

Minutes for June 29, 2013 Meeting

Place: St. John Grove City 3220 Columbus Street. Grove City, Ohio Time: 10:00-2:00

Present: Pastor Alan Knoke, Pastor Don Allman, Don Karger, Tom White, Paula Caso.

Absent: Pastor Amy Little, Pastor Paul Larson, Pastor Lisa Peterson, Ethel Briggs.

Agenda items covered:

1. Greetings from host congregation
2. Opening prayer and devotions: *Pastor Alan opened with an analogy to Joshua entering the Promised Land in the absence of Moses and the original generation who left Egypt. They had new thoughts and had been in the wilderness for an entire generation. Joshua gave them the choice of whom they were going to serve, but made it clear who he was going to serve.*
3. Get Acquainted: Take 3-5 minutes to share something about your ministry setting, something you are proud of, thankful for or concerned about.
 - *Shared home and cell phone numbers for emergency contact.*
 - *Discussed what we are doing in our congregation:*
 - *Tom gave a sample brochure from Trinity in Monroeville and suggested that we as a district do something similar. He also talked about all the outreach opportunities available through his congregation.*
 - *Paula described what was going on with JoF regarding a pastoral call and new location. She also described some of the outreach done and growth within the congregation.*
 - *Pastor Don talked about the structure of his congregation (St. John's which is our host today) which he has served since 1985. Don described "Faith Webbing" which is a cross-generational faith partnership system. They did a youth camp where kids learned and led faith training/leadership activities. Parents and adults were there to assist, but it was completely youth led. There were about 160 attending.*
 - *Don Karger described himself as a transplant from Minnesota and originally Missouri Synod. He has been in many different Lutheran denominations, but has always been Lutheran and always involved in the church. He has never been involved in the synodical activities, but felt led to help when the OMD was formed. He is from a small congregation which has by necessity become lay-led in many aspects due to its size.*
 - *Pastor Alan gave us some of his background. His congregation was the 47th to join the NALC and he had never participated in these kinds of activities and was surprised when he was called to serve. His leadership style is a challenge for him right now in his congregation as they are re-structuring their leadership style. His congregation started out as very supportive of his becoming Dean, but then*

there were others who led to conflicts and it became a difficult situation. Following this, his daughter-in-law had severe problems with her pregnancy and that presented emotional challenges to add to the issues of becoming Dean. Challenges with leaders in his congregation continue at this time and prayer is needed. The level of change occurring in his life is extremely high and he wanted us to know what was going on.

4. Treasurer and Secretary report -Minutes of our Feb. meeting and Convocation minutes. *The Treasurer's report presented by Don K. The total balance in our account as of June 30th is \$25,150.36. Net income after expenses is \$8,801.31. Breakdown of the OMD Convocation expenses for 2013 was provided. The amount resulting was a profit of \$630.96. Pastor Don motioned to accept reports, and Tom seconded. All voted to accept. The Secretary's report from the February meeting was presented in writing. Don K. motioned to accept and Paula seconded. All voted in favor.*
5. Dean Report
 - a. New congregations: *Two congregations were added to the NALC roster in Ohio. These are both currently dual rostered with ELCA which is a challenge because in future call situations finding a new pastor who can serve in both synods is improbable.*
 - b. Certification issues:
 - *There was a discussion of Lay-Preaching Academies to lead toward a certified Lay-Leader and/or Lay-Precacher who can serve in multiple congregations. They could be listed on the web site as possible fill-in preachers for others to contact when a need is present. Discussion ensued about whether to have a board certify these leaders and how to train them. Also, discussion continued about sending them out in pairs where one would be a worship leader for the liturgy while the other would preach the sermon.*
 - *How to certify: Don K suggested to start with the person's own pastor followed by possibly the regional Assistant Dean, dean and/or bishop.*
 - *Pastor Alan suggested that the first step would be a recommendation by the candidate's own pastor (or a church council in the absence of a pastor) to participate in the Lay-Preaching Academy. Then they would have another pastor chosen by an assistant dean as well as an assistant to the dean listen to them give a sermon. Then the assistant to the dean would recommend them to the OMD Executive Council for certification. Also discussed was how feedback about certified preachers should be provided to the council to make sure the system is working.*
 - *Tom suggested that the person should give several sermons at their own church before being viewed by the second pastor and/or assistant dean.*
 - *Pastor Don suggested that some may not want to serve outside their own congregation. Also, basing certification on one good sermon may not be best. Perhaps a video-taped set of sermons may be better.*
 - *This will be presented to the Bishop for approval by Pastor Alan*

6. Review of the convocation
 - a. *Navigators Pilot: Nine congregations have asked to pilot the program. Several have already committed funds to participate. Pastor Don's congregation was among them. His council will be voting on that by August. There may be seven who actually move forward on this. Hopefully, this pilot will recur next year at the convocation with more congregations volunteering to participate. We reviewed the amount of assistance committed to each congregation participating in the pilot program and found that we had agreed at the OMD Convocation to provide up to \$700 per congregation for 5 congregations.*
 - b. *Consideration for our presenters and host congregation for "use of their facility." Discussion was held on gifts to the 4 presenters for \$50 each which was followed by a motion from Pastor Don and a second from Tom. All voted in favor. Also \$150 was invoiced for custodial needs from the host church and that will be paid.*
 - c. *Items that worked well: The presentations were well attended and most were rated Great or better by those filling out the evaluations. (Summary of evaluations from Ethel is attached at the end of the minutes)*
 - d. *Items we need to change: For the convocation next year we need to coordinate technological needs ahead of time. Some presenters had difficulty getting set up and attendance numbers were sometimes overwhelming. Planning for tech with presenters ahead of time and coordinating with host church would help. Also, having choices of presenters listed on the registration form so that numbers of attendees can be anticipated and balanced out was recommended. Only other issue was the size of the lunches. ;-)*
7. Latest information/issues in the mission district.
 - a. *Congregations added: The current list of congregations is not in agreement between the Ohio OMD, the NALC site and other sources. This needs to be coordinated. Paula will review the list available on the NALC site and compare to what we have on the OMD site.*
 - b. *Southern Ohio Synod: Southern Ohio Synod: The new bishop may change the stance of the ELCA in relationship with the NALC in that region. If she is strict ELCA and not willing to be flexible with the congregations in the south, we may see an influx of new congregations. If this happens then the division of the Ohio mission district will be more complicated.*
 - c. *Certification of Lay preachers/ establishing a certification board for lay preachers/worship leaders. Besides the section noted previously, there was some discussion about two certifications and sending out in pairs: one to lead the liturgy and one to preach the sermon. How to train both concurrently or separately will have to be determined.*
8. *Web page issues (Paula Caso): See addendum of questions discussed and conclusions made at the end of the minutes after the summary from Ethel.*
9. Lay preaching workshop
 - a. *When: Potentially in the Fall.*
 - b. *Location: All discussed whether at Trinity, Ashland or moving around the state was best. Other questions included: Is there another pastor who can be trained to do what Pastor Mitchell does in the Academies? How often? How to teach both worship leadership and preaching situations in one academy? What is the maximum class size? It was determined that the OMD can take care of the room and board for the presenter*

(Pastor Mitchell and/or another). Pastor Don was willing to host. It was determined that Columbus area seemed the best location for anyone coming from around the state. To help coordinate and promote the academies we can post emails with links to information on the website.

10. Division of Mission District – Start the discussion on how we are going to proceed.
 - a. How will this be done
 - b. When
 - c. Where will the lines be drawn
 - d. How will this affect our finances (Merrill Lynch discussion from our Feb. 8 meeting)

Discussion of splitting the district included:

- *Having co-deans and one district, electing assistant deans from within each region rather than having the dean appoint them, where the divisions should occur, how many regions/divisions, dividing based on number of congregations or on size/wealth of congregations...*
- *The discussion on "when" centered around making decisions at the OMD Convocation but with enough prior notice to congregations so that there would not be any surprises.*
- *Also mentioned was the existence of a need to begin building relationships between congregations within each region and regional meetings once a year is not enough. Also, we need to have groups mix and get to know each other better. Can we have a session "Meeting with your dean" and get to know each other?*
- *Discussion of where we stand financially... we decided that the Merrill Lynch idea would be tabled pending the decisions on splitting the district. There is a set amount earmarked for seminary tuition assistance in our account.*

For our next meeting: Think a little about the topic of division of the mission district: How, when, how to decide who would lead in different capacities, coordination between areas and representation for each. Keep in mind that we are setting the precedent at this point.

OMD Convocation - May 4, 2013

Evaluations

Cost of the convocation-- All 5 rated "just right"

The worship experiences were: "Great", "all good", "excellent", "OK (prefer traditional music)", one blank

Two Keynote Addresses by Bishop Bradosky were:

Excellent

God's Word spoken -- Holy Spirit led. Right on! Keep following Jesus. Love you!

Excellent!
Excellent - superb

The food was:

Good but too large amount
Excellent
Excellent --lunch very good
Very good
Good, sandwiches too large

Workshops Attended:

Great --**Workshops attended were not identified**
Two identified the workshops, but no comments
God Leads to Plenty: "Excellent"
God Leads Us Through the Wilderness: "Superb"
"Holy Spirit led speaker, Thank you, Jesus! Scripture led. Wonderful"

Website questions and requests:

Index.html:

1. Updated picture with entire council? Perhaps at the next meeting. We have 4 people missing today.

About.html:

1. Need new map with updated Dean/Assistants information, preferably in PDF format. I can convert to JPG for website, but make it clickable to open into one that is more readable if I have a PDF. Pastor Alan will work on this.

2. Updated information on Assistants to the Dean if needed (different from what is currently on the website). Pastor Alan will provide when he can.

3. A list of who to contact for what should also be added.

Meet.html:

1. Need Bio information for Pastor Don. He will provide to Paula when he has a chance.

2. Updated Bio info for anyone who wants changes made. General statement made with no responses indicating they wanted a change at that time.

News.html:

1. Any new additions for news or events. None currently.

Congregations.html:

1. Any updates? Just added latest 2. Need to check list against that available on the NALC website as pointed out by Tom.

Resources.html:

1. Surplus Supplies list? Email congregations to see if they have supplies that they would like to see go to another congregation who can use them? If so, include contact information for seekers to contact givers. We can send a general email requesting this information from our congregations.

2. Off site connections, like other mission district sites. If you have something we should add here, LMK. Paula mentioned the Carolinas mission district link as an example. Don Karger mentioned Triune Publishing and Pastor Alan will look into that.

3. Any new additions to resources? Perhaps solicit a new list via email to congregations?

4. Any new supply pastors? None at this time. Document to be provided indicating guidelines for compensation for those filling in this capacity. Pastor Alan and Don K. to provide this.

5. Discussed adding section for pastors who are looking for a call within the OMD. Voluntary posting to the site as requested by the pastor so that those currently under call are not required to be posted.

6. Discussed adding a section for supply Lay-Leaders/Lay-Preachers as we begin to certify people in this capacity.

Documents.html:

1. Are there any new documents, forms or newsletters that should be added? None at this time.

Prayers.html:

1. Suggestions for the "thanks" portion needed. If there's something there, it might prompt more ideas. None given during the meeting, but may be emailed later.

2. How long should I keep prayers posted? Continuing items can stay, obviously, but what about dated items? Decision was one month with a statement added to the site saying that if a requestor wishes to have a post stay longer, then they need to contact the webmaster.

Suggestion was made that requestors can provide names and emails for contact so that those viewing the site can contact them for updates or details. Those can be links added beside the date the request was initially made.

3. Same for thanks and "lend assistance" items... how long? Thanks will have the same statement as the prayer requests. The "Lend Assistance" items will have a statement saying 3 months instead of one month, with the option to be kept by the requestor.

Stewardship.html:

1. Need information for 2013 contributions. Don K. will supply this.

2. What else should I put on that page? Ideas for article on stewardship? Pastor Alan and Don K. will put together something to be posted on that page. Included will be a statement of suggested giving to the OMD and the OMD stand on congregation-to-congregation support.

Outreach.html:

1. Solicit congregations for what outreach activities they have... with pictures?

Suggested emailing all congregations again to solicit this information. Dated items to be removed after a month as with prayer requests/thanks.

2. How long to keep special events items posted? Until they have passed.

Definitions.html:

1. Anything to add to the definitions page? Pastor Alan and pastor Don suggested that this would be useful as we look into splitting the OMD.