

**LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD, ELCA**  
**SYNOD COUNCIL**  
**Minutes**  
**November 11, 2017**

The Lower Susquehanna Synod Council met for its regular meeting on Saturday, November 11, 2017, in the Board Room of the Pennsylvania United Church Center, 900 S. Arlington Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109. Vice President Lucinda L. Bringman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

|                             |                                                                                                               |                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Members present:</b>     | Bishop James S. Dunlop<br>Thomas E. McKee                                                                     | Lucinda L. Bringman<br>Joseph M. Stepansky                                                         |
|                             | Eric N. Anderson<br>Joyce E. Frigm<br>Brenda D. Hartzell<br>Jered L. Hock<br>Emma L. Johns<br>Jennifer R. Lau | Jayne A. LeGore<br>Jillian E. Riddle<br>Beth A. Schlegel<br>Stephanie M. Strauss<br>Allen P. Stump |
| <b>Liaison present:</b>     | Fred Bohls                                                                                                    | Linda Lubold                                                                                       |
| <b>Staff present:</b>       | Robert C. Blezard<br>Sharron R. Blezard<br>Debbie M. Clark                                                    | Richard E. T. Jorgensen Jr.<br>Charlie R. Roberts III<br>Marsha L. Roscoe                          |
| <b>Members excused:</b>     | Dana J. Blouch-Hanson (skyping not available)<br>Joel S.B. Folkemer<br>Colleen M. Hoffman                     | Christine C. Lowe<br>Timothy J. Seitz-Brown                                                        |
| <b>Liaison excused:</b>     | Jeremy Filus                                                                                                  |                                                                                                    |
| <b>Members not excused:</b> | Darren M. Hamric                                                                                              |                                                                                                    |

Jered Hock led the members of the Synod Council in opening devotions, reading from Jeremiah 37. When Jeremiah confronts the king, the king asks Jeremiah, “Any word from the Lord?” Despite declining attendances and offerings today, our people are moved by the Word of the Lord. Strategies and governance have some importance, but of primary importance today is the need of our members for God’s Word. Jered led the members of the Synod Council in prayer.

**MISSION SUPPORT SYMPOSIUM**

Victoria Flood, Director for Mission Support of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America led the Synod Council in a mission support symposium, a look at how we are a church together, a time of listening, learning, and imagining together. She recalled Bishop Dunlop’s words at the Bishop’s Convocation: “We are called to be communities of Jesus where there are life-changing relationships with God, one another, and the world.” She read Matthew 5 and asked, “What does it mean to live generously?” It is all about relationships: how we relate to one another, to God, and to the world around us. She proclaimed, “Generously!” She gave thanks to God for our generous living.

Victoria Flood asked next, “What is mission support?” Mission support is first rooted in relationships and faith. It doesn’t really matter what name people use for mission support. We meet persons where

they are. It is what we share beyond our congregation that makes a difference in the world; it is what we do together as a synod and as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Mission support defies conventional wisdom in its relationship to stewardship and generosity. Mission support is an indicator and not a goal unto itself. No mission support may indicate that the congregation has no relationship with a synod or the churchwide organization or that it has a strained or broken relationship. It is an indicator of the relationship. It is not always an indicator of the overall generosity of a congregation. Victoria Flood shared a diagram of interlocking gears, representing families and individuals, congregations, synods, and the churchwide expression, as a representation how mission support works to fund the mission of the church in all expressions.

Victoria Flood shared information about our synod. The context of our synod and of the communities in which our congregations are located is important. The types of communities represented in our synod are as follows: 31%, rural (not farming); 27%, cities with populations between 10,000 and 50,000 persons; 20%, medium cities; 21%, urban areas greater than 200,000; and 1%, suburbs of large cities. The size of our congregations are as follows: 1-50 average attendance, 37%; 51 to 150 average attendance, 48%; and 151-800 average attendance, 17%. Many of our congregations with average attendance under 50 have feelings of failure and despair and soon develop an inferiority complex. What does it say that 37% of our 234 congregations have an average attendance of fifty or fewer.

Victoria Flood noted that our congregations share 6.2% of their budgets as mission support to our synod. This is an above average percentage. Our mission support speaks of our relationship with each other. We invest in each other and in our mutual ministry in order that we can be church together for the sake of the world. Mission support is the primary source of revenue for our synods and the churchwide expression. In 2017, our income as the ELCA was \$65,296,000. The percentage of income coming from mission support was 67.2% or \$44,125,000. In our synod 91% of our income comes from mission support. In 2010 50% of our mission support remained with our synod; 50% was sent to the churchwide expression. In 2016 54% remains with our synod and 46% is shared with the churchwide expression. The year 2016 began our experiment of keeping a portion of our churchwide mission support here in the Lower Susquehanna Synod to promote renewal and redevelopment as well as to provide funding for new ministries.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Allen Stump moved:

**ADOPTED: That the Consent Agenda be adopted.**

**SC17.11.37.**

**That the minutes of the September 21, 2017, meeting be approved;**

**That the Synod Council reappoint to the Global Missions Committee Sister Dottie Almonee, Deacon Jan Davis, and the Rev. Elizabeth Polanzke to a second term, expiring in 2020;**

**That the Synod Council reappoint to the World Hunger Committee the Rev. Timothy Seitz-Brown to a second term, expiring in 2020;**

**That the Synod Council elect to the board of directors of the Lutheran Camping Corporation the Rev. Abigail Leese, Lyle Hosler, and Eric Huth to a first term, expiring in 2020;**

**That the Synod Council reelect to the board of directors of the Lutheran Camping Corporation William Steinhart to a second term, expiring in 2020;**

**That the Synod Council elect Daniel Bringman to the board of directors of SpiriTrust Lutheran for a first term, expiring 2020, contingent upon the approval of the board of directors of SpiriTrust Lutheran on November 16, 2017;**

**That the Synod Council grant “on-leave-from call” status to the Rev. Dr. Chad Rimmer, effective December 31, 2016, until December 31, 2018;**

**That the Synod Council grant “on-leave-from-call” status to the Rev. Katrina Holland for a period of one year from November 6, 2017, until November 6, 2018;**

**That the Synod Council continue on “on-leave-from-call” status the Rev. Brenda Ritterpusch for one year, effective January 1, 2018, until January 1, 2019; and the Rev. Haley Vay Beaman for one year, effective January 1, 2018, until January 1, 2019;**

**That the Synod Council approve the retirement requests of the Rev. Sandra R. Mackie, effective January 1, 2018, and the Rev. Marilyn Witte, effective February 1, 2018; and**

**That the total compensation paid to the Rev. James S. Dunlop for the period beginning January 1, 2018, shall include an annual payment of \$24,000 to be designated as a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code; that the total compensation paid to the Rev. Robert Blezard for the period beginning January 1, 2018, shall include an annual payment of \$10,000 to be designated as a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code; that the total compensation paid to the Rev. Sharron Blezard for the period beginning January 1, 2018, shall include an annual payment of \$10,000 to be designated as a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code; that the total compensation paid to the Rev. Richard E. T. Jorgensen Jr. for the period beginning January 1, 2018, shall include an annual payment of \$18,000 to be designated as a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code; that the total compensation paid to the Rev. Thomas E. McKee for the period beginning January 1, 2018, shall include an annual payment of \$20,000 to be designated as a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code.**

The members of the Synod Council enjoyed a ten-minute break in the agenda.

**SYNOD COUNCIL ACTIONS**

Bishop Dunlop moved:

**ADOPTED:** That the Synod Council call the Rev. William Chamberlin to serve full-time as hospice chaplain with Celtic Hospice and Home Health, Mechanicsburg, PA, effective November 20, 2017.  
**SC17.11.38.**

**ADOPTED:** That the Synod Council approve the Synod Administration Covenant between St. SC17.11.39. Paul Lutheran Church, Dillsburg, and the Rev. Glenn Ludwig.

Pastor Thomas McKee, synod secretary, moved:

**ADOPTED:** That the Synod Council approve the following composition of the panels for the SC17.11.40. election of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members: Constitutionally mandated, Bishop James S. Dunlop and Vice President Lucinda L. Bringman; Panel one, nominated by conferences, 2 clergy, 2 lay females, and 3 lay males; panel two, youth, 1 lay female and 1 lay male; panel three, young adults, 1 lay female and 1 lay male; panel four, persons of color or language other than English, 1 clergy, 1 lay female, and 1 lay male; panel five, elected at large, 3 clergy, 1 lay female, and lay male.

Pastor Thomas McKee, assembly manager moved on behalf of the Assembly Planning Committee:

**ADOPTED:** That the 2018 Synod Assembly be held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May SC17.11.41. 31, June 1, and June 2, 2018, at Messiah College, Grantham, PA.

Jered Hock moved on behalf of the Personnel Committee:

That Bishop Dunlop and the members of the Pastoral Staff receive a 1 ½% increase in their base salaries and housing allowances for 2018, which would make Bishop Dunlop's base salary and housing allowance \$97,002; Pastor McKee's base salary and housing allowance \$78,239; Pastor Jorgensen's base salary and housing allowance \$77,699; Pastor Rob Blezard's base salary and housing allowance \$64,310; and Pastor Sharron Blezard's base salary and housing allowance \$64,310.

Bishop Dunlop moved the following amendment:

**ADOPTED:** "...Bishop Dunlop's base salary and housing allowance \$97,000; Pastor McKee's base salary and housing allowance \$78,250; Pastor Jorgensen's base salary and housing allowance \$77,700; Pastor Rob Blezard's base salary and housing allowance \$64,500; and Pastor Sharron Blezard's base salary and housing allowance \$64,500."

The following friendly amendment was accepted by the members of the synod council:

"which, when rounded, would make...."

The amended motion was before Synod Council.

**ADOPTED:** That Bishop Dunlop and the members of the Pastoral Staff receive a 1 ½% increase SC17.11.42. in their base salaries and housing allowances for 2018, which, when rounded, would make Bishop Dunlop's base salary and housing allowance \$97,000; Pastor McKee's base salary and housing allowance \$78,250; Pastor Jorgensen's base salary and housing allowance \$77,700; Pastor Rob Blezard's base salary and housing allowance \$64,500; and Pastor Sharron Blezard's base salary and housing allowance \$64,500.

Pastor Thomas McKee abstained from voting on this motion.

Jered Hock moved on behalf of the Personnel Committee:

**ADOPTED: That the Personnel Committee recommend to Synod Council that the Synod Council direct that all remaining staff receive salary increases at the bishop's discretion within the total budgeted amount for human resources.**

Vice President Lucinda L. Bringman expressed her appreciation to Jered Hock, Stephanie Strauss, Pastor Jillian Riddle and Pastor Beth Schlegel for providing refreshments and to Pastor Eric Anderson and Allen Stump for serving as door hosts.

**REPORT OF THE BISHOP**

Bishop James S. Dunlop submitted a written report. He shared the report of the ELCA Conference of Bishops' Domestic Mission: New/Renewing Congregations Committee. This committee is defining congregational vitality as "communities of Jesus where there are life-changing relationships with God, one another and the world." Vital congregations and communities of Jesus embody God's presence, worship in spirit and truth, promote healing, practice radical generosity in all things, create change, are rooted in their community/neighborhood, invite and welcome all, share faith and tell stories, show mercy, do justice, and serve all, grow and connect leaders, and are grounded in hope.

As part of his written report, Bishop Dunlop shared that our synod had received an undesignated bequest of \$121,927.39 from the estate of the late Darlene M. Wagner, a former member of the former Memorial Lutheran Church, Harrisburg. This bequest originally intended for Memorial congregation reverted to the Lower Susquehanna Synod, the legal successor of Memorial Lutheran Church of Harrisburg.

Bishop Dunlop moved:

**ADOPTED: That the bequest of \$121,927.39 from the estate of the late Darlene M. Wagner be designated for the Bishop's Congregational Mission Fund as part of the Always Being Made New Campaign.**

**REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT**

Vice President Lucinda L. Bringman submitted a written report. She reported on the Gathering of Synod Vice Presidents which met in Chicago in conjunction with the Conference of Bishops. The theme of the gathering was "Leading in Changing Culture." She announced the upcoming retirement of General Counsel Phil Harris and the appointment of Thomas Cunniff, currently the Associate General Counsel, as the new General Counsel. She has noted the upcoming retirement of Kenneth Inskeep, Executive for Research and Development.

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Treasurer Joseph M. Stepansky submitted a written report and a financial report. He reviewed with the members of Synod Council the revenue and expense reports.

**REPORT OF THE SYNOD SECRETARY**

Secretary Thomas E. McKee submitted a written report.

The members of the Synod Council enjoyed a lunch of sandwiches, chips, and cookies provided by Victoria Flood and lunchtime conversation.

**DISCUSSION OF THE PRELIMINARY PROCESS LEADING TO THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP**

Vice President Lucinda L. Bringman reminded the members of Synod Council that there will be an election of a bishop at the 2019 Synod Assembly. ELCA Secretary Chris Boerger has urged all synods to incorporate their preliminary process leading to the election of a bishop into their governing documents by adopting a continuing resolution. Our synod has a policy that was adopted in preparation for the election of a bishop in 2013; however, it should be reviewed and then that process be adopted as a continuing resolution. Since our current policy was adopted by our Synod Assembly in response to a resolution passed by the assembly, the officers are recommending that the proposed continuing resolution describing the preliminary process leading to the election of a bishop be adopted by the 2018 Synod Assembly. Included in the Synod Council emailing was the current policy adopted by the Synod Assembly, the initial recommendation of the task force to Synod Council, and an evaluation of the preliminary process prepared by the task force after the bishop's election. The current policy is as follows:

### **PRELIMINARY IDENTIFICATION PROCESS LEADING TO THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP**

1. The incumbent bishop will be asked to announce whether he or she will stand for reelection by the time of the Synod Council meeting in November prior to the Synod Assembly during which a bishop is to be elected.
2. The Lower Susquehanna Synod will go through the recommended preliminary identification process and the same election process regardless of whether there is an incumbent bishop standing for reelection.
3. The Synod Council will prepare and distribute information about the Lower Susquehanna Synod including the current Vision for Mission and any strategic planning adopted by Synod Council.
4. At the spring conference meeting of each conference, the voting members will be asked to consider a set of questions developed by Synod Council designed to identify the conference's vision for this synod's mission, the issues they deem important for this synod, and the gifts desirable and necessary in a bishop. The secretary of each conference shall provide minutes of this discussion to the secretary of synod for use by the Synod Council.
5. At the spring conference meeting, the voting members will be asked to raise up the names of ELCA pastors whom the voting members believe have gifts desirable in a bishop. Each voting member raising up the name of a pastor should receive the permission of that pastor to raise his or her name and should be prepared to share with the other voting members why he or she is raising this name. The name of any pastor on the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be raised up, even if that pastor is not a member of that conference or this synod. Any ELCA pastor is encouraged to give permission to have his or her name raised up as part of this synod's and of an individual's discernment process.
6. After all voting members have had opportunity to raise up any potential nominees for bishop, the voting members will engage in a process which will lead to the selection of three potential nominees that this conference will share with the entire synod as ones identified by this conference as possessing gifts for the office of bishop.
7. The dean of each conference will contact these three individuals selected by the conference and secure their permission to identify their names as ones among those selected by a conference as possessing gifts for the office of bishop. If these individuals are willing to be so identified, the dean will facilitate their completion of a biographical information form developed by Synod Council. The dean will submit these forms to the secretary of synod within ten days of the conference assembly.

8. The secretary of synod will post the names of these individuals selected by the conference on the synod website 45 days before the Synod Assembly begins.
9. The Synod Assembly will adopt the Rules of Procedure for the Election of a Bishop based upon the ecclesiastical ballot as required by the Lower Susquehanna Synod Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions. According to S9.04, if there is not an election on the first ballot for bishop, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. For an ELCA pastor to be on the slate of nominees for bishop, his or her name must be included in the tally of votes received on the first ballot for bishop.

Vice President Bringman informed the members of the Synod Council that, although the policy seems to imply that #4 and #5 happen at the same Spring Conference Assembly, in interpreting and implementing the policy before the last election of a bishop, the officers encouraged two conference meetings, one in January or February and one in March, April, or May.

Pastor Beth Schlegel moved the following amendments to the preliminary procedure:

That #4 read, “At a special meeting of each conference held early in the calendar year of the electing assembly, the voting members of the upcoming Synod Assembly...”; #5 read, “At the regular Spring Conference meeting...”; that #6 and #7 read, “up to three.”

Pastor Eric Anderson stated that he is unsure if we need two conference meetings. We could do these tasks concurrently and use the time between the Spring Conference Assemblies and the Synod Assembly to communicate the results of both.

The members of the Synod Council accepted as a friendly amendment the changing of “whom” to “who” in #5.

Joyce Frigm asked the question, “How was the information that was received from the conferences used?” The vice president responded to amend our synod profile as well as the document citing the attributes needed in a bishop.

Pastor Richard Jorgensen encouraged the members of the Synod Council to add a step encouraging voting members engaging in prayerful and deliberate discernment between the two conference meetings.

Jered Hock asked, “How many people will come out for a special conference meeting in January as well as the Conference Assembly, which may be during Lent?” The vice president responded that she believed the attendances were good at these meetings in 2013; the election of a bishop draws a great deal of interest.

Pastor Eric Anderson suggested amending the process to give conferences a choice of whether to have one or two conference meetings.

A question was raised about the voting members who would be invited to these meetings. Would they be the voting members of the 2018 or the 2019 Synod Assemblies? Secretary McKee responded that our synod requested that voting members of the 2013 Synod Assembly be elected prior to the first Conference Assembly in order that the 2013 voting members fully be informed. However, voting members serve until new voting members are elected.

Pastor Jillian Riddle stated that she believes it is important for the conversation to have two meetings. Jen Lau agreed, adding that this is especially important for first time voting members.

The motion to amend was before the council.

**ADOPTED:** That #4 read, “At a special meeting of each conference held early in the calendar year of the electing assembly, the voting members of the upcoming Synod Assembly...”; #5 read, “At the regular Spring Conference meeting...”; that #6 and #7 read, “up to three.”

Pastor Jillian Riddle moved the following amendment by addition:

**ADOPTED:** To amend by adding a new #9, reading, “While these individuals are identified as potential nominees for the office of bishop, the Lower Susquehanna Synod will continue to use the ecclesiastical ballot in which any rostered pastor of the ELCA may be placed in nomination on the first ballot. Any person identified as a potential candidate for the office of bishop must still be nominated on the first ballot by a voting member at the assembly.” The present #9 will be renumbered #10.

Pastor Beth Schlegel moved the following amendments:

**ADOPTED:** That #6 read, “...possess gifts for the office of bishop...;” and that #9 read, “While these individuals are identified as persons possessing gifts for the office of bishop... Any person identified as possessing gifts must still....”

Dr. Jayne LeGore moved to amend by addition:

**ADOPTED:** To add a new #3, reading “The Synod Council shall call the synod to prayerful deliberation.”

Jered Hock moved:

**ADOPTED:** To refer the amended Preliminary Identification Process Leading to the Election of SC17.11.45. a Bishop to the Constitution Committee for review.

#### **PRELIMINARY IDENTIFICATION PROCESS LEADING TO THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP**

1. The incumbent bishop will be asked to announce whether he or she will stand for reelection by the time of the Synod Council meeting in November prior to the Synod Assembly during which a bishop is to be elected.
2. The Lower Susquehanna Synod will go through the recommended preliminary identification process and the same election process regardless of whether there is an incumbent bishop standing for reelection.
3. The Synod Council shall call the synod to prayerful deliberation.
4. The Synod Council will prepare and distribute information about the Lower Susquehanna Synod including the current Vision for Mission and any strategic planning adopted by Synod Council.

5. At a special meeting of each conference held early in the calendar year of the electing assembly, the voting members of the upcoming Synod Assembly, the voting members will be asked to consider a set of questions developed by Synod Council designed to identify the conference's vision for this synod's mission, the issues they deem important for this synod, and the gifts desirable and necessary in a bishop. The secretary of each conference shall provide minutes of this discussion to the secretary of synod for use by the Synod Council.
6. At the regular spring conference meeting, the voting members will be asked to raise up names of ELCA pastors who the voting members believe possess gifts for the office of bishop. Each voting member raising up the name of a pastor should receive the permission of that pastor to raise his or her name and should be prepared to share with the other voting members why he or she is raising this name. The name of any pastor on the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be raised up, even if that pastor is not a member of that conference or this synod. Any ELCA pastor is encouraged to give permission to have his or her name raised up as part of this synod's and of an individual's discernment process.
7. After all voting members have had opportunity to raise up any potential nominees for bishop, the voting members will engage in a process which will lead to the selection of up to three potential nominees that this conference will share with the entire synod as ones identified by this conference as possessing gifts for the office of bishop.
8. The dean of each conference will contact these up to three individuals selected by the conference and secure their permission to identify their names as ones among those selected by a conference as possessing gifts for the office of bishop. If these individuals are willing to be so identified, the dean will facilitate their completion of a biographical information form developed by Synod Council. The dean will submit these forms to the secretary of synod within ten days of the conference assembly.
9. The secretary of synod will post the names of these individuals selected by the conference on the synod website 45 days before the Synod Assembly begins.
10. While these individuals are identified as potential nominees for the office of bishop, the Lower Susquehanna Synod will continue to use the ecclesiastical ballot in which any rostered pastor of the ELCA may be placed in nomination on the first ballot. Any person identified as a potential candidate for the office of bishop must still be nominated on the first ballot by a voting member at the assembly.
11. The Synod Assembly will adopt the Rules of Procedure for the Election of a Bishop based upon the ecclesiastical ballot as required by the Lower Susquehanna Synod Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions. According to S9.04, if there is not an election on the first ballot for bishop, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. For an ELCA pastor to be on the slate of nominees for bishop, his or her name must be included in the tally of votes received on the first ballot for bishop.

#### **MISSION SUPPORT STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Victoria Flood led the members of the Synod Council through Mission Support Strategic Planning. She spoke about some variables in congregational giving. In larger congregations individuals may not have as much ownership in the congregation as a lesser number of worshippers in a smaller congregation. Individual giving may be higher in smaller congregations where members know that their giving is essential to the life of the congregation. If smaller congregations are renewed and grow, it may be difficult to maintain the same generosity in giving. We tend to measure success by attendance and giving, rather than by faithfulness and spiritual growth. In the Lower Susquehanna Synod total giving showed a great decline between 2010 and 2016. Congregational sharing with the synod dropped from 7 % to

6.2 %. Synodical giving to the ELCA in 2016 was 39% of the budget, but, because of the money withheld in the experiment, synodical giving was actually 47%. The experiment has decreased the financial resources given to the ELCA, but it actually has increased support for the church. The goal is to attain 50-50 support of our synod and our churchwide expression.

Victoria Flood showed a video of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. After the video, Victoria Flood asked, "What do we already have in the house?" "Proximity," "good ministries to share," and "collections for causes" were some of the responses. What ministries would we do if the budget was not a factor. Bishop Dunlop said, "Six Directors of Evangelical Mission!" Victoria Flood asked, "How are stewardship and mission support integrated in R3?" "Relationships," "stewards," "called to be faithful," "looking beyond self," "paying attention to God's presence in our midst," "renewed purpose for congregations," "awareness of our assets," and "an awareness of the needs of our community" were some of the responses.

Victoria Flood closed this planning session by saying, "I thank God for your generous living." The members of the Synod Council responded with applause.

#### **REPORT OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Synod Council Executive Committee provided minutes of its October 26, 2017, meeting.

#### **REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES OF SYNOD COUNCIL**

**Assembly Planning Committee** provided minutes of its October 5, 2017, meeting and a report from the Edification and Service Task Force.

**Personnel Committee** provided minutes of its October 5, 2017, meeting.

#### **REPORTS OF THE LIAISONS**

**Lutheran Youth Organization** member, Emma Johns informed the members of the Synod Council about the smaller Winterfest being planned for Camp Nawakwa. She said that the LYO has set dates for Alive and Leadership Training Camp and are preparing for the ELCA Youth Gathering.

**Lower Susquehanna Synod Lutheran Men in Mission** liaison, Fred Bohls, offered Spanish New Testaments to whoever could use them. He noted that Lutheran Men in Mission has undergone a tremendous change. The board is no longer big, but has only nine members. There will be no national gathering. The main orientation is developing discipleship.

**Lower Susquehanna Synod Women's Organization of the Women of the ELCA** liaison, Linda Lubold, provided a written report.

**ELCA Foundation's** regional financial planner, Pastor Elizabeth Polanzke, did not provide a report.

#### **REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE STAFF**

Deacon Marsha Roscoe provided a written report.

Charlie Roberts submitted a written report about the synod office renovations and about Faith Formation.

Pastor Robert Blezard offered a written report.

Pastor Sharron Blezard provided a written report.

Pastor Richard Jorgensen offered a written report.

**REPORTS OF CONSULTANTS**

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**Worship Committee** liaison, Pastor Jillian Riddle, submitted a report.

**REPORTS OF TASK FORCES**

**Always Being Made New Campaign (ABMN) Advisory Committee** staff liaison, Deacon Marsha Roscoe, provided a written report.

**Vibrant Faith University** liaison, Allen Stump, provided a written report.

**The Synod Council Review Team for Union Lutheran Church, York**, chair, the Rev. Beth Schlegel submitted a report for October 2017.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Charlie Roberts noted that about \$9,000 that was earmarked for the renovations had not been used. He questioned whether that money might be available for another Wellness Retreat. Many of our rostered ministers have requested that this ministry be continued. Deacon Marsha Roscoe provided a history of the Wellness Retreats for the members of the council. There was not a Wellness Retreat scheduled for this year, but she approached Portico Benefit Services to see if they would provide some financial assistance if we were to plan a Wellness Retreat. Portico agreed. Charlie Roberts has been negotiating with Hotel Hershey for a date in early February when our synod could use its facilities for a day-long Wellness Retreat.

Bishop Dunlop moved:

**ADOPTED: That the \$9,000 remaining in the Synod Council's designated Legacy Fund SC17.11.46. distribution be used to fund partially the 2018 Bishop's Wellness Retreat.**

Charlie Roberts noted that all the staff were instrumental in helping with the renovations. However, one person, Debbie Clark, was exceptional with her contributions in in so many ways to this project. He expressed his appreciation to Debbie; the members of the Synod Council joined him in showing their appreciation to Debbie Clark for her valuable work during the renovations.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m. with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Thomas E. McKee  
Synod Secretary  
11/11/17