

**Southern Ohio Synod – ELCA
Special Telephone Synod Council Meeting
August 10, 2014**

Call to Order: Mrs. Barbara N. Klatt, Vice President of Synod Council, called the Special Telephone Synod Council meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Pr. Diana Gugel offered prayer at the commencement of the meeting.

Those Synod Council members participating in the telephone meeting were Pr. Lisa Arrington, Bishop Suzanne D. Dillahunty, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Pr. Brian George, Pr. Diana Gugel, Mr. Roy E. Hart, Mr. Mike Johnsen, Ms. Jodi Keith, Ms. Edna Kettler, Mrs. Barbara N. Klatt, Mrs. Shawn Krumm, Mr. Ron Moder, Ms. Melanie Powderly, Mr. James Renshaw, Mr. Steven Schnittke, Ms. Carol Swank, Pr. Robert Swanson, Ms. Erin Taylor, and Mr. Chuck Vosskuehler.

Mrs. Klatt declared a quorum to exist with nineteen (19) members participating.

It was agreed to record the activities of the meeting through the conference call company.

The Vice President requested the participants to identify themselves prior to speaking.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider and ratify the Synod Council Executive Committee's recommendation to hire Pr. Bob Abrams on a contractual basis as a part-time Assistant to the Bishop for the Southern Ohio Synod.

**VOTED: To ratify the recommendation of the Synod Council Executive Committee to
SC.14.08.1 hire Pr. Bob Abrams as a part-time Assistant to the Bishop for the Southern
Ohio Synod on a contract basis. (Vosskuehler/Krumm).**

Points of discussion followed the motion and second.

- A. Pr. Abrams' duties as an Assistant to the Bishop will include:
1. Providing pastoral care to rostered leaders of the Southern Ohio Synod
 2. Providing care, assistance, and conflict resolution for congregations within the Southern Ohio Synod
 3. Relating to various commissions and task forces as assigned by the Bishop
 4. Providing care, advice, and support of the Bishop in her ministry of oversight as defined in the constitution of the ELCA and the constitution of the Southern Ohio Synod
 5. Any additional duties assigned by the Bishop

- B. Mrs. Klatt reviewed a previous email outlining various questions and concerns that arose during the original electronic vote.
- C. Jodi Keith asked if Pr. Ed Williams was working under a dual call with the Synod as an Assistant to the Bishop and as a DEM for the ELCA to the Southern Ohio Synod. Bishop Dillahunst explained that when she took office as Bishop, she negotiated with the ELCA to have Pr. Williams take on additional duties over that of a DEM as might be needed in this past year. In June of 2014, the Bishop asked Churchwide to allow Pr. Williams, as DEM, to focus on clusters/evangelism/new missions/worship/stewardship. Churchwide agreed with this new job description and that it begin as of September 1, 2014.
- D. The question was asked, “When does Jerry Haun retire?” Bishop Dillahunst replied that Mr. Haun would be fully retired as of August 31, 2014. His last engagement would be the Candidacy Retreat to be held August 23, 2014. Mr. Haun has been working with Pr. Jeff Wick over the summer so that Pr. Wick can be “up to speed” when Pr. Wick takes over the candidacy responsibilities on September 1, 2014.
- E. Ron Moder asked, “How is “part time” defined?” Again, Bishop Dillahunst responded that “part time” is defined as less than forty hours per week. Pr. Abrams would be working less than forty hours per week for the Synod and the rest of Pr. Abrams’ time would be spent at his call to Resurrection. She then went on to remark that an average pastor works seventy-five to eighty hours per week.
- F. Ron Moder then asked, “How does the contract pay benefits?” Pr. Abrams is currently covered for medical benefits under his wife’s insurance so the Synod is not responsible for his medical benefits. Since Pr. Abrams is clergy under call, the Southern Ohio Synod will reimburse Resurrection for retirement benefits for the time Pr. Abrams spends working for the Synod. The Bishop notes that the Northeastern Ohio Synod has an Assistant to the Bishop who was hired about five years ago under contract while simultaneously under call to a local congregation.
- G. Pr. Bob Swanson asked, “Has Resurrection been informed?” The Bishop stated that she needed the vote of the Synod Council before she and Pr. Abrams could approach the Resurrection Executive Committee and Congregational Council. The Bishop and Pr. Abrams will meet with the Resurrection Executive Committee and Congregational Council to discuss how hiring Pr. Abrams might affect Resurrection’s ministry. The Bishop also noted that she has identified a person who is ready to step in to assist with the Hispanic/Latino ministry as well as to assist with other congregational duties at Resurrection.

Vice President Klatt then asked for any further discussion, and not hearing any further discussion on the matter, stated that she would email all council members with a reminder of what the members will be voting on and asking them to cast their vote by email to both her email address and the email address of the Secretary, Roy E. Hart.

VOTED: To close discussion of the issue and to allow the Vice President to create an
SC.14.08.2 email requesting a vote on the initial Motion (SC.14.08.1) which was to ratify
the Executive Committee recommendation. (Vosskuehler/Krumm).
APPROVED.

The meeting was then adjourned by Vice President Klatt at 4:26 PM.

RESULTS OF E-MAIL VOTE REGARDING SC.14.08.1:

On August 10, 2014 at 5:59 PM., Vice President Klatt provided all members of the Synod Council with voting directions by email. A copy of the email voting directions is attached to these Minutes for reference. By 10:00 AM on August 12, 2014, Vice President Klatt and Secretary Hart received a total of twenty-two (22) votes to ratify SC.14.08.1 with no votes received opposing ratification of SC.14.08.1 and with no abstentions. By 12:00 midnight on August 12 2014, Vice President Klatt and Secretary Hart received a total of twenty-four (24) votes to ratify SC.14.08.1 with no votes received opposing ratification of SC.14.08.1 and with no abstentions. No further votes were received.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy E. Hart
Synod Council Secretary