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MISSION: *Inviting people to love each other.*

VISION: *All creation living in harmony with Christ.*

### **SPECIAL SYNOD COUNCIL Meeting Minutes August 13, 2024, Zoom only**

- A. The meeting was called to order by VP Ann Ferry at 6:31 pm.
- B. Pr. Kevin Shock opened with prayer.
- C. In consultation with Churchwide, including Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, it has been recommended that we have Bishop Emeritus Barbara Collins appointed as the Interim Bishop of the Allegheny Synod following Bishop Paula Lebo's resignation.
  - a) Bishop Paula Lebo's last day in the Allegheny Synod office will be September 30, 2024, with the use of vacation time through October 28, 2024.
  - b) Regarding Bishop Emeritus Barabara Collins, she served the Upper Susquehanna Synod as Bishop from 2016-2023. She continues to reside in the Upper Susquehanna Synod. She would carry out the necessary duties of the Office of the Bishop as determined by the Allegheny Synod Council Executive Team in consultation with the Churchwide office. Compensation package will also be determined with the same team.
- D. **SC24.08.01** – Motion to appoint Bishop Emeritus Barbara Collins as the Interim Bishop for the Allegheny Synod until the election of a new Bishop can occur at the next Synod Assembly. Motion was made by VP Ann Ferry, seconded by Peggy Thatcher, motion carried.
- E. **SC24.08.02** – Motion to appoint Terry Koch to serve a three-year term as a Lay Male on the Allegheny Synod Council made by Pr. Ralph Hamer, seconded by Pr. MJ Irvin-Stellabotte, motion carried.
  - a) Terry Koch is a member at Bethany Lutheran, Altoona.
- F. A discussion was had regarding organizing an appreciation event to honor Bishop Paula Lebo and her service to the Allegheny Synod. Michele Peese will help to plan this with the assistance of Peggy Thatcher, Pr. Kevin Shock, and Paula Nihoff.
- G. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

**Next Meeting:** September 21, 2025, at 9:00 am at the NEW Allegheny Synod Office, 916 Hickory Street, Hollidaysburg.

Synod Council members in attendance... 12 of 13

- Executive Committee (*2-ordained, 2-lay*) (election year)
  - Bishop Paula Lebo (2021) – absent
  - VP Ann Ferry (2021) – present
  - Secretary Pr. Becky Horn (2024) – present
  - Treasurer Paula Nihoff (2024) – present
- Council Members (*4-ordained, 5-lay*)
  - Timothy Albright (2023) – present
  - Austin Beirlair (2024) – absent
  - Pr. Tyler Graham (2024) – present
  - Pr. Ralph Hamer (2023) – absent
  - Pr. Nancy Hoover (2024) – present

- Pr. Marty Jo Irvin-Stellabotte (2024) – present
- Joyce Long (2022) – present
- Michele Peese (2023) – present
- Margaret (Peggy) Thatcher (2024) – present
- Vacancies:
  - 1 lay male
  - 2022 clergy (1-year term)
  - Youth (age 15-21)
- Synod Staff
  - Assistant to the Bishop Pr. Kevin Shock – present
  - Director of Evangelical Mission Sue Ellen Spotts – present
- Guests
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