

Allegheny Synod – ELCA
Synod Council Meeting
Remote meeting via Zoom
September 19, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:02am by Gary Gable

Upon motion by Pr. Dave Bowman, seconded by Thom Horn

- **SC20.09.01** - to adopt the agenda for today's meeting... the motion is adopted

Devotions Pr. Becca; Colossians 1:15-20

Upon motion by Thom Horn, seconded by Pr. Sharon Erb

- **SC20.09.02** – to adopt the minutes of the May 16th, the May 20th & the July 18th council meeting as presented... the motion is adopted

Bishop's Comments

Upon motion by Bishop Rhyne, seconded by Gary Gable

- **SC20.09.03** – that Kevin Naugle be appointed to a 3-year term on the Sequanota Board of Directors... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Bishop Rhyne, seconded by Pr. Dave Bowman

- **SC20.09.04** - to assign the four current officers of Synod Council (Bishop Michael Rhyne, Vice President Gary Gable, Secretary Dave Finney & Treasurer Bill Layton) as signators of the safe deposit box at M&T Bank... the motion is adopted

Old Business

Covenant of Understanding: Following discussion, Pr. Becky Horn provided a final draft of the document for distribution & review, with adoption pending a vote of Synod Council via email.

Upon motion by Marlin Plymette, seconded by Pr. Judy Simonson

- **SC20.09.05** – to adopt the Covenant of Understanding as presented.
 - *Note: voting to take place via email following review of the document.*

Upon motion by Pr. Becky Horn, seconded by Bill Layton

- **SC20.09.06** – to adopt the Minimum Compensation Guideline Recommendation for 2021 as presented... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Bishop Rhyne, seconded by Thom Horn

- **SC20.09.07** - to approve the bylaws of **Grace Delivered** (a partner ministry of the Laurel Highlands Conference)... the motion is adopted

New Business

The Synod Council entered into Executive Session from 10:14am – 10:27am

Upon motion by Bishop Rhyne, seconded by Pr. Judy Simonson

- **SC20.10.08**– to accept the Bishop Rhyne’s proposal with regard to the expanded employment of DEM Pr. Becca Ehrlich thru the end of 2020... the motion is adopted
 - Pr. Becca to take on additional duties to cover candidacy, first call & mobility for the Synod.
 - Pr. Becca to add 10 additional hours per week in these areas of ministry.
 - These duties may be accomplished via Zoom, email & phone if pandemic restrictions continue to prevent travel & meetings in person.
 - Pr. Becca’s compensation will be adjusted accordingly.

A progress update on ***Gloria De Dios*** (State College) was offered by Pr. Becca – this is a Synodical Authorized Worship Community Exploration, a Latinx community.

Region 8 ELCA update

- Region 8 will remain eight individual synods for the immediate future.
- Where do we see growth, where do we see decline?
- How can we work together → email your thoughts to Bishop Rhyne by Oct 3, 2020

Financial Management

- As financial (& political) conditions continue to be in flux, the Finance Committee continues to monitor changes in our financial status
- As of this writing, our investments have essentially returned to their pre-pandemic valuations
- The Synod Council will take up the 2021-22 budget at the November 2020 meeting
- The Synod Council will take up the distribution of funds to our Seminarians at the November 2020 meeting... as per continuing resolution ***S15.40.A18***.

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday – November 21, 2020

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23pm

Synod Council members in attendance... 13 of 15

- Executive Committee
 - Bishop Rhyne – present
 - Gary Gable – present
 - Dave Finney – present
 - Bill Layton – present
 - Pr. Sharron Erb - present
- Council Members
 - Pr. David Bowman – present
 - Casey Colledge – absent
 - Olivia Day - absent
 - Pr. Rebecca Horn - present
 - Thom Horn – present
 - Joyce Long - present
 - Andrea Paul – present
 - Marlin Plymette – present
 - Pr. Judy Simonson – present
 - Pr. Jennifer Soltis – present
- Synod Staff
 - Pr. Becca Ehrlich – present