

The Executive Council of the Ohio Mission Region of the North American Lutheran Church met on April 16, 2016, at First English Lutheran Church in Mansfield. Attending were: Ethel Briggs, Sherry Shaffer, Don Karger, Don Allman, Paul Larson Dan Powell, Bill Maki, Jim Patrick, Paul Gruetter, Paula Caso, and Molly King.

Convener Don Allman led devotions based on John 10:22-30, and the members of the group shared their own reflections on this text.

Don Karger moved, Ethel Briggs seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved. Motion approved. Dan Powell noted that the Southwest Mission District was not represented at the last meeting because of a variety of emergency situations. Every effort was made to obtain representation at the Mission Region meeting.

Don Karger gave the treasurer's report. The checking account has a balance of \$23,694.46. So far in this calendar year our expenses have been \$1,685.65, which includes \$1,000 in support of congregations that are participating in the Discipleship process through Navigators. Dan Powell moved, Sherry Shaffer seconded that the treasurer's report be approved. Motion approved.

Don Karger presented a proposed budget for the next year. Some adjustments were made to the proposal. Bill Maki moved, Dan Powell seconded, that the amended budget proposal be presented to the Ohio Mission Region Convocation for adoption. Don Karger will prepare the budget proposal, but will not be in attendance that day to present it, because of a family commitment.

In the discussion of the proposed budget, we noted that income from congregations is being directed to the Mission Districts. The Ohio Mission Region expects no income. For this year, we have a sufficient carry-over balance. Beginning in 2017, the individual Mission Districts should budget for gifts to the region. This will allow the Ohio Mission Region to carry out the tasks that the Districts decide are best done at the Mission Region level.

We have discovered that the constitution for the Ohio Mission Region, when it discusses the lay representatives from the Mission Districts to the Mission Region council, does not designate the length of term for those lay representatives. There is also nothing in the Mission District constitutions that specifies length of term. Paul Gruetter moved, Bill Maki seconded, that we notify the mission districts in Ohio of this gap in the constitution about term lengths of the lay representative to the Ohio Mission Region Council, and that we ask the mission districts to take action on this issue. Motion approved.

Convocation

The schedule for the day at our May 7 Convocation is very tight. We will let workshop leaders know that they should adjourn their sessions about ten minutes early. This is more of an issue for the third workshop, as the first two workshops lead into meal or break time.

Workshop leaders are to let Dan Powell know what they are going to need for their workshops: video, tables, outlets, etc. We need to make sure that the workshop presenters are registered, so that we have adequate meal preparations.

Dan Powell and the team from our host congregation (Grace, Springfield) are working on meals, and they are taking into account those who need gluten-free diets.

Ethel Briggs reported that we have already received about 25 registrations.

Paul Gruetter will create a printed agenda for the day, including times and locations of Mission District Convocations and the workshops. He will consult with Dan Powell on room locations.

Opening devotions are being led by Don Allman. An organist from Grace is available, if we choose to include a hymn or two.

Mission District convocations are led by their deans.

Sola Publishing and the NALC youth ministry will have display tables, as will the Malawi Orphan Care Project. We have also received requests for display space and possibly speaking to the Convocation from Water Missions International and others. For future convocations, requests for display tables will be directed to the convener of the Ohio Mission Region council.

Dan Powell moved, Paul Gruetter seconded, that all Ministry Partners and recognized ministries of the NALC will be entitled to have a display table at Ohio Mission Region Convocation, as space is available. Motion approved. Water Missions and "Awakening Lives to World Missions" are listed by the NALC, so they will be covered under this. Motion approved. The motion was passed as a continuing resolution. (Secretary's note: This will be attached to the constitution as CR 2016.02.)

Paul Gruetter moved, Dan Powell seconded, that we allow Lutheran Lay Renewal to have a display table at the 2016 Ohio Mission Region Convocation. Motion approved.

We also received a request from the Lutheran Veterans and Family Ministry, to have a display table. Bill Maki moved, Paul Larson seconded that they be allowed to have a display table at the 2016 Ohio Mission Region Convocation.

Ohio Mission Region business includes an election for secretary, adoption of budget, and installations of officers from the Mission Districts and the Ohio Mission Region. We do not currently have a nominating committee. We will need a printed ballot for the election of secretary and for the adoption of the budget. We can have this on one sheet of paper. Paul will bring this to Convocation

Closing Eucharist is being led by Dan. He will have people from Grace assist with communion distribution.

We went over the workshops and who is responsible for each. The "Making Disciples" workshop will be led by Bob Quaintance and Tom Brodbeck. "Building Mission Relationships" will be organized by Paul Larson and Paul Gruetter. Worship resources will be led by staff representatives from Sola Publishing. Communications will be led by Mark Ryman, from the NALC staff. Youth Ministry will be led by Gary Pecuch, who is contracted with the NALC staff. Legal protections for congregations will be led by Hans Schermer.

We discussed honorariums for workshop leaders. Sherry moved, Ethel seconded that we will not give honorariums to workshop leaders of the Ohio Mission Region Convocation. Motion approved. This was passed as a continuing resolution. (Secretary's note: This will be attached to the constitution as CR 2016.03.)

In other business...

Paul Larson asked the other deans, how does your mission district resource congregations who are looking to be more mission driven? Paul Larson also shared that the Great Commission Society has resources available to Mission Districts, to help them set up their own mission teams.

Paula Caso has agreed to be on the ballot for secretary of the mission district. We will be looking for a second person to be on the ballot.

Next meeting date is Friday, July 8, 9:30 – 2:00 p.m. at First English Lutheran Church in Mansfield.

Dan Powell moved, Jim Patrick seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Gruetter, secretary