

Southern Ohio Synod – ELCA
Synod Council Meeting
Clinton Heights Lutheran Church
15 Clinton Heights Ave., Columbus Ohio 43202
December 7, 2019

Call to Order:

Vice President Ellis called the Synod Council meeting to order a 10:06 AM.

Roll Call:

Members present: Rev. Matthew Byrd, Rev. Mark Combs, Bp. Suzanne D. Dillahunt, Mr. David Drumm, Ms. Marjorie Ellis, Ms. Holly Fischer, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Mr. Steve Goff, Ms. Jeni Gray, Mr. Roy Hart, Rev. Stephen Kimm, Rev. Laura Leach-Shreffler, Mr. Kevin Pyle, Ms. Michelle Riesbeck, Ms. Laura Schmidt, Mr. Steven Schnittke, Ms. Cindy Schrader; Rev. Cheryl Siegenthaler, Ms. Kathie Skamfer, Ms. Carol Swank, Ms. Morgan Walker, Mr. Doug Ware, Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Witt, Rev. Ralph Wolfe, Ms. Susan Wyckoff.

Members excused: N/A

Members absent: N/A

Review and Approval of Agenda of the 12/07/2019 Meeting:

The Agenda for the day was reviewed.

VOTED:

SC.19.12.01 To approve the 12/07/2019 Agenda. (Swank /Leach-Shreffler)
APPROVED.

Pastor Wolfe opened with devotions. He distributed a compilation of 2020 monthly devotions that may be used by congregation councils throughout the next year and led with the December devotion prepared by Rev. Richter, All Shepherds Lutheran, Lewis Center.

Review and Approval of Minutes of the 09/07/2019 Meeting and 11/16/2019 Special Meeting:

The Minutes of the 09/07/2019 meeting and 11/16/2019 Special Meeting were reviewed.

VOTED:

SC.19.12.02 To approve the Minutes of the 09/07/2019 meeting as amended.
(Fischer/Hart) APPROVED (Abstaining: Mr. Roy E. Hart, Ms.

Michelle Riesbeck, Mr. Steven Schnittke, Ms. Cindy Schrader, Ms. Carol Swank) .

VOTED:
SC.19.12.03

To approve the Minutes of the 11/16/2019 special meeting as amended. (Fischer/Schrader) APPROVED (Abstaining: Rev. Mark Combs, Mr. David Drumm, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Rev. Laura Leach-Shreffler, Ms. Kathie Skamfer, Mr. Doug Ware, Ms. Susan Wyckoff, Ms. Laura Schmidt, Mr. Steven Schnittke, Ms. Carol Swank, Ms. Morgan Walker.)

Reports of the Officers and Executive Committee:

Vice President

1. Vice President Ellis discussed that Mr. David Lentz, Secretary, ELCA Church, will be attending future meetings of the SOS Council and other regional Synod Councils.
2. Ms. Ellis provided highlights from the ELCA Church Council meeting in Chicago.

Secretary

1. Secretary Fischer reported that the following actions were taken by the Executive Committee: (a) in consultation with the Finance Committee, housing allowances for calendar year 2020 as were approved as follows: Rev. Robert Abrams: \$25,000.00; Rev. Larry Donner: \$20,000.00; Rev. C. Lynn Nakamura: \$23,000.00; and Rev. Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt: \$25,000.00; (b) the Committee ratified amendments made to the Synod Constitution, reflecting the required revisions made to the Model Constitution for Synods at the August 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, as submitted by Ms. Fischer to the ELCA Secretary on September 15, 2019; and (c) the Committee approved of the recommendation of the Finance Committee authorizing the Bishop and Treasurer to sign and execute a lease contract for new office space for Synod staff; and in consultation with the Synod Executive Committee and Finance Committee, to utilize funds from the sale of Synod property located on 2nd Street, Columbus to cover any necessary expenditures related to vacating the current Synod property and relocating to the new leased office space, including but not limited to moving expenses, minor remodeling, securing necessary furniture and technology, etc., for the new office space. Ms. Fischer noted that the motion regarding the lease of office space was subsequently modified by the Executive Committee by electronic vote, to leave out a specific address as the location is still uncertain.
2. Ms. Fischer noted that the Constitution Committee is reviewing non-required changes to the Synod Constitution that were recommended at the August 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. The non-required amendments

may be considered and adopted at Synod Assembly by a majority vote of the members present and voting.

3. Ms. Fischer indicated that, for future reference regarding parliamentary procedure for Council voting on recommendations presented by the Executive Committee, a second is not required as at least two members of Council, as members of the Executive Committee, supported the original recommendation (Robert's Rules, 11th ed., at p. 507).

Treasurer

1. Treasurer Pyle presented and reviewed three reports: The General Fund Budget Comparison (Feb. through Oct. 2019); Net Assets (Designated by Council and With Donor Restrictions); and the October 2019 Statement of Financial Position. He reviewed the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding Synod office space lease negotiations and moving expenses, as noted above in the Secretary's report on Executive Committee actions. Ms. Schmidt inquired as to what the estimated cost of the moving expenses will be? Bishop Dillahunt indicated staff will be conservative, and Susan Barton-Nonno is working to identify necessary cost numbers. Noted that the approximate \$300,000.00 mortgage balance will be paid off at closing. The Bishop provided an update on the pending real estate sale. The title company is conducting its search, the \$50,000.00 donation check was provided by the buyer but inadvertently included the wrong payee (and will be re-written shortly), and the anticipated closing date will be in mid to late January 2020. Staff is continuing to explore lease space in the Polaris (Columbus) area, with the first desired space option falling through due to another party making a higher per square footage offer.

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 reviewed Mr. Donner's December 2, 2019 Thrive! report, noting the Mission Campaign for the Synod is going well. She noted that since the last Council meeting, over 50 congregations have been trained in how to conduct campaigns, and we have advance commitments of over 30% of the base goal.

2. The Bishop asked Rev. Dr. Nakamura to provide a report on the Synod Authorized Minister (SAM) program. Rev. Nakamura indicated that approximately 28 congregations have been identified as potential SAM sites, and we have about 14 SAMs identified to fulfill needs. Rev. Abrams indicated that SAMS are lay persons with theological training, who are authorized by the ELCA Constitution and serve under the authority of the SOS Bishop.

3. The Bishop reviewed a letter from Augsburg Lutheran Church, Cincinnati, expressing its gratitude for the Synod's recent \$7,000.00 grant, from the small church emergency maintenance restricted fund, to the Church to assist with a critically needed sewer project.

4. Bishop Dillahunt reported on the November 15, 2019 LSS Disaster Services Situation Report, regarding the Memorial Day 2019 Tornadoes in the Dayton, Ohio area, and the critical assistance provided to 56 households (202 people) impacted; 2,200 hours of service were provided at an estimated value of \$56,000.00. The Bishop asked Rev. Kimm to share information regarding camps for children traumatized by the tornadoes, as well as the Dayton shootings. The camps assist children in developing resiliency. The first camp will occur in March, with four additional camps planned in 2020. A goal of \$125,000.00 in funds is sought to operate the camps.

5. The Bishop reported on the ELCA South American Consultation 2019 in Guatemala. The Consultation occurs every three years and this year's travel was paid for by the ELCA and a generous donation from St. Jacob Lutheran, Miamisburg; no Synod funds were used for the trip.

6. The Bishop noted that Congregational Reports are due February 15, but will be accepted, if necessary, throughout the year. The Reports are critical in that they provided data upon which the ELCA makes funding decisions, as well as being necessary in order to obtain a candidate during the call process. The report may be uploaded online or submitted by hard copy.

7. The Bishop noted that two congregations are planning to merge by the end of December 2019 (North Riverdale, Dayton and Trinity Lutheran, Englewood). The merger will be submitted to Council for approval in January.

8. The Bishop asked Mr. Hart to provide information regarding an upcoming disaffiliation first vote at St. Peter Lutheran, Lancaster. Mr. Hart reported that the action is not supported by the church council.

9. The Bishop asked Rev. Kerrigan to provide a Stewardship Team report. Rev. Kerrigan provided a presentation and handouts, including information on the Generosity Project, an excellent curriculum developed by the ELCA for congregational use. She discussed the Stewardship for All Seasons program and shared the positive feedback the Team has received from congregations.

10. The Bishop asked Rev. Abrams to provide a Congregational Resource Team update. The Team is comprised of eleven members (half

clergy and half laypersons) to assist congregations with internal issues. Rev. Abrams discussed the Team focus on relationalism and how this is reflected in its work. Rev. Abrams provided updates on a recent race relations ecumenical outreach education program with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Prayer was then offered by Bishop prior to the lunch recess.

Vice President Ellis declared a recess for lunch at 12:02 PM.

Vice President Ellis then reconvened the meeting at 12:55 PM.

Report of Auxiliaries

1. The Synod Council received written reports from the Women of the ELCA and Lutheran Men in Mission. Mr. Drumm provided a verbal report, indicating that in 2020, Lutheran Men will be developing a three-year plan. Ms. Wycoff provided highlights, in addition to her written report, regarding Women of the ELCA events.

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.19.09.04 To approve the En Bloc Recommendations. (Pyle /Schmidt)
APPROVED.**

Rostered Ministers Status

On Leave from Call

RECOMMENDATION:

- Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, 1st yr (12/31/19)
- Rev. Jeremy Hollingshead, 1st yr (12/1/19)
- Rev. Bonny Kinnunen, 2nd yr (9/21/18)
- Deacon Mary Lasits, 2nd yr. (11/12/18)
- Rev. Christina Scheuller, 3rd yr. (7/16/17)

Retired Status

RECOMMENDATION:

- Rev. Elizabeth Buuck (1/1/20)
- Rev. Miriam Schreck (11/1/19)

Disability Status

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Extension of Call

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Affirmation and Renewal of Appointment of Synod Authorized Ministers

RECOMMENDATION:

- To affirm the appointment of Synod Authorized Ministers; Mr. Jonathan Moyers to preside at St. Paul Lutheran Church, in Ironton, Ohio, effective July 2, 2019 thru January 25, 2020.

Affirmation and Renewal of Synod Council Calls

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Removal from the ELCA Roster

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Legal and Governance

RECOMMENDATION:

- To appoint Rev. Lorne Hlad to serve on the Southern Ohio Synod Candidacy Committee, for a 5 year term beginning January 2020 to January 2025.
- To approve congregation constitutions for:
 - Peace Lutheran Church, Beaver creek OH
 - Zion Lutheran Church, Middletown OH

Information:

St. Peter Lutheran Church, Lancaster OH - upcoming 1st disaffiliation vote, on December 15, 2019

Other Business: None.

Vice-President Ellis called a recess at 1:15 PM.

Vice-President Ellis reconvened the meeting at 1:20 PM, at which time the Bishop led members in a Communion Service.

SC.19.09.05 To adjourn the meeting (Schnittke /Drumm) APPROVED.

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

The meeting was then adjourned at 1:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Holly R. Fischer
Synod Council Secretary