

Synod Council Minutes

December 10, 2022, at St John's in Findlay Ohio

1. **Welcome and Devotions** led by Pastor Brenda Peconge
2. **Meeting Called to order by Vice-President, Nancy Yunker**
 - Present: Bishop Beaudoin, Nancy Yunker, Diane Ninke, Wendy Bauer, Rev. Mindy Elliott, Brent Gardner, Rev. Melanie Haack, Cindy Harris, Trent McGrew, Deborah Noll, Rev. Robin Owen, Rev. Brenda Peconge, Clark Price, Rev. Steve Ramsey, Tom Ritter, Jillian Russell, Michelle Schaffer, Kelly Weber, Rodney West-Estell
 - Absent: Casey Cox
 - Staff: Jacob Henry, Jennifer Pruefer, Sherry Krieger, Rev. Sarah Schaaf
3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - September 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes**
 - Approved with note—Deb Noll (not Deb Knoll)**
 - Review of Executive Committee Decisions**
 - Approved**
4. **Mission Support Consultation with Churchwide, and First Reading of the Revised 2023/24 Spending Plan** – led by Nick Kiger, Director Mission Support ELCA, and Treasurer Shea McGrew

Action SC23.xx Revision of 2023/24 Spending Plan

First reading of the proposed revised spending plan. Action will be taken at the January 2023 meeting.

Shea McGrew presented Finance Team Spending Plan

Jacob Henry presented Proposed Spending Plan for NWOS

Bishop Beaudoin explained budget changes related to enhanced staff responsibilities

Nick Kiger, Director of Mission Support from ELCA joined us for this discussion concerning ELCA Proportionate Share

Shared how the NWOS Mission Support was used by ELCA (see Power Point.)

Mission Support Sharing Trends (Currently about 55% stewarded by synods with 44% stewarded by ELCA)

- Now feeling the full effects of the Pandemic and inflation/recession
- Church-wide Assembly now allows specified dollar amount for Mission Support instead of a percentage of Synod revenues

NWOS' proposal to reduce Proportional Giving by 11% in one year—would be the largest yearly reduction for ELCA

Where do we go from here?

- What do you perceive the ministry priorities of the NWOS to be?
 - Education and support to congregation
 - Training and raising up leaders
 - Teaching for community engagement
 - Pilgrimages – travel to broaden perspective and engagement
 - Be church—not just go to church – everyone has a role to play
- What are some pressing challenges in the NWOS?
 - Societal changes
 - Need more models to raise up leaders
 - Leadership
 - Information from NWOS to congregations not timely
 - Managing the changing church—money
- What are some strengths in the NWOS?
 - Building relationships/strengthening parishes
 - Listening to challenges and trying to adapt
 - Ability to experiment to reach unchurched
 - Great educational choices and chances
 - Staff and leadership

Proportional Support (Mission Support)

Challenges are our reality; strengths are how we move through the reality—move forward

Nick Kiger observations/recommendation for continued conversation:

Leadership seems to be a strength in NWOS

journi.faith—new leadership tool from ELCA

Comprehensive look at Mission Support strategy—how to tell stories and how synod/ELCA uses mission support—volunteer group

Congregational stewardship team from ELCA to assist synods (Tim Brown)

Mission Support story—working to improve the way we tell the mission support stories

What we do in NWOS is done on behalf of all ELCA members

5. Bishop's Update and Teaching Time – Led by Bishop Daniel –**see Bishop's report**

- a. 2023 is the Story of Jesus
- b. Memory Verse for 2023; Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the holy spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

6. Roster Actions

Action SC22.34 Retirement Approvals

"At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the retirement status of: Pastor Brad Binau 10/31/2022, Pastor Howard Abts 11/01/2022, Pastor Bill Schultz 12/01/2022, and Pastor Bob Cochran 01/01/2023."

**Motion to approve retirement status, Cindy Harris; Second, Kelly Bauer
Approved**

Action SC22.35 Renewal of Synod Authorized Ministry

"At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the authorization of the following Synod Authorized Ministries to serve through December 31, 2023:

Deacon Steve Basselman, St Martin Archbold,
Deacon Amanda Carpenter Bethlehem and St Mark's Defiance
Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt, Zion Sandusky
Deacon Jean Wise, Williams County Parish
Vicar Deb Monnin, First English Wapakoneta and Trinity Moulton
Vicar Schawn Schneider, First Galion,
Bob Fett, English Bluffton (interim)
Tom Fleming, St Mark Ada
Bob Frank, St Mark Oregon
Alan Fuhrhop, St Stephen Hamler
Jeannine Grimm, SAM supply
Alex Heffelfinger, St John Hicksville
Shea McGrew, Hope Bowling Green
Deb Noll, St Paul, Jenera (interim)
Maureen Pump, Grace and St Mark Fremont (interim)
Frank Raeske, Zion Luckey
Clione Schneider Calvary Northwood and Christ Dowling
Greg Silliman St James Toledo
Chris Staup, First Stryker
and Frank Weaver, Faith United and Augsburg Toledo."

**Motion to approve renewal of Synod Authorized Ministry, Tom Ritter; Second,
Melanie Haack Approved**

7. Vice-President's Report

Synod Council Goals for 2023

Vice-president Nancy Yunker will lead us as we develop a few goals as a council.

Synod Goals for 2023 – will finalize goals at January meeting

- Take Synod Council meetings to other locations—increasing visibility
 - Participate in Starting Strong program—increase visibility in parishes and conferences
 - Synod Council members take part in synod-wide events
 - Capture emails of all members of all parishes – begin with parish council members
- What are other church denominations doing successfully?
Small group ministries focusing on specific needs—raising up leadership

Action SC22.35 Appointment to the Executive Committee

“Synod Council elects **Kelly Weber** to serve on the council's Executive Committee.”

Action SC22.36 Appointment to Synod Council Vacancy

“Synod Council appoints Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt to serve the vacant Eastern Rostered Minister position on Synod Council, term ending in July 2023.”

Motion to approve, Robin Owen; Second, Wendy Bauer Approved

Action SC 22.37 Appointment to Committee Vacancies

“Synod Council appoints the following individuals to fill vacant terms of committees:

- Pastor Rebecca West Estell (Memorial Toledo), Discipline Committee term ending in 2027,
- Paul Beinke (St Paul Waldo), Discipline Committee term ending in 2027
- Pastor Jeff Gramza (St John's Celina), Discipline Committee term ending in 2026,
- Pastor Carol Pretorius (St Peter Delphos), Consultation Committee term ending in 2027.”

Motion to approve appointments, Deb Noll; Second, Rev. Brenda Peconge Approved

8. Administrative Updates

Action SC22.38 Continuing Resolution S7.27.A22, to Grant Voting and Voice Privileges to Ecumenical Partners Serving NWOS Congregations

"Synod Council approves the following continuing resolution to be codified into the Synod Constitution:

S7.27.A22 in accordance with S7.27, a minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established who serves a NWOS congregation as approved by the Synod Council or Bishop, may have the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during their service to the congregation.

**Motion to grant voting and voice privileges, Brent Gardner; Second, Clark Price
Approved**

Action SC22.39 Renewal of SAWC Authorizations

"Synod Council renews the authorization of the following Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities until December 31, 2023: Sonfire by the River in Pemberville, and Camino de Vida in Fremont."

**Motion to approve renewal of SAWC authorizations, Robin Owen; Second,
Michelle Schaffer**

9. For the Good of the Order and Sending Blessing

10. Next meeting will be January 21 at Grace Lutheran Church, 4441 Monroe St., Toledo, OH 43613.

Proposed Upcoming Meetings:

January 21, 2023, 9am-noon

April 29, 2023, 9am-noon

September 16, 2023, 9am-noon

December 16, 2023, 9am-noon
