

Synod Council Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2024 | St. Paul, Coldwater

Synod Council Members Present: Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Nancy Yunker, Michelle Schaffer, Shea McGrew, Cindy Harris, Kathy Jurrus, Rodney West-Estell, Beth Kieffer, Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt, Kelly Weber, Rev. Ashley Rosa-Ruggieri, Rev. Melanie Haack, Jerusha Walker, Rev. Tanyce Addison, Wendy Bauer, Rev. Robin Owen, Kevin Swagler, Rev. Brenda Peconge

Staff Members Present: Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Deacon Sherry Krieger, Pastor Sarah Schaaf, Cassie Mugler

Absent: Jillian Russell, Caitlin Brink, Rev. Steve Ramsey, Clark Price

1. **Welcome and Devotions** led by Leaders of St. Paul, Coldwater. Pastor Robin Owen highlighted the workings of the co-op churches.
2. **Approval of Synod Council Minutes**
April 13, 2024, Synod Council Meeting Minutes
It was moved to approve by Cindy Harris and seconded by Pastor Melanie Haack. Motion was approved.

Review of May 24, 2024 Executive Committee Decisions
Review of July 12, 2024 Executive Committee Decisions

3. **Bishop Daniel Teaching Time and Update**

Bishop Daniel shared pictures and stories of time spend at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein, at the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans and the arrival of a new granddaughter in August.

4. **Pastor Sarah Schaaf Update**

Pastor Sarah announced that it was not to late to join the Growing in Faith: Diakonia classes. New classes start September 26.

5. **Deacon Sherry Krieger Update**

Deacon Sherry and Pastor Sarah lead us through an exercise of getting to know communities and where we can help those in need.

6. **2025 the Year of...** will be the year of "*Listening*". A 6-week Bible Study and council devotional are in the works.

7. Synod Council Roster and Parish Actions

Action SC24.13 Appointment to Synod Council Vacancy

“Synod Council appoints Beth Kieffer to serve the vacant Eastern Lay position on Synod Council, term ending June 30, 2025.”

Motion to approve by was made by Kevin Swagler and seconded by Rodney West-Estell. Motion was approved.

Action SC24.14 Appointment to Committee Vacancies

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

Rev. Beth Giller (St. Mark, East Toledo), Discipline Committee term ending in 2025.

Rev. Adam Taylor (OLFC), Discipline Committee term ending in 2026.

Rev. Janine Shearer (Emanuel, Napoleon), Consultation Committee, term ending in 2025.

Rev. Drew Tucker (Hopewood Outdoors), Consultation Committee, term ending in 2026.

Motion to approve by was made by Pastor Brenda Peconge and seconded by Kathy Jurrus. Motion was approved.

Action SC24.15 of Retirement

“At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the retirement statuses of Rev. Mark Bogen, Rev. Jim Wenger, Rev. Martin Billmeier, Rev. Ed Wahl, Rev. Holli Burkard, Rev. Ann Marshall, Rev. Rich Genzman and Rev. Mark Rich”.

Motion to approve was made by Cindy Harris and seconded by Wendy Bauer. Moved was approved.

Action SC24.16 Approval of On Leave from Call (OLFC)

“At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the OLFC status of:

Rev. Dan Gutman, 5/26/2024 (1)

Rev. Jake Nekoranec, 6/30/24 (1), from East Toledo going to active duty in North Carolina.

Motion to approve was made by Jerusha Walker and seconded by Kevin Swagler. Motion was approved.

Action SC24.17 Appointment of Synod Authorized Ministers

“At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the following Synod Authorized Ministers to serve the designated locations until December 31, 2025:

Mary Miller, St. Paul, North Star/St. John, Celina

Dave Gerfen, St. Paul, Prospect

Eric Corns, Sonfire by the River, and Bethlehem Pemberville

Jerusha Walker, Trinity, Galion

Beth Kieffer, Grace, Castalia

Frank Raeske at St. John, Toledo

Motion to approve was made by Pastor Ashley Rosa-Ruggieri and seconded by Rodney West-Estell. Motion was approved.

Action SC24.18 Approval of Invitation to Extended Service

“Upon the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the Invitation to Extended Service to Rev. Adam Bohland of the United Church of Christ to serve as Pastor of Lutheran Church of Our Saviour and St. Petri, Toledo, Rev. Mark Kuhlman of the United Methodist Church, to serve as pastor of Messiah, Toledo; and Rev. Chris Walter to serve as pastor of Immanuel, Deshler”

Motion to approve was made by Kathy Jurrus and seconded by Beth Kieffer. Motion was approved.

Action SC24.19 Appointment of Eastern Conference Dean

“At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the appointment of Rev. Matt Wheeler to serve as the co-dean of the Eastern Conference.

Motion to approve was made by Kelly Weber and seconded by Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt. Motion was approved.

Action SC24.20 Appointment to Hope Wood Outdoors Ministry

“At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council ratifies the appointment of HopeWood Outdoors Board Member Rev. Jarrod Schaaf to serve as the Northwestern Ohio Synod proxy for the Reincorporation of HopeWood Outdoor Ministries as a Non-Profit Corporation.

Motion to approve was made by Cindy Harris and seconded by Wendy Bauer. Motion was approved.

Action SC24.21 Appointment to the Board of Directors for Hope Wood Outdoors Ministry

“At the recommendation of the Bishop, and at the request of the Rev. Drew Tucker, Executive Director for HopeWood Outdoor Ministries, Synod Council appoints Rev. Janine Shearer to serve a second term on the Board of Directors of HopeWood Outdoor Ministries”.

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

Action SC24.22 Approve the Release of Zion Lutheran Church in Lafayette “Having received notification of termination of affiliation in accordance with the constitutions of this Church, Synod Council approves the disaffiliation of Zion Lutheran Church in Lafayette on September 21, 2024”

Motion to approve was made by Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt and seconded by Pastor Ashley Rosa-Ruggieri. Motion was approved.

9. Vice-President’s Report

Nancy Yunker shared there was a summer break from zoom meetings. September 28 sat in on a technology program.

10. Financial Reports and Update

Shea McGrew highlighted the financial reports that were found on pages 16-19 of the Synod Council packet.

11. Administrative Updates

Seeking to hire a communications manager.
Looking into an interim plan.

12. Bishop Daniel reviewed pages 9- 11 Rostor /Parish Report of the Synod Council packet. He asked for us to keep all in prayer.

13. Good for the order:

- a. Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Hessville will be closing on Reformation Sunday, October 27, 2024.
- b. Pastor Sarah encouraged those that are able to join the 5K for Hunger on October 19th at the Swan Creek Metropark in Toledo.

14. Sending Blessing

15. Future Meetings:

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| a. December 14, 2024 | Community of Christ, Whitehouse (please note location change.) |
| b. January 25, 2025 | Zoom |
| c. May 3, 2025 | TBD |
| d. September 20, 2025 | TBD |
| f. December 13, 2025 | TBD |