

Synod Council Minutes

January 18, 2022

1. **Welcome and Devotions** led by Bishop Dillahunt of Southern Ohio Synod

2. **Presentation on Election Process for Synod Bishop**

Bishop Dillahunt of Southern Ohio Synod will be with us to talk about the process for the election of a synod bishop.

Bishop Dillahunt presented a multitude of things for consideration in electing a Bishop. She stressed the power of and need to **communicate** to all delegates and churches what the process will be. She asked that the churches be called to pray for this time of discernment in electing the Bishop.

She recommended that the committee review and update any rules of procedure for the Assembly from beginning to closing. And adhere to a firm deadline of entry to the assembly so a true number of votes can be determined. Also, the committee should work very closely with the Parliamentarian to assure a smooth election process.

Bishop Dillahunt put forth the thought that we are not necessarily *electing* a Bishop, rather *Calling* a Bishop, as He/She serves as the Synod's Pastor.

Bishop Daniel Beaudoin announced that he will stand for a Renewal of Call as Bishop of the Northwest Ohio Synod. He feels that there is work to be done and is called to continue to serve the Synod.

3. **Approval of Minutes from December 11, 2021**

Motion to approve by Cindy Harris Second by Brent Brent Gardner. Motion approved.

4. **Vice President's Report and Committee Appointments** None

5.

Action SC22.01 Appointment of Nominating Committee Members

"Synod Council appoints the following individuals to serve on the Nominating Committee: Pastor Doris Mars (Central), Diane Ninke (at-large), Karen Genzmen (Southeast), Pastor Chris Young (North Central), and Pastor Doug Pretorious (St Mark's Wapakoneta.)"

BACKGROUND – These appointments are to fill vacancies on our nominating committee. The vacancies occurred due to previous committee members moving or resigning, and unfilled positions at previous / postponed assemblies.

Motion by Melanie Haack Second by Deb Noll Motion Approved.

Action SC22.02 Appointment of Bishop Election Committee

“Synod Council appoints the following individuals to serve on the Bishop Election Committee: Vicar Dawn David (Sonfire by the River and Salem Grace United Luckey), and Casey Cox.”

BACKGROUND – The Executive Committee has appointed Ardy Gonyer (St Marks BG), Pastor Tim Philabaum (retired from Zoar Perrysburg), and Becky Seibert (former council secretary from Grace Fremont) to serve on this committee. The Election Committee is appointed by Synod Council to oversee the election process for a synod bishop. Bishop Dillahunt from Southern Ohio Synod will be joining us to share more about this process.

**Motion by Rev. Steve Ramsey Second by Clark Price Motion Approved
Bishop Beaudoin abstained**

Action SC22.03 Appointment of Compensation Guideline Team

“Synod Council appoints the following individuals to serve on the Compensation Guideline Team to draft proposed updates to the synod's compensation guidelines for Rostered Ministers: Mary Boals (Zion's Defiance), Pastor Jeff Gramza (St John Celina), and Pastor Katie Suggitt (Grace Castalia).”

BACKGROUND – this team will review our compensation guidelines for rostered ministers, review other synod's guidelines, and other salary data as needed to draft updates for consideration by the 2022 Synod Assembly. We are waiting to hear a yes/no from one of our larger parish administrators, and would like to find another rostered minister.

An additional name was added prior to the meeting. Pastor Katie Suggitt (Grace Castalia) will also serve on the Compensation Guidelines Team. Vote was taken with her name added. **Motion by Brent Gardner Second by Rev. Jarrod Schaaf
Motion Approved.**

6. Bishop's Report and Teaching Time

Bishop Daniel spoke and on the idea of “Images and Icons.”

“Who are we as we follow Jesus? What are our Core Values?”

Where is God Leading us? How do we get there?

He is in training for the Detroit half Marathon in October which begins in Detroit, and continues over the bridge to Canada, and through the tunnel. This is one of his bucket list items.

He is currently reading Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion

7. Roster Actions (No roster actions at this time).

Action SC22.04 Designation of On Leave from Call Review Committee

“In accordance with the Roster Manual, Synod Council has designated a Review Committee to assist the Bishop, at his/her discretion and referral, in the review of (OLFC) requests. The Committee will consist of three individuals: two Rostered Ministers and one lay member, all of whom are members of the Synod Council and will serve for one calendar year. The Council will appoint committee members annually. Should a committee member not be able to actively assist in any particular review, the bishop will appoint another member of the Synod Council to temporarily serve for that particular review.”

BACKGROUND – As provided by the ELCA governing documents and the Roster Manual, rostered ministers without call may request On Leave from Call status. Such status is a privilege that is granted by a Synod Council at the endorsement and recommendation of the synod Bishop.

There are certain circumstances in which a synod Bishop may need assistance to evaluate OLFC applications and to make recommendations to the Synod Council for consideration and action. Examples may include unethical behavior by the minister; serious lack of professionalism; history of poor pastoral leadership; and minor misconduct, or gross misconduct. In certain circumstances, an On Leave from Call request may fall under the review of the OLFC Review Committee of Synod Council.

Motion by Brent Gardner Second by Deb Nolls Motion Approved

Action SC22.05 Appointment of OLFC Review Committee

“Synod Council appoints the following individuals to the OLFC Review Committee for 2022: Rev. Mindy Elliott, Rev. Melanie Haack, Wendy Bauer, lay person, Cindy Harris, Back up lay person.”

Motion to approve the names as inserted by Casey Cox Second by Michelle Schaffer Motion Approved.

8. Financial Report and Actions

Action SC22.06 Approval of Revised 2022/23 Spending Plan

“The Synod Council approves the revised spending plan for 2022/23. The Synod Council also requests a consultation with the Churchwide organization about the Northwestern Ohio Synod's proportionate share percentage.”

Motion as revised by Brent Gardner Second by Clark Price Motion Approved

Action SC22.07 Gift to Lutheran Disaster Response

“Synod Council approves a gift of \$20,000 to Lutheran Disaster Response with \$10,000 designated for tornado relief and \$10,000 designated for wildfire relief. The funds will come from the Synods Endowment Fund and will be pulled from the Mass Mutual 1 fund.

Motion by Bishop Beaudoin Second by Cindy Harris Motion Approved

9. Administrative Updates

Action SC22.08 Voting Member Formula for Synod Assembly

“Synod Council affirms the current formula for determining a congregation's total lay voting membership at Synod Assembly in accordance with S7.21 and S7.21.04: Congregations with baptized membership of 0-750 members may have two lay voting members plus one additional youth/young adult; congregations with 751-1,500 baptized members may have three lay voting members plus one additional youth/young adult; congregations with more than 1,501 baptized members may have four lay voting members plus an additional two youth/young adults. Congregations with a Synodically Authorized Minister may have an additional lay voting member, provided the additional lay voting member is their SAM. Retired Rostered Ministers who register and attend Assembly may be voting members.”

BACKGROUND – The synod constitution (per S7.21) allows a synod council to establish a formula for determining a congregation's voting membership in the Assembly. The current formula was established in 1995) but has not clarified the voting status of retired ministers or SAMs – this action item clarifies and updates these things.

Below is a chart that more easily displays the formula:

**How to Determine Your Congregation's
Number of Lay Voting Members**

Baptized Membership	¹ Lay Voting Members	² Additional Youth/YA	Total Lay Voting Members
0-750	2	1	3
751-1,500	3	1	4
1,501+	4	2	6

- 1. Voting Member formula set by Synod Council
- 2. Additional youth/young adult was established through NWOS bylaw S7.21.04. "Youth or young adult is defined as an individual who is under the age of 30.

*All Rostered Ministers under call are not counted in the above formula, but are considered voting members.

*Congregations with a Synodically Authorized Minister may have an additional lay voting member provided that member is the SAM

Motion by Mary Boals Second by Tom Ritter Motion Approved

Vehicle Purchase Update – still pending cost analysis
Executive Committee will be able to make decisions at the appropriate time.

Office Building Update – finalizing study and space considerations and alternative locations

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

Deb Noll spoke of her creating bags of reflections on Baptism. Will bring to the April Meeting

Tracey thanked the council for their patience

Clark asked about Youth Assembly Registration on Hold

Rev. Chris Hanly reflected on MLK day: voting rights, businesses still segregated and that he got a great haircut. 😊

Melissa closed the meeting with Prayer.

Upcoming Meetings:

January 22, 2022, 9am-noon

April 30, 2022, 9am-noon

August 6, 2022 – possible Council picnic

September 17, 2022, 9am-noon

December 10, 2022, 9am-noon