**2021 Northwestern PA Synod Assembly June 11, 2021**

The Assembly of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod was held from Thiel College online on June 11, 2021. Bishop Lozano opened the Assembly at 9:54 AM with worship and prayer. The congregation of Zion, Indiana provided music for the opening.

**SA.21.06.01** That the agenda be amended to include the Report of the Secretary and to approve the amended agenda. **Moved: Jean Kuebler 2nd Ben Travis APPROVED**

**SA.21.06.02** That the minutes and proceedings of the 2019 Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly be approved. **Moved: Pr. Mark Fischer 2nd Pr. Eric Young APPROVED**

**SA.21.06.03** That Synod Council recommendation #2 regarding Synod Conferences Restructuring be approved. **2nd Pr. Brenda Martin**

There were questions and discussion. **APPROVED 84 yes. 9 no.**

**SA.21.06.04** That the Synod Council meeting of July 17,2021 implement the Synod Conference model. **Moved: Pr. Jake Jacobson 2nd Pr. Martin Roth**

**APPROVED**

**SA.21.06.05** Bylaw S711.11 states that Holy Communion shall be celebrated at every Assembly. Since this was put together this bylaw was never conceived for a situation in which we find ourselves. With the consent of the Assembly, we allow bylaw S711.11 to remain before us but we cannot act on it because it is beyond our ability to control. **Moved: Pr. Eric Young 2nd Stephanie Chandler APPROVED**

The report of the ELCA representative was posted to the synod website. As part of the ELCA report, we saw a video from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. “We are convinced God has a plan. And we believe that God’s plan has a church.”

The assembly returned to Synod Recommendation #3 Synod constitution updates.

**Motions for Synod Council Recommendation #3**

**SA.21.06.06** Change to the bylaw S9.05.11. The ~~Clusters~~ shall nominate at least one person for each vacancy on the Synod Council. Change Clusters to Conferences. **Moved: Pr. Jean Kuebler 2nd Pr. Brenda Martin APPROVED 96 yea 3 nay.**

**SA.21.06.06.a** To changeChapter S7.22 of the Synod constitution to strike designated as ~~disabled~~ to designated as disability status. **APPROVED 94 yea 0 nay**

**SA.21.06.06.b** S.7.26 to strike congregations under development and S.10.01.04

inserted change to bylaw. **APPROVED 82 yea 1 nay**

**SA.21.06.06.c** S8.11.30 addition to Synod constitution which deals with the Bishop as an employee or contracted worker in another position in the church or elsewhere. **APPROVED 90 yea 1 nay**

**SA.21.06.06.d** S8.14 To strike “ical” from synodical to synod. **APPROVED 92 yea 1 nay.**

**SA.21.06.06.e** Insert into S10.08 Robert’s Rules of Order, Latest Edition, shall govern all actions of the Synod Council. **APPROVED 90 yea 0 nay**

**SA.21.06.06.f** To strike the number 7 and insert 8 into S.10.07.01. **APPROVED 91 yea 0 nay**

**SA.21.06.06.g** To insert the following into S13.25 Such synod administration shall continue only so long as necessary to complete the purposes for which it was requested by the congregation or until the congregation withdraws consent to continued administration.  **APPROVED 96 Yea**

**0 nay**

**SA.21.06.06.h** S14.14 strikes the word Lutheran in front of congregation. Pastors may seek pastoral care from other congregations that are ecumenical partners. **APPROVED 89 yea 3 nay**

**S.21.06.06.i** S13.40 Strikes the word “synodically authorized” and inserts synod authorized worshiping communities. **APPROVED 87 yea 0**

**S.21.06.06.j** S14.17 and S14.42 striking the word chair and insert the word president. **APPROVED 93 yea 0 nay**

**S.21.06.06.k** S15.14 striking “ical” from synodical insert synod. **APPROVED 94 yea 0 nay**

**Report of the Nominations Committee**

**Conference Model**

Clarion/Venango/Warren- Clergy: Rev. Jeff Ewing Lay: OPEN

Crawford-Mercer Conference- Clergy: OPEN Lay: Mary Alice McMunn (2022)

Elk-Cameron-McKean-Potter Conference-Clergy: Rev. Fair (2022) Lay: Rob Sundberg (2022)

Erie Conference- Clergy: Kristen Papson Lay: Jacque Holmberg

Indiana-Jefferson Conference-Clergy: Rev. Ben Austin Lay: OPEN

**Executive Committee**  
Synod Council VP- 3 Yr Term (Lay) Kelly Lemmon

**Committee on Consultation (6 Yr Terms)**  
1 Clergy- Rev. Jean Kuebler  
2 Lay  
  
**Committee on Discipline (6 Yr Terms)**  
2 Clergy- Rev. Ben Travis  
2 Lay  
  
**Churchwide Council**  
2 Lay Young Adult Females   
​1.) Oliva Martin-Call (HT, Greenville)  
​2.) Julia Barnes, (Trinity, Meadville)

**Churchwide Assembly**  
1. Synod VP  
2. Open- Emma Chaffee  
3. Open- Beth Grafton  
4. Bishop  
5. Female Clergy -Open- Rev Brenda Martin  
6. Person of color or primary language other than English- Open  
7. Youth or Young Adult- Julia Barnes (YA)

-Sullivan Heutsche (Youth)

**Bethesda**  
2 Clergy 1) Rev. Ben Travis (re-election)  
                2) Rev. Brian Riddle (4Yr Term)  
2 Lay 1) Alice Dalmaso (re-election)  
          2) Chris Joy (1 Yr Term)  
  
**LSS**  
2 Lay or Clergy  
  
**Lutheran Home at Kane**  
7 Lay or Clergy  
    1)  Kate Kennedy  
    2) Shelly Williams  
    3) Rev. Carol Sharp  
    4) Andrea Lanich  
    5) Mary Ann Patterson  
    6)  
      
**LAMPa (3 Yr Term)**  
​1 Lay- Dennis Groce-this is an appointed position.

**SA.21.06.07** Motion for the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot. **Moved: Pr. Eric Young. 2nd Pr. Brenda Martin APPROVED 94 yea 0 nay**

Bishop Lozano declared the nominees elected. Remaining open slots will be filled by Synod Council.

**Report of the Synod Treasurer**

Ron King presented a PowerPoint of the receipts and expenditures over the past few years. He presented a comprehensive report of expenditures and income over the past three years. He then presented the Proposed Budget parameters.

**SC.21.06.08** To approve Synod Council Recommendation #4 approving the Compensation Guidelines for 2022 with a 2.5% COLA. **2nd Pr. Eric Young**  **APPROVED 86 yea 1 nay**

**SC.21.06.09** To approve Synod Council Recommendation #5 That the Synod Mission Support guidelines of 2017 be used for determining Mission Support from congregations for FY2022. **2nd Pr. Lee Penvose APPROVED 79 yea 1 nay**

**SC.21.06.10** To approve Synod Council Recommendation # 6 to establish the 2022 Budget parameters. **2nd Pr. Kuebler APPROVED 85 yea 0 nay**

**Report of the Bishop—**written report is on the website. The bishop opened up the floor for questions or discussion. The bishop shared a stack of cards he has received wishing him well and offering prayers since his diagnosis of multiple myeloma with a plasmacytoma. He shared the quilt he received from Grace, Brookville and Trinity, Reynoldsville. He expressed his gratitude.

**PowerPoint Presentation of Necrology of Clergy in the past three years**

The Rev. Richard Shulz The Rev. Robert Harris The Rev. Ray Forstrom

The Rev. Donald Hake

**Recognitions**

**New Pastors to our Synod**

**Congregations Celebrating Anniversaries**

**Clergy Celebrating Anniversaries**

Bishop Lozano expressed his thanks to the Worship committee of the Synod for the worship services of the Assembly. He thanked Ellen Rutherford for all her hard work in putting this Assembly together—she had an extremely large job in organizing all of this.

**Unfinished Business—**

By law suggestions to change S7.11.11 were shared. The bishop recommended to the Assembly that this bylaw change and its wording be submitted to the Synod Council and a recommendation be returned to the Synod Assembly. It is therefore referred to Synod Council for further action.

**Installation of Synod Council**

**Closing Worship and Closing of the Assembly**

The Assembly closed with worship. Bishop Lozano declared the Assembly closed at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Mark Fischer,

Secretary