

The executive council of the Ohio Mission Region, NALC, met for its first-ever meeting on Saturday, July 11, 2015 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Mansfield, Ohio.

Attending were Don Allman (convener), Don Karger, Ethel Briggs, Paul Larson, Dan Powell, Paula Caso, and Paul Gruetter. Bob Quaintance was recovering from surgery, and the council called him and left an encouraging voicemail message.

Don Allman led devotions, based on Ephesians 4. Each member shared a personal reflection on the text. Our purpose, as a region, is to equip the saints, to build up the body of Christ. Following the reflections, we shared prayer together.

There were no previous minutes of the Mission Region council, because there has been no previous meeting of this group.

Moved by Don Karger, seconded by Ethel Briggs, to approve the minutes from the conclusion of the Ohio Mission District, from convocation May 9. The motion was approved.

Moved by Don Karger, seconded by Ethel Briggs, to approve the minutes of the March 7 meeting of the old Ohio Mission District executive council. The motion was approved.

Treasurer Don Karger presented a written report on income and expenses from convocation. Offering of \$701.45 from Convocation has been sent to Lutheran World Relief, designated for Nepal earthquake relief. Current balance in the Region treasury, as of July 3, is \$29,652.47. Moved by Dan Powell, seconded by Paula Caso that the report from the convocation expenses be approved. The motion was approved. Don Karger reported that all five Mission Districts have been funded, and 3 of the 5 have already opened their accounts and cashed those checks. Moved by Paul Gruetter, seconded by Dan Powell, that the treasurer's report be approved. The motion was approved.

The meeting moved to several policy questions.

Are we asking congregations to send checks to NALC, to Region, and to Mission District, as well as to their own sponsored domestic and global missions? Answer: Mission Region will be funded through gifts from the Mission Districts. The Region will do what the Districts ask for (and fund!).

Don Karger mentioned that he has received congregational gifts, since the dissolving of the Ohio Mission District. What should we do with these gifts? The recommendation of this council is that our treasurer send such gifts to that respective Mission District, and have their Dean confirm with that congregation whether they really intended to give that gift to their Mission District.

Dan Powell suggested that each Dean notify their congregations that their financial support should be sent to the Mission District, not the Region. The Mission Region will be funded through gifts from the Mission Districts.

Congregations can be informed that the budgets developed for the new Mission Districts in this initial year are based on the formula that each congregation will continue their present level of giving, or a minimum of \$100 for support of their own Mission District.

Giving to the NALC is at the levels recommended by the Convocation of the NALC.

Should Navigator congregations ask for their support directly from the Mission Region, or through their Mission District? Moved by Paul Larson, seconded by Dan Powell, that congregations make their Navigators request to the Region. The region treasurer will fulfill that request, sending the check to the congregation. The treasurer will also email the Dean of that congregation's Mission District, notifying the Dean of that congregation's grant. The motion was approved.

Don Allman volunteered to acquire a list from Navigators of all the participating congregations in Ohio, and we will take an email vote approving all of those congregations for grants.

What if the lay representative from a Mission District is not able to attend the Region council meeting? Certainly our meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend. Moved by Dan Powell, seconded by Paul Gruetter, that if both the Dean and the elected lay representative of a Mission District cannot be present for a meeting of the Ohio Mission Region executive council, then the Dean will appoint someone to attend the meeting and represent the Mission District. The person would be allowed voice and vote. The motion was approved.

The borders of the Mission Districts were discussed. No changes were proposed to the map that exists on the NALC Ohio website.

The exact names of the Mission Districts were confirmed. They are North West Ohio Mission District, The Southeast Ohio Mission District, Southwest Ohio Mission District, North Central Ohio Mission District, and North Eastern Ohio Mission District.

Which Mission District should retired pastors and interim pastors relate to? Moved by Paul Gruetter, seconded by Don Karger, that the primary responsibility for pastoral care to retired pastors and pastors currently without call is through the Dean of the Mission District in which they reside. The motion was approved.

Moved by Paul Larson, seconded by Paula Caso, that the primary responsibility for pastoral care to interim pastors will be through the Dean of the Mission District in which that pastor is serving. That pastor is also entitled to vote in the Mission District and Mission Region in which they are serving. The motion was approved.

We began making plans for Convocation 2016. Convocation will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2016. We discussed various ideas for speakers. Ideas for the day's theme centered about encouraging and equipping Christians for ministry, especially those who are in ministry and congregational settings which are struggling. Paul Larson will contact a colleague he works with in the Great Commission Society, who has led workshops on this topic. The discipleship program from Navigators could also be a resource, possibly leading workshops.

The theme for Convocation will be "Cross Fit: The Difference You Make", based on Ephesians 4, especially verse 23.

Paul Larson spoke about the Great Commission Society. Every mission district in the NALC has at least one person from the Great Commission Society that relates to them. Paul is that connection for the Mission Districts and Deans in Ohio. The Great Commission Society exists to lift up the three-fold mission emphasis of the NALC: that each congregation support a local ministry, a national mission, and

a global mission. Support is first and foremost relational, and then financial. Even mission congregations can be in relationship with mission partners.

The website was discussed. Paula Caso designed it, and manages it for the region. There is a separate page for each of the Ohio Mission Districts. Paula can post news from the mission districts or our congregations, if you send it in! We can also list events, either on the regional page or the mission districts pages. We can receive and post prayer requests. We can post letters of thanks. We can post resources as well, especially people who would be willing to go into other congregations and present information about particular topics; i.e., stewardship, worship, etc. Other possible uses of the website include book recommendations and documents. Of course the latest minutes of the Mission Region executive council will be posted, and Mission District councils can post their minutes as well. Paula said that we especially need contact information for Mission District councils.

The next meeting of the Ohio Mission Region Executive Council will be Saturday, August 29, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The meeting is tentatively set for St. John's, Grove City, although Paul Larson will contact Bucyrus and see if they can host. (editor's note: This meeting was later confirmed by email for St. John's, Grove City.)

Paul Larson closed the meeting with prayer.