

Northwestern Ohio Synod

SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

April 14th, 2018 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Present: Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Melissa Peper Firestone, Becky Seibert, Casey Cox, Rev. Richard Genzman, Susan Lawrence, Rev. Ann Marshall, Cindy Milbry, Jacob Nekoranec, Diane Ninke, Rev. Julie Parsell, Tom Ritter, Christina Wheeler, Rev. Mark Wentz, Cassie Yeager, Jacob Henry, Jennifer Prueter

Excused: Phillip Koenig, Rev. Peter Bowmer, Rev. Steven Edmiston, Brent Gardner, Deborah Noll, James Schwabero

1. Opening Eucharist 8:30AM Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin & Rev. Ann Marshall
Rev. Ann Marshall opened with 1Thessalonians 5:16-18 “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” We partnered and shared our reflections on provided questions for discussion. What does it mean to “rejoice always, to pray without ceasing, to give thanks in all circumstances. After coming together as a group we continued with opening Eucharist.

2. Business Meeting Call to Order Melissa Peper Firestone, Vice President
 - Welcome and Introductions—Melissa opened with morning greetings.
 - Approval of I /28/18 Synod Council Meeting Minutes- Motion to approve: Rich Genzman 2nd Mark Wentz. Motion carried
 - Review of Executive Committee Decisions. Synod Council reviewed, no questions

3. Bishop's Report Bishop Daniel
Opening with Introduction of Nehemiah study.
We began with the Study of Nehemiah (section two) and had good discussion. Bishop Daniel shared that Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is willing to serve for another term. He also shared with Council the need to start using lay folks to serve in NWOS. Anticipate asking for approval at the September gathering the use of those who have completed the necessary training (example: SAM). We continue in 2018 Year of Prayer and 2019 The Year of Scripture.
 - **Action SC 18.07.**• Approval of OLFC (On leave from Call) and Retirement Request
The following motions passed unanimously:
 - Pastor Brian Krause resigned from Trinity, Arcadia 1/21/18 and requested OLFC, motion to approve Bishop Daniel, 2nd Sue Lawrence
 - Pastor Rick Jensen resigned from St. Stephen, Hamler 2/25/18 and requested OLFC, motion to approve Pastor Julie Parsell, 2nd Pastor Richard Genzman
 - Pastor Jackie Tiell approval of 3re year of OLFC, motion to approve Tom Ritter, 2nd Casey Cox
 - Approve Pastor Ron Atkins Retirement, motion to approve Sue Lawrence, 2nd Christina Wheeler
 - **TRANSFERS OUT:** Rev. Anne Pairan-NE Ohio Synod, Rev. Kristina Ahlman-Southeastern PA Synod (7-F), Rev. Terry Courter-FL/Bahama’s Synod (9-E)
 - **RESIGNED:** Rev. Brian Krause-Trinity, Arcadia-1/21/18; Rev. Rick Jensen-St. Stephen, Hamler-2/25/18—Prayers requested for both Pastors.
 - Pastor Greg Olsen has taken a call at Genacross. He will be approved by Ecclesiastical Endorsement in May and then Synod Council will extend a call.
 - Sherry Krieger is finishing the process to become a Deacon of Word and Service administered by Churchwide.

- **Entered into Executive Session for update on misconduct matter. Motion was made by Rev. Julie Parsell and 2nd by Rev. Richard Genzman.**
Motion to move out of Executive Session: Rev. Julie Parsell, 2nd Casey Cox. No actions were taken during Executive session.

- **Action SC 18.08:** Appointment of the Discipleship Institute Exploratory Team
“Synod Council has formed the Discipleship Institute Exploratory Team to visit and explore current discipleship movements to bring back ideas to design and develop our Discipleship Institute. The following individuals have been appointed to the team: Andrea Kuchne, Rev. Ann Marshall, Michael Bailey, Diane Ninke, Rev. Ed Strietlemeier
Motion to approve Discipleship Institute Exploratory Team made by Casey Cox, 2nd by Rev. Julie Parsell –Motion carried. A suggestion was made to explore the possibility of Brad Binau as on- line educator.

4. Vice President's Report Melissa Peper Firestone

- **Action SC 18.09:** Appointment of Rev. Janet Wittenmyer to Discipline Committee
“The Rev. Janet Wittenmyer of Trinity Willard has been appointed to the Discipline Committee to fill a vacated seat with a term ending in 2023.”
Motion to approve: Rev. Julie Parsell, 2nd Rev. Ann Marshall--Motion passed
- **Action SC 18.10:** Appointment of Rev. Rita Bair as North Central Conference Dean
“The Rev. Rita Bait of St Peter Martin and St Luke’s Curtice has been appointed as North Central Conference Dean.”
Motion to approve: Rev, Ann Marshall 2nd Casey Cox—Motion passed

5. Secretary's Report

Becky Seibert

Becky read received communication from Pastor Lori Strang-Redeemer, Toledo, thanking all for their support financially and prayerfully, letter announcing the retirement of Rev. Ronald L. Atkins from Genacross and a letter of thank you from Penny Christensen, of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio.

6. Treasurer's Report

Phil Koenig

In the absence of Phil Koenig, Jacob Henry reviewed the Treasurer’s Report. The following actions were taken:

- **Action SC 18.11:** Recommendation to Synod Assembly to Approve the 2019/20 and 2020/21 Budget-
“Synod Council has recommended that Synod Assembly approve the 2019/20 budget and the 2020/21 budget.”
--- Motion to approve Rev. Julie Parsell, 2nd Chrissy Wheeler, Motion passed
- **Action SC 18.12:** Update of Authorized Signatories for Accounts and Investments
“Synod Council has authorized the following individuals to be authorized signatories for all investments and accounts held by the Northwestern Ohio Synod:
Phil Koenig – Synod Treasurer
Jacob Henry – Synod Administrator
Daniel G. Beaudoin – Synod Bishop”
Motion to approve: Rev. Richard Genzman 2nd Cindy Milbry Motion passed
- **Action SC 18.13:** Authorization of Executive Committee to Accept the Audit Report
“Synod Council has authorized the Executive Committee to receive and accept the audit report prepared by Apple Growth Partners on behalf of Synod Council.”
Motion to approve: Diane Ninke, 2nd Cassie Yeager Motion passed

Break for working lunch: Report from Cassie Yeager on the upcoming Youth Gathering to be held in Houston. Cassie recently was in Houston participating in a review of the upcoming Gathering and orientation to the area.

Report from Rev. Kent Wilson updating his position. He has been visiting a number of congregations and has been enjoying getting to know others and observing and learning from all of our members. The role of discipleship is the newest role for him. He has discovered a disconnect of what we learn as Christians and how to actually be part of the world. He is planning a 12-week Coaching course to be presented. Some learning points will be: Stewardship—types of givers: potential, first time giver, occasional giver, regular (amount can vary), proportional giver (%), Tither (10%), extravagant giver. THEY are not all one blob!

Areas being explored are: Assimilation: the process of one who shows up and then becomes a member. How to help people grow, Hands on leadership, discipleship, assimilation, stewardship, area ministry strategies. Rev. Wilson is making a parish visit and then scheduling a time with the Pastor to see how they are doing and how he can be of help to them. There are lots of Good things happening in NWOS.

7. Administrative Matters

Jacob Henry

- **Action SC 18.14:** Substance Abuse and Addiction Guidelines for Rostered Ministers and Congregations
“The *Substance Abuse and Addiction Guidelines for Rostered Ministers and Congregations* are approved with immediate and full effect. The Bishop is directed to oversee its implementation and dissemination among the Rostered Ministers and congregations of this synod.
Jacob Henry reviewed the document. After discussion a Motion to approve was made by Rev. Julie Parsell, 2nd Rev. Richard Genzman Motion passed
- **Action SC 18.15:** Vehicle Use Agreement
“The *Vehicle Use Agreement* is approved with immediate and full effect. The administrative staff is directed to oversee its implementation and inform necessary staff of the new policy.”
Motion to approve: Rev. Julie Parsell, 2nd Casey Cox -Motion passed
- **Action SC 18.16:** Congregational Constitution Approvals—
“In accordance with bylaw 9.53.03 of the ELCA Constitution, the following congregational constitutions have been reviewed and approved: Providence Holland, Trinity Willard, St John’s Celina, Grace Fremont, Zion Sandusky”
Motion to approve made by Sue Lawrence 2nd Tom Ritter Motion passed
- **Action SC 18.17:** Appointment of the Theologian in Residence Review Team -
“In accordance with this synod’s *Theologian in Residence Grant Process*, the following individuals have been appointed to the Review Team: Rev. Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Deacon Erin Bodensstab, Caroline Guy, Synod Council reps. Rev. Richard Genzman, Rev. Julie Parsell. (the two names were voted upon by Synod Council present)
Motion to approve made by Casey Cox, 2nd Dianne Ninke. Motion passed
- Brief Assembly highlights
Shirts are being purchasing for Synod Council members so we are easily identified.-Friday’s gathering will be off-site at the Methodist church in BG, similar to last year, then Saturday gathering will be at BGSU. Three workshops will be offered, Prayer, plenary speaker, Dr. Mark Throntveit. Dr. Throntveit’s wife, Carol will be leading a small group prayer ministry, Melody Hagen leading a workshop, open hearing for the new ELCA statement for Social Justice
The afternoon workshop will be open to all including those not attending assembly.

8. For the Good of the Order & What can we do better?
Pastor Julie appreciates the good Bible study, prayer, getting much more done at Synod Council meetings.
Jacob expressed his joy for his intern placement—LIFT in Fremont.
Melissa thanked all for their kind words received in her mother's passing.
Budget sheet explanation is very helpful.

9. Closing and Adjournment

Melissa closed with prayer.
Adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Council Meetings: Sep 8, Dec 1 Synod Assembly: Jun 8-9