

Synod Council Meeting
Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
April 21, 2010

Synod Council Members present: Dawn Baxter, Nancy Bleam, Pastor Paul Braden, Ed Cool, David Derr, Pastor Lee Diefenderfer, Guy Ehler, Fran Ferrari, Mark Hammond, Pastor John Hassler, Dave Hinrichs, Pastor Roxanne Kringle, Catherine Mordosky, Don Smith, AiM Barbara Taylor, Leslie Wagner, and Pastor Phyllis Wolford.

Synod Council Members excused: Pastor Randeale Albers, Scott Edelman, Christie Kaufman, and Lois Sterling.

Synod Staff Members present: Pastor Michael Bennethum, Pastor Mary Gade, AIM Deborah Matern-Graf, AIM Karen Matthias-Long, Pastor Niels Nielsen, Smoky Schelly, Pastor Carl Shankweiler, Pastor Glenn Simmons, Bishop Samuel Zeiser, and Pastor Catherine Ziel.

Guests present: Pastor Bob Macheimer and Pastor Dennis Ritter.

The meeting was called to order at 3 PM by Vice President Baxter at Friedens, Shartlesville.

Bishop Zeiser led devotions remembering the faithful lives of Pastor Barbara Davis and Priscilla Kinney. He thanked the members of Friedens for serving as hosts.

The Minutes

The Minutes were approved as presented.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Zeiser announced that Pastor Macheimer was present to provide the Bishop with feedback on the way the Council functions. The Bishop discussed the importance of relationship building between the Synod and agencies and institutions. He expressed the hope and commitment he had experienced while visiting congregations. Bishop Zeiser stated that the ELCA Church Council had approved ministry policies pertaining to ordained persons in same-sex relationships.

Vice President's Report

Dawn submitted a written report. She announced that Don Smith and Leslie Wagner had agreed to serve on a Task Force to develop LTSP's capital campaign to raise money for scholarships. One more member is needed for the Task Force.

Secretary's Report

Barbara announced that she received several phone calls and letters of thanks from rostered leaders who had received letters of congratulations on their anniversaries.

The Treasurer's Report

Smoky distributed a financial history sheet. She asked Mission District liaisons to contact congregations that have not yet returned a commitment form.

Committee Reports

Finance: Fran presented the committee's report.

(2010.4.1) Resolved, that the 2011 spending proposal (February 1, 2011, to January 31, 2012) be adopted. The Synod Council is hereby authorized to establish the 2011 spending proposal no later than its January, 2011, meeting, making any necessary adjustments to the budget proposal in light of both realistic anticipation of receipts and synod priorities (in consultation with the ELCA Treasurer with respect to the ELCA portion thereof.)

The resolution was adopted.

Administration: Ed Cool presented the report.

Resolved, that a two-year call be issued to Tammy Rade to serve as a diaconal minister at Milestones Achievement Center, Wyoming, PA, during which two-year period, Ms. Rade will submit semi-annual reports to the Bishop, detailing the nature of her ministry.

After discussion regarding the lack of clarity regarding appropriate calls for diaconal ministers, the following resolution was adopted:

(2010.4.2) Resolved, that action on a call to Tammy Rade be postponed until further information is gathered.

(2010.4.3) Resolved, that the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod officially designates Source of Love Indonesian Ministry as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community and designates the Rev. yafet Talaksoru as their servant leader.

The resolution was adopted.

New Business

(2010.4.5) Resolved, that the compensation guidelines for 2011 for rostered leaders be increased by 2%. The resolution was adopted.

Mark distributed a summary sheet from the West Berks dialogue group. He asked about the Visioning Process being listed on the web page.

Pastor Wolford asked about the need for new members on the Ministry Teams.

Dawn reported that the West Berks Mission District had 5 more banners that were available for congregations.

Dawn thanked those who had completed their terms on Synod Council: Guy Ehler, Pastor Hassler, Ed Cool, Scott Edelman, and Christie Kaufman. Each was presented with a thank-you gift.

En Bloc Items

(2010.4.5) Resolved, based on the review by the Synod Outreach Working Group, that a loan in the amount of \$53,500 to St. John, Tamaqua be made from the Church Loan and Development Fund for the purpose of removing and replacing their church boiler. Terms of the loan are 84 months at 2% interest at \$683.06 per month.

(2010.4.6) Resolved, based on the review by the Synod Outreach Working Group, that a loan in the amount of \$27,200 to St. John, Tremont be made from the Church Loan and Development Fund for the purpose of repairing the church steeple. Terms of the loan are 84 months at 2% interest at \$347.27 per month.

(2010.4.7) Resolved, that the Farm Family Appreciation Celebration committee be permitted to send a letter to congregations within the five county area including Lehigh, Northampton, Schuylkill, Carbon and Berks asking them to contribute a gift in honor of their farm families so that this annual event can continue without cost to the farm families.

(2010.4.8) Resolved, that the Lutheran Archives Center in Philadelphia be allowed to contact potential donors (congregations and individuals) for donations. This would be a targeted appeal for assistance, not a general solicitation.

(2010.4.9) Resolved, based on the review by the Synod Outreach Working Group, that a grant for \$12,000 (payable at \$1,000 per month) to support the Source of Love Indonesian Ministry be made from the Prosser/Pahse/Mission Fund.

(2010.4.10) Resolved, that a grant for \$1,000 to support the Jesus Calls Us...to Action2 event planned for November 1, 2010, at Christ Lutheran Church in Conyngham, be made from the Prosser/Pahse/Mission Fund.

(2010.4.11) Resolved, that a grant for \$6,000 to restore one volume of original the Muhlenberg journals be given to the Lutheran Archives Center in Philadelphia from the Prosser/Pahse/Mission Fund.

(2010.4.12) 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 (first year): Christopher Hershman

(2010.4.13) Resolved, that the Rev. David R. Strobel be elected to a term on the board of Good Shepherd Hospital.

(2010.4.14) The following resolution is recommended to the 2010 Synod Assembly:

Resolved, that the 2010 Assembly program (as printed in the Bulletin of Reports) be adopted.

(2010.4.15) Resolved, that the 2010 housing allowance for the Rev. Samuel Zeiser be increased from \$15,000 to \$20,000, with an equivalent reduction in his base salary.

The resolutions were adopted with one abstention.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Next Synod Council meeting --- Wednesday, July 7, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Taylor
Secretary