

# Approved Synod Council Minutes

## January 25, 2025 | Zoom

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

**Staff Members:** Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Deacon Sherry Krieger, Pastor Sarah Schaaf, Cassie Mugler, Linda Henschen

**Absent:** Caitlin Brink

1. **Welcome and Devotions** led by Bishop Daniel, Isaiah 55:1-3 Restoration and Renewal\* vs. 3a remember incline your ear and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

2. **Approval of Synod Council Minutes** with correction: December 14, 2024.

The motion to approved was made by Clark Price and seconded by Kevin Swagler. Motion was approved.

3. **Review of Executive Committee Decisions:** December 19, 2024.

4. **Special Guest: Pastor Deb Monnin Support Pastor of Trinity, Moulton.** Pastor Monnin shared her report on **Connecting, Noticing, Wondering**, Southwest Ohio Conference- Holy Experiment Update.

We **Connect** in the community and across the synod. When congregations are without pastors, they can call upon me to preach and lead worship or they can participate in our group Confirmation Class led by Pastor Melodi. What we are finding, over a period of time of being together is that we build a relationship where we are to **Notice** and then name the laments and hopes in the community. As the Holy Spirit works and nudges and opens our eyes, we begin to **Wonder** what might be possible.

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

2025 is the Year of Listening, “Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live...” Isaiah 55:3a

A Year of Values Holy Habitus, Lifelong Learning, Liminal Leadership, Selfless Surrender

- Why values? Because the way that we behave in the pursuit of our God given mission matters.

Pursue the Northwestern Ohio Synod’s Mission (4 Key Areas in 2025)

- Reengage the Fresh Expressions Movement for Dual Transformation
- Secure Funding and Develop an Initiative to Further Equip Leaders
- Run a Successful \$100,000 Annual Fund Campaign

- Intentionally Build Relationships with the National and Global Church through Scheduled Events and Travel Opportunities.

Cassie shared updates to the website. [nwos-elca.org/listening](http://nwos-elca.org/listening)

#### **6. Pastor Sarah Schaaf Update**

- Growing in Faith Ohio Diakonia is going well.
- Youth Experience; Goal to partner across synods to offer an all-Ohio youth experience.  
Event: all Ohio summer Youth Retreat, June 29-July 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Fresh Expressions: goal; focus my education on experiences related to fresh expressions.  
Sandusky hosting Gathered to Scatter April 25 & 26.

#### **7. Deacon Sherry Krieger Update**

- 2025 year of Listening, Devotionals are ready at [www.nwos-elca.org](http://www.nwos-elca.org).
- Summer Academy notice will go out soon. Sherry and Elise Willeau, Harvard trained Conflict Mediator and Communication Specialist will offer training.
- Re-engaging Fresh Expressions: A book to look at is GODSEND by Micheal Moynagh

#### **8. Calla Gilson Update**

- Quarter Four in 2024  
God is doing incredible things in our communities and around the world! This past fall, the Global Mission Board blessed Wellington and Moja Kamala as they return to Tanzania where their work to grow sustainable food practices and equip young people with educational and career-readiness training in his home village of Kashasha. Individual givers and the GMB supported this work with a gift of over \$11,200.
- Looking Ahead to 2025  
Exciting things are on the horizon in 2025! This year, Columbus, Ohio will host the ELCA World Hunger Leaders Gathering, where folks who work on alleviating hunger in their communities across the US will come to be equipped to further their work. Serving on the planning committee for the second year, I am so excited that folks are going to be coming to our back yard. We've begun exploring the theme of Creating a Food Secure Future that has taken us on site visits of vertical agriculture and hydroponic growing systems, to grocery-store style pantries!

#### **9. Synod Council Roster and Parish Actions**

##### **Action SC25.01 Ratification of an ELCA Church Council Call**

"At the recommendation of the Bishop, the Northwestern Ohio Synod Council ratifies the ELCA Church Council call for Rev. Jacob Nekoranec to serve as a Federal Chaplain in the United States Army".

The motion to approve was made by Pastor Melanie Haack and seconded by Kathy Jurrus. Motion was approved.

**Action SC25.02 Appointment of Synod Authorized Minister (SAM)**

“At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the appointment of Alan Fuhrhop to serve as a Synod Authorized Minister at Bethlehem, Okolona as a TEEM Candidate through December 31, 2025.”

The motion to approve was made by Cindy Harris and seconded by Beth Kieffer. Motion was approved.

**10. Vice-President’s Report**

VP Nancy Yunker reported that the VP’s from the church wide synod’s still meet monthly and that they will be recognized at the church wide assembly for their work this year. One of their recent activities- educating on grant writing.

**11. Financial Reports and Approval of the 2025-26 Mission Spending Plan**

Shea McGrew, Clark Price and Linda Henschen shared the finance reports and Statement of Financial Position.

**a. Action SC25.03 Approval of the 2025/26 Mission Spending Plan**

“Synod Council approves the updated 2025/26 Mission Spending Plan.”

The motion was made by Pastor Melanie Haack and seconded by Kevin Swagler. Motion was approved.

**b. Action SC25.04 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 \$65,000 which is around 5.8%”

The motion to approved was made by Wendy Bauer and seconded by Pastor Ashley Rosa-Ruggieri. Motion was approved.

**12. Administrative Updates**

- a. Bishop Daniel will be working with the Executive Committee in February 2025 to purchase a used vehicle to replace the synod vehicle he currently uses for Synod business, which is a 2014 Ford Escape with 205,000 miles. 2022-2024 Used Ford Escapes are currently priced between \$25-27,000. Funds for this purchase are currently available in the Synod’s Operating Assets Fund.
- b. Linda Henschen will retire once a new person is found. May look in house.
- c. Cassie Mugler shared that she is working with a new database and asked all council members to send her a picture.

### **13. Sending Blessing**

Bishop Daniel sent us off with a blessing.

### **14. Future Meetings:**

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|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| a. May 3, 2025        | Hope Lutheran, Bowling Green |
| b. September 20, 2025 | First Lutheran, Findlay      |
| c. December 13, 2025  | St. John's, Findlay          |