

Minutes of the 2017 Allegheny Synod Assembly

June 2-3, 2017

Friday - June 2, 2017

Plenary Session I

Morning Prayer Opening of Assembly

- Rev. Vicky Beilfuss, holy Shepherd Parish
- Rev. Christine Roe, First Faith Cooperative
- Rev. Michael L. Rhyne, Bishop

Bishop Rhyne opened the 30th Annual Allegheny Synod Assembly at 8:47am

Welcome/Registration Report/Quorum

Registration Report / Quorum

Delegate Count

• Clergy	59
• Deacons	3
• Laity	132
○ Male	45
○ Female	87
• Officers	3
• Synod Council	3
Total Delegate Count	<u>200</u>
• Guests	32
Total Present	<u>232</u>

In accordance with provision **SA1.14.** of the Allegheny Synod Constitution, a quorum is deemed to be present

Adoption of Agenda

Upon motion by Sam Dunkle, seconded from the floor of the assembly

- **SA17.06.03** – that the Synod Assembly agenda be adopted... the motion is adopted

Presentation of 2016 Minutes

Upon motion by David Finney, seconded from the floor of the assembly

- **SA17.06.04** – that the minutes of the 2016 Synod Assembly be accepted as presented... the motion is adopted

Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

Upon motion by Pr. John Telyea, seconded from the floor of the assembly,

- **SA17.06.05** - to adopt the 2017 Rules of Procedure ... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Pr. Bob Wagner, seconded from the floor of the assembly

- **SA17.06.06** – to adopt the amendments to the Rules Of Procedure... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Pr. Walter Startzel, seconded from the floor of the assembly

- **SA17.06.07** – to give Pastor Julia Holm (UCC) Voice and Vote at the 2017 Synod Assembly... the motion is adopted

Greetings & Introductions

- Greetings from Bishop Jessica Crist – Montana Synod
- Greetings from Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELK)
- Dr. Katherine Johnson – ELCA Director for Ecumenical Relations
- Dr. Susan McArver – Professor of Church History – Lutheran Southern Seminary
- Synod Officers; Vice President - Sam Dunkle, Secretary - David Finney
- Rev. Glenn Foster – Elections Committee Chair
- Rev. Dena Gable – ELCA Church Council
- Bishop Emeritus Gregory Pile
- Rev. Dr. Marty Stevens & Rev. Dr. Richard Carlson – United Seminary
- Rev. John Spangler – Other Duties as Assigned - United Seminary
- Rev. Nate Preisinger – Director of Admission - United Seminary
- Dr. James Lakso – Former Chairman of Gettysburg Seminary
- Carol McClure & the pages
- Rev. Tim Knauss & Rev. Will Osman – IT
- Deacon Alicia Anderson – Lutheran Campus Ministry at Penn State University
- Rev. Nathan Pile - Sequanota
- Dr. Pat Savage – CEO ALSM
- Rev. Barb Debski – Portico Representative
- Rev. Elizabeth Polanski – ELCA Director of Planned Giving
- Tracey DePasquale - Director LAMPa
- Mission Investment Fund – sponsor of our breaks
- Jeanne Fleegle - Assembly Planning Committee Chair
- Michelle Bossler – Allegheny Synod Office Manager
- Synod Worship Team

Reports of Synod Officers

Bishop Rhyne's Report (2017 Bulletin of Reports pgs. 40 – 45)

- Thanks to all of you for being here today
- Thank you - the wonderful group of people in our Synod
- Thanks for our Lay Worship Leaders
- Thanks for our Synod Staff

Three highlights from the ELCA Churchwide Assembly 2016 – New Orleans

- Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery

- Officially adopted the "Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist" – a unique ecumenical document that makes visible a pathway to Christian unity between Catholics and Lutherans.
- Unification of the three Lay rosters of our church into one roster – Deacons

Special Events this past year

- 15-year anniversary of September 11th – Johnstown Ministerium
- Bishop's Convocation
- Region 8 network gathering
- Allegheny Synod Can Challenge
 - 149,612 total cans collected in the past 3 years
- Ecumenical work & worship
 - Pulpit exchange Bp. Bartchak & Bp. Rhyne
- Encouraging people of the Allegheny Synod to consider a call to ministry
- The signing ministry begins
- The Ignite ministry continue to provide a learning opportunity
- Montana Synod Trip coming up later in June 2017
- Lutheran Day at the Curve

Reformation highlights

- The year of prayer
- Celebration of Declaration of the Way
- Reformation worship opportunities
- Reformation Festival – October 14th
- Planting the Reformation Tree

Transitions in our Synod

- The Strategic Plan for our Synod
- Pilot Project – the mission grant program
 - Five mission grants to congregations
- New Communications Coordinator – Marty Jo Stellabotte
- Endowment restructuring
- Financial transactions changing with the addition of a CPA firm
- Thank you for the service of Todd Hammaker/Synod Treasurer

The Vice President's Report: Sam Dunkle

- Spoke on the role of Synod Council
 - Recognized the Synod Council members
- Strategic Plan
- Revitalization of our Youth Programs
- Reformation Festival – 500th anniversary
 - Coming together as a Synod to celebrate & candlelight worship

The Treasurer's Report: A written report was submitted (2017 Bulletin of Reports pg. 103)

The Secretary's Report: David Finney - The recommended constitutional changes were presented (2017 Bulletin of Reports pgs. 80 - 82)

Reformation History and Conversation I - Dr. Susan McArver

How Martin Luther changed your life... in ways you may not even know about

- Martin Luther is #3 on the list of most important people of the last 1,000 years
- The historical context into which Luther was born
 - We are all born into a history
 - Changes in culture at the end of the middle ages
 - The middle class is beginning to emerge
 - The rise of modern nations (Germany, France, England)
 - The decline of feudalism
 - An amazing time of renaissance art & science
- The world of Luther's childhood was very different than the world of his adult life
- This was a time of discontent with the church
 - There were a lot of reform movements trying to gain a footing before Luther's time
- In seminary it is revealed to Luther that it is thru God's grace, not acts of the self that bring us salvation
- Luther was horrified by "Salvation for Sale" found in the sale of indulgences
- The posting of the thesis...
 - Posted in Latin, not German
 - His intention was not to split the church... only to facilitate a debate within the church
 - Luther tapped into something that was already present in society... igniting an explosion with the people
- Everything Luther does from this point is about the reform of theology
- The Christian Life as vocation
 - His work as a Pastor & Preacher
 - Vocations – those associated with the church
 - Temporal Estate – all of the rest of us
 - Luther rejects this concept of status
 - Luther espouses the vocation of the priesthood of believers
 - All of us have a vocation
 - We are all one body, but each of us has our own work
 - All of our callings are to serve each other in God's name
 - When working in our vocations & serving our neighbors – we are fulfilling the work that God has called us to do
 - When we do not serve our neighbor – God is not present
 - God says our word is His word, our actions are His actions

Election First Ballot - Rev. Glenn Foster

Panel A – Synod Council (Lay Female) Elect 1

- Andrea Paul

Panel B – Synod Council (Lay Male) Elect 1

- Thomas Horn
- Jack Seymore
- William Heiller

Panel C – Synod Council (Clergy) Elect 2

- Rev. Ingrid Chenoweth
- Rev. Sharon Erb
- Rev. Toby Holland

Panel D – Synod Council (Youth) Elect 1

- Joshua Dunkle

Panel E - Consultation Committee (Lay Female) Elect 1

- Casey Colledge

Panel F - Consultation Committee (Clergy Female) Elect 1

- No nominations received

Panel G – Discipline Committee (Lay Male) Elect 2

- No nominations received

Panel H - Discipline Committee (Lay Female) Elect 1

- Lori Dunkle
- Casey Colledge

Panel I – Discipline Committee (Ordained Female) Elect 1

- No nominations received

Panel J – Discipline Committee (Ordained Male) Elect 1

- Rev. Toby Holland
- Rev. Scott Schul
- Rev. John Telyea
- Rev. Paul Tomkiel

Panel K – Synod Treasurer – Elect 1

- Vicki Hrivnak

Synod Council Report I

Upon motion by the Synod Council *SC.17.03.04*, seconded from the floor of the Assembly

- *SA17.06.08* - to adopt the 2016 Churchwide recommended changes to Synod Constitutions... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by the Synod Council *SC17.05.13*, seconded from the floor of the Assembly

- *SA17.06.09* – to adopt the Minimum Compensation Guideline Recommendations... the motion is adopted

ELCA Reports

Rev. Dena Gable – spoke with gratitude on her election to & her service as a member of the Churchwide Council

Dr. Kathryn Johnson – ELCA

- Bishop Eaton’s video message to Synods was played for the Assembly
- Greetings from Bishop Eaton... following her trip to Africa & Germany
- How very interconnected we are as a Church
 - Churchwide Office, Synods, Congregations
 - The Allegheny Synod sends to the ELCA 50% of all Mission Support funding received from our Congregations
- The Called together in Christ’s Process
 - A thriving church
 - A church equipping people for their vocation
 - A visible church, working for reconciliation
 - A well governed & sustainable church
- The Church at work in poverty... both urban & rural settings
- An incredibly active Church bringing children to this country
- Global Opportunities
 - Hunger Campaign
 - International Women Leaders
 - Theological discernment
- We are part of a larger church... that sustains us
- The 500th Anniversary is a milestone, not an end point

A Celebration of Life in the Church & Remembrance of Those Who Have Died

Congregation Anniversaries

- *Mt Zion / Bakersville – 175 years - Rev. Dena Gable*
- *Zion Lutheran Church / Everett – 175 years - Vicar Kathy Popp*
- *Grace Lutheran / Johnstown – 125 years*
- *New Hope / Spring Mills - 125 years – Rev. Brandon Cain*
- *Christ Lutheran Church (Westmont) - 75 years – Rev. Julia Sprenkle*

Pastors who retired during the past year

- *Rev. Dennis Doebler*
- *Rev. Kayhute*
- *Rev. Peter Helmers*
- *Rev. John Palko*

Recognition of rostering anniversaries

- *Rev. Brandon Cain – 5 years*
- *Rev. David Bowman – 5 years*
- *Rev. Traci Bowman – 5 years*

- *Rev. Ingrid Chenoweth – 5 years*
- *Rev. Kevin McNamara – 5 years*
- *Rev. Nathan Pile – 10 years*
- *Rev. Susan Williamson – 10 years*
- *Rev. Tiffany Marvich – 10 years*
- *Rev. Lisa Osman – 15 years*
- *Rev. Will Osman – 15 years*
- *Rev. Eli Hess – 20 years*
- *Rev. Susan Yatta – 20 years*
- *Rev. Bob Wagner – 25 years*
- *Deacon Alicia Anderson – 25 years*
- *Rev. Susan Palmquist – 25 years*
- *Rev. Denise Arpino – 30 years*
- *Rev. Stevens Lynn – 35 years*
- *Rev. Ron Miller – 35 years*
- *Rev. Barry Folmar – 40 years*
- *Rev. Norman Gindlesperger – 55 years*

Walden Holl Award - Dr. Patricia Savage

- *Deacon Alicia Anderson*
 - *17 years of service in Lutheran Campus Ministry at PSU*

Remembrance of Departed

- *Rev. Terry Ann Talbot-Moses*
- *Rev. Dr. Robert Swanson*
- *Deacon Oble Yoder*
- *Rev. Dean Rupe*
- *Mr. Homer Duppstadt – Synodically Authorized Minister*

Plenary Session II

Dr. Kathryn Johnson – ELCA

500th Anniversary of the Reformation

- From Conflict to Communion
- Coming closer together to Christ & to one another
- Lutherans were partners with Catholics on this next step
- The Declaration on the Way – “We have come further than I thought “
 - An imperfect & real communion with one another
 - The three church expressions have a role to play
 - This Anniversary year has given us more than we had hoped
- What’s next?
 - The Declaration on the Way is now out of our hands... handed off to other church bodies
 - We need to learn some new practices...

- Those who are gathered there are part of the Eucharistic worshipping assembly
- Receiving something of Christ's presence – either in communion or a blessing
- We are on the road to Emmaus... the road to Christ, even when Christ is not recognized

Partner Ministries

ALSM – Dr. Patricia Savage

- ASLM touching the lives of those in our care
- The story of Mr. K living out his final years on an ALSM campus

PSU Campus Ministry - Deacon Alicia Anderson

- There are presently 230 ELCA campus ministries
- A community of faith, connection & companionship
- The Good Shepherd... shepherding these students thru the dark valleys & the good pastures
- Thank you for your gift & for sending your students to the Penn State University Campus Ministry

Portico - Rev. Barb Debski

- Wellness & Financial Planning

LAMPa - Tracey DePasquale

- Rev. Will Osman & Rev. Scott Schull are both serving on the LAMPa Board
- LAMPa is one of the ELCA's state public policy offices
- 2017 was LAMPa's thirty-seventh year of operation
- Working toward more equitable funding in education in Pennsylvania
- Fighting back against predatory lending in Pennsylvania
- God does not need your good works... but your neighbor does
- The public square desperately needs to hear the voice of the Church
- Bear witness in your community
- Love your neighbors
- Advocacy is a ministry of reconciliation
- We are sent to be part of God's reconciling work in the world

Planned Giving - Rev. Elizabeth Polanski (ELCA Gift Planner in Central PA)

- Connecting a piece of Stewardship with Legacy
- Legacy can be friends & family or ministry & charity
- Proper planning prevents panic
- Proper planning is an art... Pr. Polanski is an artist

Shawnee Camp Ministry - Rev. Toby Holland

- PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) + PA Council of Churches – a 10 year agreement to provide Chaplains for the State Parks
- This is the fifty-seventh year of Chaplains in the Park

- PA is the only state with this type of Chaplaincy Program
- Currently there are 18 Chaplains serving in this role
- How can you help...
 - Allegheny Synod support for this cause has decreased
 - The entire Shawnee Ministry budget is \$7,600 – become a Shawnee Campground Partner
 - 100% of all monies collected goes to Shawnee Campground Ministries
 - Funding is channeled thru the Pa Council of Churches

Reference and Counsel Report I

SA17.06.01 – A Resolution Toward Parental & Family Leave Guidelines

- This motion comes from the Nittany Conference, along with the recommendation of the Committee on Reference & Counsel to adopt. The motion is seconded from the floor of the Assembly
- Pr. Kevin Shock – spoke in favor of the motion, asking for the creation of guidelines to be presented at the 2018 Synod Assembly, for inclusion into the Compensation & Benefits Manual in 2019.
 - The resolution is adopted

The text for resolution SA17.06.01 - A Resolution toward Parental & Family Leave Guidelines

Whereas...

- *the Church's role in the world is to create just and merciful policies and to model right practices in hiring and compensation that other organizations and businesses may adopt, and*
- *the Church's call includes promoting health and wholeness for individuals, families and communities, including for its rostered leaders and other employees, and*
- *planning ahead for times of transition, such as birth, adoption, illness, or death, can alleviate stress at the time of transition, and*
- *leaders who exhibit health in personal and family life also promote health in congregational life, and*
- *many of our sister synods in region 8 of the ELCA have specific guidelines for parental and family leave.*

Therefore, be it resolved that...

- *the Allegheny Synod Council develop guidelines in the Compensation and Benefit Manual for parental leave in the case of birth, adoption, or any other addition of a family member, and*
- *that the Allegheny Synod Council develop guidelines in the Compensation and Benefit Manual for family leave related to bereavement and/or care for someone with serious medical concerns, and*
- *these guidelines appear in the Manual beginning in 2019*

Faithfully submitted, Nittany Conference, Allegheny Synod – ELCA

Rev. Kevin Shock – Dean Nittany Conference / Pastor; St. Mark, Pleasant Gap

Rev. Rebecca Horn – Pastor; St. Luke, Centre Hall

SA17.06.02 – A Resolution of Thanksgiving for Synod Treasurer, Mr. Todd Hammaker

- This motion comes from the Synod Council (**SC17.05.05**), along with the recommendation of the Committee on Reference & Counsel to adopt. The motion is seconded from the floor of the Assembly.
 - The resolution is adopted

The text for resolution SA17.06.02 - A Resolution of Thanksgiving for Synod Treasurer, Mr. Todd Hammaker

Whereas ...

- ... *St. Paul wrote to the Church in Rome “For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function” (Romans 12:4)*
- ... *and likewise to the church in Corinth, “There is only one Spirit who does all these things by giving what God wants to give to each person. For example, the body is one unit and yet has many parts. As all the parts form one body, so it is with Christ (1 Corinthians 12:11-13)*
- ... *St. Peter wrote to the early Church in Asia Minor, “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.” (1Peter 4:10-11)*
- ... *Mr. Todd Hammaker, a member of the body of Christ through baptism and a faithful member of Zion Lutheran Church, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania;*
- ... *Todd, a strong supporter of the work of the Allegheny Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (hereinafter referred to as “our Synod”), through his participation in the ministries of our Synod as well as our partners such as Camp Sequanota;*
- ... *Todd, devoted to the financial ministry of our Synod working with great care to help steward our financial resources;*
- ... *Todd, growing in the knowledge of our Synod's finances as a member of the Finance Committee for seven years prior to his election as Treasurer of our Synod;*
- ... *Todd, faithfully serving for five years as Treasurer of our Synod;*
- ... *Todd, giving-up countless hours of his personal time to serve our Synod in this volunteer position;*
- ... *Todd, guiding our Synod through the yearly audit while at times taking vacation time from his work;*
- ... *Todd, while on the Finance Committee working with the transition from our “DOS” based financial system to the Blackbaud system shared with ALSM;*

- ... Todd, then working as Treasurer to transition to our current accounting system, ConnectNow, for which he dedicated countless hours on evenings, late nights, and weekends.

Therefore, be it resolved that ...

- ... the Allegheny Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is deeply grateful to and gives thanks to God for the service and work of Mr. Todd Hammaker as Treasurer of our Synod
- ... in knowing that Todd has given of his time and talents to help our Synod come to a stronger place financially, we further recognize this an act of service and was his contribution to further the mission of Christ in our Synod.
- Be it further resolved that we extend a heartfelt thank you to his family who shared him with our Synod and enabled him to serve in this way.
- May God bless and keep him and may he know how much we truly appreciate his service. Amen

Synod Council Report II – Budget - Rev. Scott Klimke

- This budget is for fiscal year 2018-19
 - Allegheny Synod Staffing Expenditures = 38% of the budget
 - Allegheny Synod Office Expenses = 6% of the budget
 - Allegheny Synod Partner Related Expenses = 51% of the budget
 - Allegheny Synod Programmatic Expenses = 5% of the budget
- Variances
 - We are planning for a reduction of Mission Support from some larger congregations experiencing financial difficulties
 - We recently re-evaluated & made changes in several areas of investment & banking options... leading to an anticipated increase in revenues.
 - Adding a new position as Communications Coordinator.
 - Increases fees in accounting services as transactional finances to an Independent CPA & to be able to say that our finances are being adopted professionally. Audit expense will likely be appreciably reduced.
- This Budget is conveyed to the 2017 Synod Assembly by the Synod Council, along with a recommendation for adoption (*SC17.05.12*)
- Q&A – several questions were asked about specific areas of the budget. Clarification was offered on all questions.

Reformation History and Conversation II - Dr. Susan McArver

- Outcomes of the Protestant Reformation → the Catholic Church Reformation
- Luther's emphasis was on that all of us have a vocation
- Unanticipated consequences of the Reformation
 - If we are saved by grace & not by works

- The monastics gave up everything to enter into a monastic lifestyle, disrupting the social safety net of the middle ages
 - Luther proposed reviving the order of Deacons to give aid to the poor
 - Diaconate – according to the book of Acts
 - In 2016 the ELCA – voted to elect a roster of Deacons with an emphasis on service to the world
 - During medieval times...
 - Celibacy was considered the highest gift- getting us closer to God
 - Marriage was for the rest of us – a lesser way of living
 - Having children was the primary reason for marriage
 - Provided a remedy for lust
 - Provide a lifelong companion
 - It is sacred (like Christ & his Church) – divorce was not possible
 - Luther’s teaching on marriage & the family
 - The primary reason for marriage is companionship
 - The Bible says be fruitful & multiply – part of God’s plan to have children & enjoy life
 - Celibacy is the exception
 - Procreation – children are a blessing
- Luther was 41 & Katie was 26 when they married
 - They had 6 children, adopted 4 additional children
 - Katie ran the house, the barn, the animals, managed the guests & she brewed the beer
 - Katie was the model for the role of the Pastor’s wife
 - The only Protestant leadership role for women for the next couple of hundred years was to become a Pastor’s wife
 - Motherhood & homemaking is elevated to the status of vocation
 - Sexuality is not an evil thing... created by God as a good thing & a joyful thing
 - Marriage is no longer a sacrament – so divorce became possible
 - Education became necessary for boys & girls
 - Luther created a new role for the Christian Family

Partner Ministries

Deaf Ministry Presentation - Rev. John Telyea

- Spoke about a new ministry creation for the deaf
- Only 2 rostered persons in the ELCA are deaf
- At Pentecost the message of Christ was made available to all people regardless of their language, or their lack of a spoken language

United Lutheran Seminary Report - Rev. John Spangler

- Launching on July 1, 2017
- 1 Seminary
- 2 Campuses
- 325 Students
- 5+ Learning Modes

- 21 Faculty
- \$9.6m budget
- 1 Luther Bowl
- The inauguration of the Rev. Dr. Theresa F. Latini as the first president of United Lutheran Seminary will take place on November 2, 2017

Report of First Ballot/Second Ballot - Rev. Glenn Foster

Panel A – Synod council (Lay Female) – elect 1

- 196 number of ballots
- 4 number of abstentions/Invalid ballots
- 192 number of valid ballots
- 97 minimum needed to elect
 - *Andrea Paul* – 192

Andrea Paul is elected to a three-year term on Synod Council

Panel B – Synod council (Lay Male) – elect 1

- 196 number of ballots
- 3 number of abstentions/Invalid ballots
- 193 number of valid ballots
- 97 minimum needed to elect
 - *William Heiller* – 26
 - *Thomas Horn* – 110
 - *Jack Seymore* – 57

Thomas Horn is re-elected to a three-year term on Synod Council

Panel C – Synod council (Clergy) – elect 2

- 392 number of ballots
- 10 number of abstentions/Invalid ballots
- 382 number of valid ballots
- 97 minimum needed to elect
 - *Rev. Ingrid Chenoweth* – 137
 - *Rev. Sharon Erb* – 133
 - *Rev Toby Holland* – 112

The Rev. Ingrid Chenoweth is elected to a three-year term on Synod Council

The Rev. Sharon Erb is re-elected to a three-year term on Synod Council

Panel D – Synod council (Youth) – elect 1

- 196 number of ballots
- 2 number of abstentions/Invalid ballots
- 194 number of valid ballots
- 98 minimum needed to elect

- *Joshua Dunkle – 194*

Joshua Dunkle is elected to a two-year term on Synod Council

Panel E – Consultation Committee (Lay Female) – elect 1

- 196 number of ballots
- 1 number of abstentions/Invalid ballots
- 195 number of valid ballots
- 98 minimum needed to elect

- *Casey Colledge – 195*

Casey Colledge is elected to a six-year term on the Consultation Committee

Panel H – Discipline Committee (Lay Female) – elect 1

- 196 number of ballots
- 3 number of abstentions/Invalid ballots
- 193 number of valid ballots
- 97 minimum needed to elect

- *Casey Colledge – 61*
- *Lori Dunkle - 132*

Lori Dunkle is elected to a six-year term on the Discipline Committee

Panel J – Discipline Committee (Ordained Male) – elect 1

- 196 number of ballots
- 3 number of abstentions/Invalid ballots
- 193 number of valid ballots
- 97 minimum needed to elect

- *Rev. Toby Holland - 41*
- *Rev. Scott Schul – 81*
- *Rev. John Telyea – 46*
- *Rev. Paul Tomkiel - 25*

There is no election on ballot #1. The Rev Scott Schul & the Rev. John Telyea will move on to ballot #2.

Panel K – Synod Treasurer – elect 1

- 196 number of ballots
- 3 number of abstentions/Invalid ballots
- 193 number of valid ballots
- 98 minimum needed to elect

- Vicki Hrivnak – 193

Vicki Hrivnak is elected to a four-year term as Synod Treasurer

Saturday, June 3, 2017

Plenary Session III

Morning Worship - Camp Sequanota Staff

Introduction and Blessing of Sequanota Staff

Commissioning of the Montana Trip participants

Introduction of new Pastors and Vicars

- Rev. Christine Roe – First Faith Lutheran Cooperative
- Rev. Vicki Beilfuss – Holy Shepherd Parish
- Rev. Jeanne Caudill – Grace/Martinsburg
- Vicar Ariel Williams – Grace/State College
- Vicar (TEEM) Susan Mentzer – St. Paul/Johnstown

Synod Council Report III

Upon motion by Sam Dunkle, seconded from the floor of the assembly,

- **SA17.06.10** – a motion for the adoption of the 2018-19 Allegheny Synod Budget... the motion is adopted

Report on the Strategic Plan

- The Strategic Plan is a living document
- Defining goals & tasks – then creating the budget accordingly
- Mission analysis – updating the Mission Statement
- Ministries → Goals → Objectives
- An enthusiastic dialog followed this presentation, relative to...
 - Congregational Vitality
 - The Strategic Plan driving the Mission Spending Plan
 - Loving God/loving others/making disciples
 - Formulating specific objectives
 - Enhancing the supply of congregational leadership

Reformation History and Conversation III - Dr. Susan McArver

Luther's 3rd major impact... the field of Education & education for the Gospel

- A strong advocate for universal education
 - Clergy & laity, rich & poor, boys & girls
- Everyone needs to be taught to read – to be able to read the Gospel
 - Put the Gospel into the language of the people
- How do you teach the Gospel to children

- Picture books
- Luther's Small Catechism has never been out of print since 1529
- The primary place for use of the Small Catechism is in the Christian Home
 - This is the first & primary place
- Christian education is a responsibility of both father & mother
- It takes a village to raise a Christian family
- The Large Catechism is the teacher's guide to the smaller book
- Faith & God... that to which your heart clings to is your God
- Living for Jesus is not a part-time job
- Use the Word in every way possible... in songs, in sermons, in bible studies
 - Using the Word always in ways that the people can understand
- Luther is not perfect – he is not who we worship
- Luther never wanted us to be called Lutherans... he simply thought we were all Christians
- Luther was always pointing to the Cross

Presentation of Thank You Gifts to our speakers

- Dr. Susan McArver
- Dr. Kathryn Johnson

Staff Reports

DEM Report – Rev. Tim Knauss (*2017 Bulletin of Reports Pgs. 46-47*)

- Refer to the Report of Mission Support FYE 2017
 - A metric of Congregational vitality
 - A metric of Congregational giving
 - Listening to the community around our congregations
 - How are we doing with inviting... how do we talk with our neighbors
- A reminder that the Youth Gathering Promotion is in Houston, TX in 2018

Assistant to the Bishop Report – Rev. Paula Schmitt (*2017 Bulletin of Reports Pgs. 48-49*)

- A major focus of the ELCA in the coming years is the raising up of new leaders
- At present 15 people are in the Candidacy process in the Allegheny Synod
- Watched a video featuring current & recent Seminarians as they shared their thanks for Endowment Fund giving

Communication Coordinator - Marty Jo Stellabotte (*2017 Bulletin of Reports Pg. 50*)

- Marty Jo will be entering United Seminary; Philadelphia in the fall of 2017
- Communications is a challenge for any organization
- The Synod is developing an overall communications plan
 - Seek ways of sharing the good news of our congregations & partner ministries
 - Redesigning the Synod's web site

Synod Ministry Teams

Global Mission - Rev. Elisa Osman (2017 Bulletin of Reports Pg. 114)

- Welcome to Kenya - *Karibu Kenya*
- Development of a Vacation Bible School Curriculum
- Our companion Synod in Africa – Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC)
- Mungu ni Nzuri = God is Good (in Swahili)

Allegheny Synod Women's Organization - Carol McClure (2017 Bulletin of Reports Pg. 125)

Report of Second Ballot - Rev. Glenn Foster

Panel J – Discipline Committee (Ordained Male) – elect 1

- 170 number of ballots
- 1 number of abstentions/Invalid ballots
- 169 number of valid ballots
- 85 minimum needed to elect
 - *Rev. Scott Schul* – 94
 - *Rev. John Telyea* – 75

The Rev. Scott Schul is elected to a six-year term on the Discipline Committee

Reference & Counsel Report II - Dr. Patricia Savage ALSM

Resolution of Appreciation **SA17.06.11**... 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 “Called Forward Together in Christ” in our Allegheny Synod and in all of the world;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Allegheny Synod Assembly convening in Altoona June 2 and 3 expresses its gratitude, as follows:

- *to the Assembly Planning Committee for once again organizing the details of the assembly at the Blair County Convention Center and accomplishing its task of implementing an agenda of business, education, worship, and meals. Did the committee also arrange for the fire drill?*
- *to Bishop Rhyne for reminding us that “ it takes a synod to raise a bishop”:*
- *to Pastor Scott Klimke for challenging us to discuss the importance of our mission support and for reminding us that we are married through the church and with marriage, sacrifices are made ;*
- *to the Assembly worship team for the well-rounded program of worship experiences*
- *to Todd Hammaker for his financial expertise and his service to our synod;*

- *to our synod partners for sharing the stories of the importance of their ministries among us and for pointing out we are the church in the world and are called to serve our neighbors;*
- *to David Finney, our synod secretary, for establishing the existence of a quorum ;*
- *to the technology crew for enabling the audio-visual aids ;*
- *to Dr. Katherine Johnson, our ELCA representative, who shared the exciting news of the “Declaration on the Way” We pray for the continued dialogue ;*
- *to Bishop Rhyne who recognized that Pastor Party is also known as Pastor Paula;*
- *to the “pages” who made sure we had the materials to accomplish our business;*
- *to Dr. Susan McArver who highlighted the life of Martin Luther (especially that he is recognized as the 3rd most important person of the last 1,000 years) and for pointing out the role of women in the 16th century;*
- *to Pastor Way for serving as our photographer*
- *to Pastor Dena Gable for her service on the ELCA Church Council;*
- *to the new pastors in the synod who have begun their pastoral ministry journey with us in the Allegheny Synod. Thank you for helping us “Rise and Shine”;*
- *to Bishop Eaton for reminding us that Lutheran do not look inward and that we are to continue to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ;*
- *to United Seminary as the new phase of theological education unfolds;*
- *to the rostered persons who celebrated anniversaries of ordination ;*
- *to the retired rostered persons for their years of ministry;*
- *to the congregations who celebrated anniversaries; may your ministry continue for at least 175 more years;*
- *to Vice President Sam Dunkle for highlighting the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and for encouraging us to participate in Reformation worship opportunities and the Reformation Festival. We also pray for the success of the strategic planning process as it moves forward;*
- *to Pastor Telyea who is spearheading the deaf ministry and to Saint Paul in Pine Grove Mills for their generous contribution to this ministry;*
- *to Bishop Rhyne for being sure we had a good number of “Jesus stretches” ;*
- *to Sam Clapper for serving as our parliamentarian;*
- *to the camp counselors from Camp Sequanota for the lively worship experience. May you experience a prayerful and fun summer season;*
- *to some behind-the-scenes assistants among us (to name a few)...Michelle Bossler for her expertise; to the entire synod staff and the synod council and all those who serve our beloved Church; to the enlister of lectors, Miss Ima Readon; 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 Director of Food Service, Russell Upsumgrub; to the caffeine addiction counselor, Bruno Moore; and to the Bishop's Self-Esteem Guru (oy vey), 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 we are called forward together in Christ. We go forward to share the good news of Jesus Christ with our neighbors and all those in the world.

Prayer & Closing of Assembly

Adjournment by Bishop Rhyne at 12:09pm