

Synod Council Meeting
Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
July 10, 2010

Synod Council Members present: Pastor Randele Albers, Dawn Baxter, Nancy Bleam, Pastor Paul Braden, Marty Everhart, Fran Ferrari, Mark Hammond, Dave Hinrichs, Pastor Nancy Moore, Catherine Mordosky, Don Smith, Lois Sterling, AiM Barbara Taylor, Leslie Wagner, and Pastor Phyllis Wolford.

Synod Council Members excused: Jamie Anczarski, Dave Derr, Pastor Lee Diefenderfer, Pastor Roxi Kringle, and Wayne Weidner.

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

Guests present: Pastor Bob Machamer and Tammy Rade.

The meeting was called to order at 3 PM by Vice President Baxter at Zion, Maxatawny.

Bishop Zeiser led worship.

New members were introduced. The agenda was approved as amended.

Special Orders

- Pastor Mark Wimmer gave a presentation on the Mission Investment Fund.
- The Council heard from Tammy Rade and questions and answers followed. The following resolution was adopted:
(2010.7.1) Resolved, that a two-year call be issued to Tammy Rade to serve as a diaconal minister at New Story, Wyoming, PA, during which two-year period, Ms. Rade will submit semi-annual reports to the Bishop, detailing the nature of her ministry.
- A sign-up sheet was circulated for members to select a committee for the year.

The Minutes

The Minutes were approved as presented.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Zeiser discussed the new call to ministry for the Synod. He shared stories from each Mission District to show what God is doing.

Vice President's Report

Dawn discussed the duties of the Synod Council. Mark Hammond led discussion on our Guiding Principles and Synod Staff shared stories of what God is doing. Pastor Machamer talked about his consultant role. The following resolutions were adopted:

- (2010.7.2) Resolved, that a consultant be hired to lead the August 28 Synod Council retreat.
- (2010.7.3) Resolved, that Pastor Machamer be asked to be that consultant.

Secretary's Report

Barbara announced that a thank you letter was received from Pastor Arvo Beck for the gift from the Council in memory of his wife Pastor Barbara Davis.

The Treasurer's Report

Dave announced that the audit report had been completed.

Synod Office Relocation

The Bishop said we are waiting to hear from the FAA concerning pending changes to the Schoenersville property. The following resolutions were adopted:

- (2010.7.4) Resolved, that Edward Cool be appointed Synod Office Relocation Task Force Coordinator.
- (2010.7.5) Resolved, that the officers of the Synod be authorized to offer the Wescosville property for sale in a timely fashion to facilitate moving the Synod offices to the Schoenersville location.

Committee Reports

Finance: Fran announced that the committee had met to develop the presentation for Assembly.

Administration: All items were part of the En bloc motions.

Program and Review: did not meet.

En Bloc Items

- (2010.7.6) 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)	Debra K. Ernst
	Adeliz J. Mendez
Clergy (second year)	Kim Truebenbach
Clergy (fourth year – family leave)	Elizabeth Huweiler
- (2010.7.7) Resolved, that a one-year call to special service be issued to Virginia Goodwin to serve as part-time interim pastor of Union, Schnecksville.

- (2010.7.8) Resolved, that Sandra L. Bodnyk, Patrick J. Brennan, M. D., Michael Goldner, D. O., and Edith D. Ritter be elected to three-year terms on the board of Good Shepherd Hospital.
- (2010.7.9) Resolved, that a one-year call to special service be issued to Ned Drescher to serve as part-time interim pastor of Zion Spies.

Old Business

The following resolutions were adopted:

- (2010.7.10) 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.
- (2010.7.11) 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

Pastor Shankweiler shared information on the closing of St. Paul, Gordon, on July 25. The following resolution was adopted:

- (2010.7.12) Resolved, that in order to assist the congregation of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Gordon, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod is willing to accept their "undisposed property" as provided for in their approved congregational constitution (C7.01).

The Finance Committee was charged with developing policy and obtaining legal advice on the issue of property of dissolving congregations.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

The next Synod Council meeting is the retreat scheduled for Saturday, August 28.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Taylor
Secretary