

**Minutes of the First Synod Council Meeting
Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
June 25, 2005**

Synod Council Members Present: Dawn Baxter, Ed Cool, Guy Ehler, Pastor John Hassler, David Hinrich, Terry Karhan, Priscilla Kinney, Pastor Cynthia Kennett, Pastor Roxi Kringle, Pastor Barry Mitchell, Elaine Molnar, Michael Reitz, AiM Barbara Taylor, Susan Wambaugh, Lloyd Wertz, and Pastor Sam Zeiser.

Synod Council Members excused: Marty Everhart, Meghan Fatzinger, Pastor John Houck, Eileen Koehler, Mary Miller, and Ron Mordosky.

Synod Staff Members present: Pastor Kurt Garbe, Pastor Gene Handwerk, Pastor Cheryl Meinschein, AiM Ruth Miller, Smoky Schelly, Pastor Glenn Simmons, Bishop David Strobel, Carol Weiser, Pastor Jim Wolford, and Pastor Catherine Ziel.

The Synod Council Retreat began with a welcome from Vice President Kinney, followed by introductions. Associate in Ministry Ruth Miller led team building exercises. Pastor Ziel presented the Synod Council orientation. Pastor Wolford led the group through the "Real Results" program. Task Force assignments will be given at the next Synod Council meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Kinney at 1 PM at Mary Immaculate Center in Northampton.

AiM Ruth Miller was thanked for her years of service. She was presented with a gift certificate as her retirement gift. Pastor Wolford announced that he will begin to serve as Interim Pastor at St. Paul, Ardmore, as of August 1.

The Minutes

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as corrected.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Strobel reported that the Synod Assembly "...went well and accomplished a lot." He noted that he enjoyed serving as the ELCA representative at the New England Synod's Assembly. He reported on the successful fundraising effort for the new building at LTSP.

Vice President's Report

A written report was submitted. She called on Guy Ehler, who reported that 900 boxes weighing 21,000 pounds went into the sea container for Tanzania. Guy also described the hammermill that was sent. Priscilla reported that Pastor Lori Kochanski led a wonderful prayer as the container was being packed. Priscilla noted that the bishop and Pastor John Richter had met to begin work on the resolution about Diakon that the Synod Assembly sent to the Council.

Secretary's Report

A letter of resignation from the Synod Council was received from Pastor Don Hayn. A motion was made by Lloyd Wertz and seconded by Guy Ehler,

(2005.6.1) Resolved, that the resignation of Pastor Don Hayn from Synod Council be accepted with thanks for his years of service.

The resolution was adopted.

Treasurer's Report

Smoky explained the hand-outs. She asked Mission District representatives to volunteer to call congregations that have not yet submitted their 2005 commitment forms.

Committee Reports

Finance – Lloyd Wertz presented the report.

(2005.6.2) Resolved, that the Prosser/Pahse/Mission Fund, the Student Education Fund, the Leadership Development Fund, and the Social Ministry Fund be made available for funding programs throughout the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod at the same percentage levels as in the previous year, that is, Prosser/Pahse/Mission Fund at 8.00%, the Student Education Fund at 10.00%, the Leadership Development Fund at 8.00% and the Social Ministry Fund at 8.50%.

(2005.6.3) Resolved, that an amount equal to one half of the amounts paid over each quarter of the past three years be granted to St. Joseph, Allentown, over the next two quarters.

Both resolutions were adopted.

Administration- Ed Cool presented the report.

(2005.6.4) Resolved, that the 2005 Bishop Touhsaent Award for Significant Social Ministry be presented to Barbara Lieberman, a member of St. James, Coopersburg.

The resolution was adopted.

Program and Review – Pastor Mitchell announced the following assignment of Synod Council members to serve as liaisons to the Ministry Teams:

- Witness and Service – Dawn Baxter
- Leadership Development – Susan Wambaugh
- Worship and Spirituality – Pastor Zeiser
- Connections – Pastor Mitchell

En Bloc Items

The following resolutions were adopted.

(2005.6.5) Resolved, that a call to special service be extended to the Rev. Thomas Reinsel to serve as interim pastor of Atonement, Wyomissing, effective April 1, 2005.

(2005.6.6) Resolved, that Vijay Singh be elected to a term on the Board of Trustees of Good Shepherd Home.

(2005.6.7) Resolved, that the Synod Secretary be instructed to send a letter to seventeen pastors who were absent from the synod assembly without submitting an excuse, reminding them of the constitutional responsibility in this regard.

(2005.6.8) Resolved, that the Synod Secretary be instructed to write to the secretaries of the congregations which had no registered lay voting members or only one lay voting member and presented no excuse for such absence, calling attention to the constitutional requirement in this regard, and to send copies of the letters to the respective deans; and that, in the case of congregations that had no voting members and did not present excuses, personal consultation as deemed appropriate by the Mission District dean be effected between Congregation Councils and pastors of those congregations and a representative or representatives of the Synod (Mission District deans, Synod staff persons, or Synod Council members), with arrangements for such consultation to be initiated by the Mission District deans.

New Business

Synod Council members will visit congregations as mission interpreters who affirm the good work of the congregation. Pastor Ziel will develop a list of congregations to be visited.

Dawn Baxter made the following motion, which was seconded by Guy Ehler:

(2005.6.9) Resolved, that the West Berks Mission District be permitted to solicit funds for the Hospital Visitors program at Reading Hospital.

The resolution was adopted.

Dawn made the following motion, which was seconded by Lloyd Wertz:

(2005.6.10) Resolved, that the West Berks Mission District be permitted to solicit funds for the Family Promise program.

The resolution was adopted.

Announcements

Priscilla announced that future agendas will include time for reports from each Mission District liaison. Pastor Simmons will provide a written report to each Council meeting from the Division for Outreach. Smoky invited Council members to pick up a copy of the 2004 audit. Pastor Kringle took the Synod Council picture for the web page,

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM. Worship followed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 22..

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Taylor
Secretary