

**Ohio Mission District Meeting: November 1, 2013  
St. John Lutheran Church, Grove City, Ohio**

**Present:** Pastor Don Allman, Pastor Paul Larson, Pastor Amy Little, Pastor (Dean) Alan Knoke, Tom White, Don Karger, Ethel Briggs, Paula Caso (by phone).

**Opening devotions and prayer:** Dean Alan Knoke

**Checking in** take 3-5 minutes to share something about yourself.

**Treasurer's report:** Don K.

**Dean's Report:** Alan K. Efforts to make connection with Bp. Suzanne Dillahunt of Southern Ohio Synod to talk about the dual affiliation that is happening. Will they be under church discipline?

**Upcoming Schedule** for OMD Executive Meetings:

Look at the division of the Mission District:

Share information from the Deans meeting on mission district size. MDs should be no more than 20 congregations. We are already at almost 60 congregations in Ohio. Dual affiliation with ELCA and NALC. See attached image.

Retreat for pastors: meet and get together to know each other better; have some light programming perhaps in January would be a good time. Alan and Don will work on selecting a camp or retreat center and other details. Check with Thrivent for possible funding?

Preaching academy – it did not happen this fall. When do we want to have this again. Perhaps something in the Spring? Late March or wait until Fall? Don will contact Sandy Mitchell to see if he would be willing to do this in March and perhaps another one in the fall if needed. Discussion on certification process- raise it to a higher level; in need of some key foundational pieces of theology (Amy, Scott Ness, others mentioned who could help with this. Some of the training could come virtually. We have an obligation to increase the foundation part of the Word, not just that this

person can now preach, needs to be more than just a preaching class. For next time- what should process be for certifying lay preachers and for continuing ed following the certification. Bring to this group or create a task force to set up a certification board to create some checks and balances for this. (Patty Morlock, Scott Ness, Amy Little, who else?) This is an ongoing process, would like to have this in place before next Lay Preaching seminar so people would know what the requirements are to be listed as “Certified.”

Weekly Devotional – Amy Little; every Wednesday by email.

**Web page** – How can we make that more useful? Update the Dean’s information: [akknoke@gmail.com](mailto:akknoke@gmail.com) cell 937-564-6813. Resources, sharing, exchanging ideas

Role of the assistant to the dean (What should we expect of them?)

**The virtual church** – Is this something we think we can do as a mission district? Google conference calling for focused meetings? Bill Maki- could Lutheran Core deal with this? They are into connecting confessional Lutherans. House churches? Think about it, Alan will contact Lutheran Core.

**Navigators** – Update and look at reimbursement for travel of leaders and look at congregations request for support funding for the project (we had allocated funds to help out churches with this experience.)

\*Two funding requests for navigators. Mileage for facilitators/presenters. Could we cover the cost of travel for the pastors of each congregation. Make sure we budget something for 2014. Churches send a request for funds to Treasurer. Each participating congregation will be given funds per convocation decision, \$700 per congregation up to \$3500. Motion made by Ethel, seconded by Don Karger. Motion carried.

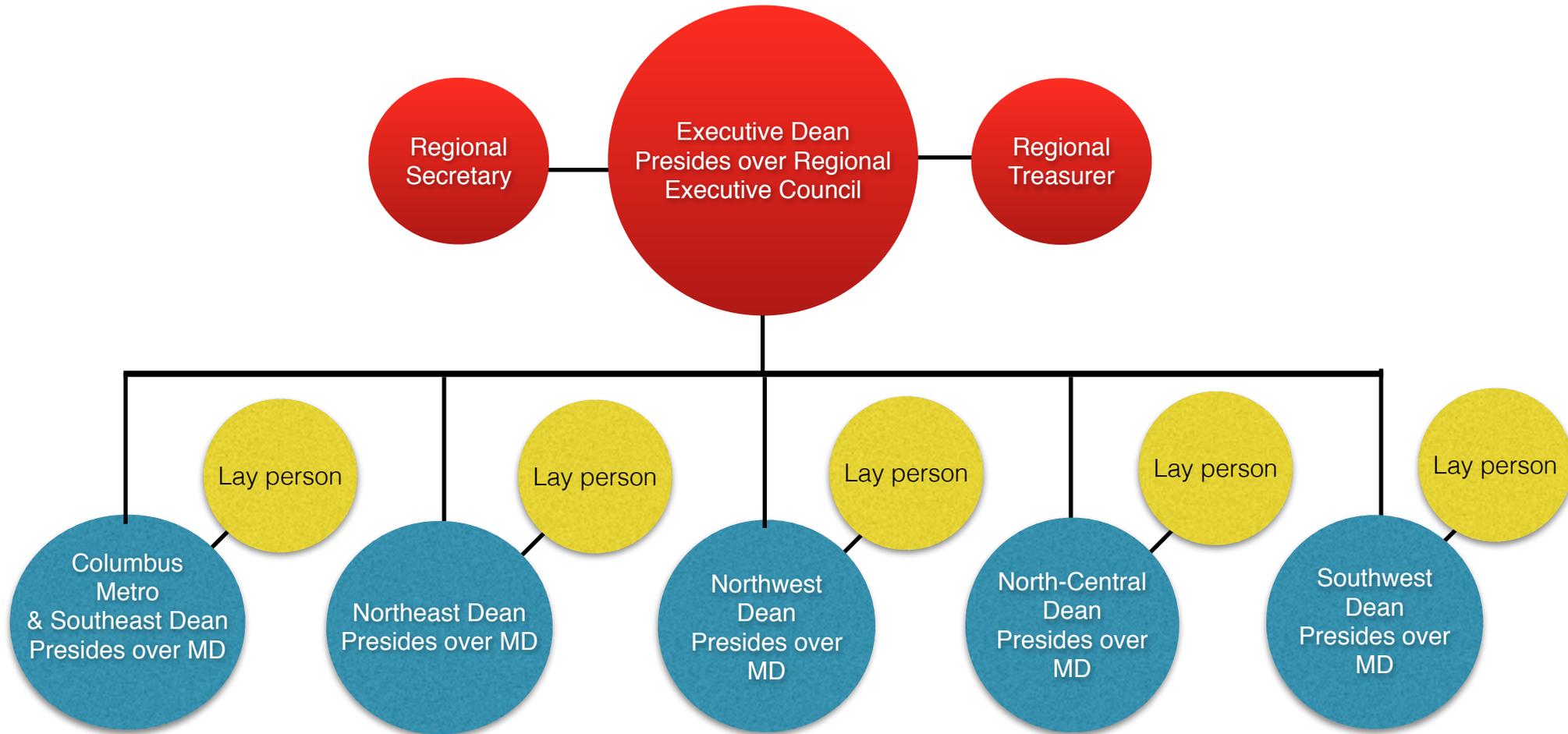
Look at the possibilities for an assistant to the Dean in the NE Ohio.

Set our meeting time for the rest of this year including the time and place for the OMD annual meeting in May 2014. January 20, MLK day 10-2 at First English in Mansfield.

**2014 Convocation** May 2-3; more structure needed for Friday night. Begin thinking what is effective especially when we are trying to find out who will be effective Deans if and when we need to restructure Ohio Mission District. Regular convocation- those running for Dean will do a presentation. If we conduct business on Friday evening and it is foundational people will be expected to be there. Then break into fellowship time afterwards.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Pastor Amy Little*, Secretary of the OMD



**Proposition:** Ohio would have five Mission Districts. Each would have up to 20 congregations. All five Mission Districts would gather once a year for a Convocation with time where we meet together in our Mission Districts. We would continue to learn together and relate to one another and it would be good stewardship of resources. The Dean of the Mission District would be elected at a Mission District gathering before the Regional Convocation. The Dean of the Mission District is the clergy representative on the Regional Executive Council. The Deans would be recognized at the Convocation when others are installed.

## Proposal for Five Ohio Mission Districts

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Each Dean would be responsible for meeting with the congregations of their Mission District, with its own constitution and ministry goals. Regional Dean would be pastor to the Deans, a resource to the Mission Districts, one who cares for the Deans. He (or she) would gather the Deans together to relate to them (perhaps even virtually). Each Mission District would elect one lay person to the Regional Executive meetings (which would be like our Executive council as it is now.) District at the Regional Executive meetings. This would make 11 people on the Regional Executive Committee which would include the Regional Dean who would run the meeting.

Mission Districts would gather clergy together every other month to connect. Each MD will formulate their own structure of functioning to do their business/ministry. MDs would gather with clergy and laity at least twice a year to connect/learn. Before the Regional Convocation (which happens in the spring) the Dean and Lay Representative to the Regional Executive Council would be elected.

**Treasury:** There would be one account but a line item for each Mission District within the Budget for each MD to do ministry.

**Officers:** A Regional Treasurer and Regional Secretary would be elected at the Annual Regional Convocation.

### **Regional Convocation:**

Election of Treasurer, Secretary and Executive Dean.

Each Mission District will come up with a workshop for the Convocation as their offering to the Region.

### **Things to Hammer Out:**

\*Must discern between what is Regional and what is local Mission District.