice President Ellis reconvened the meeting at 12:52 PM.

3. The Bishop reported that the Race Relations Task Force has been active in planning several events during this Spring. She stated that "Seeing Race Through Faith" is an opportunity to engage in dialogue, to ask questions, and to help improve our understanding about race.

4. The Nominations Committee has been working diligently, and thanks goes to Mrs. Michelle Riesbeck for chairing the committee.

5. Bishop Dillahunt reported that there have been no resolutions submitted by the March 15 deadline to the Reference and Counsel Committee.

6. The Synod is now a virtual hub and is now equipped with video capability!

7. The Churchwide Assembly is to be held in Milwaukee in August of this year. The church will elect a new secretary and a presiding bishop as Bishop Eaton is standing for a renewal of her call.

8. The Bishop suggested that the offerings from the 2019 Synod Assembly be donated to Reformation Ministries.

VOTED:

SC.19.04.08

To designate the 2019 Synod Assembly offerings for Reformation Ministries. (Pyle/Drumm) APPROVED.

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.

EN BLOC

VOTED:

SC.19.01.09

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

Rostered Ministers Status

On Leave from Call

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

- The Rev. Christopher Adams, 1st yr (6/3/19)
- The Rev. Elizabeth Buuck, 3rd yr (8/15/17)
- The Rev. Amanda Highben, 1st yr (3/1/19)
- The Rev. Marjorie McDaniel, 1st yr (4/22/19)
- The Rev. Kevin Scheuller, Family Leave (2011)

Retired Status

RECOMMENDATION:

- The Rev. James R. Dinkel (7/1/19)

Disability Status

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Extension of Call

RECOMMENDATION:

- To extend a synod council call to Deacon Blaire P. Smith, to serve as Hospice Chaplain, at ViaQuest Hospice, in Marysville OH, effective January 15, 2019.

Affirmation and Renewal of Appointment of Synod Authorized Ministers

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Affirmation and Renewal of Synod Council Calls

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Removal from the ELCA Roster

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Legal and Governance

RECOMMENDATION:

- To appoint Ms. Kathryn D. Murphy to serve as a Director on Oesterlen Services For Youth Board for a 4 year term, starting June 2019 to June 2023.
- To approve congregation constitutions for:
St. John's Lutheran Church, Miamisburg OH
- To recommend to the 2019 Synod Assembly to approve 2020 Compensation Guidelines. (A13a-c)
- To affirm the closing of North Community Lutheran Church, Columbus OH, effective June 2, 2019.
- To affirm the closing of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Willowdell OH, effective April 14, 2019.

Other Business: 1. None

Bishop Dillahunt then declared the meeting adjourned with a Service of Godspeed and Farewell.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy E. Hart
Synod Council Secretary

Bishop's Report
April 27, 2019
Synod Council

Stronger and Better Together...Joining Jesus in the Restoration of the world!
Thrive! Equipping Vibrant Congregations Together

Grace and peace be with you in the name of the resurrected Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

1. As we move into Synod Assembly I want to thank all of you for your leadership in different task forces and committees prior to and during assembly. Over these past 6 years, as bishop, I am grateful for your partnership in the Gospel as we share, invite and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. Thank you! And to those of you who are leaving, we will miss you. We will have a service of Godspeed and Farewell at the end of the meeting.
2. We welcome a whole bunch of visitors to our April meeting: Audit Team, Mr. Chuck Mullens of Apple Growth, Finance Team and Pastors Advisory Cabinet (PAC) and Bishop's Election Discernment Task Force. Thank you to all of our guests for the meeting today who assist us in our work.
3. Our Race Relations Task Force has been busy this spring with several events throughout the synod. "Seeing Race Through Faith" is an opportunity to engage in dialogue, ask questions and help us improve our understanding about race. Thank you to all who have been a vital part of these events. It's not too late to attend. May 4: First Lutheran Springfield; September 14: Trinity Circleville; October 19: Redeemer Columbus. The cost is \$10. Augsburg Fortress has just released Luther's Small Catechism with African Descent Reflections.
4. The Nominations Committee has been hard at work. Thank you Mrs. Michelle Riesbeck for chairing the committee again this year (and for breakfast!) We will have an update at the meeting.
5. There were no resolutions submitted by the March 15 deadline. Pastor Abrams will give a report on what all that means at the meeting.
6. It's here! It's here! We are a virtual hub. The synod office is now equipped with video capability. This has been a journey and now part of Stronger and Better Together....is now reality.
7. The January weekend storms hit us hard this year in congregations and the synod in offerings and mission support and we are still trying to recover.
8. At this meeting you will be approving the Synod Assembly Agenda and our Rules of Procedure. You will also designate the Assembly Worship Offering: Reformation Ministries.
9. Churchwide Assembly is in Milwaukee in August. We elect a new secretary and presiding bishop. And remember Bishop Eaton is standing for renewal of her call.
10. Thanks again everyone for these years. I look forward to where the Holy Spirit leads June 7-8 and pray for the voting members.
11. See you Synod Assembly! Bishop Eaton is looking forward to being here.