

## **Synod Council Meeting Minutes**

September 16, 2023, at St. Peter's Norwalk

**Attending:** Bishop Beaudoin, Nancy Yunker, Diane Ninke, Shea McGrew, Wendy Bauer, Caitlin Brink, Rev. Melanie Haack, Cindy Harris, Kathy Jurrus, Rev. Robin Owen, Rev. Brenda Peconge (via Zoom), Rev. Steve Ramsey, Rev. Ashley Rosa-Ruggieri, Jillian Russell, Michelle Schaffer, Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt, Kevin Swagler, Jerusha Walker, Kelly Weber, and Deacon Rodney West-Estell

**Synod Staff:** Jennifer Prueter, Jacob Henry, Sherry Kieger, Linda Henschen

**Absent:** Clark Price

### **1. Welcome and Devotions**

Michelle Schaffer led opening and shared some of the history of St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, Norwalk.

### **2. Welcome of New Members**

Members' introductions

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

- April 2023 Synod Council Minutes  
Synod Council Minutes April 29: Motion to approved by Michelle Schaffer, second by Melanie Haack **Approved as written.**
- Review of Executive Committee Decisions  
Shared

### **4. Bishop's Report and Teaching Time**

- a. **2024: Year of Sabbath:** Rest and Release (Hebrew Shabbat—stop, rest, and release Genesis: rest and sacred
  - Homework: As you ponder the coming new year, how might you observe the SABBATH in a new way?
- b. **Tanzania:** Delegation from NWOS trip for installation/consecration of new bishop (Bishop, Rev. Ashley Rosa-Ruggieri, Rev. Brenda Peconge, and Sherry Kieger shared their experiences and impressions of this spiritual journey)
  - Bishop Christian Ndossa had a stroke recently...prayers for him
  - Prayers for the Dodoma Diocese
- c. **Summer Sabbatical—**
  - Rest and release -- and relaxation
  - Began and ended in monastic communities
  - Nature time: off the grid, hiking
- d. **Director of Generosity**
  - Still working on filling this position

## 5. Roster Actions

- **Consent Agenda Motion on SC23.13 and SC23.14.** Kevin Swagler moved and Michelle Schaffer seconded motion to approve. **Motion approved**

### **Action SC23.13 Approval of Retirement**

“At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the retirement status of Pastor Beth Huener.”

### **Action SC23.14 Approval of On Leave From Call**

“At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the on leave from call status of Pastor Michael Hughes (year 1), and Pastor Adam Taylor (year 3 study leave).”

- **Consent Agenda Motion for SC23.15 and SC23.16** Steve Ramsey moved and Kathy Jurrus seconded the motion to approve. **Motion approved.**

### **Action SC23.15 Appointment of Synod Authorized Ministers**

“At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the following Synod Authorized Ministers to serve the designated locations until December 31, 2024:

Jacinda Jones, Arcadia-Findlay Cooperative (St John's Findlay and Trinity Arcadia)

Andrea McDonough, St John's Celina

Helena Morris, Hope Hamler

Jon Rhodes, Disciples of Christ Parish Along the Maumee River (Zion Waterville and St Paul Haskins)

Jim Martin, Faith Toledo

Donna Warren, Trinity Malinta

Robert Glenn, English Bluffton

Matthew Furth, Christ Carey.”

### **Action SC23.16 Appointment of Co-Dean**

“At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the appointment of Pastor Carol Pretorius to serve as the co-dean of the Southwestern Conference.”

## 6. Vice-President's Report

- **Action SC23.17 Election of Executive Committee member**  
“Synod Council appoints Rodney West-Estell to serve on the Executive Committee.” **Synod Council ballot vote.**

## 7. Financial Report

- Jacob Henry reported:  
New format to financial statements and fund designations.
- Shea McGrew reported:  
The charge to finance committee: How to position NWOS to fund administration AND ministry/mission of NWOS?  
Create a financial model that looks five years into the future.
- **Synod financial year is from February 1 to January 31.**

**8. Administrative Updates**

• **Action SC23.18 Appointment of the Compensation Guideline Taskforce**

“Synod Council appoints Rev. Ashley Rosa-Ruggieri to the Compensation Guidelines Taskforce.”

Rev, Steve Ramsey moved and Michelle Schaffer seconded the motion.

**Motion Approved.**

• **Action SC23.19 Approval of the Separation Guidelines**

“Synod Council approves the Separation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers.”

Rev. Melanie Haack moved and Wendy Bauer seconded motion.

**Motion Approved.**

**9. For the Good of the Order**

a. **Bishop Daniel: Year-end ASK**

- ASK goal: \$100,000
- Imagining Renewal Micro Grants

**10. Meetings:**

- |                                      |                           |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. December 16, 2023                 | Providence, Holland       |
| b. January 20, 2024                  | St. John's, Findlay       |
| c. April 13, 2024 (note date change) | Zion, Sandusky            |
| d. June 1, 2024 -- Synod Assembly    | St. Mark's, Bowling Green |
| e. September 21, 2024                | St. Paul, Coldwater       |
| f. December 14, 2-24                 | Trinity, Wauseon          |

**11. Sending Blessing**