

**Synod Council Meeting
Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
The Lutheran Center
July 13, 2013**

Synod Council Members present: Donna Ahner, Dawn Baxter, Pastor Jeff Butz, Pastor Cindy Camp, Jim Carey, David Derr, Pastor Lee Diefenderfer, Marty Everhart, Dave Hinrichs, Pastor Michele Kaufman, Catherine Mordosky, Jim Parks, Don Smith, AiM Barbara Taylor, Leslie Wagner, and Pastor Gary Walbert.

Synod Council Members excused: Steve Barnett, Pastor Paul Braden, Sister Ramona Daily, Mark Hammond, Pastor Jerry Kulp, and Terry Shilling.

Synod Staff Members present: Bishop Samuel Zeiser and Pastor Catherine Ziel.

Guest present: Pastor Bob Hughes.

Bishop Zeiser led “Dwelling in the Word” and presided at Holy Communion. Introductions were shared.

Dr. Robert Hughes gave a presentation on ALOA, Adult Lutherans Organized for Action.

A debriefing of the 2013 Assembly was shared.

The bishop provided hand-outs on the Role of Synod Council in Governance. The council discussed them and proposed adding the Task Force on Bullying and Mission Districts to the groups that might report to the council. Mission District Liaisons will cover parochial reports. Reports to the Council could focus on what the Council needs to know and how the Council can assist that group.

The bishop suggested that the Executive Committee should set Synod Council meeting dates for the year. The Executive Committee will meet two weeks prior to each meeting and the committees will meet two weeks prior to Executive Committee to allow time for information to be shared.

Council members indicated which committee and working group they would like to serve on as shown on the attached chart.

Vice President Baxter called the business portion of meeting to order at 1:50 PM.

Bishop’s Report

Bishop Zeiser gave several updates and discussed the upcoming Churchwide Assembly. Information was shared on a letter from Christ United, Hamilton Square, regarding constitutional changes.

Vice President’s Report

A written report was submitted. Dawn presented the report of the Call Process Task Force.

Secretary’s Report

The Minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer’s Report

Dave announced that at the end of June we will be close to budget.

Committee Reports

- Finance – Lee presented a written report from his meeting with the auditors. Sale of the Wescosville property is pending.
- Program and Review – the committee is working on the process for election of a bishop.
- Administration – no report.

En Bloc Items

The following resolutions were adopted:

(2013.7.1) Resolved, that a call to special service be issued to Thomas Scornavacchi to serve as pastor of Common Ground Recovery Ministry, a Synodically-authorized Worshiping Community of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

(2013.7.2) Resolved, that the call to special service of Pastor Robert Kaltenbaugh be extended to July 31, 2014.

(2013.7.3) Resolved, that Patrick J. Brennan, M.D., Jaan Naktin, M.D., Rosalin Petrucci and Donald Snyder be elected to three-year terms on the board of trustees of the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network, terms commencing in 2013.

New Business

Staff meeting minutes will be sent to Council members.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Taylor
Synod Secretary