

Synod Council Minutes

December 11, 2021

Present: Cindy Harris, Steve Ramsey, Robin Owen, Deb Noll, Chris Hanley, Shea McGrew, Wendy Bauer, Clark Price, Rodney West-Estelle, Mary Boals, Tom Ritter, Melissa Peper Firestone, Jarrod Schaff, Bishop Daniel, Brent Gardner, Michelle Schaffer.

Staff – Sherry Krieger, Sarah Schaaf, Jacob Henry, Mary Satterfield, Jennifer Pruetter

1. Welcome and Devotions

2. Approval of Minutes

2021 Synod Assembly Minutes

Correction – add Steve Graff as elected Churchwide Lay Male Voting Member.

Motion to approve – Deb Noll. 2nd – Mary Boals. Approved

November 6, 2021 Minutes

Motion to approve – Michelle Schaffer. 2nd – Clark Price. Approved

3. Vice President's Report and Introduction of Members

Action SC 21.35 Synod Council Appointments

"Synod Council appoints Shea McGrew to a four-year term as Treasurer (term ending 2025)."

The Synod Council Treasurer is a four-year term that may be appointed by the Synod Council (as has been customary in NWOS). The treasurer provides oversight of the synod's financial system and reporting to the Council and Assembly in addition to leading financial planning and strategy.

Shea shared his background.

Motion to approve – Cindy Harris. 2nd – Mary Boals. Approved

Action SC21.36 Executive Committee Election

"Synod Council elects Pastor Chris Hanley to the council's Executive Committee."

The Executive Committee includes the four officers of the synod (president/bishop, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer) in addition to two at-large members of the council (traditionally one lay person and one rostered minister). At-large Executive members are elected by the council and traditionally serve until their time on council concludes. The election of an at-large, rostered minister was done with a nominating ballot.

Results of first nominating ballot: Pastor Jarrod Schaaf (withdrew), Pastor Chris Hanley, and Pastor Steve Ramsey.

Results of second ballot: Pastor Chris Hanley

4. Bishop's Report and Teaching Time

Wrapping up the year of generosity. Romans 15: 22-29 – Teaching through gifts of generosity, two distinct cultures come together. We don't always see the results of our generosity. Small gift – just a little effort has a great effect for Christ. How does God take a little and do great things?

Bishop shared about his personal mission and how that informs his leadership. Working on the 2022 Bible Study, working with other staff members to author sections. Bible reading plan on Poets and Prophets. 20th Century Christian is book of the year. Quarterly Goals: running, vocational goals, LDR, professional, Bible Study.

3 Learnings: developing major gifts (what would we do with a major gift); Wright Brothers and innovation; professional coaching and 'what is God calling me to do next'.

5. Roster Actions

Action SC 21.37 On Leave from Call Request

"At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves on leave from call status for:

Pastor Clyde Singh (year 3),

Pastor Meg Boger (year 2)."

Motion – Brent Gardner. 2nd – Michelle Schaffer. APPROVED.

Action SC 21.38 Approval of Synodically Authorized Ministers

"At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the following Synodically Authorized Ministers, through December 2022:

Deacon Jean Wise, Williams County Parish,

Ryan Cordle, Zion Lafayette,

David Frye, West Toledo Parish (Epiphany and All Saints),

Alex Heffelfinger, St John's Hicksville

Deb Monnin, First English Wapakoneta and Trinity Moulton,

Maureen Pump, Grace, St Mark, and Trinity Fremont,

Frank Raeske, Zion Luckey,

Chris Staup, First Stryker,

Tanyce Addison, Good Hope Bucyrus,

Dawn David, Sonfire by the River Pemberville and Salem Grace Luckey,
Carol Pretorius, St Peter Delphos,
Robin Small, St Marks Bowling Green,
Rebecca West-Estelle, Glenwood, St Paul's and Memorial, Toledo,
and Deacon Mandy Carpenter, Bethlehem and St Mark Defiance."

Motion – Chris Hanley. 2nd – Cindy Harris. APPROVED.

Action SC 21.39 Synod Council Call to Specialized Ministry

"At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council extends a call to Pastor Brenda Peconge to serve as Chaplain for St Luke's Hospital in Maumee; and a call to Pastor Julie Hutson to serve as Director of Contextual and Experimental Formation at Trinity Lutheran Seminary."

Motion – Jarrod Schaaf. 2nd – Tom Ritter. APPROVED.

Action SC21.40 Retirement Requests

"At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the retirement status of:

Pastor Mark Schuring,
Pastor Dana Bjorlin,
Pastor Cindy Getzinger."

Motion – Deb Noll. 2nd – Clark Price. APPROVED.

6. Financial Report and Actions

Financial reports presented by Jacob Henry.

Question from Brent – need to explore CW proportionate share (51%).

- Some is returned to NWOS in form of grants
- Time to review the % proportionate share

Question from Cindy – difference between some restricted funds? (Diakonia and Discipleship). – Some similarity in funds; both focused on education, Diakonia more theological and Discipleship more application etc.

Question from Mary S. – where do we find microgrants on financial statements? – spread across different funds: Rural and Small Town; Imagining Renewal; Synod Endowment; Healthy Leaders Healthy Lives. Were any unused funds returned? – Yes.

Comments from Shea – Priorities as Treasurer: Approach accounts with forward outlook. Develop processes and policies for investments and approvals. Establish a Finance Team to assist. Be able to answer, "what do we do with large bequests?"

Action SC21.41 Update Account Signatories

"Synod Council approves the following individuals as signatories on investment accounts: Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Treasurer Shea McGrew, Synod Administrator Jacob Henry. Council approves the following individuals as signatories with Old Fort Bank: Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Treasurer Shea McGrew, and Executive Administrative Assistant Jennifer Pruefer."

Motion – Brent Gardner. 2nd – Tom Ritter. APPROVED.

Presentation of Spending Plan Revision for 2022/21

The Spending Plan will be voted on at our January 2022 meeting.

Question – where are office supplies and postage? – they are combined into a new consolidated line item.

7. Congregational Care Update – Sherry Krieger

Managing change.

Presentation and overview of the Starting Strong plan to help strengthen relationships among new rostered minister, their congregational leaders, and synod. Provide support for these relationships.

8. Community Engagement Update – Sarah Schaaf

Diakonia is going strong. Graduation held outdoors at Luther Home of Mercy. Soaring Arts studio – special needs and arts, a joy explosion.

9. Year-End-Ask Update – Calla Gilson

Roughly 84,000 raised, including 25,000 gift from a congregational foundation. Raising funds for Kentucky tornados.

10. Administrative Updates

Action SC 21.42 Constitution Updates

"Synod Council approves the updated constitution for Zion's Defiance."

Motion – Cindy Harris. 2nd – Tom Ritter. APPROVED.

These constitutions have been reviewed by the Administrator for any potential conflicts with the model constitution and no such conflicts have been found. They have subsequently been approved by the respective congregations and are before the Synod Council for formal approval.

Action SC21.43 Osterlen Board Appointment

"Synod Council appoints Sue Fett to the board of directors of Osterlen."

Motion – Brent Gardner. 2nd – Deb Noll. APPROVED.

Osterlen has asked for the appointment of Sue Fett to their board. Several related/affiliated organizations need approval of a synod council for appointments to their board or changes to their organizational structure.

Action SC21.44 Synod Assembly

"Synod Council approves holding the next Synod Assembly on June 3 and 4, 2022 at Bowling Green State University."

Motion – Michelle Schaffer. 2nd – Tom Ritter. APPROVED.

Action SC21.45 SAWC Renewals

"Synod Council renews Sonfire by the River and Camino de Vida as Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities."

Motion – CHRIS Hanley. 2nd – Jarrod Schaaf. APPROVED.

Sonfire by the River is a SAWC located in Pemberville, currently led by SAM Dawn David. Camino de Vida is a Hispanic outreach ministry led by Pastor Mary Carmen. Camino de Vida is a joint ministry between the ELCA and the UMC, and is also a part of LIFT (a parish in Fremont).

11. For the Good of the Order, and Sending Blessing

Cindy – Stephen Ministry team
Bishop – 1 yr old grandchild
Clark – new senior pastor Becky
Robin – Christmas Blues service

12. Upcoming Meetings:

January 22, 2022, 9am-noon
April 30, 2022, 9am-noon
June 3-4, 2022, Synod Assembly
August 6, 2022 – possible Council picnic
September 17, 2022, 9am-noon
December 10, 2022, 9am-noon
