

The 31st Annual Assembly of the Allegheny Synod Assembly

Blair County Convention Center

June 1 & 2, 2018

Friday - June 1, 2018

Plenary Session I

Morning Prayer Opening of Assembly

Welcome/Registration Report/Quorum

Delegate Count

• Clergy.....	56
• Deacons.....	2
• Laity.....	110
○ Male.....	40
○ Female...	70
• Officers.....	4
• Synod Council.....	2
Total Delegate Count.....	<u>174</u>
• Guests.....	31
Total Present	203

In accordance with provision **SI.14.** of the Allegheny Synod Constitution, a quorum is deemed to be present

Upon motion by Pr. David Bowman, seconded from the floor of the Assembly

- **18.06.06** – that the agenda for Synod Assembly be adopted... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Dr. Bob Skelly, seconded from the floor of the Assembly

- **18.06.07** - that the Minutes of the 2017 Synod Assembly be accepted as presented... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Bishop Rhyne, seconded from the floor of the Assembly

- **18.06.08** - that the Rules of Procedure for Synod Assembly be adopted... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Robert Thomas, seconded from the floor of the Assembly

- **18.06.09** - that the amendments to the Rules of procedure for Synod Assembly be adopted... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Pr. Kevin Shock, seconded from the floor of the Assembly

- **18.06.10** - that Pastor Julia Holm, Vicar Nancy Hoover & Felicia Schwartz be granted Voice & Vote at this Synod Assembly... the motion is adopted

Introductions

- Greetings from the Montana Synod – Bishop Jessica Crist
- Rev. Gabi Aelabouni – Director of the ELCA Fund for Leaders
- Rev. Dr. John Hoffmeyer - Associate Professor of Systematic Theology – United Lutheran Seminary & Bible Study Leader at this Synod Assembly
- Allegheny Synod Officers
- Pr. Glen Foster – Elections Committee Chair
- Pr. Drew McCaffery – Nominations Committee Chair
- Dr. Pat Savage – Chair of the Committee on Reference & Counsel
- Pr. Bob Way - Official Photographer
- Becky Maser –Official time keeper
- Megan Will – Synod Attorney
- Bishop Greg Pile – Bishop Emeritus
- United Lutheran Seminary
 - Rev. Karen Sease - Director of Church and Alumni Relations
 - Rev. Becca Ehrlich - Associate Director of Admissions
- Dr. James Lakso – United Lutheran Seminary board member
- Carol McClure & the pages – in the back of the room
- IT Team – Rev. Tim Knauss, Rev. Will Osman & Boomerang Sound
- Deacon Alicia Anderson – Lutheran Campus Ministry at Penn State
- Pr. Nathan Pile – Director at Sequanota Lutheran Conference Center & Camp
- Workshop leaders during today's Assembly
- Our Assembly Team & Worship Team
- A special thank you by our rostered leaders – the best Ministerium in the entire World
- Synod Staff – Rev. Tim Knauss, Rev. Paula Schmitt, Michelle Bossler & Marty-Jo Stellabotte

Report of Synod Officers...

Bishop's Report – How is the Holy Spirit Calling Us? (*pgs. 40 – 47; Bulletin of Reports*)

- Where God is inviting us to go... How is the Holy Spirit Calling Us?
- God says “I have a plan for your life” --- What it feels like
- The Holy Spirit is inviting us to shift our thinking
- You are a child of God – you belong to Christ
- You are the Body of Christ

- Don't ever be discouraged – you're more than you think you are
- The Holy Spirit call us thru our Vocation
- You are a child of God, in the One Holy Catholic Church... with a vacation to serve all people
- The Holy Spirit is calling us to follow Jesus
- Bishop Curry (Episcopal Bishop) told 2 billion people that God is Love, that Jesus loves you,
- The true living faith, which the Holy Sprit instills into the heart cannot be idle – Martin Luther
- Can challenge 185,444 cans – 4-year total
- Leadership Support – Seminary, Sequanota, Seminarian's Scholarships
- 50th Anniversary of Women's Ordination
- How is the spirit moving... deaf ministry, quilt ministry, spaghetti dinners & more
- How is the Holy Spirit calling us?
- That same Spirit that was poured out at Pentecost is still active & moving

Vice President's report – Sam Dunkle (*pgs. 91 – 92; Bulletin of Reports*)

- Our Mission: Called by God to be one in Christ: we worship, grow in faith, and serve all people.
- Our Vision: Because Christ is here... We are actively engaging in God's work and sharing the Gospel as the Holy Spirit increases the followers of Jesus Christ
- Lutheran Fall Festival – September 22, 2018/ Legion Park in Hollidaysburg

Treasurer's Report – Vicki Hrivnak (*pg. 124; Bulletin of Reports*)

Secretary's report – Dave Finney (*pgs. 100 – 102; Bulletin of Reports*)

Upon motion by Synod Council **SC18.03.10**, seconded from the floor of the Assembly

- **SA18.06.11** - that Synod Council accept & convey to the 2018 Synod Assembly proposed language changes (*inserting the term Deacon as a replacement for all former references to Deaconesses, Associated in Ministry & Diaconal Ministers & remove a null references to S6.03.*) to *Bylaws* S11.01.22. & S.12.01.07. over the signatures of ten voting members of Synod Assembly, along with a recommendation to adopt... the motion is adopted by unanimous vote

Upon motion by Synod Council **SC18.03.11**, seconded from the floor of the Assembly

- **SA18.06.12** – that Synod Council accept & convey to the 2018 & 2019 Synod Assemblies proposed language changes (*inserting the term Deacon as a replacement for all former references to Deaconesses, Associated in Ministry & Diaconal Ministers*) to Constitutional Provision S7.23. over the signatures of ten voting members of Synod

Assembly, along with a recommendation to adopt... the motion is adopted by unanimous vote

Holy Spirit Bible Study I Rev. Dr. John Hoffmeyer

The spirit transcends our control & our understanding; the spirit has a definite character

- *John 3: 1-10*
 - The wind (pneuma – Greek for wind or spirit) blows from where it chooses – Jesus is comparing the spirit to the wind & how it eludes our grasp
 - The spirit is beyond our comprehension & control
 - The Bible attached no particular value to being spiritual
 - The Holy Spirit – as opposed to other spirits
 - Nazi Germany – demonic possession manifest in a nation
 - It does not pass the test of the Holy Spirit – it's doesn't look like Jesus
 - Love is the fruit of the Spirit
 - What does love look like in Jesus? That's how you discern the spirit
- *Galatians 5:22-23*
 - Signs of the spirit

Election First Ballot Rev. Glenn Foster

Panels with no nominees will be conveyed to Synod Council, to fill those positions by appointment.

Panel A – Synod Council (Lay Female) Elect 2

- Casey Colledge
- Theresa Corle
- Lori Dunkle
- Cindi Lingefelter

Panel B – Synod Council (Lay Male) Elect 1

- Gary Gable
- Richard Steuernagle

Panel C – Synod Council (Ordained) Elect 3

- Rev. Vicki Beilfuss
- Rev. David Bowman

- Rev. Jean Caudill
- Rev. Phyllis Diamond
- Rev. Jamie Olson
- Rev. Ruth Jensen
- Rev. Judy Simonson
- Rev. Jennifer Soltis

Panel D – Consultation Committee (Ordained Female) Elect 1

- Rev. Phyllis Diamond
- Rev. Ruth Jensen

Panel E - Discipline Committee (Lay Male) Elect 2

- Gary Gable
- Richard Steuernagle

Panel F - Discipline Committee (Ordained Female) Elect 1

- Rev. Vicki Beilfuss
- Rev. Jean Caudill

Panel I – Mission Endowment Fund - Elect 1

- Casey Colledge

Panel J – Churchwide Assembly (Ordained Male) Elect 1

- Rev. Toby Holland
- Rev. Drew McCaffery
- Rev. Jamie Olson
- Rev. Robert Way

Panel K – Churchwide Assembly (Ordained Female) Elect 1

- Rev. Phyllis Diamond
- Rev. Ruth Jensen
- Rev. Christine Roe

Panel N – Churchwide Assembly (Young Adult) Elect 1

- Ryan Custead

- Betsy Kreger

Reference and Council Report I Megan Will – Synod Attorney

SA18.06.04 Policy on **Preventing Sexual Harassment**; this policy will be available as a template (sample policy) for congregational use

Upon motion of Synod Council **SC18.03.13**, seconded from the floor of the Assembly

- That Synod Council accept & convey to the 2018 Synod Assembly the Policy of Sexual Harassment within the Congregation SA18.06.04, as a recommended policy for congregational modification & use, along with a recommendation to adopt... the motion is adopted as amended

Policy Title: Preventing Sexual Harassment within [Church Name]

Purpose/Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide a definition of what constitutes sexual harassment in the workplace or outside by or against any staff member of [Church Name]. It also provides for the appropriate avenues for reporting possible sexual harassment and outlines the disciplinary action that may be taken.

Sexual harassment perpetrated by or against any employee, rostered ministers, leader or member of [Church Name], or any other person(s) involved with the church shall not be tolerated. [Church Name] will comply with all state regulations pertaining to sexual harassment.

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct (inappropriate touching) of a sexual nature or that the aggrieved party may construe as unwanted advances, constitute sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment occurs when:

Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or relationship with the church.

Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or ministry/program decisions affecting such individuals.

Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or ability to participate in church activities or has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or worshiping environment.

Any alleged occurrences of sexual harassment against an individual or staff member will be immediately reported to the Pastor.

Any alleged occurrences of sexual harassment of the Pastor will be immediately reported to the church council.

Any alleged occurrences of sexual harassment perpetrated BY the Pastor will be immediately reported to the church council.

Sexual Harassment Grievance Resolution Procedure

Any member, friend or guest of [Church Name] who believes they have experienced any form of sexual harassment as defined above is encouraged to immediately notify the Pastor, or the congregation council when the Pastor is involved, as noted in #2 and #3 above.

Policy end...

SA18.06.05 Policy on **Leaves of Absence** – this policy is presented in fulfillment of a request made by the 2017 Synod Assembly – Resolution **SA17.06.01**

Upon motion of Synod Council **SC18.05.12**, seconded from the floor of the Assembly

- That Synod Council accept & convey to the 2018 Synod Assembly the Leaves of Absence Policy SA18.06.05, as a recommended policy for congregational modification & use, along with the recommendation to adopt...
- Pr. Kevin Shock spoke in favor of the Policy & thanked Pr. Paula Schmitt for her work in assembling & editing the Policy
- Pr. Scott Custead & Pr. Linda McElroy-Thomas suggested some friendly amendments to the policy
- Upon motion by Pr. Traci Bowman, seconded from the floor of the Assembly
 - **SA18.06.13** – that the wording of Maternity/Paternity/Adoptive Leave be changed from 6 to 8 weeks of leave... the amendment is adopted
- Upon motion by Pr. Bob Way, seconded from the floor of the Assembly
 - **SA18.06.14** – a motion to Call the Previous Question
 - The motion to Call the Previous Question is adopted
 - The original motion **SA18.06.05** is adopted as amended

Policy Title: Leaves of Absence

Purpose/Policy

Leaves of Absence

Congregations of the Allegheny Synod may grant leaves of absence for their rostered minister and employees. Below is a guideline for a leave of absence that should be negotiated between the rostered minister or employee with the congregation council at least 14 days prior to the

leave request. If an emergency leave of absence is required in which the 14-day notice is not able to be executed, the Executive Committee of the Congregation may grant the leave without full congregation council approval.

Sick Leave

Rostered ministers and congregation employees shall receive ten (10) days of paid sick leave per year. Illness of longer than two (2) months should be referred to Portico Benefits. Sick leave may accrue up to a maximum of thirty (30) working days. The decision to grant additional paid sick leave is at the discretion of the congregation council.

Family Leave

In the event of an illness in the immediate family (spouse, children, parents, brother, sister, grandparent, grandchildren, mother-in-law, father-in-law, or legal guardian) that requires the rostered minister or employee's presence, accrued sick leave may be utilized for this purpose.

Maternity/Paternity/Adoptive Leave

Leaves under this section are for the purpose of issues related to parenting, and may only be taken after six (6) months of full-time employment. Rostered ministers and employees who will be absent due to maternity/ paternity/adoptive leave are requested to provide as much advance notice as possible.

Eight (8) weeks of paid maternity/paternity/adoptive leave are available to a rostered minister or an employee following the birth of a child or an adoption of a child less than one year old. Such leave must be taken within fifteen (15) weeks of the birth or adoption. If medically necessary, additional time may be requested. Rostered ministers and employees desiring additional leave, either prior to or following the birth of their child or adoption of their child less than one year old, may use accrued vacation or sick time to supplement time off with the approval of the congregation council.

The rostered minister or employee agrees to return to work for a minimum of six (6) months after taking leave.

Vacation

Rostered ministers are granted four (4) weeks of paid vacation time including four (4) Sundays each year as a minimum guideline. Rostered ministers should notify the congregation council at least thirty (30) days in advance of vacation.

Additional vacation time may be granted to rostered ministers by the congregation council. Unused vacation time will be paid to the rostered minister upon resignation of call or separation from call. Full benefits will be paid through the end of unused vacation time at time of resignation or separation.

Congregational employees are granted paid vacation time according to congregational guidelines.

Compassionate and Emergency Leave

In the event of a death in a rostered minister or employee's immediate family (spouse, children, parents, brother, sister, grandparent, grandchildren, mother-in-law, father-in-law, or legal guardian) five (5) days paid leave will be granted to attend the funeral and to deal with family affairs. Additional time may be granted by the congregation council.

Jury Duty

This synod recognizes an employee's legal and civic duty to serve if called to jury duty or subpoenaed as a witness. A rostered minister or employee who is required to serve as such will be entitled to full pay and benefits during the period of such service. Rostered ministers and employees are required to report to work when not required to be present in court, and to call in daily to report their status on returning to work.

Leave without pay

Leave without pay may be granted to a rostered minister or employee, for personal reasons, after due consideration has been given to the work requirements of the congregation. Leave without pay may be granted for a period of up to two (2) months. Such leaves of absence are granted by the congregation council only in consultation with the bishop and the Synod Council.

The congregation will hold a rostered minister or employee's position open for the leave period, while on an approved leave without pay. If the rostered minister or employee is unable to return to work at the conclusion of the leave period, their position may or may not continue to be held open. This decision will be made, on a case-by-case basis, by the bishop in consultation with the congregation council.

If the individual has been on a leave without pay for medical reasons, a medical release from their physician to return to work must be submitted.

Disability Leave

This synod and its congregations are committed to accommodate qualified rostered ministers and employees with disabilities; to the extent it can do so without undue burden. If, for example, a qualified employee is temporarily disabled and provides the congregation a medical certification recommending leave, the congregation will provide unpaid leave as an accommodation to that employee if it can do so without undue burden. Requests for accommodation should be made in writing, and the rostered minister or employee will need to work with the bishop or his/her delegate to determine the appropriate accommodation and

documentation needed. Disability claims are handled through Portico Benefit Services. See the Portico website for requirements for disability qualification. If a rostered minister qualifies for disability with the Portico guidelines, the congregation will pay the rostered minister's full benefits during the disability period and compensation at a rate of fifty percent (50%). The Office of the Bishop will work with the congregation council to secure pastoral coverage during the period of disability.

Military Leave

Rostered ministers and regular full-time and regular part-time employees who perform military service will be granted leaves of absence for such service in compliance with state and federal laws. For purposes of this handbook, military service in the performance of duty on a voluntary or involuntary basis in the U.S. Armed forces, the Reserves, or the National Guard under competent authority, and includes active duty for training, inactive duty training, and full-time National Guard duty. Vacation or accrued sick time is not to be used for this leave.

Rostered ministers or employees who are called to military service will be paid during their leave at a rate of 50% of their normal wages and benefits will be paid in full.

Rostered ministers are asked to notify the congregation council and bishop and submit copies of military orders as soon as they become aware of the military obligation. Employees are asked to notify the pastor and congregation council as soon as they become aware of the military obligation and submit copies of military orders.

An employee's eligibility for reinstatement after completion of military service is determined in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

Policy end...

ELCA Report - Rev. Gabi Aelabouni (Director; ELCA Fund for Leaders)

- We watched Bishop Eaton's video message
- Gabi was originally from the Holy Land – the place where the Holy Spirit descended upon the heads of the Apostles
- As the world is changing, what does the future hold
- How is the Holy Spirit calling us now & into the future?
- By answering the Call of the Holy Spirit for Pr. Gabi – his whole world changed
- Answering this new call was the scariest & the best decision Pr. Gabi has ever made
- Sometimes God's calling brings things full circle
- But the God who calls us to new things is always, always with us
- Jesus makes us the Church... we are the Church
- Programs within the ELCA – serving where the Holy Spirit leads...

- ELCA AMMPARO - Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities
- ELCA World Hunger
- ELCA Youth Gathering - This changes everything (Houston 2018)
- Always Being Made New - The Campaign for the ELCA
- ELCA Fund for Leaders
- We are the Church... we have so much to celebrate!

Congregational & Ordination Anniversaries

Congregation Anniversaries

- Holy Trinity, Lance - 50 years
- Bethany Lutheran, Altoona – 125 years
- St Mark Lutheran, Pleasant Gap – 150 years
- Zion Lutheran (Trinity Parish), Petersburg – 150 years
- Shiloh Lutheran, State College – 150 years
- Salem Lutheran, Clearfield – 175 years
- Messiah Lutheran, Rockwood – 225 years
- Salem Lutheran, Aaronsburg – 225 years

Ordinations/Anniversaries

Retired Leaders... this past year

- Rev. Denise Arpino
- Rev. Greg Harbaugh
- Rev. Lois Ryan
- Deacon Pernelle DeVore

Ordination Anniversaries

5-years

- Rev. Jean Caudill

10-years

- Rev. Jenny Barnes
- Rev. Paula Schmidt

20-years

- Rev. Jean Horman
- Rev. John Miller

25-years

- Rev. Brent Book
- Rev. Glen Foster

30-years

- Rev. Ralph Hammer
- Rev. Suzanne Winger
- Rev. Donna Wolfinger

40-years

- Rev. Denny Doebler
- Rev. John Palko
- Rev. Ardelle Mason
- Rev. George Mason

45-years

- Rev. Larry Louder,
- Rev. Walter Startzel,
- Rev. Jim West

55-years

- Rev. Jerry Crum
- Rev. Karl Hommen

62+ years

- Rev. Ed Harshbarger

65 years

- Rev. Lloyd Wilson
- Rev. Vernon Miller

Deacons

- Nancy Wagner – 15 years

The Walden Holl Award

- Rev. Will Osman & Rev. Alisa Osman

Remembrance of Departed – Rev. Kevin Shock

- Sister Anna Mary Whitford
- Rev. Bob Rohrbaugh

- Rev. Warren Karshin
- Rev. Bill Triebe
- Rev. Dr. Wilbert Boerstler

Plenary Session II

Holy Spirit Bible Study II Dr. John Hoffmeyer

- The church is the special vessel of the Holy Spirit, but the Spirit is not confined to just the church... this is the Holy Spirit of all Creation
- John 20:19-23 the resurrection witness
 - Even in the worst that the evil of the world can do, there is still the risen Lord
- The ELCA is involved in the Mission of God
 - We are called to be a sent church – Send Me
 - Go In Peace – these are the words of sending
- To forgive sins is to let them go
- *John 20:19-23*
 - Jesus breathed on (breathed into) them the breath of life
- *Genesis 2:4-7*
 - the second of the two creations stories in this book
 - Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground & breathed into his nostrils the breath of life
 - The same spirit that is breathed into the church the breath of life
- *Psalms 104: 24-30* – a wonderful creation psalm
 - When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground

United Lutheran Seminary Rev. Karen Sease

- Spoke of the challenges of operating 2 campuses, 2 faculties, 2 locations,
- Spoke of the challenges with a change in leadership this past year
- This year we welcome 14 Fund of Leadership scholarship recipients
- This year we welcome a record number of new students
- Only 22% of new students financing their education thru loans
- We are a seminary dedicated to the task of educating church leaders

PSU Campus Ministry Report Deacon Alicia Anderson

- One of 200 ELCA on campus ministries
- Campus Ministry – is all about partnerships
- We welcome your partnership in this ministry
- Thank you for your support & the opportunity to do ministry on your behalf

Announcement: That Greg Weiss has passed away today. Continue to move your Spirit among us, as we experience this loss.

Synod Council Report I

Rev. Scott Klimke – Finance Committee

- An explanation of the Compensation, Benefits Guidelines – (*pg. 134; Bulletin of Reports*)

Upon motion by Synod Council **SC18.03.03**, seconded from the floor of the Assembly

- **SA18.06.15**– that the proposed Minimum Compensation Guidelines for 2019 be accepted & conveyed to 2018 Synod Assembly, along with the recommendation to adopt... the motion is adopted

Budget Presentation FY 2019-20

- Events since the last Synod Assembly...
 - This spring the Synod Council revised the 2018-19 Budget – as the Mission Support funding increased
 - Congregations in every conference (40) increased their mission support by 3% or more
 - The conference with the most congregations increasing their mission support to the Synod was the Laurel Highlands Conference
 - Salem Lutheran in Altoona increased their mission support by 683%
 - The kingdom of God showed up, just as Jesus long ago promised
 - A synod, conferences & congregations that some would call a tiny mustard seeds demonstrated that God’s foolishness is greater than human wisdom
 - Thanks to the Holy Spirit, there was faith
- Practically speaking...
 - There was Pastoral Care
 - There was Leadership
 - Mission was talked, thought & felt in multiple places & by multiple people

Report of First Ballot/Second Ballot

Rev. Glenn Foster

Panel A – Synod Council (Lay Female) Elect 2

410 - number of ballots

20 - invalid ballots

390 - valid ballots

99 - minimum needed to elect

- Casey Colledge – 130
- Theresa Corle - 90
- Lori Dunkle -130
- Cindi Lingefelter – 40

Casey Colledge is re-elected to a three-year term on Synod Council
Lori Dunkle is elected to a three-year term on Synod Council

Panel B – Synod Council (Lay Male) Elect 1

205 - number of ballots
 2 - invalid ballots
 203 - valid ballots
 102 - minimum needed to elect

- Gary Gable - 114
- Richard Steuernagle – 89

Gary Gable is elected to a three-year term on Synod Council

Panel C – Synod Council (Ordained) Elect 3

615 - number of ballots
 16 - invalid ballots
 599 - valid ballots
 100 - minimum needed to elect

- Rev. Vicki Beilfuss - 45
- Rev. David Bowman - 159
- Rev. Jean Caudill - 28
- Rev. Phyllis Diamond - 51
- Rev. Jamie Olson - 55
- Rev. Ruth Jensen - 85
- Rev. Judy Simonson - 76
- Rev. Jennifer Soltis – 100

Rev. David Bowman is re-elected to a three-year term on Synod Council

Rev. Jennifer Soltis is elected to a three-year term on Synod Council

There is no election for the third vacancy; Rev. Ruth Jensen & Rev. Judy Simonson will move on to the second ballot

Panel D – Consultation Committee (Ordained Female) Elect 1

205 - number of ballots

0 - invalid ballots

205 - valid ballots

103 - minimum needed to elect

- Rev. Phyllis Diamond - 102
- Rev. Ruth Jensen – 103

Rev. Ruth Jensen is elected to a six-year term on the Consultation Committee

Panel E - Discipline Committee (Lay Male) Elect 2

410 - number of ballots

63 - invalid ballots

347 - valid ballots

88 - minimum needed to elect

- Gary Gable - 181
- Richard Steuernagle – 166

Gary Gable is elected to a six-year term on the Discipline Committee

Richard Steuernagle is elected to a six-year term on the Discipline Committee

Panel F - Discipline Committee (Ordained Female) Elect 1

205 - number of ballots

3 - invalid ballots

202 - valid ballots

102 - minimum needed to elect

- Rev. Vicki Beilfuss - 137
- Rev. Jean Caudill – 65

Rev. Vicki Beilfuss is elected to a six-year term on the Discipline Committee

Panel I – Mission Endowment Fund - Elect 1 (one-year term)

205 - number of ballots

3 - invalid ballots

202 - valid ballots

102 - minimum needed to elect

- Casey Colledge – 202

Casey Colledge is elected to a one-year term on the Mission Endowment Fund Committee

Panel J – Churchwide Assembly (Ordained Male) Elect 1

205 - number of ballots

3 - invalid ballots

200 - valid ballots

101 - minimum needed to elect

- Rev. Toby Holland - 48
- Rev. Drew McCaffery - 69
- Rev. Jamie Olson - 36
- Rev. Robert Way – 47

There is no election; Rev. Drew McCaffery & Rev. Toby Holland will move on to the second ballot

Panel K – Churchwide Assembly (Ordained Female) Elect 1

206 - number of ballots

0 - invalid ballots

206 - valid ballots

104 - minimum needed to elect

- Rev. Phyllis Diamond - 49
- Rev. Ruth Jensen - 78
- Rev. Christine Roe – 79

There is no election; Rev Ruth Jensen & Rev. Christine Roe will move on to the second ballot.

Panel N – Churchwide Assembly (Young Adult) Elect 1

206 - number of ballots

0 - invalid ballots

206 - valid ballots

104 - minimum needed to elect

- Ryan Custead - 132
- Betsy Kreger - 74

Ryan Custead is elected as a voting member at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

Second Ballot

Panel J – Churchwide Assembly (Ordained Male) Elect 1

- Rev. Toby Holland
- Rev. Drew McCaffery

Panel K – Churchwide Assembly (Ordained Female) Elect 1

- Rev. Ruth Jensen
- Rev. Christine Roe

Panel L – Churchwide Assembly (Lay Male) Elect 1

- Dave Finney
- Steve Roe
- Dug Swank

Panel M – Churchwide Assembly (Lay Female) Elect 1

- Casey Colledge
- Theresa Corle
- Lori Dunkle
- Ann Ferry
- Betsy Kreger
- Ann Whitney

Saturday - June 2 2018

Plenary Session III

Morning Worship Pastor Nathan & Sequanota Staff

Sequanota Presentation Pastor Nathan Pile

Registration Report/Quorum – Day 2

Delegate Count

- Clergy.....66
- Deacons.....3
- Laity.....141
 - Male.....50
 - Female...91
- Officers.....4
- Synod Council.....6
- Total Delegate Count.....220
- Guests.....37

Total Present

257

Upon motion by Rev. Bob Way, seconded from the floor of the Assembly

- **SA18.06.15** – that the following four persons be approved to serve on the Sequanota Board for a 3-year term; Rev. John Palko, Rev. Julia Sprenkle, Megan Will, Andrea Paul. That the Rev. Traci Bowman & Jane Fagan be approved to fill vacant terms thru Sept 2018... the motion is adopted.

Blessing those going to Youth Gathering

Introduction of new Pastors & Vicars

- Rev. Phyllis Diamond – Interim Pastor at Moxham/Johnstown Conference
- Rev. Will Foster – Pastor at Christ Trinity Parish/Laurel Highlands Conference
- Rev. Nancy Hoover – Pastor at Grace/Johnstown Conference
- Rev. Doug Knupp – Interim Pastor at Friedens/Laurel Highlands Conference
- Rev. Felicia Swartz – Pastor at Stonycreek Parish/Laurel Highlands Conference
- Rev. James West – Interim Pastor at St. Luke, Rockwood/Laurel Highlands Conference
- Kathleen Stump – Vicar at Duncansville/Blair Huntingdon Conference
- Rebecca West - Vicar at St. Luke, Rockwood/Laurel Highlands Conference

Report of Second Ballot/Third Ballot Rev. Glenn Foster

Panel J – Churchwide Assembly (Ordained Male) Elect 1

192 - number of ballots

0 - invalid ballots

192- valid ballots

97 - minimum needed to elect

- Rev. Toby Holland - 77
- Rev. Drew McCaffery – 115

Rev. Drew McCaffery is elected as a voting member at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly

Panel K – Churchwide Assembly (Ordained Female) Elect 1

192 - number of ballots

1 - invalid ballots

191- valid ballots

96 - minimum needed to elect

- Rev. Ruth Jensen - 97
- Rev. Christine Roe – 94

Rev. Ruth Jensen is elected as a voting member at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly

Panel L – Churchwide Assembly (Lay Male) Elect 1

192 - number of ballots

0 - invalid ballots

192- valid ballots

97 - minimum needed to elect

- Dave Finney - 125
- Steve Roe - 39
- Dug Swank – 29

Dave Finney is elected as a voting member at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly

Panel M – Churchwide Assembly (Lay Female) Elect 1

192 - number of ballots

1 - invalid ballots

191- valid ballots

96 - minimum needed to elect

- Casey Colledge - 44
- Theresa Corle - 10
- Lori Dunkle - 39
- Ann Ferry - 43
- Betsy Kreger - 32
- Ann Whitney – 23

There is no election; Casey Colledge & Ann Ferry will move on to the third ballot

Synod Council Report III – Sam Dunkle

Upon motion by Synod Council **SC18.03.05**, seconded from the floor of the assembly

- **SA18.06.16** to accept the proposed 2019-2020 Mission Spending Plan (the budget) as presented & convey this document on to the 2018 Synod Assembly, along with a recommendation to adopt the Budget... the motion is adopted

Reference and Counsel II Dr. Pat Savage

SA18.06.03 – Memorial on the ELCA’s 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women

Upon motion by Synod Council **SC18.03.12**, seconded from the floor of the Assembly

- **SA18.06.03** to accept the Memorial on the ELCA's 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women, along with a recommendation to convey the Memorial to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly... the motion is adopted as amended

Resolution SA18.06.01 – Resolution to Restructure Synod Assembly – submitted by Rev. Brandon Cian, Rev. William Osman, Rev. Russ Sauerwein, Rec. Kevin Shock, Rev. Paul Tomkiel... the resolution is adopted

- Several sponsors of the Resolution spoke in favor of its adoption
- Rev. Dena Cable spoke in favor of the resolution & also informed the Assembly that this new format is currently in use at the ELCA Church Council

Resolution SA18.06.02 – Resolution on Bottled Water – submitted by the Congregation of St. Mark Lutheran Church

- The Committee on Reference & Counsel recommends that the Resolution be referred back to Synod Council to be rewritten. It was the opinion of the Committee that Resolution **SA18.06.02** was worded in such a way that Synod Assembly was being asked to obligate bottled water use policy to a single congregation (St. Mark), to the Synod Office, to member congregations & to other ministries of the Allegheny Synod.
 - Pr. Tomkiel spoke in opposition to the motion to refer
 - Pr. Custead spoke in support of the motion to refer
 - Pr. Shock spoke in opposition to the motion to refer
 - Pr. Schull spoke in opposition to the motion to refer

Upon motion of the Committee on Reference & Counsel

- **SA18.06.17** – to refer Resolution **SA18.06.02** back to Synod Council to be rewritten... the motion is lost. The Resolution is set back to Reference & Counsel for revision, to be reintroduced as unfinished business later in this Assembly.

Holy Spirit Bible Study III Dr. John Hoffmeyer

- Luther said that the devil is powerful & cunning, the devil concentrates on where Christ is present
- The devil can't be incarnate, as God is in Christ
- *Acts 2: 1-12*
 - A familiar spirit allowing for multi-lingual understanding of the Galileans as they speak
- *John 20:19-23*
 - The disciples in the locked room... Jesus comes & shows them the wounds & gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit
 - Even though they had received the Holy Spirit, they are still afraid in that locked room

- The spirit is in both the happy worship service & the tense congregation council meeting
- The gift of the Spirit is a promise

Discussion of "How is the Holy Spirit Calling Us"

Green Handout – Come Holy Spirit

Synod Ministry Teams

Global Mission Rev. Elisa Osman – pg. 98 BOR

- Orange Flood Buckets – ministry
- Global Farm Challenge
- Kenyan Prayer Partners - Prayer Partners in Kenya

Deaf Ministry Rev. John Telyea

- The Allegheny Synod is now the 8th deaf ministry startup in the entire ELCA
- Most of the deaf community is not reached by our message of the Gospel
- Come & see the deaf ministry worship
- Please consider a gift to the Allegheny Synod deaf ministry fund

Candidacy/ Leadership Marlin Plymette - pg. 135 BOR

- Candidacy retreat at Antiochian Village in November 2018
- Seminarian Support Fund

Report of Third Ballot Rev. Glenn Foster

Panel C – Synod Council (Ordained) Elect 1

175 - number of ballots

2 - invalid ballots

173- valid ballots

87 - minimum needed to elect

- Rev. Ruth Jensen - 86
- Rev. Judy Simonson – 87

Rev. Judy Simonson is elected to a three-year term on Synod Council

Panel M – Churchwide Assembly (Lay Female) Elect 1

175 - number of ballots

0 - invalid ballots

175- valid ballots

88 - minimum needed to elect

- Casey Colledge - 79
- Ann Ferry - 96

Ann Ferry is elected as a voting member at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly

Unfinished/New Business Bishop Rhyne

Upon motion by Pr. Kevin Shock, seconded from the floor of the Assembly

- **SA18.06.18** - that an amended version of **SA16.06.02** (Resolution on Bottled Water) be considered by the Synod Assembly
- Pr. Scott Schul spoke in favor of the amended resolution & described some of the changes in the language of the resolution... the resolution is adopted as amended

SA18.06.02-amended - Resolution on Bottled Water

Whereas water is at the center of God's vision of the new creation and is the source of blossoming life (Revelation 22: 1-2), and

Whereas water is a necessary resource, both abundant and fragile, that sustains diverse forms of life on our planet today, and

Whereas recent estimates show that Americans use in excess of 50 billion bottles of water per year, and yet only about 23% of bottles used are recycled, and

Whereas clean water in our region is readily available o residential and commercial buildings though modern municipal water delivery systems, and

Whereas the bottled water industry continues to grow far beyond the need for bottled water that arises from natural disaster or municipal crisis, and

Whereas the bottles water industry has a significant environmental impact, both in terms of plastic waste and consumption from local aquifers, potentially in our region, and

Whereas the congregation of St. Mark, Pleasant Gap has resolved to limit the use of bottled beverages at events sponsored by the congregation, making provisions for recycling when they are used, and has resolved to encourage congregation and community members explore ways to consume water through reusable means, such as refillable bottles, therefore

Be It Resolved that the Allegheny Synod Office and member congregations and ministries of the Allegheny Synod consider developing policies to cut back on bottled water consumption in their respective communities.

Recognition of Synod Council members – Sam Dunkle

- Announced the re-election to Synod Council of Rev. Dave Bowman & Casey Colledge

- Announced the retirement from Synod Council of Rev. Kevin McNamara & Dr. Bob Skelly

Reference & Counsel Report III Dr. Pat Savage

Dr. Savage presented the following resolution

SA18.06.19 – Resolution of Appreciation... the motion is adopted by acclamation

- WHEREAS the Allegheny Synod has met in Assembly and fulfilled its business;
- WHEREAS the Holy Spirit has enabled the Assembly in its action to fulfill its theme to be “How is the Holy Spirit calling us?” in our Allegheny Synod and in all of the world;
- THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Allegheny Synod Assembly convening in Altoona June 1 and 2 express its gratitude:
 - to Bishop Michael who reminded us that we should share our thoughts on “How the Holy Spirit is calling us?” and highlighting how blessed we are in the Allegheny Synod through our “Can Challenge,” the leadership support we provide to our 15 pastoral candidates, the deaf ministry, and the quilt ministry to name a few of our blessings;
 - to the Assembly Planning Committee for fulfilling their role in organizing the agenda of business, education, worship, and meals and all the other details related to the assembly;
 - to David Finney, our synod secretary, for reporting that we had a quorum present so we could conduct our business and for walking us through some constitutional changes;
 - to Bishop Michael who recognized he needs “less coffee and less espresso” so he can speak more slowly;
 - to Pastor Gabi Aelabouni, the Director of the ELCA Fund for Leaders (our ELCA representative) and for highlighting that the Allegheny Synod generously supported the World Hunger Appeal and Lutheran Disaster Response and for acknowledging Christ Lutheran in Claysburg that received a domestic hunger grant to fund their “Bulldog Backpack” program that provides meals for students. Thank you also for reminding us that “we are” ...not only Penn State but also THE CHURCH;
 - to Vicki Hrivnak for her willingness to serve as the synod treasurer, but warned us to be sure to check our caller ID before answering a call from the bishop’s office;
 - to our synod partners for their ministries among us;
 - to the technology crew for making sure the microphones were in working order;
 - to Presiding Bishop Eaton for reminding us that grace is who God is and we find our lives in Christ;

- to Bishop Michael who highlighted that the Holy Spirit calls us to remember we are children of God. He also reminded us that Jesus calls us through our vocation (not our “ocat”);
- to the “pages” who distributed all the ballots so we could vote for candidates to serve in positions within our synod and at the church wide level;
- to Dr. Hoffmeyer, our Bible Study leader from United Seminary, who suggested we reflect on John 3:8 which reads “the wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit;”
- to Pastor Way for serving as our resident photographer;
- to the newly ordained pastors for their commitment to pastoral ministry;
- to the new pastors in the synod who have begun their pastoral ministry journey with us in the Allegheny Synod;
- to Vice President Sam Dunkle who suggested that Bishop Michael may consider another form of horseback riding instead of the Walmart horse;
- to those rostered persons who have served our church who are the faithful departed, we remember them with fond memories of their service to the church;
- to the rostered persons who celebrated anniversaries of ordination;
- to the retired rostered persons for their many years of ministry among us;
- to the congregations who celebrated anniversaries. May your ministry continue for many more years;
- to Bishop Michael for thanking all of our rostered persons and claiming we are blessed and have the best Ministerium in the Church;
- to the staff team of Camp Sequanota for a spirited worship experience;
- to Bishop Michael for reminding us that Bishop Curry of the Episcopal Church in America spoke to 2 billion people at the Royal Wedding about how love will “heal the day;”
- to the female pastors in the ELCA as we celebrate our 50 years of the ordination of women. We rejoice in their ministry;
- to the workshop leaders from our partner ministries who provided a variety of interesting topics to the assembly members; and,
- to some behind-the-scenes assistants among us (to name a few)....Michelle Bossler for her clerical expertise; to the enlister of lectors, Miss Ima Readen; to the assistant liturgist, Mrs. Carrie D’Book; to the Audio Visual Expert, Kent C. Nuttin; to the Prayer Service Leader, Pastor Denise R. Sore; to the Choir Director, Duey Whistle; to the Timekeeper, Bea Dunn Sooner; to the Roster Keeper, C. Moore Kollars; to the Hymn Selector, Ewell B. Sorry; to the Teller, All N. Favor; to the Social Issue Facilitator, Eileen Wright; to the Adjournment Mover, Frieda Goh; to the Eucharistic Assistants,

Maney Shevits and Lotza Crumbs; and to the Bishop's Self-Esteem Guru, Hugh D'Mann; and to all those persons who once again enabled us to conduct a successful and prayerful assembly filled with good fellowship and discussion.

This Assembly called upon us to remember that the Holy Spirit is calling us. May we share the promise of Christ with all believers as we continue to fulfill our mission of God's work, our hands.

Prayer & Closing of Assembly/Adjournment Bishop Rhyne

Bishop Rhyne thanked...

- All those who do the hard work of creating the Synod Assembly
- The rostered leaders of the Allegheny Synod
- the 115 congregations & 35,000 members of our congregations

Order for the Closing of Assembly

The Synod Assembly is closed at 12:11pm