

LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD, ELCA
SYNOD COUNCIL
Minutes
September 24, 2016

The Lower Susquehanna Synod Council met for its regular meeting on Saturday, September 24, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room of the United Church Center, 900 S. Arlington Avenue, Harrisburg, PA. Vice President Lucinda L. Bringman called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Members present:	Bishop James S. Dunlop Thomas E. McKee	Lucinda L. Bringman
	Eric N. Anderson Joel S. B. Folkemer Joyce E. Frigm Virgil L. Gibson Brenda D. Hartzell Jered L. Hock	Colleen M. Hoffman (skype) Christine C. Lowe Jillian E. Riddle Beth A. Schlegel Allen P. Stump M. Jane Wigand
Staff present:	Robert C. Blezard Debbie M. Clark	Richard E. T. Jorgensen, Jr. Linda L. Lubold
Liaison present:	Stephen R. Herr	
Consultants present:	Donna Nicholson	Elizabeth Polanzke
Members excused:	Bruce E. Seagrist Dana J. Blouch-Hanson Zoe L. Clark	J. Richard Eckert Susan L. McDonald Stephanie M. Strauss
Staff excused:	Sharron R. Blezard Charlie R. Roberts III	Marsha L. Roscoe

Bishop James S. Dunlop led the members of the Synod Council in devotions, reading from Galatians speaking about the concept of Christian freedom. We are bold to announce that we are free, but we don't understand what we are proclaiming. As Abraham Lincoln said that we do not have a good definition for freedom. What does freedom mean? It is a danger to believe that the freedom we receive from God is a freedom to do whatever we desire. Freedom comes from the law of God through the working of the Holy Spirit. We are freed to form new relationships, to live a life of love, to do the will of God as we have come to know it through the power of the Holy Spirit.

CONSENT AGENDA

Pastor Beth Schlegel moved:

**ADOPTED: That the Consent Agenda be adopted:
SC16.09.27.**

That the Synod Council approve the minutes of the May 19, 2016, and the June 5, 2016, meetings of Synod Council.

That the Synod Council appoint to the Audit Committee Carol Sieck a first three-year term, expiring in 2019; and reappoint Linda Bennett, serving an unexpired term, to the Audit Committee for a first full three-year term.

That the Synod Council appoint to the Candidacy Committee Jeff Weaver for a first five-year term, expiring in 2021;

That the Synod Council reappoint the Rev. Stephen Folkemer to the Synod Worship Committee for a second three-year term, expiring in 2019, and appoint the Rev. Victoria Larson, April Trout, Deb Reeder, and Steve Strauss to the Synod Worship Committee for a first three-year term, expiring in 2019;

That the Synod Council reappoint the Rev. Haley Vay Beaman, Ann Seitz Brown, AiM, and Michelle Shirk to the Learning Ministries Team for a second three-year term, expiring in 2019;

That the Synod Council appoint Vickie Swionteck, Linda Bell, Mark Fischer, and Martha Brunner to the Konde Diocese Committee for a first three-year term, expiring in 2019;

That the Synod Council appoint the Rev. Kevin Stout to the Global Mission Committee for a first three-year term, expiring in 2019;

That the Synod Council reappoint the Rev. Katherine Brantner, and the Rev. Susan McCarthy to the Stewardship Education and Mission Support Committee for a second three-year term, expiring in 2019, and appoint the Rev. Robert Ierien, the Rev. John Wenzke, the Rev. Kevin Stout, and Linda Bennett to the Stewardship Education and Mission Support Committee for a first three-year term, expiring in 2019;

That the Synod Council appoint the Rev. Joseph Veres, the Rev. Robert Myallis, Terry Snyder, and Angie Thomas to the Bishop's Congregational Mission Fund Committee for a first three-year term, expiring in 2019;

That the Synod Council appoint Patti Gohn to the Synod Council Review Team for St. James, Brogue, and St. Paul (Lebanon), Felton;

That the Synod Council appoint Sharon Hardel, the Rev. Denise Horn, and the Rev. Dana Blouch-Hanson to the Synod Council Review Team for Trinity Lutheran Church, Rouzerville;

That the Synod Council elect Dr. Joan Harrold to the board of directors of Luthercare for a first term, expiring April 2019;

That the Synod Council continue on "on-leave-from-call" status the Rev. Wayne D. Moritz, effective October 16, 2016 until October 16, 2017;

That the Synod Council grant "on-leave-from-call" status to the Rev. Tina Melusky, effective August 1, 2016, until August 1, 2017; to the Rev. Gregory B. Lindsey,

effective August 8, 2016, until August 8, 2017; to the Rev. Edward J. Robbins, effective August 8, 2016, until August 8, 2017; and to the Rev. Linda S. Trout, effective October 1, 2016, through October 1, 2017;

That the Synod Council grant “on-leave-from-call-graduate study” status to the Rev. Jillian E. Riddle, effective September 1, 2016, until September 1, 2017;

That the Synod Council approve the retirement requests of the Rev. William C. Knotts, effective June 1, 2016; the Rev. William W. DeHass, effective August 31, 2016; the Rev. Gustaf H. Steinhilber, effective August 1, 2016; the Rev. Carol H. Parr, effective December 31, 2016; and the Rev. Neal O. Hively, effective December 31, 2016.

That the Synod Council appoint Joyce Frigm, chair, *SC*; Lucinda L. Bringman, *synod vice president*; the Rev. Thomas E. McKee, *synod secretary*; Marsha Roscoe, *assembly manager*; Cathy Deitrich, *assembly registrar*; the Rev. Dana Blouch-Hanson, *SC*; Tracey DePasquale; the Rev. Elizabeth George; Colleen Hoffman, *SC*; the Rev. Gretchen Ierien; the Rev. Robert Ierien; the Rev. Edward Robbins; Charles R. Roberts III, *synod staff*; April Trout; and the Rev. Gwenn Trout to the Assembly Planning Committee;

That the Synod Council appoint Jered L. Hock, chair, *SC*; the Rev. Thomas E. McKee, *synod secretary*; the Rev. Jeffrey Compton; Susan McDonald, *SC*; the Rev. Beth Schlegel, *SC*; and Joanne Wilhelm to the Constitution Committee;

That the Synod Council appoint Virgil Gibson, chair, *SC*; Lucinda L. Bringman, *synod vice president*; Bruce E. Seagrist, *synod treasurer*; Dawn Frees; Joyce Frigm, *SC*; Wayne Gongaware; Brenda Hartzell, *SC*; Brad Hollinger; Donna Nicholson, *consultant*; Joseph Stepansky; the Rev. Kurt S. Strause; and Dee Wells to the Finance and Budget Committee;

That the Synod Council appoint the Rev. Dana Blouch-Hanson, chair, *SC*; the Rev. James S. Dunlop, *bishop*; the Rev. Thomas E. McKee, *synod secretary*; Zoe Clark, *SC*; the Rev. Douglas DeStephano; Allen Stump, *SC*; Robert Walton; Holly Freas-Webster; and Jane Wigand, *SC*, to the Gifts Discernment Committee;

That the Synod Council appoint the Rev. Joel Folkemer, chair, *SC*; the Rev. James S. Dunlop, *bishop*; Lucinda L. Bringman, *vice president*; the Rev. Sharron Blezard, *assistant to the bishop*; the Rev. Richard E. Jorgensen Jr., *DEM*; the Rev. Kathleen J. Baker; the Rev. J. Richard Eckert, *SC*; Jennifer Lau; the Rev. Jillian Riddle, *SC*; Stephanie Strauss, *SC*; Allen P. Stump, *SC*; and Holly Freas-Webster to the Mission Committee;

That the Synod Council appoint Christine Lowe, chair, *SC*; the Rev. Thomas E. McKee, *personnel officer*; Lucinda L. Bringman, *synod vice president*; the Rev. Eric Anderson, *SC*; the Rev. Martha Boyd; the Rev. Elizabeth George; Gary L. Laabs; the Rev. Lisa Leber; Susan McDonald, *SC*; the Rev. Timothy W. Sadler; and Joanne Wilhelm to the Personnel Committee;

That the Synod Council approve the appointment of Synod Council liaisons to committees, ministries, and agencies: Audit Committee, Lucinda L. Bringman; Bishop's Congregational Mission Fund Committee, Lucinda L. Bringman; Children, Youth and Family Ministries, the Rev. Dana Blouch-Hanson; Compensation and Benefits Committee, Jered Hock; Criminal Justice System Ministries, the Rev. Eric Anderson; Diakonia Board, Allen Stump; Evangelism Mission Tables, the Rev. Joel Folkemer; Global Mission Committee, Stephanie Strauss; Konde Diocese Committee, the Rev. Beth Schlegel; Learning Ministries Team, Brenda Hartzell; Poverty Justice Table, the Rev. Joel Folkemer; Stewardship Education and Mission Support Committee, Virgil Gibson; Synodical Worship Committee, the Rev. Richard Eckert; World Hunger Committee, the Rev. Jillian Riddle; Lutheran Camping Corporation, the Rev. Dana Blouch-Hanson; and Region 8 Steering Committee, Lucinda L. Bringman;

That the Synod Council approve the appointment of Synod Council liaisons to conferences: Chambersburg Conference, M. Jane Wigand; Gettysburg Conference, Joyce Frigm; Hanover Conference, the Rev. Eric Anderson; Harrisburg Conference, the Rev. Richard Eckert; Lancaster Conference, the Rev. Jillian Riddle; Lebanon Conference, TBA; North Lancaster, Colleen Hoffman; North York Conference, Brenda Hartzell; Perry Conference, Chris Lowe; South York Conference, Allen Stump; Upper Dauphin Conference, Sue McDonald; West Cumberland Conference, the Rev. Dana Blouch-Hanson; West Shore Conference, Jered Hock; and York Conference, the Rev. Beth Schlegel and the Rev. Joel Folkemer.

That the Synod Council, through the bishop and the secretary, certify the minutes of the 2016 Synod Assembly as the official protocol of said assembly, to be deposited in the archives.

DISCUSSION ABOUT THE ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW CAMPAIGN

Bishop Dunlop provided some introductory remarks about the Always Being Made New Campaign. The 2013 Churchwide Assembly adopted the Always Being Made New Campaign in order to raise new moneys for new mission projects across our church and to strengthen support for some existing ministries such as the ELCA World Hunger Fund and the Malaria Appeal. At the 2014 Synod Assembly the assembly adopted this comprehensive campaign, adding to it opportunities to give to certain ministries in our synod. Our campaign had the goal of raising \$2.75 million for synodical ministries and \$2.75 million for churchwide ministries. Also as part of the resolution passed at the 2014 Synod Assembly was the funding of the campaign through campaign contributions. Allotted for fundraising costs was \$500,000. We contracted with Donna Nicholson to serve as our fundraising consultant and hired Denise Ferguson to serve as secretary for the campaign. For six months, during the silent phase of the campaign, advance gifts were solicited. In March 2015 our synod rolled out the campaign to our congregations. To date, we have netted about \$500,000 in new money because we are conducting the campaign. Besides having this new money, we have had the added benefit of being out in our congregations talking about the mission and ministry of our synod and our churchwide expression. We are working hard to build relationships, and the Always Being Made New Campaign has played an important part in the renewed relationships we have with congregations and rostered ministers. We are beginning to see some traction in our congregations. The problem has been how do we fund this campaign. Since we did not have money in our operating budget, we asked the Synod Assembly to approve funding the campaign through the proceeds of the campaign.

Treasurer Bruce Seagrist provided a Treasurer's Report to provide some background information about our synod's financial position and to offer some of his insights about the campaign and its effect on our synod's financial state. Linda Lubold, executive assistant for the Treasurer's Office, answered questions about the Treasurer's Report. She stated that the plan adopted by Synod Council to take ten percent of only some of the campaign receipts will not adequately cover the expenses of the campaign. She also expressed concern that our synod has not disbursed in a timely fashion some of the funds that have been given for ministries through the campaign.

Donna Nicholson, fundraising consultant for the Always Being Made New Campaign, provided some additional financial information about the campaign, including gifts received, funds expended on the campaign, and some analyses of the campaign. She informed the members of Synod Council that 200 of our 235 synodical congregations have supported the Always Being Made New Campaign. More congregations, nine in the last two weeks, are responding to the campaign. She celebrates the moneys that have been given. She reminded the Synod Council that our campaign is based on faith. Each day, she employs this advice: "Plan your work; work your plan."

The members of the Synod Council engaged in discussion about the campaign. Pastor Joel Folkemer expressed the need to have reports that agree with one another in the basic information provided. Pastor Beth Schlegel said that we have failed to provide benchmarks so that we can understand how well the campaign is doing. Joyce Frigm noted that without world hunger and malaria, the report is gloomy. Allen Stump asked, "What will the costs be?" Donna Nicholson answered that currently the costs are budgeted at \$350,000. Chris Lowe reported that her congregation has responded only to the malaria and world hunger initiatives. She does not believe that her congregation will respond to the rest of the campaign. Virgil Gibson shared that without this campaign, our synod would not be able to support many of our ministry needs. We do have the cushion of our unrestricted funds that could be used to underwrite the costs of the campaign. Pastor Eric Anderson stressed that we are receiving new money for new ministries. He believes that a problem arose when the ELCA and then our synod included increased support for continuing ministries, which makes it difficult to monitor the campaign's receipts of new money. We stated that we are fighting downward trends in traditional giving. To him it does not seem like the right time to pull out. Pastor Richard Jorgensen pointed to the importance of imagination and vision. We need to be less fearful as a church. We will need to fund ministries differently than we have in the past. He reminded the council that we are called to walk by faith and not by sight and that those who sow sparingly will reap sparingly, but those who sow abundantly will reap abundantly.

Vice President Bringman asked if any member of the Synod Council who did not yet speak wanted to add to the discussion. Not seeing any responses, the vice president called for the orders of the day, ending the discussion. She thanked the members of the Synod Council for their input into this important discussion. She called for a fifteen minute break during which the Executive Committee caucused together.

Following the break, the bishop thanked the members for their input and announced that it is the recommendation of the Executive Committee that we postpone action on the campaign until the November meeting of Synod Council. The Executive Committee will take the discussion into serious consideration and will come to the November meeting of the Synod Council with a plan of how we will go forward with the campaign, taking into consideration what will need to be accomplished and how funding will be handled, and possibly action on provisional funding and recommendation to the 2017 Synod Assembly.

OTHER ACTIONS

Bishop Dunlop moved the following Synod Council call:

That the Synod Council call the Rev. John Largen to serve as chaplain for the transition, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, and stated supply as part of the interim ministry team at Zion Lutheran Church, Glen Rock, effective August 1, 2016, until July 31, 2017.

Pastor Joel Folkemer expressed a concern that Pastor Largen's appointment as chaplain for the transition was a conflict of interest. His spouse is dean and a member of the transition team. While Pastor Largen is extremely competent, his serving in this position could be perceived as a conflict of interest. Jered Hock stated, if Pastor Largen was part of the group making decisions, it would be clearly a conflict of interest, but he has no role in making any decisions. The bishop stated that we have expectation of all clergy couples that they maintain proper boundaries. In conversation with both the dean and the chaplain they indicated that they would be able to maintain such boundaries. Pastor Largen is well-received by those to whom he is already providing counsel. Pastor Folkemer said that there may be those who will not avail themselves of his counsel because of a perceived conflict of interest. Lucinda Bringman checked with friends in the seminary community who said that staff members have sought counsel from Pastor Largen, and he has been helpful. Faculty members would most likely seek counsel from their pastors or others in whom they confide. Bishop Dunlop pointed out to the council that, whether or not the Synod Council extends a call to him, he is and will be serving in the capacity of chaplain for the transition. However, extending a Synod Council call will make it possible to avoid going on leave from call. Extending a call is also an affirmation that he is answering the church's call to ministry. Pastor Jillian Riddle confirmed that Pastor Largen has established relationship and good rapport with those who have developed relationships with him. She has experienced him as an excellent chaplain who can be trusted. Pastor Eric Anderson said that chaplains always are seen as part of the institution. Most have other pastors to whom they can turn. Pastor Elizabeth Polanzke said that Synod Council must do what is appropriate. The council must look out for those who are reluctant to come forward. "Should two married persons be in these two positions?" she asked.

The motion was before Synod Council.

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council call the Rev. John Largen to serve as chaplain for the transition, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, and stated supply as part of the interim ministry team at Zion Lutheran Church, Glen Rock, effective August 1, 2016, until July 31, 2017.
YES - 8
N0 - 4
SC16.09.28.

Pastor Joel Folkemer and Jane Wigand requested that their no votes be recorded.

Bishop Dunlop moved the following Synod Council calls:

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council call the Rev. Tricia A. McMackin to serve as chaplain at SpiriTrust Lutheran, effective September 1, 2016;
SC16.09.29.

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council call the Rev. Wayne Muthler to serve as chaplain at Frey Village, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, effective September 6, 2016;
SC16.09.30.

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council call the Rev. Marjorie E. Lauver to serve as chaplain in the Pastoral Care Department of Cross Keys Village – the Brethren Home Community, New Oxford, effective September 24, 2016;
SC16.09.31.

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council call the Rev. Sherry A. Miller to serve as chaplain at SC16.09.32. SpiriTrust Lutheran, effective September 1, 2016.

REPORT OF THE BISHOP

Bishop James S. Dunlop provided a written report to Synod Council. He addressed orally some specific items in his report. He addressed the technology assessment prepared by Treysta Technology Management. Included are purchasing new laptops or tablets for Pastor Richard Jorgensen and Charlie Roberts, decommissioning the onsite server, moving everything to the cloud with One Drive, and implementing the Cisco/Open DNS Umbrella product to enhance current security. Jered Hock asked whether items are being backed up nightly. Debbie Clark said that currently things are being backed up but not to a portable tape that is stored off site. The bishop said that we are going to the cloud with a one drive. Pastor Eric Anderson urged that, until that takes place, there be precautions to insure that important information is not lost.

Bishop Dunlop informed the council that our synod is moving forward with the Stewardship Strategy Action Plan, which was adopted by Synod Council in 2014. Some points in the plan have been implemented and some of the goals have been accomplished, but not all of them. As we move forward, our emphasis will be on tithing. We hope to create a culture of tithing, congregations tithing to the larger church and members tithing to their congregation. Pastor Rob Blezard and Pastor Richard Jorgensen are working on stewardship materials, including the most recent insert in *Living Lutheran*.

Bishop Dunlop addressed issues surrounding the Disaster Relief Fund. He apologized for sending money that was intended for disasters in this synod to the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod to help with flood relief needs in that synod, saying that he violated donor intent. The bishop explained that, talking to Bishop Riegel, he learned that Bishop Riegel needed funds immediately to ease the situation in the aftermath of flooding. After checking with the vice president, secretary, and chair of our Disaster Relief Response, Pastor Glenn Beard, he sent \$20,000 to the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod, planning to repay these funds with funds that would be sent to our synod for West Virginia Flood Relief. However, citing donor intent, the treasurer sent all moneys designated West Virginia Flood Relief and repaid the Disaster Relief Fund only with those checks marked "To replenish the Disaster Relief." Pastor Beth Schlegel asked if this was communicated to our congregations. The bishop responded that this information was transmitted through W. E. News and through announcements at the Deans' Meeting and conference rostered leaders' meetings. Pastor Eric Anderson said that we should encourage our members to give now to replenish the Disaster Relief Fund and to extend greater aid to the West Virginia flood victims.

Pastor Joel Folkemer moved the following:

That up to \$20,000 of the funds received for West Virginia Flood Relief be used to repay our Synod's Disaster Relief Fund for the \$20,000 that was sent from it to provide immediate relief to the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod; that any funds above \$20,000 received for West Virginia Flood Relief be sent directly to the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod; and that, if our synod does not receive \$20,000 in contributions for West Virginia Flood Relief, that the funds needed to repay fully what was sent from the Synod Disaster Relief Fund be taken from our synod's undesignated, unreserved funds.

Pastor Beth Schlegel moved the following amendment, which would become the first clause of the motion:

ADOPTED: That all donors whose gifts have been received and not yet disbursed, and all donors, going forward, be contacted to see if they object to the funds given for West Virginia Flood Relief being used to replenish our synod's Disaster Relief Fund;

The amended motion was before the council.

ADOPTED: That all donors whose gifts have been received and not yet disbursed, and all donors, going forward, be contacted to see if they object to the funds given for West Virginia Flood Relief being used to replenish our synod's Disaster Relief Fund; that up to \$20,000 of the funds received for West Virginia Flood Relief be used to repay our Synod's Disaster Relief Fund for the \$20,000 that was sent from it to provide immediate relief to the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod; that any funds above \$20,000 received for West Virginia Flood Relief be sent directly to the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod; and that, if our synod does not receive \$20,000 in contributions for West Virginia Flood Relief, that the funds needed to repay fully what was sent from the Synod Disaster Relief Fund be taken from our synod's undesignated, unreserved funds.

Pastor Joel Folkemer moved the following motion:

ADOPTED: That a task force be appointed to develop a policy for our Synod's Disaster Relief Fund including procedures to determine when to use the fund and procedures to insure that the moneys in the fund can be distributed quickly and efficiently at the time of disaster.

It was suggested that we may want to develop a general policy about advancing funds that would indicate that moneys remitted for that cause would go first to repay the money advanced. Joyce Frigm suggested that the council look at other newly designated funds to insure proper procedures are in order when the funds are distributed.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Synod Vice President Lucinda L. Bringman submitted a written report. She also addressed the differences between governance and administration, the main task of the Synod Council being governance and one of the main tasks of the bishop and staff being administration. She pointed to our synod's constitution, Chapter 8. Officers, and Chapter 10., Synod Council. She distributed a handout entitled, "Lower Susquehanna Synod Mission and Vision," which included our mission statement, the purpose of Synod Council, the duties of the Synod Council related to governance and direction-setting, the top ten countdown about synod governance, and the fiduciary responsibilities of a Synod Council. Throughout the meeting, the vice president called upon the members of Synod Council to introduce themselves and to request prayer petitions.

The vice president addressed the issue of the frequency of Synod Council meetings. Synod Council traditionally meets five times each year, not including the reorganizational meeting following Synod Assembly. In 2014-2015, during Bishop Dunlop's second year in office, Synod Council met six times.

Jane Wigand shared that she has been a proponent of more frequent meetings. She expressed her desire to have more time to form relationships with other members of Synod Council. Perhaps we could experiment with other formats, sharing a meal, meeting in other locations, having more time for interactions. Virgil Gibson agreed that he would like Synod Council members to be more congenial with one another but would not like to commit to additional meetings. He reminded council members that there are many more meetings than just the five Synod Council meetings each year. Pastor Eric Anderson suggested a monthly social in a different conference and congregation for those who would like to attend. Joyce Frigm stated she understands the problem of adding meetings. The problem may be the long period between May and September. However, it is difficult to plan for a meeting during the summer; this year we could not even find a suitable date for a picnic. Colleen Hoffman stated that you are made aware that there are commitments before you are elected to Synod Council.

REPORT OF THE SYNOD SECRETARY

Secretary McKee referred to his written report. He informed the members of the Synod Council that at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly a number of mandatory amendments to synod constitutions were made. He stated that he is incorporating those amendments into our synod's governing documents and will distribute a new constitution to Synod Council members when he has completed this task. This constitution also will be published in the 2016 Minute Book. Pastor McKee announced that he would be taking his sabbatical January through March 2017. He asked the help of the members of Synod Council to carry out the details of his office during that time, specifically for someone to take minutes for the January 26, 2017, Executive Committee meeting and the February 11, 2017, Synod Council meeting.

REPORT OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee submitted draft minutes of its September 8, 2016, meeting. Pastor Beth Schlegel, vice chair, noted that the Executive Committee had deferred action on the request of Pastor Scott Davis for Synod Council to grant synod calls for chaplaincy positions only to those who have attained current ELCA-Specialized Pastoral Ministry Endorsements and BCCI-APC certification and three-year term calls to those in the process of endorsement and certification. Bishop Dunlop has requested that this item be deferred until he and his staff have opportunity to investigate.

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES OF SYNOD COUNCIL

Assembly Planning Committee presented draft minutes of its September 12, 2016, meeting.

REPORTS OF THE LIAISONS

Lutheran Youth Organization liaison, Zoe Clark, presented a written report.

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

ELCA Regional (Central Pennsylvania) Gift Planner, Pastor Elizabeth Polanzke, provided a synodical report summary for Fall 2016.

ELCA Church Council, Pastor Stephen R. Herr, provided an oral report. He announced that there were 110 memorials on 34 different topics presented for consideration at the Churchwide Assembly. Eleven new members and two youth members were elected to the Church Council, including Seth Zimmann, a member of our synod. We are in a unique position of having two members of our synod serving on Church Council at this time. Pastor Herr shared that he helped with the orientation of the new Church Council members in Chicago this week. The Church Council meets twice a year, in November and in

April. Pastor Herr serves on the Executive Committee; the Constitution and Review Committee, of which he is the chair; and the Future Directions Table. The final draft of the Future Directions Paper will be shared with the Conference of Bishops and will come to the Church Council in November. He thanked the officers and Synod Council for their leadership and invited prayers for the ELCA, its officers, Church Council, and churchwide staff.

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE STAFF

Deacon Marsha Roscoe, Director of Resource Ministries, provided a written report.

Charlie Roberts, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, presented a written report.

Pastor Robert Blezard, assistant to the bishop, submitted a written report.

Pastor Sharron Blezard, assistant to the bishop, offered a written report.

Pastor Richard E. T. Jorgensen, Director for Evangelical Mission, presented a written report.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL UNITS

Audit Committee liaison, Lucinda Bringman, submitted a Synod Council report.

Committee of Deans provided draft minutes of its September 12, 2016, meeting.

Konde Diocese Committee liaison, Pastor Beth Schlegel, submitted a Synod Council report.

The diakonia Board liaison, Allen Stump, provided a Synod Council report form.

The Learning Ministries Team liaison, Brenda Hartzell, provided a Synod Council report of its September 20, 2016, meeting.

Synod Worship Committee liaison, Pastor Richard Eckert, submitted a Synod Council report of three committee meetings held since the last Synod Council meeting.

Criminal Justice System Ministry liaison, Pastor Eric Anderson, provided an update on this ministry, including information about its September 8, 2016, meeting.

REPORTS OF TASK FORCES

Task Force for the Relocation of the Synod Office has ended its conversations with St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg. The task force is considering no other site at this time.

Task Force on the Treasurer's Office will provide a written report to the next Synod Council meeting. They will be recommending that we continue to maintain our own staffing of the Treasurer's Office.

Review Panel for Christ Lutheran Church, Shrewsbury, chair, Susan McDonald provided a written report.

Review Panel for St. Mark Lutheran Church, York, members, M. Jane Wigand and Linda Bennett, provided an update on this synod administration congregation.

Review Panel for Christ, Manchester, chair, Joyce Frigm provided a written report of its June 21, 2016,

meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice President Bringman called the members' attention to an Agreement of Commitment, which she asked them to review and to discuss at the next Synod Council meeting.

Bishop Dunlop moved:

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council extend the Synod Council call of the Rev. Eric N. Anderson SC16.09.35. to serve as intentional interim pastor of Memorial Lutheran Church, Shippensburg, for one-year, effective June 26, 2016, through June 25, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

The members of the Synod Council joined together in the praying of the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Thomas E. McKee
synod secretary
9/26/16