

## **Synod Council Minutes**

April 29, 2023, at St Paul's in Jenera Ohio

**Attending:** Bishop Beaudoin, Nancy Yunker, Diane Ninke, Shea McGrew, Wendy Bauer, Casey Cox, Rev. Mindy Elliott, Brent Gardner, Rev. Melanie Haack, Cindy Haris, Deb Noll, Rev. Robin Owen, Rev. Brenda Peconge, , Rev. Steve Ramsey, Thomas Ritter, Jillian Russell, Michelle Schaffer, Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt, Kelly Weber, Rodney West-Estell

**Staff:** Jacob Henry, Jennifer Prueter

**Absent:** Clark Price

1. **Welcome and Devotions:** Deb Noll led a devotional based upon the shipwreck story of Paul. Two members of St. Paul told the shipwreck story of the founding of the church and the building of the new facility.
2. **Bishop's Report and Teaching Time** – Led by Bishop Daniel  
Devotional based on the Story of the Man with the Withered Hand
  - a. Trip to Tanzania (May 1-11): May 7, Christian Ndossa will be consecrated as the new bishop of the Dodoma Diocese (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania)
  - b. Summer Sabbatical—Bishop will be on sabbatical June 5 through September 3, 2023
  - c. ELCA –Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church
    - i. 35 voting members—3 from each of nine regions, plus additional synodical members
    - ii. Reviewing all three expressions of the ELCA (church, synod, church-wide) Structure
    - iii. Meeting for two years beginning spring 2023 with final report in 2025
  - d. Staff Changes—
    - i. Jacob Henry taking position as Director of Music at Zoar Lutheran in Perrysburg
    - ii. Synod Administrator position
      1. Office operations—physical plant
      2. Finance and business
      3. Legal and policy
      4. Misconduct and conflict
      5. Synod council and committee
    - iii. Two new positions from this one
      1. Governance Specialist (Legal and Misconduct)
        - Part-time = \$6000 per year
        - 20 hours per month
        - Jacob will continue in this position
      2. Business Manager
        - Finance and business
        - Ministerial compensation
        - Synod Council

- Jacob will continue temporarily to train the new business manager
- e. Updates on roster changes
- f. 2024 – Year of Sabbath: Rest and Release
  - i. Genesis 2:3 So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that He had done in creation.
  - ii. Hebrew 4:9 So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God;
  - iii. Still working on it
- g. Holy Land Pilgrimage 2024

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

January 21, 2023 Synod Council Minutes

Motion: Michelle Schaffer and Casey Cox moved and seconded to accept minutes. Approved

Review of Executive Committee Decisions

### **4. Roster Actions**

The detailed roster report is included in the packet.

#### **Action SC23.07 Approval of Synod Council Calls**

“Synod Council extends a call to Pastor LeeAnn Pomrenke to serve on the faculty of Faith + Lead at Luther Seminary, and Pastor Annette Griffin to serve as pastor/chaplain at Majestic Care in Toledo.”

**Motion:** Brent Gardner and Wendy Bauer moved and seconded motion to approve. Action approved.

#### **Action SC23.08 Approval of Retirement**

“Synod Council approves the retirement status of Pastor Clyde Singh.”

**Motion:** Cindy Harris and Melanie Haack moved and seconded motion to approve. Action approved.

#### **Action SC23.09 Approval of On Leave From Call**

“Synod Council approves the on leave from call status of Pastor Rob Johnson (year 4), Pastor Mark Rich (year 3) and Pastor Aaron Baughman (year 4).”

**Motion:** Deb Noll and Tom Ritter moved and seconded motion to approve. Action approved.

### **5. Vice-President's Report**

- a. Small group development initiative
- b. Acknowledgement of Outgoing Synod Council Members

The following council members' terms are ending after this meeting:

- Casey Cox
- Pastor Mindy Elliot
- Brent Gardner
- Deb Noll

- Tom Ritter

## **6. Financial Report**

Draft Financial Statements for the 2022/23 fiscal year are included in the packet. Shea McGrew presented the report. Financial trend in recent years has been declining. Still searching for a director of generosity to work full-time who will put more emphasis on finances. Jacob Henry reported on the audit – all going well. The Managerial Financial Reports were explained.

## **7. Administrative Updates**

### **Action SC23.10 Constitution Updates**

“Synod Council approves the constitutional updates for St Petri Toledo, St Matthew’s Lima, St Paul’s Waldo.”

**Motion:** Tom Ritter and Deb Noll moved and second motion to approve. Action Approved.

### **Action SC23.11 Appointment of the Compensation Guideline Taskforce**

“Synod Council appoints the following individuals to propose updates to the synod’s Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers, to be approved by the 2024 Synod Assembly: Pastor Katie Suggitt (Grace Castalia), Shea McGrew (council treasurer), Tom Ritter (lay person), Pastor Robin Owen (rostered minister), and, Casey Cox (lay person.”

**Motion:** Cindy Harris and Kelly Weber moved and seconded a motion to approve. Action approved.

### **Action SC23.12 Assembly Date for 2024**

“The 2024 Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly will be held on Saturday June 1, 2024 at St Mark’s Lutheran Church in Bowling Green OH.”

**Motion:** Kelly Webber and Rev. Brenda Peconge moved and seconded a motion to approve. Action approved.

### **For the Good of the Order:**

Brent Gardner expressed concern about the length of time the call process takes and the process itself.

Deb Noll presented an opportunity to attend a Chalk Talk by artist Alva Hurst on August 15 at St. Paul, Jenera.

September 16, 2023, Meeting St. Peter, Norwalk, Ohio

December 16, 2023. Meeting at Providence Lutheran, Holland, Ohio

Adjourned