

Synod Council Meeting

November 6, 2021

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Devotions

Meeting called to order by Melissa Peper Firestone at 9:06am. She determined that a quorum of 12 members was present and the meeting could proceed. She welcomed all to the meeting

In attendance were:

Bishop Daniel	Melissa Peper Firestone	Jacob Henry	Jennifer Prueter
Deb Noll	Tom Ritter	Jarrood Schaaf	Chris Hanley
Rodney West- Estell	Mindy Elliot	Cindy Harris	Robin Owen
Clark Price	Melanie Haack	Tracey Wright	Mary Boals

Devotions were offered by Deb Noll who spoke about All Saints Sunday upcoming and John 11: 32-44 was read.

Several points were made about those that had passed during the time of Covid where people couldn't embrace each other and couldn't draw together to mourn.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve made by Tom Ritter, 2nd by Melanie Haack, Motion Approved.

May 1 Minutes

September Minutes (email meeting)

Review of Executive Committee Minutes from Sept 7

3. Vice President's Report and Introduction of New Members

Action SC 21.26 Synod Council Appointments

Motion to Approve Wendy Bauer as SW Conference vacancy to Synod Council made by Jarrod Schaaf, 2nd by Mindy Elliot. Motion Approved.

"Synod Council appoints Wendy Bauer to the Southwest Conference vacancy (term ending 2022)."

Executive Committee Election

At our December 11 meeting we will need to elect one rostered minister to the Synod Council Executive Committee. Please prayerfully consider a nominee for this position during this next month.

4. Bishop's Report and Teaching Time

5. Roster Actions

Action SC 21.27 On Leave from Call Request

Motion by Cindy Harris 2nd by Jarrod Schaaf Motion approved

"At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves on leave from call status for:

Deacon Hannah Demaree (year 3),

Deacon Erin Bodenstab (year 5, Family Leave)."

BACKGROUND – In the ELCA, a rostered minister must always have an approved status to remain a rostered minister in good standing in the ELCA. An approved status could be a call to a ministry, retirement, disability, or a form of on leave from call (OLFC). There are times when a rostered minister will resign their call without taking another call. This may be for a variety of reasons including health, family, ministry difficulties, etc. If a rostered minister is without call they must apply/request OLFC status which is granted by the Synod Council upon the endorsement of the synod bishop.

Action SC 21.28 Approval of Synodically Authorized Ministers

Motion by Deb Noll, 2nd by Melanie Haack, Motion Approved.

"At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council recognizes the following Synodically Authorized Ministers, through December 2022:

Bob Fett, English Bluffton

Bob Frank, First St Mark Toledo

Alan Fuhrhop, St Stephen Hamler

Shea McGrew, Hope Bowling Green

Greg Silliman, Bethlehem Pemberville

Deacon Kevin Kehn, Emanuel Marion."

BACKGROUND – There are occasions when a need for pastoral leadership, specifically Word and Sacrament ministry, cannot be adequately met. In these circumstances an individual who has been identified and trained in accordance with the policies and procedures of this church may be authorized by the synod to serve as a Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM) and preside over the sacraments for a specific congregation/ministry for one year (renewals are allowed). Synod Council approves SAMs upon the endorsement of the synod bishop.

Action SC 21.29 Synod Council Call to Specialized Ministry
Motion by Tom Ritter, 2nd by Clark Price Motion Approved

“At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council extends a call to Deacon Jennifer Vasquez to serve as Director of Connections and Engagement at the United Church of Christ in Sylvania Ohio.”

BACKGROUND – Rostered Ministers occasionally are called to serve in specialized or unique ministries. This may include chaplaincy, synod staff, Churchwide staff, affiliated organizations, etc. In these circumstances they receive a call through the Synod Council to serve in these ministries.

6. Financial Report and Actions

All presented by Jacob Henry

Action SC 21.30 Adjustment of Investments

Motion by Mary Boals, 2nd by Clark Price Motion Approved.

“Synod Council approves the re-allocation of investment MM3 (HV7-008032) to an American Funds PMC Active Core Portfolio - Moderate (F3).”

BACKGROUND – See attached proposal from the Synod's investment manager, Gary Wise, on page ____

Action SC21.31 Gratitude and Designation of Donation

Motion by Cindy Harris, 2nd by Deb Noll Motion Approved.

“Synod Council expresses its gratitude to the generosity of an anonymous donor who has gifted the Northwestern Ohio Synod with \$60,000 as an undesignated gift. The Council designates this gift towards the Imagining Renewal Fund to further fund various grants to innovative ministries throughout the synod.”

BACKGROUND – Over the summer the synod was approached by a donor who wishes to stay anonymous. They did not express any restrictions on their donation with the exception that it remains local and be used locally. Staff discussed with the donor several possibilities for the funds including our Imagining Renewal microgrants, which the donor expressed interest in (but still did not make an explicit restriction). This action item formally acknowledges the generous gift and the council's designation of the gift.

A prayer of thankfulness for this gift was offered by Jarrod Schaaf.

7. Administrative Updates

Action SC 21.32 Approval of Updates to Congregational Constitutions
Motion by Chris Hanley 2nd by Jarrod Schaaf. Motion approved.

“Synod Council approves the updates to the following congregational constitutions:

St Peter, Norwalk
St John, Oak Harbor
Solomon, Woodville
Faith, Fremont
Trinity, Bryan
St John, Dola

BACKGROUND – These constitutions have been reviewed by the Administrator for any potential conflicts with the model constitution and no such conflicts have been found. They have subsequently been approved by the respective congregations and are before the Synod Council for formal approval.

Action SC 21.33 Approval of Relocation of St Paul's Sandusky
**Motion to approve the relocation was made by Melanie Haack
2nd by Jarrod Schaaf. Motion Approved.**

“Synod Council approves the relocation of the congregation of St Paul's Sandusky to 265 Jackson St Sandusky OH 44870 (the site of First Presbyterian Church of Sandusky).

BACKGROUND – Congregations seeking relocation are constitutionally required to seek the approval of the Synod Council. Synod staff have been assisting St Paul's Sandusky as they have gone through the process of selling their building/property. The congregation had previously been in talks with Zion Huron on a possible merger but after a period of discernment, the congregations decided against merger. St Paul's has reached an agreement with First Presbyterian Church of Sandusky to utilize space and is seeking formal approval of their relocation.

Action SC 21.34 LOMO Board Appointment
**Motion to appoint Janine Shearer to the Board of Directors for LOMO made
by Chris Hanley, 2nd by Mary Boals. Motion approved.**

“Synod Council appoints Pastor Janine Shearer to the Board of Directors Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio.”

BACKGROUND – LOMO has asked for the appointment of Pastor Janine Shearer (of Emanuel Napoleon) to their board. Several related/affiliated organizations need approval of a synod council for appointments to their board or changes to their organizational structure.

8. For the Good of the Order, and Sending Blessing

New Secretary Tracey Wright thanked all for identifying themselves in making and seconding motions.

Encouraged all to Pray for the Congregations waiting for Pastors.

Chris Hanley asked for prayers on how his congregation could better share the items from their thrift store to get to the people in need.

The closing prayer was offered by Melissa Peper Firestone.
Tom Ritter made the motion to adjourn. 2nd by Melanie Hack.
Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 11:25am.

Next meeting is scheduled for Saturday December 11 from 9am to noon. It is not yet known if this will be in person or virtual.