

**Minutes of the Third Synod Council Meeting
Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
January 18, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM by Vice President Kinney at Good Shepherd Hospital in Allentown.

Synod Council Members present: Dawn Baxter, Nancy Blead, Ed Cool, Guy Ehler, Pastor John Hassler, Dave Hinrichs, Christie Kaufman, Pastor Cynthia Kennett, Priscilla Kinney, Eileen Koehler, Pastor Roxanne Kringle, Pastor Barry Mitchell, Elaine Molnar, Michael Reitz, Pastor Carl Shankweiler, Don Smith, AiM Barbara Taylor, Susan Wambaugh, and Pastor Sam Zeiser.

Synod Council Members excused: Martin Everhart, Pastor John Houck, Terry Karhan, and Ron Mordosky.

Synod Staff Members present: Pastor Michael Bennethum, Pastor Kurt Garbe, AiM Karen Matthias-Long, Pastor Cheryl Meinschein, Pastor Glenn Simmons, Smoky Schelly, Bishop David Strobel, Carol Weiser, and Pastor Catherine Ziel.

Guests present: Pastor Paul Braden and AiM Ruth Miller.

Bishop Strobel led devotions for the day of the Confession of St. Peter.

The Minutes

The Minutes were approved as presented.

Special Orders

AiM Ruth Miller and Carol Weiser gave a presentation on the LIFT event scheduled for June 9, 2007.

Pastor Braden presented a report from the Compensation Task Force.

(2007.1.1) Resolved, that the Synod Council approve the Minimum Salary Guidelines for Pastors and Rostered Lay Leaders for recommendation to the Synod Assembly in June.

The resolution was adopted with one dissenting vote.

Bishop's Report

Advent presented several challenges in congregations for the Bishop and his Staff. He was pleased to travel to Puerto Rico to ordain Lorenzo Tirado. Bishop Strobel thanked those who presented the *ELW* workshops. He had Pastor

Meinschein present information on events in Reading, and Pastor Bennethum discussed the "Experience, Engage, Encounter" event scheduled for March 3 at 1st UCC in Quakertown for people age 18-35.

Vice President's Report

Priscilla submitted a written report. She highlighted the Social Ministry dinner, the Region 7 Consultation, and the outstanding young people chosen for the Tanzania trip.

The Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer submitted a written report.

Committee Reports

Finance: Smoky presented the committee's report. The Synod Endowment/Investment program is closed and remaining monies will be held for one year to cover any outstanding expenses. Monies will then be placed into the Mission Fund.

(2007.1.2) Resolved, that the revised 2007 Spending Proposal of \$3,200,000 be approved as amended by the Finance Committee in light of the anticipated 2006 expenses and receipts from congregations in 2006. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Administration: Ed Cool presented the report.

(2007.1.3) Resolved, that Pastor Keith Yoder not be granted further time in the status "on leave from call." The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Program and Review: Pastor Mitchell announced that the committee will report at the next meeting.

Reports of Mission District Liaisons

Lehigh – Pastor Meinschein reported on the continuing work on a multicultural strategy.

Bethlehem/Easton – Elaine announced that plans are in progress for the Synod Assembly.

West Berks – Dawn reported on an Epiphany Dinner for rostered leaders and on the ordination of Lorenzo Tirado.

East Berks – no report.

Schuylkill – Pastor Kennett discussed a planned Transfiguration Celebration.

Pocono – The Mission Festival in November was a great event.

Northern Lehigh Valley – Pastor Mitchell reported that they will meet at the end of the month.

Hazleton/Lehigh – Eileen had nothing new to report.

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre- Pastor Garbe announced a Mission Festival planned for May 5.

Reports of Liaisons to Agencies

Pennsylvania Council of Churches – Guy submitted a written report.

Lutheran Congregational Services – Ed submitted a written report.

DIAKON – Susan reported that the CPE program is up and running and that \$13 million worth of charity care was provided last year.

EOCM – Pastor Simmons submitted a written report.

En Bloc Items

The following resolutions were adopted:

(2007.1.4) Resolved, that the 2007 budgets of the nine Mission Districts be approved as presented and that approval is given to solicit congregational support.

(2007.1.5) Resolved, that in accordance with sections 7.31.16 and 7.52.22 of the ELCA Constitution, “on leave from call status” be approved as follows:

Clergy (third year): James Covert
Clergy (first year): Harry Heffelfinger
Rebecca Knox
Thomas Reinsel

(2007.1.6) Resolved, that the Synod Council requests of the Conference of Bishops approval to issue a call to non-stipendiary ministry for the Rev. William S. Maxon.

(2007.1.7) Resolved, that the Synod Council requests of the Conference of Bishops approval to issue a call to non-stipendiary ministry for the Rev. Gene A. Parker.

(2007.1.8) Resolved, that a call to special service be extended to the Rev. James Bowers to serve as part-time transitional associate pastor of Holy Spirit, Emmaus, effective January 15, 2007.

(2007.1.9) Resolved, that a call to special service be extended to Jane Elliot, AiM, to serve as transitional director for Faith Formation and Music Ministries for Youth and Young Adults of Holy Spirit, Emmaus, effective January 15, 2007.

(2007.1.9) Resolved, that Augsburg/Fortress be permitted to sell merchandise at the LIFT event on June 9, 2007.

New Business

Guy reported on a Mission Interpreters meeting with Erika Kennedy. He and Ed will go to Chicago in February for further training.

Bishop Strobel announced that he would be going to Muhlenberg College in the evening for the meeting with Bishop Younan of Palestine.

The meeting was adjourned. Sally Gammon spoke about Good Shepherd during dinner. A tour of the facility followed.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Taylor
Secretary