

**Minutes of the First Synod Council Meeting
Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
June 17, 2009**

Synod Council Members Present: Randle Albers, Pastor Paul Braden, Ed Cool, Pastor Barbara Davis, David Derr, Pastor Lee Diefenderfer, Scott Edelman, Guy Ehler, Fran Ferrari, Mark Hammond, David Hinrichs, Christie Kaufman, Priscilla Kinney, Pastor Roxi Kringle, Don Smith, Lois Sterling, AiM Barbara Taylor, Leslie Wagner, and Pastor Phyllis Wolford.

Synod Council Member absent: John Hassler

Synod Council Members excused: Nancy Bleam and Catherine Mordosky.

Synod Staff Members present: Pastor Mike Bennethum, Pastor Mary Gade, Pastor Kurt Garbe, AiM Karen Matthias-Long, Smoky Schelly, Pastor Carl Shankweiler, Pastor Glenn Simmons, Bishop Pastor Sam Zeiser, and Pastor Catherine Ziel.

Also present was vice president-elect Dawn Baxter.

Bishop Zeiser led opening worship. Vice President Kinney called the meeting to order and welcomed new council members. Pastor Maureen Duffy-Guy and members of St. John, Tremont, shared information on the congregation's ministry.

The Minutes

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as amended.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Zeiser presented information on the "on leave" request by Pastor Kenneth Haubert. Discussion followed.

(2009.6.1) Resolved, that the Synod Council upholds the recommendation of the Deans to deny the request from the Rev. Kenneth Haubert to be continued in the status "on-leave-from-call." The Bishop will appoint a committee of three people to meet with Pastor Haubert, if he so desires, by July 21, 2009, to hear his statement. The recommendation of the committee will be emailed to the Synod Council for an online vote if necessary. The resolution was adopted.

The Bishop discussed the election of new Deans and the upcoming staff retreat. He reported on several meetings and activities he had been part of since the last Council meeting.

Vice President's Report

A written report was submitted. Bishop Zeiser thanked Priscilla for her faithful service as Vice President and presented her with a gift.

Secretary's Report

No correspondence was received.

Treasurer's Report

Dave explained his written report.

Small groups considered the responses to the Visioning Process that were received at Synod Assembly. Information will now go to the Program and Review Committee.

Committee Reports

Finance – Fran presented the following resolutions:

(2009.6.2) Resolved, based on the review by the SOWG committee, that a loan in the amount of \$60,000 to Hope, Reading be made from the Church Development Funds for the purpose of replacing their heating system, switching from oil to gas, and removing the old oil tank. Terms of the loan are 84 months at 2% interest at \$766.05 per month. The resolution was adopted.

(2009.6.3) Resolved, that a grant of up to \$6,000 from the Prosser/Pahse/Mission Fund be given to pay for the services of Dave Daubert and ARE. The resolution was adopted.

Administration - Ed noted that all items from the committee were listed for the En Bloc vote.

Program and Review – Dave Derr announced that they are continuing to review the Visioning Process.

Old Business

Pastor Simmons discussed the ministry audit done for Bear Creek Camp.

En Bloc Items

(2009.6.4) 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)	Ralph Boyer IV
	Kim Truebenbach

The resolution was adopted.

(2009.6.5) Resolved, Resolved, that the Synod Secretary be instructed to send a letter to those pastors residing on the territory of this synod who were absent from the synod assembly without submitting an excuse, reminding them of the constitutional responsibility in this regard.

(2009.6.6) 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. This resolution was adopted.

New Business

Priscilla presented Anniversary of Ordination gifts:

Pastor Garbe	25 years
Pastor Bennethum	30 years
Bishop Zeiser	30 years
Pastor Simmons	35 years

The next Synod Council meeting will be held at Trinity, Lehighton at 3 PM on October 15.

The 2010 Synod Assembly will be held at the Wachovia Arena in Wilkes-Barre on June 18 and 19.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Taylor
Secretary