

Synod Council Minutes

January 21, 2023, at Grace in Toledo Ohio

1. **Welcome and Devotions** led by Pastor Mindy Elliott with a short introduction to Grace Lutheran Church by Bob Haar.

Attendance: Bishop Beaudoin, Nancy Yunker, Shea McGrew, Diane Ninke, Rev. Mindy Elliott, Brent Gardner, Rev. Melanie Haack, Deb Noll, Rev. Robin Owen, Rev. Brenda Peconge, Clark Price, Tom Ritter, Rodney West-Estell

Synod Staff: Jacob Henry, Rev. Sarah Schaaf, Deacon Sherry Krieger

Absent: Wendy Bauer, Casey Cox, Cindy Harris, Rev. Steve Ramsey, Jillian Russell, Michelle Schaffer, and Kelly Weber.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

December 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Deb Noll and Melanie Haack moved and seconded a motion to accept minutes. Approved

Review of Executive Committee Decisions

Brent Gardner and Tom Ritter moved and seconded a motion to accept the Ex. Committee Decisions. Approved.

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

2023 is the Year of Story for the Northwestern Ohio Synod. Bishop shared three stories of faith and service. See Bishop's Report (Pages 11-14)

Liminal Leadership—leading into new reality – the space between historic and new (Learning: Greek—right thinking and more passive: Hebraic—direct investment and mentoring/apprenticeship: inherited church and emerging church—how to navigate the space between. Dual transformation – hybrid model. NWOS Diakonia program is an example of this hybrid investment model.

4. **Roster Actions**

Action SC23.01 Synod Council Calls

“At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council extends a call to Deacon Jennifer Vasquez to serve as the Executive Director of the Multifaith Council of Toledo, and a call to Pastor Rick Jensen for intentional interim ministry.”

Brent Gardner and Rev. Brenda Peconge moved and seconded a motion to approve the recommendation. Approved.

Action SC23.02 Approval of OLFC

“At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the on leave from call status of: Pastor Brandi Bailie year 3 (Family Leave), and Pastor Meg Boger year 3.”

Tom Ritter Deb Noll moved and seconded a motion to approve the recommendation. Approved.

5. Vice-President's Report

Nancy Yunker emphasized the importance of small groups within our parishes. How do we assess and then provide the leadership skills to help facilitate growing small group initiatives and provide the support? Looking for churches willing to participate in a pilot program.

6. Financial Report

Audit Report

Required annual audit is required by the ELCA. Jacob Henry highlighted some portions of the audit report completed last summer. Issues found have been and are being addressed. The audit was a “clean” audit.

Shea Mc Grew presented the financial report. Jacob Henry highlighted portions of the 2023/24 Spending Plan, and Clark Price helped explain the proportionate sharing change.

Action SC23.03 Approval of the 2023/24 Spending Plan

“Synod Council approves the revised 2023/24 Spending Plan including a proportionate share of 40% of Mission Support income, and at the end of the year, will consider an additional gift should revenue exceed projections.”

Corrected number for professional expense and continuing ed is \$14,000 instead of \$1500. Total operating expenses would be \$1,526,700 and the total net operation total would be (\$15,221).

Bishop Beaudoin and Clark Price moved and seconded to amend the motion to include “and at the end of the year, will consider an additional gift should revenue exceed projections”. Motion to amend approved.

Rev Robin Owen and Tom Ritter moved to approve the amended spending plan action. Approved.

Action SC23.05 Designation/Disbursement of Office Sale Proceeds

"Synod Council approves the following allocation of net proceeds from the Bright Road office sale, totaling \$479,633.95: 10% donation to ELCA Mission Support, 45% to the synod's Endowment Fund, and 45% to the synod's operating reserves."

Deb Noll and Melanie Haack moved and seconded the motion to approve the action. Approved.

7. Administrative Updates

Action SC23.06 DR and Endowment Disbursement Policy

"Synod Council approves the Donor Restricted and Endowment Disbursement Policy."

Correction to page 20, B. Candidacy and Training: "if operating candidacy/training expense exceeds the operating candidacy/training revenue,"

Robin Owen and Deb Noll moved and seconded a motion to approve the action. Approved.

Nomination Process for the ELCA "Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church"
PROPOSED NOMINATION PROCESS FOR NWOS' NOMINEES:

1. Synod Council members may submit potential nominees and a brief 2-3 sentence bio by February 9, 2023
2. All potential nominees (and brief bios) will be collated the info will be sent out to all Synod Council members
3. Council members have a week to review the list/bios of all potential nominees and vote via email, for two individuals
4. The two individuals receiving the most votes will be our synod's nominees and asked to complete and return a formal nominee bio form by March 2, 2023

Additional information on this commission, including time commitments for the commission, can be found here: <https://elca.org/crlc>

8. For the Good of the Order and Sending Blessing

Proposed Upcoming Meetings:

April 29, 2023, 9am-noon St. Paul Lutheran Jenera, Ohio 9340 Township Rd. 32, Jenera, Ohio 45841

September 16, 2023, 9am-noon

December 16, 2023, 9am-noon
