

Allegheny Synod – ELCA
Synod Council Meeting
March 19, 2022

The March Synod Council meeting was called to order by Bishop Schmitt at 9:05AM

Upon motion by Bishop Paula, second by Allen Stump

- **SC22.03.01** - to adopt the agenda for today's meeting... the motion is adopted

Vicar Allen Stump lead us in devotions

Upon motion by Allen Stump, seconded by Bill Layton

- **SC22.03.02** – to adopt the minutes of the January Synod Council meeting as amended... the motion is adopted

Bishop's Comments

Synod Assembly 2022

- The first mailing & invitations to attend Synod Assembly have been distributed
- On Wednesday, May 25th @ 6pm - Synod Assembly voting-online training with eballot is planned

Old Business

- Bishop Paula spoke about refining the roles of the Executive Committee & the Synod Council, allowing each body to work in asynchronous collaboration.

New Business

Pr. Kevin Shock discussed the ***Future Church Initiative***

- Pr. Kevin is our link between congregations and churchwide
- Share the story of Jesus – who we are as the church
- We hope to engage one million new/diversity people thru sharing the story of Jesus
 - Diversity across the board – age, class, gender, ability, etc.
- 5 goals
 - Thriving
 - Equipping people (faith formation)
 - Inviting and welcoming to diversity
 - Visible church that works ecumenically for justice, peace, and reconciliation
 - Well governed, connected, and sustainable church
- 2 venues
 - Leadership
 - Congregational vitality

Planning & Resources

- The Finance Committee's recommendation is that a ***Sabbatical Fund*** be established for on-call type of coverage when the Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop earn a sabbatical leave. Discussions, which included Bishop Emeritus Pile, concluded that a full-time interim bishop was not needed to cover sabbatical time.
 - This fund should include a specific dollar amount, which cannot be exceeded
 - This fund should be fiscally conservative, yet realistic
 - The Synod Council should decide how much money to set aside and in what increments (i.e. quarterly, annually, one lump sum, etc.)
 - This fund should include funding for an honorarium, plus reimbursement for mileage & other qualified expenses

Financial Management

Treasurer Bill Layton – Financial Report

- Total revenue for the fiscal year 2021-22 was \$1.1 million
- We experienced a January 2022 market value loss of \$81,000
- The year-to-date (2021-22) market value grew by \$181,000
- Cash Income \$720,000
- Net revenue \$40,000
- Detail..
 - Mission Support expenses were \$ 675,000 (*\$100,000 over budget*)
 - We returned to the pre-covid levels of fully supporting partners & ELCA support of 50%
 - Synod Assembly 2021 expenses \$10,000 we received \$7,700 thru registration fees
- Balance Sheet
 - Checking balance of \$187,000 as of 1/31/22
 - Expense Reserve → \$ 163,000
 - Total investment \$1.7 million
- Funds Availability
 - As we have not withdrawn budgeted money from investments for the past two years, the Finance Committee advises that the Synod Council has available funds not to exceed \$50,000 to be used as needed. This expense would be taken from expense reserve.

Upon motion by Pr. Amanda McCaffrey, seconded by Pr. Beck Horn

- ***SC22.03.03*** - to receive the updated 2023 Compensation Manual from the Finance Committee & to convey this document to the 2022 Allegheny Synod Assembly, along with the recommendation to adopt... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Vicar Allen Stump, seconded by Pr. Amanda McCaffery

- *SC22.03.04* - to grant 1st Summit Bank the flexibility to modify our investment portfolio mix by +/- 10% within each asset category... the motion is adopted

Bishop Paula adjourned the meeting at 11:12AM

The next Synod Council meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2022.

Synod Council members in attendance... 10 of 13

- Executive Committee
 - Bishop Paula Schmitt - present
 - VP Ann Ferry - absent
 - Secretary Dave Finney – present
 - Treasurer Bill Layton – present
 - Vicar Allen Stump – present
- Council Members
 - Gary Gable - absent
 - Pr. Nancy Hoover - present
 - Pr. Rebecca Horn - present
 - Joyce Long – present
 - Pr. Amanda McCaffery - present
 - Andrea Paul – absent
 - Michele Peese – present
 - Marlin Plymette – present
- Synod Staff
 - DEM Pr. Kevin Shock - present