

## Synod Council Report – 2020 Assembly

Brothers & sisters in Christ, we would like to thank you for allowing us to serve in Christ's mission for our church. We adjourned the last assembly with a feeling of hope and promise for the future of the Southern Ohio Synod. Both Bishop Dillahunt and Presiding Bishop Eaton were called to serve a second term for the SOS and the ELCA respectively. Additionally, the Synod endorsed the THRIVE campaign to support congregations and leaders.

2020, however, has been a year of uncertainty. Many of us have been forced to remain at home due to coronavirus. Those who must go into work are essential workers putting their lives on the line daily. Others have been laid off, can't put food on the table or are in danger of losing their homes. We have been sick, lost family and friends, and are unable to attend in-person church. We have never experienced so many major catastrophic events in our lifetimes.

Thank God, Jesus is with us always! We are gathering through on-line church services, drive-thru communion and YouTube Bible study. We continue to support food pantries, drive-thru community dinners and homeless shelters. People of faith find ways to walk with God regardless of the obstacles.

We thank you for your continued support of those in need. We thank you for supporting your congregation, the Southern Ohio Synod and the ELCA. We thank you for your dedication and service to the Lord's work.

As with most companies, the business of the Synod council continues through Zoom meetings. Your Synod council continues to perform our regular duties as the interim legislative authority of the Synod. We thank God for the Synod staff during these trying times. They remain available to congregations for support and guidance.

However uncertain our future is, we know God is always with us and guides us. With your support, we will continue to do God's work. We thank God every day for his many blessings and welcome you to join us as we strive to be ***“stronger and better together, joining Jesus in the restoration of the world”***.

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2019 - 2020 Southern Ohio Synod Council

Pr. Matthew Byrd  
Pr. Mark Combs  
Dave Drumm  
Marjorie Ellis  
Holly Fischer  
Richard Freudenberger  
Steve Goff  
Jeni Gray  
Roy Hart  
Pr. Steve Kimm  
Pr. Laura Leach-Shreffler  
Sheryl Melvin  
Kevin Pyle  
Michelle Riesbeck  
Laura Schmidt  
Steven Schnittke  
Cindy Schrader  
Pr. Cheryl Siegenthaler  
Kathie Skamfer  
Morgan Walker  
Doug Ware  
Pr. Kenneth Witt  
Pr. Ralph Wolfe  
Susan Wyckoff

We remember, Carol Swank, who died in April after a long-fought battle with cancer. She was a faithful member of the Synod Council and voice for the Scioto conference and small congregations.