

Allegheny Synod – ELCA
Synod Council Retreat
Sequanota Camp & Conference Center
July 23 - 24, 2021

Upon motion by Bill Layton, seconded by Gary Gable

- **SCEC21.06.01** – to establish the beginning annual salary plus housing allowance for Bishop Paula Schmitt at \$73,620 ... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Gary Gable, seconded by Bill Layton

- **SCEC21.06.02** – to approve the expenditure of up to \$5,000 to cover anticipated costs of the Bishop’s Installation... the motion is adopted

The July 24th Synod Council meeting at Sequanota was called to order by Gary Gable at 10:05am

Upon motion by Pr. Curt Wingert, seconded by Allen Stump

- **SC21.07.01** - to adopt the agenda for today’s meeting as amended... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Bishop Rhyne, seconded by Pr. Becky Horn

- **SC21.07.02** – acting on the request of the Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin, president of United Lutheran Seminary - that the Allegheny Synod Council elect Dr. James Lakso to a second term on the ULS Board of Trustees thru 2024... the motion to elect Dr. Lakso is adopted

Bishop’s Comments

Bishop Rhyne offered brief comments about his time as our Bishop over the past 7-yerars.

Synod Officer Comments

Secretary Dave Finney – was granted “Tenure” by Bp-elect Paula Schmitt, having now served as Secretary for 9-years; working with 3 Bishops, 4 Vice Presidents & 4 Treasurers.

VP Gary Gable – bid us farewell as the Synod VP & expressed his willingness to help VP-elect Ann Ferry with the transition.

Bishop-elect Paula offered her comments on the transition process, on moving forward & on placing our trust in the Holy Spirit. She conveyed how very grateful she is to be coming back to the Allegheny Synod in this capacity. This will be a ministry that we share together. She wants only that which is best for the Synod.

New Business

Upon motion by Pr. Curt Wingert, seconded by Marlin Plymette

- **SC21.07.03** – to purchase a new printer, the cost not to exceed \$300 & a new sweeper, the cost not to exceed \$500 for the synod office... the motion is adopted

Conversation arose relative to the Council Covenant – the discussion was engaging & comprehensive, to be continued at a future time.

Upon motion by Bishop Rhyne, seconded by Pr. Curt Wingert

- **SC21.07.04** – that all pastors & deacons presently listed on the retired roster & the on-leave roster of the Allegheny Synod shall remain on those rosters... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Bishop Rhyne, seconded by Pr. Curt Wingert

- **SC21.07.05** – to affirm the call of the Rev. Ruth Jansen to serve as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Somerset, PA – effective September 1, 2021... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Bishop Rhyne, seconded by Pr. Becky Horn

- **SC21.07.06** – to ratify the election of the Grace Delivered board of directors... the motion is adopted
 - *Pr. Dena Gable – chair (Lavansville-Bakersville Parish)*
 - *Josh Spangler – vice-chair (Mt. Calvary, Lavansville)*
 - *Beth Thomas – secretary (Benscreek)*
 - *Allen Stump – treasurer (Faith – Somerset)*
 - *Pr. Jono Adams (Benscreek & Mt. Calvary, Johnstown)*
 - *Hanna Weimer (Laurel Trinity, Jennerstown)*
 - *Nicholas Carroll (Trinity, Somerset)*

Upon motion by Bishop Rhyne, seconded by Ann Ferry

- **SC21.07.07** – to affirm the nominations to Bishop-elect Schmitt's mutual ministry team; the Rev. Dr. David Williams, the Rev. John D Bryant, the Rev. Karen Gibson, Mrs. Barbara Debski... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Bishop Rhyne, seconded by Pr. Curt Wingert

- **SC21.07.08** – to affirm the Allegheny Synod Executive Committee, whose terms will begin on September 1, 2021: Bishop Paula Schmitt, Ann Ferry – Vice President (2025), Dave Finney – Secretary (2025), Bill Layton – Treasurer (2024), Allen Stump – Member at Large (2023)... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Bishop Rhyne, seconded by Pr. Karen Ward

- **SC21.07.09** – that the Rev. Jean Caudill be granted Retired Roster status effective July 1, 2021... the motion is adopted.

Upon en bloc motion *SC21.07.10* by Bishop Rhyne, seconded by Marlin Plymette

- That Bishop Paula Schmitt, VP Ann Ferry & Treasurer Bill Layton be designated as signatories for Allegheny Synod accounts at *First Summit Bank*.
- That Bishop Paula Schmitt, VP Ann Ferry & Treasurer Bill Layton be designated as signatories for Allegheny Synod accounts at *Ameriserv Financial*.
- That Bishop Paula Schmitt, VP Ann Ferry & Treasurer Bill Layton be designated as signatories for Allegheny Synod accounts at *M&T Bank*.
- That Bishop Paula Schmitt be signatory for the bishop's discretionary fund at *M&T Bank*.
- That Bishop Paula Schmitt & Pr. Curt Wingert be designated as signatories for the DYD/Ignite account at *Northwest Savings Bank*... the en bloc motion is adopted.

Motion SCEC21.06.01 was considered via Zoom meeting on July 27, 2021

Upon motion by Dave Finney, seconded by Bill Layton

- *SC21.07.11* – that Synod Council adopt Executive Committee motion *SCEC21.06.01* which reads, “To establish the beginning annual salary plus housing allowance for bishop-elect Paula Schmitt at \$73,620”.
- With thirteen officers & synod council members present for this zoom-vote, the results were six voting members in-favor & six opposed, with Bishop Rhyne abstaining from the vote. Having failed to attain a majority of in-favor votes... the motion is lost.
- The bishop-elect's initial salary plus housing allowance is therefore established at \$70,620 as per Synod Council motion *SC18.01.04*, which recommends compensation for the bishop-elect based on two criterion; 13-years of ordination + a 20% premium.

The next Synod Council meeting is scheduled for Saturday - September 11, 2021

Synod Council members in attendance at Sequanota... 14 of 17

- Executive Committee
 - Bishop Rhyne – present
 - Bishop-elect Paula Schmitt - present
 - VP Gary Gable – present
 - VP-elect Ann Ferry - present
 - Secretary Dave Finney – present
 - Treasurer Bill Layton – absent
 - Member at large Allen Stump - present
- Council Members
 - Pr. Nancy Hoover - present
 - Pr. Rebecca Horn - present
 - Joyce Long – present
 - Pr. Amanda McCaffery - absent
 - Andrea Paul – absent
 - Michele Peese – present
 - Marlin Plymette – present
 - Allen Stump - present
 - Pr. Karen Ward – present
 - Pr. Curt Wingert - present
- Synod Staff
 - None