

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD OF THE ELCA
SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING – JUNE 16, 2017
NATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER, LEESBURG, VIRGINIA

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

Devotion Dr. White, presiding over his penultimate meeting as Vice President of the Synod, provided a devotional message making full use of his expertise in linguistic anthropology by exploring the derivation of similar words in different languages. He closed his message by making the assertion that even though war and peace are commonly considered antonyms of each other, it may be more accurate to state that walls are the opposite of peace.

Introductions Presiding Bishop Eaton served as the representative of the churchwide organization to the Synod Assembly, which began immediately following the conclusion of the Synod Council meeting. Bishop Eaton provided brief informal remarks to the Council and responded to questions.

Vice President White presented the proposed agenda for the meeting.

SC17.06.21: To approve the agenda for the June 16, 2017, Synod Council meeting.

The draft minutes of the electronic meeting held in late May 2017 meeting were presented to the Council for approval. Secretary Anderson reminded the Synod Council that the regularly-scheduled May meeting did not produce any formal actions due to the absence of a quorum. Instead, all of the formal actions that would have been taken at the May meeting were submitted to the Council for an electronic vote. Vice President White asked for corrections or amendments. There were none.

SC17.06.22: To approve the minutes of the May 2017, Synod Council electronic meeting.

1. Synod Council Primary Mission Table

No specific items were placed on the agenda as Primary Mission Table matters. However, Pr. Hirsch advised the Council that, at the July 2017 Synod Council meeting, he would identify all of the groups that had been previously accorded status as synodically authorized worshipping communities (“SAWCs”) of the Synod and currently retain such status. The Synod Council has historically granted SAWC status for a period of one year, consistent with the policies of, and documentation provided by, the ELCA churchwide offices. It had been the practice of the Synod to renew the status of each SAWC at or

near the one-year anniversary of the first authorization. In order to streamline this process, it is the intention of the Synod leadership that, in the future, all SAWCs will be reviewed and renewed at the same meeting during the year (most likely November). Thereafter, the status of each SAWC will expire at the same time, subject to renewal. In July the Council will be asked to give transitional renewal authorizations to any group whose status would otherwise expire prior to the November 2017 meeting.

2. Staff and Officer Reports

a. Bishop Graham:

- i. Roster Matters for Synod Council Action. Bishop Graham brought three roster matter to the Synod Council.

SC17.06.23: That:

1. The Rev. Mark Edwards be placed on leave from call, effective March 1, 2017;
 2. The Rev. Jan Lookingbill be placed on the retired roster, effective June 1, 2017; and
 3. The Rev. Beth Neubauer be placed on the retired roster, effective July 1, 2017.
- ii. Roster Matters for Information. Although not requiring any action on the part of the Synod Council, Bishop Graham's written report to the Council noted the following additional matters affecting the Synod's rostered ministers:
 1. The Rev. Gerard Johnson was installed as Pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Leesburg, Virginia, on April 9, 2017;
 2. The Rev. Thomas Montgomery was installed as Pastor of St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Centreville, Virginia, on May 7, 2017;
 3. The Rev. Shannon Anderson was installed as Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, Waldorf, Maryland, on May 7, 2017;
 4. The Rev. Cathryn (Kate) Costa was installed as Associate Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, Maryland, on June 4, 2017;
 5. The Rev. Wendy Moen was installed as Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Washington, DC, on June 10, 2017;
 6. The Rev. Heidi Eickstadt was installed as Pastor for Discipleship at Lutheran Church of the Abiding Presence, Burke, Virginia, on June 10, 2017;
 7. The Rev. Cathryn (Kate) Costa transferred to the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, effective May 1, 2017;
 8. The Rev. John Kallerson transferred to the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, effective March 1, 2017;
 9. The Rev. Phillip Gaines transferred to the Southeastern Synod, effective May 25, 2017;

10. The Rev. Kristin Johnston Largen transferred to the Lower Susquehanna Synod effective July 1, 2017; and
11. The Rev. Angela Zimmann was called by the ELCA to Specialized Ministry as Vice President for Advancement at United Lutheran Seminary, effective July 1, 2017.

b. Assistant to the Bishop, Pr. Ortiz:

No formal report was given.

c. Assistant to the Bishop, Pr. Hirsch:

No formal report was given.

d. Vice President White:

Vice President White provided a brief preview of the 2017 Synod Assembly, which began immediately upon the conclusion of the Synod Council meeting. The discussion included the agenda for the Assembly, the current status of registration, elections for vacant Synod Council and officer positions, and resolutions proposed for consideration by the Assembly. Secretary Anderson recognized the members of the Synod Council whose terms were expiring and who were not (or could not be) a candidate for reelection to the same office: Vice President John White, Treasurer, Pr. Thomas Knoll, Pr. Varinia Espinosa, Larry Evans, and Stanley Medikonda.

e. Treasurer's Report:

- i. Review of Year-to-Date Financial Statements. Copies of the financial statements for the first four months of the Synod's current fiscal year, *i.e.*, the period ended May 31, 2017, were distributed in advance of the meeting. These statements reflect a deficit in undesignated receipts, compared with expenditures, of approximately \$175,000. However, approximately \$100,000 of this deficit is the result of having disbursed many of the out-of-pocket costs for the Synod Assembly before the registration fees were collected and recorded. The June 2017 financial statements should properly reflect both the costs and registration fees for the Synod Assembly and thus also more properly reflect the true financial condition of the Synod.
- ii. Financial Statement Audit. Treasurer Pr. Thomas Knoll advised the Synod Council that the external financial statement audit for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2017, was nearly complete but not ready for distribution at the Synod Assembly.

3. New Business

No new business was brought before the meeting.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 10:00 a.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Date (likely mid- to late July) and location TBD.