

**Southern Ohio Synod – ELCA
Synod Council Meeting
Trinity Lutheran Seminary Alumni Room
Columbus, Ohio 43209
November 16, 2013**

Call to Order: Mrs. Barbara Klatt, Vice President of Council, called the Synod Council meeting to order at 9:30 AM

Dwelling in the Word devotions were offered by Vice President Klatt with readings from Phillipians 1:27 and 2:5-11 from The Message and from the NRSV. Members then discussed in pairs the passages and what spoke to them. Those ideas were then shared with the whole group.

Review and Approval of Minutes of 09/21/2013 Meeting:

The Minutes of the 09/21/2013 meeting were reviewed and approved.

VOTED:

**SC.13.11.1 To approve the minutes of the September 21, 2013 meeting.
(Keith/Wolfe) APPROVED.**

Roll Call:

Members present: Pr. Lisa Arrington, Ms. Susan Clem, Bp. Suzanne D. Dillahun, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Pr. Brian George, Pr. Diana Gugel, Mr. Roy E. Hart, Mr. Mike Johnsen, Ms. Robin Kaelin, Ms. Jodi Keith, Mrs. Barbara Klatt, Mr. Mike Knilans, Pr. Robert Miller, Mr. Ronald Moder, Mr. Steve Schnittke, Ms. Carol Swank, Mr. Charles Vosskuehler, Mr. Bennett Whitaker, and Pr. Ralph Wolfe

Members excused: Pr. Jonathan Bull, Ms. Marjorie Ellis, Mr. Brandon Huston, Pr. Dona Johnson, Ms. Edna Kettler, Mr. James Renshaw, Ms. Erin Taylor

Members absent: Ms. Desiree Tryloff

Staff present: Pr. Jeff Wick, Mr. Gary Pecuch

Staff excused: Pr. Ed Williams

Staff absent: None

Review and Approval of Agenda of 11/16/2013 Meeting:

1. In the ***Rosters and Personnel*** section of the Agenda, Bishop Emeritus Holloway shall be referred to as “Bishop Emeritus” rather than as “Pastor”.
2. In the ***Rosters and Personnel*** section of the Agenda, the subject of 2014 Housing Allowances shall be presented by Mr. Hart in the Secretary’s Report and shall be included in the **EN BLOC RECOMMENDATIONS** for approval.
3. A resolution regarding the creation of a Synod Visioning Team shall be added to the Agenda and shall be presented during the Secretary’s Report, and the resolution shall be included in the **EN BLOC RECOMMENDATIONS** for approval.

VOTED:

SC.13.11.2

**To approve the 11/16/13 Meeting Agenda as amended. (Swank/Miller)
APPROVED**

Reports of the Officers and Executive Committee:

- Vice President:
1. Vice President Klatt requested prayers for her family while dealing with ongoing challenges regarding her aging father.
 2. On December 13, 2013, Vice President Klatt will be in attendance for a Region 6 Steering Committee meeting to be held at Potawatomie Inn at Pokagen State Park near Angola, Indiana.
- Secretary:
1. Mr. Hart reported that he met with Region 6 Archivist, Jennifer Morehart, on November 11, 2013, to discuss copyright issues.
 2. Mr. Hart reported that the Synod Council Executive Committee has recommended approval to the Council of a resolution to create a Synod Visioning Team for the purpose of conducting long-range planning for the Synod, and that the resolution will be addressed during the consideration of the En Bloc recommendations later in the meeting.
 3. Mr. Hart reported that the Synod Council Executive Committee has recommended approval to the Council of a resolution regarding the establishment of 2014 Staff Housing Allowances for Pastor Jeff Wick, Pastor Ed Williams, and for Bishop Suzanne Dillahunst as a component of the overall salary package for each staff member, and that the resolution will be addressed during the consideration of the En Bloc recommendations later in the meeting.

Treasurer:

1. Mr. Knilans reported that he received a favorable audit report from Hirth, Norris & Garrison, LLP for the period of February 1, 2013 through August 31, 2013, and that the audit process went well.
2. Mr. Knilans further reported that he attended four Fall consultation meetings.
3. Mr. Knilans then reported that year-to-date, the Synod's expenses exceed revenues by approximately \$100,000, and that the Synod is approximately \$29,000 below the original Mission Support goal of 40.00% to Churchwide.

Bishop:

1. Bishop Dillahunty reported that the Installation on October 26 was great! "Thank-you's" have been sent. Offerings collected during the Installation service totaled \$3,374.25 which will be divided among Capital University, Wittenberg University, Ohio University, University of Cincinnati, Miami University, Jacob's Porch, and Trinity Lutheran Seminary.
2. The Fall Consultations among the six conferences have been completed and they went well. The Bishop reported that attendance was up and that more lay leaders attended. One new goal of the Bishop is to restructure the consultation meetings in order to "cross pollinate". She requests that pictures be sent to Susan Barton-Nonno. Bishop Dillahunty reported that five congregations have already returned their goals to the Synod. She requested that each council member take back a "thank you" to each member's congregation.
3. Bishop Dillahunty remains hopeful the last quarter Mission Support to the ELCA will increase, at least to meet last year's total. The Bishop encouraged each council member to reiterate the importance of Mission Support to each member's congregation.
4. A 25th Anniversary Appeal will be kicked off by the ELCA in February of 2014. The five-year campaign will be a direct solicitation by the ELCA to individual congregations and individual members (if individuals have previously given to Churchwide directly). Each of the 65 synods will piggyback or attach a campaign for its own purposes.
5. The Bishop reported that she participated in President Barger's Installation at Trinity Lutheran Seminary on October 27, and that she attended the Trinity Seminary Board Meeting. Her focus is to build bridges with the seminary and looks forward to working with President Barger in the future.

6. Bishop Dillahunt attended the recent LSA meeting in Columbus and will be presenting at the upcoming LSSCO board meeting.

7. Rev. Dr. Cheryl Peterson, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, will be the keynote speaker at a rostered leaders event to be held on February 11, 2014. Bishop Dillahunt and Dr. Peterson will be meeting in order to discuss the theme of the event.

8. On Saturday, March 15, 2014, the Synod will meet with the Presidents, Vice Presidents, Financial Secretaries, and Treasurers of the synod congregations for a day of gathering and workshops. Synod Council members are encouraged to attend.

9. Synod Assembly planning has commenced. The Assembly will convene at Wittenberg University on June 5-7, 2014. The Rostered Leaders Event will take place on June 5, and June 6 is slated as an education day with workshops and worship. Synod legislation is planned for June 7.

10. There has been a tradition in the Synod to thank the retired rostered leaders, spouses, and widows/widowers by honoring them at a luncheon. This tradition will continue on December 16, 2013, at a Christmas lunch. In addition and during the luncheon, Pastors Jeff Wick and Ed Williams will be installed as Assistants to the Bishop.

Report of the Auxiliaries

1. Lutheran Men in Mission – Written report from David Drumm, President
2. SOS Women of the ELCA-Written Report from Jackie Cutshall, Secretary

VOTED:

SC.13.11.03

To approve the Reports of the Officers, the Lutheran Men in Mission, and the SOS Women of the ELCA. (Johnsen/ Miller) APPROVED.

EN BLOC

VOTED:

SC.13.11.04

To Approve the En Bloc Recommendations. (Kaelin/Clem) APPROVED.

Congregations and Assemblies

Congregation Constitutions

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the congregation constitutions of

- Emmanuel, Germantown
- Resurrection, Lebanon

Rosters and Personnel

Professional Leaders Roster - Voted En bloc

Request on Leave from Call

Bishop Emeritus Callon W. Holloway, Jr. (11-23-13)

RECOMMENDATION: To approve on “Leave from Call” status for Bishop Emeritus Callon W. Holloway, Jr.

Retired Status

Pr. James P. Miller (10-01-13)

Pr. Donna R. Kraus (11-01-13)

Pr. William Barrett (01-01-14)

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the retirement of Pastors James P. Miller, Donna R. Kraus, and William Barrett

2014 Housing Allowances

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the proposed housing allowances for the Bishop and Assistants

Southern Ohio Synod Visioning Team

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the recommendation of the Synod Council Executive Committee to create a Southern Ohio Synod Visioning Team for the purpose of planning the next ten years of ministry for the Southern Ohio Synod, and that the Synod Bishop be authorized to make the appointments to the Visioning Team.

Legal and Mission Planning

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio

RECOMMENDATION: To appoint Mr. Mike Poyer and Mr. Steve Moyer to serve on the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio Board for a two year term beginning January 2, 2014-December 31, 2016

West African Community

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the Evangelistic and Community Outreach to the West African Community as a synodically authorized worshipping community (Probe)

Finance and Administration

Financials

ELCA/SOS 25th Anniversary Campaign Proposal

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the ELCA/SOS 25th Anniversary Campaign proposal

Other Business: Richard Freudenberger reported that a new trial Thrivent program has been established in order to distribute grants to members of congregations. He encouraged the council members to review the details of the program on the Thrivent website.

Pr. Jeff Wick then offered a prayer to close the meeting.

Vice President Klatt declared the meeting adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy E. Hart
Synod Council Secretary