

LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD, ELCA
SYNOD COUNCIL
Minutes
February 10, 2018

The Lower Susquehanna Synod Council met for its regular meeting on Saturday, February 10, 2018, 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

Members present: Bishop James S. Dunlop Lucinda L. Bringman
Thomas E. McKee Joseph M. Stepansky

Eric N. Anderson Jennifer R. Lau
Joel S.B. Folkemer Christine C. Lowe
Joyce E. Frigm Jillian E. Riddle
Virgil L. Gibson Beth A. Schlegel
Brenda D. Hartzell Timothy J. Seitz-Brown
Jered L. Hock Stephanie M. Strauss
Colleen M. Hoffman Allen P. Stump

Liaison present: Elizabeth Polanzke

Staff present: Robert C. Blezard Richard E. T. Jorgensen Jr.
Sharron R. Blezard Charlie R. Roberts III
Debbie M. Clark Marsha L. Roscoe

Members excused: Dana J. Blouch-Hanson Jayne A. LeGore
Emma L. John

Liaison excused: Fred Bohls Linda Lubold
Jeremy Filus

SPECIAL ORDER

Vice President Lucinda Bringman announced that Darren Hamric has resigned his position as a member of Synod Council. According to the procedure followed by Synod Council in filling vacancies, she proposed the name of Virgil Gibson to fill his unexpired term, expiring in 2020.

Secretary McKee moved:

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council elect Virgil Gibson to fill an unexpired term on Synod SC18.02.01. Council, expiring in 2020.

Deacon Marsha Roscoe led the members of the Synod Council in opening devotions, reading from Romans 1:8-17. She remarked that Paul always begins with thanksgiving, and then he calls his readers back to the mission that God has called his readers to do. Paul announces that the power of God is salvation for everyone who has faith. The one who is righteous lives by faith. Deacon Roscoe exhorted the members of the council to think about how vulnerable God is. God's vulnerability is modeled in Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, who died for all on the cross. She shared a blog written by the Rev. Dr. David Lose entitled, "Vulnerable God, Vulnerable Church." Deacon Roscoe asked the members to discuss and then share their thoughts about our vulnerability, the vulnerability of our congregations, and

the vulnerability of our synod. After a time of discussion and sharing, Deacon Roscoe led the members of the Synod Council in prayer.

Deacon Marsha Roscoe led the members of the Synod Council in a discussion of the Synod Council's role in our synod's renewal process. She distributed a handout about our synod's renewal process. It began by reminding the members of the council that renewal is about Jesus, Jesus, Jesus and participating in God's mission. We renew so that we can refocus and keep our eyes on Jesus so that we can love God and one another deeper. She offered an equation, "Agape plus Emmanuel equals Life."

The Lower Susquehanna Synod is engaged in a season of intentional listening, which will end on February 14. However, for renewal to occur there must be ongoing listening and discernment. The Lower Susquehanna Synod exists to feed others as we have been fed by Christ. Pastor David Daubert has acknowledged that "the deepest hunger in every person's heart is to know the kingdom is coming. Because it is coming, we long and hunger to be a part of what God is doing." From this season of listening, we learned that the people are hungry for: growing and equipping leadership, discipleship, proclamation, spiritual practices, faith formation, evangelism, stewardship, social justice, and advocacy; belonging and community; trust between synod, congregations, and communities; a deeper connection with God, one another, and the world; cooperation, commitment, and increased engagement with one another; getting rid of guilt, shame, and blames; communication about what God wants and more stories; uplifting the gifts of laity; discernment tools; responsibility and participation; experiencing God's love in the church; a better understanding of what it means to be the church today; a focus on God's mission; clinging to the Gospel instead of tradition; and collegial support systems that match the needs of rostered ministers.

Deacon Roscoe asked the members of the council, "As a council what are you hungry for? Why are you here?" Pastor Jillian Riddle reported that she heard many mention our ministry with youth. Pastor Joel Folkemer offered trust between our synod and its congregations and communities. He shared that he believes that there should be more synod and conference-sponsored events out in the community so that the members of our communities grow in their recognition of the Lutheran church. Colleen Hoffman resonated with "rid ourselves of the us-versus-them mentality." Pastor Beth Schlegel noted that many do not experience God's love in and through the church, especially explicit forgiveness. Charlie Roberts responded that it is a challenge for the church to share God's forgiveness with the world, but the world is hungry for forgiveness, mercy, and grace. Lucinda Bringman asked, "What is our role as a synod? What is it that is crucial for us as a synod to do to hold our congregations up?" Pastor Eric Anderson offered "cooperating, actively doing things together." Stephanie Strauss said that we need to be intentional about living into what God is calling us to do. Joyce Frigm added that a lot depends on the spirit that is brought to cooperating. "We as leaders of our synod need to plant seeds of cooperation and change."

Deacon Roscoe asked the council to identify guiding principles, those things that shape our identity and purpose. What matters most. She stated that "discipleship is a voluntary response ignited by emotion, justified by reason, supported by guiding beliefs. It is head and heart engaged in mission." From our season of listening we have heard that people value: synodical guidance and sense of direction; honesty; trust and relationship; opening to new ways of being church and new ministry models; synod modeling the oneness we share in Christ; our Lutheran identity; risk-taking permission; collegiality beyond the congregations; spiritual grounding; and sharing resources, especially our Resource Center.

This question was asked, “What does it mean ‘our synod modeling the oneness in Christ?’” Colleen Hoffman asked, “How does our synod see the Synod Council?” She shared that at times it seems that the Synod Council is a rubber stamp. She asked, “Can’t we be more?” Colleen continued, by saying that she believes it to be important to share what she feels and believes. That is the spirit of our life as a synod. Allen Stump said he appreciates risk-taking permission. He shared the story of one of our congregations whose renewal team expressed being afraid to try something new because they might offend someone and push them away from the congregation. Pastor Beth Schlegel verbalized that the oneness we share in Christ makes it possible and allows for disagreement and varying points of view. To be one in Christ means our unity comes from Christ, and not from agreeing on every point.

Bishop Dunlop said that what he heard expressed was an openness to a new way of being the church. Virgil Gibson stated that we should leave to the congregations things that the congregations can do and focus on those things that are of bigger scope, things which the congregations cannot do alone. Jennifer Lau responded that we as a synod provide resources that help the congregations in their renewal processes. Joe Stepansky shared that since he has been elected treasurer, members of his congregations ask him, “How are things at the synod?” A big stumbling block among the congregations is that the synod is thought to be something out there. It is the us-versus-them mentality. Jennifer Lau stated that Synod Council can facilitate that connection. Synod Council can spread the message that we are all in this together and share the story of how we relate with each other. Charlie Roberts said that there is a disconnect out there. Members of our synod do not see that we are one body. Pastor Jillian Riddle shared the words of Romans where Paul talks about being one body and states that, if one member rejoices, all rejoice and, if one suffers, all suffer. She offered that we do not do this well as a church. “What does it look like for us to all rejoice or to all suffer together?” Deacon Roscoe stated that it has become clear to her through this discussion that we need to break down what it means to be one in Christ. Jered Hock said that we also need to do that for our Lutheran identity. He stated that he is pleased that it has been included, but that what we mean by our Lutheran identity should be made clearer.

In response to Colleen Hoffman’s question, Deacon Roscoe explained what transpired at the Bishop’s Convocation, where we received the most feedback to the questions we have been asking. She added that our synod’s renewal team has processed that information and that the members of this team have sought other voices which were not represented at the Bishop’s Convocation. All responses are due by February 14. Pastor Joel Folkemer shared that he believes that we are getting stuck in congregational issues and we are not looking at the special role we play as a synod. “How do we operate as a synod? What ministries do we provide or support? How are we staffed?” Pastor Beth Schlegel agreed that we have a specific role to play as a synod. We have committees and ministries, Synod Assembly, Bishop’s Convocation, synod-sponsored worship services. Vice President Bringman said that we must realize that it is because of what this synod has done and what our synod has lifted up as values that we are involved in these efforts to renew our congregations. Bishop Dunlop stated that he believes we are living in shades of gray, where it is not black and white. Part of our mission as a synod is to serve our congregations, so we as a synod need to understand what issues our congregations are facing. This could lead us on a path whereby we reorganize as a synod and reevaluate the ministries that we provide. The bishop believes that it is more realistic now to work on building connections.

Pastor Sharron Blezard reminded the council that one word can make a difference. “It is not *the* synod; it is *our* synod.” Colleen Hoffman said that the public-relations piece is important. We are challenged to continue explaining what our synod is. Vice President Bringman said that we have done so and that we will continue to tell that story. Debbie Clark reminded the council that relationships are a two-way street. In reality some congregations and members of congregations do not want to be in relationship with us.

Virgil Gibson directed the attention of Synod Council members to Victoria Flood's gear diagram and asked the members to replace the word "money" with the word, "nurture."

Deacon Roscoe asked, "As a council, what do you value?"

Deacon Roscoe provided some examples of guiding principles: Jesus is Lord: understand, practice, and live the teachings of Christ; nurture vital congregations where people are connected to God, one another, and the community; nurture discipling communities that encourage one another to discover and use their gifts in service to Christ; deepen our synodical culture for mission by developing a missional strategy that encourages cooperation, equips leaders, and engages in new mission; and maintain a culture for ongoing mission and ministry.

Pastor Richard Jorgensen led the members of the council in prayer.

CONSENT AGENDA

Colleen Hoffman moved:

ADOPTED: That the Consent Agenda be adopted.
SC18.02.02.

. **That the minutes of the November 11, 2017, meeting be approved.**

That the Synod Council appoint to the Synod Administration Review Team for Christ Lutheran Church, New Bloomfield, the Rev. Eric N. Anderson, SC, chair, the Rev. Pamela Illick and the Rev. Robert Yankovitz.

That the Synod Council appoint to the Synod Administration Review Team for St. Mark Lutheran Church, York, Dr. Jayne LeGore, SC, chair.

That the Synod Council appoint to the Synod Administration Review Team for St. Paul, Dillsburg, Jered Hock, SC, chair, Angela Thomas, and Pastor Aaron Erdley.

That the Synod Council appoint to the Synod Administration Review Team for Salem, Jacobus, Jennifer R. Lau, SC, chair.

That the Synod Council appoint to the Synod Administration Review Team for St. James, Brogue, and St. Paul, Lebanon, Felton, Allen Stump, SC, chair.

That the Synod Council appoint to the Synod Administration Review Team for Trinity, Rouzerville, Carol Hughes.

That the Synod Council elect to the board of directors of the Lutheran Camping Corporation Mrs. Rachel Berkebile, for a first term, expiring in 2020.

That the Synod Council approve the retirement requests of the Rev. John S. Douglas Jr., effective December 31, 2017; the Rev. Herbert A. Lohr, effective

December 31, 2017; the Rev. Henry E. Herbener, effective January 31, 2018; the Rev. Timothy L. Hoffman, effective January 31, 2018; Deacon Deborah N. Frey, effective February 18, 2018; the Rev. Daniel M. Long, effective June 30, 2018; and the Rev. Michael L. Seifried, effective June 30, 2018.

That the total compensation paid to the Rev. Jennifer Hope-Crist for the period beginning February 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.

Vice President Lucinda L. Bringman thanked the following members of Synod Council for providing refreshments: Pastor Richard Jorgensen, Jennifer Lau, Christine Lowe, and Pastor Beth Schlegel. The vice president, throughout the meeting, received prayer requests from those in attendance.

SYNOD COUNCIL ACTIONS

Bishop Dunlop moved the following Synod Council calls:

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council call the Rev. Jillian E. Riddle to serve as chaplain at SC18.02.03. Luthercare, effective January 1, 2018, for a three-year term, expiring December 31, 2020.

Pastor Riddle abstained from voting on this motion.

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council extend its call to the Rev. Daniel O. Biles to serve as SC18.02.04. Intentional Interim Pastor of Advent Lutheran Church, York, effective January 1, 2018, until December 31, 2018.

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council extend its call to the Rev. Timothy W. Sadler to serve as SC18.02.05. Spiritual Care Coordinator for Heartland Hospice Care, effective January 5, 2018, until January 4, 2019.

That the Synod Council call the Rev. Jennifer Hope-Crist to serve as Lower Susquehanna Synod Director for Evangelical Mission for New Mission, effective February 1, 2018, until February 28, 2020, at an initial base salary and housing allowance of \$44,649 for $\frac{3}{4}$ time.

Pastor Beth Schlegel asked if this position was similar to Pastor Richard Jorgensen's position. Bishop Dunlop answered that it is a similar position. Pastor Jorgensen will be centering his attention on renewing our congregations; Pastor Hope-Crist will be concentrating on new mission opportunities. Her salary will be paid with mission support money held through the mission support experiment.

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council call the Rev. Jennifer Hope-Crist to serve as Lower SC18.02.06. Susquehanna Synod Director for Evangelical Mission for New Mission, effective February 1, 2018, until February 28, 2020, at an initial base salary and housing allowance of \$44,649 for $\frac{3}{4}$ time.

Bishop Dunlop moved:

That Synod Council approve the possibility of the following interim pastors being eligible for pastoral call by the congregations that they are serving as interim pastors following the interim period: the Rev. Katrina L. Holland, Quickel Lutheran Church, York; the Rev. Roy H. Stetler IV, Mt. Zion Lutheran Church (Cedar Point), Lewisberry; the Rev. Jean N. Kuebler, Shells Lutheran Church, Grantville; Approved candidate for ordination, Aaron Smith, Trinity Lutheran Church, East Berlin; and UCC candidate for ordination, Andrew Wagner, West Cumberland Parish.

Pastor Eric N. Anderson questioned the wisdom of having an interim pastor available for call. Most interims have certain tasks to do to prepare the congregation to receive a new pastor. Having an interim pastor eligible for call skews the dynamics of the situation and can cause unforeseen problems. Pastor Anderson referred to the resources provided by two organizations that train and certify intentional interim pastors which state that interim pastors should not be available for call. Pastor Elizabeth Polanzke concurred with Pastor Anderson. Pastor Rob Blezard explained the difference between an interim pastor and an intentional interim pastor. Bishop Dunlop stated that we would not recommend this in all situations and certainly not in situations where intentional interim pastors are needed. In fact, making it possible for an interim to be called as pastor is more of an exception than a rule. However, in some situations and with some pastors, this seems very appropriate. He reminded the council of the number of retirements they approved and of the scarcity of pastors and stated that we must be open to experimenting with new things. Pastor Richard Jorgensen stated that several of these interim pastors are serving R3 or renewal congregations and that they are invaluable in keeping the renewal process moving forward. Pastor Beth Schlegel informed the council that some synods require an interim who is interested in being called as pastor of the interim congregation to be absent from the congregation for a period of six months before entering the call process.

There being no more discussion, the motion was before the council for action.

ADOPTED: That Synod Council approve the possibility of the following interim pastors being eligible for pastoral call by the congregations that they are serving as interim pastors following the interim period: the Rev. Katrina L. Holland, Quickel Lutheran Church, York; the Rev. Roy H. Stetler IV, Mt. Zion Lutheran Church (Cedar Point), Lewisberry; the Rev. Jean N. Kuebler, Shells Lutheran Church, Grantville; Approved candidate for ordination, Aaron Smith, Trinity Lutheran Church, East Berlin; and UCC candidate for ordination, Andrew Wagner, West Cumberland Parish.

Joyce E. Frigm, chair of the Assembly Planning Committee, moved:

That the Synod Council recommend the proposed agenda for the 2018 Synod Assembly to the 2018 Synod Assembly for adoption.

Pastor Joel Folkemer asked about the explorations in mission planned for Saturday's Day of Feeding. Charlie Roberts answered that he has secured three sites and that he has contacted two additional sites. Vice President Bringman stated that the hours that we will be packing food are dependent on the number of food packages that can be purchased with the money we receive by April 1 to support the food packing event. Joyce Frigm confirmed that we will have a separate registration for the food packing event and for the explorations in mission. She also reminded the members of the council that we also will be collecting cans of fruit and vegetables for the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank.

The motion from the Assembly Planning Committee was before the council.

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council recommend the proposed agenda for the 2018 Synod Assembly to the 2018 Synod Assembly for adoption.

2018 PROPOSED SYNOD ASSEMBLY AGENDA
Eradicating Hunger One Relationship at a Time
Thursday, May 31, 2018: A Day of Business
Session 1: Thursday morning, May 31, 2018

- 7:00 Registration Open
- 8:30 Order for the Opening of the Assembly
Bishop's Opening Remarks
Report of the R3 Initiative
Practice with Voting Machines
Certification of Voting Members/Report on Registration
Presentation of the Minutes of the 2017 Synod Assembly
Report of the Assembly Planning Committee
Adoption of the Agenda
Adoption of the Rules of Procedure
Committee Appointments
Introduction of Assembly Guests
Report of the Nominating Committee/Floor Nominations
- 10:00 Deadline for submitting nominee information forms
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 Report of Synod Council
Presentation on Synodical Finances and of the Proposed 2019 Budget
Adoption of Minimum Salary Guidelines
Adoption of Constitutional Amendments
Continuing Resolution on Preliminary Procedure for the Election of a Bishop
Report of the Bishop and Officers
Report of the Committees, Agencies, Institutions, and Synodical Units
- 12:15 Hymn and Prayer/Recess
- 12:30 Lunch
- Session 2: Thursday afternoon, May 31, 2018
- 2:00 Hymn and Prayer
Balloting and Report of Elections
- 2:30 Churchwide Presentation
- 3:15 Conversations
- 4:30 Report of the Committee of Reference and Counsel
- 5:15 Hymn and Prayer
- 5:30 Dinner
- Session 3: Thursday evening, May 31, 2018
- 7:00 Registration Closes
- 7:00 Hymn and Prayer
Report of the Committee on Memorials
Report of the Synod Council (continued)
Report of the Always Being Made New Campaign
Adoption of 2019 Budget
- 8:15 Unfinished Business

- New Business
Bishop's Closing Remarks
- 8:45 Hymn and Prayer
Installation of Newly Elected Members of Synod Council
and LYO Officers
- If timing permits:
- 9:30 Informal Conversation with the Bishop (Pub setting)
Time permitting
- Friday, June 1, 2018: A Day of Edification and Worship**
Session 4: Friday morning, June 1, 2018
- 7:00 Breakfast for Those Staying on Campus
7:15 Reorganization Meeting of Synod Council – Auxiliary Dining Room
- 8:00 Registration Reopens
8:30 Opening Worship led by Assembly Chaplain, Pastor Glenn Miller
8:45 Remarks by Bishop James S. Dunlop
9:00 Keynote address including Bible Study and Reflection by Mikka McCracken
9:45 Renewal of LWR's ministry with coffee growers by Beth McKinley
10:15 Break
11:00 Forums on Reformation, Renewal, and Revisioning, the R3 Initiative
12:15 Lunch
- Session 5: Friday afternoon, June 1, 2018
- 1:30 Theological
Evangelism "TED" Stories Narrated by Charlie Roberts.
Discipleship
- 3:15 Forums
4:30 Dinner
- Session 6: Friday evening, June 1, 2018
- 7:00 Service of Word and Sacrament with Necrology
Rites of Consecration and Ordination
Order for the Closing of the Assembly
- Saturday, June 2, 2018: A Day of Feeding**
Session 7: Saturday morning, June 2, 2018
- TBA Food Packing Event
Explorations in Mission

Joyce E. Frigm moved the following on behalf of the Assembly Planning Committee:

That the Synod Council recommend the proposed Rules of Procedure for the 2018 Synod Assembly to the 2018 Synod Assembly for adoption.

Pastor Beth Schlegel moved:

That the Synod Council amend Rule #10 by deleting the words, "by electronic means."

Pastor Schlegel spoke to her motion by saying that this would allow us to determine that we have a quorum by electronic means but would not require that it be done by electronic means.

Pastor Eric Anderson asked if this rule would prevent a voting member from asking if there is a quorum present and from requesting an end to deliberation if a quorum does not exist. Pastor McKee answered that it is the intent of this rule that after a quorum has been established at the beginning of the assembly meeting, all business may be completed. Jered Hock noted that Robert's (11th ed., pp 347-349) says that any business transacted in the absence of a quorum is null and void. Our constitution, however, says at S7.32 that Roberts shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly "unless otherwise ordered by the assembly." It appears that the Rules of Procedure order otherwise and are not at odds-ends with PA law when they so do. Section 5746 of the Pennsylvania Non-Profit Corporation Law appears to indicate that the members present at a duly organized meeting can continue to do business until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum. This is in contrast with Robert's Rules of Order, which gives the general rule disallowing the conducting of business in the absence of a quorum. Section 7.32 of our constitution allows the Synod Assembly to adopt Rules of Procedure differing from Robert's Rules of Order.

Pastor Schlegel's motion to amend was before the council.

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council amend Rule #10 by deleting the words, "by electronic means."

The amended motion was before the Synod Council.

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council recommend the proposed Rules of Procedure for the 2018 SC18.02.09. Synod Assembly to the 2018 Synod Assembly for adoption.

2018 Proposed Rules of Procedure

1. All voting members shall be seated on the main floor or on the first balcony to receive a voting machine and to vote. Voting machines shall not be taken from assembly hall.
2. Persons eligible to vote shall be official voting members wearing voting member badges. The following persons shall have voice but not vote in the assembly:
 - a. official representatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 - b. representatives of institutions and agencies having a relationship to this synod
3. Others who are not voting members may be permitted to speak on the floor of the assembly by a 2/3 vote of the assembly.
4. The microphones in the aisles shall be used when addressing the chair. Speakers shall state plainly their name and their congregation or, if rostered persons, their area of ministry or service.
5. In all business meetings, speeches from the floor shall be limited to three (3) minutes and no persons shall speak more than twice on the same question, except by consent of the assembly. This rule shall not apply to persons presenting a report nor when direct questions are posed to specific individuals for clarification.
6. No motion, other than procedural ones, may be debated on the floor until a written copy of the motion is in the hands of the chair. A triplicate form, provided by the pages, shall be used to send the copy to the bishop and the secretary.

7. When there are many pro and con statements on any motion, the chair will recognize alternately persons making a pro or con statement. To comply with this provision, when representing a pro position voting members shall indicate this to the chair by holding up a green card located at the microphone. When representing a con position voting members shall indicate this to the chair by holding up a red card located at the microphone. Those speaking FOR shall display a GREEN card prior to speaking and those speaking AGAINST shall display a RED card prior to speaking. To address procedural issues, voting members shall indicate this to the chair by holding up a WHITE card (located at the microphone).

8. During legislative meetings of the assembly, no member of the assembly may express a position on any matter unless assigned the floor by the chair. During legislative meetings of the assembly, no member may call upon other members to express themselves by oral acclamation, applause, raising of hands or in any other manner, and members of the assembly may not so express themselves without being requested to do so by the chair.

9. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall be the governing parliamentary law of this assembly, except as otherwise provided in these Rules of Procedure. A parliamentarian will be appointed to advise the chair on procedure.

10. *Voting members shall not absent themselves from any meeting of the assembly without valid reason* (Constitution S7.36.02). One-half (1/2) of the registered voting members of the Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum. Once a quorum has been established at the beginning of each assembly meeting, all items of business on the adopted agenda for that meeting may be completed.

11. Except for procedural motions, any motion which the chair determines is not germane to the business of the assembly then under consideration shall be referred to the Committee of Reference and Counsel to decide whether said motion shall be brought to the assembly for consideration or referred to the Synod Council for final action.

12. Any memorial or resolution which is to be presented at the Synod Assembly for consideration must be delivered in writing to the secretary of the synod no less than 40 days prior to the opening of the assembly, so that such memorial or resolution may be reviewed by the Committee on Memorials or the Committee of Reference and Counsel and by the voting members of the assembly, prior to assembly.

When the Committee of Reference and Counsel has recommended the adoption of a resolution, the text of the resolution recommended for passage shall be the main motion before the assembly.

When the Committee of Reference and Counsel has recommended that a proposed resolution be amended, the resolution shall be the main motion before the assembly and the committee's recommendation shall be received as information/advice to the assembly.

When the Committee of Reference and Counsel has recommended referral of a resolution, the committee's recommendation shall be the main motion before the assembly.

When the Committee of Reference and Counsel has recommended that the assembly not adopt a proposed resolution without the committee making any other recommendation related to the same or closely related subject, the resolution shall be the main motion before the assembly and the committee's recommendation shall be received as information/advice to the assembly.

When the Committee of Reference and Counsel has acted to present a resolution to the assembly without recommendation, the text of the resolution shall be the main motion before the assembly.

When the Committee of Reference and Counsel has combined similar resolutions, the composite resolution shall be the question before the assembly.

Action on recommendations from the Committee on Memorials shall follow the same procedure as action on the recommendations from the Committee of Reference and Counsel.

All memorials and resolutions received less than 40 days prior to the opening of the assembly shall be automatically referred to the Committee on Memorials or the Committee of Reference and Counsel, according to the order of receipt. The appropriate committee shall review the resolutions or memorials and shall decide whether said memorial or resolution shall be forwarded to the assembly for consideration or referred to the Synod Council for final action.

13. When memorials and resolutions are brought before the assembly, the oral reading of the ‘whereas clauses’ shall be waived.

14. The deadline for the submission of typed biographical information of persons who will be nominated from the floor shall be 10:00 a.m., Thursday, May 31, 2018.

15. Any amendments to the proposed budget of the Lower Susquehanna Synod must be adopted within the total proposed amount.

16. The report of balloting will be reported orally to the assembly, displayed on the assembly screen, and entered in full in the minutes.

Joyce E. Frigm, chair of the Assembly Planning Committee, moved:

That the Synod Council adopt the following rates for the 2018 Synod Assembly:

By April 15, 2018

Commuters, \$190

Residents, \$250

Commuting spouses of retired rostered ministers, \$95

Residential spouses of retired rostered ministers, \$125

April 16-30, 2018

Commuters, \$220

Residents, \$280

Commuting spouses of retired rostered ministers, \$125

Residential spouses of retired rostered ministers, \$155

Those receiving complimentary packages, \$30

Registration at assembly

Commuters, \$250

Commuting spouses of retired rostered ministers, \$155

Those receiving complimentary packages, \$60

Non-voting members attending Friday’s Day of Edification, \$80.

Pastor Beth Schlegel asked, “What is covered by the \$80 rate for Friday’s Day of Edification?” The combined answer was the day rate charged by Messiah College, a portion of the cost of producing the Day of Edification, lunch, and dinner.

The motion of the Assembly Planning Committee was before the Synod Council.

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council adopt the following rates for the 2018 Synod Assembly:
SC18.02.10.

By April 15, 2018

Commuters, \$190

Residents, \$250

Commuting spouses of retired rostered ministers, \$95

Residential spouses of retired rostered ministers, \$125

April 16-30, 2018

Commuters, \$220

Residents, \$280

Commuting spouses of retired rostered ministers, \$125

Residential spouses of retired rostered ministers, \$155

Those receiving complimentary packages, \$30

Registration at assembly

Commuters, \$250

Commuting spouses of retired rostered ministers, \$155

Those receiving complimentary packages, \$60

Non-voting members attending Friday’s Day of Edification, \$80.

Jered Hock, chair of the Constitution Committee, moved:

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council direct the synod secretary to provide notice to the voting members of the 2018 Synod Assembly of the following proposed Bylaw S8.22.01:
SC18.02.11.

S8.22.01. The vice president shall be a member of all committees and any other organizational units of the synod, except as otherwise provided in this constitution.

Jered Hock moved on behalf of the Constitution Committee the following:

That the Synod Council direct the synod secretary to provide notice to the voting members of the 2018 Synod Assembly of the following proposed amendment to Bylaw S11.04.01:

S11.04.01. The Mutual Ministry Committee shall be composed of 9 persons: 4 ordained ministers and 5 laypersons, with at least 1 of the 9 to be a representative of the Synod Council. No officer of the synod nor any synod staff member shall serve on this Committee unless appointed by the Executive Committee. The term of office shall be 2 years. Persons may serve 2 consecutive terms.

Virgil Gibson suggested that the wording be changed from “ordained ministers” to “Ministers of Word and Sacrament.” Secretary McKee stated that “ordained ministers” is one of the acceptable terms for Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Jered Hock suggested that, after a decision about the entrance rite for Ministers and Word and Service, the Constitution Committee should review our governing documents for consistency of terms.

There being no motion to amend, the motion was before the council.

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council direct the synod secretary to provide notice to the voting members of the 2018 Synod Assembly of the following proposed amendment to Bylaw S11.04.01:

S11.04.01. The Mutual Ministry Committee shall be composed of 9 persons: 4 ordained ministers and 5 laypersons, with at least 1 of the 9 to be a representative of the Synod Council. No officer of the synod nor any synod staff member shall serve on this Committee unless appointed by the Executive Committee. The term of office shall be 2 years. Persons may serve 2 consecutive terms.

ADOPTED: That, before notice thereof is provided to the voting members of the 2018 Synod Assembly, the Synod Council emend the amended Preliminary Identification Process Leading to the Election of a Bishop as follows:

PRELIMINARY IDENTIFICATION PROCESS LEADING TO THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP

1. The incumbent bishop ~~will be asked to~~ shall announce whether he or she will stand for ~~reelection~~ election 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~~ shall follow the recommended preliminary identification process and the same election process regardless of whether there is an incumbent bishop standing for ~~reelection~~ election.
3. The Synod Council shall call the synod to prayerful deliberation.
4. The Synod Council ~~will~~ shall prepare and distribute information about the Lower Susquehanna Synod including the current Vision for Mission and any strategic planning adopted by the 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~~ shall be asked to consider a set of questions developed by the Synod Council designed to ~~identify~~ recognize the conference's ~~vision~~ for understanding of this synod's mission, the issues ~~they deem~~ deemed important for this synod, and the gifts desirable and necessary in a bishop. The secretary of each conference shall provide ~~minutes~~ a record of this discussion to the synod secretary ~~of synod~~ for use by the Synod Council.
6. At the regular spring conference meeting, the voting members of the upcoming Synod Assembly ~~will~~ shall 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 names of a such pastors should receive the permission of ~~that those~~ those pastors to raise ~~his or her~~ their names and ~~should~~ shall be prepared to share with the other voting members why he or she is raising this such names. The names of any pastors on the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be raised up, even if ~~that those~~ those pastors is are not ~~a~~ members of that conference or this synod. ~~Any~~ Each 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~~ names of persons possessing gifts for the office of bishop, the voting members will engage in a process ~~which will lead~~ leading to the selection of up to three ~~potential nominees~~ names of persons that this conference ~~will~~ intends to share with the entire synod as ~~ones identified by this conference as~~ persons possessing gifts for the office of bishop.

8. The dean of each conference ~~will~~ shall contact ~~these up to three~~ the individuals selected by the conference ~~and to~~ to secure their permission to ~~identify~~ include their names as ~~ones~~ persons ~~among those selected by a conference as~~ possessing gifts for the office of bishop. If these ~~individuals~~ persons are willing to be so identified, the dean ~~will~~ shall facilitate their completion of a biographical information form developed by the Synod Council. The dean ~~will~~ shall submit these forms to the synod secretary ~~of synod~~ within ten days of the conference assembly.

9. The synod secretary ~~of synod~~ ~~will~~ shall post the names of ~~these~~ the individuals selected by the conferences on the synod website 45 days before the Synod Assembly begins.

10. While these individuals are identified as ~~potential nominees~~ possessing gifts for the office of bishop, the Lower Susquehanna Synod ~~will~~ shall continue to use the ecclesiastical ballot, in which any rostered pastor of the ELCA may be placed in nomination on the first ballot at the Synod Assembly. Any person identified as ~~a potential candidate~~ possessing gifts for the office of bishop must still be nominated on the first ballot by a voting member ~~at~~ of 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 The Synod Assembly shall elect a bishop by the ecclesiastical ballot as set forth in S9.04 of the synod constitution. The Synod Assembly shall adopt rules of procedure for the election of a bishop based upon this constitutional provision. If there is not an no 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.~~

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council direct the synod secretary to provide notice to the voting members of the 2018 Synod Assembly of the following proposed Continuing Resolution S9.04. r.A.18, the Preliminary Identification Process Leading to the Election of a Bishop.

S9.04. r.A.18 PRELIMINARY IDENTIFICATION PROCESS LEADING TO THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP

1. The incumbent bishop shall announce whether he or she will stand for election 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 shall follow the recommended preliminary identification process and the same election process regardless of whether there is an incumbent bishop standing for election.

3. The Synod Council shall call the synod to prayerful deliberation.

4. The Synod Council shall prepare and distribute information about the Lower Susquehanna Synod including the current Vision for Mission and any strategic planning adopted by the 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 shall be asked to consider a set of questions developed by the Synod Council designed to recognize the conference's understanding of this synod's mission, the issues deemed important for this synod, and the gifts desirable and necessary in a bishop. The secretary of each conference shall provide a record of this discussion to the synod secretary for use by the Synod Council.

6. At the regular spring conference meeting, the voting members of the upcoming Synod Assembly shall 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 names of such pastors should receive the permission of those pastors to raise their names and shall be prepared to share with the other voting members why he or she is raising such names. The names of pastors on the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be raised up, even if those pastors are not members of that conference or this synod. Each ELCA pastor is encouraged to give permission to have his or her name raised up as part of this synod's discernment process.

7. After all voting members have had opportunity to raise up names of persons possessing gifts for the office of bishop, the voting members will engage in a process leading to the selection of up to three names of persons that this conference intends to share with the entire synod as persons possessing gifts for the office of bishop.

8. The dean of each conference shall contact the individuals selected by the conference to secure their permission to include their names as persons possessing gifts for the office of bishop. If these persons are willing to be so identified, the dean shall facilitate their completion of a biographical information form developed by the Synod Council. The dean shall submit these forms to the synod secretary within ten days of the conference assembly.

9. The synod secretary shall post the names of the individuals selected by the conferences on the synod website 45 days before the Synod Assembly begins.

10. While these individuals are identified as possessing gifts for the office of bishop, the Lower Susquehanna Synod shall continue to use the ecclesiastical ballot, in which any rostered pastor of the ELCA may be placed in nomination on the first ballot at the Synod Assembly. Any person identified as possessing gifts for the office of bishop must still be nominated on the first ballot by a voting member of the assembly.

11. The Synod Assembly shall elect a bishop by the ecclesiastical ballot as set forth in **S9.04** of the synod constitution. The Synod Assembly shall adopt rules of procedure for the election of a bishop based upon this constitutional provision. If there is no 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.

REPORT OF THE BISHOP

Bishop James S. Dunlop submitted a written report. He commented on his trip to the Konde Diocese for the consecration of Bishop Edward Johnson Mwaikali. He stressed the importance of this trip in strengthening our covenant relationship and in supporting Bishop Mwaikali as he begins his episcopal ministry. He expressed his appreciation to Joe Stepansky for serving as our treasurer and to Charlie Roberts, Deacon Marsha Roscoe, and Pastor Richard Jorgensen for the excellent job they did leading the Healthy Leaders' Retreat with little notice after our keynote speaker was unable to get a flight to Harrisburg.

Bishop Dunlop spoke about the mission support funding experiment in which the Lower Susquehanna Synod and four other synods have been participating. Before the experiment, our mission support grew from 43.5% to 45% and then to 47%. In the first year of the experiment, we sent the ELCA 39% of our mission support and retained \$216,000. In the second year, we remitted 35% and retained \$324,000. This year we will remit 28.25% and retain \$500,000. The five synods involved in this experiment have petitioned the ELCA to continue this experiment for two more years.

Bishop Dunlop asked, "As we prepare the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019, where should we go?" Pastor Beth Schlegel asked, "Would all the grants we are provided be funded through the ELCA?" Pastor Jorgensen replied that he believes all would finally be funded, but it would take time. It would be a less flexible process where we could not act quickly to provide urgently needed funding. Bishop Dunlop said that some bishops claim that this experiment is affecting needed development in other areas of the church. The bishop stated that he believes that the ELCA has been underfunding mission in our synod where the Lutheran Church has strong roots. Now is the time for us to renew our congregations and to develop new ministries on the territory of our synod. Virgil Gibson, noting our generosity to the ELCA Always Being Made New Campaign, asked if the ELCA responds to our generous giving, by generously supporting mission in our synod. The bishop answered that that is not part of the ELCA's world view.

Pastor Joel Folkemer asked, "Is it true that if we do not use this money for mission, we send it back?" The bishop assured him that this is the case. Pastor Folkemer said that we should be careful that we are not doing the very thing for which we criticize our congregations, namely redirecting our resources for local needs or ministries and not supporting the work of the whole church. Bishop Dunlop responded by saying that he sees this differently. He would be willing to have conversation about mission support with congregations who are trying to fund new ministries. Joyce Frigm said, "If our congregations are growing and are healthy, we will be able to give more to support the work of the ELCA." Bishop Dunlop responded by reporting that there was a 2.7% increase in mission support this year. Pastor Eric Anderson stated that we would not take it well if other synods would do this. This encourages the trend to keep more money at home and not support the whole church. Pastor Beth Schlegel noted that we have been using a lot of "us-versus-them" language. She stressed how difficult it is for us to avoid such language.

Pastor Richard Jorgensen explained that regardless of our status as an experimental synod, the nature and the shape of the ELCA is changing. We are becoming a decentralized denomination. Having 65 synods is not viable. He referred to Ken Inskeep's research that showed that to be viable, a synod must have 200 congregations. Colleen Hoffman asked, "Prior to the experiment, how much did we receive in grant money?" Bishop Dunlop responded that we received \$180,000 in grant money and in salary and benefits for our Director for Evangelical Mission. The bishop hopes to return to giving 30% of mission support to the ELCA in 2019 and eventually to give 35% of mission support to the ELCA. Joe Stepansky noted that

it is costly to apply for grants, and agencies applying for grants lose money during the application process. Joyce Frigm added that momentum is lost too. Virgil Gibson urged our Synod Council to stay the course.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Vice President Lucinda L. Bringman submitted a written report. She reminded the members of the Synod Council whose registration is not paid by their congregation or agency to register for the Synod Assembly before April 15 to avoid any registration costs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice President Lucinda Bringman called the members of the Synod Council and the executive staff into Executive Session.

There was no action to report from the Executive Session.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer Joseph M. Stepansky submitted a written report and financial reports. He explained the financial reports to the council. He expressed appreciation to Linda Lubold for helping the treasurer's office recover important information and reports and for helping train Denise Ferguson and Cathy Paul in their new responsibilities. He praised Denise for her dedication and for her desire to be innovative. He explained to council that he has resigned his former position at Rite Aid. He is able to spend more time in the synod office. He has begun reconciling bank statements. He stressed the need for us to simplify our accounting system.

REPORT OF THE SYNOD SECRETARY

Secretary Thomas E. McKee submitted a written report. He encouraged the members of Synod Council to take a 2017 Minute Book which has our Lower Susquehanna Synod Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions and our rosters. He invited the members to submit nomination information sheets in preparation for the February 12, 2018, meeting of the Nominating Committee. He also invited them to attend the Service of Word and Sacrament on February 11, 2018, during which Pastor Jennifer Hope-Crist will be installed as Director for Evangelical Mission for New Mission.

REPORT OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Synod Council Executive Committee provided minutes of its January 25, 2018, meeting.

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES OF SYNOD COUNCIL

Assembly Planning Committee provided minutes of its November 13, 2017, and its January 11, 2018, meetings.

Constitution Committee presented minutes of its January 18, 2018, meeting.

Finance and Budget Committee offered minutes of its January 24, 2018, meeting.

Personnel Committee provided minutes of its January 25, 2018, meeting. It is recommending to the Finance and Budget Committee that a 2.5% increase in the salary line of the budget be considered in the preparation of the proposed 2019 budget.

REPORTS OF THE LIAISONS

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

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE STAFF

Deacon Marsha Roscoe provided a written report.

Charlie Roberts submitted a written report.

Pastor Robert Blezard offered a written report.

Pastor Sharron Blezard provided a written report.

Pastor Richard Jorgensen offered a written report. He invited the members of the Synod Council to attend the next R3 training, which will be held on March 10, 2018, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, York. Those who desire to attend should make reservations with Pastor Jorgensen.

Pastor Jennifer Hope-Crist was welcomed to the staff of the Lower Susquehanna Synod.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Audit Committee liaison, Lucinda L. Bringman, submitted a report.

Committee of Deans provided minutes of its November 13, 2017, and its January 8, 2018, meetings.

Konde Medical Needs Task Force liaison, Pastor Beth Schlegel, presented a written report.

REPORTS OF TASK FORCES

Always Being Made New Campaign (ABMN) Advisory Committee staff liaison, Deacon Marsha Roscoe, provided a written report of the campaign. Advisory Committee liaison, Pastor Beth Schlegel, presented a report of the meeting of the Advisory Committee. Marsha encouraged the members of the Synod Council to celebrate the \$3,081,238 that has come to vital ministries through the campaign as of December 30, 2017. The campaign is gaining momentum. Pastor Glenn Ludwig conducted development training to campaign volunteers. Campaign visits are being scheduled with all retired rostered ministers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Pastor McKee announced that on January 1, 2018, Charlie Roberts celebrated his twenty-fifth anniversary as a member of the Lower Susquehanna Synod staff. He thanked Charlie for his faithful and dedicated service. The members of Synod Council responded with applause.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Thomas E. McKee
Synod Secretary
2/12/18