

**Southern Ohio Synod – ELCA
Synod Council Meeting
Southern Ohio Synod Office
Columbus, OH 43215
January 21, 2012**

Call to Order: Mrs. Barbara Klatt, Vice President of Council, called the Synod Council meeting to order at 9:44 AM

Devotions: Pr. Bill Wong: Ruminations from Robert Fulchum's book about church board meetings.

Review and Approval of Minutes of 11/12/2011 Meeting:

VOTED:
SC.01.12.1 To approve minutes of the November 12, 2011 meeting.
(Bull /Schnierle) APPROVED.

Review and Approval of Agenda of 01/21/2012 Meeting:

VOTED:
SC.01.12.2 To approve the agenda without churchwide constitutional matters and without the 2011 Synod Assembly minutes (Keck/Vosskuehler) APPROVED.

Roll Call: Members present: Pr. Lisa Arrington, Pr. Jonathan Bull, Mr. Thomas S. Counts, Mr. David Drumm, Ms. Marjorie Ellis, Pr. Brian George, Mr. Roy Hart, Pr. William (Will) Hartfelder, Bp. Callon Holloway, Jr., Pr. Dona Johnson, Mr. David M. Keck, Mrs. Barbara Klatt, Mr. Mike Knilans, Pr. Robert Miller, Ms. Kathryn Schnierle, and Mr. Charles Vosskuehler.

Members excused: Mrs. Susan Clem, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Pr. Diana Gugel, Ms. Sue Hillger, Mr. Brandon Huston, Mr. Mike Johnsen, Ms. Carol Swank, Ms. Erin Taylor, Ms. Desiree Tryloff, and Ms. Martha Wright.

Members absent: Mr. Tom Bowman and Mr. Malachi Herget.

Staff present: Pr. Bill Wong, Pr. Jeff Wick, Pr. Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt, and Pr. Ed Williams.

Staff excused: None

Staff absent: None

Reports of the Officers and Executive Committee:

Bishop Holloway: 1. Announced the addition of new council members, to-wit:

Marjory Ellis: All Saints, Worthington
Pr. Lisa Arrington: Hope, Cincinnati
Pr. Bob Miller: St. Paul, Dayton
Chuck Vosskuehler: First, Springfield

2. Presentation of stained glass art work to departing Pr. Bill Wong in grateful recognition of work well done as a staff member of the Southern Ohio Synod.

Vice President: 1. Churchwide reports that churchwide mission support is a mixed bag but a churchwide-generated graph shows definite decrease in support.

Secretary: 1. Correspondence was received from Pr. Jeff Wick and Pr. Bill Wong both acknowledging the Synod Christmas gift and thanking council.

Treasurer: 1. 2011 income of \$190,000 came in under budget and expenses came in over budget. 2012 is expected to be a better year. The relationship to date with Perfect Balance accounting service has been rocky at best.

Bishop Holloway: 1. The Bishop lead a discussion about the organization, structure, and descriptions of the ELCA and Southern Ohio Synod. The Church was described by the Bishop as a baby crib mobile which relies upon intentional interdependence to stay in balance. The Congregation, the synod, and churchwide depend upon intentional interdependence to also stay in balance. On occasion, conflict results in gridlock when things are not in balance.

2. The Southern Ohio Synod is the only synod on a churchwide basis that has a strategic plan in place. The strategic plan creates greater efficiency within the synod but also creates challenges when dealing with other synods.

3. Ed Williams is serving in the synod as director of the synod mission plan. It is a guide and frequently changes. It is a living document as things are changed, dropped, and added.

VOTED:

SC.01.12.3 To approve reports of the Officers and Executive Committee (Hartfelder /Keck) APPROVED.

VOTED

SC.01.12.4 To approve reports of the Auxiliaries: LYO and LMM written reports submitted. (Vosskuehler/Hartfelder) APPROVED.

The Council broke into committees to perform committee work at 10:56 AM

The Committees broke and the members returned to the council as a whole at 12:00 Noon.

Prayer was offered by Pr. Dave Keck prior to lunch.

The meeting recessed at 12:00 Noon for lunch.

The meeting reconvened at 12:33 PM

VOTED:

EN BLOC

SC.01.12.5

To approve the written reports of the committees and the following recommendations from the committees: (Hartfelder/George) APPROVED.

Committee on Congregations and Assemblies

SYNODFEST 2012 (Update and Response)

INFORMATION

2012 Synod Assembly

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the preliminary 2012 Synod Assembly agenda.

Committee on Ministers, Education, and Personnel

Health Assessment and 2% Discount

INFORMATION

Professional Leaders Roster

Request on Leave from Call

Pr. Orinda W. Hawkins-Brinkley (12/09/11) 1st year

Pr. William McKee (01/07/12) 1st year

Pr. Ronald Shreffler (01/15/12) 1st year

Pr. Jeffrey Wise (12/02/11) 1st year

Pr. William Wong (01/22/12) 1st year

RECOMMENDATION: To approve “On Leave From Call” status for Pastors Orinda W. Hawkins-Brinkley, William McKee, Ronald Shreffler, Jeffrey Wise, and William Wong.

Committee on Mission, Planning, and Legal Matters

Churchwide Constitution changes to be deferred and presented at the March, 2012 meeting

INFORMATION

Congregation status update

St. Peter, Columbus – closed with additional expenses

Zion, Lockville – closing

Atonement, Cincinnati – building closure. Sold building to Center for Autistic Children.

The congregation is worshipping in a nursing home.

INFORMATION

Advancing God’s Mission (AGM) review

Congregational Survey (Inskeep and Taylor document) included for March, 2012 meeting

INFORMATION

Legacy Endowment Committee appointment

RECOMMENDATION: To appoint Ms. Linda Schnittke to the Legacy Endowment Committee.

Committee on Communication, Administration, and Support

2012 Expenditure Authorization

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the 2012 Expenditure Authorization with edited changes.

2013 Preliminary Fiscal Proposal

RECOMMENDATION: To table the 2013 Preliminary Fiscal Proposal to the March, 2012 meeting in order to gather more information.

INFORMATION PRESENTED BY THE BISHOP:

Financial issues that synod dealing with:

1. Remittance forms have been changed for more clarity and council members are urged to inform congregations that if the giving patterns change, please inform the synod of the changes.
2. Synod tracked what funds went directly to specific missions in 2011. \$75,000 went into eighteen direct appeals at the expense of general mission support.
3. A. High priority for Bishop is to judge doctrine—judging what is taught. The Bishop is surprised over how much energy is consumed judging what is doctrine.
B. Supporting rostered and lay leaders
C. Lifting up the vastness of our lay leadership.
D. Staff will be shifting to investing in cluster missions.
E. Development of strategy teams
F. Owes more time to ecumenical activity.
G. A Synod priority will be to strengthen the Mission Interpreter program

Discussion then focused on “Synod Visioning” -- identifying a Strategic Plan to Promote Survival of Synod. The question becomes what is the purpose of the Synod other than providing conflict management and providing pastoral leadership? How does the synod provide mission support with reduced resources? Is the synod embodying God’s plan? What can we do to grab the You Tube and MTV crowds?

Next meeting will be structured so that Visioning can occur early in the meeting.

Other Business: None

Closing Prayer offered by Pr. Brian George

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12PM

Respectfully submitted,

Roy E. Hart
Synod Council Secretary