

**MINUTES OF THE 33<sup>rd</sup> ASSEMBLY OF THE ALLEGHENY SYNOD**  
A Virtual Assembly via Zoom  
Friday - June 4<sup>th</sup> & Saturday - June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Friday – June 4, 2021

Opening of the Synod Assembly

**Welcome** – Bishop Rhyne

- Welcome comments & thanks for your involvement with the Allegheny Synod
- Opening of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Allegheny Synod at 8:37 A.M.

**Plenary Session I**<sup>1</sup>

**Registration Report/Quorum**

Delegate Count	
Clergy.....	78
Deacons .....	3
Laity	
Male.....	54
Female.....	97
POC/ESL.....	1
Youth/Young Adult.....	3
 Total Delegate Count <sup>2</sup> .....	236

**Adoption of the Agenda**

Upon motion by Gary Gable, second by Pr. Nathan Pile

- **SA21.06.02** – that the Synod Assembly agenda be adopted... the motion is adopted

**Presentation of the 2019 Minutes**

Upon motion by Dave Finney, seconded by Jack Seymour

- **SA21.06.03** – that the Assembly accept the Minutes of the 2019 Synod Assembly as presented (*pages 101-114 of the BOR*)... the motion is adopted

**Rules and Procedure**

Upon motion by Gary Gable, seconded by Pr. Curt Wingert

- **SA21.06.04** – to adopt the Rules of Procedure for this virtual Synod Assembly (*pages 7-8 of the BOR*) ... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Pr. Curt Wingert, seconded by Pr. Carolyn Hetrick

- **SA21.06.05** - That voice & vote be granted to our three partner UCC pastors; Pr. Dick Henry, Pr. David Williams & Pastor Julia Holm... the motion is adopted

**Introductions**

---

<sup>1</sup> All BOR page references in the 2021 Minutes refer to the “2021 Bulletin of Reports”

<sup>2</sup> In accordance with provision **51.14** of the Allegheny Synod Constitution, a quorum is deemed to be present

- Greetings to other synods electing Bishops
- Our ELCA visitor is Deacon Sue Rothmeyer (ELCA Secretary)
- We also welcome Bishop April Larson, the first female Bishop in the ELCA
- Officers of the Allegheny Synod
- Parliamentarian – Sam Clapper
- Synod Staff: Michelle Bossler & Pr. Becca Ehrlich
- Help Desk Team & Tech Team
- The Transition Committee
- The Assembly Committee
- The E Ballot people
- All voting members

### ***Service of Word & Prayer - For All the Faithful Women***

- Presiding – Bishop Michael Rhyne
- Assisting – Rev. Dr. Becca Ehrlich

### ***First ballot for Bishop***

- ELCA Secretary Sue Rothmeyer – 237 voting members are registered
- Prayer led by Chaplain Judy Simonsen

Brief presentations by the four nominees for *Vice President & Secretary*

- Candidates for *Vice President*
  - Ann Ferry
  - Gary Gable
- Candidates for *Secretary*
  - Dave Finney
  - Pr. Becky Horn

***Bishop's Report*** – (reference to pages 36-52 of the BOR)

### ***Ballot for VP and Secretary***

### ***Bible Study I***

Bishop April Larson (1<sup>st</sup> female Bishop in the ELCA)

- Mark 14: 3-9 – the earliest story of the anointing of Jesus at Bethany (not in the common lectionary)
  - This un-named woman is a pastor & a priest to Jesus
    - Comes in silence & pours out anointment on his head, like he was a King
    - Is this the first person to recognize who Jesus is & what his true mission is?
    - Jesus welcomes her ministry... what impact might this have had on the ordination of women
  - This is the only passage where commands us
  - The disciples never understand who Jesus is.... They are always looking for Glory

- Mark is our oldest & first Gospel – available to the other gospel writers thru the years
- I will always be with you; I'm walking with you only a short while... she has done a kindness to me

*Penn State Campus Ministry* - video presentation

*United Lutheran Seminary* - video presentation

Results of the first ballot for Bishop

		<b>1st Ballot</b>	
		<b>Nominating Ballot 75% to elect</b>	
<i>Registered Delegate Count</i>		237	
<i>Number of Votes Cast</i>		192	
<i>Invalid Votes</i>		10	
<i>Blank Votes</i>		0	
<i>Legal Votes</i>		182	
<b>Votes needed to Elect</b>		<b>137</b>	
1	Schmitt, Paula	30	16.5%
2	Klimke, Scott	27	14.8%
3	Shock, Kevin	24	13.2%
4	Gable, Dena	17	9.3%
5	Hamer, Ralph	6	3.3%
6	Way, Robert	2	1.1%
7	Olson, Jamie	8	4.4%
8	McNamara, Kevin	4	2.2%
9	Fischer, Mark	6	3.3%
10	Pile, Nathan	15	8.2%
11	Schul, Scott	11	6.0%
12	Ehrlich, Becca	5	2.7%
13	Holland, Toby	4	2.2%
14	Bowman, David	2	1.1%
15	Erb, Sharon	2	1.1%
16	Hetrick, Carolyn	2	1.1%
17	Lynn, P. Stevens	2	1.1%
18	Osman, Will	2	1.1%
19	Book, Brent	1	0.5%
20	Foster, Glenn	1	0.5%
21	Graham, Tyler	1	0.5%
22	Hess, Elizabeth	1	0.5%
23	Hoover, Nancy	1	0.5%
24	Marriott, Traci	1	0.5%

25	Marvich, Tiffany	1	0.5%
26	McCaffrey, Andrew	1	0.5%
27	Miller, Lynn	1	0.5%
28	Miller, Ron	1	0.5%
29	Roe, Christine	1	0.5%
30	Sprenkle, Julie	1	0.5%
31	Winger, Sue	1	0.5%

### *Results of the Synod Officers Election*

#### **Synod Vice President**

215 number of valid ballots

108 minimum number to elect

- 162 Ann Ferry (75.3%)
- 53 Gary Gable (24.7%)

Ann Ferry is elected to 4-year term as Vice President of the Allegheny Synod

#### **Synod Secretary**

215 number of valid ballots

108 minimum number to elect

- 117 Dave Finney (54.4%)
- 98 Pr. Becky Horn (45.6%)

Dave Finney is elected to a third 4-year term as Secretary of the Allegheny Synod

### *Second Ballot for Bishop*

Presentation of Second ballot for Bishop after withdrawals

- The second ballot for bishop includes 9 candidates
- ELCA Secretary Sue Rothmeyer – 237 voting members are registered
- Prayer led by Chaplain Judy Simonsen

### *Synod Elections First Ballot*

**Synod Council** - lay female (elect 2)

- Andrea Paul
- Michele Peese
- Peggy Thatcher

**Synod Council** - lay male (elect 2)

- Gary Gable
- Timothy Albright
- Richard Donahue
- Richard Hertlein
- Alan Stump

***Synod Council*** – clergy (elect 4)

- Pr. Nancy Hoover
- Pr. Amanda McCaffery
- Pr. Jamie Olson
- Pr. Karen Ward
- Pr. Curt Wingert

***Consultation Committee*** – clergy male (elect 1) 6-year term

- Pr. Dave Bowman
- Pr. Drew McCaffery
- Pr. Will Osman
- Pr. Curt Wingert

***Consultation Committee*** – lay male (elect 1) 5-year term

- Richard Donahue
- Richard Hertlein

***Consultation Committee*** – lay female (elect 1) 5-year term

- Theresa Cole

***Consultation Committee*** – lay female (elect 1) 4-year term

- Joy Brode

***Discipline Committee*** – clergy male (elect 1) 6-year term

- Pr. Will Osman
- Pr. Curt Wingert

***Discipline Committee*** – clergy male (elect 2) 5-year term

- Pr. Ralph Hamer
- Pr. Drew McCaffery

***Discipline Committee*** – lay female (elect 1) 4-year term

- Theresa Corle
- Michele Peese

***Mission Endowment Fund Committee*** (elect 1) 2-year term

- Allen Stump

***Mission Endowment Fund Committee*** (elect 1) 1-year term

- Pr. Will Osman
- Pr. Paul Tomkiel

***2022 ELCA Churchwide Voting Member*** clergy male (elect 1)

- Pr. Drew McCaffery
- Pr. Jamie Olson
- Pr. Bob Way

- Pr. Curt Wingert

**2022 ELCA Churchwide Voting Member** clergy female (elect 1)

- Deacon Alicia Anderson
- Pr. Amanda McCaffery

**2022 ELCA Churchwide Voting Member** lay male (elect 2)

- Richard Donahue
- Thomas Horn
- Richard Hertlein
- Allen Stump

**2022 ELCA Churchwide Voting Member** lay female (elect 1)

- Susan Barclay
- Sally Horn
- Amy Will

***Celebration of Ordinations...***

Celebrating 5 years of ordination in 2020

- Pastor Drew McCaffery
- Pastor Karen Ward
- Pastor Paul Tomkiel
- Pastor Toby Holland

Celebrating 5-years of ordination in 2021

- Pastor Jennifer Soltis
- Pastor Jono Adams

Celebrating 10 years of ordination in 2020

- Pastor Dena Gable
- Pastor Julia Sprenkle
- Pastor Lois Ryan
- Pastor Ruth Jensen

Celebrating 10 years of ordination in 2021

- Pastor Becky Horn
- Pastor Carolyn Hetrick
- Pastor Scott Schul

Celebrating 15 years of ordination in 2021

- Pastor Kevin Shock
- Pastor Larry Hoover
- Pastor Linda Jesusko

Celebrating 20 years of Ordination in 2020

- Pastor Doug Knupp
- Pastor Jaime Olson

Celebrating 20 years of Ordination in 2021

- Pastor Linda McElroy Thomas
- Pastor Bob Way

Celebrating 25 years of Ordination in 2020

- Pastor Katherine Douglass
- Pastor Suzanne Morelli
- Pastor Michael Van Dyke

Celebrating 25 years of Ordination in 2021

- Pastor David Wright
- Deacon Nancy Gable

Celebrating 35 years of Ordination in 2020

- Pastor Bill Deist

Celebrating 40 years of Ordination in 2020

- Pastor Judy Simonsen

Celebrating 40 years of Ordination in 2021

- Pastor Carol Custead
- Pastor Scott Custead
- Pastor Ed Devore

Celebrating 45 years of Ordination in 2020

- Bishop Emeritus Gregory Pile
- Deacon Pernelle Devore

Celebrating 45 years of Ordination in 2021

- Pastor Hans-Peter Helmers
- Pastor Nelson Ilgenfritz

Celebrating 50 years of Ordination in 2020

- Pastor Russ Sauerwein

Celebrating 55 years of Ordination in 2021

- Pastor John Klingeman

Celebrating 60 years of Ordination in 2020

- Pastor Jack Timm

Celebrating 60 years of Ordination in 2021

- Pastor Carl Miller

And Celebrating 65 years of Ordination

- Pastor Ed Harshbarger

Commemorating the longest ordained pastor on the Roster of the Allegheny Synod, this year Pastor Ed Harshbarger celebrates 65 years of Ordained ministry. Let us thank God for these ministers of the Gospel and for their years of faithful ministry.

### ***Congregational Anniversaries...***

Celebrating 150 years of Ministry in 2020 – founded in 1870

- Trinity Lutheran Church in Hooversville
- Trinity Lutheran Church in Confluence

Celebrating 150 years of Ministry in 2021 – founded in 1871

- Mt Tabor Luther Church in Garrett

Celebrating 175 years of Ministry in 2021 – Founded in 1846

- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Duncansville
- Mt Calvary Lutheran Church in Levansville

Celebrating 225 years of Ministry in 2020 – founded in 1795

- St Peters Lutheran Church in Rebersburg
- St James Lutheran Church in Huntingdon

Adding some perspective – from those congregations celebrating anniversaries in 2020 and 2021 this is a combined 1,430 years of ministry here in the heart of Pennsylvania. Let us thank God for the ministry of our congregations, pastors, and deacons here in the Allegheny Synod.

### ***Report of the second ballot for Bishop***

		<b><i>2nd Ballot</i></b>	
		<b><i>75% to elect</i></b>	
<i>Registered Delegate Count</i>		237	
<i>Number of Votes Cast</i>		214	
<i>Invalid Votes</i>		0	
<i>Blank Votes</i>		0	
<i>Legal Votes</i>		214	
<b><i>Votes needed to Elect</i></b>		<b>161</b>	
1	Schmitt, Paula	75	35.0%
2	Klimke, Scott	44	20.6%
3	Shock, Kevin	34	15.9%
4	Gable, Dena	28	13.1%
5	Hamer, Ralph	12	5.6%
6	Way, Robert	7	3.3%
7	Olson, Jamie	6	2.8%
8	McNamara, Kevin	5	2.3%
9	Fischer, Mark	3	1.4%

The top seven *nominees* advancing to the Third Ballot for Bishop will speak to the Assembly via Zoom.

1. Rev. Dena Gable – Pastor at Lavansville/Bakersville Parish – Somerset
2. Rev. Scott Klimke – Pastor at Mt. Calvary – Johnstown
3. Rev. Kevin Shock – Pastor at St. Mark - Pleasant Gap



4. Rev. Robert Way – Pastor at St. John – Clearfield
5. Rev. Jamie Olson – Pastor at Evangelical - Duncansville
6. Rev. Paula Schmitt – Interim Pastor at Trinity - Latrobe
7. Rev. Ralph Hamer – Pastor at ALSM

**Report of the Treasurer** – Mr. Bill Layton – (reference page 115 of the BOR)

**Bible Study II** - Bishop Larson

- John 5 – the Mary Magdalene passage, an Apostle to the Apostles

**ELCA Report** – Secretary Sue Rothmeyer

- The theme... for all the faithful women
- A video message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to the Synod Assemblies
- \$1.5 million to Synods who applied for Grants
- A tribute to Bishop Rhyne from Bishop Bill Gohl
- Churchwide has adopted a new purpose statement
  - <https://www.elca.org/en/About/Mission-and-Vision>

**Results from Synod Elections First Ballot**

**Synod Council** - lay female (elect 2)

382 number of valid ballots

97 minimum number to elect

- Andrea Paul - 159
- Michele Peese - 115
- Peggy Thatcher – 108

Andrea Paul is elected to a 3-year term & Michele Peese is elected to a 2-year term

**Synod Council** - lay male (elect 2)

385 number of valid ballots

97 minimum number to elect

- Gary Gable - 115
- Timothy Albright - 91
- Richard Donahue - 55
- Richard Hertlein -35
- Alan Stump – 89

Gary Gable is elected to a 3-year term

Timothy Albright & Alan Stump advance to a second ballot for a 2-year term

**Synod Council** (elect 4)

725 number of valid votes

92 minimum number to elect

- Pr. Nancy Hoover - 144
- Pr. Amanda McCaffery - 158

- Pr. Jamie Olson - 113
- Pr. Karen Ward - 147
- Pr. Curt Wingert – 163

Pr. Nancy Hoover, Pr. Amada McCaffrey, Pr. Karen Ward are elected to a 3-year term, Pr. Kurt Wingert is elected to a 2-year term.<sup>3</sup>

***Consultation Committee*** – clergy male (elect 1) 6-year term

204 number of valid votes

103 minimum number to elect

- Pr. Dave Bowman - 99
- Pr. Drew McCaffery - 35
- Pr. Will Osman - 45
- Pr. Curt Wingert – 25

Pr. Dave Bowman & Pr. Will Osman advance to a second ballot

***Consultation Committee*** – lay male (elect 1) 5-year term

204 number of valid votes

103 minimum number to elect

- Richard Donahue - 136
- Richard Hertlein – 68

Richard Donahue is elected to a 5-year term

***Consultation Committee*** – lay female (elect 1) 5-year term

204 number of valid votes

103 minimum number to elect

- Theresa Cole – 204

Theresa Cole is elected to a 5-year term

***Consultation Committee*** – lay female (elect 1) 4-year term

204 number of valid votes

103 minimum number to elect

- Joy Brode – 204

Joy Brode is elected to a 4-year term

***Discipline Committee*** – clergy male (elect 1) 6-year term

204 number of valid votes

103 minimum number to elect

- Pr. Will Osman - 119
- Pr. Curt Wingert – 85

Pr. Will Osman is elected to a 6-year term

---

<sup>3</sup> Pr. Kurt Wingert resigned from this 2-year term on Synod Council in the Fall of 2021, having accepted a call in the Upper Susquehanna Synod.

***Discipline Committee*** – clergy male (elect 2) 5-year term

314 number of valid votes

80 minimum number to elect

- Pr. Ralph Hamer - 159
- Pr. Drew McCaffery – 155

Pr. Ralph Hamer & Pr. Drew McCaffery are elected to a 5-year term

***Discipline Committee*** – lay female (elect 1) 4-year term

204 number of valid votes

103 minimum number to elect

- Theresa Corle - 103
- Michele Peese – 101

Theresa Corle is elected to a 4-year term

***Mission Endowment Fund Committee*** (elect 1) 2-year term

204 number of valid votes

103 minimum number to elect

- Allen Stump – 204

Allen Stump is elected to a 2-year term

***Mission Endowment Fund Committee*** (elect 1) 1-year term

204 number of valid votes

103 minimum number to elect

- Pr. Will Osman - 67
- Pr. Paul Tomkiel – 137

Pr. Paul Tomkiel is elected to a 1-year term

***2022 ELCA Churchwide Voting Member*** (elect 1) clergy male

204 number of valid votes

103 minimum number to elect

- Pr. Drew McCaffery - 59
- Pr. Jamie Olson - 40
- Pr. Bob Way - 58
- Pr. Curt Wingert – 47

Pr. Drew McCaffery & Pr. Curt Wingert advance to a second ballot

***2022 ELCA Churchwide Voting Member*** (elect 1) clergy female

204 number of valid votes

103 minimum number to elect

- Deacon Alicia Anderson - 127
- Pr. Amanda McCaffery – 77

Deacon Alicia Anderson is elected as a 2022 Churchwide voting member

**2022 ELCA Churchwide Voting Member** (elect 2) lay male

358 number of valid votes

91 minimum number to elect

- Richard Donahue - 69
- Thomas Horn - 134
- Richard Hertlein - 44
- Allen Stump – 111

Thomas Horn & Allen Stump are elected as 2022 Churchwide voting members

**2022 ELCA Churchwide Voting Member** (elect 1) lay female

204 number of valid votes

103 minimum number to elect

- Susan Barclay - 79
- Sally Horn - 76
- Amy Will – 49

Susan Barclay & Sally Horn advance to a second ballot

### ***Third Ballot for Bishop***

Presentation of third ballot for Bishop

- The third ballot for bishop includes 7 candidates
- ELCA Secretary Sue Rothmeyer – 237 voting members are registered
- Prayer led by Chaplain Judy Simonsen

***Report of the Secretary*** – Mr. Dave Finney

Presented are the twelve recommended constitutional changes emanating from the 2019 Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee, WI (*reference pages 99-100 of the BOR*). This item comes to the Assembly as a motion to adopt from the Synod Council **SC21.05.02**. A second to the motion is not required, a majority vote of the Assembly is required to adopt.

Upon motion by the Allegheny Synod Council

- **SA21.06.06**– that the 2021 Synod Assembly adopt the recommended constitutional changes emanating from the 2019 Churchwide Assembly... the motion is adopted.

***Report of the Committee on Reference & Counsel*** – Dr. Pat Savage

Resolution **SA21.06.01 - Allegheny Synod Bishop's Sabbatical** (*reference page 160 of the BOR*)

Upon motion by the Committee on Reference & Counsel...

- **SA21.06.07** –that resolution **SA21.06.01** be conveyed to Synod Council, the Finance Committee & the ELCA for further consideration... the motion is adopted

**Report of the third ballot for Bishop**

		<b>3rd Ballot</b>	
		<b>66.67% to elect</b>	
<i>Registered Delegate Count</i>		237	
<i>Number of Votes Cast</i>		216	
<i>Invalid Votes</i>		0	
<i>Blank Votes</i>		0	
<i>Legal Votes</i>		216	
<b>Votes needed to Elect</b>		<b>144</b>	
1	<b>Schmitt, Paula</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>39.4%</b>
2	<b>Shock, Kevin</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>23.1%</b>
3	<b>Klimke, Scott</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>18.5%</b>
4	Gable, Dena	25	11.6%
5	Hamer, Ralph	8	3.7%
6	Way, Robert	3	1.4%
7	Olson, Jamie	5	2.3%

**Saturday, June 5, 2021**

**Opening Worship** - Camp Sequanota Staff via Zoom

**Results from Synod Elections Second Ballot**

**Synod Council** - lay male (elect 1) 2-year term

200 number of valid ballots

101 minimum number to elect

- Timothy Albright - 98
- Alan Stump – 102

Alan Stump is elected to a 2-year term

**Consultation Committee** – clergy male (elect 1) 6-year term

203 number of valid votes

102 minimum number to elect

- Pr. Dave Bowman - 134
- Pr. Drew McCaffery - 69

Pr. Dave Bowman is elected to a 6-year term

**2022 ELCA Churchwide Voting Member** (elect 1) clergy male

204 number of valid votes

103 minimum number to elect

- Pr. Drew McCaffery - 120
- Pr. Bob Way - 84

Pr. Drew McCaffery is elected as a 2022 Churchwide voting member

**2022 ELCA Churchwide Voting Member** (elect 1) lay female

201 number of valid votes

101 minimum number to elect

- Susan Barclay - 97
- Sally Horn - 104

Sally Horn is elected as a 2022 Churchwide voting member

***Forth Ballot for Bishop***

In advance of the fourth ballot for Bishop, the three nominees respond to six questions; three of the questions were given to the nominees in advance of the fourth ballot & three of the spontaneous questions are asked of the nominees without any time for advanced preparation.

Three advanced preparation questions...

1. What do you see as the principal challenge for this synod's bishop in the next 6-years & what will you do to address it?
2. How have your gifts & the experiences of your life prepared you to serve as bishop?
3. The office of synod bishop requires balancing multiple roles. Tell us what you have done in the past to balance multiple demanding priorities.

Three spontaneous questions...

1. In the event of a major crisis, as bishop, what would your priority be as the first course of action?
2. Tell us a story about how Jesus has shaped your life and why it matters to you.
3. Tell us about a time when things weren't going so well, what did you learn from that?

Presentation of fourth ballot for Bishop

- The fourth ballot for bishop includes 3 candidates
- ELCA Secretary Sue Rothmeyer – 237 voting members are registered
- Prayer led by Chaplain Judy Simonsen

***Vice President's Report*** – Gary Gable

- Reflected on experiences at Churchwide Assembly
- Spoke of the COVID trials & tribulations of the past 2-years
- Offered thanks to all retiring council members
- Expressed gratitude for the experience of working with Bishop Rhyne

Upon motion by Pr. Vicki Beilfuss

- **SA21.06.08** – Offered a Resolution in Appreciation of Vice President Gary Gable for his diligent service to the Allegheny Synod... the resolution is adopted

### **Report of the fourth ballot for Bishop**

		<b>4th Ballot</b>	
		<b>60% to elect</b>	
<i>Registered Delegate Count</i>		237	
<i>Number of Votes Cast</i>		220	
<i>Invalid Votes</i>		0	
<i>Blank Votes</i>		0	
<i>Legal Votes</i>		220	
<b>Votes needed to Elect</b>		<b>132</b>	
1	Schmitt, Paula	88	40.0%
2	Klimke, Scott	69	31.4%
3	Shock, Kevin	63	28.6%

### **Treasurer's Supplemental Report**

Mr. Layton addressed some questions that arose following his report & prior to our discussion on the 2022-23 Budget

### **Budget & the Compensation Recommendations**

Upon motion by Synod Council **SC21.04.01** (via email) – to accept the proposed 2022-23 budget as presented by the Finance Committee & convey this document to the 2021 Allegheny Synod Assembly along with the recommendation to adopt

- **SA21.06.09** – the fiscal year 2022-23 budget is adopted by the Synod Assembly

Upon motion by Synod Council **SC21.05.04** – to accept the 2022 Compensation & Benefits Manual with Guidelines & convey this document to the 2021 Synod Assembly along with a recommendation to adopt

- **SA21.06.10** – the 2022 Compensation & Benefits Manual with Guidelines is adopted by the Synod Assembly.

### **Fifth Ballot for Bishop**

Presentation of fifth ballot for Bishop

- The fifth ballot for bishop includes 2 candidates
- ELCA Secretary Sue Rothmeyer – 237 voting members are registered
- Prayer led by Chaplain Judy Simonsen

*Report of the fifth ballot for Bishop*

		<b>5th Ballot</b>	
		<b>A majority to elect</b>	
<i>Registered Delegate Count</i>		237	
<i>Number of Votes Cast</i>		222	
<i>Invalid Votes</i>		0	
<i>Blank Votes</i>		0	
<i>Legal Votes</i>		222	
<b><i>Votes needed to Elect</i></b>		<b>112</b>	
1	<b>Schmitt, Paula</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>54.5%</b>
2	Klimke, Scott	101	45.5%

<sup>i</sup>The Rev. Paula Schmitt is elected & called as Bishop of the Allegheny Synod 8C - ELCA<sup>4</sup>

Bishop Rhyne adjourned the 33<sup>rd</sup> Assembly of the Allegheny Synod at 12:30 P.M.

---

<sup>4</sup> Rev. Schmitt's election & call as Bishop is a 6-year term, to begin on September 1, 2021.



---

<sup>i</sup> RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION 2021

WHEREAS, the Allegheny Synod has met in Assembly and fulfilled its business;

WHEREAS, the Holy Spirit has enabled the Assembly in its action to fulfill its theme to be “All the Faithful Women” in our Allegheny Synod and in all of the world;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Allegheny Synod Assembly convening via Zoom on June 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> expresses its gratitude:

- to the synod assembly planners, for arranging the agenda of the Zoom meeting that one can identify as the “Hollywood Squares” or the “Brady Bunch” format to address business, education, and worship;
- to Bishop Rhyne for his leadership throughout his tenure and for focusing on the importance of how Jesus loves us and for reminding us to be patient;
- to Bishop Rhyne for best wishes in his continued ministry;
- to Bill Layton for his financial expertise;
- to our synod partners for their ministries among us and for fulfilling the work of the Gospel on a daily basis;
- to Dave Finney, our synod secretary, for keeping our records organized;
- to the technology crew for their attentiveness to detail and fixing the challenges of a virtual synod assembly;
- to the synod officers and voting members to the Churchwide Assembly for their leadership;
- to the Help Team for responding to our questions;
- to Bishop April Larson, the first female Bishop in the ELCA, our Bible Study leader, who reminded us that Mark is the oldest of the four Gospels and that we should listen to Mark and follow his testimony regarding the mission of Jesus;
- to new ordinands for their commitment to pastoral ministry;
- to the rostered persons who celebrated anniversaries of ordination;
- to the retired rostered persons for their many years of ministry among us;
- to the congregations who celebrated anniversaries; may your ministry continue for at least 225 more years;
- to all the bishop candidates who were nominated and their willingness to serve our beloved Church;
- to Deacon Sue E. Rothmeyer, the secretary of the ELCA, who is the first Deacon and female to serve in this role, and who was with us to be sure all went well with the election of a new Bishop;
- to Pastor Dena Gable for sharing her artistic abilities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women;
- to Bishop-elect Pr. Paula Schmitt, for her willingness to serve as our synodical leader. We pledge to work with you to be the Church together and the Church for the sake of the world; and
- to some behind-the-scenes assistants among us (to name a few)...Michelle Bossler for distribution of needed materials for our Zoom assembly; to the financial assistant, Dr. Seymour Mulla; to the Audio Visual Expert, Kent C. Nuttin; to the Prayer Service Leader, Pastor Denise R. Sore; to the Choir Director, Duey Whistle; to the Timekeeper, Bea Dunn Sooner; to the Hymn Selector, Ewell B. Sorry; to the Teller, All N. Favor; to the Adjournment Mover, Frieda Goh; and to the Bishop’s Self-Esteem Guru, Hugh D’Mann; and to all those persons who once again enabled us to conduct a successful and prayerful assembly filled with Zoom fellowship.

This Assembly called upon us to remember that we are called to recognize the talents of all people. May we share the promise of Christ with all believers as we continue to fulfill our mission to serve in a dynamic and generative world now and forever.