



# Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## Synod Council Meeting Minutes April 1, 2017 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

**Present:** Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Melissa Peper Firestone, Phil Koenig, Pam Kensler, Cindy Milbry, Richard Genzman, Jacob Nekoranec, Christina Wheeler, Sherry Krieger, Diane Ninke, Peter Bowmer, Darlene Weaver, Tom Ritter, James Schwabero, Mark Wentz, Nancy Green, Juli Lejman-Guy, Jennifer Pruetter, Casey Cox, Sue Lawrence, Julie Parsell, Deb Noll, Kent Wilson, Steve Edmiston, Jacob Henry

**Absent:** Cassie Yeager

1. Opening Eucharist 8:30AM **Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin**
  
2. Business Meeting Call to Order **Melissa Peper Firestone, Vice President**
  - Welcome and Introductions
  - Approval of 1/28/17 Synod Council Meeting Minutes, no amendments or corrections, Juli Lejman-Guy move, Phil Koenig second, minutes approved
  - Approval of 3/28/17 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, no amendments or corrections, Pam Kensler move, Cindy Milbry second, minutes approved
  - Appointment of Casey Cox, Central Conference Lay Julie Parsell move to appoint, Sue Lawrence second, appointment approved
  - Appointment of Tim Niemeyer, Synod Assembly Parliamentarian –member of Grace, Castalia and serves as parliamentarian for the FFA, clarification that it is for appointment for this assembly (and future assemblies would be appointed at that time), Deb Noll move, Richard Genzman second, appointment approved
  
3. Bishop's Report **Bishop Daniel**
  - Bishop's Report
    - Reviewed 8 working principles
    - What's the difference between a disciple and a member? Conversation held distinguishing the difference—call to work on the cultural shift between membership and disciple building
    - Ephesians 4:11-12 focus verses as discussing teamwork over silos and the gifts of the spirit, Paul calls us to the full complement of Pastors, Teachers, Apostles, Prophets, and Evangelists
    - Spiritual toddler vs. spiritual redwood exemplifies the need to look at spiritual maturity as we consider selecting leaders within congregations and staff, some of which requires helping those already identified to know where they are gifted
  - Roster and Parish Matters - On Leave from Call, Transitions in/out, death
    - Jaci Tiel, On Leave from Call – request for renewal of year 2 for on leave from call status, presented as motion by Bishop Daniel, James Schwabero second, on leave from call status approved
    - Merlin Jacobs, Retirement –May 21, 2017, currently serving as an interim pastor under synod council call, Bishop Daniel moved, Phil Koenig second, retirement approved
    - ALT Community, fiscal and organizational oversight has now moved to new nonprofit organization and asset transfer agreement was approved by executive committee with prior review by synod attorney
    - Threshold Church, ended Sunday morning worship two Sundays ago, the ministry will be closing, Jack Eggleston who is serving as interim DEM will guide the closing process, Tom Schaeffer has interviewed with call facilitators to consider calls elsewhere

- Other highlights
  - March 25<sup>th</sup> officiated ordination for Paul Meyers; attended Come to Go Church in Fort Wayne
  - April 2 Ordination in Chicago, April 11 renewal of vows service, April 27 Retirees lunch which is a new way to honor those that have retired or are recently retired as we look to move away from annual synod assemblies, May 4 speaking at Heroin Summit, May 25 Ordination anniversary celebration luncheon, July 29 Reformation Crawl from 10-2
    1. Request from Kent Wilson for broader sharing of the retirees and ordination anniversary celebrations so that the whole community/synod can join in the celebration
    2. Julie Parsell shared the tentative Reformation Crawl schedule which will be finalized this week which will be held July 29 & October 21
  - August 10-11 Global Leadership Summit will have consideration for the synod to help sponsor it
  - Highlighted the Ephesian bible study available for download on the Synod website; review of Brand Luther book as well as the Reading Guide available; have plans to provide a study for Luther's Small Catechism for the fall
- Rhythm of the Year as Bishop (an adjustment from parish ministry)
  - Summer: plan for the coming year
  - Fall: kick off vision of coming year during fall conference meetings
  - Winter: have resources for the coming year's theme ready by Jan. 1; Jan. 1 begin teaching and leading utilizing resources; focus on pastors and deacons
  - Spring: renewal of vows service, May/June synod assembly preparation
  - September close out teaching of yearly theme with theological convocation
- Council conversation around "what are you tinkering with?"
- Trinity in Malinta update, made a big difference to have a team of pastors present for the conversation in the congregation, rather than just the bishop and a staff member
- St. John in Bellevue, looking to invite synod council members in addition to local pastors and conference dean as the conversation develops
- Holy Trinity in Toledo, looking at a pilot program for a three year term call "with a purpose", invited congregation into 40 days of prayer prior to making a decision and are now in a time of 40 days of planning as they look to implement the term call for an interim call
- Staffing Review, where we are currently and where God is leading us
  - Summary of staffing approvals made to date
  - Program Assistant has 4 primary areas: events, oversight of reception activities, administrative support, and volunteer management
    1. Note that all positions have a current description but have a vision to grow and develop in new ways
    2. Hope is that the position will grow into more of an event and volunteer management role but has the reality of current needs related to reception/administrative assistant tasks
  - Interim DEM "on loan" which has allowed us the time to discern the best role for the DEM to fulfill in NWOS
    1. In March Daniel had a candid meeting with Stephen Bouman in Chicago which led to a compromise that honors the direction Daniel has for the position
    2. Domestic Mission will serve as the fiscal agent while the supervision and call of the position will be done locally, this does not require a change in the proposed budget as we will not withhold any mission support to Churchwide
    3. Title of position is: Director for Leadership Development and Congregational Vitality
    4. This position has been approved by Domestic Missions

5. Julie Parsell recommended a consensus agreement for the job description and direction the position is headed (no actual motion is necessary for this position to go forward), unanimous consensus
6. Position will be posted for 30 days through the ELCA
  - o Assistant to the Bishop position will now be reviewed within the context of the DEM position now being resolved
  - o Goal is to have full staff in place by August 1
  - o Program Assistant position will be posted online, there will be two rounds of interviews as well as a staff lunch to test for chemistry

4. Treasurer's Report

**Phil Koenig**

- Mission Support and Financials Update
  - o High level summary, last year was our best financial year during Phil's term as treasurer, key was mission support being at budgeted levels for the year and expenses below budget
  - o Cash standpoint remains very positive
- Revised 2017/18 budget discussion of key line items to note– the DEM position remains the same as past years with the same 51% being sent to Churchwide, line item 5 does reflect the receipt of income to cover expenses for the DEM position; archive expenses now have a better estimate of cost as \$9600; line item 21 is adjusted to get to a balanced budget which allows for presentation of a completely balanced budget; line item 29 indicates depreciation associated with the purchase of the bishop's used vehicle;
- Proposed 2018/19 budget discussion of key line items to note– increase of wages reflected in budget; there are new regulations related to non-profit accounting that do require differentiation in the budget; line item 51 office equipment depreciation
- Thanks given to Jacob, Mary and Joy for the hard work in compiling the budget
- Revision 3 of current 2017/2018 budget, Julie Parsell move to approve revision, Steve Edmiston second, adoption approved
- Proposed 2018/2019 budget to be presented to synod assembly, Darlene Weaver move to accept proposed budget, Diane Ninke second, budget approved for presentation

5. Vice President's Report

**Melissa Peper Firestone**

- July 29<sup>th</sup> Synod Council Meeting is a conflict now due to Women of the ELCA conference and the timing of the Reformation Crawl; will now have the Synod Council Meeting on August 5<sup>th</sup>
  - o Morning vision meeting with short business meeting beginning at 8:30 and family invited to attend the cookout from 11:30-1:30
- Orientation for new members will be held prior to the August 5<sup>th</sup> meeting based on availability of those elected, Jacob and Bishop Daniel will facilitate the orientation time

6. Secretary's Report

**Pam Kensler**

- Thanks offered for Pam's service as this is her final synod council meeting
- 5 incumbents are up for election at assembly: Casey Cox, Juli Lejman-Guy, Jacob Nekoranec, Deb Noll, and Darlene Weaver

7. Mission & Administrative Matters

**Jacob Henry**

- LOMO Constitution Change
  - o Propose change to allow those who are not members of ELCA congregations to serve on the board
  - o Julie Parsell moved to approve the constitutional change with request that the bishop or bishop's representative use their voice to have conversation about the direction/mission of the camps and how it fits into our discipleship model, Steve Edmiston second, majority voted for motion pass

LUNCH blessing offered by Peter Bowmer

- 2016 Appeal, Global Mission Fund Split **Jacob Henry**
    - The 10% designated will be evenly split between our two companion synods in Tanzania and Serbia
  - Biannual Assembly, Bylaw **Bishop Daniel**
    - Second reading, reminder that the change allows for the flexibility to have a different focus in years that a business assembly is not necessary
    - Vote passed to present the change at synod assembly
  - Call Process Update **Sherry Krieger**
    - Sherry reviewed the current congregations in call process
    - Provided a summary of staff time as it relates to places of joy and congregations of concern
    - Deb Noll offered prayer in response to information provided
  - Assembly Update **Jacob Henry**
    - Registration closed April 15, about 380 have registered to date
    - Assembly will begin at St. Aloysius in BG on Friday evening
    - Saturday will be all day at the Student Union in BG
    - Saturday will be live streamed and looking into possibility for Friday evening to also be live streamed
    - Youth Assembly has also opened registration and will begin Friday evening with a lock-in at St. Marks in Bowling Green
  - St Paul's, Toledo; St. John's, New Washington; Trinity, Wauseon Constitution Approval **Jacob Henry**
    - All have updated constitutions in conversation with synod staff and all have been reviewed to not be in conflict with ELCA guidelines
    - James Schwabero moved to approve all constitutional changes, Cindy Milbry second, all constitutions approved
  - Reappointment to Trinity Seminary Board **Bishop Daniel**
    - Carrie Cubberley, July 31, 2017 through July 2020 term, Kent Wilson moved, Julie Parsell second, appointment approved
  - Singing our Faith **Diane Ninke**
    - Saturday, June 10 from 12-3:30pm at Zoar Lutheran in Perrysburg
    - Mailing will be sent out to all congregations
8. For the Good of the Order & What can we do better?
- Update on Marcus Lohrmann provided by Bishop Daniel, he will be serving as the interim bishop in the Florida-Bahamas Synod, their assembly was rescheduled to October to allow for a bishop's election
  - Deb Noll prayer requests made
  - Kent Wilson shared joy in the children's choir at this church
  - Julie Parsell shared the shift of focus from leadership being meetings and instead be about studying the word together; also shared the success of LifePlanning for the youth in her congregation which involves one on one mentoring
  - Juli Lejman-Guy shared the work within her conference to share in planning of youth ministry, specifically as they look to 2018 youth gathering
  - What can we do better?
    - Reflection that the structure of meetings and the information we receive in advance allows for more fruitful time together
    - Thanks offered to staff for all the work they've done to make the meetings successful
9. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

**SYNOD COUNCIL Meetings:**

**Synod Assembly May 19-20, 2017**

**2017/2018 Meeting Dates – Aug 5, Oct 7, Dec 9, Synod Assembly June 8-9, 2018**