

Allegheny Synod – ELCA  
Synod Council Meeting  
Remote meeting via Zoom  
May 20, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm

Hallmarks of the Synod staffs proposal...

- We are here to do what is best for the people of the Allegheny Synod
- Concerns with Pastors Paula & Becca - an early dismissal & the upcoming September Synod Assembly
  - It is feared that a precedent will be set to cut Pastoral compensation
- Looking for a 3% reduction to the ELCA
  - It is feared that a precedent will be set for congregational giving
- No severance or separation funds for the Bishop in this proposal
- Partner cuts - \$10,000 cut to USL
- Selling the Synod Car – valued \$20,000
  - Other cost savings \$370/month in car expenses
- Pr. Paula to  $\frac{3}{4}$  time +  $\frac{1}{4}$  time in a congregation as an interim

After much discussion...

Upon motion by Pr. Dave Bowman, seconded by Pr. Sharon Erb

- **SC20.05.07** – That the budget as amended by Synod Council on May 20, 2020 for the remainder of 2020-21 fiscal year be adopted... the motion is adopted by majority vote (two nay votes – V.P. Gary Gable, Pr. Judy Simonson)<sup>1</sup>

Bishop Rhyne invited the following Council members to become part of a working group to study & possibly modify the *Covenant of Understanding* document (adopted by Synod Council **SC20.05.03**) – Pr. Becky Horn, Pr. Judy Simonson, Atty. Megan Will & Secretary Dave Finney.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm

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<sup>1</sup> After hearing the proposal, the Allegheny Synod Council voted to make no change to Michelle Bossler's package; have Pastor Becca Ehrlich be contracted through Dec. 31, 2020 (the end of the staff term), remove the offer of severance for Bishop Michael Rhyne that was passed at its September 2019 Council meeting, and to move Pastor Paula Schmitt to three-quarter time as of July 1, 2020 with the original recommendation of severance according to the personnel policy. The Synod car will be retained. ELCA Mission Support will drop from 50% to 45% for this budget year. Partner support will be reduced as well as various other programmatic and administrative costs. The staff, Council, and finance committee thought it important to maintain our support for Camp Sequanota and PSU Campus Ministry at current levels.

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 - 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. Paula Schmitt – present