

The 2015 Convocation of the Ohio Mission District of the North American Lutheran Church was held on Saturday, May 9, 2015, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Ashland, Ohio.

The day began with worship, with the current Dean, Pastor Alan Knoke, preaching.

Dean Alan Knoke opened the Convocation.

Dean Knoke reported on the restructuring of the mission districts, and the reasoning for why we are taking these steps. We have discovered that having one dean (often a pastor serving a congregation) who is responsible for 60 congregations has proven to be a daunting task. Ohio will now become five mission districts, in one mission region.

The deans of the five mission districts are appointed by the Bishop (in future years the districts will each elect their own deans). Those pastors who are being appointed by Bishop Bradosky as Deans are: Pastor Bill Maki, North West Ohio (3-year term); Pastor Dan Powell, Southwest Ohio (3-year term); Pastor Paul Larson, North Central Ohio (2-year term); Pastor Don Allman, Southeast Ohio (2-year term); and Pastor Bob Quaintance, Northeast Ohio (1-year term).

Each of the newly-formed Mission Districts is receiving \$2,000 from the Ohio Mission District treasury, as funding to begin their ministry.

A question was received about whether the proposed mission district constitution addressed the initial appointment of the dean. Dean Knoke shared that the issue is addressed in Article 14.01.

Don Karger, treasurer of the current Ohio Mission District, reported on our financial position. Final balance of the Ohio Mission District, as of April 30, 2015, is \$38,689.64.

Don Karger also gave each newly-appointed Dean a packet of financial information, including the appropriate tax forms, as the districts begin their work.

Moved: that the Treasurer's Report be approved. Seconded. Motion carried.

A question was received about the stipends for the congregations which are participating in the Navigators program. That funding is budgeted for the coming year through the Ohio Mission Region.

Moved: that we transfer the assets of the Ohio Mission District to the Ohio Mission Region that is being formed today. Seconded. Motion carried.

Moved: that the Ohio Mission District of the North American Lutheran Church be officially disbanded. Seconded. Don Karger pointed out that the federal ID numbers for the Mission District will be transferred to the Mission Region. Motion carried.

At this time, the five new Mission Districts met for their initial meeting. *(Minutes from those meetings can be received from each district's officers.)*

(A fine lunch was served by the people of Trinity Lutheran Church, Ashland. Many thanks!)

Dean Knoke convened the initial meeting of the Ohio Mission Region.

He reported that Paula Caso has developed a regional website for Ohio, designed to serve all five Ohio Mission Districts. The website will be active within the next week.

The newly elected members of the five mission district executive committees were introduced.

From North West Ohio Mission District: Pastor William Maki, Dean; Pastor Paul Gruetter, secretary; Pastor Fred Meuter, treasurer; Pastor George Zornow, clergy representative (2-year term); Merlin Wright, lay representative (1-year term). Still to be chosen are a lay representative (3-year term) and a lay representative to the Ohio Mission Region council.

From Southwest Ohio Mission District: Pastor Dan Powell, Dean; Pastor Mark Daniels, secretary; Kristi Leeth, treasurer; Pastor Warren Reichert, clergy representative (3-year term); Pastor Mark Daniels, clergy representative (2-year term); Pastor Tom Brodbeck, clergy representative (1-year term); Jim Patrick, lay representative (3-year term); Nelson Grover, lay representative (2-year term); Kurt Reiber, lay representative (1-year term); Jim Patrick, lay representative to the Ohio Mission Region council.

From North Central Ohio Mission District: Pastor Paul Larson, Dean; Debbie McClain, secretary; Karen Frayer, treasurer; Pastor Amy Little, clergy representative (3-year term); Pastor Gerhardt Gosnell, clergy representative (2-year term); Pastor Hans Scherner, clergy representative (1-year term); Roy Gibbs, lay representative (3-year term); Ethel Briggs, lay representative (2-year term); David Culler, lay representative (1-year term); Ethel Briggs, lay representative to the Ohio Mission Region council.

From Northeast Ohio Mission District: Pastor Bob Quaintance, Dean; Paula Caso, secretary; Julie Tucker, treasurer; Pastor John Moffitt, clergy representative (3-year term); Pastor Patty Abel, clergy representative (2-year term); Pastor Traci Cherry, clergy representative (1-year term); Janice Cronebaugh, lay representative (3-year term); Elizabeth Ridenour, lay representative (2-year term); Jim Slanker, lay representative (1-year term); Paula Caso, lay representative to the Ohio Mission Region council.

From Southeast Ohio Mission District: Pastor Donald Allman, Dean; clergy representatives are Pastor John (Jack) Jackson, Pastor Robert Groenke, and Pastor Matt Cox; lay representative is Jim Funk.

Moved: that the proposed constitution of the Ohio Mission Region be adopted. Seconded. Motion carried.

Don Karger was nominated for treasurer of the Ohio Mission Region. Nominations were closed.

Paul Gruetter was nominated for secretary of the Ohio Mission Region. Nominations were closed.

Moved: to accept the slate of nominees, and elected Don Karger as treasurer and Paul Gruetter as secretary. Motion carried.

Treasurer Don Karger presented the proposed budget for the Ohio Mission Region. Anticipated income is \$4,200, the majority of which is Convocation registrations. Anticipated expenses are \$21,045. The largest expenses are contributions to the five Mission Districts, and funding support for the congregations that are participating in the Navigators program.

Moved: that the proposed budget be approved. Seconded. Motion carried.

Moved: that the offering from today's Convocation closing worship will go toward Nepal earthquake relief, through the NALC's disaster relief partner ministries. Seconded. Motion carried.

Bishop John Bradosky gave the keynote address, based on Joshua 14:1 and 17:14 – 18:1.

Bishop Bradosky spoke on the State of the NALC. Among the things he shared with us:

- We live in a day and time when the Christian church is losing ground against culture.
- There was approximately 3% growth in the NALC in the past year.
- Our seminary is making great progress.
- The Convocation and lectures in Dallas this summer will focus on martyrs and Islam.
- The NALC is contemplating adding two new staff positions, in youth ministry and in communications.

The Bishop also responded to some questions from Convocation participants.

Closing worship was held, with Bishop Bradosky preaching and Pastor Knoke presiding. Bishop Bradosky installed the members of the Mission District executive councils and the Ohio Mission Region council. Pastor Knoke led us in the order for Closing of the Convocation.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Gruetter, secretary