

Synod Council Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2024, at St. John, Synod Hub, Findlay

Attending: Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Vice President Nancy Yunker, Secretary Michelle Schaffer, Treasurer Shea McGrew, Wendy Bauer, Cindy Harris, Kathy Jurrus, Rev. Brenda Peconge, Rev. Ashley Rosa-Ruggieri, Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt, Kevin Swagler, Jerusha Walker, Clark Price, Rev. Melanie Haack, Kelly Hancock-Weber and Deacon Rodney West-Estell

Synod Staff: Rev. Sarah Schaaf, Linda Henschen, Cassie Mugler

Absent: Caitlin Brink, Rev. Robin Owen, Rev. Steve Ramsey, Jillian Russell

1. **Welcome and Devotions** led by Pastor Sarah Schaaf

2. **Approval of Synod Council Minutes**

January 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Review of February 28, 2024, Executive Committee Decisions

Review of March 26, 2024, Executive Committee Decisions

Motion to approve to approve was made by Kevin Swagler and seconded by Kathy Jurrus.

Motion was approved.

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

- i. Shared stories of Bold Hope, Expansive Curiosity, Authentic Community, Radical Love
- ii. Pastor Sarah shared about Diakonia and how we are now working with Northeastern Ohio Synod.
- iii. On page 12 of the On The Way Stories, Bishop Daniel shares some of his own values and gifts.
- iv. Bishop Daniel shared the Year of Rest Bible Study and the Monthly Rest Calendar.
- v. Bishop Daniel shared the Sacred Rest book.
- vi. Pointed out a few pages of the Assembly Business Materials booklet.

4. Synod Council Roster and Parish Actions

Action SC24.04 Approval of Retirement

“At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the retirement status of Rev. Daryl Hanson”.

Action has been placed on hold while Pastor Daryl explores disability.

Action SC24.05 Approval of Synod Council Call

“At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the extension of a Synod Council call to Rev. Annette Griffin to serve as a Hospital Chaplain in the Mercy Health System in Oregon, Ohio

Motion to approve was made by Brenda Peconge and second by Deacon Rodney West-Estell.

Motion was approved.

Action SC24.06 Approval of Disability Status

“At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the disability status of Rev. Nathan Tuff”.

Motion to approve was made by Cindy Harris and seconded by Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt.

Motion was approved.

Action SC24.07 Approve the Release of First English Lutheran Church in Wapakoneta

“Having received notification of termination of affiliation in accordance with the constitutions of this Church, Synod Council approves the disaffiliation of First English Lutheran Church in Wapakoneta.”

Motion to approved was made by Rev. Melanie Haack and seconded by Wendy Bauer.

Motion was approved.

5. Vice-President's Report

Nancy attended the Conference of Vice Presidents at the ELCA Churchwide Office; she shared her experience.

- The focus of the 3 days was relationship building, discussing how social statements get created, the structure of Churchwide, challenged the communications of ELCA and IT complications, church renewal and worship, had opportunities to ask questions.
- Nancy also had a chance to connect with other vice presidents and share experiences with others.
- She received training on Bishop Elections. Nancy was encouraged to review the synod policy and procedures. Many discussions on financial resources (we have many experiences that help us financially). Nancy expressed her gratitude for Bishop Daniel and his leadership in our synod.

6. Executive Committee Update

April 13, 2024

NW Ohio Synod Executive Committee

Those Present: Bishop Daniel G. Beaudion, Shea McGrew, Kelly Hancock-Weber, Michelle Schaffer, Nancy Yunker, and Deacon Rodney West-Estell.

Staff Members: Pastor Sarah Schaaf and Cassie Mugler

On Thursday, April 11, Bishop Daniel Beaudoin sent the Executive Committee (by email) a copy of Chris Faye's 2024 Compensation Proposal with a beginning salary of \$62,500 and a *First Year Plan* document.

Bishop Daniel asked the committee to approve the following action:

EC24.05 The Executive Committee Approves the hiring/appointment of Chris Fye as the Director for Generosity to begin April 15, 2023.

Motion to approve was made by Nancy Yunker and seconded by Deacon Rodney West-Estell.

Motion was approved.

7. Financial Reports and Update

Shea McGrew highlighted the Financial Report.

Action SC24.08 Approval of the Annual Disbursement Limit from Endowment Fund

“At the recommendation of the Finance Team the Annual Disbursement Limit from the Endowment Fund shall be set at 4.5% of the Endowment Fund’s balance as of January 31, 2024”.

Motion to approve was made by Cindy Harris and seconded by Clark Price.

Motion was approved.

8. Synod Assembly

Action SC24.09 Approval of all 2024 Synod Assembly Actions*

Appointment of Assembly-Related Committees: Reference and Counsel, Credentials Committee, and Assembly Parliamentarian

“Synod Council appoints the following individuals to serve on 2024 Synod Assembly Reference and Counsel Committee: Rev. Ann Marshall, Rev. Adam Sornchai, Rev. Rebecca West-Estell, Norm Shade, and Jacob Henry. Synod Council also appoints the following individuals to serve on the Credentials Committee: Diane Ninke, and Rev. Mark Bauer. Synod Council appoints Alan Fuhrhop to serve as Parliamentarian for the Assembly”.

Approval of the Assembly Proposed Order of Business and Rules of Procedures

“Synod Council approves the Proposed Order of Business for the 2024 Synod Assembly and recommends the 2024 Synod Assembly adopt the Order of Business and Proposed Assembly Rules of Procedure.”

(The Proposed Order of Business can be found on page 8 and the Proposed Assembly Rules of Procedure can be found on page 9 in the 2024 Assembly Business Materials Packet)

Approval of Recommended Assembly Actions

“Synod Council recommends the Assembly approve the following: 2025/26 Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers of the NWOS; constitutional additions/updates to S7.21.01, S7.14, S7.22, S7.24, S7.26, S7.27, S8.42, S11.10, S14.13, S14.15, S14.34 of the synod constitution; and the Mission Spending plan for 2025-26.”

(The draft Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers of the NWOS can be found on pages 64-100. Draft constitutional updates can be found on pages 10-11. Draft Mission Spending Plan for 2025-26 can be found on page 59 in the 2024 Assembly Business Materials Packet)

If needed, synod staff may make editorial changes and the Executive Committee may make substantive changes to these recommended actions.

Motion to approve was made by Kelly Weber and seconded by Pastor Ashley Rosa-Ruggieri.

Motion was approved.

9. Administrative Updates

Action SC24.10 Approval of Synod Authorized Ministers Compensation Guidelines

“At the recommendation of the Compensation Guidelines Task Force, the Synod Council Approves the Synod Authorized Ministers Compensation Guidelines.”

Motion to approve was made by Kevin Swagler and seconded by Wendy Bauer.

Motion was approved.

Action SC24.11 Approval of a Synod Council Continuing Resolution to establish a process to permit rostered ministers who are not “Under Call” to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly.

SC24.12. “Synod Council approves the following continuing resolution for the Synod Constitution:

S7.22A24 Retired rostered ministers, those granted disability status, or on leave from call, who are present at the Synod Assembly may have both voice and vote, provided that their inclusion as voting members does not result in fewer than 60% of the voting membership of the Synod Assembly being laypersons in contravention of S7.21, as determined by the Synod

Assembly's Credentials Committee. If their inclusion does result in fewer than 60% of the voting membership of the Synod Assembly being laypersons in contravention of S7.21, as determined by the Synod Assembly's Credentials Committee, the retired rostered ministers, those granted disability status, or on leave from call who are present at the Synod Assembly shall have voice but not vote."

Motion to approve was made by Cindy Harris and seconded by Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt.

Motion was approved.

Action SC24.12 Constitution Updates

"Synod Council approves the constitutional updates for Bethlehem, Pemberville, and Salem-Grace, Luckey."

Motion to approve was made by Clark Price and seconded by Jerusha Walker.

Motion was approved.

10. For the Good of the Order

Pastor Sarah shared there are resources for helping congregations develop congregational values. She/staff are willing to come in and work with your congregation.

11. Sending Blessing

12. Future Meetings:

- a. June 1, 2024 -- Synod Assembly St. Mark's, Bowling Green
 - b. July 25, 2024 Synod Council Picnic (site tbd)
 - c. September 21, 2024 St. Paul, Coldwater
 - d. December 14, 2024 Trinity, Wauseon
-