

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD OF THE ELCA
SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 14, 2017
HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, HERNDON, VIRGINIA

Call to Order Dr. White called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m.

Devotion Pastor Phillips provided a devotional message based on Joshua 2, concluding with an a cappella rendition of the hymn “I Love to Tell the Story.”

Greetings Pastor Kleiber greeted the members of the Synod Council and provided a brief history and profile of Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Vice President White presented the proposed agenda for the meeting.

SC17.01.01: To approve the agenda for the January 14, 2017, Synod Council meeting.

The draft minutes of the November 19, 2016, Synod Council meeting were presented to the Council for approval. Vice President White asked for corrections or amendments. Secretary Anderson noted that the name of one guest would be corrected. Aside from that correction, there were none.

SC17.01.02: To approve the minutes of the November 19, 2016, Synod Council meeting.

1. Synod Council Primary Mission Table

a. New Connections Campaign Update

Pastor Hirsch provided a brief update on the status of the New Connections Campaign. Following a December gathering of leaders from among the Synod, leadership gifts have been pledged. Two congregations have agreed to participate in a pilot program that will allow Synod representatives to assist them in reaching new people not previously involved in their congregational life. Except for these activities, the Campaign is expected to enter a quiet phase until the 2017 Synod Assembly.

b. Preview of Racial Equity Team Training

The agenda and allotted time for the Synod Council meeting was abbreviated so as to accommodate a training event for the Racial Equity Team to include the Synod

Council and conference deans. The event to follow the Synod Council meeting was the first official training event produced by the team.

2. Staff and Officer Reports

a. Bishop Graham:

- i. Appointment to Camp Caroline Furnace Board. Bishop Graham brought forward an appointment to be made by the Synod Council as the Bishop's Representative to the Board of Directors of Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center.

SC17.01.03: That the Rev. Scott Zimmerer be appointed to serve as the Bishop's Representative to the Board of Directors of Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center on the retired roster.

b. Assistant to the Bishop, Pr. Ortiz:

Pastor Ortiz provided an overview of the work of the Synod in 2016. Highlights included the calling of 17 rostered ministers to the Synod and three additional calls during the month of January 2017. There are 19 congregations in transition and 28 individuals currently in the candidacy process. Although the ELCA seminaries have sustained a substantial decrease in their enrollment, there is an increase in the numbers of women, persons of color, and LGBTQ students. Pastor Ortiz also reported that the Synod office had hired an administrative assistant for the candidacy process. Separately, Pr. Ortiz reported to the Synod Council that all committees and tables of the Synod are now identified on the Synod's Web site.

c. Vice President White:

- i. Finance Committee Membership. The Finance Committee is largely constituted, with four returning members and two vacancies yet to be filled.
- ii. Periodic Communications Summaries. At the September 2016 meeting of the Synod Council, the Vice President was assigned the responsibility to prepare a brief summary of the actions taken at each Synod Council meeting for posting to the Synod's Web site promptly after the conclusion of each meeting. Vice President White advised the Synod Council that the periodic report remains a work in progress.

d. Treasurer's Report:

Review of Financial Statements. Copies of the financial statements for the first 11 months of the Synod's fiscal year, *i.e.*, the period ended December 31, 2016, were distributed in advance of the meeting. These statements reflect a deficit in undesignated receipts compared with expenditures of approximately \$7,500.

Treasurer Pr. Tom Knoll responded to questions regarding these statements. Pastor Knoll pointed out the income and expenses relating to the New Connections Campaign were being reported for the first time, in view of the start of activity for the Campaign. However, in response to a question concerning the allocation of expenses, members were reminded that, in a prior action of the Synod Council, expenses of the Campaign were to be paid out of the Bethany Funds until the goal was met.

3. Synodical Women's Organization

Cheryl Dwyer provided comments to supplement the written report that had been provided to the members of the Council in advance of the meeting, and responded to questions.

4. Youth Organization Report

None

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 9:48 a.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: March 18, 2017, at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, Maryland.