

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON D.C. SYNOD OF THE ELCA
SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING – JULY 20, 2013
EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, BETHESDA, MD**

Dr. White called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Wendell Anderson offered devotions.

Pastor Jan Lookingbill, Pastor, Emmanuel, Bethesda, host for the Council Meeting, welcomed the Council and provided historical and current information about the congregation.

Motion 13.07.01 approved the agenda for the July 20, 2013 Synod Council Meeting.

Motion 13.07.02 approved the minutes of the June 21, 2013 Synod Council Meeting.

Synod Council Primary Mission Table

Bishop Graham and Pr. Hirsch provided the orientation to council members.

1. Staff and Officer Reports

a. Bishop Graham: Roster Matters

Motion 13.07.03 approved the transfer to the retired list of Reverend David Bohannon effective September 1, 2013 and Reverend Glen Sea effective August 1, 2013.

Motion 13.07.04 approved the assignment of Reverend Sandra Kessinger to the Board of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, PA.

Motion 13.07.05 approved calling Pastor Chandra Lite by the Synod Council as Pastor of the Synodically Authorized Worship Community, Christ Fellowship in Washington, DC.

b. Vice President White: Election of new members for the Executive Committee.

Motion 13.07.06 approved the election of Pr. Mark Edwards and Mr. Bob Schilpp to the Synod Executive Committee.

c. Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Evangelical Mission, Pr. Phil Hirsch:
Redevelopment Covenant between Good Samaritan Lutheran Church and the Synod

This is the first redevelopment of a congregation in our Synod for at least four years. It is based on the assumption that things as they have been in the congregation are no longer working well enough for the ministry to continue and, unless something happens, stagnation, decline and even closure are probable. A new direction is needed. For this new direction to be realized there needs to be consensus around the fundamental issue of forward movement for the congregation. People must be on the same team working together for the same purpose. They need to respect one another, Pastor Gloria, and the redevelopment team. Significant disagreements about these issues need to be resolved before going forward with a plan.

Good Samaritan

1. The congregation and the leadership commit to spiritual renewal through the disciplines of prayer, worship, bible reading, giving and inviting others.
 2. The period of time is 3 years beginning January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2016.
 3. The congregation will vote to request voluntary, temporary Synodical Administration beginning September 1, 2013 and ending on or before December 31, 2016.
 4. The Synod Council will issue a one year term call to Pastor Gloria Cline-Smythe as of January 1, 2014 (once she is formally brought onto the roles of the ELCA). This may be renewed annually.
 5. A redevelopment team (to be appointed by the Synod Council in consultation with the Pastor) made up of Pastor Gloria (who will lead it) and 4 members from the congregation and 2-3 members of the Synod will guide this effort and make all the necessary decisions, legally and organizationally to ensure its success. The treasurer of the congregation will be an ex-officio member of this team. Toward the end of three years, this team will be dissolved, a new council elected by the congregation and Synodical Administration will cease.
 6. The redevelopment team will attend the ELCA redevelopment training in Baltimore in July along with the Director for Evangelical Mission during which time, an outreach plan will be drafted.
 7. A financial plan will also be drafted. The congregation will provide support for the pastor with salary and benefits and for the work of redevelopment. This will include her full participation in all normal activities including synodical events like assemblies and the Bishop's Convocation. Costs are still to be determined. Bethany Funds will be sought to support this work. In the second year, assuming the congregation reaches 50 in worship, funding will also be sought from the ELCA.
 8. Benchmarks and evaluations: An annual evaluation will be conducted each year (by Sep 1) and a decision will be made by the Director for Evangelical Mission and the Synod Council as to continuation of this program for another year. If it is decided that the program not continue, the future direction of the congregation will be discussed by the Synod and the Congregation.
- Benchmarks: Worship Attendance: December 31, 2014: 50
December 31, 2015: 75
December 31, 2016: 100

8. Good Samaritan Church members will commit themselves to:
 - a. Support the work of the whole church through forwarding 10% of undesignated offerings for the work of the larger church.
 - b. Support and follow the direction of the Redevelopment Team
 - c. Provide for the routine administrative tasks of the congregations.
 - d. Change existing ministries and programs as suggested by the pastor and or redevelopment team.
 - e. Share in visitation of prospective and existing members.
 - f. Fostering a climate of goodwill, suppressing gossip and negativity in the congregation which could derail the mission of reaching out to the community with the good news of Jesus Christ.

The Synod will provide the following (including funding as needed):

1. Prayer support for the whole endeavor.
2. Funding, through the Bethany Funds. Amount TBD and applied for in 2013.
3. Additional training for the pastor and leaders in evangelism and redevelopment. This training may also be offered to members of the congregation.

4. A coach will be provided through the Synod: This person will help the intern think through issues and strategies for leadership and success. A mentor may also be arranged to help the intern care for her soul by praying with and for her and listening. This may or may not be the same person as the coach.

The above stipulations were approved by unanimous congregational vote on July 23, 2013.

Motion 13.07.07 moved the request by Good Samaritan Lutheran Church to be under voluntary, temporary Synodical Administration for three years beginning September 1, 2013 and ending on or before December 31, 2016. Also moved for the approval of the Redevelopment Covenant between the congregation and the synod delineated above, as amended.

Motion 13.07.08 approved amending the motion to remove the last sentence. Amended motion now reads as follows: **Motion 13.07.07** approved the request by Good Samaritan Lutheran Church to be under voluntary, temporary Synodical Administration for three years beginning September 1, 2013 and ending on or before December 31, 2016.

- d. Assistant to the Bishop Pr. Amy Sevimli
 - i. Update on Young Adult Ministry
 - ii. Update on The Journey with Chris Nelson
 - iii. Revision of bylaws
This conversation will continue this year as the changes are better understood by the members of the synod and the voting members of the next Synod Assembly.

2. Business Meeting

- a. Synod Assembly 2014

Motion 13.07.09 approved scheduling the 2014 Synod Assembly on Saturday, June 21, 2014 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Fairfax, VA.

Report of the Synodical Women's Organization

Ms. Kathleen Meier provided the following written report for the council to consider...

The Executive Board of the Metro DC Synodical Women's Organization met on June 22, 2013 at Abiding Presence in Burke, Virginia. We welcomed the new Board members and recognized members who have been elected as officers for the coming two years. The new Officers and Board Members, with their home congregations, are listed at the end of this report.

After a thorough critique of the Annual Spring Convention, we have determined that it is imperative that we increase registration fees for next year from \$25 to \$35. The Convention is open to all women of the Synod and we will continue to offer free registration to new attendees and attendees under 40. However, every attendee will pay the cost of their lunch. Exhibitors, speakers, and workshop leaders will continue to receive their lunch free of charge.