

Ohio Region NALC – Executive Council meeting July 29, 2017



Present:	Unable to Attend:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dean Bill Maki• Dean Paul Larson• Dean Jeff Morlock• Dean Bob Quaintance• Dean Dan Powell• Don Karger• Paula Caso• Ethel Briggs• Elizabeth Ridenour	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jim Patrick

Minutes

Meeting @ First English Lutheran, Mansfield, OH

- I. Devotion/Prayer – Pastor Bill opened with prayer for guidance at 10:10 after some time of fellowship.
- II. Treasurer’s Report – The current balance was noted and mention of a lost check that was reissued was included.
- III. Minutes – Don moved to approve the minutes and Pastor Dan moved to approve the treasurer’s report. Ethel seconded and all voted in favor of both approvals.
- IV. Planning of 500th Anniversary of Reformation – Pastor Paul has been in contact with Jim Nestingen. Topics had not been determined for the keynotes yet.
 - a. Keynote topics: Pastor Dan suggested *Reformation: What it was! What it is!* Conversation about what percent of our congregations were life-long Lutherans revealed that in most of our churches (50% or more) are previously from another belief system. Pastor Paul word-smithed the concept proposed and texted it to Jim N.
 - b. Location is still set at First English Lutheran in Mansfield. The organist committed to being available.
 - c. Pastor Dan suggested a slight modification to the schedule to allow for more passing/movement time. Pastor Paul motioned, Pastor Jeff seconded accepting the new schedule and all voted in favor.
 - i. 9:30 – 10:00 Registration.
 - ii. 10:00 – 11:00 Keynote
 - iii. 11:00 – 11:15 Break
 - iv. 11:15 – 12:15 Keynote 2
 - v. 12:15 – 1:15 Lunch (with an announcement at 1:00 to alert people to the time to move on)
 - vi. 1:15 – 2:30 Worship w/ communion
 - d. It was decided to have Jim choose his own scripture texts for the service. It was mentioned that not using the traditional texts might be a good idea because the traditional texts would have been used in services the weeks before.
 - e. The thought was that we would probably max out at 150 attendees. However, it was also brought up that the reformation affected all protestants. So, it might be a good idea to invite the councils of other local Mansfield churches.
 - f. The choice of an appropriate title for the event (brought up by Pastor Dan) settled on calling it a *Celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation*.
 - g. Pastor Dan suggested that we ask ourselves, “What is the take-away from this celebration?” We started asking “Why?” and the conversation morphed into why the Reformation was important, why it should be celebrated, and how that applies to us today. Also discussed was the idea of what Lutherans bring to the table in this day and age to help bring about Reformation. Some talked about the ideas/concepts being discussed in other religious circles and their deviations from the truth to draw people into their circles. This returned to what we want the attendees to take away and actually use in their lives.
 - i. Pastor Bob suggested video-taping Jim Nestingen’s keynotes so they can be shared out later.

- ii. Pastor Dan suggested bringing information on what is being done in the congregations in the districts to celebrate the Reformation and sharing that.
 - h. Pastor Bill asked Pastor Paul to request a bio from Jim Nestingen for our flyer.
 - i. Pastor Paul suggested asking Jim to talk for 50 minutes with a 10-minute Q&A session. Note cards could be provided for people before the keynotes and collected by ushers during the keynotes to be addressed during the Q&A. There will be no opening devotional, just a welcoming.
 - j. Pastor Bob mentioned a combined choir and Pastor Paul thought of Ron Marenchin to direct this choir and choose a piece or two. The organist at FELC can coordinate the music and instruments with Ron. Pastor Paul will address this piece as well as a blended style of worship. Pastor Paul suggested offering compensation to the worship leader coordinating the worship and the choir director at \$200 each. Pastor Jeff motioned and Pastor Dan seconded paying Becky Pitman and Ron Marenchin (Barbara Cripe-Blackburn as a backup for Ron Marenchin) \$200 each and all voted in favor.
 - i. Pastor Dan suggested that the music chosen be something the churches each purchase and practice with their own choirs and then have representatives come to the celebration.
 - ii. Pastor Bill suggested having those churches who need help with the purchase of the sheet music ask their mission district for assistance.
 - iii. Pastor Paul suggested that the OMR offer the scholarships for the sheet music for those who would participate. Pastor Bill suggested that the Deans contact their congregations for interest and forward that information to Ron Marenchin so he can order the sheet music. The deans will arrange to get the information from their district's congregations, compile it, and get it to Ron Marenchin by August 31st. Pastor Bill motioned and Pastor Jeff seconded the motion to have the OMR cover the cost of the sheet music and postage to get it out to the participants.
 - k. Paula will create a registration flyer once she has a write-up for the description of the celebration and a bio on Jim Nestingen. Blurb about the worship to include a combined choir of individuals from NALC congregations around Ohio. **"World renowned NALC theologian, Reformation historian and down-to-earth pastor"** is a good tag line to promote the event.
 - l. Goal: send out the registration flyers by early September. Deadline for pre-registration would be November 5th and cost \$10. Anything postmarked after 11/5 (or at the door) would be \$15. Pastor Bob motioned and Pastor Dan seconded the fee structure. All voted in favor.
 - m. Paula will create the flyer and send it to Pastor Bill to be mailed out and posted online. Pastor Bill will email the completed brochure to the other deans so they can forward it by email to their congregations. Pastor Bill will snail-mail the printed brochures to all of the congregations as he did with the Convocation brochures.
- V. Funding for Water Tower Proposal – Pastor Dan forwarded an email with the following information prior to the meeting:

Dear Pastor Powell,

Thanks so much for returning my call and agreeing to present the need for this water tower at the NALC Ohio Missions team meeting this weekend.

I have attached the complete document from John Peter Kirubakaran, the Mission Director of United Evangelical Mission (UEM) in India. If you are short on time and would like to just get a picture in a nutshell of the water project, you might like to skip to page 9 on the document, but if you are unfamiliar with UEM's work and the locale of this particular project, I'm sure you'd be edified by the whole document. My understanding is that they (Pam Charas, et. al.) have already been in contact with Gwynne Gonnerman, the Executive Director of India Transformed, about this need.

I am planning to call Gemechis' office on Friday morning...unfortunately, that's the first opportunity I will have. I'm assuming I won't talk directly to him but to his assistant, Jenny. I will also email them the attached document so that they are aware of the project. Perhaps after your

meeting, you could let me know how this was received and we can make a plan on where to go from here.

Another thought I had was to investigate corporate sponsors (water companies?), but I don't know how likely we'd be to get them.

I sure do look forward to hearing feedback from the Ohio Missions team! If it's at all possible, I'd appreciate hearing from you by Wednesday next week since we are heading out of town. Living Water has a goal to get budgets submitted by the end of August, so I thought perhaps other NALC churches will be getting to their budgets soon, too. For that reason, if your team agrees it is worth pursuing, it might be helpful to our cause to move quickly to get the word out and publicize this need.

God bless, and safe travels this weekend!

Yours in Christ,

Kris Oakley
Living Water Lutheran Church

After some discussion, the decision of the OMR council was to go with the NALC policy of being “Congregationally Focused” and refer support of this project to the decision of individual congregations.

VI. Mission District News –

- a. NEOMD – An invitation to a “Renewal Training” was emailed to the deans for them to send one person from each district to the training. The NEOMD had obtained permission to send 2 or 3 in lieu of staying overnight since the location is Columbus, OH and is a drivable distance.
- b. NCOMD – Pastor Paul shared how they have a person who sits at a “prayer station” in the room where they have a free weekly meal. That person is constantly sitting with and praying with people who are seeking prayer.
- c. SEOMD – Pastor Jeff talked about Lutheran Social Services and how to focus the congregation on what questions to ask about supporting an outreach. *Is the outreach leading people to Christ? Is a primary concern.*
- d. NWOMD – No discussion this meeting.
- e. SWOMD – Update on Jim Patrick was shared and he is improving and doing well. Pastor Dan will be having a surgery on Monday August 14th and will need to be on rest for a week and a half or so. Prayer would be appreciated. Pastor Dan’s wife still suffers from injuries from her 2016 auto accident.

VII. Next Meeting – September 23rd

VIII. Adjournment – Pastor Dan moved and Pastor Paul seconded the adjournment. All voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 2:10.

Action Items from today’s meeting

- a. *Pastor Bob is going to contact the Bishop to get his PowerPoint (left over from last meeting)*
- b. *Paula will post the Bishop’s PowerPoint online once she receives it. (left over from last meeting)*
- c. *Each dean will (before our next meeting) update the information on the congregations and leadership in their respective districts and forward those updates to Paula so she can update them on the OMR website. (Only Pastor Bob has completed this task as of 8/15/17)*
- d. *The deans will arrange to get the information on choir participants for the Celebration from their district’s congregations, compile it, and get it to Ron Marenchin by August 31st.*
- e. *Make arrangements for video-taping Jim Nestingen’s keynotes so they can be shared out later. (Unassigned... who should do?)*
- f. *Pastor Dan suggested bringing information on what is being done in the congregations in the districts to celebrate the Reformation and sharing that. (Unassigned... who should do?)*

- g. Note cards could be provided for people before the keynotes and collected by ushers during the keynotes to be addressed during the Q&A. (Need to be purchased and people chosen to collect)*
- h. Paula will create the flyer and send it to Pastor Bill to be mailed out and posted online.*
- i. Pastor Bill will email the completed brochure to the other deans so they can forward it by email to their congregations.*
- j. The deans will email a copy of the brochure to each congregation in their respective districts.*
- k. Pastor Bill will snail-mail the printed brochures to all of the congregations as he did with the Convocation brochures.*
- l. Paula will update the OMR map of districts and all the congregational information on the website once she has the necessary information from the deans. (Still waiting for information)*
- m. Pastor Paul will call Jenny Brockman to see what to give Jim Nestingen as an honorarium. (Left over from last meeting)*
- n. Paula needs to send a reminder to the deans in January to update the addresses and Pastors for the congregations in their districts prior to the OMR Convocation. (To be done in January)*