



Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA January 27th, 2018 8:30 am – 1:00 pm

Present: Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Melissa Peper Firestone, Jacob Henry, Phil Koenig, Becky Seibert, Casey Cox, Steve Edmiston, Richard Genzman, Susan Lawrence, Ann Marshall, Dianne Ninke, Deb Noll, Tom Ritter, James Schwabero, Christina Wheeler, Jennifer Pruefer, Brent Gardner, Sherry Keieger

Excused: Peter Bowmer, Jacob Nekoranec, Julie Parsell, Mark Wentz, Cassie Yeager, Cindy Millbury

1. Opening Eucharist 8:30AM **Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin & Rich Genzman**
Pastor Genzman opened with Responsive Prayer. Scripture reading Mark 1:21-28 was read and studied.
2. Business Meeting Call to Order **Melissa Peper Firestone, Vice President**
 - Welcome and Introductions-Meeting opened at 8:35 a.m.
 - **Approval** of 12/9/17 Synod Council Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve made by James Schwabero, 2nd by Casey Cox. Minutes approved
 - Review of Executive Committee Decisions—reviewed, no questions
3. Bishop's Report **Bishop Daniel**
We begin with the Study of Nehemiah-
 1. Teach God's Word—Lead God's People—Leading in Mission and Vision.
 2. Review of the Staff focus for the year 2018. (pg 11) Make and grow disciples of Jesus who lead vital parishioners who transform the world. Staff is studying the Book of Nehemiah so they may grow and model and teach. The year 2018 is the Year of Prayer, the Year 2019 is Mission & Vision –we will look at the Book of Acts. –the Year 2020 is the year of the Bible, and the Year 2021 will be the Year of Generosity or Simplicity
 3. Roster matters—
Approved: Rev. Dr. Brad Binau as Professor of Pastoral Theology at Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University.
(Motion made by Rev. Richard Genzman, 2nd made by Casey Cox.)

Approved: 2nd year of On-leave-from-call-status for Rev. Josh Graber
(Motion made by James Schwabero, 2nd by Phil Koenig)

TRANSFERS IN: Heather Smith Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod-1/9/2018

REMOVED FROM ROSTER: Resigned: Brock Klobe-St. Paul's Prospect

ON LEAVE FROM CALL: Josh Graber (1/28/17), Heather Smith (8/1/12), Jaci Tiell (4/1/17), Jim Wicker (7/1/17), Mandy Oleson (8/8/16), Juli Lejman-

Guy (9/17/17), Ann Parian (10/1/17), Erin Bodestab (11/14/16), Sam Payne (12/3/16), John Mawhirter (12/21/17)

DEATHS: Rev. Richard Carl Beckman – 11/25/17, Rev. Merlin Hoops – 12/22/17

SPECIALIZED Synod Council Call: Rev. Ron Atkins-Genacross, Rev. Julie Beitelschees-Episcopal Contract, Rev. Brad Binau-Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Rev. Dana Bjorlin-Chaplain (St. Vincent, St. Anne, Toledo), Rev. Meg Boger-Chaplain Hospice, Rev. Jim Dumke-Genacross, Rev. Blake Grangaard-Heidelberg College, Deacon Jennifer Heinze-Hospital Chaplain (Zion, Latcha), Rev. Bill Hlavin-Naval chaplain, Washington, Rev. Tim Rothfuss-Chaplain-UTMC, Rev. Joy Schroeder-Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Rev. Michael Shelley-Lutheran School of Theology, Rev. Clyde Singh-Genacross, Deacon Blaire Smith- Marion Correctional Institute Chaplain,

Sawmill review-Event was challenging, Bible study Leader outstanding.

4. March 27, 2018-renewal of vows, April 10 Dr. Kleinhaus installation, Bishop informed SC that he will be serving on Trinity Lutheran Sem. Advisory Board
5. Review of recent readings/continuing education
6. Always Being Made New ELCA campaign -last year-focus on youth and young adults.
7. Social Statement on Women and Justice-focus in 2019-Responses due 9/20/18
8. Conference of Bishops-asked to serve on Methodist and Lutheran
9. New Bishop in FL/Bahamas will meet him in March
10. New Bishops to be elected in: Southwestern Texas, NW Wisconsin, Grand Canyon Synod, South-Central Wisconsin, SE Pennsylvania, Metro New York,

Melissa suggested we ask someone to come from Trinity Seminary to update us. (pg15) suggestion to review those who are on Specialized Synod Council call. Keep all these in daily prayer.

- Entered in to Executive Session to hear a misconduct matter: Motion Diane Ninke, 2nd Deb Noll.

Motion to move out of Executive Session: Rich Genzman, 2nd Brent Gardner, motion approved. No actions were taken during Executive session.

4. Vice President's Report **Melissa Peper Firestone**
Reminder of next Synod Council Meeting—April 14, 2018
5. Secretary's Report **Becky Seibert**
Nothing to report
6. Treasurer's Report **Phil Koenig**
Pgs 17-review of income & expense pg 18
Review of Giving received from congregations.
Review of proposed budget-handout

- **Approved: Action SC 17.07, 2018/19 Budget** (Motion to approve made by Casey Cox, 2nd Sue Lawrence—budget is approved—Prayer offered by Phil K.)

"In accordance with S10.03 of the NWOS constitution, the revised 2018/19 budget has been approved."

7. Administrative Matters

Jacob Henry

- **Approved: Action SC 18.01, Establishment of the Program Year Fund** (motion to approve made by Rich Genzman, 2nd by Tom Ritter, motion approved)

"A Synod Council Designated Fund is to be established to fund additional expenses associated with the NWOS' yearly theme. Oversight and approval of the use of this fund use will be granted to the administrative staff of the synod. The fund will be replenished at the end of each fiscal year by moving funds from the Boerger (cash reserves)Fund."

- **Approved: Action SC 18.02, Establishment of the Candidacy Fund** (motion to approve made by Diane Ninke, 2nd by Sue Lawrence, motion approved)

"A Synod Council Designated Fund is to be established to fund the transition and revitalization of the NWOS' candidacy process. The fund shall be used for transitional staffing and programming needs outside of the budget. Oversight and approval of the use of this fund use will be granted to the administrative staff of this synod."

- **Approved: Action SC 18.03, Closure and Disbursement of Transition Fund** (motion to approve made by James Schwerbero, 2nd by Deb Noll, motion approved)

"The Transition Fund is to be closed effective Jan 31 st and remaining funds shall be disbursed to the following Council Designated funds:

Program Year Fund: \$7,000
 Auto Replacement Fund: \$20,000
 Candidacy Fund: \$10,000
 Rave Scholarships (Theologian in Residence): \$10,000

Monies remaining after the disbursement to the above accounts will be moved to the Building and IT Improvements Fund."

- **Approved: Action SC 18.04, Establishment of the International Travel Fund** (motion to approve made by Sue Lawrence, 2nd by Casey Cox, motion approved)

"A Synod Council Designated Fund is to be established to fund international travel for staff members. The approval and use of the fund will be exercised in accordance with the Expense Policy for Staff Members."

- **Approved: Action SC 18.05, LOMO Board Appointment of Amy Both** (motion to approve made by Brent Gardner, 2^{ng} by Chrissy Wheeler, motion approved)

"Upon recommendation of the LOMO Board, Synod Council has appointed Amy Both as the representative of the NWOS for a three-year term that begins January 1, 2018 and ends December 31, 2020."

Call Process Update

Sherry Krieger

Sherry reviewed the Interim Call Process, explaining the Mapping from beginning to final call of Parishes for vacancy. Teams are looking at this process of this process to respond to the different needs of each congregation.

Handout-20% vacant, soon to be 25% open —Suggestion was made by Brent Gardner to allow Interim to be called to where they are serving as an Interim. He also suggested that there is a Leadership vacuum in most congregations. He would like to see more involvement from Synod as in evaluation of Congregations for leadership. Those type of conversations are happening especially with the use of other tools.

Lift Area Ministry Strategy Update

LIFT Representative

Pastor Scott Mauch gave several handouts along with the Quarterly Report for Lift Council Members from Pam Kensler, LIFT Director of Discipleship & Outreach. Many things that are in process. There are presently eight LIFT Tables: Caring, Worship & Music, Children, Youth & Family, Finance & Administration, Hospitality, Property, Stewardship. There is a quarterly Community Laundry Day where LIFT members go to laundry mats and pay for people's laundry. A Lenten movie night is being planned. Dinner Church-is being planned at Hayes UMC-geared to families and those who have Sunday morning sport events, or those returning from Vacation on Sunday morning, and those who have difficulty feeding themselves. LIFT is currently moving into the ELCA's Future Directions of the 5-Pillars. LIFT is ongoing and growing, Pam Kensler is preaching once a month as well.

LIFT started with St. Johns and Grace Fremont and partners with area Hispanic ministry and Bridge of Hope Ministry-which is an outreach to area migrant workers, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Hessville recently joined LIFT, Faith Lutheran Church Fremont is an associate member. LIFT is made up of 8 churches, 5 pastors.

- **Approved: Action SC 18.06, LIFT AMS Grant** (motion to approve made by Casey Cox, 2nd by Phil Koening, motion approved) prayer offered by Steve Edminston

"Synod Council has approved a one-year grant of \$7,500 to Living in Faith Together (in Fremont) for use towards their Area Ministry Strategy. The grant will be paid out of the Boerger Fund."

Council expressed a preference to hear a review/update of the ministry yearly and before awarding additional grants

For the Good of the Order & What can we do better?

All believe Synod Council continues to be a good balance of enrichment.

Singing and Adjournment Meeting ended at 12:43 p.m. with prayer Jennifer Pruetter

Council Meetings: Apr 14, Sep 8, Dec 1 Synod Assembly: Jun 8-9