

Ohio Mission Region NALC – Executive Council meeting January 17, 2020



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

Minutes

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

- I. **Opening devotions and prayer** – From Genesis 29, the story of Joseph and Potiphar’s wife. Many observations were made about the details of the story. Examples included, Joseph’s emphasis on not sinning against God over pleasing his master, how bad times and repeated problems helped to keep Joseph’s pride in check, the bad situations also helped to bring Joseph to the place where God really wanted him, Joseph’s attitude (no BCD) made an impression on those around him who noticed God’s favor on him as a result.... Then each of us shared an aha moment that changed our perspective. Some were traumatic and others were simpler, but just as poignant.
- II. **Treasurer’s Report (Don Karger)** – Don reported the 2019 final expenses and income and the income exceeded the expenses by \$16.84. The balance in the bank is still substantial for the work ahead. Jack moved and Pr. Bill seconded the move to accept the treasurer’s report. The vote to accept was unanimous.
- III. **Secretary’s Minutes** – These were prepared in November and emailed at that time and then posted on the OMR website. Don moved and Sherry seconded the move to accept the minutes from the last meeting in November as posted. The vote to accept was unanimous.
- IV. **Old Business**
 - a. **Finalization of details of Ohio Mission Region Convocation** (*Items in Green are decisions from previous meetings*)
 - i. **The date will remain the first Saturday in May: 5/2/2020.**
 - ii. **Theme – “Walking with the Holy Spirit”** will be the theme title of the 2020 OMR Convocation.
 - iii. **Location – Oromo Evangelical Church in Columbus** with Pastor Jeff Morlock being the liaison between the council and the Oromo congregation.
 - iv. **Scripture – Galatians 5:25.**
 - v. **Breakout sessions / leaders**
 1. **Celebration of the Feast of Pentecost:** led by Pastor Michael Koch
 2. **Living the Good Life:** led by Pastor Bill and Jack
 3. **Let’s Go Krogering:** led by Pastor Mark (teaching/building skills for letting the Holy Spirit move us into action)
 4. Pastor Jeff to work with the Oromo congregation on a session about Spiritual Gifts.
 5. **I believe in the Holy Spirit...What does this mean?:** led by Pastor Paul
 6. All workshop leaders will get descriptions to Paula by January 31st so the brochure can be completed.
 - vi. Bishop Dan Selbo will be with us.
 - vii. **Lunch arrangement: LA Catering as the provider for Box Lunches. Provide a gluten free lunch if possible. (Add a line on the registration for special dietary needs.)**

- viii. **Facilities fees and payments:** The council wants to pay the Oromo Congregation for the use of their facilities. Pastor Jeff said they will not give us a dollar amount because of their cultural outlook on such things. The worship style will be Oromo and they do more responsive liturgy and it is different from the typical English liturgy. *Pastor Paul motioned and Pastor Jeff seconded the decision to give a check for \$300 to the Oromo church to be distributed to those assisting with the convocation as an organist and custodian arrangement is not appropriate. The vote was unanimous in favor.*
- ix. **Offering from the service: an even split between the Oromo Congregation and NALC Disaster Relief.**
 - 1. *Pastor Paul motioned and Sherry seconded the decision to waive the table fee for Mary Bates (NALC Disaster Response). The vote was unanimous in favor.*
 - 2. *Sherry motioned and Jack seconded allowing the NALC Disaster Response to have a collection bucket available on their table. The vote was unanimous in favor.*
- x. **Convocation Registration Fees: keep the registration fee structure the same as last year.**
- xi. **Installation service:** Pastor Bill will put together the installation part of the service and we'll let the Oromo pastors handle the communion distribution however they wish. If English words can be projected it would be helpful, but not required.
 - 1. The position of secretary of the OMR is up for election and needs to be part of the OMR business meeting.
 - 2. *Jack moved Sherry seconded a motion to nominate Paula Caso to continue in the position of OMR Secretary. Paula accepted and the vote for the nomination was unanimous.*

b. Other items?

V. New Business

a. Ohio Mission Region Budget

- i. Pastor Mark would like to suggest the possibility of adding monies for disaster response work in Ohio.
 - 1. This was tabled for the next meeting.

b. Other items?

- i. Let's have further conversation about planting churches in Ohio. Perhaps a lunch-hour discussion on this can be done next meeting.
- ii. Question: Should we have an OMR Mission team?

VI. Mission District Reports –

a. SWO-MD:

- i. Retreat for church councils last week was led by pastor Tom Brodbeck. "The board and the CEO" book was used to guide the conversations. Each council who attended had experiences to share and learned from each other as well.
- ii. Tornado repairs from the area were fund-matched by the district up to \$7000 and the amount raised was over \$18K.
- iii. A church in the area is in conversation with NALC members and another is looking to start up in the district. The start-up of new congregations is a focus for this district and they believe should be for all districts.
- iv. Living Water will break ground in the spring for their building project.
- v. Pastor McGee from Greenville took the associate position at Grace in Springfield. PCAT will be assisting in Greenville.

b. NCO-MD:

- i. There were some projects underway at First English that will bring green space to downtown Mansfield and give children a place to play.
- ii. Some conversations have been had with other congregations who asked about the NALC.
- iii. The pastor on Catawba Island retired and they are looking for a replacement.

c. NWO-MD:

- i. Adam Poe's Internship at St John's- Hopewell Twp and Zion – Chattanooga, began just before Christmas.
- ii. Chris Boyd is the Intern at St John's-Montpelier who is halfway through his Internship.
- iii. Sunday, the Zion – St Marys' Men will formalize an agreement to build a Tool Trailer for the NALC Disaster Response Team.

d. NEO-MD:

- i. Pastor Mike had to leave early.

e. SEO-MD:

- i. A Youth and Family Ministry Group has been meeting since Spring of 2019 to plan and execute joint youth ministry events in the Mission District. In November, several congregations took a joint two-day mission trip to the HARP warehouse in Caldwell and helped Mary Bates by unloading and sorting donations, including Christmas items, clothes, and household items.

In February a joint 5th-6th Grade Event entitled, "Chosen" will be held at St. John's, Grove City, to be facilitated by Gary and Laurie Pecuch and others. After a discussion of the need to teach our kids apologetics, most of our congregations began using a curriculum called, *Can I Ask That?* with their high school Sunday School classes and youth groups this Fall, dealing with important questions that teens face.

- ii. Patti Morlock was called as Associate Pastor to St. John's, Grove City and was installed in October.
- iii. I have met with 3 congregations in the Lancaster area, concerning NALC affiliation. Two are very small and would need to be yoked. The other, St. Peter's, Lancaster, had reached out to me 3 weeks before their December 15 first vote to leave the ELCA and join the NALC. I had never spoken to them prior to this or knew of their intentions. I advised them to cancel the vote if they could, so they would have lots of time to educate their congregation better, but it had already been announced, and the council wouldn't allow it. Vote failed 22-142. Sadly, the ELCA bishop is planning to close and merge four of the Lancaster congregations (due to lack of available clergy) and house the one new church in St. Peter's building.
- iv. OROMO EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF COLUMBUS UPDATE – 12/12/19
 1. Both Pastors Teshome and Kansa have been moved to full-time from their part time status.
 2. The church is doing well financially.
 3. They had a Thanksgiving Day service and raised \$63,000 in a special offering to help reduce the mortgage!!
 4. They received 57 new members this year, including children. On one Sunday in December, there were six baptisms!
 5. Oromo's new after school programs have started this month. They're hoping to expand during the year and offer five days a week this summer. This is important to them since most of their members and fellow refugees have both parents working.
 6. They are exploring a special mission to a remote area of Ethiopia where there are apparently very few Christians and many of the population are involved in witchcraft. They are hoping to start a Lutheran Church there.
 7. The building and grounds look OK and they have hopefully solved their drainage problem at a cost of \$15,000
 8. The NALC's Ohio Mission Region will hold it's annual convocation there on May 2.

9. The church is strengthening its ministry. They've added a youth committee, new arrival committee, and 4 ordained deacons to help with the work.
10. Oromo from other US cities are also moving to Columbus for work and to be part of Oromo, Columbus.
11. Kansa has been ordained by the church to perform communion, weddings and baptisms. He is working on a Masters of Divinity from Saint Paul's seminary. He and Pastor Teshome are sharing of the pulpit and other ministry duties.
- v. UALC has been looking into planting a new church in the Lancaster area.
- vi. END OF YEAR SURVEY RESULTS IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

New Member and Worship Statistics

Congregation	New Members 2019	Av. Worship Attendance 2019	Av. Att. Compared to 2018
First, Marysville	4	67	+ 12
UALC, Columbus	34	1,237	- 130
Abundant Life, Hilliard	3	35	+ 1
St. John's, Grove City	30	368	-4
Zion, Obetz	1	33	-3
Groveport, Zion	9	74	-1
St. John, Columbus	1	56	+0
Oromo, Baltimore	57	220	+40
Grace, Westerville	1	226	-5
Grace, Thornville	9	141	+3
St. Matthew, Logan	6	65	-7
New Life, Gallipolis	No report	No report	No report

VII. Next meeting? February 29th, 2020 at FELC from 10:00 AM – 12:00 noon.

VIII. Adjournment / Lord's Prayer at 1:36 PM

Action Items (new and ongoing):

1. *All workshop leaders: Get the workshop descriptions to Paula by January 31st please.*
2. *Pastor Jeff: Continue to act as the liaison between the council and the Oromo congregation in the preparations for the 2020 OMR Convocation.*
3. *Pastor Jeff: Work with the Oromo congregation to create a workshop about Spiritual Gifts.*
4. *Pastor Jeff: Get a short description of (and title for) the workshop you create (see #2) to Paula by January 31st, 2020 for inclusion in this year's OMR Convocation brochure.*
5. *Pastor Mike: Get a short description of the "Celebration of the Feast of Pentecost" workshop to Paula by January 31st, 2020 for inclusion in this year's OMR Convocation brochure.*
6. *Pastor Bill & Jack: Get a short description of the "Living the Good Life" workshop to Paula by January 31st, 2020 for inclusion in this year's OMR Convocation brochure.*
7. *Pastor Mark: Get a short description of the "Let's Go Krogering" workshop to Paula by January 31st, 2020 for inclusion in this year's OMR Convocation brochure.*
8. *Pastor Paul: Get a short description of the "I believe in the Holy Spirit...What does this mean?" workshop to Paula by January 31st, 2020 for inclusion in this year's OMR Convocation brochure.*
9. *Pastor Bill: Continue to communicate with Bishop Dan and firm up plans for his keynote as you share our plans with him.*
10. *Paula & Ethel: Start putting together a registration plan and online form for the "Kicking the Tires" weekend event.*
11. *Pastor Mike: Get the ELCA and Missouri Synod addresses you mentioned during the meeting to Pastor Paul for the mailing of the "Kicking the Tires" event brochures.*
12. *Paula & Ethel: Start putting together a registration plan and online form for the 2020 OMR Convocation.*
13. *Paula: Start creating the 2020 OMR Convocation brochure and backup paper registration form.*

14. *Pastor Paul: Communicate lunch plans for the "Kicking the Tires" event to the council so a vote on cost parameters can be made.*
15. *Council: Vote on a maximum cost per person for lunches for the 2020 OMR Convocation.*
16. *Council: Solicit nominations for Secretary of the OMR Council for the election at the 2020 OMR Convocation.*
17. *All deans: please send Paula Mission District reports in advance of meetings via email so they can be posted on the web and easily added to the minutes.*
18. *Paula: Post a slide show of the pictures from the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation Celebration on the website. (Yep,... this is an old item)*
19. *Paula: Post the workshop leader-guides after the 2020 convocation along with pictures. (Still waiting for materials from workshop leaders from 2019)*
20. *Paula: add "Lay Ministry Training" to be discussed as new business at a later time. (Will be added to the next agenda)*

Current OMR Council Contacts: Please review and send corrections to Paula

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(Use Baltimore and NW in the GPS!)

Use the Etna exit if possible.

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