

September Synod Council Minutes

1. **Opening Devotions and Eucharist** – Led by Cindy Milbry and Bishop Daniel

2. **Business Meeting Call to Order** – Led by Vice-President Melissa Peper Firestone
 - a. Welcome and Introductions
New Council members: Pastor Janine Foster, Trinity Convoy (Southeast, fills a vacant seat) and Pastor Jarrod Schaaf, St Paul North Robinson (Southwest, replaces Pastor Rich Genzmen)
All introduced themselves to new members.

 - b. Approval of April 14 Council minutes
Motion to approve with correction Cindy, 2nd Phil-passed

 - c. Approval of May 16 Tele-Conference minutes
Motion to approve Mark, 2nd Diane-passed

 - d. Approval of the June 9 Synod Assembly minutes
Motion to approve Mark, 2nd Ann—passed

 - e. Review of Executive Committee minutes
Available at the meeting—no questions put forth

3. **Bishop's Report and Teaching Time** – Led by Bishop Daniel—Nehemiah study—Bishop began with a Bible study on a portion of Nehemiah.

Bishop Daniel then elaborated on the 4-fold proto-mission of our synod: Equipping leaders for ministry—Develop Disciples for Mission—Vitalize Parishes for Transformation—Launch New Communities

The Nehemiah study is being used in many NWOS parishes and has been well received. Next year is the Year of Scripture with a Bible Study on the Sermon on the Mount. 2020 will be the year of Mission and vision with a Bible study on the book of Acts.

All Bishops were at the Youth Gathering. There has been very minor reaction to some of the speakers and staff has fielded a few phone calls from parents and pastors concerning speakers considered to be a little edgy. The service projects related to previous flooding, and the Synod Day was good.

Bishop then provided some brief reflection on the trip to Tanzania:

- Role of women expanding
- Growth of the church in TZ rapidly
- Mt. Kilimanjaro awesome.

Forming St. Peters Edon, 1st Bryan, & Trinity Bryan..... to form Parish together. There are places this could develop in our Synod. "the Williams Co. ELCA Parish.

Invitation to Fall Meetings. Year of Prayer Nov. 7

Day of Prayer event Daniel Wolpert leading.

3 Recommendations of Bishop's Learnings:

1. Netflix Video: 13th
2. Podcast Renovaré Episode 126, *Becoming Dallas Willard*
3. Book: *The Patient Ferment of the Early Church: The Improbable Rise of Christianity in the Roman Empire*, by Alan Kreider.

a. **Action SC 18.22** On Leave from Call Requests

"Upon recommendation of the Bishop, the Northwestern Ohio Synod Council has approved the following individuals for On Leave from Call:

Rev. Sharon Stonerock, year 1

And has approved the following On Leave from Call extensions:

Rev. Jim Wicker, year 2

Rev. Mandy Oleson, year 2

Rev. Juli Lejman-Guy, year 1"—Short term

Motion to approve Bp Daniel, 2nd Jarod Schaaf—passed

b. **Action SC 18.23** Synod Council Calls

"Upon recommendation of the Bishop, the Northwestern Ohio Synod Council has approved:

Rev. Greg Olsen for a Specialized Synod Council Call as Chaplain at Wolf Creek (Genacross)

motion to approve Bp Daniel, 2nd Ann Marshall—passed

Deacon Jean Wise as a Synodically Authorized Minister for St. Peter's in Edon, and the Williams County Parish, for one year.—

motion to approve Bp Daniel, 2nd Brent--passed

4. Vice President's Report – Led by Melissa Peper Firestone

a. **Action SC 18.24** Oesterlen Services Constitution Update

"Having received and considered the proposed changes to the Oesterlen Services for Youth Inc. constitution, the Northwestern Ohio Synod Council has approved said changes."

motion to approve Casey, 2nd Steve-passed

Tom Ritter asked what is Oesterlen?. It is a place for at-risk youth located in Springfield. That now seeks to serve adults. Oesterlen is connected to all Synods in Ohio.

b. **Action SC 18.25** Oesterlen Board Appointment

"Upon recommendation of the Oesterlen Board of Directors, the Northwestern Ohio Synod Council has appointed David Runk to the Oesterlen Board of Directors."

motion to approve Phil, 2nd Pete—passed

c. **Action SC 18.26** Global Mission Board Appointment

"Upon recommendation of the Global Mission Board, the Northwestern Ohio Synod Council has appointed Pastor Nate Tuff of Olivet Sylvania, and Pastor Bob Noble of Calvary Northwood to the Global Mission Board."

Motion to approve: Mark, 2nd Sue--passed

5. Secretary's Report – provided by Becky Seibert

6. Treasurer's Report – provided by Phil Koenig

a. **Analysis of Revenue and Expenses**

Mission support continues to be a concern as we continue downward. Rev. Kent Wilson is working with a certain number of congregations to continue and add to their mission support. Establishing personal relationships with congregations.

Overall we are down approx. \$38,000. There is some concern but not a panic situation. In general, our overall expenses are where they are expected at this time of year. We need to address our overall accounting structure which is too expensive.

7. Administrative Matters – Led by Synod Administrator Jacob Henry

a. **Synod Assembly Review**

Assembly went overbudget and will address for the future. Suggestions to have more explanation when a speaker comes to the mic and follow-up before vote to be taken.

No resolutions from the floor provided. Did not have enough time to visit the booths without skipping something.

MPF thanks the staff for all their effort and hard work with keeping everything going smoothly.

- b. **Action SC 18.27** Congregation Constitution Updates
 "In accordance with bylaw 9.53.03 of the ELCA Constitution, the constitutions of Zion (Latcha) Perrysburg, and Trinity Findlay have been reviewed and approved."
Motion to approve Diane, 2nd Phil-motion passed
- c. **Action SC 18.28** Authorization of Vehicle Purchase
 "Synod Council authorizes the Executive Committee to purchase a second vehicle not to exceed \$19,000, which shall come from the Auto Replacement Fund."
motion to approve: Sue, 2nd Ann--passed
- d. **Action SC 18.29** Forwarding of Assembly Resolution SA 18.01
 "Upon direction of the 2018 Synod Assembly, the Northwestern Ohio Synod affirms and forwards Synod Assembly Resolution SA 18.01, *Seminary Reform*, to the ELCA Church Council for its consideration.
Motion to approve: Ann, 2nd Cindy—passed—three not to approve (Ann, Tom, Peter).

Discuss ensued as to the dissent votes. Those who dissented continued discussion of concerns regarding the resolution SA 18.01, especially the narrow margin of support, legal concerns, current work of the Theological Advisory committee, and the timeline set forth by the resolution.

Resolution approval stands and will be sent on to ELCA Church Council.

To honor the broad concerns of members of council (including those who voted in favor of forwarding the resolution) Council asked Bishop Daniel to outline the concerns in a letter to the Secretary's Office accompanying the Resolution.

- e. **Action SC 18.30** Peer Ministry Training Funding
 "Synod Council has authorized that up to \$2,200 from the Rave Scholarship Fund be utilized to provide 'Peer Ministry Leadership Training' for the NWOS' Youth Discipleship Network."
Motion to approve: Jarrod, 2nd Casey—motion passed

8. For the good of the order – Led by Vice-President Melissa Peper Firestone

- Tanyce Addison. and Pete Bowmer are additions to the Discipleship Team
- --Mark Wentz-Sanctuary is now being renovated
- --Ann Marshall, hired a new youth director that started this week.
- Tom Ritter- new Youth and family director

- --Peter Bowmer- planning to give space to community organizations-Art group and Christian legal collaborative providing legal services and training for group of people that need legal services and cannot afford
- Cindy Redeemer has a new outreach director.
- Congregation of Van Wert county have gone through dinner church at neutral site for picnic , dinner church at different locations.
- Jarrod-good conversations at Galion with churches. Pastors and Jarrod will do confirmation tog, doing advent tog, vbs tog, Sunday evening once a month service to try. First year to do a baptism and has four more lined up. JOY!! For Jarod
- Mark Wentz-LOMO Board Mtg. Ken Pollock NWOS elected to board. LOMO voted to close Camp Mowanna at the end of next year and place in conservancy program.

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Break for lunch—prayer Melissa—continued conversation and sharing about Tanzania trip

9. Sending Blessing and Prayer

Adjourned at 12:40 p.m.-----Pete offered the closing prayer

