

Synod Council Minutes

September 7, 2019

Present: Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Melissa Peper Firestone, Phil Koenig, Becky Seibert, Casey Cox, Mindy Elliott, Cindy Harris, Ann Marshall, Deb Noll, Tom Ritter, Jarrod Schaaf, Diana Schneider, Janine Shearer, Ed Strietelmeier, Jacob Henry, Jennifer Pruefer

Excused: Cindy Milbry, Christina Wheeler, Steve Ramsey, Michelle Schaffer, Jari Knowlton Simard, Jacob Nekoranec, Brent Gardner

- 1. Opening Devotions and Eucharist** – Led by Bishop Daniel and Rev. Janine Shearer. What can't wait for you, in the church and personal? Sanctuary church, gun control, bringing Jesus to all, what is love? Discipleship
- 2. Business Meeting Call to Order** – Led by Vice-President Melissa Peper Firestone
Roster call made confirming those who are here and those who are excused
 - a. Approval of April 14 Minutes**
Found on pages 4-5. Motion to approve made by Casey, 2nd Ann...minutes approved
 - b. Review of Executive Committee decisions**
Available at the meeting—none to review
- 3. Bishop's Report and Teaching Time** – Led by Bishop Daniel
 - Written report and learnings can be found on pages 6-8. – Corrections made
 - Three focus of year of scripture—People are reading, Reflection-encouraging people to spend time together discussing what you have read and study,
 - Review of Annual Focus: (pages 6-9) Review/Reflection of Churchwide Decisions (Sanctuary Church, Apology to those of African descent and how to implement , 50 years of Ordination of Women in the Lutheran Church, and share with our own parishes.
 - Oct 17-18—Anchor Church Event on how to do ministry differently for small congregations—hope to identify larger congregations with leadership and vision to create new community with help to smaller congregations.
 - Looking for two council members to attend the ELCA-UMC Retreat at Mohican State Park Lodge—Oct 24-27
 - Learnings: Three members from **NWOS** parishes traveled to Sheffield England to learn about doing mission differently (see pg 7)
 - Bishop Daniel reported that Kent Wilson has requested OLFC. Upon review and at the recommendation of the Advisory Panel, the Bishop reported he has declined to endorse the request. Synod Council voiced their affirmation of this decision.
 - a. Action SC 19.12 On Leave from Call Requests**
"Upon endorsement by the Bishop, Synod Council grants on leave from call status to:
Pastor Dana Bjorlin, year 1,
Pastor Howard Abts, year 2,
and Pastor Sharon Stonerock, year 2."
Background info on this action can be found on page 10.
Motion to approve made by Bishop Daniel 2nd Jarrod Schaaf - Motion passed

b. Action SC 19.13 Family Leave Request

"Upon endorsement by the Bishop, Synod Council grants Deacon Heather Smith's final year of Family Leave."

Background info on this action can be found on page 10.

Motion to approve made by Bishop Daniel 2nd Tom Ritter, - Motion passed

c. Action SC 19.14 SAM Approvals

"Upon the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the following individuals as Synodically Authorized Ministers for service to the designated locations for one year:

Carol Pretorius – St Peter Delphos,
Robin Small – St Mark's Bowling Green,
Tanyce Addison – Emanuel Marion,
Dawn David – Sonfire by the River Pemberville, and Salem Grace
United Luckey,
and Jim Michaels – Hope Fostoria.

Background info for this action can be found on page 10.

Motion to approve made by Bishop Daniel, 2nd Deb Noll, motion passed

d. Action SC19.15 Approval of Invitation to Extended Service

"Upon the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the Invitation to Extended Service to Pastor Alan Brown of the United Methodist Church, to serve as pastor of Solomon Woodville."

Background info for this action can be found on page 10.

Motion to approve made by Bishop Daniel, 2nd Cindy Harris. Motion passed

Melissa requested to move into Executive session. 2nd by Casey Cox.

motion to go out of executive session made by Deb Noll 2nd Tom Ritter.

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

Nothing new to report. The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 14, 2019 at 8:30

5. Secretary's Report – Led by Becky Seibert

Nothing new to report

6. Treasurer's Report – Led by Phil Koenig

Financial Summary and related reports can be found on pages 21-29.

Page 24-Review of the primary resources. Mission support is YTD decreased by \$4000. Which is really very good at this point.

page 29-Our net difference between income and expenses is \$41,688. Auditors are very comfortable with our cash status at this point. In terms of overall assets, we are in good shape. We need to come up with a better investment policy for the future.

7. **Administrative Matters** – Led by Synod Administrator Jacob Henry

a. **Action SC 19.16** Stewardship for All Seasons

“Synod Council has approved participation in the *Stewardship for All Seasons* program in conjunction with GSB and authorizes the use of the Macedonia Fund to provide funding for the program. Synod Council directs and authorizes the administrative staff to identify congregations to participate in the program and expend funds.”

Background on this action can be found on pages 11, 18-19.

Motion to approve Action SC 19.16 Diane Schneider, 2nd Janine Shearer-motion approved

b. **Action SC 19.17** Compensation Guidelines for SAM and TEEM Candidates

“Synod Council has approved the 2019/2020 Compensation Guidelines for Synodically Authorized Ministers/TEEM Candidates and approves the incorporation of these guidelines with the full *Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers* to be considered by the 2020 Synod Assembly.”

Background on this action can be found on page 11.

Motion to approve Action SC 19.17 made by Jarrod Schaaf, 2nd Casey Cox, motion approved

c. **Review of the Synod’s Hiring Process**

We will have an overview of our hiring process in relation to the Director of Congregational Engagement (Director of Evangelical Mission)

Refer to handout from Jacob.

8. **Northwestern Ohio Synod Mission Statement** – led by Bishop Daniel

Action SC19.18 Northwestern Ohio Synod Mission Statement

“Synod Council approves the mission statement of the Northwestern Ohio Synod:

Sent by the crucified and risen Jesus to make disciples, equip leaders, strengthen parishes, and launch new communities, for the renewal of Northwestern Ohio and the world.”

Motion to approve Action SC 19.18 made by Cindy Harris, 2nd Janine. Prayer offered by Phil Koenig. Motion passed.

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

- Ed Strietelmeier shared new construction has begun of new site for worship space and Parish hall, offices and bathrooms at Faith, Swanton. Projected end date is Oct for indoor work and hopefully worshipping in the space by Easter 2020.
- Deb Noll shared the 1st Sunday of conference held a one-hour prayer vigil to lift up start of schools and safety issues. Candles were lit for people and specific actions that they were praying for. St. John has entered an add-on kitchen and storage unit to their building.

10. **Sending Blessing and Prayer**

Melissa thanks everyone for coming and we will meet again Dec. 14, 2019. Jarrod Schaaf closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Seibert

