

Ohio Mission Region NALC – Executive Council meeting November 3, 2018



Present:	Unable to Attend:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dean Bob Quaintance• Dean Paul Larson• Don Karger• Paula Caso• Ethel Briggs• Jack Walker• Karen Bentley	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dean Mark Daniels• Elizabeth Ridenour• Dean Jeff Morlock• Dean Bill Maki• Sherry Shaffer

Minutes

Meeting @First English Lutheran Church – Mansfield, OH: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

- I. **Call to Order & Opening Devotions** – Pr. Bob Quaintance – Called to order at 10:16 – Shared highs and lows in our lives before looking at the devotion. Devotion based on Chapter 5 from “The Story” where the stories of the Bible are put into chronological order with some synopsis to connect time spans. This section is an interaction between God and Moses. The focus was on passing through the blood and water both in the Passover and in the structure of the tabernacle.
- II. **Approval of Minutes** – Don moved and Jack seconded the minutes be accepted as emailed earlier. The vote to accept was unanimous.
- III. **Treasurer’s Report** – Don Karger – Don highlighted the balances and transactions. Jack moved to accept the report and expressed gratitude for the extra work Don did through the Oromo passthrough over the last year. Paula seconded the dual motion to accept the report and thank the treasurer which subsequently carried unanimously.
- IV. **Unfinished Business: 2019 Convocation** –
 - a. **Date:** May 4, 2019
 - b. **Keynote Speaker:** Bishop Bradosky
 - c. **Location:** Upper Arlington is the primary location under consideration. There is a fee to use the facilities because the church is so large. We have not paid a facility fee in the past. However, it was understandable given the size of the facility. The discussion centered on increasing the registration fee to cover the facility fee.
 - i. Pastor Paul motioned and Jack seconded that we keep our registration fee structure the same [Cost: \$30 per person which includes continental breakfast and lunch (received before April 19th). \$40 if received after April 19th. (Vendors: \$20/person)]. The vote was unanimous in favor.
 - d. **Theme:**
 - i. Pastor Bob emailed the bishop about the discussed topics of the Lutheran understanding of baptism and the life of the baptized believer. He had not heard back yet.
 - ii. Jack revisited the concept of discussing baptism with people intentionally. It’s important to understand what we believe about baptism to be able to have intelligent and well-founded conversations. Lutherans don’t seem to know why we baptize infants when other denominations don’t baptize infants. Knowing what the Word says is a needed tool for these conversations.
 - iii. There was much discussion around the order and precedence of baptism, making disciples, and teaching. The concept of a web that gives us the interrelationship of the acts was suggested... like the web inside the Oromo water-drop gift.
 - iv. Karen suggested *Discipleship: Going and Growing*.

- v. Pastor Bob took a call from the bishop during lunch and he said that baptism was a part of the process (as we had discussed) and worth discussing. He said that we want to avoid a defensive stance on the issue of baptism. We want to be equipped to have a positive conversation. He talked about a conversation he had with another clergyman who focused solely on forgiveness to the exclusion of everything else and called that thought the “gospel of sin management”. There is more to the life of the disciple than that. What are we baptizing them for? Baptism isn’t just a barcode we scan to ensure we are forgiven.
- vi. Perhaps the central thought is “it all comes from Jesus” and not from us. Pastor Paul said we have a habit of dancing around the name of Jesus. That needs to change?
- vii. Pastor Paul recommended two books: “Joining Jesus on his Mission: How to be an everyday missionary” and “Joining Jesus – Show Me How: How to disciple everyday missionaries.” by Greg Finke.
- viii. The conversation is to continue through the next meeting. We’ll revisit the theme after prayer for discernment.
- ix. Acts 8: 35-36 is a possible scripture passage. (The story of Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch).
- x. Acts 28: 31 was proposed last meeting by Pastor Bill.

e. Workshops:

- i. Be ready to make a defense could be a breakout session. (From the last meeting)
- ii.

f. Schedule:

Potential from last year...

7:30 – 8:00 Vendor Display setup

8:15 – 9:00 Registration and Display Visits

9:00 – 10:15 Greeting, Opening and Keynote 1 (Theme Scripture focus)
(Pastor Bob and Bishop Bradosky to discuss)

10:30 – 11:15 Workshop: Session 1

11:20 – 12:00 District Meetings (with elections)

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch and Display Visits

1:00 – 1:45 OMR Meeting (and election of treasurer) – (in the sanctuary)

2:00 – 2:45 Workshop: Session 2

3:00 – 4:15 Closing worship with Communion, Installations and Closing (Theme Scripture focus)

- g. Brochure & Registration:** with online option as discussed earlier. Paula and Ethel will continue to work on this.

V. Other Unfinished Business – None at this time.

VI. New Business – None at this time.

VII. Reports – Mission Districts & P-CAT

- a. SWO-MD:** Pastor Mark was unable to attend the meeting.

- b. NCO-MD:** Christ Lutheran in Lexington is closing at the end of this year and Pastor Marilou Brook will be retiring. The funds remaining from the church closing are going to be donated to a foundation to be used for scholarships for a seminarian to Trinity Seminary in Ambridge. Pastor Kurt Luebke is the new pastor at St. Paul in Clyde. He is LCMC and is being installed 11/4/18 by Pastor Vander Tuig who is the LCMC Mission Director. The Exec committee is meeting on 11/30/2018 and will be continuing conversations that started at the NALC national convocation in Denver. One idea is hosting a small congregation/rural congregation conference being led by Pastor Brad Hales (Director of Domestic Missions for NALC). Pastor Darren (Andy) Wilson emailed and will be added to the pulpit supply list.

- c. NWO-MD:** Pastor Bill was unable to attend the meeting.

- d. NEO-MD:** In print, but added later.

1. **Clergy Meetings:** Our pastors and lay professionals are meeting 7 times this year. Four of those times we meet in the Ashland area and the other times at congregations around the mission district.
2. **Congregations:** *(currently 9 congregations, 1 house church, 1 considering)*
 - Faith Lutheran in Millersburg has been removed from the call process. They will increasingly be served by Jeff Scott, who is from Trinity Lutheran in Ashland. He is an ordained minister, but not yet certified in the NALC. He will begin the process for certification as a lay minister and then go through the certification process for ordination with new guidelines that are being developed.
 - Zion Lutheran in Fairport Harbor has been received on the roster of congregations of the NALC.
 - Lordstown Lutheran in Lordstown has decided to NOT join the NALC; staying in the ELCA.
 - Stone Lutheran on Rt. 511 a few miles south of Ashland, has passed its 2nd vote (both at 100%) to leave the ELCA. I have been in conversation with the president of the congregation.
3. **Clergy:** *(currently 18 ordained NALC ministers[5 active full-time] and 1 AIM)*
 - Pastor J. David Lathrop, of Medina has been added to the NALC clergy roster, coming from the LCMC,
 - Pastor Tim Loehrke, former Dean of the Michigan Mission District has moved to Warren, OH – near grandchildren. He currently serves as the interim pastor of Grace, Westerville.
 - Pastor Kevin McClain is here and will be installed as the Associate Pastor at Trinity in Ashland this Sunday, November 4th (at 2PM – Bishop Bradosky preaching & presiding)
 - I've heard nothing from Pastor Miguel Acosta for quite a while.
4. **Other:**
 - We will be meeting with Mary Bates this month and hope to hear how we might partner together to support the work of the NALC Disaster Response; perhaps putting together servant teams.
 - We are going to look for ways to work together to help our congregations move more deeply in the NALC's discipleship focus

e. **SEO-MD:** Pastor Jeff was unable to attend the meeting and emailed a report.

- i. Installations were completed this past Summer for three pastors new to the mission district: Pr. Mike Giese at New Life, Gallipolis on July 22; Pr. Seth Jersild at St. John's, Grove City on August 19; and Pr. Steve Turnbull at UALC on August 26.
- ii. As a "Young Theologian," Pastor Orrey McFarland from SEOMD was one of the presenters at the Lutheran Week Theological Conference in Denver, delivering a paper on "The Holy Spirit in Pauline Thought." Pr. Orrey serves Grace Lutheran Church in Thornville.
- iii. A SWOT Analysis was completed by those in the district who attended the Lutheran Week Mission Festival in Denver. After subsequent discerning prayer with the district council, a plan has been put in place to gather leaders of the Women's groups in SE Ohio, as well as the leaders (staff, lay, parents, kids) of Youth and Family ministries. The council wants to meet the expressed desire for more connection and joint events by bringing leaders together for fellowship, prayer, and planning beginning in January.
- iv. SEOMD has been collecting flood buckets and other supplies for NALC Disaster Response on the east coast as well as the Florida panhandle. A large truck was filled at St. John's in Grove City with donated items, including bibles and bottled water, and delivered to one of the flood relief staging zones. Collection at St. John's is ongoing in conjunction with Mary Bates.
- v. Grace, Westerville is currently in the call process, and is being served by Tim Loehrke, former dean of the Michigan Mission District, who is their interim pastor.
- vi. Oromo Evangelical Church is doing well in their new building and has made a big and faithful move to pay both of their pastors half-time salaries. This will enable them to give focused attention to the next phase of congregational development. Please pray for Pastors Teshome and Kansa as they lead this congregation in the next steps that God has for them.

- vii. Pastors have been meeting every 6 weeks for fellowship, prayer, lunch, and study. We are currently reading and discussing a Navigators book by Bill Mowry entitled, *The Ways of the Alongsider; Making Disciples Life-to-Life*.

- f. **P-CAT Coordinator:** Pastor Bob is the Ohio coordinator. The Pastoral Care and Transition Coordinator helps congregations in Ohio with ministry direction, calls, transitions, and congregational counselling as needed. Meetings with this team are often an opportunity to handle conflicts in a Christ centered manner.

Rev. David Wendel, Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry, asked every Mission District to form a Pastoral Care and Transition Team (P-CAT Team). The Ohio Mission Region's executive council decided to form a joint P-CAT Team made up of members for each of the mission districts and available to help around Ohio.

The P-CAT Team works with congregations in two ways. First, we work with congregations when they need assistance with an issue that would benefit from some outside support. In that case, the pastor or congregational president calls the dean of the mission district who could choose to call on the P-CAT Team to provide additional support. The team would assist the dean in listening to the concerns of the congregation and the dean would report back to the pastor and council.

Second, the P-CAT Team is available to assist congregations in a time of pastoral transition. One of the first tasks for a newly formed call committee is to fill out the Congregational Profile. As part of that process a congregation needs to hold a Workshop Preparatory to Call. Two team members are assigned to lead the congregation through the 5-hour workshop which will provide the call committee with congregational input and assist them in filling out the Profile.

The OMR P-Cat Team

Advisor – Pastor Amy Little

Coordinator – Pastor Bob Quaintance

Members:

NCOH - Pastor Michael Greenler, Pastor Amy Little

NEOH – Pastor Bob Groenke, Pastor Bob Quaintance

NWOH – Pastor Paul Gruetter, Adam Poe, Pastor Michael Tamorria

SEOH – Pastor Matt Cox, Molly King, Pastor Patty Morlock

SWOH – Pastor Tom Brodbeck, Brian House, Kurt Reiber

Work this year:

1. A P-CAT Team was assembled to lead a Listening Day at Grace Evangelical Lutheran in Jackson Center, OH on April 14, 2018 under the direction of the NWOMD dean, Pastor William Maki.
2. A workshop preparatory to call was held at Grace Lutheran in Westerville on October 20th. Team members were Pastor Matt Cox and Pastor Bob Quaintance.

VIII. **Next Meeting** – Friday, January 18th, 2019, 10:00 – 2:00 @ FELC Mansfield.

- a. Pastor Larson will get a menu from Charley's so we can order early and just pick up at noon or will make other arrangements for lunch.

IX. **Adjournment** – Don and Ethel motioned and seconded the adjournment which was unanimously approved. Closed with the Lord's Prayer @ 2:05 pm.

Action Items (new and ongoing):

1. *Paula: Post a slide show of the pictures from the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation Celebration on the website.*
2. *Pastors Bob and Bill: Workshop leaders from the 2018 Convocation: Provide a leaders' guide that the attendees can take with them to share with their congregations*
 - a. *"I'm Just a ...: Beyond our fears" is the only one left to be added.*
3. *Paula: Post the workshop leader-guides after the convocation along with pictures... just waiting on the last one.*

4. *Paula: Create an online registration form with an email confirmation that will feed the information into a spreadsheet. It needs to specify that the email confirmation needs to be printed and sent in with the check and registration is not complete until the check is received.*
 - a. *The form could also be made to allow for multiple people from a given congregation to register together on one form. Doing this would make it easier for a church to send one check for a group if the church is paying for the registrations.*
5. *Paula: The brochure can still have a form for those who cannot register online, but with the online registration being marked as preferred. Personal address can be removed to make it easier to fill out.*
6. *Pastor Bob: talk to the bishop about our finalized theme when that is ready.*
7. *Everyone: continue to think about workshops for the Convocation in May after Pastor Bob relays the results of his conversation with Bishop John.*