

LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD, ELCA
SYNOD COUNCIL
Draft Minutes
June 8, 2019

The Lower Susquehanna Synod Council met for its reorganizational meeting on Saturday, June 8, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in the Instrumental Rehearsal Room of the Calvin and Janet High Center for Worship and Performing Arts, Messiah College, Grantham, PA.

Vice President Lucinda L. Bringman called the meeting to order.

The members introduced themselves to each other, giving their names and congregational membership. They also shared what they will do when they get home from the assembly.

ROLL CALL

Members present:	Bishop James S. Dunlop Thomas E. McKee	Lucinda L. Bringman Joseph M. Stepansky
	Meredith Killian Askey Debra K. Barrett Matthew B. Best Joel S.B. Folkemer Virgil L. Gibson Kay A. Hinkle Jack M. Horner	Gretchen S. Ierien Jennifer R. Lau Stella Ludwig Jillian E. Riddle Timothy J. Seitz-Brown Zachary J. Weiss
Staff present:	Debbie M. Clark	
Guests present:	Beth A. Schlegel	Sue E. Rothmeyer
Members excused:	Dallas J. Barclift Jr. Daniel P. Picone	Carlotta "Chucki" C. Strevig Theodore D. Wolf
Staff excused:	Jennifer Hope-Tringali Richard E. T. Jorgensen Jr Charlie R. Roberts III	Elizabeth G. Martini Marsha L. Roscoe

The vice president provided a brief orientation to the responsibilities of Synod Council members, explaining membership on Synod Council committees and liaison responsibilities to other committees and conferences. She distributed preference sheets and asked the members of Synod Council to write their contact information, including their cell phone numbers, and their preferences for Synod Council committees and liaison responsibilities.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Lucinda L. Bringman, vice president, proposed a modified ecclesiastical ballot for the election of the three Synod Council members of the Executive Committee. All members of the Synod Council were instructed to vote for no more than three Synod Council members for nomination and election to Executive Committee. The vice president appointed Debbie Clark and Pastor Thomas McKee as tellers.

There were 17 ballots cast. Needed for election were 9 votes. The results of the balloting were that Pastor Joel S.B. Folkemer, 11; Pastor Matthew B. Best, 8; Jennifer R. Lau, 6; Virgil L. Gibson, 5; the Rev. Jillian E. Riddle, 4; Zachary J. Weiss, 3; Kay A. Hinkle, 2; Pastor Jack M. Horner, 2; Pastor Gretchen I. Ierien, 2; Stella Ludwig, 2; and Pastor Timothy J. Seitz-Brown, 2. Vice President Bringman declared that Pastor Joel S.B. Folkemer was elected as a member of the Executive Committee. The second ballot will contain the names of Pastor Matthew B. Best, Jennifer R. Lau, Virgil L. Gibson, and Pastor Jillian E. Riddle.

There were 17 ballots cast during the second ballot for members of the Executive Committee. Needed for election were 9 votes. The results of the balloting were Pastor Matthew B. Best, 12; Jennifer R. Lau, 9; Pastor Jillian E. Riddle, 9; and Virgil L. Gibson, 3. Vice President Bringman declared that Pastor Matthew B. Best was elected as a member of the Executive Committee. The next ballot will contain the names of Jennifer R. Lau, and Pastor Jillian E. Riddle.

There were 16 ballots cast during the third ballot for a member for the Executive Committee. Needed for election were 9 votes. The results of the balloting were Jennifer R. Lau, 10; and Pastor Jillian E. Riddle, 6. Vice President Bringman declared that Jennifer R. Lau was elected as a member of the Executive Committee. All places on the Executive Committee were filled.

ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIR OF SYNOD COUNCIL

Vice President Bringman instructed the members of the Synod Council to vote for one of the following for vice chair of the Synod Council: Pastor Joel S.B. Folkemer, Pastor Matthew B. Best, or Jennifer R. Lau.

Sixteen ballots were cast. Needed for election were 9 votes. The results of the first ballot were Pastor Joel S.B. Folkemer, 7; Jennifer R. Lau, 6; and Pastor Matthew B. Best, 3. Vice President Bringman declared that there was no election. The second ballot for vice chair of Synod Council will contain the names of Pastor Joel S.B. Folkemer and Jennifer R. Lau.

Sixteen ballots were cast. Needed for election were 9 votes. The results of the balloting were Pastor Joel S.B. Folkemer, 8; and Jennifer R. Lau, 8. Pastor Joel S.B. Folkemer and Jennifer R. Lau received the same number of votes. The vice president stated that we would break the tie by casting lots. The lot fell on Pastor Joel S.B. Folkemer. Vice President Bringman declared Pastor Joel S.B. Folkemer vice chair of Synod Council.

Synod Council spent some time discussing the percentage of lay and ordained voting members of the Synod Assembly. At least 60% must be lay voting members. Our constitution gives all Ministers of Word and Sacrament under call and all Ministers of Word and Service under call the privilege of voice and vote. Our bylaws also make Ministers of Word and Sacrament who are retired or on leave from call and Ministers of Word and Service who are retired or on leave from call voting members of the assembly. Because of the number of ordained ministers we have on the retired roster, we do usually fall a little short of having at least 60% lay. If the Churchwide Assembly votes to ordain Ministers of Word and Service, we will have an even greater number of ordained pastors. Some synods ask the retired pastors and those on leave from call to caucus before the assembly and choose a certain number of their peers to serve as voting members. Another suggestion is to elect at large lay voting members from those who are truly interested in the work of our synod. None of this would be necessary if every congregation would send two voting members and those with over 500 baptized members would send an additional person, preferably a youth or young adult or a person of color or whose primary language is other than English.

There were 28 pastors who came to the assembly without any lay voting members from their congregation. This is something that our synod will need to wrestle with as we plan for the 2020 Synod Assembly.

ADJOURNMENT

The members of Synod Council prayed together the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Thomas E. McKee
synod secretary
6/17/19

DRAFT