



The Ohio Mission Region council met on Saturday, November 14, 2015, at First English Lutheran Church in Mansfield. Attending were Don Allman, Bill Maki, Jim Patrick, Ethel Briggs, Bob Quaintance, Paul Gruetter, Paul Larson, Dan Powell, Molly King, and Paula Caso.

Convener Don Allman led devotions, based on the first reading for that Sunday from Daniel 12, pondering the Biblical image of “names in the book”.

Bob Quaintance moved, Dan Powell seconded that the minutes from our previous meeting be approved. Motion passed.

Don Karger was not able to be present, but did give a printed treasurer’s report for the year-to-date, which includes the first part of the year when we were the Ohio Mission District. No action was taken on the report, pending clarification on a question we have for Don Karger.

### **Mission District Updates**

Southeast Ohio Mission District - Dean Don Allman

Almost all of the positions on the district council have been filled. There are three churches in the district which are in the call process.

Southwest Ohio Mission District - Dean Dan Powell

There are two congregations in the territory of this mission district which are in the process of joining the NALC. There is one district congregation currently in the call process. There are two pastors from this territory who are seeking certification to serve in the NALC. The executive council is active. The district held a leadership conference in the fall, and all nine congregations of the district participated.

North Eastern Ohio Mission District - Dean Bob Quaintance

There will be a gathering of district clergy coming up in December. Bob asked if other districts included fostered professional lay leaders in their clergy meetings. Our group discussion leaned toward inclusion. Bob will invite rostered clergy and lay professional leaders. The district council has not yet met, but there are plans to meet soon. There is one congregation and one two-point parish currently in the call process. The dean has been doing some work with individual congregations.

North Central Ohio Mission District - Dean Paul Larson

Pastor Michael Greenler was installed as pastor of St. Paul’s, Bucyrus. The dean has been in contact with a congregation in the call process, to help them look at possibilities and options. The district council will meet in the next month or two. Pastors are meeting monthly.

North West Ohio Mission District - Dean Bill Maki

There are seven congregations in the district. One of them is being served by a bi-vocational pastor. Another congregation is planning to move to part-time ministry January 1. The district pastors get together every 2 months, rotating between congregational locations. The district council has tested meeting by Skype. The test was successful, so the next council meeting will be held by Skype

connection. Amendments to the district constitution have been ratified by the congregations, reducing the number of members of the executive council.

### **Report from Deans' Meeting with Bishop Bradosky**

Don Allman distributed a report from the Deans meeting from earlier in November. Congregations need to have written policies (including belief statements) regarding outside ministries being housed in our church facilities. Church council should give annual approval to each group using the building, and have written covenant agreements with each group. Congregations also need to have a written wedding policy (including who can preside at weddings in your church building), and never make exceptions to their policy. Congregations should also include belief and mission statements as part of the employee handbook. We are also encouraged to include the "Common Confession" as an appendix to congregational constitutions.

Bishop Bradosky shared with the deans that Lutheran Social Services in some parts of the country are not identifying NALC congregations as contributors.

The NALC plans to provide training in conflict resolution, so that each mission district has a trained team. Bob Quaintance suggested that in Ohio this might be something we could do collaboratively as a region, rather than having a team for each separate mission district. Bob also suggested some individuals in Ohio who might have gifts for this kind of ministry. Dan Powell moved that Ohio Mission Region executive council consider organizing conflict resolution teams for Ohio at the regional level. Jim Patrick seconded. Motion approved.

Dan Powell reported that the process for leaving the ELCA has changed since the beginning of the NALC, and he encouraged us to be as familiar with the new process as we can.

The Bishop shared three key words to define discipleship:

Catechize: Teaching the faith

Vocation: Living the faith

Ecclesiasticity: As church, holding one another accountable in Christ

To test how we are doing on these three points, we ask three questions:

Can the people we have been teaching, teach others?

How am I living my faith in daily life (as spouse, parent, employee...)?

How are we challenging one another to do this?

SWOT results (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) from the Mission Emphasis at Convocation are available from Jenny Brockman in the NALC offices. They are also posted on the NALC Network. Dan Powell shared that the Southwest Ohio Mission District used a similar process at their recent leadership gathering. They named it SOAR: Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results.

There is a Strategic Planning Group for the Mission District Deans. They are working on defining the structure and function of mission districts and deans.

The deans received a copy of the bishop's policy on "Pastors Not in Good Standing".

The North American Lutheran Seminary has discontinued the relationship they had with Gordon Conwell seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina. We have also entered into an arrangement with a seminary in Sioux Falls, in which all of the required classes of NALS will be offered on-line, through their Lutheran track at the Sioux Falls seminary.

## **Convocation**

There will be a time set aside at Convocation for each Mission District to meet, for elections, adoption of budget, and any other business they need to conduct. There will also be time for the Mission Region to hold an election. Much of the rest will be workshops.

We compiled a list of ideas for workshops:

- Policy statements regarding building use
- Common Confession
- Discipleship
  - Navigators
  - NALC Life to Life
- Faith Webbing (youth ministry)
- Building Mission Relationships
- Simple Church
- Stewardship
- Communication/Social Media/Tech
- Elected leadership - council responsibilities and roles
- Church accounting and procedures
- Healthy congregations
- Inclusion of people/families with special needs

Studying the list, we discovered that there could be a sub-theme of “best practices” for congregations and leaders.

The council reached consensus on not including a keynote speaker for this year’s Convocation.

Convocation will be on Saturday, May 7. We discussed possible locations. Paul Larson will contact St. Paul’s, Bucyrus, as our first choice. Other locations suggested were: Zion, St. Mary’s; Grace, Springfield; and Holy Trinity, Mansfield.

We compiled the schedule for the event:

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|------------|--|
| 8:15 a.m.  | Registration begins                          |
| 9:00 a.m.  | Announcements, one or two hymns, Bible study |
| 9:30       | Mission District Convocations                |
| 10:30      | Break  |
| 10:45      | Workshop 1                                   |
| 11:45      | Lunch  |
| 12:45 p.m. | Ohio Mission Region business Meeting         |
|            | Election                                     |
|            | Budget                                       |

Installation of newly elected people from districts and region

1:30	Workshop 2
2:30	Break
2:45	Workshop 3
3:45	Closing Worship
	Eucharist, but no sermon
4:15	Go in peace!

If we draw a number of people who are not voters in their Mission District Convocation, we could actually offer them an additional workshop opportunity while the Mission Districts are meeting.

Next meeting of the Ohio Mission Regional Council will be Saturday, February 13, at First English, Mansfield, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Paula Caso moved that the meeting be adjourned. Bill Maki seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Gruetter, secretary