

Allegheny Synod – ELCA  
Synod Council Meeting  
Remote meeting via Zoom  
January 23, 2021

Upon motion by Bishop Rhyne, seconded by Bill Layton (*via email*)

- *SC20.11.06* – to adopt the minutes of the November 21, 2020 Synod Council meeting as amended... the motion is adopted.

Upon motion by Bishop Rhyne, seconded by Tom Horn (*via email*)

- *SC20.12.01* – in collaboration with Bishop Rhyne, the Synod Council recommends that the congregations of the Allegheny Synod suspend in-person indoor worship services and meetings through January 10, 2021... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Bishop Rhyne, seconded by Tom Horn (*via email*)

- *SC21.01.01* – in collaboration with Bishop Rhyne & the Conference Deans, the Synod Council recommends that the congregations of the Allegheny Synod suspend in-person indoor worship services and meetings through February 14, 2021... the motion is adopted

***The January Council meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Bishop Rhyne***

Bishop Rhyne chaired today's meeting.

Upon motion by Tom Horn, seconded by Casey Colledge

- *SC21.01.02* - to adopt the agenda for today's meeting as amended (adding Pr. Becca Ehrlich's DEM term extension & adding a bylaw modification for Grace Delivered)... the motion is adopted

Devotions - Bishop Rhyne; Isaiah 40

Upon motion by Bishop Rhyne, seconded by Marlin Plymette

- *SC21.01.03* - to accept Yeagar Lutheran's request to leave the Allegheny Synod & the ELCA as per *ELCA 9.60* & *\*C6.05*... the motion is adopted

Bill Layton spoke to the details of the 2021-22 Budget

- 2 budget scenarios are presented – 1) back to normal operations 2) continued COVID implications on operations
- This budget does not contain a severance package for Bishop Rhyne
- This budget does contain funding for an Assistant to the Bishop
- No growth in revenue or expense is forecast in this budget
- This budget restores the full 50% share of Mission Support going to the ELCA
- We are considering & moving on the "COVID" budget for 2021-22

Upon motion by Marlin Plymette, seconded by Pr. Becky Horn

- **SC.21.01.04** - to adopt the “COVID” version of the 2021-22 budget as presented... the motion is adopted

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

- **SC21.01.05** - That we restore previously suspended contributions to the following partners: ELCA \$26,432 - *United Lutheran Seminary* \$10,000 - LAMPa \$1,000...the motion is adopted

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

- **SC21.01.06** - To approve the *Article III, Section 1.C.* amendment to the bylaws of “Grace Delivered”... the motion is adopted<sup>1</sup>

Upon motion by Casey Colledge, seconded by Pr. Jennifer Soltis

- **SC21.01.07**- to appoint Mr. Zack Becker (Christ-Westmont) to the Sequanota Board... the motion is adopted

Pr. Amanda McCaffrey representing the Contingency Committee brought the following recommendations to the Synod Council.

- Conduct an all-digital Synod Assembly in June 2021
- No gathering sites – voting members will log-in from individual or small-group sites
- Use “e-ballot” for voting procedures (which includes a write-in component)
- Use the “Zoom” platform to facilitate the gathering

Upon motion by Marlin Plymette, seconded Casey Colledge

- **SC21.01.08** – upon reception of recommendations from both the Contingency Committee & the Synod Assembly Committee, it is moved that the 2021 Allegheny Synod Assembly be designated as an all-digital event... the motion is adopted.

It was announced that ELCA Secretary Sue Rothmeyer has been designated as the ELCA representative at our 2021 Synod Assembly.

Upon motion by Pr. Judy Simonson, seconded by Tom Horn

- **SC21.01.09** – to extend the term of the Rev. Dr. Becca Ehrlich as DEM of the Allegheny Synod thru Aug 31, 2021... the motion is adopted

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<sup>1</sup> Article III, Section 1. Policy. C. No part of the net earnings of Grace Delivered shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the mission set forth in Article I above.

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

- *SC21.01.10* – that we affirm the call of the Rev. Laretta Dietrich to serve as Pastor of Spring Mills Parish, effective February 1, 2021... the motion is adopted

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday – March 20, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10am

Synod Council members in attendance... 13 of 15

- 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 - absent
  - Pr. Rebecca Horn - present
  - Tom 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
- Guest
  - Pr. Amanda McCaffrey - present