

Allegheny Synod – ELCA  
Synod Council Meeting  
Remote meeting via Zoom  
May 15, 2021

Upon motion by Tom Horn, seconded by Joyce Long (via email)

- **SC21.03.06** – to adopt the minutes of the March 20, 2021 Synod Council meeting as presented... the motion is adopted.

Upon motion by Tom Horn, seconded by Joyce Long (via email)

- **SC21.04.01** – to accept the proposed 2022-23 budget as presented by the Finance Committee & convey this document to the 2021 Synod Assembly along with a recommendation to adopt... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Bill Layton, seconded by Gary Gable (via zoom)

- **SCEC21.06.01** – to establish the starting annual salary plus housing allowance for Bishop-elect Paula Schmitt at \$73,620 ... the motion is adopted<sup>1</sup>

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

- **SCEC21.07.01** – to approve the purchase of a new laptop computer for Bishop-elect Paula Schmitt, the cost not to exceed of \$1,000... the motion is adopted

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***The May Synod Council meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Gary Gable***

Upon motion by Casey Colledge, seconded by Tom Horn

- **SC21.05.01** - to adopt the agenda for today's meeting... the motion is adopted

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<sup>1</sup> The bishop-elect's salary calculation:

- Beginning with the Base Salary of \$52,350 from the 2022 Compensation & Benefits Manual.
- Add in \$6,500 (\$500 per year since ordination \* 13-years) = \$58,850.
- Multiple this amount by 120% (a 20% premium afforded to the bishop) = \$70,620.
- Add in compensation for additional degrees, certification, years of other relevant professional experience.
  - Adding in 3-years of service as an Assistant to the Presiding Bishop ELCA (3 years \* \$500 per year = \$1,500).
  - Adding in 6-years of service as Assistant to the Bishop Allegheny Synod (6 years \* 50% \* \$500 per year = \$1,500).
- Starting first year salary: \$70,620 + \$1,500 + \$1,500 = **\$73,620.**

Note: from the 2019 ELCA Synod Bishop & Executive Compensation Survey (Rev. Walter May ELCA)

- Region 8 Bishops: Low \$77,287 / Medium \$108,958 / High \$121,581
- All Regions Bishops: Low \$87,285 / Medium \$102,480 / High \$116,702

Devotions – Pr. Becca Ehrlich; Ecclesiastes 7:8-13

### ***Bishop's Comments***

The bishop highlighted several events; Rostered Leaders Conversation, Town Hall with Bishop Michael, & an additional meeting to assist voting procedures at Assembly

### ***Synod Officer Comments***

Treasurer Bill Layton – highlighted essential financial components from the Spring Caucus Conference meetings.

Upon motion by Dave Finney, seconded by Casey Colledge

- **SC21.05.02** – to accept the recommended synod constitutional changes from the 2019 Churchwide Assembly & convey them to the 2021 Synod Assembly along with a recommendation to adopt... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Pr. Becca Ehrlich, seconded by Pr. Becky Horn

- **SC21.05.03** – to approve Gloria De Dios as a full Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community, effective July 1, 2021... the motion is adopted<sup>2</sup>

Upon recommendation from the Finance Committee

- **SC21.05.04** – to adopt the ***2022 Compensation & Benefits Manual with Guidelines***, as amended & convey this document to the 2021 Synod Assembly along with a recommendation to adopt... the motion is adopted

Financial Highlights (paraphrased)...

- Our financial position is not as dire as it was during summer of 2020
- Our PPP loan has been reclassified as a grant, with no repayment required
- Financial metrics are still depressed & volatile, we are getting by month to month
- All obligations were met (so far) to our Partner Ministries in FY 2021-22

The next Synod Council meeting is scheduled for mid/late July - in person at Sequanota.

The meeting was adjourned at 11am

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<sup>2</sup> Gloria De Dios, our Latinx Exploration in Centre County, was affirmed as a full Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community at the ELCA Congregational Vitality New Starts Review Table on April 20, 2021. They will be receiving a grant of \$12,000 from ELCA Churchwide. This amount is about 1/3 of the budget (which is the model Churchwide prefers). The official start date is July 1, 2021.

Synod Council members in attendance... 12 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 – present
  - Olivia Day - absent
  - Pr. Rebecca Horn - present
  - Tom Horn – present
  - Joyce Long - present
  - Andrea Paul – present
  - Marlin Plymette – absent
  - Pr. Judy Simonson – present
  - Pr. Jennifer Soltis – absent
- Synod Staff
  - Pr. Becca Ehrlich – preset