

Synod Council Meeting  
Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA  
October 13, 2010

Synod Council Members present: Jamie Anczarski , Dawn Baxter, Nancy Bleam, Pastor Paul Braden, Dave Derr , Pastor Lee Diefenderfer , Pastor Rachel Dietz, Marty Everhart, Fran Ferrari, Mark Hammond, Pastor Roxi Kringle, Pastor Jerry Kulp, Daisy Marin, Pastor Nancy Moore, Catherine Mordosky, Don Smith, Lois Sterling, AiM Barbara Taylor, Leslie Wagner, Wayne Weidner and Pastor Phyllis Wolford.

Synod Council Members excused: Harry Tom

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

Guest present: Pastor Bob Stover.

The meeting was called to order at 3 PM by Vice President Baxter at Faith United, Nescopek.

Pastor Michael Scholtes welcomed the council to Faith United, Nescopeck, and talked about the coming together of two congregations seven years ago to form this one. Bishop Zeiser led devotions based on Psalm 126.

The date of the minutes of the previous meeting was corrected, and the minutes were then approved.

The following motion was adopted:

(2010.10.1) Resolved, that the Rev. Jerry Kulp, Daisy Marin, and Harry Tom be elected to fill terms on the Synod Council until the next synod assembly.

New members were welcomed.

Bishop's Report

- Bishop Zeiser discussed the new Synod Office in Schoenersville and recommended that several Task Forces be formed.
- Pastor Bennethum discussed Latino ministry in Easton.
- The bishop explained a DVD being developed by STiC (Staying Together in Christ) featuring members of Zion's Stone Church and St. Peter's in Bethlehem discussing the sexuality policies adopted by the Church wide Assembly.

- Members of the community approached the bishop and asked that he keep St. John's, Shenandoah, open
- St. John, Boyertown will take its first vote on October 17 to decide whether or not to leave the ELCA.
- Prayers are needed for Trinity, Reading, on the death of Pastor Jean Beadle and the illness of musician Randeale Wolf.
- St. Mark and Grace in Allentown are in the consolidation process.
- The bishop explained the proposal from A Renewal Enterprise. The following motion was adopted:  
(2010.10.2) Resolved, to accept the proposal from ARE.

#### Secretary's Report

Pastor Randeale Albers submitted her resignation from the Synod Council.

#### Special Order

Pastor Bob Stover presented a written report and a Power Point presentation on Bear Creek Camp.

#### Vice President's Report

A written report was submitted. Dawn highlighted a Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, the Cabinet meeting, and the ELCA Vice Presidents meeting.

#### Treasurer's Report

A written report was submitted.

#### Committee Reports

Administration: Pastor Ziel reported that the Wescosville property is now on the market. The asking price is \$900,000.

Finance: Fran noted that a Baptist congregation has offered \$30,000 for St. Paul, Gordon. A report on the synod Social Ministry Fund will be available in January. Pastor Braden announced that papers have been filed with the court to allow a broader use of the Kelchner Fund. A written report was distributed in the use of the Clark Charitable Trust monies.

Program and Review: did not meet.

#### En Bloc Items

(2010.10.3) Resolved, that 2011 housing allowances for synod staff who are ordained ministers be set as listed below. These amounts shall apply to calendar year 2011 and all future years unless otherwise provided by this Synod Council. (Numbers are rounded to the nearest dollar.)

<b>NAME</b>	<b>HOUSING ALLOWANCE</b>
<b>Zeiser</b>	\$20,000

NAME	HOUSING ALLOWANCE
Ziel	\$18,000
Bennethum	[\$24,000] <sup>1</sup>
Garbe	\$12,000
Gade	\$21,000
Handwerk	\$5,000
Simmons	\$35,000

- (2010.10.4) 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)	Randele Albers
Associate in Ministry (second year)	Leesa Wimmer
Diaconal Minister (second year)	Linda Zawaski
- (2010.10.5) Resolved, that a two-year term call be extended to the Rev. Carey Miller to serve as pastor of Trinity Memorial, Allentown, effective September 1, 2010.
- (2010.10.6) Resolved, that a call to special service be extended to Pastor Vicky Bush to serve a chaplain at Country Meadows, Bethlehem, effective July 13, 2010.

#### New Business

New members offered reflections on their first council meeting and several council members shared some of the good things happening around the Synod.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Future Synod Council gatherings:

- December 11 – ARE leadership event
- January 19 --- Synod Council meeting
- March 26-27 – ARE regional events
- April 2-3 – ARE regional events
- April 7 – Synod Council meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Taylor  
Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup>The bulk of Pastor Bennethum’s salary and all of his housing allowance is provided by the ELCA. The number shown here is for information only.