

Synod Council Minutes

December 14, 2019

Present: Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Becky Seibert, Casey Cox, Rev. Mindy Elliott, Brent Gardner, Cindy Harris, Rev. Ann Marshall, Cindy Milbry Jacob Nekoranec, Deb Noll, Rev. Steve Ramsey, Thom Ritter, Rev. Jarrod Schaaf, Michelle Schaffer, Diana Schneider, Rev. Janine Shearer, Rev. Ed Strietelmeier, Christina Wheeler

Absent/Excused: Melissa Peper Firestone, Phillip Koenig, Jari Knowlton Simard

1. **Opening Devotions and Eucharist** – Led by Bishop Daniel
2. **Business Meeting Call to Order** – Led by Bishop Daniel in the absence of President Melissa Peper Firestone
 - a. **Approval of Sept 9 Minutes** Found on pages 3-5—Jacob Henry requested to add to page 4 that Kent Wilson was subsequently removed from the roster. - **Casey Cox made motion to approve, seconded by Rev. Ed Strietelmeier. Motion approved**
 - b. **Review of Executive Committee decisions**
(n/a, no Exec. meetings since last council meeting)

3. **Bishop's Report and Teaching Time** – Led by Bishop Daniel
Written report and learnings can be found on pages 9-12, additional background information on council actions can be found on page 17

Please refer to handout 2020 The Year of Mission – How do we participate in the mission that God has given us? Council members responded - Sent vs Settled – “Living water vs. Stagnate water” - Known vs. Unknown - Congregation vs Parish - Sent and Gathered” - Apostolic Church –Sending church teaching others how to go - “Apostolos” Sent by someone who has authority (Jesus)----Folks to be trained and encouraged, identify passions and gifts, dreaming, help people to see the ministries that congregation members are doing as a stronger witness. Listen to others about mission, vision for the church to work towards what we can become. Who are you talking to in the community?

Finishing the year of scripture, what was the one thing that was a benefit for you or your parish?

Experiences shared from the Fall Gatherings, the Discernment Retreat, Additions to Deaths: Pastor Norm Imbrock, Pastor Earl Key and Pastor Gordon Scullion.

Three learnings: Ps Rachel Wrenn talked about the prophets and justice. Trauma literature. First reading podcast—(page 10) reference Lilly Conference on fund raising, ----

a. Action SC 19.19 Family Leave Request

“Upon endorsement by the Bishop, Synod Council grants Family Leave status (of OLFC) to Deacon Erin Bodenstab, year 4.”

Motion to approve made by Bishop Daniel, 2nd by Rev. Ann Marshall-Motion passed

b. Action SC 19.20 On Leave from Call Request

“Upon endorsement by the Bishop, Synod Council grants on leave from call status to Rev. Renee Ahern, year 1.”

Motion to approve made by Bishop Daniel, 2nd by Diane Schneider, Motion approved

c. Action SC 19.20 Invitation to Extended Service

“Upon the endorsement of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the Invitation to Extended Service to Pastor Scott Schnapp of the Presbyterian Church (USA), to serve as pastor of St Paul’s Prospect.”

motion to approve made by Bishop Daniel, 2nd Jarrod Schaaf, Motion approved

d. Action SC 19.21 Synod Council Call

“Upon endorsement of the Bishop, Synod Council extends a call to Deacon Blaire Smith to serve as Chaplain at Marion Correctional Institute as of August 19, 2019.”

Motion to approve made by Bishop Daniel, 2nd Janine Shearer, Motion approved

e. Action SC 19.23 Synodically Authorized Minister Renewals

“Upon endorsement of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the renewal of Deacon Jean Wise as a Synodically Authorized Minister of the Williams County Parish (expiring Dec 31, 2020), and Vicar David Frye as a Synodically Authorized Minister of the West Toledo Parish for (expiring Dec 31, 2020).”

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

f. Update on Director of Community Engagement hiring process

Out of two candidates interviewed one was chosen and is in the discernment process along with details of position being finalized. Announcement will be made at or prior to the January 2020 meeting.

4. Vice President’s Report – Led by Bishop Daniel in the absence of Melissa Peper Firestone

5. Secretary’s Report – Led by Becky Seibert – Nothing new to report

6. Treasurer's Report – Led by Jacob Henry (Phil Koenig will be absent) Financial Summary and related reports can be found on pages 20-32 Proposed budget can be found on pages 30-32. – Jacob reviewed

a. Action SC 19.24 Revised 2020/21 Budget

First reading of this action. The action will be voted on at the Jan. 2020 meeting.

"Synod Council approves the Revised 2020/21 Budget"

7. Administrative Matters – Led by Synod Administrator Jacob Henry

Additional background info on council actions can be found on pages 17-19

a. Action SC 19.25 Congregation Constitution Updates

"In accordance with bylaw 9.53.03 of the ELCA Constitution, the constitution of St John Findlay and St Peter Blackberry Corners have been reviewed and approved."

Motion to approve Brent Gardner, 2nd Casey Cox, Motion approved

b. Action SC 19.26 Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community Renewals

"Synod Council approves the renewal of Sonfire by the River, Pemberville and Camino de Vida, Fremont as Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities for 2019/20."

Motion to approve Tom Ritter, 2nd Cindy Milbry, Motion approved

c. Action SC 19.27 Resolution to Adopt "Solomon Lutheran School Sunday"

***This action was submitted by the pastors, deacons, and SAMs of the North Central Conference. A listing of individuals in support can be found on pages 18-19*

Presenter Ps Alan Brown

"Whereas, the mission 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" calls the Church to make disciples, equip leaders and transform the world for Christ.

Whereas, Solomon Lutheran School (Pre K-6th grade) has had an historic legacy of making disciples, equipping leaders and renewing the world for Christ throughout its over 150 year history.

Whereas, Solomon Lutheran School began its legacy when it opened on January 20, 1862 as the Woodville Normal School. Solomon Lutheran School has continued to build its legacy of leadership when the Woodville Normal School was consolidated and relocated to Columbus, Ohio as a part of Capital University.

Whereas, Solomon Lutheran School is the **oldest** continually operating Christian day school in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Whereas,

Solomon Lutheran School is the **only** Christian day school in the Northwestern Ohio Synod.

Therefore, be it resolved that The Northwestern Ohio Synod adopt the **third Sunday in January each year as "Solomon Lutheran School Sunday"** in an attempt to strengthen and increase the effectiveness of the ministry of the historic Solomon Lutheran School and to strengthen the partnership between the churches in the Northwestern Ohio Synod and only elementary school in the synod.

Therefore, be it further resolved that the purpose of "Solomon Lutheran School Sunday" is to create an opportunity to strengthen and highlight the mission of Solomon Lutheran School. The school, in partnership with the synod, will provide for:

- a. Distribution of promotional material to each church, parish and worshipping community in the synod to create greater awareness within the synod about the mission of the school.
- b. Make available guest speakers/presenters from Solomon Lutheran School (current staff or alumni) to strengthen relationships between the school and churches in the synod.
- c. Request prayer for the mission, staff and students of Solomon Lutheran School to create solidarity with the school and synod congregations.
- d. The collection of a special offering from churches in the Northwestern Ohio Synod to benefit the Solomon Lutheran School Annual Fund so that a stronger partnership is achieved."

Motion to approve Chrissy Wheeler, 2nd Pastor Janine Shearer.

Questions/Comments for Pastor Alan Brown from Solomon: 127 students currently enrolled, Any student from any faith is welcome, very diverse student body, the School adheres to state requirements and testing. Promoting a greater awareness amongst folks we know, asking for prayers; School would like to reduce tuition rate. Vote was taken and Motion was approved.

d. Action SC 19.28 LOMO Board Appointments

"Upon the recommendation of the LOMO Board, Synod Council appoints Ken Meinecke as a lay representative of the Northwestern Ohio Synod, and appoints Pastor Jarrod Schaaf as the NWO Synod Council representative to the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio board."

Motion made by Cindy Harris, 2nd Christine Wheeler, Motion approved

UPDATE on DEM status: Interviews were done mid-November along with Churchwide office. Follow up with more informal interviews with staff, Bishop had one on one time with candidates. Have a candidate of choice at this point, HR steps are happening now., Hope to present name in January 2020 for this call.

d. 2020 Assembly Update—June 12-13, 2020 at BGSU Student Union. A very different assembly is being planned for 2020, Focus will be on our new mission. Four groups will be made with a deep dive into our mission with members rotating between groups going thru each session of the mission. There will be time for Synod business. Details are a work in progress at this time. Friday worship will be at St Marks BG. Information should be ready in January for NWOS parishes. --

8. For the good of the order – Led by Bishop Daniel

Synod Council meeting dates for 2020: **Jan 25, 2020, May 2, Sept. 12, Dec. 12, 2020.**

- Brent Gardner, St. Paul, Sandusky, shared update of change to Sunday evening worship. Attendance numbers did not change, however the people attending changed. They have had talks of sharing worship space with other congregations in the area that need worship space.
- Pastor Ed Strietelmeier shared progress of roof completion on new church building, windows are in and congregation is really getting excited.
- Diane Schneider shared that the, new pastor at Zion in Lima has come in with lots of new ideas. (Dan Gutman) has been embraced by the congregation.
- Pastor Ann Marshall—PSALM became FLAME—Decided that their mission was complete, voted to dissolve, Pastors still meet every month.
- Jake Nekoranec concludes his internship this month, Jan 7 he leaves for SC to Army Chaplaincy school . Graduates April 9, 2020.
- Casey Cox family is in process of adopting four children. They now have 11 children.
- Deb Noll—Using Daily Texts as their readings for the next year.
- Letter received from Trinity Evan. Bryan Ohio. Many shared their experiences like those outlined in received letter. How to respond: Bishop Daniel will meet with these folks soon, Bishop Eaton sent a letter to the congregation. Bishop Daniel will draft a letter with council approval to share with this congregation.

9. Sending Blessing and Prayer

Pastor Mindy Elliott closed the meeting with prayer.

