

Synod Council Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2022 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Findlay, Ohio

1. Welcome and Devotions

Bishop Beaudoin led centering prayer in sanctuary.

Pastor Sarah Schaaf facilitated welcome/introductions with beach ball questions.

Attendance:

Present: Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Vice-president Nancy Yunker, Treasurer Shea Mc Grew, Secretary Diane Ninke, Casey Cox, Rev. Mindy Elliot, Cindy Harris, Deb Noll, Rev Brenda Peconge, , Clark Price, Rev. Steve Ramsey, Tom Ritter, Rev. Jarrod Schaaf, Michelle Schaffer, and Kelly Weber

Staff: Jacob Henry and Jennifer Prueter

Not present: Wendy Bauer, Brent Gardner, Rev. Melanie Haack, Rev. Robin Owen, Jillian Russell

2. Orientation Part One – Council Overview

Jacob discussed that the meeting packet is sent out prior to meetings so that our meeting can be more efficient and informative.

Since some of information shared in council meeting will be confidential, members are meant to keep that confidentiality. Therefore, all council members are expected to sign and return the Confidentiality Agreement that was given to all members to sign and return to Jacob.

Council meetings are generally four times per year but special meetings may be called that can be in-person, virtual, or e-mail depending upon the need.

Jacob announced that the Central Conference Rostered Minister position on Synod Council should have been included in the Slate of Nominees for the 2022 Assembly but was inadvertently left off. Pastor Steve Ramsey is willing to continue serving on Council from the Central Conference and can be appointed by the council to serve until the next Assembly, which would vote for an individual to serve the remainder of the term.

Action SC22.23 Synod Council Appointment

"Synod Council appoints Pastor Steve Ramsey to the Central Conference Rostered Minister vacancy on Synod Council until the next Synod Assembly."

Casey Cox moved to appoint Pastor Steve Ramsey to serve until the next Assembly, seconded by Pastor Brenda Peconge.

Motion approved.

3. Approval of Minutes from April 30, 2022

Motion to approve by Pastor Jarrod Schaaf, seconded by Tom Ritter.

Motion Approved.

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

Bishop Beaudoin distributed a card with the NWOS mission statement printed on it, and discussed what a mission statement is and specifically what the NWOS mission statement is and what it means.

Bishop handed out his update for Synod Council listing his focus, goals, learnings, and recent and future activities. Bishop will be attending ELCA Church-wide Assembly next week in Columbus. Deacon Sherry Krieger's sabbatical was referenced with coverage of her duties being handled by Mary Satterfield and Pastor Doris Mars. Each will be provided a small stipend for their work.

5. Roster Actions

Action SC22.19 On Leave from Call Approvals:

"At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the On Leave from Call status for Deacon Jennifer Vasquez (year 1).

Motion to approve by Tom Ritter, second by Deb Knoll.

Motion Approved.

Action SC22.20 Retirement Request

"At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the Retirement Status of: Pastor Jim Dumke, Deacon Kevin Kehn, and Pastor Ken Pollitz. In addition, and at the recommendation of the Bishop and the On Leave from Call Review Committee, Synod Council approves Retirement Status of Pastor Bill Schroeder upon his agreement of the Committee's stipulations which were outlined in the Committee's report."

Motion to approve by Michelle Schaffer, second by Clark Rice.

Motion Approved.

Action SC22.21 Appointment of Synod Authorized Ministers

"At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council appoints the following individuals to serve as Synod Authorized Ministers for their designated location through December 31, 2022: Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt for Zion Sandusky, Clione Schneider for Calvary, Northwood and Christ, Dowling Parish, and Deb Noll for St Paul, Jenera."

Motion to approve by Pastor Jarrod Schaaf, second by Casey Cox.

Discussion followed with concerns about the SAM program. Further discussion will take place at September Council meeting following discussion/actions at Church-wide Assembly in August.

Motion approved with one abstention.

Action SC22.22 Synod Council Call to Intentional Interim Ministry

"At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council extends a call to Pastor Beth Westphal to serve as an Intentional Interim."

Motion to approve by Pastor Brenda Peconge, second by Tom Ritter.

Motion Approved.

6. **Financial Presentation** – led by Treasurer Shea McGrew

Shea will lead a financial presentation including an overview of the Finance Team's work and their recommendations regarding the synod's financial structure, investment strategy, and simplification of the synods' funds and accounts.

We will also continue the Council's discussion on seeking a Consultation with Churchwide (the national ELCA) about changing our synod's Proportionate Share (the percentage of our income that we pass on to Churchwide/national ELCA).

The Finance Team (Jim Deer, Clark Price, Shea McGrew, Jacob Henry, and Bishop Beaudoin) made the following recommendations for their work:

- Simplify financial structure and reduce volume of accounts
- Consolidate all council designated funds into endowment fund
- Fund some operating expenses through endowment returns or with certain donor restricted funds.

The following recommendations were made for the NWOS Council to consider at future meetings:

- Sell NWOS building
- Fundraising
- Reduction in proportionate share to Church wide from 51% to 40% (Council, Assembly, and Church-wide approval and input—2024 earliest change could take place)

Clark Price distributed a handout of Revenue/Expense Forecast Model through 2027-2028 which provided a snapshot of NWOS revenues and expenses as an aid in understanding the reasoning behind the above recommendations.

7. **Administrative Updates: Jacob Henry**

Synodical Inquiry Process: Jacob led the Council through the latest draft of the Synodical Inquiry Process which was given to all present. This process will be presented at the September Council meeting for action.

OLFC Review Process

The draft review process presented in April 2022 is currently on hold, pending possible changes to OLFC by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly this August. We will review any action taken by the CWA (making revisions as necessary) and present an updated policy to the council, likely in December 2022 or January 2023.

Possible Sale of the Synod Office

NWOS staff members are currently in conversation with St. John's in Findlay to rent office space, and with the other tenants in the NWOS

building on Bright Road concerning their interest in buying the current NWOS office building. Depending on the movement of the conversations, formal Council action may be taken in September.

8. For the Good of the Order and Sending and Blessing:

Pastor Brenda Peconge shared highlights of the Global Mission Board trip to Serbia. The Global Mission Board is looking for ways to assist with their needs with elder care and more.

Pastor Jarrod Schaaf – LOMO Board is now Doing Business as: **Hopewood Outdoors**. The board is looking to provide a more concise picture of what is going on and encouraging continuation of mission. There is an open position for a lay male from the NW Ohio (Legal and/or property background would be helpful and loves camps and outdoors)

Blessing by Bishop Beaudoin

Meeting adjourned Tom Ritter moved and Pastor Jarrod Schaaf seconded the motion to adjourn.

Upcoming Meetings:

September 17, 2022, 9am-noon

December 10, 2022, 9am-noon
