

## **Synod Council Minutes**

January 20, 2024, by zoom

**Attending:** Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Vice President Nancy Yunker, Secretary Michelle Schaffer, Treasurer Shea McGrew, Wendy Bauer, Caitlin Brink, Cindy Harris, Kathy Jurrus, Rev. Robin Owen, Rev. Brenda Peconge, Rev. Ashley Rosa-Ruggieri, Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt, Kevin Swagler, Jerusha Walker, Clark Price, Rev. Melanie Haack, Rev. Steve Ramsey, Jillian Russell, and Deacon Rodney West-Estell

**Synod Staff:** Rev. Sarah Schaaf, Deacon Sherry Krieger, Jacob Henry

**Absent:** Linda Henschen, Kelly Hancock-Weber

**Guest:** Hans Giller

### **1. Welcome and Devotions** led by Bishop Daniel and Deacon Sherry

Deacon Sherry shared the seven types of rest: mental, physical, emotional, spiritual, social, sensory, and creative. These are all parts of the monthly calendars of Rest.

### **2. Approval of Synod Council Minutes**

#### **December 16, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve by Clark Price and Cindy Harris second.

- Correction to Pastor Sarah's report. Should read.  
Churchwide Strategic Ministry Grants and SAWC Grants were reduced by 10% for 2024 across all synods in the ELCA. This impacts the following ministries:
  - Salem Lutheran Church, Toledo-2023- \$14,000 to 2024- \$12,600
  - Redeemer Lutheran Church, Toledo- 2023 \$14,000 to 2024- \$12,600
  - Camino de Vida, Fremont-2023-\$10,000 to 2024- \$9,000Total reduction of \$3800. Pastor Sarah has been in conversation with these ministry's leadership. Please pray about how we might support these important ministries.

**Approved with corrections.**

#### **December 19, 2023, Executive Committee Decisions**

Jacob Henry reviewed the meeting of December 19, 2023, Executive Committee Decisions.

**3. Mr. Hans Giller (Region 6 ELCA Church Council Member)**

Hans Giller shared with us what it is like to be part of Churchwide Council.

Shared the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World Hunger and how well the NW Ohio Synod has supported this mission. He also spoke about Disaster Relief and God made Real.

**4. Bishop's Update and Teaching Time – Led by Bishop Daniel**

Bishop Daniel gave highlights of the upcoming Year of Rest. Bible Study will be ready to go shortly. Each council member will receive the book titled Sacred Rest by Sandra Dalton-Smith.

Two ordinations will take place, Deb Monnin at Trinity, Moulton on February 10 and Ann Augustin at Glenwood, Toledo on February 18.

**5. Synod Council Roster Actions**

**Action SC24.01 Approval of Retirement**

“At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the retirement status of Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt, Rev. Doris Mars, and Rev. Katie Suggitt”.

Motion to approve was made by Kathy Jurrus and seconded by Rodney West- Estell.

**Motion approved.**

**Action SC24.02 Approval of On Leave from Call (OLFC)**

“At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the OLFC status of: Rev. Brandi Bailie (Year 4: Family Leave), Rev. Annette Griffin (Year 1) and Rev. Robert A. Johnson (Year 5: Extended Leave).

Motion to approve was made by Kevin Swagler and seconded by Pastor Ashley Rosa-Ruggieri.

**Motion approved.**

**6. Vice-President's Report**

Nancy Yunker reports that she has a Zoom meeting with other Synod VP's on January 27 and will be traveling to Chicago for an in person meeting in March. Highlighted the Diakonia program is truly a great educational opportunity for adults.

**7. Synod Staff Updates and Teaching Time**

Deacon Sherry Krieger lead an exercise on, "The most important questions in the Strengthening Parishes and for parishes in transition and call process." Gave us statistics on the trends in the call process and kinds of alternative pastoral leadership.

**8. 2024 Synod Assembly Update**

Pastor Sarah SchAAF walked us through the Synod website and directed us the Cassie Mugler's 2024 Synod Assembly report.

**9. Financial Reports and 2024/25 Mission Spending Plan**

Shea McGrew and Jacob Henry reviewed the financial statement.

**Action SC24.03 Approval of the 2024/25 Mission Spending Plan**

"Synod Council approves the 2024/25 Mission Spending Plan."

Motion to approve by Pastor Melanie Haack and second by Pastor Ashley Rosa-Ruggieri.

Discussion: St. John's at the Bay line item of \$2,000 is no longer needed. The line item was removed at the request of St. John, Port Clinton. Clark Price moved to amend the motion that the St. John's at the Bay line item be re-allocated to the line items: Redeemer, Toledo \$750, Salem, Toledo \$750 and Camino de Vida \$500.

Synod Council renewed the authorization of Redeemer and Salem as Strategic Ministries. Additional funds of \$1800 were then proportionally added to Redeemer, Salem, and Camino de Vida to help offset the loss in ELCA grant funding.

New totals are for the 2024-25 Mission Spending Plan are:

Redeemer, Toledo = \$11,400

Salem, Toledo = \$11,400

Camino de Vida = \$10,000

**Motion approved as amended.**

**10. Administrative Updates**

**Action SC24.04 Constitution Updates**

"Synod Council approves the constitutional updates for St. Peter, Martin (Blackberry Corners)."

Motion to approve by Kathy Jurrus and seconded by Rodney West- Estell.  
**Motion approved.**

**New Document** “*NWOS Guidelines for Constitutional Updates and Approval*” (on the Synod Website and in Synod Council packet)  
Jacob Henry gave us updates on the new “NWOS Guidelines for Constitutional Updates and Approval.”

**11. Good for the order:** Jillian Russell reported the Hopewood Outdoor Ministries needs a Board Member.

**12. Bishop Beaudoin sent us with a blessing.**

**13. Next meeting: April 13, 2024**

**Zion, Sandusky**

**14. Future Meetings:**

- a. **June 1, 2024 -- Synod Assembly**
- b. **September 21, 2024**
- c. **December 14, 2024**

**St. Mark's, Bowling Green**  
**St. Paul, Coldwater**  
**Trinity, Wauseon**