

REPORT OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL

Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA

*(Recommendations to be acted upon at this assembly are found in **bold** print in this report.)*

July 21, 2016, Camp Mount Luther

ROLL CALL–

Ordained: Bishop Robert Driesen, Bishop-elect Barbara J. Collins, Pastor Chad Hebrink, Pastor Jeffrey Bohan, Pastor Thomas Glasoe, Pastor Erin Bovendam, Pastor Martha Sue Moll

Lay members: Karla Bohmbach, Carol A. Waltz, Crystal Bollinger, Esther Bratton, Samuel Leister, Christopher Kuhn, Brent Edgar, Cinda Crissinger, Michael Erdley, Grace Lucas, Gary Womelsdorf, Courtney Raker, Faith Kohl

Members absent and excused: Edward Coup, Fredrica Stringfellow, Pastor Cinda Brucker

Members absent: Pastor Nathan Baker-Trinity

Others present: Brenda Krouse, Chad Hershberger, Terry Gardner, Pastor Gretchen Johanson, Audrey Brosius, Lisa Myhre, Olivia Tunall, Malin Kint

Following dinner, Bishop Driesen called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.
Devotions were included in the form of an activity with the campers.

Members introduced themselves with their name, home congregation, position, and what you're doing to beat the heat.

S.C.16.7.100. Motion: (Bohan/Moll) - that the agenda be adopted. The motion was adopted.

Consent Agenda for the Synod Council

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Camp Mt. Luther, Dinner, 5:30 PM,

Meeting at approximately 6:30 PM

1. Request to be transferred from active to retired status on the roster of the ELCA

The Rev. Gary Roth has serving as the pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Lewistown. He has written to the bishop and requested that he be granted the roster status of retired.

Bishop Driesen moves by consent that Pastor Gary Roth be transferred from the active roster to the retired roster of ordained ministers, effective August 1, 2016.

2. Request for the Status of On-Leave from Call

Pastor Cheryl Berner is currently on-leave-from-call and is requesting a second year of "on-leave," effective August 31, 2016. She has written to the bishop and meets the necessary requirements to be granted on-leave status.

Bishop Driesen moves by consent that Pastor Cheryl Berner be granted the status of on-leave-from-call for a second year, effective August 31, 2016.

3. Request for the Status of On-Leave from Call

Pastor Jeffrey Bohan has submitted his resignation as the senior pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church, Bloomsburg, effective September 1, 2016, due to the fact that his wife has accepted a new position in Upstate New York. While he is seeking a new call in a congregation of the Upstate New York Synod, he will need to be on-leave-from-call until a call is extended and accepted.

Bishop Driesen moves by consent that Pastor Jeffrey Bohan be granted the status of on- leave- from-call, effective September 1, 2016.

S.C.16.7.101.MOTION: (Bovendam/Erdley) – that the Consent Agenda be adopted. The motion was adopted.

S.C.16.7.102.MOTION: (Bohan/Bratton) – That the minutes of the May 17, 2016 Synod Council meeting be approved. The motion was adopted.

Report of the Bishop:

He expressed appreciation for his retirement event and his time as Bishop.

Report of the Vice-President:

She gave an update of the Transition Team status.

The installation of Pastor Collins as Bishop will be on Saturday, October 29, at Zion, Sunbury.

She will set a meeting with the Executive Committee to set salary and benefits.

There is a need to elect two members to the executive committee. Crystal Bollinger was nominated by Sam Leister, seconded by Jeff Bohan. Esther Bratton was nominated by Sam Leister, seconded by Crystal Bollinger.

S.C.16.7.103.MOTION: (Erdley/Glasoe) - that the nominations be closed. The motion was adopted.

Report of the Treasurer:

Pastor Chad Hebrink presented the report, which was generated by Pastor Jeff Bohan.

S.C.16.7.104.MOTION: (Moll/Kohl) – That the report be filed for audit. The motion was adopted.

Report of Camp Mount Luther:

The current week of camp has the largest attendance. In general, the numbers have been comparable to the last four years. Accreditation is to take place today.

Report of Communications Director:

A combined July/August *Ark* will go out in the next two weeks.

Report of the Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Evangelical Mission/Bishop-elect:

She attended “boot camp” for new bishops.

She has been in conversation with a person as a possible assistant; this person also has the gifts of a DEM and could become one as well.

Seven congregations are in the Missional River process.

She is working with congregations which are in various stages of transition.

Report of the Lay Ministry Institute:

They are working on trying to get a class together for fall.

Old Business

None

New Business

Certificates were presented to members whose terms are expiring.

A Synod Council representative to the Camp Mount Luther board is needed.

Pastor Tom Glasoe will be devotions leader for the September meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 after all joined in praying the Lord's Prayer.

Synod Council, September 22, 2016, Synod Office

ROLL CALL –

Ordained: Bishop Barbara J. Collins, Pastor Chad Hebrink, Pastor Rick White, Pastor Gretchen Johanson, Pastor MarthaSue Moll, Pastor Cinda Brucker

Lay members: Karla Bohmbach, Carol A. Waltz, Crystal Bollinger, Terry L. Gardner, Esther Bratton, Fredrica Stringfellow, Lisa Myhre, Brent Edgar, Michael Erdley, Shelby Wyland, Gary Womelsdorf, Malin Kint

Members absent and excused: Pastor Thomas Glasoe, Pastor Erin Bovendam, Christopher Kuhn, Audrey J. Brosius, Olivia Tunall

Others present: Steve Rodgers, Pastor Viking Dietrich

Vice-president Karla Bohmbach called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Introductions were made which included name, home church, what happened at 10:20 am today, and, after that question was answered, what we are looking forward to in the fall.

Devotions were led by Bishop Collins, using portions of chapters 1 and 3 of Joshua with challenges and questions. She also installed officers and council members.

S.C.16.9.105.Motion: (Gardner/Brucker) - that the agenda be adopted. The motion was adopted.

Consent Agenda for the Synod Council

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Upper Susquehanna Synod Office

1. Request to change the official name of the scholarship at Gettysburg Seminary (*now named The United Lutheran Seminary*) which was established on the retirement of Bishop A. Donald Main from "The Bishop A. Donald Main Scholarship" to "The Bishop A. Donald and Carol Main Scholarship."

The Rev. Glenn Ludwig contacted Bishop Collins to share that Bishop Emeritus Main made the request to include his wife's name in the name of the scholarship.

Bishop Collins moves by consent that the name of said scholarship be changed to "The Bishop A. Donald and Carol Main Scholarship."

2. Request for the Status of On-Leave from Call

The Rev. Vickie Brown is currently on-leave-from-call and is requesting a second year of "on-leave," effective October 15, 2016. She has written to the bishop and meets the necessary requirements to be granted on-leave status.

Bishop Collins moves by consent that Pastor Vickie Brown be granted the status of on-leave- from-call for a second year, effective October 15, 2016.

3. Appointment to Synod Council

The Rev. Erin Bovendam, chair of the Synod Nominating Committee, contacted Bishop Collins to share that Steve Rodgers, a member of St. John, Lewistown, has agreed to fill the vacancy of a lay male for the Juniata Valley Conference.

Bishop Collins moves by consent that Steve Rodgers be appointed by synod council to fill the Juniata Valley Conference council position for lay male, effective immediately.

4. Announced resignation – no action needed

The Rev. Gary Owens has submitted his resignation as pastor to Christ Lutheran (Brick), Middleburg and Christ Lutheran (White), Middleburg due to a recurrence of cancer. His final day of service to the congregations will be September 30th, 2016. Please keep him in your prayers.

5. Announcement of appointment – no action needed

The Rev. Cindy G. Camp has been appointed by Diakon to be the Director of Disaster Response Ministries, with her primary responsibility being the Upper Susquehanna Synod and a majority of Region 8 of the ELCA. Her email address is: campc@diakon.org.

S.C.16.9.106.MOTION: (Bollinger/Stringfellow) – that the Consent Agenda be adopted. The motion was adopted.

S.C.16.9.107.MOTION: (Bollinger/Moll) – That the minutes of the July 21, 2016 Synod Council meeting be approved with the correction that Pastor Gretchen Johanson was not present. The motion was adopted.

Report of the Bishop:

The bishop's office will move to the end of the hall in the former conference room.

Her new email address is BpCollins@USS-ELCA.org.

The office will downsize to one copier.

Next year's Synod Assembly will go paperless.

The pest control company was changed.

There is more efficient lighting in the parking lot.

The Reverend Craig Miller, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, New York, will serve as half-time Assistant to the Bishop and half-time Director of Evangelical Mission. He will start on October 3. His installation will be on November 6 at 3 pm at Christ's Lutheran, Lewisburg.

Bishop Collins is looking forward to invitations by congregations to visit.

She has discovered that fall is the busiest time for bishops.

S.C.16.9.108.MOTION: (Wyland/Johanson)- to give the bishop permission to create a new budget line item called "USS rostered leaders seminary debt reduction fund" for the purpose of loan assistance for rostered leaders. The motion was adopted.

Report of the Vice-President:

She shared her reflections of the recent Churchwide Assembly and encouraged members to consider attending in the future.

Report of the Treasurer:

Pastor Chad Hebrink presented Revenues and Expenses from February through August as well as a summary of investments.

S.C.16.9.109.MOTION: (Erdley/Gardner) – That the report be filed for audit. The motion was adopted.

S.C.16.9.110.MOTION: (Hebrink/Moll) – to approve the proposed compensation package for Bishop and Assistant. The motion was adopted.

It was decided by consensus to keep the same accounting firm for another year.

Report of Camp Mount Luther (written)

Report of Communications Director:

He is revamping *Headwaters*.

Old Business

Pastor Viking Dietrich explained the concept of a "Glocal" Synod Assembly which would include music, workshops, and worship.

S.C.16.9.111.MOTION: (Moll/Bratton) – to proceed with the idea of "Glocal" for next year's Synod Assembly. The motion was adopted.

The agenda item of Mission Support Visits was tabled.

New Business

Bishop Collins requested that Synod Council members divide up the churches in their respective conferences among them, with the goal of developing relationships and connections.

Terry Gardner distributed magnets advertising the new Saturday worship service at Zion, Turbotville.

Karla Bohmbach will be devotions leader for the November meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm after all joined in praying the Lord's Prayer.

Synod Council, November 17, 2016, Synod Office

ROLL CALL –

Ordained: Bishop Barbara J. Collins, Pastor Craig Miller, Pastor Chad Hebrink, Pastor Rick White, Pastor Gretchen Johanson, Pastor MarthaSue Moll, Pastor Cinda Brucker

Lay members: Karla Bohmbach, Carol A. Waltz, Crystal Bollinger, Terry L. Gardner, Esther Bratton, Steve Rodgers, Christopher Kuhn, Lisa Myhre, Brent Edgar, Audrey Brosius, Shelby Wyland, Malin Kint

Members absent and excused: Pastor Thomas Glasoe, Pastor Erin Bovendam, Michael Erdley, Gary Womelsdorf, Olivia Tunall

Members absent: Fredrica Stringfellow

Others present: Jean Crumb, Chad Hershberger

Vice-president Karla Bohmbach called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Introductions were made which included name, congregation, lay or rostered, conference.

Devotions were led by Vice-president Bohmbach, with the theme “Listening”- to ourselves, others, God, concluding with the prayer of St. Francis.

S.C.16.11.112. Motion: (Bollinger/Moll) - that the agenda be adopted. The motion was adopted.

Consent Agenda for the Synod Council

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Upper Susquehanna Synod Office

1. Request to grant the title of Bishop Emeritus to The Rev. Robert L. Driesen.

Having served faithfully as bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod from 2007-2016, now being on the retired roster of the synod, it is appropriate to honor him with the title of Bishop Emeritus.

Bishop Collins moves by consent that The Rev. Robert L. Driesen be honored with the title of Bishop Emeritus of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, effective 11.18.2016.

2. Request that a calculated amount of defined compensation be designated as housing allowance for Pastor Craig A. Miller, Assistant to the Bishop.

Having worked with the synod treasurer to determine an allowable amount of defined compensation to be designated as housing allowance, Pastor Miller requests that \$2587.50 be the amount designated for the time period of October 3 through December 31, 2016.

Bishop Collins moves by consent that the amount of \$2587.50, from Pastor Craig A. Miller’s compensation package, be designated as housing allowance for the period from October 3, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

3. Request that a calculated amount of defined compensation be designated as housing allowance for Pastor Craig A. Miller, Assistant to the Bishop.

Having worked with the synod treasurer to determine an allowable amount of defined compensation to be designated as housing allowance, Pastor Miller requests that \$17,950.00 be the amount designated for the time period of January 1, 2017 through January 31, 2018.

Bishop Collins moves by consent that the amount of \$17,950.00, from Pastor Craig A. Miller's compensation package, be designated as housing allowance for the period from January 1, 2017 through January 31, 2018.

4. Request to be transferred to retired status on the roster of the ELCA

The Rev. Timothy Bingman has served as pastor of the Freeburg Parish (Zion/Grubbs/St. Peters). He has written to the bishop and requested that he be granted the roster status of retired. His final day in the parish will be December 31, 2016.

Bishop Collins moves by consent that Pastor Timothy Bingman be transferred from the active roster to the retired roster of ordained ministers, effective January 1, 2017.

5. Request to be transferred to retired status on the roster of the ELCA

The Rev. Kenneth Elkin has served as the pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Williamsport. He has announced to the congregation and spoken with Bishop Collins that his final day in the congregation will be December 31, 2016.

Bishop Collins moves by consent that Pastor Kenneth Elkin be transferred from the active roster to the retired roster of ordained ministers, pending receipt of an official letter of request to the Bishop, effective January 1, 2017.

6. Request for the Status of On-Leave from Call

The Rev. Vicky (Bush) Schaffner has resigned her call from St. John's, Leck Kill and is requesting the status of on-leave-from-call effective November 10, 2016. She has written to the bishop and meets the necessary requirements to be granted on-leave status.

Bishop Collins moves by consent that Pastor Vickie Schaffner be granted the status of on- leave-from-call, effective November 10, 2016.

S.C.16.11.113.MOTION: (Bollinger/Wyland) – that the Consent Agenda be adopted. The motion was adopted.

S.C.16.11.114.MOTION: (Rodgers/White) – That the minutes of the September 22, 2016 Synod Council meeting be approved. The motion was adopted.

Mission Moment: Synod Council sharing.

Juniata Conference has divided their list, sent emails to congregations, and presented one temple talk.

West Branch Conference divided their list, composed a letter, and recommends some kind of badge indentifying us as Synod Council.

Members are urged to visit at least one congregation by our January meeting.

Report of the Bishop: written

S.C.16.11.115. MOTION: (Bishop/Johanson) - that beginning December 1, 2016 the synod office be closed from 12:00-1:00pm as a designated lunch hour, and advertised as such. The motion was adopted.

S.C.16.11.116. MOTION: (Bishop/Bollinger) – that The Rev. David Byerly, by synod council call, be appointed to serve a term call of four years, with the possibility of a fifth year, as pastor of Redeemer Lutheran, Williamsport, St. Matthew Lutheran, Williamsport, and St. Michael's Lutheran, Cogan Station, with a start date of January 15, 2017. The motion was adopted.

At our January meeting, we will consider a synod council call for an Intentional Interim for St. Mark's Lutheran, Williamsport.

Report of the Secretary:

She announced an upcoming fundraiser for Pastor Joshua Reinsburrow, Henry Reinsburrow, and Danny Wagner.

Report of the Treasurer:

Terry Gardner questioned if dollar amounts be used instead of or in addition to percentages.

S.C.16.11.117. MOTION: (Wyland/Bollinger) – that the reports be received and filed for audit. The motion was adopted.

Report of Assistant/DEM:

After seven weeks, Pastor Miller knows he made the right choice. He is pleasantly surprised at the willingness of congregations to do new things. He has visited every conference and attended their meetings. Looking ahead, as DEM he will be establishing a Mission Support Table, will take a strategic look at the committee structure, and set goals for the next year.

Report of Camp Mount Luther (written):

Fall has been routine. The 2017 schedule is in its final stages. A campperson meeting will be on January 22 with a turkey dinner the same day. GROW in the Snow is February 10-11.

Report of Communications Director:

He is redesigning the synod web site.

Report of Women's Organization (written)

Old Business: none

New Business

Synod Council retreat will be May 6 at Camp Mount Luther.

Pastor Cinda Brucker will be devotions leader for the January meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm after all joined in praying the Lord's Prayer.

Synod Council, January 17, 2017, Synod Office

ROLL CALL–

Ordained: Bishop Barbara J. Collins, Pastor Craig Miller, Pastor Chad Hebrink, Pastor Gretchen Johanson, Pastor Martha Sue Moll, Pastor Cinda Brucker

Lay members: Karla Bohmbach, Carol A. Waltz, Terry L. Gardner, Steve Rodgers, Audrey Brosius, Shelby Wyland, Gary Womelsdorf, Olivia Tunall

Members absent and excused: Pastor Thomas Glasoe, Pastor Erin Bovendam, Esther Bratton, Pastor Rick White, Lisa Myhre, Brent Edgar, Michael Erdley, Malin Kint

Members absent: Crystal Bollinger, Christopher Kuhn

Others present: Chad Hershberger

Vice-president Karla Bohmbach called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Introductions were made which included name, congregation, and one way you saw God's grace today.

Devotions were led by Pastor Cinda Brucker, using Romans 3:21-28, with comments from Luther's "The Freedom of a Christian."

S.C.17.1.118. Motion:(Gardner/Wyland) - that the agenda be adopted. The motion was adopted.

Consent Agenda for the Synod Council

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

Upper Susquehanna Synod Office

1. Request to appoint an Upper Susquehanna Synod representative to the board of the Lutheran Theological Seminary of Gettysburg (soon to be renamed).

Due to the Lutheran Theological Seminaries of Gettysburg and Philadelphia joining to create a new entity, with its official start date in July of 2017, the seminary boards are reconfiguring their makeup and some members from both existing boards are being asked to serve on the new seminary board. Mr. Robert King has graciously accepted the invitation to serve on the new board.

Bishop Collins moves by consent that Mr. Robert King be appointed to serve as the Upper Susquehanna Synod's board member to the board of the Lutheran Theological Seminary of Gettysburg (soon to be renamed).

2. Request to be transferred to retired status on the roster of the ELCA

The Rev. William Esborn has served as pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church, Mifflintown and for the past seven months has been On-Leave-from-Call. He has written to the bishop and requested that he be granted the roster status of retired. His retirement date is set for February 1, 2017.

Bishop Collins moves by consent that Pastor William Esborn be transferred from the On-Leave-from-Call roster to the retired roster of ordained ministers, effective February 1, 2017.

3. Request to be removed from the roster of the ELCA

The Rev. Christopher Milarch, former pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Avis, has been on the retired roster of the ELCA. He has written to the Bishop to share that he accepted a part-time call to Emmanuel Lutheran Church in State College, PA, which is a North American Lutheran Church (NALC) Congregation, effective January 1, 2017. Having accepted this position in another church body, Pastor Milarch can no longer remain on the roster of the ELCA.

Bishop Collins moves by consent that Pastor Christopher Milarch be removed from the roster of ordained ministers of the ELCA, effective January 1, 2017.

4. Request to extend a Synod Council Call to serve as an Intentional Interim.

The Rev. James West, a retired Navy Chaplain who now serves the ELCA as an Intentional Interim, has been interviewed and called upon to serve as an Intentional Interim for St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Williamsport.

Bishop Collins moves by consent that Pastor James West be called to serve as an Intentional Interim for St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Williamsport, effective January 29, 2017

5. Request to update the synod's constitution.

During the August 2016 Churchwide Assembly, changes were made to the constitution of the ELCA. It was voted upon by the assembly to accept the changes. Therefore, we need to update our Upper Susquehanna Synod's Constitution to be in line with the Constitution of the ELCA for synods.

Bishop Collins moves by consent that our synod's constitution committee update our Upper Susquehanna Synod's Constitution to reflect the changes made by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

6. Request for action by the Conference of Bishops.

Ms. Sandra Grier, a Deacon on the roster of the ELCA, has been On-Leave-from-Call since May of 2014. Her on-leave status concludes as of this April. Over the past two years, Ms. Grier has been the main care giver for her mother. Doing so made it difficult for her to actively seek a new call. This past spring, her mother died and in Ms. Grier's yearend report to the Bishop, she stated that she wants to seek a new call. Doing so will take more than the four months remaining on her on-leave status. It is possible to request an extension to her on-leave status for "family leave." This request must be made to the Conference of Bishops for approval.

Bishop Collins moves by consent that the Synod Council request that the Conference of Bishops consider granting Ms. Sandra Grier a two-year extension to her On-Leave-from-Call status so she can fully engage in seeking a new call as a Deacon of the ELCA.

***Follow-up Note:** Pastor Kenneth Elkin did submit a written request to the Bishop to be moved to the status of retired on the roster of the ELCA.

S.C.17.1.119.MOTION: (Johanson/Brucker) – that the Consent Agenda be adopted. The motion was adopted.

S.C.17.1.120.MOTION: (Brucker/Rodgers) – that the minutes of the November 17, 2016 Synod Council meeting be approved. The motion was adopted.

Mission Moment:

Official badges were distributed for those meeting with congregations. The purpose of Mission Interpreters was discussed. At the February meeting of the Mission Support Table, the goal is to come up with training for Synod Council members to use when relating to congregations.

Members are encouraged to look at the document “Called Forward Together in Christ.”

Report of the Bishop: written

Report of the Treasurer:

A report of revenues and expenses, investments, and notes on both was presented.

S.C.17.1.121. MOTION: (Wyland/Gardner) – that the reports be received and filed for audit. The motion was adopted.

Report of Assistant/DEM: written

Report of Camp Mount Luther (written):

Sewage issues have occurred due to the liner being torn by a bear.

Chad met with “Raise the Region” committee; the fundraiser will be on March 8-9.

Camp brochures were distributed.

There is an open seat on the camp board for a Synod Council member.

Report of Communications Director:

The web site is being updated.

A suggestion was made to place Synod Council minutes on the web site after they are approved.

Nominating Committee Report: written

Old Business:

Reminder: the Synod Council retreat will be May 6 at Camp Mount Luther.

New Business:

Reformation 500 resources were distributed.

Steve Rodgers will be devotions leader for the March meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm after all joined in praying the Lord’s Prayer.

Synod Council, March 16, 2017, Synod Office

ROLL CALL–

Ordained: Bishop Barbara J. Collins, Pastor Chad Hebrink, Pastor Erin Bovendam, Pastor Rick White, Pastor Gretchen Johanson, Pastor Martha Sue Moll, Pastor Cinda Brucker

Lay members: Karla Bohmbach, Carol A. Waltz, Crystal Bollinger, Terry L. Gardner, Esther Bratton, Christopher Kuhn, Lisa Myhre, Brent Edgar, Audrey Brosius, Michael Erdley, Shelby Wyland, Gary Womelsdorf, Malin Kint

Members absent and excused: Pastor Thomas Glasoe, Steve Rodgers, Olivia Tunall

Others present: Chad Hershberger, Sam Leister, Pastor Greg Kramer

Vice-president Karla Bohmbach called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Introductions were made which included name, position, and a story about the recent snow.

Devotions were led by Bishop Collins, using Mark 10: 17-31, and sharing a bible study about Stewardship and Mission Support which had been prepared by The Rev. Stephen P. Bouman.

S.C.17.3.121. Motion:(Bollinger/Brucker) - that the agenda be adopted. The motion was adopted.

Consent Agenda for the Synod Council

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Upper Susquehanna Synod Office

1. Request to extend a Synod Council Call to serve as an Intentional Interim.

The Rev. Sarah Hershberger has met with the Joint Councils and together have agreed on a contract for her to serve as an Intentional Interim for Grace Lutheran, Shamokin and St. Paul's Lutheran, Gowen City.

Bishop Collins moves by consent that Pastor Sarah Hershberger be called to serve as an Intentional Interim for Grace Lutheran, Shamokin and St. Paul's Lutheran, Gowen City, effective March 9, 2017.

*** An Update on action by the Conference of Bishops.**

Ms. Sandra Grier, a Deacon on the roster of the ELCA, has been granted a two-year extension of her On-Leave-from-Call by the Conference of Bishops at their March 2017 meeting.

S.C.17.3.122. MOTION: (Moll/Wyland) – that the Consent Agenda be adopted. The motion was adopted.

S.C.17.3.123. MOTION: (Gardner/Brucker) – that the minutes of the January 17, 2017 Synod Council meeting be approved. The motion was adopted.

Pastor Greg Kramer, chair of the Synod Constitution Committee, reviewed the procedure on adopting amendments to the synod constitution. He presented mandatory amendments from the 2016 Churchwide Assembly as well as non-mandatory recommendations from the Assembly. He also presented one new,

unrelated amendment. (see attached report “Upper Susquehanna Synod Constitution Non-mandatory Changes March 2017)

S.C.17.3.124.MOTION: (Johanson/Moll) – to recommend amending S7.22.02 to read “Ministers of Word and Service, retired, disabled, or on leave from call shall have voice and vote at all Synod Assemblies.” The motion was adopted. (See Addendum #1, p. 119-122)

S.C.17.3.125.MOTION: (Wyland/Bollinger) - to recommend amendment to S27.A17 as presented by the Constitution Committee. The motion was adopted. (See Addendum # 1, p. 119-122)

S.C.17.3.126.MOTION: (Bovendam/White) - to recommend amendment to S8.55 as presented. The motion was adopted. (See Addendum #1, p. 119-122)

S.C.17.3.127.MOTION: (White/Wyland) - to recommend amendment to S9.06 by striking the word “Council”. The motion was adopted. (See Addendum #1, p. 119-122)

S.C.17.3.128.MOTION: (Johanson/Moll) - to amend the synod constitution by eliminating bylaw S11.01.04. The motion was adopted. (See Addendum #1, p. 119-122)

S.C.17.3.129.MOTION: (Bovendam/Bollinger) – to recommend amendments to various sections S.11.05.01 through S.14.12.02 as presented by the Constitution Committee. The motion was adopted. (See Addendum # 1, p. 119-122)

Mission Moment:

Instructions on how to have conversations with congregations was provided in Dropbox.

Bishop Collins highlighted the Called Forward Together document. At the Conference of Bishops, Bishop Eaton emphasized Leadership and Congregational Vitality.

Report of the Bishop:

She attended the recent Conference of Bishops.

She already has or will soon install Pastors Lisa Barnes, James West, and David Byerly at their respective congregations.

Announcement was made of the Chrism Mass and Bishop's Retreat.

There will be a gathering of all Authorized Lay Worship Leaders at Synod Assembly. Bishop Emeritus Driesen will receive an award from Gettysburg Seminary.

Report of the Secretary:

She will send highlights of each Synod Council meeting to Chad Hershberger for posting on the synod web site.

Report of the Treasurer:

A report of revenues and expenses, investments, a balance sheet, and a summary of restricted accounts was presented. He noted a shortfall in Mission Support from what was budgeted to the actual amount, a continuing trend.

S.C.17.3.130.MOTION: (Johanson/Edgar) – to file the reports for audit. The motion was adopted.

The audit process is beginning. The Executive Committee met with the auditor just prior to this meeting.

Report of Assistant/DEM: written

The Mission Table is working on a five-year strategic plan.

Report of Camp Mount Luther (written):

Terry Gardner volunteered to serve as the Synod Council representative to the camp board.

Council members took a survey on Future Directions for the camp. Sam Leister spoke about the visioning process; there will several meetings scheduled around the synod.

Report of Communications Director:

Members were encouraged to check out the new synod web site.

Report of the USS Women's Organization: written

Old Business:

Report of the Nominating Committee: written

New Business:

Pastor MarthaSue Moll will be devotions leader for the May meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm after all joined in praying the Lord's Prayer.

Synod Council, May 16, 2017, Synod Office
(subject to approval at the July meeting)

ROLL CALL–

Ordained: Bishop Barbara J. Collins, Pastor Chad Hebrink, Pastor Thomas Glasoe, Pastor Erin Bovendam, Pastor Gretchen Johanson, Pastor MarthaSue Moll, Pastor Cinda Brucker

Lay members: Karla Bohmbach, Carol A. Waltz, Crystal Bollinger, Terry L. Gardner, Esther Bratton, Steve Rodgers, Lisa Myhre, Brent Edgar, Gary Womelsdorf, Olivia Tunall, Malin Kint

Members absent and excused: Pastor Rick White, Sharon Benner, Shelby Wyland

Members absent: Christopher Kuhn, Audrey J. Brosius

Others present: Pastor Craig Miller, Jean Crumb, Chad Hershberger

Vice-president Karla Bohmbach called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Devotions were led by Pastor MarthaSue Moll, using "Litany of Light."

Introductions were made which included name, congregation, and your favorite snack food.

S.C.17.5.131. MOTION:(Moll/Rodgers) - that the agenda be adopted. The motion was adopted.

S.C.17.7.132. MOTION: (Gardner/Moll) - that the Consent Agenda be adopted. The motion was adopted.

Consent Agenda for the Synod Council

Thursday, May 16, 2017

Upper Susquehanna Synod Office

1. Request to be transferred to retired status on the roster of the ELCA

The Rev. Cheryl Berner served as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Milton and has been On-Leave-from-Call. She has written to the bishop and requested that she be granted the roster status of retired. Her requested retirement date was set for May 1, 2017.

Bishop Collins moves by consent that Pastor Cheryl Berner be transferred from the On-Leave-from-Call roster to the retired roster of ordained ministers, effective May 1, 2017.

2. Request to be transferred to retired status on the roster of the ELCA

The Rev. David Pennebaker served as pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Alfarata and St. John's Lutheran Church, Oak Run. He has written to the bishop and requested that he be granted the roster status of retired. His retirement date is set for July 1, 2017.

Bishop Collins moves by consent that Pastor David Pennebaker be transferred from the On-Leave-from-Call roster to the retired roster of ordained ministers, effective July 1, 2017.

3. Request to approve the Rules of Procedure for the Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly

These are the set rules of procedure used every year for our Synod Assembly that the Synod Council approves to send to the assembly for adoption.

Bishop Collins moves by consent that the Rules of Procedure for the 2017 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly be approved by the Synod Council to send to the floor of the 2017 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly for adoption.

S.C.17.5.133.MOTION: (Bratton/Gardner) – that the minutes of the March 16, 2017 Synod Council meeting be approved. The motion was adopted.

Mission Moments:

After consulting Bishop Emeritus Driesen, it was determined that the Fund for Leaders established several years ago is for the Upper Susquehanna Synod, not the ELCA. The fund presently contains \$57,000. It needs to be decided how to use it: training, debt relief, etc.

A second nomination is needed for Synod secretary.

Report of the Bishop: written

Report of the Secretary:

She thanked Pastor Miller for his assistance in wording the recommendations of the Constitution Committee.

Report of the Treasurer:

A report of revenues and expenses, investments, and restricted accounts was presented. The Fiscal Management Team has met, and will continue to meet quarterly.

S.C.17.5.134. MOTION: (Bollinger/Bohmbach) – that the reports be received and filed for audit. The motion was adopted.

The treasurer presented a revised 2017 budget with a \$5,595.79 deficit.

S.C.17.5.135. MOTION: (Gardner/Bollinger) – to approve the revised budget for 2017. The motion was adopted.

The treasurer presented the proposed budget for 2018, with a 3.6% reduction in support to related agencies, along with a reduction of Churchwide Support from 50% to 48.2%, thus giving a balance budget.

S.C.17.5.136. MOTION: (Bollinger/Edgar) – to recommend the 2018 budget to Synod Assembly for adoption. The motion was adopted. (See Addendum #2, p. 123)

Report of the Leadership Task Force:

Clergy salary guidelines were presented with a 2.4% increase, along with a housing allowance range of \$14,700 to \$17,800.

S.C.17.5.137. MOTION: (Erdley/Gardner) – to recommend the minimum salary guidelines for clergy to Synod Assembly for approval. The motion was adopted. (See Addendum #3, p. 128)

S.C.17.5.138. MOTION: (Gardner/Moll) – to recommend the housing allowance guidelines for clergy to Synod Assembly for adoption.

The motion was adopted. (See Addendum #4, p. 129)

Salary guidelines for Deacons were presented with an increase of \$870 to each amount, representing a 2.4% increase.

S.C.17.5.139. MOTION: (Johanson/Erdley) – to recommend the minimum salary guidelines for Deacons to Synod Assembly for approval. The motion was adopted. (See Addendum #5, p. 129)

Report of Assistant/DEM: written

Report of Camp Mount Luther (written):

This year's registrations so far include 89% as returning campers.

There will be a mortgage burning on June 4. (Evergreen Center)

S.C.17.5.140. MOTION: (Gardner/Bovendam) – to approve the request of Camp Mount Luther, to be granted permission, in perpetuity, to raise the needed funds to operate and improve the camp through an enhanced development program for not only general operating needs but capital and planned giving programs. The motion was adopted.

Old Business:

The Liberia trip report is in Dropbox.

New Business:

The Executive Committee met with Mr. Rick Bair of Baker-Tilly Company, accountants, and received and accepted the audit report.

Consideration needs to be made to extend the contract, or seek other companies.

Devotion at the July meeting will be led by camp staff.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm after all joined in praying the Lord's Prayer.

**Respectfully submitted,
Carol Waltz**