

**Minutes of the Third Synod Council Meeting
Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
January 20, 2010**

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

Synod Council Members excused: Guy Ehler, Christie Kaufman, and Pastor Phyllis Wolford.

Synod Council Member absent: Pastor Randele Albers.

Synod Staff Members present: Pastor Michael Bennethum, Pastor Mary Gade, Pastor Kurt Garbe, Deaconess 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 Peter Bredlau, Pastor Barry Mitchell, Pastor Elizabeth Mitchell, and Pastor George Zacharda and members of the congregation's Property Committee.

Bishop Zeiser led devotions.

Special Orders

- President Krey and Larry House of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia made a presentation on the planned establishment of an endowment fund to provide scholarships for seminary students.
- Council members toured the building. Discussion of the congregation's proposal to give the building to the Synod for use as the Synod Office followed.

The business meeting was called to order at 4:15 by Vice President Baxter at Christ, Schoenersville.

The Minutes

The Minutes were approved as presented.

Bishop's Report

- "Evenings with the Bishop" have concluded.
- Pastor Bennethum encouraged congregations to return their Mission Support forms.

- The Bishop announced that Synod Assembly will take place on June 18 and 19 and will include election of Voting Members to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.
- Pastor Bredlau and Pastors Elizabeth and Barry Mitchell discussed the LIFT event planned for 2011.

(2010.1.1) Resolved, that the 2011 Synod Assembly be held on June 17 and 18 at Muhlenberg College in conjunction with the LIFT event. The resolution was adopted.

- Bishop Zeiser will participate in the First Call assignment event on March 13 and 14.
- The Bishop announced that workshops on “The Authority of Scripture” are scheduled for April 17, and May 1 and 8. Pastors Baumann and Jenkins will help with the continuing discussion of the Churchwide Assembly decisions related to homosexuality.
- Bishop Zeiser discussed his plan to work on relationship-building throughout the Synod.
- The Bishop announced that the Synod Staff donated \$600 to the ELCA World Hunger appeal as part of their Christmas celebration.

Vice President's Report

Dawn submitted a written report. She thanked Bishop Zeiser for his work to make “Evenings with the Bishop” possible.

Secretary's Report

No correspondence was received.

The Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Dave Hinrichs submitted a written report and discussed giving and expenses.

Committee Reports

Finance: Fran presented the committee's report.

(2010.1.2) Resolved, that the revised 2010 Spending Proposal of \$2,700,000 be approved as amended by the Finance Committee in light of the anticipated 2010 expenses and receipts from congregations for 2010.

The resolution was adopted.

Program and Review: Dawn reported that Synod Council members will be receiving a mailing inviting them to join a Ministry Team.

En Bloc Items

(2010.1.3) Resolved, that the 2010 Budgets of the West Berks, East Berks, Lehigh, Northern Lehigh Valley, Schuylkill, Pocono, Hazelton-Lehigh, Scranton-Wilkes-Barre, and Bethlehem-Easton Mission Districts be approved as presented and that approval is given to solicit congregational support. The resolution was adopted.

(2010.1.4) Resolved, that Dr. Addie Butler be elected to a term on the Board of trustees of Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital. The resolution was adopted.

New Business

- (2010.1.5) Resolved, to support the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia by assembling a team to work with them to develop an endowment of from \$1.5 to \$2.5 million to support scholarships for students studying to be pastors. The resolution was adopted.
- (2010.1.6) Resolved, that a committee be appointed to perform a due diligence analysis concerning converting the church and education building of Christ Lutheran Church, Schoenersville, to become the offices for the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. The committee is to provide their report to the Synod Council at its April 21, 2010, meeting. The resolution was adopted.
- (2010.1.7) Resolved, that a committee be appointed to review the fit of the Christ, Schoenersville, building as the Synod Office with the vision of the Synod. The committee is to provide their report to the Synod Council at its April 21, 2010, meeting. The resolution was adopted.
- Pastor Bennethum discussed plans for a brochure to tell the story of ministries that happen due to funding from the Synod.
- Pastor Kringle invited Council members to join the new social networking site.
- Pastor Herb and Judy Gifford were thanked for preparing the dinner that was to be served after the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

The next Synod Council meeting is scheduled for April 21 in Shartlesville.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Taylor
Secretary