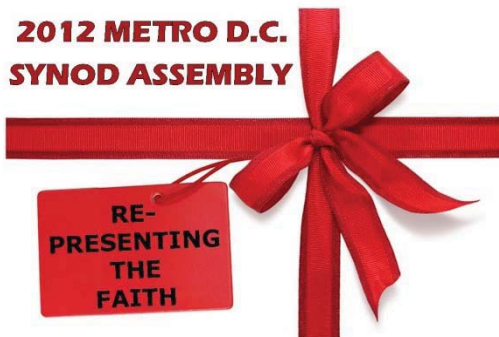


Metropolitan
Washington,
D.C. Synod
of the
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in
America

2012
Synod
Assembly
MINUTES

2012 METRO D.C.
SYNOD ASSEMBLY



“Re-Presenting the Faith”
National Conference Center
Leesburg, Virginia
April 27-28, 2012

Minutes of the 2012 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly
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*The following are the Minutes of the 2012 Synod Assembly
of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

*The 2012 Synod Assembly met on 27 and 28 April, 2012
at the National Conference Center in Leesburg, Virginia.*

*The Minutes herein transcribed were prepared by the Secretary
of the synod, reviewed by the Synod Council on July 14, 2012,
and recommended for approval by the 2013 Synod Assembly.*

*The Rev. John C. Bradford
Secretary of the Synod*

Introductory Activity

Prior to the Opening of the Assembly, activity was already taking place. The Synod Council met. Registration was conducted. The Rev. Doug Jones and Richard Ahlberg held an Orientation for new Voting Members, and a Training Session for Worship Assistants was held.

**PLENARY SESSION I
FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012
National Conference Center
Leesburg, Virginia**

Opening of Assembly

Bishop Graham opened the Synod Assembly with a reading from 1 John 3:16-24 followed by the litany for the opening of a Synod Assembly and the singing of a hymn.

Report of the Registrar and Other Opening Actions

Present:	Voting Members	132
	Rostered	62
	Visitors	<u>3</u>
	Total	197

MOTION SA 12.04.01 to seat the Voting Members was adopted.

.....

Excused Absences were read.

The Reverends	Myron Barbour	Conrad Braaten
	Gregory Gaertner	Wollom Jensen
	Mary Keiser	Travis Kern
	Meredith Lovell Keseley	Kristin Johnston Largen
	Michael Magwire	John Muller
	Thomas O'Brien, Jr.	Thomas Omholt
	William Perry	Amy Thompson Sevimli
	Shelley Simmont	Robin Steinke
	Ronald Qualley	Ross Trower
Associate in Ministry	Mitzi Budde	
Diaconal Minister	Wayne Ralston	

The Synod Assembly agenda was presented.

MOTION SA 12.04.02 to approve the Registrar's report, the excused absences and the Synod Assembly agenda was adopted.

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MOTION SA 12.04.03 to approve the Rules of Procedure was adopted.

.....

MOTION SA 12.04.04 to approve the Minutes of the 2011 Synod Assembly was adopted.

.....

Synod Online Communication Presentation

Karen Krueger, Communications Coordinator, brought the Synod Assembly up to date on all of the methods available to communicate throughout the synod, including the synod Web site (a new design of the synod Web site was previewed, which will be up soon), blogs, Facebook, Twitter, and LivingLutheran.org (another way that the ELCA is present on the web).

Introduction of Ecumenical Guests

The Rev. Richard H. Graham, Bishop, Metro D.C. Synod, introduced ecumenical guests present.

- The Rev. Jonathan Barton - General Minister, Virginia Council of Churches
- The Rev. Jon Denninger, representing the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, Southeastern District, who brought greetings from the Rev. Dr. Jon Diefenthaler, District President. He mentioned his church's efforts to plant 100 churches within the Southeast District as part of a national initiative of the denomination.
- The Rev. Ted Gulick, Jr., Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Virginia Episcopal Church of the USA
- The Rev. Father Avalino Gonzalez - Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, Director of the Archdiocese Office of Ecumenism and Inter-religious Affairs

Report of the Nominating Committee

The Rev. Stephanie Johnson as chair of the Nominating Committee presented the following.

Nominations for Synod Council:

D.C. Conference	Clergy – The Rev. Thomas Knoll
Fairfax Conference	Lay – Robert Schilpp
Maryland Conference	Lay -- Margretta Williams
Montgomery Conference	Lay – Thomas Kern
Potomac Conference	Lay – Wendell Anderson
Virginia Conference	Clergy - The Rev. Mark Edwards
Youth Representative	Jack Hill (nominated from the floor)

At-large	Lay – Karen Consiglio Lay – Rebekka Prinz Lay – Mark Victorson Lay – Deborah Cantrell Lay – Vanessa Bonilla (nominated from the floor) Rostered Lay - Diaconal Minister Kathy Garrison
Synodical Women's Organization	Bonnie Priebe

Nominations for Consultation Committee:

Clergy – The Rev. Beth Spitzner Neubauer
Clergy - The Rev. Mark Olsen
Lay - Suzanne Hazard (nominated from the floor)
Lay - Paul Ramshaw (nominated from the floor)
Lay - Donna Shelly (nominated from the floor)

Nominations for 2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members:

Clergy female – The Rev. Sarah Lewis
Clergy female - The Rev. Stephanie Johnson
Clergy male – The Rev. Brandon Johns
Clergy male - The Rev. Michael Wilker
Clergy male - The Rev. Mark Olsen
Lay (person of color/first language other than English) – Ozan Sevimli
Lay (under 30) – Brian Werner
Lay (under 30) - Chris Orvin
Lay (under 30) -Rebekka Prinz
Lay (under 30) -Jeremy Shoop
Lay (At-Large female) - Amy Acland
Lay (At-Large female) -Suzanne Hazard
Lay (At-Large female) - Heidi Eickstadt (nominated from the floor)
Lay (At Large male) - Stephen Padre
Lay (At-Large male) - Kevin Anderson
Lay (At-Large male) - Philip Soucy
Lay (At-Large male) - Frank Costanza (nominated from the floor)

MOTION SA 12.04.05 to close the nominations was adopted.

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Report of the Treasurer

John Handley gave the Report of the Treasurer. In Section 4 of the Synod Assembly material is the Treasurer's Report for fiscal 2011 ending 31 January 2012. The audited financials will be available by the end of July. Audited financials are available to any one that wants to see them.

The year 2011 followed a long-term trend in that general benevolence to the synod was down \$23,887 from the previous year. Overall giving did go up due to giving to designated funds. Total general benevolence from congregations was \$1,777,052 for the year. In 2011, the synod sent 50% of that general benevolence to the ELCA.

In the face of declining general giving to the synod, we have had to manage costs closely. One literal move that helps is the move of the synod office into the CFLS building owned by First Trinity, D.C. That move will save the synod over \$20,000 per year compared to our previous office space on Connecticut Ave.

Designated giving through the synod in FY 2011 totaled \$242,650. The most common targets of designated gifts included:

- ELCA World Hunger Appeal - \$56,910
- ELCA International Disaster Response - \$47,024
- Lutheran Social Services - \$36,629
- ELCA Domestic Disaster Response - \$17,884
- National Lutheran Homes & Communities - \$12,108

Among the endowment funds of the synod in FY11, the largest is the Faith Fund. In January, 2012, the Faith Fund distributed \$11,160 to its distribution fund to aid new and renewing congregations that are in capital building projects. The Faith Fund also distributed \$7,080 to its distribution account for seminarian support.

Festive Eucharist

At Festive Eucharist worship, Bishop Graham was the preacher and the Rev. Elizabeth Platz was the celebrant.

**PLENARY SESSION II
FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012
National Conference Center
Leesburg, Virginia**

Introduction of the Mission Spending Plan

In the absence of Ken Whitlow, chair of the finance committee, John Handley, treasurer, led the first reading of the Mission Spending Plan (MSP) for 2013. Because of declining mission support from congregations, the proposed 2013 spending plan is reduced by about 10% from the current year's budget. Handley emphasized the areas that we will continue to support in our budget for 2013: Outdoor Ministries, Gettysburg Seminary, Lutheran Campus Ministry, and New and Renewing Congregations.

In addition to the budget as expressed in numbers, there is also a narrative spending plan in the Synod Assembly materials that has been produced by the Stewardship and Mission Support Table. Handley moved that the assembly adopt the MSP for 2013. It will be presented again tomorrow. Any motions to amend should be made at this time; there were no amendments. The assembly will discuss and consider the MSP tomorrow.

Introduction of Compensation Guidelines

Dr. John White, synod vice president, introduced Compensation Guidelines. In order to bring the synod compensation guidelines up to date, the following is proposed: a 3% cost of living increase for rostered leaders for 2013.

MOTION SA 12.04.06 to accept this increase to compensation guidelines was adopted.

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Introduction to Voting Devices

Andy Podolak instructed Voting Members in how to use the voting devices.

Introduction of the ELCA Representative

The Rev. Jessica Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod, was the representative of the churchwide expression of the ELCA at the Metro D.C. Synod Assembly. Bishop Crist brought greetings on behalf of ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson and the 64 other synods of the ELCA. Eight of them are also gathering in assembly this weekend, and three are electing new bishops. She also brought greetings from the 10,000 congregations of the ELCA, from the 70 million other Lutherans in the Lutheran World Federation and from the 130 congregations in the Montana Synod.

She is representing the whole ELCA, of which we as attendees of the assembly and as a synod are a part. She gave examples from her synod of ways the ELCA has partnered and supported ministries, from campus ministry to prison ministry.

She presented a video that highlights ministries of the ELCA, hosted by Bishop Hanson (“Living, Daring Confidence”). The video featured ELCA and related ministries, both in the U.S. and abroad.

Following the video, Bishop Crist noted that our church is at work, at prayer, and at the table, as she gave examples about the expressions of the ELCA and the places it is at work. She named various ways the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod has supported the ELCA’s work, from general benevolence to support of the World Hunger Appeal. The Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod can claim the work of the Montana Synod as its own because “we are in this together.”

Bishop Crist highlighted the prominence of Bishop Graham in various ELCA initiatives, saying he is a “rock star” in some places. She named people from the synod who contribute by serving on national positions on the ELCA – on committees and on boards.

She spoke of other ways that parts of the ELCA work collaboratively, showing that “we are in this together.” But it is not just Lutherans working together, she said, but we work with other Christians ecumenically. Lutherans have a reputation in the church world and in the secular world, in critical areas such as in domestic disaster response.

Bishop Crist explained that being evangelical is who we are. It is part of our name in the ELCA. We are a church that boldly tells the story of Christ crucified and resurrected. We tell this story in various ways to various people, from students at universities to Native Americans on reservations.

Being ecumenical is also in our bones as the ELCA. She gave examples of clergy from the ELCA’s full communion partners serving in ELCA congregations in her synod. “We are stronger together than we are separately,” she said. Where we don’t have a full communion relationship, we are in conversation both with other denominations as well as other faiths.

Because of our faith, what we believe in what we are founded upon. We are not afraid to reach out to others, Bishop Crist said. The ELCA is confident in reaching out to people in need through ministries like Lutheran World Relief. The ELCA also reaches out through education and its educational institutions, such as seminaries, colleges and universities.

Overall, Bishop Crist painted a broad picture of a church that is involved in many, many things in many, many places, both in the U.S. and around the world. We really are in this together!

Introduction of the Synod Staff

Bishop Graham invited staff members to be recognized by the assembly.

Assistants to the Bishop	The Rev. Philip Hirsch (Director of Evangelical Mission)
Synod Administrator	The Rev. Amy Thompson Sevimli
Administrative Assistant & Synod Assembly Coordinator	Harold Sargeant, Associate in Ministry
Communications Coordinator	Amy Acland
Bookkeeper	Karen Krueger
	Florence Heacock

Report of the Bishop

Bishop Graham began his verbal report by reminding the Synod Assembly of his written report and his hopes that we will read it and pass it onto others to read.

The bishop said “Thank you!” Thank you for your presence here. Our scheduling difficulties made it hard for some to plan their attendance at this Synod Assembly. We also know that no matter what we do to keep our costs down, it’s hard for some congregations to afford attendance at the assembly. And I know that it’s springtime and there are many other activities going on. But, the thing is, as Bishop Crist said, that there is so much to celebrate when we get together.

Two of our congregations made decisions about closing their doors and did this in a grace-filled way that helped us dream of new possibilities and will greatly assist in putting forth new missions in our Synod.

Young adult ministries among us have resulted in the tripling of young people gathering together in the past couple of years – 200 or so come together each month.

The newest thing among us – partnership with the Delaware-Maryland Synod called the Global Peace Lutheran Fellowship (Indian subcontinent). This is very exciting as it gives us another opportunity to work together with people that are not necessarily “Lutheran” but who are open to hearing our witness and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We have decided as the ELCA that we will do our part in the world campaign against Malaria. The synod has decided that we will also do what we can to help in this endeavor. The Bishop introduced Dorothy Sorrell who spoke about the synod’s efforts to work together with the ELCA to stop Malaria in Africa.

To celebrate lots of ministry that we are engaged in, support and pay for, thank you, and thank you for being here. I pray that for all of us who are here, that we will come to a deeper understanding of our church and our Lord’s claim over us.

**PLENARY SESSION III
FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012
National Conference Center
Leesburg, Virginia**

Reference and Counsel – First Report

The Rev. Christine Stephan, chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee (R&C), reported to the assembly.

Each resolution has two numbers, the R&C number, which will begin with 2012 dash followed by a number. These are numbered in the chronological order received. The second number is the secretary's number, which begins with a 7. These are the page numbers for the order they appear in the report. The Synod Assembly will receive each resolution by giving the Synod Assembly both numbers. The final resolutions were all put on the Metro D.C. Web site as part of the pre-assembly packet.

The "Resolved" clauses will be projected on the screen during R&C's report.

If you already know that you intend to propose an amendment to any of the resolutions, it would be helpful to have a written copy provided to the media coordinator as well as to the R&C Chair, so that it may be prepared as you have written it for the Synod Assembly. Your amendment will not be shown until you move it from the floor.

As a reminder to the Synod Assembly, it is only the "Resolved" statements which are adopted. However, the "Whereas" statements are submitted as fact; lay out the issue or concern at hand and lead to the proposed solution offered in the "Resolved" statements. Questions regarding statements in the "Whereas" clauses may be directed to R&C or the author(s).

Finally, any resolution arising out of the business of the Synod Assembly must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the synod, the Rev. John Bradford. Should you have questions, please feel free to direct them to any member of the R&C Committee—the members who are present at the assembly are Phil Soucy, the Rev. Margrethe Kleiber, the Rev. Mark Edwards, and the chair, Pr. Stephan. Thanks to each of them and also Kevin Anderson for their time and gifts that were shared as part of this team.

Pr. Stephan explained that the R&C advises and assists those who ask for action from a Synod Assembly. When a resolution meets the needs of the group asking for action, the R&C puts it in proper order; then moves the resolution to the Synod Assembly. This action does not imply in any way that the R&C is in agreement with a resolution; the process is simply in compliance with Robert's Rules of Order for preparing and presenting resolutions to the assembly.

Greetings

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod will pray specifically for those synods electing for the:

*Rocky Mountain Synod
Alaska Synod
Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod
as they elect a Bishop.*
RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly direct the Secretary of the synod to extend best wishes to the:
*Rocky Mountain Synod
Alaska Synod
Oregon Synod
North Eastern Minnesota Synod
Northern Texas - Northern Louisiana Synod
Western Iowa Synod
and express to them our greetings in Christ as they gather in assembly.*

Pr. Stephan moved to accept this Resolution by acclamation.

MOTION SA 12.04.07 was adopted by acclamation.

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Pr. Stephan moved the resolution: *Supporting In-State Tuition for Maryland Immigrant Youth under SB 167 (the DREAM Act).*

An amendment to resolution was considered.

The Bishop called the resolution/amendment out of order for the present time because of the lack of clarity on where the bill stands before the Maryland legislature. This will be discussed further later in the Synod Assembly.

Care and Support for Persons Living with HIV and AIDS

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly encourage the congregations of this Synod to create special educational and worship activities that promote and highlight the World Aids Conference (July 22-27, 2012) and the Interfaith Pre-conference (July 20-21, 2012) to their members; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly urge the Bishop of this Synod to attend the World Aids Conference (July 22-27, 2012), the Interfaith Pre-conference (July 20-21, 2012) and the Interfaith Prayer Service at the National Cathedral (July 21, 2012); and be it further

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly urge the Bishop of this Synod to encourage the clergy and lay members of this Synod to embrace the principles of "An Open Pastoral Letter to the Residents of Washington, DC from Your Lutheran Neighbors"; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly encourage the congregations of this Synod to:

- *encourage their members to read and enact the ELCA Strategy on HIV and AIDS: Congregation Action Kit*;*
- *pray with and for people living with HIV and those who support them;*
- *organize healing worship services in partnership with local AIDS service organizations for those living with HIV; raise the awareness of their members about the impact of HIV and AIDS around the world and in their community to reduce the stigma that many living with HIV and AIDS experience; and*
- *encourage God's people to be tested for HIV, to provide educational materials to their members about HIV prevention and to support people living with HIV and AIDS with love and compassion.*

**ELCA (<http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Poverty-Ministries/HIV-and-AIDS/About-the-Strategy/Congregation-Action-Kit.aspx>)*

Pr. Stephan moved the resolution

MOTION SA 12.04.08 was adopted 200/13/1.

.....

Visits to the Holy Land

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod, meeting in Assembly, encourage pastors, congregations and members of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod who plan trips to the Holy Land to commit themselves to the ELCA's practice of accompaniment with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and be it further

RESOLVED, that, as people of faith, this Synod will remember in prayer all those who travel to the Holy Land that the Lord will be with them and the people with whom they meet on their pilgrimage.

Pr. Stephan moved the resolution

MOTION SA 12.04.09 was adopted 188/14/11

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Keynote Speaker – First Presentation

The Rev. Chris Nelson, Senior Pastor, Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Minneapolis, Minn., was introduced by the Rev. Dr. Phil Hirsch, Assistant to the Bishop, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, ELCA and Director of Evangelical Mission. Pr. Hirsch indicated that Pr. Nelson has come to the assembly to give us ways to speak with ease about our faith. The question he was

invited to speak on is “Why church?” and “Why Jesus?” (why we choose to follow Christ) on our re-presenting our faith journey.

Pr. Nelson began by speaking about two forms of the Church – the denomination and the synod. Lutherans need each other for accountability and things we cannot do alone. Congregations in the ELCA are interdependent, along with synods and the Churchwide organization.

Pr. Nelson repeated the words of Bishop Crist: “We are in this together,” and that is what we need to talk about when talking about the Church.

Pr. Nelson provided statistics on the state of ELCA congregations, and many of them show a decline in membership. In light of this, how can there be a revival in spirituality? He presented questions stemming from these challenging statistics, like: How can the ELCA not be part of this conversation?

The ELCA has a lot to offer in terms of the way it approaches theology – comfort with ambiguity, a focus on the cross. Therefore, we as the ELCA have every reason to contribute to the conversation about spirituality.

How does the business world operate in terms of human behavior? A noted author – Jim Collins – says it invites exploration of things like:

- Confront the brutal facts
- A culture of discipline
- Others

The steps of decline of business that Collins has determined, which Pr. Nelson thinks can apply to the ELCA:

Stage 1: Hubris born of success

- Successful entitlement, arrogance
- Neglect of a primary “flywheel...” (the thing that turns and makes things work)
- “What” replaces “Why”
- Declining in Learning Orientation

Stage 2: The undisciplined pursuit of more

- Bureaucracy subverts discipline
- Problematic succession of power

Stage 3: Denial

- Amplify the positive, discount the negative
- Erosion of healthy team dynamics

- Externalizing blame

Stage 4: Grasping for Salvation

- Lurching for a silver bullet
- Panic and haste
- Radical change and revolution with fanfare
- Hype precedes results
- Confusion and cynicism

“There is a danger that we in the ELCA can become irrelevant if we continue our slide,” Pr. Nelson said.

His conclusions:

- It is too easy for us to say that business experience has nothing to do with church.
- God has not abandoned us. It is not God’s failure. It is ours.
- There is no quick fix, only very difficult – but good – work.

Why does it matter? Nelson told a story about a woman in Denmark whom he met and who, after 30 years of marriage, had gotten divorced and felt very lost and alone. Nelson asked how many other women in the world were like this who could find a home and a welcome in the Church. He urged us to be good listeners to those around us.

Committee on Elections – First Ballot

The Rev. Mitch Watney, chair of the Elections Committee, conducted this process.

Synod Council - D.C. Conference (Clergy)
The Rev. Tom Knoll, First Trinity - Washington, D.C.
Elected by acclamation

Synod Council - Fairfax Conference (Lay)
Bob Schilpp, Bethel - Manassas, Virg.
Elected by acclamation

Synod Council - Maryland Conference (Lay)
Margretta Williams – Peace, Waldorf, Md.
Elected by acclamation

Synod Council - Montgomery Conference (Lay)
Thomas Kern – Trinity, North Bethesda, Md.
Elected by acclamation

Synod Council - Potomac Conference (Lay)

- Wendell Anderson – Advent, Arlington, Virg.
Elected by acclamation
- Synod Council - Virginia Conference (Clergy)
The Rev. Mark Edwards – Emmanuel, Vienna, Virg.
Elected by acclamation
- Synod Council - Rostered Lay
Kathy Garrison, Diaconal Minister – Augustana, Washington, D.C.
Elected by acclamation
- Synod Council - Synodical Women’s Organization
Bonnie Priebe
Elected by acclamation
- Synod Council - Youth
Jack Hill – Bethel, Manassas, Virg.
Elected by acclamation
- Synod Council - At-Large (Lay)
- | | |
|---|----|
| Vanessa Bonilla - La Sagrada Familia, Langley Park, Md. | 61 |
| Deborah Cantrell – Christ the King, Great Falls, Virg. | 24 |
| Karen Consiglio – Christ the Servant, Reston, Virg. | 42 |
| Rebekka Prinz – Holy Trinity, Leesburg, Virg. | 41 |
| Mark Victorson – St. Matthew’s, Woodbridge, Virg. | 28 |
- The bishop announced that Vanessa Bonilla and Karen Consiglio will appear on the second ballot.*
- Consultation Committee (2 clergy and 2 lay members)
- | | |
|--|--|
| The Rev. Beth Neubauer – Emmanuel, Vienna, Virg. | |
|--|--|
- Elected by acclamation*
- | | |
|---|--|
| The Rev. Mark Olsen – Shepherd of the Hills, Haymarket, Virg. | |
|---|--|
- Elected by acclamation*
- | | |
|--|-----|
| Suzanne Hazard – Reformation, Washington, D.C. | 154 |
| Paul Ramshaw – Luther Place Memorial, Washington, D.C. | 132 |
| Donna Shelly – St. Johns, Rockville, Md. | 101 |
- The bishop announced that Suzanne Hazard and Paul Ramshaw are elected.*
- Voting Members to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly (Female Clergy)
- | | |
|---|-----|
| The Rev. Stephanie Johnson – Holy Cross, Herndon, Virg. | 117 |
| The Rev. Sarah Lewis – St. Luke’s, Derwood, Md. | 86 |
- The bishop announced that Pr. Johnson is elected.*
- Voting Member to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly (Male Clergy)
- | | |
|---|----|
| The Rev. Brandon Johns – St. Matthew’s, Lake Ridge, Virg. | 44 |
| The Rev. Mark Olsen – Shepherd of the Hills, Haymarket, Virg. | 67 |
| The Rev. Michael Wilker – Lutheran Church of the Reformation, | |

Washington, D.C.

98

The bishop announced that Pr. Olsen and Pr. Wilker will appear on the second ballot.

Voting Member to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly (Person of Color/First language other than English)

Ozan Sevimli – Good Shepherd, Alexandria, Virg.

Elected by acclamation

Voting Member to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly (Person under 30)

Chris Orvin – First Trinity, Washington, D.C. 47

Rebekka Prinz – Holy Trinity, Leesburg, Virg. 71

Jeremy Shoop – Holy Cross, Herndon, Virg. 58

Brian Werner – First Trinity, Washington, D.C. 29

The bishop announced that Rebekka Prinz and Jeremy Shoop will appear on the second ballot.

Voting Member to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly (At-Large Female Layperson)

Amy Acland – Peace, Alexandria, Virg. 98

Heidi Eickstadt – St. Mark's, Springfield, Virg. 80

Suzanne Hazard – Reformation, Washington, D.C. 32

The bishop announced that Amy Acland and Heidi Eickstadt will appear on the second ballot.

Voting Member to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly (At-Large Male Layperson)

Kevin Anderson- Good Shepherd, Gaithersburg, Md. 62

Frank Costanza – Bethel, Manassas, Virg. 22

Stephen Padre – Augustana, Washington, D.C. 69

Phil Soucy – Hope, Annandale, Virg. 52

The bishop announced that Kevin Anderson and Stephen Padre will appear on the second ballot.

Bishop Graham introduced the President of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, the Rev. Michael L. Cooper-White, D.D.

The Rev. Doug Jones, Chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee offered concluding words of the day

**PLENARY SESSION IV
SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2012
National Conference Center
Leesburg, Virginia**

Bishop Graham offered an opening prayer to being the second day of Synod Assembly

Report of the Vice President

Dr. John White reported that the Synod Council embarked on a different way of conducting our business; it had become the custom, as is often the case, to ritualize the often joyful, but nevertheless ordinary, business matters, moving along as smartly as possible through a long list of busy-ness.

Sometimes this practice moves us too quickly through matters which bear an underlying need for our collective wisdom and dispute and love. The Bishop advocated, and the Council introduced, a way of becoming not just a functionary Council but the Primary Mission Table of the synod. Now the hard issues come first in our meetings, and we experience the power and effectiveness of our varied experiences, expertise and, well, “prolixity.”

Report of the Registrar

Present:	Voting Members	141
	Rostered	73
	Total	214

Report of the Secretary

The Rev. John Bradford reported that as Secretary of the synod, one of his primary functions as Secretary is to record the official minutes of the synod Executive Committee meetings, the Synod Council meetings and the gatherings of the synod in assembly. The minutes of all Synod Council Meetings are posted on the synod Web site by Karen Krueger, Communications Coordinator. We have just recently decided to put a summary of synod council meetings on the Web site instead of detailed minutes, which will serve us well, as these summaries will be posted right away and will be more efficient for folks to read.

One of the other areas that falls under the purview of the Secretary is the review of updated congregation constitutions. Congregations must closely follow the ELCA model constitution for congregations when they revise their constitutions, and a reminder that all congregation constitutions that are revised must be submitted to the Secretary of the synod for official review.

The Synod Council as it will be structured after this Synod Assembly will meet for the first time in retreat on Saturday, July 14 at The Village of Rockville (still known by many as The National Lutheran Home) at which time we will determine the dates of our Council Meetings for the

upcoming year. If any would like to host the Synod Council, please let me know and I will be happy to add you to my list of future meeting sites.

Committee on Elections - Second Ballot

Pr. Watney continued.

Synod Council - At-Large (Lay)	
Vanessa Bonilla - La Sagrada Familia, Langley Park, Md.	100
Karen Consiglio – Christ the Servant, Reston, Virg.	108
<i>The bishop announced that Karen Consiglio is elected.</i>	
2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members (Male Clergy)	
The Rev. Mark Olsen – Shepherd of the Hills, Haymarket, Virg.	110
The Rev. Michael Wilker – Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Washington, D.C.	97
<i>The bishop announced that Pr. Olsen is elected.</i>	
2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members (Person under 30)	
Rebekka Prinz – Holy Trinity, Leesburg, Virg.	112
Jeremy Shoop – Holy Cross, Herndon, Virg.	92
<i>The bishop announced that Rebekka Prinz is elected.</i>	
2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members (At-Large Female Layperson)	
Amy Acland – Peace, Alexandria, Virg.	129
Heidi Eickstadt – St. Mark’s, Springfield, Virg.	78
<i>The bishop announced that Amy Acland is elected.</i>	
2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members (At-Large Male Layperson)	
Kevin Anderson- Good Shepherd, Gaithersburg, Md.	90
Stephen Padre – Augustana, Washington, D.C.	112
<i>The bishop announced that Stephen Padre is elected.</i>	

Stewardship and Mission Table

The Rev. David Sonnenberg, chair of the Stewardship and Mission Table, indicated that this table’s purpose is to be a resource for the synod’s congregations to help them with their own stewardship efforts and to help them grow in supporting the ministry of the synod and larger church.

The group has recommended to congregations:

- A narrative budget as a way of telling the story and presenting their ministry. There are examples for doing this on the synod’s Web site.

- A quarterly giving update with a mission letter as a way to share stories of the progress of ministries.
- Targeted letters to different groups (not one size fits all).
- Sending thank-you notes to those who pledge. Tip: Use blue ink!
- Have a new member process that speaks about stewardship clearly and sets giving as an expectation.
- The pastor's role is essential. The pastor needs to know what people give and needs to be an example of generosity.
- Recommended books on stewardship strategy and practices, theology of stewardship and devotional resources – a list is on the synod Web site (under For Congregations).
- Stay connected to the group on Twitter and through the synod Web site. Members of the group are available for questions and as a resource.

Mission Spending Plan

John Handley, treasurer of the synod, related that the offering for the ELCA Malaria Campaign taken during Synod Assembly worship was \$2,611.50 – our largest Synod Assembly offering.

The 2013 synod Mission Spending Plan has been moved and is before the assembly.

2013 Mission Spending Plan

DONATIONS & INCOMES	
Congregational Benevolence	\$1,800,000
Interest & Other Income	\$12,500
Unidentified Income or Deficit	\$0
Grand Total Donations & Incomes	\$1,812,500
EXPENSES	
The Larger Church	\$907,960
<i>Churchwide Programs</i>	<i>\$900,000</i>
<i>Region 8 Support</i>	<i>\$7,960</i>
Synod Divisions	\$294,700
<i>Congregational Life</i>	<i>\$18,200</i>
<i>Higher Education</i>	<i>\$65,000</i>
<i>Ministry</i>	<i>\$110,000</i>
<i>Global Mission</i>	<i>\$4,500</i>
<i>New & Renewing Congregations</i>	<i>\$85,000</i>
<i>Stewardship & Mission Support</i>	<i>\$12,000</i>
Offices & Committees	\$4,500
<i>Ecumenical Affairs</i>	<i>\$4,500</i>
Leadership & Administration	\$605,000
<i>Synod Office</i>	<i>\$605,000</i>
<i>Other Admin Expenses</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Grand Total Expenses	\$1,812,160

Question regarding reduction for the Global Missions – there are reductions across the board and were not taken lightly. While this was not something that we wanted to do, given our financial realities this is where we ended up.

MOTION SA 12.04.10, Synod Mission Spending Plan for 2013 was adopted by show of hands.

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Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Bishop Graham introduced, Nancy Myers, the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans representative who brought greetings and recognized members of Thrivent.

Reference and Counsel – Second Report

Pr. Stephan continued when she moved the *Resolution on Iran*.

An amendment to strike third resolve was considered.

MOTION SA 12.04.11 amendment to strike third resolve adopted 118/88/15

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Resolution on Iran

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod commit itself to pray for peace among Iran, its neighbors, and the United States, and be it further

RESOLVED that members of this Synod are asked to prayerfully discern their role as peacemakers and act in good faith and conscience to promote peace with Iran in all ways possible in their personal and professional lives.

MOTION SA 12.04.12 Amended resolution adopted 194/17/10

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Lutheran Association of Christian Educators (LACE)

RESOLVED the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly acknowledge LACE as an organization that can support Christian educators in the ELCA, to include rostered or lay (volunteer and/or professionally paid staff); and, be it further

RESOLVED the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly encourage its congregations to utilize the expertise and resources of LACE and explore the benefits of joining LACE to strengthen support for congregations and build networking within synods.

Pr. Stephan moved the resolution

MOTION SA 12.04.13 Resolution adopted 206/10/6

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Anniversaries of Congregations and Rostered Leaders

At this time Bishop Graham said we will acknowledge service – those who have been among us and have supported us with ministry and love and hard work. Presentations will be made later this year, but at this time we will see the names of rostered leaders and anniversaries of congregations.

ANNIVERSARIES OF CONGREGATIONS

50 years

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fairfax, Virg.

ANNIVERSARIES OF ROSTERED LEADERS

Rostered Lay Leaders

15 years

Katherine Miller-Holland, Diaconal Minister
Harold Sargeant, AIM

35 years

Ina Berkey, AIM

Ordained Ministers

5 years

The Rev. Edward Buabeng
The Rev. Teka Fogi
The Rev. Amsalu Geleta
The Rev. Stephanie Johnson
The Rev. Travis Kern
The Rev. Sarah Scherschligt
The Rev. Shelley Simmont

10 years

The Rev. Gerard Johnson

The Rev. Kristin Largen
The Rev. Jeffrey Wilson

15 years

The Rev. John Bradford
The Rev. Anne Dwiggins
The Rev. Douglas Jones
The Rev. Tarja Stevenson

20 years

The Rev. Geraldine Opsahl

25 years

The Rev. Marguerite Rourk

30 years

The Rev. Andreas Armstrong
The Rev. Roger Berner
The Rev. Mark Brown
The Rev. Thomas Knoll
The Rev. Brent Thalacker

35 years

The Rev. Philip Anderson
The Rev. Phillip Carl
The Rev. Brian Erickson
The Rev. Dennis Hagstrom
The Rev. John Kidd
The Rev. Michael Magwire

40 years

The Rev. Conrad Braaten
The Rev. Jan Lookingbill
The Rev. Ronald Qualley
The Rev. James Thacker

45 years

The Rev. Robert Allard
The Rev. Harry Cleven
The Rev. Charles Gravenstine

50 years

The Rev. Richard Hoehm
The Rev. J.L. Knauff
The Rev. Harry Yeide

55 years

The Rev. E.H. Jansen
The Rev. Daniel Oravec

65 years
The Rev. Harold Deal
The Rev. Arnold Keller

Former Bishop Harold Jansen, marking the 55th anniversary of his ordination, received a standing ovation, and he offered a few words about the evolution of Lutheran church bodies over the years. He reflected for a few minutes on the past, and the current issue, being where we go from here. It is something we need to pray for, that the voice of Christians is heard, that the wisdom of the Gospel is shared. He offered a prayer for the work of the Church and asked for God's continued blessing on the Church. The "warmth and texture of God's grace is what you have offered," said Bishop Graham following the prayer.

Keynote Speaker – Second Presentation

The Rev. Chris Nelson began the second part of his talk by explaining that change is difficult. He said he didn't intend to force it upon anybody present but just to present the possibilities for change. He said the status quo is the status quo because it works for the people in power.

He provided some context for congregations among the larger community.

He talked about how difficult change is for people in various circumstances – for health, for addiction, etc. However, he said, "I absolutely believe in a God of transformation," and "I do believe with all my heart that Jesus changes people for the better, and that can be used to change their churches."

Some points he made:

- Successful adaptive changes build on the past rather than jettison it.
- Organizational adaptation occurs through experimentation. (we don't need to call it "failure")
- Adaptation relies on diversity.
- New adaptation significantly displaces, reregulates and rearranges some old DNA. (Learning can be painful.)

It is helpful to distinguish technical problems from adaptive challenges. It is not always easy to make this distinction. We often miss the kind of change we are dealing with. Leading means messing with people's comfort zones.

Refusing to risk is unfaithful:

- We can be risk takers or
- We can be care takers or

- We can be undertakers.

Our faith gives us the strength for change. It comes from God.

There will be resistance to change – the heat will rise.

The adaptive leadership process is a cycle of observe, interpret and intervene.

**PLENARY SESSION V
SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2012
National Conference Center
Leesburg, Virginia**

Reference and Counsel – Third Report

Pr. Stephan continued with revisiting the resolution, *Supporting In-State Tuition for Maryland Immigrant Youth under SB 167 (the DREAM Act)*. A substitute was moved.

Bishop Graham indicated that the assembly must first accept this as a substitute motion for the motion discussed yesterday. So moved.

MOTION SA 12.04.14 Voice Vote accepting substitute Resolution

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A motion was made and seconded to amend the resolution by striking the fourth resolve in its entirety

MOTION SA 12.04.15 Amendment to the Resolution failed 59/128/11

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***Supporting In-State Tuition for Maryland Immigrant Youth
under SB 167 (the DREAM Act)***

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly express its support for the Dream Act's commitment to provide all immigrant children, documented or not, the opportunity to attend college at in-state and in-county tuition rates based on where they have lived and graduated from high school.

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly express its gratitude to the Maryland State Legislature and Governor Martin O'Malley for adopting and signing into Law SB 167 to assure these students the right to attend college at in-state and in-county tuition rates.

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly direct the Bishop of the synod to make the synod's biblically based pro-immigrant position known to Maryland congregations and their members.

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly urges the Bishop, and rostered as well as non-rostered leaders of this synod to speak publicly in opposition to the referendum efforts to overturn the adoption of SB167.

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly, urges the congregations and members of this synod to welcome, care for, and support immigrants and their families and to advocate for their legal protection.

MOTION SA 12.04.16 Resolution adopted. 147/53/8

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Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area

Melissa Graves, Executive Director of Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS/NCA), addressed the assembly. The Centennial of LSS/NCA is coming up and in connection with this event; there will be a centennial campaign. Graves commented on the work that has been done to get the agency to the point where it is feasible to do such a campaign.

Report of the Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop

The Rev. Phil Hirsch emphasized that our work of being evangelical is expanding, growing and reaching more people. How are we doing in this? The year 2009 was a great year for adult baptisms in the synod, but they were down for 2010. Worship attendance in the synod continues to decline, as it has steadily since 2004. Only 10 of the synod's 75 congregations are growing, but this is better than other synods.

Some stabilization in churches declining.

Remember the fallen tree that provides nourishment for seedlings? This is happening in our synod. We have two excellent examples of this in our synod -- stories we can begin to tell:

1. Resurrection Lutheran Church in Kensington, Maryland had its last worship service in August of 2011. When it closed, it gave its building (sold for a very modest amount) to the Oromo Christian Fellowship. This is an ELCA mission that has been flourishing and will become the newest congregation in our Synod later this year. In their final act of mission, the people of Resurrection also "seeded" the synod with \$36,000 for our work in new and renewing congregations. Out of death, God has produced much life and hope for the future of the Gospel!
2. Bethany Lutheran Church in Forestville, Maryland also closed in 2011. Even as their congregation was dying, these faithful people decided to give the proceeds from the sale of the building for the work of the Gospel. Because this seed died, many more will be planted. The resource of about \$1.5 million will be used to seed churches and renewal efforts around the synod, at least half of these will be in Prince George's County. The first fruits of this resource are already showing in the next story.

Christus Victor Lutheran Church in Manassas, Virg. had a building that the synod helped them to purchase. Even though much hard and faithful work had been done, the congregation was not growing and could not continue on the way it was going. They

could not afford to call a pastor and pay the mortgage. They voted to end ministry as Christus Victor and to restart the mission under a new name with a new pastor developer leading the effort. With great joy, we will be introducing to you the Rev. Connie Thomson who started on March 1, 2012 to develop a new congregation, River of Grace out of the old. Already, God has begun to bring fruit from this new effort that will have some resource from the Bethany funds.

Some of the Bethany funds (\$300,000) have been temporarily put on deposit with a bank that has allowed Shepherd of the Hills in Haymarket, Virg. to secure a mortgage and begin construction on a new sanctuary.

Sadly, after three years, Belmont Ridge Church of the Resurrection, a new mission start in Ashburn, was closed on December 31, 2011. A task force is forming to make sure we learn from what did and did not work in this effort. Even though we grieve the loss, we know that the work of Christ will continue and the New and Renewing Mission Table would like to announce a new start in Loudoun County, we hope, later this year.

501 Church was going to be a new mission start out of First Trinity in Washington, D.C. It was decided, instead to refocus the ministry on young adults as a part of the ministry of First Trinity rather than as a separate effort.

Crusader Lutheran Church realized that their name may have gotten in the way of some people hearing the Good News of Christ through their efforts. In 2011, they decided to change their name to Living Faith Lutheran Church to better reflect their mission, ministries and commitment to the community. The fruit of this brave and daring move is already showing in increased attendance.

We've tried a few new things to break ground and plant seeds in our Synod:

1. The Secret Visitor Initiative trained dozens of people who made over 30 visits to neighboring congregations and made a report on the experience.
2. We had a workshop called "How to Get More Members" that six congregations attended and were spurred on to try new ways of reaching out in forming relationships and Christian Community.
3. We had a conference on reaching out to military families in our communities. (See the Rev. Amy Thompson Sevimli's report)
4. Go Grants have helped three congregations reach out to their communities:
 - Luther Place among young adults through the art community,
 - Epiphany, Burtonsville who helped sponsor the evangelism conference, and
 - King of Kings Fairfax who is creating outreach for families with children who have disabilities.

5. A “Daughter Church Planting Conference” was attended by three congregations and a fourth is interested in the idea.
6. “Mi Casa es Su Casa” was an event hosted by the Latino Strategy Group to show congregations how to be hospitable to Latinos that live in most every community of our synod.

This year we hope to build on our strengths, and develop best practices for outreach, welcoming and faith formation. We will have an opportunity for pastors and leaders to work with Pr. Chris Nelson and a member of his staff to collaborate effective strategies for ministry to our neighbors.

New Congregations

Our synod with the national church (ELCA) is sponsoring the following new church starts:

- La Sagrada Familia (The Holy Family), Langley Park, Maryland Became a “Congregation Under development” in 2010 led by Pr. Rosario Hernandez-Cruz.
- The Oromo Christian Fellowship, Kensington, Maryland is a congregation under development and is preparing to organize later this year. Pr. Teka Fogi, Mission Developer.
- Global Peace Lutheran Fellowship, Fredrick, Maryland is a collaborative mission start with the Delaware-Maryland Synod focused first on the Indian community but then to the whole global one in the I270 corridor and in Northern Virginia. Welcome Pr. Surekha Nelavala.
- River Of Grace Manassas, Virg. is a restart of Christus Victor. This effort is funded 1/3 from Bethany and other Synod funds, 1/3 from the ELCA and 1/3 from local offerings.

There are three additional ministries that our Synod Supports:

- Amharic Community at Peace in Alexandria, Virg.
- San Marcos at St. Mark's in Springfield, Virg.
- Santa Maria at Augustana in D.C.

We need to go back to the basics in what we are about:

- Grace
- Faith
- Christ
- Scripture
- Glory only to God

These are the most important things.

People are looking for something to hold on to, something of Christ to come to. There are people like this all over – they need what we know of in Christ – if we can figure out how to tell our story.

What are you willing to die to for the sake of the things listed above? We need to change how we “do” church!

Keynote Speaker – Third Presentation

In the third segment of his keynote address, the Rev. Chris Nelson looked at the topic of moving into the future as the Church and as individual congregations, which was a natural progression from Pr. Hirsch’s report.

We know where we are and where we stand, and it’s not all good, but there is no question about how God calls us into the future.

He invited the assembly to dream with him, to find a vision for what the future might be. He offered us a framework for our dreaming – which is free. It can be – it is – the most important job of the Church’s leadership – “God has already out-dreamt me, quoting Ephesians 3:20-21. If we don’t have profound dissatisfaction for the way things are, we will have no need to dream.

There is a model for this in the business world. *Fast Company* magazine featured a strategic planning process called TINA: “There Is No Alternative.” It is strategic planning by story-telling – dreaming and then asking questions about how you get to that spot.

Technology is huge! For example, people usually visit your church first by going to its Web site. How to leverage this for your congregation’s ministry? Younger people look for an experience on the web, not just for information. It must be interactive.

Pr. Nelson gave an example of one of the stories he wrote as part of the TINA process for his congregation. As they determined strategic directions to get to a certain point in the future, they committed to saying “no” or “not yet” to some things. “When you end up doing everything, you end up doing nothing very well.” We must have a laser-like focus – the power to say no is the power to focus, and that is something that we need learn how to do.

He left the assembly with two thoughts:

1. From Dietrich Bonhoeffer: “Our call is not about us but about how to share the Good News of Jesus with the world.”
2. From Jeremiah 29:11: For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

Reference and Counsel – Fourth Report

Support of the Maryland Civil Marriage Protection Act

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, meeting in Assembly, calls upon congregations and members of this synod to welcome, care for, and support same-gender couples and their families and to advocate for their legal protection; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, meeting in Assembly, commends Governor O'Malley and the Maryland Legislature for extending the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly National Conference Center in Leesburg, Virginia April 27-28, 2012 protections of marriage to all persons and for protecting freedom of religion for all faith communities and religious organizations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, meeting in Assembly, supports the law as enacted and is opposed to again precluding one group of committed couples and their families from having the legal support and protections afforded to all others; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, meeting in Assembly, urges the bishop, clergy, and other synod leaders to speak publicly in defense of the Maryland Civil Marriage Protection Act; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, meeting in Assembly, urges the synod bishop (or designee) to make the synod's position on the Maryland Civil Marriage Protection Act known throughout the synod and to the public at large.

Pr. Stephan moved the resolution.

MOTION SA 12.04.17 Resolution adopted. 136/58/11

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Resolution in Support of the Uniting American Families Act (UAFA)

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod of the ELCA in assembly directs the Bishop of the Synod to communicate to President Obama and members of Congress from the territory of the synod to co-sponsor, support, and press for passage of the Uniting American Families Act (UAFA) and enact inclusive, comprehensive immigration reform legislation that ends the long-standing discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender immigrant families, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod of the ELCA memorialize the ELCA Churchwide Assembly meeting in 2013 to join the Faith Coalition for the Uniting

American Families Act in support of passage of the Uniting American Families Act and its inclusion in comprehensive immigration reform, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly encourage the pastors and congregations of this synod to pray for the immigrants, refugees, and strangers in their communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly encourage the pastors and other leaders of congregations of this synod to support the Uniting American Families Act by communicating with their elected representatives, encouraging them to co-sponsorship and support these bills and just, comprehensive immigration reform.

Pr. Stephan moved the resolution.

MOTION SA 12.04.18 Resolution adopted. 131/53/10

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Expression of Thanks and Gratitude

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly express its gratitude and extend its heartfelt thanks to God and to all whose support and efforts have made this Synod Assembly an efficient and joyful gathering of God's people, including:

- *the staff of the National Conference Center in Landsdowne, Virginia;*
- *the Reverend Amy Thompson Sevimli, Assistant to the Bishop;*
- *the Reverend Dr. Philip C. Hirsch, Director of Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop for the Metro D.C. Synod;*
- *Dr. John White, Vice President of the Synod; the Reverend John Bradley, Secretary of the Synod; and Mr. John Handley, Treasurer of the Synod;*
- *Ms. Amy Acland for registration, on-site administrative support, and generally keeping this ship afloat;*
- *the Synod office staff: Ms. Amy Acland, Ms. Karen Krueger, Mr. Harold Sargeant and their team of volunteers for their "behind the scenes" work so important to this assembly;*
- *the Reverend Jessica Crist, as chair of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Conference of Bishops;*
- *the Rev. Chris Nelson who was our keynote speaker and workshop facilitator;*
- *the Synod Assembly Planning Committee, under the leadership of the Reverend Douglas Jones;*
- *Mr. Philip Meuschke for his work as the volunteer Media Coordinators, and Mr. Stephen Padre for volunteering with Communications;*
- *the Nominating Committee under the leadership of the Reverend Stephanie Johnson;*
- *the Elections Committee under the leadership of the Reverend Mitch Watney;*
- *the Assembly parliamentarian, Mr. Richard Ahlberg; the Secretary, Rev. John Bradford*

- *the Reference and Council Committee under the leadership of the Reverend Christine Stephan*
- *the Workshop coordinator, the Reverend Sandra Shaw, and those who facilitated the workshops;*
- *the Hospitality Coordinator, Chaplain Jeff Jacobson;*
- *the Childcare Coordinator, Ms. Elsy Orelana*
- *the Assembly Worship Planning Team, led by the Reverend Davidson*
 - *presiders and preachers: the Reverend Elizabeth Platz, the Reverend Richard Graham*
 - *the musician: Mr. Jeremy Shoop– and all others who assisted in our worship life;*
 - *those who assisted with worship: the Rev. Jim Vigen, the Rev. Heidi Moore, Paulette Korn, the Rev. Wendy Deeben; Janice Kibat, Al Kibat, and Annabelle Peake Markey those who permitted their names to be placed before this assembly for election to the Synod Council, and as Voting Members to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly*
- *those who are completing their terms of service on the Synod Council:*
 - *Mr. Jim Brookshire*
 - *Ms. Rachel Carle*
 - *Ms. Ruth Manchester*
 - *Deacon Katherine Miller-Holland*
 - *the Rev. Michael Wilker*
- *ecumenical and other invited guests who attended the assembly:*
 - *Rev. Dr. John Denninger - first Vice President of the Southern District, LCMS Southeastern District*
 - *Father Avelino Gonzales - Ecumenical Officer from the Archdiocese of Washington*
 - *the Rev. Johnathan Barton - General Minister from the Virginia Council of Churches*
 - *the Rt. Rev Edwin Gulick, Jr. Assistant Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia*
- *the Reverend Richard H. Graham, Bishop of the Synod, for his leadership of this assembly, and his wife, Nancy Ann, for her faithful support of our bishop and this church.*

MOTION SA 12.04.19 Resolution adopted by energetic acclamation

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Report of the Assistant to the Bishop

The Rev. Amy Thompson Sevimli gave her report via video because she was unable to be present at the assembly. Highlights of her presentation included:

- Update on the sale of Bethany Lutheran – the sale has closed and is now complete. The funds from the sale will go to the ELCA, local charities, and 80 percent of the funds from the sale will go toward planting new congregations.

- Christus Victor Lutheran is a direct recipient of some of the funds from the sale of Bethany. It is now a “new start” and the name of the church has been changed to River of Grace.

She provided young adult ministry updates as follows:

- Project Connect – An initiative of three seminaries to help 18 to 30 year-olds determine their roles in the church, particularly if they are interested in rostered ministry.
- Based on meeting him during the start of her work with the synod, Pr. Sevimli said the words of the keynote speaker are worth paying attention to, and he talks about things that we can put to use in the synod.

There are three congregations in the synod (Faith-Arlington, Luther Place-D.C., and Oromo-D.C.) that have grown their ministries with young adults. These congregations have the following characteristics in common:

- They have the support of the senior pastor.
- There is dedicated staff time to this ministry.
- One-on-one meetings are happening.

There has been significant growth in young adult ministry over the past four years as the gatherings have grown from 60 to nearly 200. She indicated that she is available to help congregations as they seek to connect with young adults. She invited congregations to be in touch with her to request her help.

As the Pr. Sevimli’s presentation ended, Pr. Hirsch introduced the Rev. Connie Thomson, the new mission developer for River of Grace Lutheran in Manassas, Virg. Pr. Thomson came to the podium carrying a very beautiful little baby girl, and she talked about this new congregation start as a baby and how it needs care and food and nurturing. She thanked those present for their support of the congregation and said that one way to help her is to serve in their own communities. “When your congregations grow, ours will grow,” she said.

Closing of Synod Assembly

To end Synod Assembly, the assembly entered a time of worship with installation of the Synod Council.