

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON D.C. SYNOD OF THE ELCA
SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING – NOVEMBER 17, 2012
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, WASHINGTON, DC**

Dr. White called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Pr. Margrethe Kleiber offered devotions.

Marylou Gjernes of Grace Lutheran Church, Washington, DC (host of our Council Meeting) offered historical and current information about the congregation.

Motion 12.11.01 approved the agenda for the November 17, 2012 Synod Council Meeting.

Motion 12.11.02 approved the minutes of the September 15, 2012 Synod Council Meeting.

ELCA Malaria Campaign

Ms. Dorothy Sorrell, Metro DC Synod Malaria Campaign Coordinator, joined the Synod Council and offered helpful information regarding the ELCA's campaign to prevent and treat Malaria.

Motion 12.11.03 approved the synod's participation in the ELCA Malaria Campaign with the goals of raising \$250,000 and having every congregation participate in this effort.

Primary Mission Table Conversation

- o Report of the Shape of Synod Task Force – Bishop Graham
- o Bishop Graham distributed a preliminary document outlining the work of the task force to date. He highlighted the identified focus for the synod: **The task of the synod is to nurture the ministry of congregations as they make disciples who share the good news of Jesus Christ with the world around them.**

The task force will continue to meet. In addition, a team of people will visit selected congregations and solicit input regarding the spiritual life and mission intentions of these communities.

This input will help shape the synod's priorities and guide adjustments to the bylaws that reflect these priorities. These adjustments would also reflect how the synod actually functions as opposed to what is currently on paper.

Thus far, the task force is proposing the following core structures, which are already in operation:

1. Synod Council, which currently serves as the primary mission table, setting strategy for the synod,
2. New and Renewing Mission Table, and
3. Stewardship and Mission Support Table

2013 Synod Assembly Planning Committee

- o Synod Assembly Fee Structure

Amy Acland reviewed the proposed 2013 fee Synod Assembly Fee Schedule. The intention is to hold a one-day assembly on even numbered years and a two-day assembly on odd numbered years.

Motion 12.11.04 approved the fee of \$399 per voting member for 2013 and \$99 per voting member for 2014.

Staff and Officer Reports:

Vice President

Dr. White

- o Reconstitution of the Finance Committee

To date, Darcy Tillman, Greg Durig, James McGee, and Anita Nolan have agreed to serve on the Finance Committee. Dr. White noted that we are still in need of committee representatives from the D.C. and Virginia conferences. After representatives from D.C. and Virginia have been identified the Executive Committee will circulate the names via e-mail and ask for an electronic vote. The goal is to reconstitute the finance committee in December.

Motion 12.11.05 approved Pr. Darcy Tillman, Pr. Greg Durig, James McGee and Anita Nolan to the Metro DC Synod Finance Committee.

- o Update on Guidelines for Synod Bishop Election

The synod needs to clearly identify its missional priorities in preparation for the election of a bishop, much like a congregation needs to prepare a profile in preparation for calling a new pastor. While an aspect of this will be to assemble statistical information about the synod a far more important aspect will be to determine the synod's direction.

The synod's emphasis on prayer is a part of this preparation and thinking. The Shape of the Synod Task Force will play an important role as it visits congregations and gathers input for their work.

Treasurer

Mr. Handley

Mr. Handley highlighted the following:

- o Benevolence from congregations is still below the pace needed to reach the \$1.8 million that is needed to support the revised budget.

- o As of October 31st, we are three-quarters of the way through the fiscal year. Our spending is a little ahead of this pace and our receipts are a little behind, creating an undesignated deficit that seems large, but is manageable. We are in a position for our spending to meet the revised budget by the end of the fiscal year, but the timing is such that it will take a few months for that to happen. Plans are in place to make sure that our spending hits the revised targets.
- o Our invested funds have performed well this year. The Faith Fund corpus has grown at 6% YTD, the Mission Endowment Fund has grown at 8% YTD. The Faith Fund is on track to be able to disburse funds at year end.
- o In his role as the Bishop's representative to the Board of Caroline Furnace, Mr. Handley brought the name of one new member of the Caroline Furnace Board from the Metro DC Synod for approval by Synod Council.

Motion 12.11.06 approved Robin Prinz as a member of the Board of Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center.

Assistant to the Bishop

Pr. Hirsch

Pastor Hirsch offered the following highlights:

- o On Reformation Sunday Oromo Resurrection Church officially became a congregation of the synod.
- o La Sagrada Familia is doing well. On a recent Sunday 14 individuals received the sacrament of Holy Baptism and 21 individuals were confirmed.
- o San Marcos/St. Marks continues to thrive.
- o Peace Lutheran Church recently called a new Senior Pastor and it is in the process of calling a new Amharic speaking pastor.
- o The Spanish language worship service at Augustana/Santa Maria is hovering at about 15-20 in worship. Currently, the synod is discerning whether to continue funding as there is no indication that this service will grow.
- o River of Grace in Manassas continues to be on track towards meeting its benchmarks.
- o Pastor Dax Jordan has taken a position at a Missouri Synod congregation. He intends to resign his rostered status with the ELCA.
- o Updated the council on the Good Shepherd proposal. It will be sent to ELCA for funding to congregations showing rapid growth.
- o Stressed the importance of completing the parochial reports.

Assistant to the Bishop

Pr. Sevimli

Pastor Sevimli offered the following highlights:

- o Noted that in addition to bringing young adults to the faith, it is important to continue discipling them.
- o Reminded the council of the 2013 mission trips for young adults:
 - o Brian Erickson from Faith Lutheran Church is facilitating a trip to US Mexican Border. Cost is approximately \$650.

- o Pastor Ray Ranker is leading a trip to the Holy Land. An important component of this trip will be connecting with local communities. Participants will also visit and lodge Augusta Victoria Hospital. will be connecting with local communities. Cost is still being determined but should be approximately \$2000.
- o Project Connect, a discernment event for 18-30 year olds, will be held at Washington Theological Union in Takoma Park from January 3-7, 2013.
- o Reported on The Journey event. The Synod had hoped to have 15 congregations participate in the Journey. However at the first gathering October there were 21 congregations participating including a number of Episcopalian congregations. More will be joining for the March event. There will be a one-day “catch-up” session for those congregations that want to participate but didn’t attend the first gathering. This will be the last opportunity for congregations to join the Journey. Scholarships are available.
- o On a personal note, Pr. Sevimli informed the council that it is like that she may be out on maternity leave by January 26th.

Bishop Graham

- o Roster matters

Motion 12.11.07 approved the following roster matters:

- o Pr. Eugene Kern to serve as Interim Pastor, King of Kings, Fairfax, VA as of Dec 9, 2012
- o Pr. Marguerite Rourk to be placed on leave from call. (She is moving to Oregon)
- o Pr. Margrethe Kleiber to serve as Interim Pastor, Christ, Fairfax, VA as of December 1, 2012.
- o Pastor Shannon Anderson to have her leave from call status adjusted to on leave from call for family reasons.

WELCA Report