

## Allegheny Synod Council Meeting

March 18, 2023

The meeting is called to order by Bishop Paula at 9:04am

Upon motion by Pr. Amanda McCaffrey, seconded by Bill Layton

- **SC23.03.01** - to adopt the agenda for today's meeting... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Pr. Marty Jo Irvin-Stellabotte, seconded by Vicar Allen Stump,

- **SC23.03.02** - to adopt the minutes of the January 2023 meeting as amended – the motion is adopted

**Devotions** Pr. Kevin Shock – Asking Questions

Identity Work – Pr. Kevin Shock

- Treasures (Assets)
- Challenges
- Passions

At the May meeting – we will develop Action Words to pass along to Synod Assembly

### ***Financial Management***

Financial Summary

- Total revenue, down from last year by about 7.5%
  - There was no January bump in revenues as anticipated
  - The giving threshold needed to enact motion **SC23.01.03** (returning to our traditional 50% level of giving to the ELCA) was not met for fiscal year 2022-23
- We ended the year with \$35,000 increase in net income... adjusted for one-time funds we had a \$15,000 net loss in core earnings
- Mission support is down by approx. 2.5% per year
  - This decline started with COVID & the trend continues on with the ensuing years
- We show an unrealized loss of \$159,000 in our investment portfolio

Financial metrics for a full-time Asst. Bishop & Part-time DEM

- Expenses for a shared DEM would include Social Security & Health Care at the gold level
- An additional employee will be added \$41,000 to the 2024-25 budget, to be conveyed to Synod Assembly
- Discussions related to the transition to a full-time Assistant to the Bishop + a part-time DEM

- A certain percentage of the additional costs may come from Mission Support, at the expense of the percent sent to the ELCA.
- There is about \$65,000 annually in restricted mission support... hence these funds are not included in the Mission Support transferred to the ELCA
- Bishop Paula is not comfortable balancing Synod operations on Mission Support
- Work would be pending with the Investment Committee as well... to determine the right mix of funding for operations & mission support.
- This will be a topic at the Spring Conference meetings
- The presentation of the budget will be moved to the morning of Assembly, with the vote after lunch
  - Projected 1 – Projected 2 → results on page 3 of the report

### ***Leadership & Congregational Support & Development***

- St. Luke, Rockwood will take a vote to close on April 23, 2023
  - Including a collective transfer of membership to another congregation
- New Starts...
  - Gloria De Dios – assessing the viability of this ministry
  - Ministry on the margins – Vicar Ted Williams (per Synod Council action)

Upon motion by Vicar Alan Stump, seconded by Pr. Nancy Hoover

- **SC23.03.03** – to contribute \$1,500 to the printing of the **Book** for the **Weekend...** the motion is adopted.

### ***Planning & Resources***

#### **Recommended changes to the Synod Constitution, for conveyance to Synod Assembly**

Upon motion by Bishop Paula, seconded by Pr. Amanda McCaffrey

- **SC23.03.04** – that the recommended changes to the Allegheny Synod Constitution conveyed to us by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly in Columbus, OH be adopted by the Synod Council & conveyed to the 2023 Allegheny Synod Assembly along with a recommendation to adopt... the motion is adopted
  - These recommended wording changes are highlighted in **blue** in the Constitution section of the 2023 Bulletin of Reports & will be considered for adoption by the 2023 Allegheny Synod Assembly along with the Synod Council's recommendation to adopt, as per **†S18.12**. A majority vote is required by the Assembly to adopt these changes.

### ***Changes in Chapter 11- Committees, for conveyance to Synod Assembly***

Upon motion by Pr. Becky Horn, second by Pr. Marty Jo Irvin-Stellabotte

- **SC23.02.05** – that the changes to *Chapter 11 – Committees* in the Allegheny Synod Constitution be adopted by the Synod Council & conveyed to the 2023 Allegheny Synod Assembly along with a recommendation to adopt... the motion is adopted.
  - *Some of these constitutional changes involve bylaws & as such are governed by provision **+S18.21.**, & bylaw **S18.21.01.** of the synod constitution. This Synod Assembly will consider adding, amending, or removing the following bylaws: **S11.01.10., S11.01.20., S11.01.22., S11.01.33.** This synod may amend its bylaws at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a two-thirds vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting, after having been moved and presented in writing over the signatures of at least ten members.*
  - *Some of these constitutional changes involve continuing resolutions & as such are governed by provision **+S18.31.** of the synod constitution. This Synod Assembly will consider adding, amending, or removing the following continuing resolutions: **S11.01.A97., S11.01.B97, S11.01.C97., S11.01.A23, S11.01.E18., S11.01.D97.,** This synod may adopt or amend its continuing resolutions by a majority vote of the Synod Assembly or by a two-thirds vote of Synod Council.*

### ***Removal of a conflicting bylaw***

Upon motion by Secretary Dave Finney, seconded by Pr. Becky Horn

- **SC23.02.06** – that bylaw **S10.01.05** be removed from the Synod Constitution as it contradicts required bylaw **+S6.04.01....** the motion is adopted by the Synod Council & conveyed to the 2023 Allegheny Synod Assembly along with a recommendation to adopt – the motion is adopted.
  - *This synod may amend its bylaws at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a two-thirds vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting, after having been moved and presented in writing over the signatures of at least ten members.*

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05pm

Synod Council members in attendance... 12 of 14

- Executive Committee (*1-ordained, 4-lay*)
  - Bishop Paula Schmitt - present
  - VP Ann Ferry - present
  - Secretary Dave Finney – present
  - Treasurer Bill Layton – present
  - Vicar Allen Stump – present
- Council Members (*5-ordained, 4-lay*)
  - Gary Gable – absent
  - Pr. Ralph Hamer - present
  - Pr. Nancy Hoover - present
  - Pr. Rebecca Horn – present
  - Pr. Marty Jo Irvin-Stellabotte - present
  - Joyce Long – present
  - Pr. Amanda McCaffery - present
  - Andrea Paul – absent
  - Michele Peese – present
- Synod Staff
  - DEM Pr. Kevin Shock – present
- Guests