

Allegheny Synod – ELCA
Synod Council Meeting
January 21, 2023

The January Synod Council meeting was called to order by Bishop Paula at 9:00am

Upon motion by Bishop Paula, seconded by Vicar Allen Stump

- **SC23.01.01** - to adopt the agenda for today's meeting as amended... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Pr. Becky Horn, seconded by Pr. Amanda McCaffrey

- **SC23.01.02** – to adopt the minutes of the November 19th Synod Council meeting & the December 6th Executive Committee meeting (*via email*)... the motion is adopted

The devotions were led by Pr. Ralph Hamer

Report of the Treasurer – Bill Layton

Summary position of revenues – thru Nov (10 months into the 2022-23 fiscal year)

- Total revenues of \$594,000
- Total expenses of \$667,000
- Surplus of \$29,000 for 10 months
- November results indicated a loss for the month (due to a quarterly partner payment)

Detail of the summary

- Mission Support is down \$15,000 (roughly a 2% decline)
- There was a \$159,000 unrealized loss in the investment portfolio valuation
 - We regained \$56,000 in November alone - in portfolio valuation

Moving forward

- The Mission support is also down
 - We are down to 45% of revenue forwarded to the ELCA
 - Travel expenses are also down ytd
- ELCA Foundation was not asking Synods to participate during the pandemic
 - However, we opted to make a quarterly payment of \$1,250, which is our membership in the ELCCA Foundation
- Synod events net costs
 - Synod assembly \$3,500
 - Bishop convo \$3,700
 - Youth events \$226
- Balance Sheet
 - Cash position \$127,000
 - Investment portfolio \$2.6 million
- There was no spike in revenue this year – reflective of the end-of-the-year Christmas giving by the congregations.

Upon motion Bill Layton, second by Vicar Allen Stump

- **SC23.01.03** – Contingent on receiving the anticipated bump in giving (from our congregations) in January (the last month of the fiscal year), that we return to our traditional 50% level of giving to the ELCA for fiscal year 2022-23... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Pr. Ralph Hamer, seconded by Vicar Allen Stump

- **SC23.01.04** - To table the discussion of **SC23.01.03** until we have a discussion on the shared DEM position... the motion to table motion **SC23.01.03** is adopted

Bishop Paula announced that Treasurer Bill Layton does not intend to seek a 2nd term as Synod Treasurer.

- In May of 2019, Bill was appointed by the Synod Council to a 4-year term to begin on August 1, 2019.
- Bill has offered to continue beyond the August 1, 2023 end-of-term date, until a new Treasurer is on board.
- From the Synod Constitution **+S8.41**. - The Treasurer may be elected by the Synod Assembly or may be appointed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The treasurer may be either a layperson or a rostered minister.

Upon motion by Bishop Paula, seconded by Pr. Amanda McCaffery

- **SC23.01.05** – that we continue to work with CPA Associates thru the 2023-24 fiscal year... the motion is adopted

Shared DEM update... what would a shared DEM concentrate on?

- The congregational area
- Identity work
- New start congregations

Allegheny, West Virginia/Western Maryland, Upper Susquehanna, Northwest PA – the four most similar synods in region 8.

Upon motion by Gary Gable, seconded by Pr. Ralph Hamer

- **SC23.01.06** - That we continue to have the discussion relative to employing a shared DEM position with the Upper Susquehanna Synod & transitioning Pr. Kevin Shock's position from DEM to full-time assistant to Bishop Schmitt... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Bishop Paula, seconded by Pr. Amanda McCaffrey

- **SC23.01.07** – that the Rev. Julia Sprenkle be granted On Leave from Call status, effective Feb 13, 2023... the motion is adopted

Disaffiliations in Process

Upon motion by Bishop Paula, seconded by Pr. Amanda McCaffrey

- **SC23.01.08** – to affirm the second vote for disaffiliation taken November 27, 2022, by Mt. Zion, Bakersville... the motion is adopted

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

- **SC23.01.09** – to affirm the anticipated second vote for disaffiliation to be taken on January 22, 2023, by Christ Lutheran-Dubois... the motion is adopted

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

- **SC23.01.10** - to remove the Rev. John Miller & the Rev. Amy Godshall-Miller from the Allegheny Synod roster & the ELCA roster of Ministers of Word & Sacrament, as a result of Christ Lutheran-Dubois' disaffiliation, effective January 22, 2023... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Bishop Paula, seconded by Pr. Amanda McCaffrey

- **SC23.01.11** – to remove the Rev. Jenny Barnes from the roster of Ministers of Word & Sacrament of the Allegheny Synod, retroactive to Feb 18, 2021... the motion is adopted

The next Synod Council meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2023

Bishop Paula adjourned the meeting at 1:10pm

Synod Council members in attendance... 13 of 14

- Executive Committee (*1-ordained, 4-lay*)
 - Bishop Paula Schmitt - present
 - VP Ann Ferry - present
 - Secretary Dave Finney – present
 - Treasurer Bill Layton – present
 - Vicar Allen Stump – present
- Council Members (*5-ordained, 4-lay*)
 - Gary Gable – present
 - Pr. Ralph Hamer - present
 - Pr. Nancy Hoover - present
 - Pr. Rebecca Horn – present
 - Pr. Marty Jo Irvin-Stellabotte - present
 - Joyce Long – present
 - Pr. Amanda McCaffery - present
 - Andrea Paul – absent
 - Michele Peese – present
- Synod Staff
 - DEM Pr. Kevin Shock – present
- Guests
 - Fay Dellinger – Allegheny Synod Women's Organization