

**Southern Ohio Synod – ELCA
Synod Council Hybrid/In Person and Electronic Meeting
September 10, 2022**

Rev. Bonnie Gerber opened with devotions.

Call to Order:

Vice President Ellis called the Synod Council meeting to order at 9:43 am. Secretary Fischer took a roll call vote and confirmed a quorum was present.

Roll Call:

Members present: Rev. Matt Byrd, Rev. Mark Combs, Mr. Rick Davila, Bishop Suzanne D. Dillahun, Mr. David Drumm, Ms. Marjorie Ellis, Ms. Holly Fischer, Rev. Bonnie Gerber, Ms. Jeni Gray, Mr. Matthew Hazzard, Rev. Stephen Kimm, Mr. Imanuel Lyatuu, Ms. Abbie McCandlish, Mr. Kevin Pyle, Mr. Ethan Roberts, Ms. Michelle Riesbeck, Ms. Laura Schmidt, Rev. Cheryl Siegenthaler, Ms. Kathie Skamfer, Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Witt, Ms. Susan Wyckoff.

Members excused: Mr. Roy Hart, Mr. David Miser, Rev. Laura Leach-Shreffler, Ms. Cindy Schrader, Ms. Marcia Ward, Mr. Doug Ware.

Members absent: None.

Also present for some or all of the meeting were staff members including Rev. Katie Kerrigan, Rev. Robert Abrams, Rebecca Grate, Josh Brodbeck and Ms. Kim Uemura.

Vice-President Ellis asked that participants identify themselves before speaking.

Review and Approval of Agenda of the 9/10/2022 Meeting:

The Agenda for the day was reviewed.

VOTED:

SC.22.09.01 To approve the 9/10/2022 Agenda. (Gerber /Schmidt) APPROVED.

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Review and Approval of Minutes of the June 22, 2022 Meeting:

The Minutes of the above Council meeting were reviewed.

VOTED:

SC.22.09.02 To approve the Minutes of the 06/22/2022 meeting as submitted. (Drumm / Roberts) APPROVED.

Reports of the Officers and Executive Committee:

Vice President

Vice President Ellis provided a verbal report and shared information from the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Ms. Ellis noted that Imran Siddiqui of St. John's Lutheran Church, Atlanta, was elected to a six-year term as vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and that several SOS members were appointed to committees. Ms. Ellis praised the volunteers and managers for contributing to make the Assembly a meaningful and successful event.

VOTED: SC.22.09.03

To commend all of those who worked to make the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Columbus, Ohio a meaningful and successful event. (Ellis / Drumm) APPROVED.

Council members, Reverend Dillahunt, and Rev. Abrams echoed that the Assembly was well-done, the attendees were wonderful, and attendees expressed appreciation for the outstanding work of the volunteers.

Vice-President Ellis expressed appreciation for the work of Council member Susan Wykoff on Council. A new WELCA President will be elected later this month. Ms. Ellis shared a statement from Ms. Wykoff expressing her gratitude for her time serving on the Southern Ohio Synod Council.

Secretary

Ms. Fischer reported that Capital University has reviewed a number of applicants for the Region 6 Archivist position and is hopeful that a good candidate will be hired shortly. Until that time the position remains posted.

Rev. Abrams reviewed some of the significant changes to the *Constitution for Synods* and *Model Constitution for Congregations* adopted at the Churchwide Assembly.

Treasurer

Treasurer Pyle provided a General Fund Budget Comparison February to July 2022. He noted that revenues are up slightly for the second quarter in comparison to the planned budget. Mr. Pyle reviewed the differences between the two types of designated funds (net assets designated by Synod Council and net assets with donor restrictions). He noted that St. Paul Lutheran Church in St. Louisville made a closing disbursement of approximately \$28,800, 10% of which will be given to the Thrive! campaign, and 90% to the Living Christ Fund. Josh Brodbeck provided an updated on the farmland owned by the Synod in Oklahoma and indicated an appraisal has been ordered. Mr. Pyle thanked Joy Hacker for her work.

Ms. Ellis called for a recess at 10:43 am.
The meeting resumed at 10:55 am.

Bishop

The Bishop's Report is attached to these minutes for review. In addition to her written report, the Bishop provided information, and invited staff members to provide verbal reports as discussed below.

1. The Bishop thanked Ethan Roberts for joining the meeting virtually from Manchester England.
2. The Bishop shared that Pastor Rebecca Grate has joined the Synod staff as the new Media Ambassador & Storyteller.
3. The Bishop asked that we keep Pastor Donner, our Thrive! campaign manager, and his wife Joyce in our prayers. The Bishop asked Pastor Laura Leach-Shreffler to share how well her congregation did with their Thrive! campaign following training provided in April 2022 by Pastor Donner. The Bishop shared that approximately \$860,000 in pledges have been received and the campaign is on target for its 1.2 million dollar goal.
4. The Bishop shared that the Synod office building has been purchased by a new company located in Montreal, Canada and efforts will be made to re-negotiate the lease to lower payments.
5. The Bishop discussed her upcoming travel schedule which includes ten days in Germany in mid-October in order to sign a new covenant with the North Church and German government.
6. Regarding the 2023 Southern Ohio Synod Assembly, the plan is for a one-day event to be held in a congregation setting. More details to come. The theme will be "Hope is Believing" (Romans 15:13).
7. The Bishop reviewed the 2023 Staff Goals based on "Cultivate, Collaborate, Clarify", and noted that the most challenging is to Clarify, and asked Reverend Kerrigan to provide a perspective.

Mr. Hazzard asked about the staff size in 2009; the Bishop responded that we had 12 staff members as compared to 8 staff today. Pastor Abrams shared that a major component of the staff work is developing relationships with congregations. Discussion ensued among Council members emphasizing the importance of sharing the story of Jesus and individual faith journeys, welcoming visitors, and remaining relevant.

8. Pastor Kerrigan provided an update on Cultivate and the three currently established Worshipping Communities, who are doing well, and two new Worshipping Communities in 2022.
9. The Bishop noted that work will begin on a Synod Council governance review to ensure the Council is properly structured for mission and ministry.

Vice-President Ellis called a lunch recess at 12:28pm.

Mr. Hazzard led a luncheon prayer.

The meeting resumed at 1:01 pm.

Report of Auxiliaries

Mr. Drumm provided a report from the Lutheran Men in Mission. He noted the first in person meeting post-Covid will be held in October in Nebraska. He shared that September is Hunger Awareness Month and indicated approximately \$340,000 was raised for world hunger by the Tour de Revs.

The Reports of the Officers and the Lutheran Men in Mission were then received by the Synod Council.

The Bishop provided information concerning the legal and governance agenda items.

EN BLOC

VOTED:

SC.22.09.04 To approve the En Bloc Recommendations. (Hazzard/Skamfer)

APPROVED

Rostered Ministers Status

On Leave from Call

RECOMMENDATION:

- Deacon Daniel Jacob (7/1/2022)
- Rev. Heidi Holst (7/1/2022)
- Deacon Mary Lasits (11/12/18)
- Rev. Christina Scheuller, Family Leave, (7/16/17)
- Rev. Joseph Schrock (8/1/2022)
- Rev. Christine Widrig (11/10/2014)

Retired Status

RECOMMENDATION:

- Rev. Craig Fourman (9/1/2022)
- Rev. Anders S. Tune (8/1/2022)
- Rev. Rachel S. Tune (8/1/2022)

- Rev. Mark A. Wildermuth (10/1/2022)
- Rev. Jeffrey N. Wise (11/1/2022)
- Rev. Joseph Wolf (8/1/2022)

Disability Status

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Extension of Call

RECOMMENDATION:

- To extend a Synod Council Call to Rev. G. Renee Ahern to serve as clinical therapist, at Enliven Health and Wellness, in Columbus OH, beginning August 1, 2022.
- To extend a Synod Council Call to Rev. Tracy Paschle-Johannes to serve as Pastor, of Wittenberg University, in Springfield OH, beginning August 18, 2022.
- To extend a Synod council Call to Rev. Mark Nodo to serve as Intentional Interim, at Trinity Lutheran Church, in Circleville OH, beginning September 1, 2022.
- To extend a Synod Council Call to Deacon Shelby Wyland to serve as Chaplain, at Capital City Hospice, in Columbus OH, beginning December 6, 2021 or September 10, 2022.

Affirmation and Renewal of Appointment of Synod Authorized Ministers

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Affirmation and Renewal of Synod Council Calls

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Removal/ Resignation from the ELCA Roster

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Legal and Governance

RECOMMENDATION:

- To appoint Ms. Mary Ellen Helms as the Southern Ohio Synod representative to Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio, for a 3-year term, beginning January 2023.

Information: St. Peter Lutheran Church, New Lebanon OH will take their 1st vote to disaffiliate on September 25, 2022

Other Business: None.

A closing prayer was offered by Pastor Abrams.

SC.22.09.05 To adjourn the meeting (Fischer/Dillahunt) APPROVED.

The meeting was then adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Holly R. Fischer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "H" and "F".

Holly R. Fischer
Synod Council Secretary