

2014 MINUTES

June 21, 2014
Lord of Life
Lutheran Church
Fairfax, Virginia
“We Are the
Church Together”

of the Metropolitan
Washington, D.C.
SYNOD ASSEMBLY



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Introductory Activity

Prior to the opening of the Synod Assembly, a Synod Council meeting was conducted. Ms. Amy Acland organized Registration. An Orientation for New Voting Members was conducted by Mr. Richard Ahlberg, Synod Assembly Parliamentarian, and the Rev. Doug Jones, Synod Assembly Chair. Training was also conducted for Worship Assistants in advance of the Festive Eucharist.

**Plenary Session I
Saturday, June 21, 2014
Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Fairfax, Virginia**

Opening of Assembly

Bishop Graham called the Assembly to order at 9:00 AM.

Report of the Registrar

Present:	Lay Voting Members	171
	Rostered Voting Members	<u>79</u>
	Total Voting Members	250
	Visitors	14

Moved:
Seconded: To seat the Voting Members.

VOTED
SA 14.06.01 To adopt the foregoing motion.

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Reading of Excused Absences of Rostered Leaders

The Rev. Dean Anderson	The Rev. Anna Anderson
The Rev. Mark Blice-Baum	The Rev. John Bradford
Ms. Mitzi Budde, AIM	The Rev. Roger Dahlin
The Rev. Neal Davidson	The Rev. Catherine Feil
The Rev. Gregory Gaertner	The Rev. Phillip Gaines
The Rev. Joel Guttormson	The Rev. George Handley
The Rev. Lisa Hufford	The Rev. Ivan Ives
The Rev. Kristin Johnston Largen	The Rev. Mary Kieser
The Rev. Meredith Kesely	The Rev. Robert Lehman
The Rev. Sarah Lewis	The Rev. Robert L. Lewis, Jr.

The Rev. Jan Lookingbill
The Rev. Ray Michener
The Rev. James Phillips
The Rev. Ray Ranker
Mr. Harold Seargent, AIM
The Rev. Connie Thomson
The Rev. Ross Trower

The Rev. Daniel Martenson
The Rev. Connie Miller
The Rev. Donald Piper
The Rev. Carmelo Santos
The Rev. Glen A. Sea
The Rev. Tiffany Towberman
The Rev. Michael Wilker

Moved:

Seconded: To approve the foregoing list of excused absences of rostered leaders.

VOTED

SA 14.06.02 To adopt the foregoing motion.

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Adoption of Synod Assembly Agenda

Moved:

Seconded: To approve the agenda for the Synod Assembly as set forth in the meeting materials for the Assembly.

VOTED

SA 14.06.03 To adopt the foregoing motion.

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Adoption of the 2014 Synod Assembly Rules of Procedure

Rules of Procedure

01. *To the extent consistent with the following rules of procedure, Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern.*

Voice and vote

02. *All persons under call, on leave from call, and retired on the roster of this Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, in attendance at this assembly, shall have voice and vote at the proceedings of this assembly. All interim pastors serving congregations of this synod, at the time of the assembly, shall have voice and vote.*

03. *Alternate lay members shall be seated if the regular lay members are unable to serve.*

04. *Persons giving reports during this assembly's proceedings who are not members shall be given voice, no vote, during that portion of the assembly.*

05. *The parliamentarian appointed by the Synod Council shall be given voice, no vote (unless a member) during the proceedings of this assembly.*

06. *The Presiding Bishop, or his or her representative(s), and ecumenical representatives shall be given voice, no vote during the proceedings of this assembly.*

07. *Duly elected and serving members of the Synod Council shall have both voice and vote at the synod assembly, in accordance with S7.28 of the constitution of the synod.*

Quorum

08. *A majority of the members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.*

Proxy

09. *Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of this synod.*

Items of Business

10. *With the consent of this assembly, the chair shall have the authority to call items of business before the assembly in whatever order is deemed by the chair most expedient for the conduct of assembly business. The chair shall limit discussions to items germane to the issues before the assembly.*

Resolutions

11. *Resolutions to be considered by the assembly shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Synod prior to the beginning of the assembly. In order to assure the resolution going to the floor of this assembly, such resolutions shall be presented in writing to the secretary, who shall refer them to the Committee on Reference and Counsel. The Committee on Reference and Counsel shall report to this assembly with its recommendations; which shall constitute a motion to the floor of this assembly.*
12. *The deadline for submitting resolutions to the Secretary of this Synod will be 30 days prior to the first day of the Assembly. Any resolutions submitted after this date are not guaranteed a place on the agenda and must receive a two-thirds vote in order to be heard. Any resolution not receiving a two-thirds vote will be referred to the Synod Council for disposition.*
13. *Multimedia presentations will not be part of floor debate on resolutions.*

Motions

14. *All main motions, to be made, shall be in writing and presented to the Secretary of the Synod immediately (Constitution and Bylaw amendments require five (5) signatures of members).*
15. *Debate shall be limited to two (2) minutes per person, per speech.*

Elections

16. *Ballots shall be accepted only from those members who are seated within designated areas of the assembly hall.*

17. *Nominations from the floor shall be accompanied by the copy-ready vita and the consent of the person to be nominated, both to be submitted to the secretary at the time of the nomination.*

Minutes

18. *Minutes of this assembly shall be available for review by Synod Council by the September 30 immediately following the assembly*

Committee on Reference and Counsel

19. *The work of the Committee on Reference and Counsel will be guided by Synod Policy 2-02.*

Applications for Displays

20. *Due to space constraints, displays will not be permitted at the 2014 Synod Assembly.*

Moved:

Seconded: To approve the foregoing rules of procedure for the Synod Assembly.

VOTED

SA 14.06.04 To adopt the foregoing motion.

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Minutes of 2013 Synod Assembly

Moved:

Seconded: To approve the minutes of the 2013 Synod Assembly as set forth in the meeting materials for the Assembly.

VOTED

SA 14.06.05 To adopt the foregoing motion.

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Report on the Synod Online

Ms. Karen Krueger, Communications Coordinator of the Synod, provided the Assembly with an update on synod communications, describing the tools at our disposal to connect us and accompanied by a video presentation.

Recognition of Ecumenical Guest

Bishop Graham introduced Father Donald Rooney, representing the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Virginia. Father Rooney is the Director of the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Catholic Diocese of Arlington and the Pastor at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Fredericksburg, VA.

Report of ELCA Representative

Bishop Graham introduced Ms. Jodi L. Slattery, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop for Governance, who brought greetings to the Assembly on behalf of the ELCA. She identified others who were present at the Assembly from the churchwide organization.

Ms. Slattery began by identifying the four areas of emphasis established by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, as follows:

1. We are church.
2. We are Lutheran
3. We are church together.
4. We are church for the sake of the world.

She acknowledged with appreciation the Synod's actual mission support for 2013 of approximately \$846,000, representing 50% of the contributions received by the Synod from its congregations. She also acknowledged the Synod's intention to maintain 2014 mission support at a 50% level.

Ms. Slattery next shared with the Assembly a video demonstrating how we are church together, and how we plant and renew congregations. She provided details from 2013 regarding the number of new congregations planted, the number of congregations in renewal, the number of students in seminaries with scholarships under the Fund for Leaders program.

She also shared information concerning the Campaign for the ELCA, approved by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly but not scheduled to commence in the Synod until 2015.

Ms. Slattery identified the following individuals who currently hold committee, board, or council positions at the churchwide level:

- Karsten Decker, Church Council
- Robin Steinke, Ecclesiology Task Force
- Amy T. Sevimli, Nominating Committee
- Kathryn E. Baerwald, Committee on Discipline and Mission Investment Fund
- Lauren M. Williams, Endowment Fund
- Kevin D. Anderson, Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services)
- Tommie L. Robinson Jr., Nominating Committee
- Robert W. Tuttle, Committee on Appeals

Ms. Slattery closed with thanks to Bishop Graham for his many contributions to the churchwide organization and the Conference of Bishops.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Pastor Albert Triolo, Chair, presented the report of the Nominating Committee, describing the process that the Committee undertook to identify nominees for all open positions. Pastor Triolo introduced each of the nominees and referred the Assembly to the Candidate Information Forms that had been included in the advance materials for the Assembly.

Office of Secretary

Mr. Kevin D. Anderson

DC. Conference – Clergy

The Rev. Thomas J. Knoll

Fairfax Conference – Lay

Mr. Nels J. Hendrickson

Maryland Conference – Lay

Ms. Margretta K. Williams

Montgomery Conference – Lay

Mr. Thomas E. Kern

Potomac Conference – Lay

Ms. Desiree Jessimy

Virginia Conference – Clergy

The Rev. Mark D. Edwards

At Large – Lay

Ms. Karen L. Consiglio

At Large – Rostered

Ms. Kathy A. Garrison,
Diaconal Minister

*Synodical Women’s Organization
Representative*

Ms. Kathleen L. Meier

Youth Representative

No nominations

Consultation Committee – Clergy

The Rev. Thomas J. Knoll

The Rev. Jeanne C. Lowe

The Rev. Janice

Mynchenberg

Consultation Committee – Lay

Ms. Barbara Topel

Ms. Kathryn J. Wahl

Bishop Graham opened the floor to any additional nominations. Hearing none, Bishop Graham declared the nominations to be closed.

Moved:

Seconded: To elect all uncontested positions by acclamation.

VOTED

SA 14.06.06 To adopt the foregoing motion.

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Bishop Graham declared that all of the foregoing nominees had been elected, with the exception of the clergy nominees for the Consultation Committee. The election to fill these two open positions from among the three candidates will take place later in the meeting.

Report of the Synod Treasurer

Mr. John Handley reviewed the financial reports for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2014, noting that the financial results reflected a continuing trend of decreasing benevolence and the careful managing of expenses. He noted that the total congregational benevolence for the year was approximately \$1,728,000, and that the year was completed with a slight surplus. More complete financial details were set forth in the materials provided to the Assembly. He thanked the Assembly for its faithful support of the Synod.

He specifically called the Assembly's attention to the Synod's direct grants to seminaries and seminarians, three companion synod efforts, and the Faith Fund and Bethany Endowment.

He noted that the Synod's audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2014, are available to anyone who wanted a copy. He invited questions. There were none and the Assembly received the Treasurer's report with thanks.

Introduction to Synod Compensation Recommendations

Dr. John White, Vice President, presented the Rostered Leader Compensation Recommendations for 2015, as set forth in the materials provided to the Assembly. The guidelines reflect a 1.4% across-the-board increase from the 2014 recommendations. The proposal will be voted on by the Assembly later in the meeting.

Introduction to Voting Devices

Ms. Jean Knight offered an introduction to the voting devices. However, due to technical issues, the demonstration was suspended and will take place later in the meeting.

Introduction of the Mission Spending Plan

The Assembly was notified that the 2015 Mission Spending Plan as set forth in the materials provided to the Assembly would be brought before the Assembly for approval later in the meeting.

Resumed Introduction to Voting Devices

Ms. Jean Knight resumed the introduction to the voting devices, together with sample questions to demonstrate the various features of the devices.

Recognition of Ecumenical Guest

Bishop Graham introduced Mr. Ray Goldman of the Washington Theological Consortium.

The Assembly recessed for a mid-morning break.

Plenary Session II
Saturday, June 21, 2014
Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Fairfax, Virginia

Second Report of the Registrar

Present:	Lay Voting Members	163
	Rostered Voting Members	<u>86</u>
	Total Voting Members	249
	Visitors	22

Report of the Vice President/Synod Council

Dr. John White commended his written report to the Assembly, as set forth in the materials provided to the Assembly. He described the process that the Synod Council had undertaken to draft a set of amendments to the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws in response to concerns raised by the 2013 Synod Assembly.

On behalf of the Synod Council, Vice President White moved the adoption of the amendments to the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws as set forth in the materials provided to the Assembly. One question was raised concerning the principles of diversity and inclusion for tables and teams.

Moved: To adopt the amendments to the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws as set forth in the materials provided to the Assembly.

VOTED	Yes	208
	No	3
	Abstain	3

SA 14.06.07 To adopt the foregoing motion

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Rostered Leader Compensation Recommendations

On behalf of the Synod Council, Vice President White moved the adoption of the Rostered Leader Compensation Recommendations for 2015, as set forth in the materials provided to the Assembly.

Moved: To adopt the Rostered Leader Compensation Recommendations for 2015, as set forth in the materials provided to the Assembly.

In the course of the discussion of this motion, an amendment was proposed from the floor.

Moved:

Seconded: To amend the resolution by adding the following language at the end thereof:

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod will conduct a study of the salary guidelines for clergy and rostered lay leaders. The study will include, but not be limited to, recommendations to improve salary program transparency, establish compensation benchmarks, and review the housing adjustment. The study will be completed prior to the commencement of the 2015 Synod Assembly.

VOTED	Yes	113
	No	84
	Abstain	5

SA 14.06.08 To adopt the foregoing motion

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As amended, the motion was voted upon by the Assembly.

VOTED	Yes	197
	No	15
	Abstain	7

SA 14.06.09 To adopt the foregoing motion

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Report of the Bishop

Dr. John White, Vice President of the Synod, assumed the chair and invited Bishop Graham to present his report.

Bishop Graham referred the Assembly to his written report, as set forth in the materials provided to the Assembly. He expressed his gratitude for the Synod staff and the Assembly, and encouraged the members of the Assembly to take the message back to their congregations in order to describe what they had seen, heard, and felt. He reiterated Presiding Bishop Eaton's focus that we are church together.

Upon the conclusion of this report, Vice President White yielded the Chair back to Bishop Graham.

First Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

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 “2014-” followed by a number. These are numbered in the chronological order received. The second number is the Secretary’s number, which begins with a 6. These are the page numbers for the order in which they appear in the report. The Chair will present each resolution by giving the Synod Assembly both numbers. With the exception of the traditional “Expression of Thanks and Gratitude” resolution, the final resolutions were included in the materials provided to the Assembly.

Pastor Stephan advised the Assembly that if any member intends 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 it was written for the Synod Assembly. The amendment will not be shown until it is moved from the floor.

Pastor Stephan reminded the Assembly that it is only the “Resolved” statements that 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 a member of the R&C Committee or the author(s).

Finally, Pastor Stephan advised that any resolution arising out of the business of the Assembly must be submitted in writing to the Secretary. Should anyone have questions, they can be directed to any member of the R&C Committee. The members who are present at the Assembly are Pastor Margrethe Kleiber, Pastor Mark Edwards, Pastor Tom Prinz, and the Chair, Pastor Christine Stephan. Thanks to each of them for their time and gifts that were shared as part of this team.

Pastor Stephan explained that the R&C Committee 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 Committee puts it in proper order and 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

WHEREAS, other synods throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) are gathering in assembly at the same time as the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod meets in Assembly, and

WHEREAS, we are partners in the Mission of the Gospel with other synods of this church; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly direct the Secretary of the Synod to extend best wishes to the:

Upper Susquehanna Synod and

Florida - Bahamas Synod

and express to them our greetings in Christ as they gather in assembly.

Moved: To adopt the resolution entitled “Greetings.”

Secretary Kevin Anderson, in addressing the motion, conveyed similar greetings that had been received from the Upper Susquehanna Synod.

VOTED

SA 14.06.10 To adopt the foregoing motion

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“I Love Camp” Month

WHEREAS, there is a need and desire to recognize that Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp and Retreat Center (MLR) and Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center (CF) are both ministries of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. (Metro DC) Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

*WHEREAS, MLR's mission statement is:
We welcome all people to a mountain-top experience of Christian community that changes lives, makes disciples, builds friendships, and encourages care of God's creation; and*

*CF's mission statement is:
The purpose of Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp is to provide an intentional Christian communal experience where one meets God in God's awesome creation; and*

WHEREAS, MLR serves annually close to 1000 campers ages 6-17 in its summer camp programs, and in addition, many family and adult campers during its summer sessions, and CF serves annually close to 450 campers through its summer program and Family Camp; and

WHEREAS, MLR and CF also offer retreat opportunities year-round to a wide variety of groups; and

WHEREAS, MLR and CF are non-profit ministries, depending upon donations and fundraisers to help keep costs affordable as they support current expenses and employee costs; and

WHEREAS, MLR has a 54 year history of positively effecting children's lives and also has maintained good standing within the American Camp Association; and CF has a 57 year history and meets all required state standards for health and safety; and

WHEREAS, MLR and CF have created a solid reputation within the Synod and surrounding areas; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the month of February annually be declared: “I Love Camp” month within the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod are encouraged to use all manner of communications available to them (such as announcements, bulletins, newsletters, websites, facebook pages, and the like) to share and distribute information and materials from and about Mar-Lu-Ridge and Caroline Furnace, in particular regarding summer camp; and be it further

RESOLVED, that, at any time, but especially during February, congregations are encouraged to invite staff members of Mar-Lu-Ridge and Caroline Furnace, who are willing and able, to speak before them in an effort to raise awareness of these ministries; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod are encouraged to pray for the ministries of Mar-Lu-Ridge and Caroline Furnace, to seek to partner with them in a variety of ways (including encouraging their children and youth to attend their summer camps, using camp facilities for congregation retreats and Council retreats, and hosting mobile Day Camps in their congregations), and to support Mar-Lu-Ridge and Caroline Furnace in all ways possible (including participating in Volunteer Service events at camp and providing direct financial support).

Moved: To adopt the resolution entitled “‘I Love Camp’ Month.”

Two members of the Assembly spoke in support of the resolution.

VOTED

SA 14.06.11 To adopt the foregoing motion

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*Calling upon the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod to Stand
in Prayerful Solidarity with Those Suffering under Current Immigration Laws*

WHEREAS, under current immigration laws members of our synod’s congregations personally suffer separation from families, perpetual fear, and social isolation; and

WHEREAS, during the last two presidential administrations immigration law reform initiatives have repeatedly stalled without any indication of when reform might actually occur; and

WHEREAS, our faith calls us to stand with our sisters and brothers in Christ in times of suffering; and

WHEREAS, one of the church's primary expressions of care and concern for others is intercessory prayer; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Members of Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly together pause to pray the following in English, Spanish, Oromo, Tamil or the language of their community:

Loving God... bless Latino, Oromo, Tamil speaking and all members of our church and community who suffer fear and isolation under current immigration laws. Provide and inspire leaders and legislators to see your image in every child of God and to enact laws that clearly and fairly treat our immigrant brothers and sisters. Help us to persistently stand with them in Christ as long as it takes for just and fair laws to take root and blossom. Lord in your mercy... Hear our prayer! (English)

Dios de amor... Entre todos los miembros de nuestra iglesia y comunidad, bendice a las personas de origen latinoamericano, Oromo y de otros orígenes que sufren de miedo y aislamiento bajo el actual régimen inmigratorio. Inspire a los líderes y legisladores para que vean la imagen suya en cada hija e hijo de Dios, y para que promulgan leyes que establecen un trato justo a nuestros hermanos inmigrantes. Ayúdanos para podemos en Cristo solidarizarnos con ellos hasta el día en que leyes justas se arraigan y produzcan frutas. Señor, en tu misericordia... ¡Escucha nuestra oración! (Spanish)

Jaallatamaa kan taate yaa Waaqayyo, miseensota Waldaa fi Hawaasa keenyaa kan ta'an saba Latino fi saba Oromoo akkasumas kan biroo, sababa seera baqattummaa/immigration/ biyya kanaan sodaa fi qoqqobamu jala kan jiraatan eebbisi. Geggeessitoota fi seera tumtootaf bifa Waaqayyummaa kee ijoollee Waaqayyoo hundumaa keessatti arguu akka danda'aniif kaka'umsa isaaniif kenni. Akkasumas seera baqatootaa ifaa ta'ee fi obboleotaa fi obboleettota hinqoqqibne hojii irra oolchuu akka danda'aniif isaan gargaari. Akkasumas hanga seerri baqattootaf haqan hojjetuu fi kan nama hinqoqqobne hiddaa fi hundee godhatee dagagutti, karaa Kiristoos yaada guutuudhaan amma dhumaatti isaan cina akka dhaabannuuf nugargaari. Gooftaa araarakeetiin... Kadhata keenya dhaga'i. (Oromo)

அன்புள்ள ஆண்டவரே , இலத்தினோ , ஓரோமோ , தமிழ் ஆகிய மொழிகளை பேசும் பாஷைக்காரரையும் , தற்போதிய குடிபுகுதல் சட்டத்தினால் பயத்திலும், தனிமையிலும் , துன்பப்படும் நம் ஆலயத்தை சேர்ந்த அனைத்து அங்கத்தினர்களையும் , அனைத்து சமூகத்தினரையும் , ஆசீர்வதியும்.

நம்மிடையே குடிபுகுதல் சட்டம் நிறைவேற்றப்படுவதால் , நம் சகோதர சகோதரிகளை தெளிவாகவும் , நியாயமாகவும் நடத்தவும், உம்முடைய சாயலை ஒவ்வொரு தேவனுடைய பிள்ளையிடிலும் காண , தலைவர்களுக்கும் , சட்டம் எற்றுபவர்களுக்கும் ஊக்கம் அளித்தருளும். அவர்களுக்கு நீதியும் , நியாயமுமான சட்டம் கிடைத்து அவர்கள் வாழ்வு மலர்ந்து ஸ்திரமாய் இருக்கவும் , நாங்களும் அவர்களோடு கிறிஸ்துவுக்குள்ளாக உறுதியாக நிற்க எங்களுக்கு உதவி செய்யும்.

தேவனே உம்முடைய இரக்கத்தின்படி எங்கள் ஜெபத்தை கேட்டருளும்.

(Tamil)

And be it further

RESOLVED, that Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod encourage each of the synod's congregations to include in the weekly Prayers of the People this or similar prayers for immigrants and refugees who are separated from families, live in fear, or suffer in isolation as a result of current immigration laws; for leaders and lawmakers to implement just and fair changes to immigration laws; and for churches to persist in these prayers until reform occurs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod endorse the Facebook page Metro DC Pray4Reform (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/697342870322680/>) as an online collection site to a) enable congregations and their people to share prayers that encourage and support immigrants and refugees, b) register their commitment to pray for those affected by becoming a member of the endorsed page or web site, and c) provide a method for recording and reporting back to the synod the number of those who have joined or participate in this effort.

Moved: To adopt the resolution entitled "Calling upon the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod to Stand in Prayerful Solidarity with Those Suffering under Current Immigration Laws."

Several members of the Assembly spoke in connection with the resolution.

Moved:

Seconded: To amend the resolution by adding the following to the end thereof (and by making appropriate editorial changes consistent with the overall style of the resolutions:

RESOLVED, that the Bishop communicate with the legislators representing this area to inform them of this resolution and our prayers.

Further consideration of the resolution and the motion to amend the resolution was postponed until later in the meeting.

Report of the Elections Committee/First Ballot

Pastor Mitch Watney, Chair of the Elections Committee, advised the Assembly that only one election was required for open positions, i.e., the two Clergy positions for a six-year term on the Consultation Committee. The three candidates for those positions are as follows:

The Rev. Thomas J. Knoll
The Rev. Jeanne C. Lowe
The Rev. Janice Mynchenberg

An electronic vote was cast, with the results of the vote to be announced after lunch.

Anniversaries—Congregations and Rostered Leaders of 50 Years and Over

A video presentation was offered to identify the congregations and rostered leaders observing milestone anniversaries this year of 50 years and over, as follows:

50th Anniversary of Ordination

The Rev. Albert E. Swingle
The Rev. Daniel F. Martensen
The Rev. Paul A. Wee
The Rev. Paul D. Opsahl

55th Anniversary of Ordination

The Rev. Dean W. Anderson
The Rev. Franklin A. Jones
The Rev. Norman C. Theiss
The Rev. Ted Schneider

60th Anniversary of Ordination

The Rev. Duane H. Carlson
The Rev. Ray E. Blanset

50th Anniversary of Congregation
Epiphany Lutheran Church, Burtonsville
Peace, Bermuda

125th Anniversary of Congregation
Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas

Report of the Mission Investment Fund

Mr. Kent Peterson provided a brief report on behalf of the Mission Investment Fund, including an explanation of the current product and service offerings of the Fund.

Pastor Doug Jones provided instructions for lunch and led the Assembly in prayer. Over a staggered lunch period, half of the members of the Assembly remained in the sanctuary to hear a more detailed report from Ms. Jodi Slattery, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop for Governance, on updates and developments from the churchwide offices.

**Plenary Session III
Saturday, June 21, 2014
Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Fairfax, Virginia**

The Assembly resumed at approximately 1:30 PM.

Report of the Elections Committee

Pastor Mitch Watney, Chair of the Elections Committee, reported the following results of the election for two clergy positions on the Consultation Committee:

The Rev. Thomas J. Knoll	184
The Rev. Jeanne C. Lowe	129
The Rev. Janice Mynchenberg	110

Bishop Graham declared Pastor Thomas J. Knoll and Pastor Jeanne C. Lowe elected to the Consultation Committee.

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

Pastor Philip Hirsch began his report by announcing the combination of two previously separate congregations, St. Michael's Truth, Mitchellville, Maryland, and Our Savior's Lutheran, Temple Hills, Maryland. He also called attention to the partnership between Good Shepherd Lutheran, Gaithersburg, Maryland, and Epiphany Lutheran, Burtonsville, Maryland, as well as the development efforts in process at La Sagrada Familia.

Pastor Hirsch previewed the next Together in Mission event, currently in the planning stage.

In the Synod's focus on congregations, Pastor Hirsch stated that congregations are classified as growing, stable, or declining. Such congregations are also classified according to their financial resources. On a very practical level, he advised the Assembly that the Synod office staff had reviewed every congregation's Web site and, as a result of that review, had prepared a report for each congregation to include general comments as well as comments very specific to the particular congregation. That report will be distributed shortly after the conclusion of the Assembly.

Pastor Hirsch concluded his remarks by identifying new starts as a focus for the coming year, and identifying River of Grace Lutheran Church as an example of a recent new start.

Malaria Campaign

The Assembly received an update on the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Report of the Registrar

Present:	Lay Voting Members	165
	Rostered Voting Members	<u>87</u>
	Total Voting Members	250
	Visitors	18

Introduction of the Mission Spending Plan

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Pastor Darcy Tillman and Treasurer John Handley presented the 2015 Mission Spending Plan, as set forth in the materials provided to the Assembly.

2015 Mission Spending Plan

RECEIPTS	
Congregational Mission Support	\$1,720,000
Interest and other support	\$25,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$1,745,000
EXPENDITURES	
Churchwide Mission Support	\$860,000
New and Renewing Missions	
New Starts	\$10,000
Newly Formed Congregations	\$21,000
Redevelopments	\$10,000
Specific Existing Ministries	\$21,500
Sub-total	\$62,500
La Sagrada Familia	\$35,000
Stewardship and Mission Support	
Gifts of Hope	\$6,500
Table expenses and materials	\$1,500
Sub-total	\$8,000
Office of the Bishop	
Ecumenical Affairs Committee	\$4,000
Candidacy Committee	\$5,000
LTSG (Gettysburg Seminary)	\$83,000
Seminary Student Financial Aid	\$10,000
First Call Theological Education	\$2,000
Young Adults Initiative	\$2,000
Bishop's Emergency Fund	-0-
Sub-total	\$106,000
Global Mission and Companion Synod	\$5,500

Camps and Campus Ministry Support	
Camps	\$15,000
Campus Ministry	\$60,000
Sub-total	\$75,000
Administration and Operations	
Ordained Staff Comp & Benefits	\$270,000
Office Staff Comp & Benefits	\$160,000
Office Operations	\$70,000
Occupancy	\$85,000
Region 8 Support	\$8,000
Sub-total	\$593,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,745,000

Moved: To approve the 2015 Mission Spending Plan as set forth in the materials provided to the Assembly.

Pastor Tillman and Mr. Handley responded to questions about funding for new starts.

VOTED	Yes	210
	No	3
	Abstain	2

SA 14.06.12 To adopt the foregoing motion

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Second Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Bishop Graham brought back to the floor, for continued consideration, the proposed resolution entitled “Calling upon the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod to Stand in Prayerful Solidarity with Those Suffering under Current Immigration Laws,” together with the proposed amendment to the resolution.

One member of the Assembly spoke against the amendment.

VOTED	Yes	108
	No	95
	Abstain	7

SA 14.06.13 To adopt the amendment to the motion approving the resolution entitled “Calling upon the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod to Stand in Prayerful Solidarity with Those Suffering under Current Immigration Laws.”

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Discussion continued on the resolution as amended.

VOTED	Yes	176
	No	33
	Abstain	7

SA14.06.14: To adopt the foregoing resolution, as amended.

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Pastor Christine Stephan, Chair of the R&C Committee, advised the Assembly that a resolution regarding the crisis in Africa had been received after the deadline for submission of resolutions to the Committee. Under the rules of the Assembly, a two-thirds majority vote of the Assembly is required in order to consider the resolution.

Crisis in Africa

WHEREAS, over the past six months, internal armed conflict and acts of terror have caused suffering, death, displacement and immense hardship in the countries of South Sudan, Nigeria and Ethiopia.

WHEREAS, the ELCA Office for African National Ministries has made an appeal for prayer and action in these countries; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we encourage the congregations of the Metropolitan D.C. Synod to set aside a time of prayer for the people and governments of South Sudan, Nigeria and Ethiopia, remembering in particular the 276 girls who have been kidnapped in Nigeria; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Assembly request the Bishop of the Metropolitan D.C. Synod to make intercession with the Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United States to protest the killing of 47 young people who had peacefully protested the confiscation of Oromo ancestral lands to fulfill a plan to expand the boundaries of the capital; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Assembly request the Bishop of the Metropolitan D.C. Synod to communicate our concerns to the US Secretary of State, again requesting that all foreign aid to Ethiopia be linked to compliance with agreements on human rights.

Moved:

Seconded: To consider the resolution entitled "Crisis in Africa."

VOTED	Yes	107
	No	97
	Abstain	8

Bishop Graham declared that the resolution did not secure a sufficient number of votes in order that the Assembly may consider it, and the resolution was not considered. The resolution was referred to the Synod Council for further consideration.

Expression of Thanks and Gratitude

WHEREAS, the staff, volunteers, worshipping community, and pastors, especially Pastor Ronald Qualley of Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Fairfax, who have served as gracious hosts for the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly, providing facilities and support for this 2014 Synod Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 Synod Assembly Planning Committee and many others have worked many hours to prepare for this assembly; therefore be it

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 and volunteers of Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Fairfax, Virginia;*
- *the Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for her leadership and guidance over the Evangelical Church in America;*
- *Ms. Jodi Slattery, Special Assistant to the Presiding Bishop for Governance;*
- *the Reverend Richard H. Graham, Bishop;*
- *the Reverend Amy Thompson Sevimli, Assistant to the Bishop of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod;*
- *the Reverend Philip C. Hirsch, Director of Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop for the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod;*
- *Dr. John White, Vice President of the Synod; Mr. Kevin Anderson, Secretary of the Synod; and Mr. John Handley, Treasurer of the Synod;*
- *the Synod Assembly Planning Committee, under the leadership of the Reverend Douglas Jones:*
 - *Ms. Amy Acland, Mr. Jack Grant, Ms. Karen Krueger, the Reverend Heidi Moore, the Reverend Christine Stephan, the Reverend Sandra Shaw, the Reverend Albert Triolo, Mr. Philip Meuschke, Ms. Madeline Vargas, the Reverend Mitch Watney;*
- *the Media and Communications Coordinators for their volunteer service with technology and communications:*
 - *Ms. Rose Beeson, Mr. David Carlson, Mr. Mike Emery, Ms. Karen Krueger and Mr. Philip Meuschke;*
- *the Nominating Committee under the leadership of the Reverend Albert Triolo, including the deans of the conferences;*
- *the Reference and Counsel team under the leadership of the Reverend Christine Stephan;*

- *the Reverend Mark Edwards, the Reverend Margrethe Kleiber, and the Reverend Thomas Prinz;*
- *the Assembly parliamentarian, Mr. Richard Ahlberg;*
- *the Assembly Worship Planning Team, led by the Reverend Heidi Moore:*
 - *Ms. Sarah Grasso and Ms. Samira Jemmoua for sharing their gift of American Sign Language ensuring the word of God may be 'heard' by all present;*
 - *Bishop Richard Graham for preaching at the Eucharist and leading worship;*
 - *the Metro DC Synod Youth Leadership team, seminary interns, and others who served in worship leadership roles including the lectors, ushers, and communion assistants;*
 - *Ms. Anna Lewis, the Reverend Leila Ortiz; and*
 - *Ms. Christen Reddig and Mr. Michael Thompson for their excellent musical leadership during worship;*
- *Ms. Amy Acland for coordinating registration and those who assisted:*
 - *Vicar Christine Kirchner (Abiding Presence), Vicar Julie Bringman (Christ, DC), Vicar Jay Berry (Reformation, DC), and Vicar David Kingsborough (St. Paul's, DC) for coordinating registration;*
- *Ms. Tracey Griffith from Smokin Will's BBQ, Leesburg VA who ensured that we all had not only full bellies, but were heartily satisfied;*
- *For those who permitted their names to be placed before the assembly for consideration for election to the Synod Council;*
- *For those who are completing their terms of service on the Synod Council:*
 - *Mr. Wendell Anderson, Mr. Bob Schilpp*
 - *And those also the Reverend John Bradford and Mr. Jack Hill for their service;*
- *Ecumenical and other invited guests who attended the assembly:*
 - *Father Don Rooney, Diocese of Arlington;*
 - *the Reverend Larry Goleman, Washington Theological Consortium;*
 - *the Reverend Michael Cooper-White, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg;*
- *A special thank you to the Reverend Richard H. Graham, Bishop of the Synod, for his quick wit, calm demeanor, and his ability to circumvent time while leading this assembly today and his guidance of the church of Jesus Christ. And for his wife, Nancy Ann, for her faithful support of our bishop, this synod, and the mission of Christ.*

Moved: To approve the resolution entitled "Expression of Thanks and Gratitude."

VOTED

SA 14.06.15 To adopt the foregoing motion.

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Report of the Assistant to the Bishop

Pastor Amy Thompson Sevimli referred to her written report as set forth in the materials provided to the Assembly and invited the members of the assembly to read it. In brief oral remarks, Pastor Sevimli described changes in her responsibilities, principally attributable to the retirement of Harold Sargeant as the Synodical Administrator. These responsibilities include mobility and candidacy matters. She closed by expressing her joy in being a part of the Synod Office.

Conclusion of Assembly

There being no further business to bring before the Assembly, Bishop Graham instructed the Assembly to break at approximately 2:35 PM and to return for the Festive Eucharist at 3:10 PM.

Worship

Bishop Richard Graham was the preaching minister for the closing worship service, during which the newly-elected Synod leaders were installed. The worship concluded at 4:10 PM and the 2014 Synod Assembly was declared closed.

Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Kevin Anderson
Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod