

Allegheny Synod – ELCA  
Synod Council Meeting  
Remote meeting via Zoom  
March 21, 2020

Bishop Rhyne called the meeting to order at 9:00am

Upon Motion & second by members of Synod Council

- **SC20.03.01** – to adopt the meeting agenda as amended... the motion is adopted

Upon Motion & second by members of Synod Council

- **SC20.03.02** – to accept the minutes of the January Synod Council meeting as presented... the motion is adopted

***Bishop Rhyne***

Devotions; Luther's Works, a letter to Dr. John Hess on the subject of "Whether one may flee from a Deadly Plague.

- ◇ Isaiah 43:1-4; Because you are precious in my sight & honored & I love you
- ◇ Psalm 121; I lift up my eyes to the hills
- ◇ John 15: 1-17; I am the true vine & my Father is the vine-grower

COVID 19 and where we are with our congregations

***Synod Officers Comments***

Secretary Finney presented the list of twelve recommended constitutional changes adopted by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

Upon motion by Pr. Becky Horn, seconded by a member of Synod Council

- **SC20.03.03** – that the twelve recommended constitutional changes received from the 2019 CWA be accepted & conveyed to the 2020 Allegheny Synod Assembly, along with the recommendation to adopt... the motion is adopted

Upon Motion & second by members of Synod Council

- **SC20.03.04** – that Synod Assembly originally scheduled for June 5 & 6, 2020 be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a new date to be announced when determined... the motion is adopted

Upon Motion & second by members of Synod Council

- **SC20.03.05** – that the newly elected Bishop take office on January 4, 2021... the motion is adopted

Upon Motion & second by members of Synod Council

- **SC20.03.06** – that the severance package adopted for Bishop Rhyne, Pr. Paula & Michelle Bossler (**SC19.09.03**) will have new effective dates; beginning January 1, 2021 thru May 31, 2021... the motion is adopted

### ***Old Business***

Trinity Bedford will be holding a final vote to terminate its relationship with the ELCA on May 17<sup>th</sup>... in accordance with ELCA constitution provision **9.62**. & provision **\*C6.05**. of the 2019 model constitution for congregations.

Transition Task Force - Casey Colledge presented updates

- Attributes of a Bishop for the Allegheny Synod
- Allegheny Synod Attributes
- Top 10 responses to Priorities for the Allegheny Synod, next 6-years
- Regression analysis of Congregation Survey results

### ***New Business***

Treasurer Bill Layton presented a plan to manage anticipated deficits in the Synod's financial status. Any adjustments required will be made in the next fiscal year.

- A draw down of funds from endowment funds at the rate of 6.75%
- A reduction of our present commitment to the ELCA to less than 50% of our income
- A reduction of selective expenses as listed in the budget

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

- **SC20.03.07** – that Bishop Rhyne engage in conversation with fellow Region 8 Bishops, exploring options to join together in cooperative ventures & or merger ... the motion is adopted

### Consultation Committee

Pr. Erb presented the recommendations of the Consultation Committee in the matter of the Rev. Joshua Rinas.

Upon motion by Pr. Judy Simonson, seconded by Joyce Long

- **SC20.03.08** - to accept the recommendation of the Allegheny Synod Consultation Committee & convey this information to Pr. Rinas... the motion is adopted, with Bishop Rhyne abstaining from the vote.

Upon motion & second by members of Synod Council

- **SC20.03.09** - That the \$2,000 distribution from the Ramsey Estate originally designated for use by the planned *Women's Retreat @ Sequanota in April 2020*, (**SC20.01.05**) now be designated for use by Camp Sequanota... the motion is adopted

## Worship and Service

Rejoicing in the installations of Pr. Evelyn Wald at St Stephen's - Mcalevy's Fort, Pr. Mark Fischer at First – Portage & Pr. John Barichivich at Friedens.

## Leadership & Congregation Support & Development

Upon Motion & second by members of Synod Council

- *SC20.03.10* – to affirm the call of Tyler Graham on March 1, 2020, to serve as pastor of the Salisbury Parish (Laurel Highlands Conference) ... the motion is adopted

Three new Teem candidates were entranced into the candidacy process.

Pr. Becca Ehrlich updated us on the Grant status for the Latinx ministry (Gloria de Dios, Pine Grove Mills) & the Lilly Grant Thriving Congregations in cooperation with the Lower & Upper Susquehanna Synods.

Pr. Julia Sprenkle has been designated as our synod coordinator for the 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25am

Synod Council members in attendance... 13 of 16

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