

The Ohio Mission District executive council met on January 31, 2015, at First English Lutheran Church in Mansfield. Attending were Alan Knoke, Paul Larson, Paul Gruetter, Don Karger, Don Allman, Paula Caso, and Ethel Briggs.

We began with prayer, and then some sharing time with members of the council.

Convocation is the first major topic of the day. Alan Knoke has checked with the bishop for available dates; Bishop Bradosky is available for May 9. Ohio Convocation will be held on May 9. Alan Knoke will check with Trinity, Ashland, to see if they are willing and able to host.

Bishop Bradosky will be asked to give a keynote address.

Instead of workshops, the main focus of the day will be the start-up process for each of the five new Ohio Mission Districts. Each district will need to approve their constitution, and elect a treasurer, secretary, 3 clergy and 3 lay to their Mission District Council, and 1 lay person to the Ohio Regional Council (this lay person can be one of those elected to the district council). The dean will also represent the district at the Ohio Regional Council. Procedurally, the district should probably elect their district council first, and then elect the regional representative.

Ohio region will need to elect a treasurer and a secretary. Paul Gruetter will submit his name in nomination for secretary, for a term that will end at the 2016 convocation. Don Karger will submit his name in nomination for treasurer, for a 2-year term.

The Bishop will appoint the 5 deans for the 5 new Ohio Mission Districts for terms (one, two, and three years) beginning on May 9.

Immediately at the close of this convocation, those elected to the Ohio Regional Council will meet to elect a convener.

The Bishop will install the deans, and the members of the 5 new Ohio Mission Districts and the members of the Ohio Regional Council. Installation will take place during the closing worship of convocation.

Paul Gruetter moved, Paul Larson seconded to restore the original language of Article 8 – Convener, into the Ohio Region constitution.

We discussed the agenda for Convocation. We will need to provide a detailed agenda for the day, including what actions the 5 new Mission Districts need to take during their meetings: approve constitution, and elections. Before the break-out sessions for the districts, the dean of the current Ohio Mission District (Pr. Alan Knoke) can walk everyone through the constitution drafts, and what actions need to be taken. We'll make sure there is time for question and answer. Closing worship will have the Bishop preaching and presiding for communion, as well as installing officers. Opening worship would be shorter. Following opening worship, Alan Knoke will give an overview of the reasons for dividing into five mission districts. He will also go over the constitutions for the 5 new Ohio Mission Districts and the new Ohio Region.

Here is the proposed agenda.

8:15 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 9:30 Opening Worship
9:30 – 10:30 Presentation on Restructuring
10:30 – 10:45 Break
10:45 – Noon Mission Districts meet
 Adoption of new Mission District constitution
 Elections
 Treasurer, secretary, 3 clergy and 3 lay representatives to district council
 One lay representative to Ohio Mission Region council
 Envisioning
Noon - 1:00 Lunch
1:00 – 1:30 Ohio Mission Region business
 Introduction of deans and newly elected district officers
 Election of regional council secretary and treasurer
 Adoption of budget for Ohio Mission Region
1:30 – 2:15 Keynote speech from Bishop Bradosky
2:15 – 2:30 Break
2:30 – 3:00 State of the NALC, with Bishop Bradosky
3:00 – 3:15 Q and A with the Bishop
3:15 – 3:30 Break
3:30 – 4:30 Closing Eucharist, with Installation of district and regional officers

Paula Caso offered that Scott Caso could take group photos, including a photo of all five councils, deans, regional council and the bishop.

The newly appointed deans will chair their respective mission district meetings.

Paul Gruetter will develop the brochure for convocation, and handle publicity and mailings. Ethel Briggs will handle registration for convocation. Alan Knoke will coordinate plans with the bishop, and secure a site for the May 9 Convocation.

At our next meeting, we will resolve the question of whether contributions from congregations will go primarily to their respective mission district or to the Ohio Mission Region.

We need to send the new constitution drafts to the NALC Executive Council after today's meeting.

Next meeting will be Saturday, March 7, 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., at First English, Mansfield.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Gruetter, secretary