



Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Synod Council Meeting Minutes October 7, 2017, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Present: Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Melissa Peper Firestone, Phil Koenig, Richard Genzman, Susan Lawrence, Ann Marshall, Jacob Nekoranec, Deborah Noll, Julie Parsell, Tom Ritter, James Schwabero, Christina Wheeler, Mark Wentz, Cassie Yeager, Jacob Henry, Jennifer Prueter

Absent: Becky Seibert, Peter Bowman, Casey Cox, Steven Edmiston, Brent Gardner, Cindy Mabry, Diane Ninke

1. Opening Eucharist 8:30 a.m. **Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Julie Parsell**
Devotions led by Julie Parsell. Scripture basis Ephesians 3:14-21. Julie shared slides about her recent trip to Germany and her visit to Luther sites.
2. Business Meeting Call to Order **Melissa Peper Firestone, Vice President**
 - Welcome and Introductions Melissa called the meeting to order. Introductions followed – Welcome all to the table.
 - **Deb Noll made a motion, seconded by Cassie Yeager to approve the minutes of the August 5th Synod Council meeting. Motion carried.**
 - **The minutes from the Executive Committee meetings of July 12th and August 4th were presented and received as a report.**
3. Bishop's Report **Bishop Beaudoin**
 - The complete report of the Bishop was sent out prior to the meeting. Bishop highlighted that 2018 will be the year of purposeful prayer. He is planning to have a Bible study based on Nehemiah that congregations can use. Four things prayer does: Prayer produces patience; prayer clears our vision; prayer quiets our hearts; and prayer strengthens our faith.
 - **A motion was presented by Bishop Beaudoin, seconded by James Schwabero to grant Ann Pairan on leave from call status. Motion carried.**
 - **A motion was presented by Bishop Beaudoin, seconded by Chrissy Wheeler to grant Julie Lehman-Guy on leave from call status. Motion carried.**
 - Bishop Beaudoin shared some highlights from the recent Global Leadership Summit. The next Global Leadership Summit will be August 9-10, 2018 at Winebrenner Seminary.
 - The Bishop announced that he would be spending 10 days in Israel and Palestine on a fact-finding trip.
 - The Reformation Crawl will be on October 21, 2017.
 - The Sawmill Creek Retreat will be on January 16-18, 2018.

- Philippians 4:6 will be the memory verse for 2018.
- The Bishop handed out 25 Prayer Resources that he has found helpful for those who want to do deeper.

4. Vice President's Report

Melissa Peper Firestone

- Election of Executive Committee – Tom Ritter, Ann Marshall, and Julie Parsell were nominated to serve on the Executive Committee. **Following a casting of ballots, Tom Ritter and Ann Marshall were elected to serve on the Executive Committee.**
- Synod Council members were asked to sign the Synod Council Covenant, which lists the responsibilities of Synod Council members.
- The Synod Council meeting dates for 2018 were selected. Meeting dates are January 27, April 14, September 8 and December 1. Synod Assembly is June 8-9, 2018.

5. Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

6. Treasurer's Report

Phil Koenig

- Phil Koenig presented his report. No questions.
- **Phil Koenig made a motion, seconded by Sue Lawrence to revise the current budget to reflect funding for the DEM position. Motion carried.**

7. Administrative Matters

Jacob Henry

- Constitution changes for St. John's, Bellevue. **A motion was made by Phil Koenig, seconded by Mark Wentz to approve the constitution changes for St. John's, Bellevue. Motion carried.**
- Confidentiality Agreement. **A motion was made by James Schwabero, seconded by Julie Parsell to approve the update to the Confidentiality Agreement. Motion carried.**
- Expense Policy for Staff Members. **A motion was made by James Schwabero, seconded by Julie Parsell to approve the update to the Expense Policy for Staff Members. Motion carried.**
- Resolution SC 17.01: Discipleship Institute. **A motion was made by Phil Koenig, seconded by Julie Parsell to establish a fund for the exploration and creation of the Discipleship Institute as a place for continued learning and development of lay leaders and rostered minister for the Church. Motion carried.**
- Resolution SC 17.02: Theologian in Residence. **A motion was made by Julie Parsell, seconded by Deb Noll that the Northwestern Ohio Synod Council establish a grant process for an annual Theologian in Residence and that the Synod Council allow the use of the Rave Scholarship Fund toward the issuance of such annual grant(s) for a Theologian in Residence. Motion carried.**
- Resolution SC 17.03: Flexible Assembly Taskforce. **A motion was made by Mark Wentz, seconded by James Schwabero that the Northwestern Ohio Synod Council establish a Flexible Assembly Taskforce to study, address, and propose solutions to the issues of having a biennial assembly for adoption by the Synod Council. Motion carried.**

- **A motion was made by Julie Parsell, seconded by Mark Wentz to appointed Pastor Renee Ahern and Maggy Everett to the Global Mission Board. Motion carried.**
- LOMO Constitution Proposal. **A motion was by Julie Parsell, seconded by Tom Ritter to approved the changes to the LOMO Constitution. Motion carried.**
- **A motion was made by Ann Marshall, seconded by Julie Parsell to appoint Mark Wentz to the LOMO Board. Motion carried.**

8. For the Good of the Order and What can we do better?

- Tom Ritter mentioned that there was a recent fire at St. Mark, Toledo.
- Cassie Yeager announced that registration is now open for the Youth Gathering for next June. The Youth Discipleship Network has met and has redefined and evaluated its ministries. There is a Youth Summit in Houston. 1 adult and 1 youth attending.
- Deb Noll gave an update on the slow cookers program at St. John (Windfall). In September 33 people participated in the program.
- Julie Parsell talked about the drama ministry in her congregation. They will be doing a luncheon drama on the trial of Martin Luther on Reformation Sunday. Life Planning, a mentoring program is up and running again this year. They met the last Wednesday of each month.
A lay preaching academy to empower lay people has 2 committed candidates (evangelists). First meeting is coming up.
- James Schwabero announced that a memorial service will be held for Wesley Runk at St. Luke's, Lima
- Feedback on Synod Council layout. The layout is covering things adequately. It is appreciated that we can cover our business in half a day and don't have to give up entire Saturday. It would be helpful to have people come in and share their ministries. There hasn't been as much emphasis on this lately. Members of Synod Council like the Board development time, a time to learn.
- What can we do better? Take the time and pray about the decisions being made at the time. The Synod Council likes that the Bishop's letter is separate from the general announcements sent out from the Synod Office. It is good to receive the minutes from the Executive Committee meetings. The members appreciated the background information about this month's meeting.

9. Closing Prayer and Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Genzman