

Allegheny Synod – ELCA
Synod Council Meeting
Remote meeting via Zoom
May 16, 2020

Gary Gable called the meeting to order at 9:00am

Upon Motion by Marlin Plymette & second by Casey Colledge

- **SC20.05.01** – to adopt the meeting agenda... the motion is adopted

Bishop Rhyne

Where we are with COVID 19

- We have received \$7,500 from the ELCA
- Most congregation will wait till the Green Phase to reopen for worship

Synod Officers Comments

Upon Motion by Dave Finney, second Thom Horn

- **SC20.05.02** – to accept the minutes of the March & April Synod Council meetings as presented... the motion is adopted

Old Business

- The Trinity/Bedford vote to leave the ELCA is on hold for now
- Transition Team – planning a meeting to organize around the new Synod Assembly dates

Upon motion by Marlin Plymette, second by Thom Horn

- **SC20.05.03** - to adopt & implement the *Covenant of Understanding*... the motion is adopted

Presiding Bishop Eaton's - comments in-brief

- Region 8 – the Synods of the mid-Atlantic & adjoining states
- COVID 19 Grants - to support synods & congregations (\$1 million as of today)
- Most of the ELCA missions continue
- Hunger grants - hunger is a pressing issue at this time
- Creative ways to continue our work in these times – we're stepping up as a church
- [Here to Serve](#) – Response to COVID-19 from ELCA presiding bishop

Worship and Service

- The Synod online worship services continue on Facebook

Leadership & Congregation Support & Development

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

- **SC20.05.04** – that the Rev. Hans-Peter Helmers be granted retired status on the roster of Ministers of Word & Sacrament, effective May 31, 2020... the motion is adopted.

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

- **SC20.05.05** – that the Rev. Karen Ward be appointed as part-time interim to Christ Lutheran/Buffalo Mills (Madley) effective June 21, 2020 ... the motion is adopted

Financial Management

- Discussion pertaining to the Finance Committee Meeting of May 14, 2020
- The Committee's summary & six proposals to adjust the remainder of the 2020-2021 fiscal year expenditures were taken into consideration
- A Zoom Synod Council meeting is scheduled for May 20th to continue the discussion

New Business

Upon motion by Thom Horne, seconded by Joyce Long

- **SC20.05.06** – that the \$7,500 COVID-19 grant received from the ELCA be distributed as follows; \$5,000 to ***Sequanota***, \$1,500 to ***PSU Campus Ministries*** & \$1,000 to ***Gloria de Dios***, a Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community Exploration within the Latinx community in Centre County... the motion is adopted

The meeting ended at 11:50am

Synod Council members in attendance... 14 of 15

- Executive Committee
 - Bishop Rhyne – present
 - Gary Gable – present
 - Dave Finney – present
 - Bill Layton – present
 - Pr. Sharron Erb - absent
- Council Members
 - Pr. David Bowman – present
 - Casey Colledge – present
 - Olivia Day - present
 - 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 & Honored Guest
 - Pr. Paula Schmitt – present
 - Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton – present