

Synod Council Minutes **September 17, 2022 at St John's in Findlay**

1. **Welcome and Devotions** led by Bishop Daniel in the Chapel.

2. **Meeting called to order by vice-president Nancy Yunker at 9:10**

Present: Bishop Beaudoin, Nancy Yunker, Diane Ninke, Shea McGrew, Wendy Bauer, Casey Cox, Rev. Mindy Elliott, Rev. Melanie Haack, Deb Knoll, Rev. Robin Owen, Rev. Brenda Peconge, Rev. Steve Ramsey, Tom Ritter, Jillian Russell, and Kelly Weber.

Absent: Brent Gardner, Cindy Harris, Clark Price, Michelle Schaffer, and Rodney West-Estell

Staff: Jacob Henry and Jennifer Pruefer

3. **Financial Updates** – led by Treasurer Shea McGrew

After Shea led us through the financial updates, the following action items were considered:

Action SC22.24 Consolidation of Council Designated Funds

“Synod Council approves the consolidation of the following Council Designated Funds into the Endowment Fund: Reserves (Boerger), Building and IT, International Travel, Bishop's Discretionary, Rave Scholarship, First Call Theological Education, Synod Assembly Carryover, Churchwide Assembly, Boundaries Workshop, Macedonia (Stewardship), Auto Replacement, Office Equipment Replacement, Program Year, and Candidacy. This action results in one Council Designated fund, the Endowment Fund.”

Motion made by Rev. Melanie Haack; second by Rev. Robin Owen.

Motion approved.

Action SC22.25 Discontinuation of Budgetary Accruals to Designated Funds

“Synod Council approves of the discontinuation of the budgetary accruals into Council Designated Funds for Auto Replacement and Office Equipment Replacement, retroactive to February 1, 2022. These replacement accruals are to be removed from the operating budget.”

Motion made by Tom Ritter; second by Deb Knoll.

Motion approved.

Action SC22.26 Realignment of Investments

“Synod Council authorizes the Finance Team to realign the synod's investment portfolio to construct three investment portfolios: one portfolio will be tied to the Council Designated Endowment Fund; one portfolio will be tied to certain Donor Restricted Funds; and one portfolio will be for unrestricted reserves. The Finance Team will invest each portfolio based on the new investment policy.

Motion made by Rev. Mindy Elliott; second by Wendy Bauer.

Motion approved.

Action SC22.27 Approval of New Investment Policy

“Synod Council approves the Investment Policy Statement as presented and recommended by the Finance Team.”

Motion made by Rev. Brenda Peconge; second by Rev. Melanie Haack.

Motion approved.

It was clarified that instead of “Financial Management Committee”, the name would be changed to the “Audit Committee/Finance Team” in the investment policy.

Discussion of percentage of NWOS budget given to Church-wide. Currently at 51% of mission support goes to Church-wide. A representative (Nick Kiger) from Church-wide will be with us in December to discuss revising our share downward. Originally thought that NWOS needed to have this decision approved by a Synod Assembly. However, Synod Council can make this decision. Council will act on the recommendations at later meetings.

NWOS was considering a mini-Synod Assembly in September of 2023, but Church-wide does not require synod assembly for this action or for ratifying Church-wide constitutional updates provided the adopted updates are identical to the provisions in the model constitution.

4. Orientation Part Two – Synod Authorized Ministry

Teaching Time: Bishop presented a brief history of the SAM program and the involvement of the NWOS in that program. The following are the components to the program:

Site: need for word and sacrament ministries to a congregation
Primary—congregation or ministry

Bishop: authorize SAM with agreement from Site

Synod Council: Bishop consults with Council--

SAM: trained or in training for a specific site for a specific time period

Supervisor: supervision by ordained minister of word and sacrament, (appointed by bishop)—report to bishop and congregation

Question: Should Synod Deans and conferences be involved

Guidelines: Will be share in email

Requirements: See requirements for Diakonia program

Next: October meet with current and “mentors” to discuss new guidelines and procedures

Further discussion at December Synod Council meeting.

How has NWOS used SAMs in the past and looking to the future:

Categories

Used to be interim pastors

Some pastor and deacon serving parish

2019—started using SAM going through TEEM program to ordination or earning master divinity while SAM (on ordination track)

2020 started using SAMs as interims

Currently have 23 SAMs

Future—looks like path to seminary (using distance learning) toward ordination

5. Approval of Minutes:

August 6, 2022 Council Meeting pages 13-16

Motion to approve by Casey Cox; second by Tom Ritter.

Motion approved.

Synod Assembly June 3 & 4, 2022 pages 17-45

Motion to approve by Rev. Robin Owen; second by Rev. Steve Ramsey.

Motion Approved.

6. Bishop's Update— Led by Bishop Daniel (check his calendar)

The Bishop's written update can be found on pages 6-9 of packet

7. Roster Actions

Action SC22.28 On Leave from Call Approvals

“At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the On Leave from Call status for Pastor Rob Johnson year 3; Pastor Beth Huener year 3; and Pastor Adam Taylor year 2.

Motion made by Kelly Weber; second by Rev. Robin Owen.

Motion approved.

8. Administrative Updates

Action SC22.29 Synodical Inquiry Process

"Synod Council approves the *Inquiry Process for Concerns of Ministerial Ethics, Professionalism, and Misconduct* as presented."

Motion made by Casey Cox; second by Tom Ritter.

Motion approved.

Action SC22.32 Sale of Bright Road Office

"At the recommendation of the Executive Committee, Synod Council approves entering into a Purchase Agreement with L3G Properties to sell the Bright Road Office for \$487,500."

Motion made by Deb Knoll; seconded by Rev. Melanie Haack.

Motion approved.

Distribution of the sale money will be determined at the December meeting. St. John's Lutheran in Findlay will be called the **NWOS Administrative Hub**.

Action SC22.33 Global Mission Board Appointment

"At the request of the Global Mission Board, Synod Council appoints Pastor Brenda Peconge, of Grace Toledo, as the Council's representative to the Board."

Motion made by Tom Ritter; second by Wendy Bauer.

Motion approved.

Action SC22.30 Approval of Constitutional Updates

"Synod Council approves the updated constitution for St John's Oak Harbor."

Motion made by Rev. Steve Ramsey; second by Rev. Brenda Peconge.

Motion approved.

Action SC22.31 Grant to East Toledo Parish

"Synod Council approves a grant for \$7,000 from the Endowment Fund to assist with the formation of the East Toledo Parish."

Motion made by Deb Knoll; second by Rev. Mindy Elliott.

Motion approved.

OLFC Review Process

The draft review process presented in April 2022 is being reviewed and revised. We anticipate presenting an updated draft in December for possible approval in January 2023.

9. For the Good of the Order and Sending Blessing

Deb Knoll – Asked Bishop for highlights from Church-wide Assembly in Columbus.

- Bishop –good spirit considering the issues prior to assembly
- Elected new ELCA Vice President
- Passed budgets and usual business
- Worship services!
- Exploring calling a re-constituting convention in 2025 (task force to look into changes/recommendations prior)
- Bishop Eaton good leader

10. Adjourn

Motion made by Pastor Steve Ramsey; second by Tim Ritter.

Motion approved.

Upcoming Meetings:

December 10, 2022, 9am-noon
