

Allegheny Synod – ELCA
Special Synod Council Meeting
Remote meeting via Zoom
June 24, 2020

Gary Gable called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

Bishop Rhyne offered prayers

Trinity – Bedford:

Upon motion by Bishop Rhyne, seconded by Pr. Sharon Erb

- **SC20.06.01** – that Synod Council hereby grants approval for the congregation of Trinity – Bedford to terminate its relationship with the ELCA pursuant to the terms laid out in **9.60.**, **9.61.d.** & **9.62.** of the Constitution, Bylaws & Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Bishop Rhyne, seconded by Thom Horn

- **SC20.06.02** – that Synod Council acknowledges receipt of the written resignations of the Rev. David M. Weinhold & the Rev. Raymond E. Short from the Roster of Ministers of Word & Sacrament of the Allegheny Synod & the ELCA effective June 15, 2020... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Bishop Rhyne, seconded by Casey Colledge

- **SC20.06.03** – that Synod Council expresses our thanks to Lori Dunkle for her service as a Lay Worship Leader & Synod Council Member. Lori will continue as a member of Trinity – Bedford (a non-ELCA congregation), we therefore offer her continued blessings & bid her farewell... the motion is adopted

Representation of voting members at Synod Assembly

Bishop Rhyne presented *modified language* to be included in the First Mailing, relative to congregational selection of voting members for the 2020 Synod Assembly.

The Membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60% of the voting membership shall be composed of laypersons, shall be constituted as follows:

All rostered ministers (deacons and pastors) on the roster of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.

Voting membership shall include the officers of this synod.

*The Allegheny Synod Constitution **†S7.21.** establishes minimums for congregational voting members.*

- *A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with 175 or more baptized members related to this synod, normally one of whom shall be male and one of whom shall be female, shall be voting members.*
- *The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of number of baptized members in the congregation.*
- *The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that, as nearly as possible, 50 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be female and 50 percent shall be male. Additional members from each congregation normally shall be equally divided between male and female.*

For additional representation beyond the constitutional minimums the Synod Council recommends the following formula.

Using the 2019 congregation report:

- *Up to 499 baptized members - two voting members (one female, one male)*
- *500-899 baptized members - three voting members (one female, one male, one either male or female)*
- *900 or more baptized members - four voting members (two females, two males)*

Each congregation is strongly encouraged to have equal representation of female and male voting members.

In addition, each congregation may elect one additional voting member who is a youth or young adult at the time of the election and one additional voting member who is a person of color or a person whose primary language is other than English.

Pr. Paula Schmitt's status

Upon motion by Pr. Judy Simonson, seconded by Pr. David Bowman

- ***SC20.06.04*** – that we maintain Pr. Paula Schmitt's full-time status on the staff of the Allegheny Synod thru September 2020 & Synod Assembly. Toward the end of the third quarter 2020 the Synod Council will reassess the Synod's financial status & evaluate options to continue full-time status for Pr. Paula thru December 2020. Funding for this continuation of full-time status to be appropriated from ELCA Mission Support as needed... the motion is adopted

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm

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 – present
 - Olivia Day - present
 - Pr. Rebecca Horn - present
 - Thom Horn – present
 - Joyce Long - absent
 - Andrea Paul – present
 - Marlin Plymette – present
 - Pr. Judy Simonson – present
 - Pr. Jennifer Soltis – present
- Synod Staff
 - Pr. Paula Schmitt – absent