



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

Saturday, June 21, 2014

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

PRE-ASSEMBLY MATERIALS *as available 6/12/14*

PRELIMINARY MATERIALS

2014 Synod Assembly Notification Letter

Roberts Rules of Order Summary

Roberts Rules of Order Chart

SECTION 1 - RULES OF PROCEEDURE AND AGENDA

1.1 Rules of Procedure

1.2 Agenda - Draft: 5/28/14

SECTION 2 - REPORTS OF BISHOPS AND ASSISTANTS

2.1.1a Report of Presiding Bishop (English)

2.1.1b Report of Presiding Bishop (Spanish)

2.2.1 Report of the Bishop

2.3.1 Report of the Assistant to the Bishop

2.4.1 Report of the Director for Evangelical Mission & Assistant to the Bishop

SECTION 3 - REPORTS OF SYNOD COUNCIL/PRIMARY MISSION TABLE

3.1.1 Report of the Synod Council

3.2.1 Mission Spending Plan

3.3.1 Proposed Rostered Leadership Compensation Recommendations for 2015

SECTION 4 - REPORTS OF THE TREASURER

4.1.1 Schedule 1: Comparison of Receipts and Expenditures for Unrestricted Funds

4.1.2 Schedule 2: Budget Report

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4.1.4 Schedule 4: Status of Board Designated Funds

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4.2.1 2013 Faith Fund Report

4.3.1 Summary of Benevolence and Other Giving by Congregation

SECTION 5 - REPORTS OF TABLES, DIVISIONS AND COMMITTEES

5.1.1 Report of the New and Renewing Mission Table

- 5.2.4 Report of Global Mission
- 5.2.5 Report of Office of Ecumenical Affairs

REPORT OF REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

- 6.1.1 Greetings
- 6.2.1 "I Love Camp" Month
- 6.3.1 Calling upon the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod to stand in prayerful solidarity with those suffering under current immigration laws

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- 7.1.1a Secretary: Kevin Anderson
- 7.2.1a D.C. Conference - Clergy: The Rev. Thomas Knoll
- 7.2.2a Fairfax Conference - Lay: Nels Hendrickson
- 7.2.3a Maryland Conference - Lay: Magretta Williams
- 7.2.4a Montgomery Conference - Lay: Thomas Kern
- 7.2.5a Potomac Conference - Lay: Desiree Jessimy
- 7.2.6a Virginia Conference - Clergy: The Rev. Mark Edwards
- 7.2.7a At-Large - Lay: Karen Consiglio
- 7.2.8a At-Large - Lay Rostered: Kathy Garrison

SECTION 8 - REPORTS OF OTHER MINISTRIES OF THE ELCA

- 8.1.1 Mission Investment Fund
- 8.1.2 Report of the Synodical Women's Organization
- 8.1.3 Report of Region 8
- 8.1.4 ELCA Global Mission Sponsorship
- 8.2.1 Report of Gettysburg Seminary
- 8.2.2 Report of the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries
- 8.2.3 Report of Gettysburg College
- 8.2.4 Report of National Lutheran Communities & Services

SECTION 9—MINUTES OF 2013 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

- 9.1 Minutes of the 2013 Metro D.C. Synod (40+ pages, independently numbered)

SECTION 10—CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

- 10.1 Constitution & Bylaws of the Metro D.C. Synod - September 2013 edition
(*NOT inserted here*—active edition found online under "For Congregations" tab)
- 10.2 Constitution & Bylaws with indications of proposed changes
 - (no #) Frequently Asked Questions: Changes to Synod Constitution & Bylaws
 - (no #) Flow Chart: Synod Organizational Structure
 - (no #) Previous Organizational Chart (August 2008)



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

God's work. Our hands.

2014 Synod Assembly

April 24, 2014

From: Kevin D. Anderson, Interim Secretary
The Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, ELCA

To: Rostered Leaders The President, Gettysburg College
Congregation Presidents The President, Roanoke College
Synod Council The President, Thiel College
Unit Chairs The Coordinator, ELCA Region 8
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The President, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg
The President, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia
Regional Representative, Portico Benefit Services
Ms. Amy Acland, Assembly Registrar

According to S7.13 of the Synod Constitution, "Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be given by the secretary."

Congregations are reminded to consult their congregation constitution with reference to those sections pursuant to election or designation of lay voting members to a Synod Assembly.

The 2014 Synod Assembly will convene on Saturday, June 21, 2014 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Fairfax Campus, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax Virginia 22032.
Main Phone: 703-323-9500.

All pastors, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, ELCA are expected to be in attendance.

If you are rostered with the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod and cannot attend the assembly, you must send a letter to the Synodical Bishop addressed to the secretary of the synod requesting to be excused.

Chapter 7 of the Synod Constitution deals with the Synod Assembly. According to that chapter, sections S7.21.c, S7.21.A92, and S7.21.02:

- A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with more than 175 baptized members related to this synod, one of whom shall be male and one of whom shall be female, shall be voting members.
- The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that, as nearly as possible, 50 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be female and 50 percent shall be male. Additional members from each congregation normally shall be equally divided between male and female. (S7.21.c)
- For the allocation of lay members of the Synod Assembly the most current Church body statistics are the basis for determining baptized members. To achieve the proper ratio, each congregation of 450 baptized members will be entitled to an additional voting member and another voting member for each full 250 members over 450. (S7.21.A92)
- Congregations with a baptized membership which consists of at least 10% persons of color and/or whose primary language is other than English will be entitled to one additional member. That member will be a person of color or whose primary language is other than English. (S7.21.02)

Based on current congregational data (latest year of congregation report submitted is in parentheses following congregation name) and fulfilling the above stated sections of the synod constitution, I have determined the following allocation of lay voting members of the 2014 Synod Assembly (* indicates one additional member for congregations fulfilling S7.21.02).

<u>D.C. Conference</u>	Augustana (2012)	4*
	Christ (2012)	2*
	Community of Christ (2012)	1
	First Trinity (2012)	2*
	Georgetown (2012)	1
	Grace (2013)	2*
	Holy Comforter (2010)	2*
	Luther Place (2013)	3*
	Oromo Evangelical, ELCA ID 30769 (2013)	2*
	Oromo Evangelical Lutheran, ELCA ID 31055	2*
	Our Redeemer (2008)	2*
	Peace, Bermuda (2012)	2*
	Reformation (2007)	2
	Signs of God	1
	St. Matthew (2010)	3*
	St. Paul (2013)	4
		35
<u>Fairfax Conference</u>	Abiding Presence, Burke (2013)	3
	Bethel, Manassas (2013)	4
	Bethlehem, Fairfax (2009)	2
	Christ, Fairfax (2013)	2

Covenant, Dale City (2013)	2
Epiphany, Dale City (2012)	1
Good Shepherd, Woodbridge (2013)	3
Lord of Life, Fairfax (2013)	7
River of Grace, Manassas (None)	1
Shepherd of the Hills, Haymarket (2013)	2
St. Mark, Springfield (2011)	6*
St. Matthew, Lake Ridge (2013)	4
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Maryland Conference

Abiding Presence, Beltsville (2013)	2*
All Saints, Bowie (2013)	3*
Good Samaritan, Lanham (2012)	2*
Good Samaritan, Lexington Park (2012)	2
Grace, Bowie (2013)	2
Grace, Ft. Washington (2013)	2*
Hope, Clinton (2013)	2*
Hope, College Park (2010)	2
Peace, Waldorf (2012)	3*
St. John, Riverdale (2008)	2*
St. Michael's Truth/Our Saviour's (2010)	3*
St. Nicholas, Prince Frederick (2012)	2
Zion, Takoma Park (2010)	3*
	30

Montgomery Conference

Christ, Bethesda (2011)	2*
Christ the Servant, Gaithersburg (2013)	2*
Emmanuel, Bethesda (2013)	5
Epiphany, Burtonsville (2011)	1
Good Shepherd, Gaithersburg (2013)	6*
In Christ Washington Fellowship (None)	1
La Sagrada Familia, Silver Spring (2011)	1
Living Faith, Rockville (2013)	2
Oromo Resurrection Evangelical, Kensington (2012)	3*
Prince of Peace, Gaithersburg (2013)	3
St. John, Rockville (2013)	2
St. Luke's, Derwood (Redland) (2013)	2*
St. Luke, Silver Spring (2013)	8
St. Stephen, Silver Spring (2012)	2*
Trinity, North Bethesda (2013)	3
	43

Potomac Conference

Advent, Arlington (2013)	2*
Epiphany, Alexandria (2011)	2
Faith, Arlington (2012)	3
Good Shepherd, Alexandria (2013)	3
Holy Trinity, Falls Church (2011)	2
Hope, Annandale (2012)	2
Messiah, Alexandria (2013)	1
Nativity, Alexandria (2013)	2

Peace, Alexandria (2012)	3*
Resurrection, Arlington (2013)	<u>3</u>
	23

Virginia Conference

Bethel, Lovettsville (2006)	1
Christ the King, Great Falls (2012)	3
Christ the Servant, Reston (2012)	2
Community, Sterling (2013)	4
Emmanuel, Vienna (2013)	6
Holy Cross, Herndon (2013)	4*
Holy Trinity, Leesburg (2011)	5
King of Kings, Fairfax (2013)	4
New Jerusalem, Lovettsville (2012)	3
Redeemer, McLean (2013)	6*
St. Andrew, Centreville (2012)	4
Zion, Lovettsville (2013)	<u>1</u>
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<u>Voting Members summary:</u>	Rostered Ordained	185
	Rostered Lay	9
	Lay Members	211
	Synod Council Lay Members	<u>13</u>
	Total	418

Registration and materials for the 2014 Synod Assembly can be found on-line at:
<http://metrodcelca.org/events/synod-assembly/>

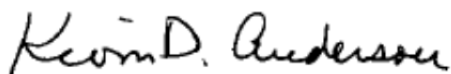
Registration closes at 5 pm Friday, 06 June 2014. No late registrations will be accepted.

It is the responsibility of congregations and voting members to download their Assembly materials.

For your information:

- + In accordance with S7.27 elected members of the Synod Council are voting members of the assembly and may register in that capacity; and
- + Persons attending the assembly who are not voting members should register as a Visitor.

The Assembly draft agenda indicates that Assembly check-in begins at 8:00 am on Saturday, June 21, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church. Orientation for new voting members is from 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. The Assembly opens with the seating of voting members at 9:00 am. It is anticipated that the Assembly will adjourn by 5:00 p.m.



Kevin D. Anderson
Interim Secretary of the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, ELCA



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER OVERVIEW

Guidelines

- Obtain the floor (the right to speak) by being the first to stand when the person speaking has finished; state Mr./Madam Chairman. Raising your hand means nothing, and standing while another has the floor is out of order! Must be recognized by the Chair before speaking!
- Debate cannot begin until the Chair has stated the motion or resolution and asked "are you ready for the question?" If no one rises, the chair calls for the vote!
- Before the motion is stated by the Chair (the question) members may suggest modification of the motion; the mover can modify as he pleases, or even withdraw the motion without consent of the seconder; if mover modifies, the seconder can withdraw the second.
- The "immediately pending question" is the last question stated by the Chair!
Motion/Resolution - Amendment - Motion to Postpone
- The member moving the "immediately pending question" is entitled to preference to the floor!
- No member can speak twice to the same issue until everyone else wishing to speak has spoken to it once!
- All remarks must be directed to the Chair. Remarks must be courteous in language and deportment - avoid all personalities, never allude to others by name or to motives!
- The agenda and all committee reports are merely recommendations! When presented to the assembly and the question is stated, debate begins and changes occur!

The Rules

- **Point of Privilege:** Pertains to noise, personal comfort, etc. - may interrupt only if necessary!
- **Parliamentary Inquiry:** Inquire as to the correct motion - to accomplish a desired result, or raise a point of order
- **Point of Information:** Generally applies to information desired from the speaker: "I should like to ask the (speaker) a question."
- **Orders of the Day (Agenda):** A call to adhere to the agenda (a deviation from the agenda requires Suspending the Rules)
- **Point of Order:** Infraction of the rules, or improper decorum in speaking. Must be raised immediately after the error is made
- **Main Motion:** Brings new business (the next item on the agenda) before the assembly

- **Divide the Question:** Divides a motion into two or more separate motions (must be able to stand on their own)
- **Consider by Paragraph:** Adoption of paper is held until all paragraphs are debated and amended and entire paper is satisfactory; after all paragraphs are considered, the entire paper is then open to amendment, and paragraphs may be further amended. Any Preamble cannot be considered until debate on the body of the paper has ceased.
- **Amend:** Inserting or striking out words or paragraphs, or substituting whole paragraphs or resolutions
- **Withdraw/Modify Motion:** Applies only after question is stated; mover can accept an amendment without obtaining the floor
- **Commit /Refer/Recommit to Committee:** State the committee to receive the question or resolution; if no committee exists include size of committee desired and method of selecting the members (election or appointment).
- **Extend Debate:** Applies only to the immediately pending question; extends until a certain time or for a certain period of time
- **Limit Debate:** Closing debate at a certain time, or limiting to a certain period of time
- **Postpone to a Certain Time:** State the time the motion or agenda item will be resumed
- **Object to Consideration:** Objection must be stated before discussion or another motion is stated
- **Lay on the Table:** Temporarily suspends further consideration/action on pending question; may be made after motion to close debate has carried or is pending
- **Take from the Table:** Resumes consideration of item previously "laid on the table" - state the motion to take from the table
- **Reconsider:** Can be made only by one on the prevailing side who has changed position or view
- **Postpone Indefinitely:** Kills the question/resolution for this session - exception: the motion to reconsider can be made this session
- **Previous Question:** Closes debate if successful - may be moved to "Close Debate" if preferred
- **Informal Consideration:** Move that the assembly go into "Committee of the Whole" – informal debate as if in committee; this committee may limit number or length of speeches or close debate by other means by a 2/3 vote. All votes, however, are formal.
- **Appeal Decision of the Chair:** Appeal for the assembly to decide - must be made before other business is resumed; NOT debatable if relates to decorum, violation of rules or order of business
- **Suspend the Rules:** Allows a violation of the assembly's own rules (except Constitution); the object of the suspension must be specified

Robert's Rules of Order Motions Chart

Based on *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (10th Edition)*

Part 1, Main Motions. These motions are listed in order of precedence. A motion can be introduced if it is higher on the chart than the pending motion.

§ indicates the section from Robert's Rules.

§	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§21	Close meeting	I move to adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§20	Take break	I move to recess for ...	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§19	Register complaint	I rise to a question of privilege	Yes	No	No	No	None
§18	Make follow agenda	I call for the orders of the day	Yes	No	No	No	None
§17	Lay aside temporarily	I move to lay the question on the table	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§16	Close debate	I move the previous question	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§15	Limit or extend debate	I move that debate be limited to ...	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
§14	Postpone to a certain time	I move to postpone the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§13	Refer to committee	I move to refer the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§12	Modify wording of motion	I move to amend the motion by ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§11	Kill main motion	I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
§10	Bring business before assembly (a main motion)	I move that [or "to"] ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

Part 2, Incidental Motions. No order of precedence. These motions arise incidentally and are decided immediately.

§	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§23	Enforce rules	Point of Order	Yes	No	No	No	None
§24	Submit matter to assembly	I appeal from the decision of the chair	Yes	Yes	Varies	No	Majority
§25	Suspend rules	I move to suspend the rules	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§26	Avoid main motion altogether	I object to the consideration of the question	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
§27	Divide motion	I move to divide the question	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§29	Demand a rising vote	I move for a rising vote	Yes	No	No	No	None
§33	Parliamentary law question	Parliamentary inquiry	Yes	No	No	No	None
§33	Request for information	Point of information	Yes	No	No	No	None

Part 3, Motions That Bring a Question Again Before the Assembly.

No order of precedence. Introduce only when nothing else is pending.

§	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§34	Take matter from table	I move to take from the table ...	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§35	Cancel previous action	I move to rescind ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3 or Majority with notice
§37	Reconsider motion	I move to reconsider ...	No	Yes	Varies	No	Majority



2014 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

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.



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

God's work. Our hands.

2014 Synod Assembly
AGENDA - DRAFT - 05.28.14

1.2 .1

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Fairfax, VA
"We Are the Church Together"

Saturday – June 21, 2014

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration – Ms. Amy Acland & Seminary Interns

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Orientation for New Voting Members
Rev. Doug Jones and Mr. Richard Ahlberg
Room: Fellowship Hall

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Worship Assistant Training – Rev. Heidi Moore
Room: Sanctuary

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Synod Council
Room: Conference Room

Plenary Session 1 9:00 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.

9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m. Opening of Assembly

9:10 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. Report of the Registrar – Mr. Kevin Anderson
Seating of Voting Members
Approval of Absences
Adoption of Agenda
Adoption of Rules of Procedure
Approval of 2013 Minutes

9:20 a.m. – 9:25 a.m. The Synod Online – Ms. Karen Krueger

9:25 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Recognition of Ecumenical Guests

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. ELCA Rep – Ms. Jodi Slattery, Special Assistant to the Presiding
Bishop for Governance

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Report of the Nominating Committee – Rev. Albert Triolo

10:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. Report of the Treasurer – Mr. John Handley

10:10 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Introduction of Compensation Guidelines – Dr. John White

10:15 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Introduction to Voting Devices – Ms. Jean Knight

10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. First Reading of the Mission Spending Plan
Finance Committee Chair

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. BREAK

Plenary Session 2 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Report of the Vice-President / Synod Council w/ By-law Revisions
Dr. John White

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Report of the Bishop

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Reference and Counsel – Rev. Christine Stephan

11:30 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. First Ballot

11:40 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Anniversaries – Congregations and Rostered Leaders over 50 years

11:50 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Lunch Instructions & Prayer – Rev. Douglas Jones

Lunch 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. Group A – Lunch in Fellowship Hall– sponsored by Mission Investment Fund

Group B – Ms. Jodi Slattery in Sanctuary

12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Group A – Ms. Jodi Slattery in Sanctuary

Group B – Lunch in Fellowship Hall – sponsored by Mission Investment Fund

Plenary Session 3 1:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Report of the Elections Committee & Second Ballot – Rev. Mitch Watney

1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Report of the Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop
Rev. Phil Hirsch

2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Discussion of Mission Spending Plan

2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Reference and Counsel – Rev. Christine Stephan

3:15 p.m. – 3:25 p.m. Report of Elections Committee & Third Ballot – Rev. Mitch Watney

3:25 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Report of the Assistant to the Bishop – Rev. Amy Thompson Sevimli

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Unfinished Business

3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. BREAK w/Snacks

Festive Eucharist 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

with Installation of Elected Leaders & Closing of Assembly



Spring 2014

*So we, who are many, are one body in Christ,
and individually we are members one of another.*

– Romans 12:5

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of my deep joys as I begin my term as the fourth presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is meeting with you and witnessing how we are church together. It is wonderful to see how people's lives are changed because of the commitment of our congregations to share God's love with one another. Thank you for your faithful witness to the gospel. Because of our relationship with God through Jesus Christ, we are church together for the sake of the world.

At the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, we affirmed the Book of Faith initiative as a continuing emphasis and priority in this church. It is my hope that our deep biblical engagement with the written word of God may help us become a community of deep spiritual discernment. Together, let us recommit to those spiritual practices of prayer, silence, worship, giving and Scripture study so that together we can prepare ourselves and be quiet long enough to hear how God is speaking to us through the Holy Spirit.

We need to first listen to God and then listen to one another. In your congregations, you are already listening and engaging in this communal discernment as you continue to work on your missional covenants. This work, begun by the encouragement of the Living Into the Future Together task force, is not done in isolation from or in competition with one another. It is shaped by our mutual conversations concerning our vision and mission and discerning where the greatest needs are within our congregations and communities.

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly recognized a number of those greatest needs when it approved the *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. The Campaign for the ELCA seeks to raise funds for existing local and global churchwide ministries and for new ministries. As church together, we can start or renew a congregation; save a child's life; develop leaders in our church and in our global companion churches; and feed people who are hungry, equipping them to break out of the cycle of hunger and poverty.

This past fall, thousands of congregations participated in the "God's work. Our hands." Sunday. We plan to do this again Sept. 7, 2014. I hope you will join us. This day of service in Jesus' name is a wonderful way to share God's love.

As you pray, worship and discern together to seek and listen for God's will, know that throughout the ELCA, your brothers and sisters are praying for you.

God's peace,

Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Primavera 2014

*También nosotros, siendo muchos, formamos un solo cuerpo en Cristo,
y cada miembro está unido a todos los demás.*

– Romanos 12:5

Queridas hermanas y hermanos en Cristo:

Una de mis profundas alegrías al iniciar mi mandato como cuarto obispo presidente de la Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en América (ELCA) es la de reunirme con ustedes y dar testimonio de que somos una iglesia unida. Es maravilloso ver cómo cambian las vidas de las personas a raíz del compromiso de nuestras congregaciones de compartir el amor de Dios los unos con los otros. Agradecemos infinitamente su fiel testimonio del evangelio. Por nuestra relación con Dios por medio de Jesucristo, somos una iglesia unida por el bien del mundo.

En la Asamblea Nacional de la ELCA del 2013, ratificamos la iniciativa de El Libro de Fe como una prioridad y un énfasis continuos de esta iglesia. Es mi esperanza que nuestro profundo compromiso bíblico con la palabra escrita de Dios nos ayude a convertirnos en una comunidad de profundo discernimiento espiritual. Juntos, renovemos nuestro compromiso con esas prácticas espirituales de oración, silencio, adoración, ofrendar y estudio de las Escrituras, para que juntos nos preparemos y estemos tranquilos el tiempo suficiente para escuchar cómo Dios nos habla por medio del Espíritu Santo.

Necesitamos escuchar primero a Dios y luego, los unos a los otros. En nuestras congregaciones, ya escuchan y participan de este discernimiento comunal a medida que siguen trabajando en sus alianzas misioneras. Esta obra, iniciada por el estímulo del grupo de trabajo Living Into the Future Together (Unidos hacia el Futuro) no se lleva a cabo de manera aislada ni compitiendo entre sí. Está moldeada por nuestras conversaciones mutuas para abordar nuestra visión y misión, así como por el discernimiento de dónde yacen las necesidades más grandes dentro de nuestras congregaciones y comunidades.

La Asamblea Nacional de 2013 reconoció varias de esas grandes necesidades al aprobar “*Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*” (*Siempre siendo renovados: La Campaña de la ELCA*). La Campaña de la ELCA busca recaudar fondos para ministerios locales y globales ya existentes de la iglesia nacional, como también para nuevos ministerios. Juntos como iglesia, podemos iniciar o renovar una congregación; salvar la vida de un niño; desarrollar líderes en nuestra iglesia y en nuestras iglesias compañeras globales, y dar de comer a las personas que sufren de hambre, preparándolas para liberarse del círculo de hambre y pobreza.

Este otoño pasado, miles de congregaciones participaron en el domingo de “La obra de Dios. Nuestras manos”. Planeamos hacerlo nuevamente el 7 de septiembre del 2014. Espero que nos acompañen. Este día de servicio en nombre de Jesús es una forma maravillosa de compartir el amor de Dios.

Mientras oran, adoran y disciernen juntos para buscar y escuchar la voluntad de Dios, deben saber que en toda la ELCA, sus hermanos y hermanas oran por ustedes.

Que la paz de Dios sea con ustedes:

Elizabeth A. Eaton
Obispa presidente
Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en América

**For the 2014 Assembly of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

The Report of the Bishop

Dear friends,

Once again it is my duty and my honor to write you about the life of our synod. I do this with a profound sense of the challenges and struggles we face. And I do this with the deepest sense of joy and of gratitude, too. For all our challenges and struggles, we are people richly blessed and knit together in God's love.

In some ways, little in our synod has changed since this time last year. We are still in the business together of sharing the gospel of the Lord Jesus with the communities around us, and of caring for those in need close to us and far away. This part of our life is never really different from day to day. The cycles of worship, of teaching, of serving go on among us according to Lutheran traditions and folkways that we treasure and love.

But in other ways, we see evidence that many things are changing and that our life in the Lord is different now than was even a short time ago. If you want proof of this, look at the person who was elected and called to be the Presiding Bishop of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America last summer. Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is, well, a woman. Her place as the senior leader in our denomination signals that we are ready to move beyond some of the old-fashioned ways we imagined church bodies should look. Her energy, her excitement, and her wit have already made a mark on the way we do our church business.

And the election of a new Presiding Bishop reminded us that a leadership transition is underway all across our church. In our synod, for instance, some recent pastors' retirements have meant change in congregations where there is no memory of such a leadership transition before. We miss those pastors who have retired. We will miss some others who plan to retire soon. They were giants of the faith and what they helped to build is the life we all share. But God is raising up new pastors, and in the synod office we spend an increasing amount of time seeking for those leaders who seem to be the best fit for our ministries. This is one of the ways that we believe the synod staff can be the best help to congregations and we give it the most careful attention.

We are also aware that lay leadership is changing in the congregations of our synod. When I attend meetings out in the synod, I still encounter charter members of established congregations who have served in every congregational office and who seem to have life tenure on their congregational councils. But more and more I also meet newer members of the congregation, for whom service on the council is both exciting and confusing. Not knowing why so many things have to be done in certain established ways, new comers ask unsettling questions and see things with new eyes. And since some of them are actually new Christians, they bring gifts and long for encouragement in ways that we all need to be able to anticipate.

Congregational finances are a constant concern in the synod office. For reasons I can't quite explain, this past year saw several congregations pushed to the edge of financial viability by events no one anticipated. Some of our congregations have very large mortgage payments to make every month. Some of our congregations found their health insurance costs to be much higher for 2014 (though the ELCA's Portico coverage is promised to be still the best investment for most of us). Whatever the reason, money seems very tight in many corners of the synod just now. We also offer all the help we can from the synod office when we are asked to help people think about congregational stewardship and mission planning.

I should report, though, that the synod itself finished 2013 with a very small financial surplus. We kept our spending tightly controlled and we found ourselves grateful beneficiaries of the generous support of congregations which honored their mission support commitments, and in some cases added additional payments for the synod. We continue to share 50% of all the mission support we receive with ELCA churchwide ministries. With the help of several very generous individuals, and with lots of encouragement from congregations all over the synod, we have exceeded our initial pledge to the ELCA Malaria Campaign. This is a real source of pride and a sign of what we can do when we know our action matters.

Beginning late this year, we will begin to make decisions about the synod's work to support of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. This campaign, with a total goal of almost \$200 million, will provide funds to support a whole variety of mission efforts. We hope in our synod to focus attention on raising money for new congregations and we expect that planning work will focus on ministries serving a variety of contexts in a variety of styles.

We are blessed to live in a place where there are lots of new people and where every congregation is a sort of mission outpost. Our neighbors are, as we always say, people for whom the Good News of Jesus Christ is often actually news. We want to be living, breathing evangelists wherever we go. We want our congregations to be places where evangelists are trained and sustained and fortified for their ministries out in God's world.

One more thing about this coming year: We expect to have the Shape of the Synod Task Force up and running all over our synod in the coming months. Visiting congregational councils and pastors and asking what we can do together that will be better than what we do alone, we want to make sure that congregations have all the support that we can offer as they do their work. We want to make sure that no one feels lost or lonely in his or her ministry if we can help it. We think that we can do greater things if we share ourselves and our ideas and our resources.

It is not always easy to be your bishop. I often work hard in on tasks that don't end up bearing fruit. I learn some things that I wish I didn't know. I find myself embroiled in heart-breaking conflicts I think could have been avoided.

And yet some days are just glorious. And no matter what, I am sustained by the other people in the synod office. The half dozen or so of us working around 305 E Street are blessed to be a small community of like-minded Christians, people who care for each other and who complement each other. I believe that though there are a bunch of separate minds in your synod office, there is really only one heart. It is a joy to be part of this.

And I am blessed to be able to share the work that so many of the Lord's servants carry out through our congregations and our ministries and through the synod's own structures. The fact that we have so much to do is a blessing, and not a burden. In our individual lives, in our families and all our relationships, in our congregations and in every institution, we are the hands of God reaching out to bless and to rescue and to serve. We have not been left to our own devices in God's world, but we have been filled with the Holy Spirit and connected to one another. Thanks and praise to God, who is making all things new and who is leading us toward glory. And peace to you all,

In Jesus,

Dick

The Rev. Richard H. Graham, Bishop

Report of Assistant to the Bishop, Amy Thompson Sevimli

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. (1 Corinthians 12.27-31).

These words from the apostle Paul note the kinds of gifts God gives people for the good of the church and for the good of one another. This past year, the gift of administration is the gift I have used more than at any other time in my ministry. It is not the first or highest gift according to Paul, but it is one that is needed for the good and the up-building of the church. It is a gift I am privileged to have and one I am honored to use on behalf of this church.

Some of you have heard me say: “papers are people.” That phrase represents my approach to this work. Since the retirement of Harold Sargeant, I have taken on new items in my portfolio, related specifically to pastors seeking calls, congregations seeking pastors, and candidates seeking ordination. Administering and organizing this work requires that I shuffle a lot of paper, but I am well aware that each of those papers represents a person or a group of people seeking to do the work of God in our part of the kingdom. This report describes my main work in the synod office.

Congregations in Transition

These are congregations who are without pastors and who are working through a process to determine what is next for them. This process ends up looking different for different congregations. However, our hope is that most congregations will adopt and work through a plan during this transition time. In many cases, that means congregations work with a trained interim pastor, who walks the congregation through the interim process. For others that means working with a consultant in the interim. For still other congregations, their circumstances place them in a kind of “holding pattern” or in a time of exploration. In the end, this time is best used when the congregation comes out of it with a better sense of its identity as well as where it is headed and what kind of leader it needs to go there.

Mobility

Mobility describes the process that pastors enter into when they move from one congregation to another. Doing this work has been especially enjoyable because I have gotten to know more about pastors both in our synod and outside of it.

Our synod is fortunate to be in a metropolitan area, which is an exciting place to serve God’s people. This means that we receive A LOT of rostered leader profiles (RLPs) from pastors all over the U.S. and even Canada discerning whether God is calling them to serve in our synod. Because we could never interview all the people from whom we receive RLPs, we have a process by which we look over all the RLPs submitted to the synod. In that process we look for people with the gifts and skills which our congregations need. We do our best to match the gifts and skills of pastors with congregations, so that when congregations interview pastors, they sense the Holy Spirit at work in their interviews and they find a pastor with the skills and gifts needed to lead their community into learning what it’s like to live as disciples more fully each day.

Candidacy

The candidacy committee is the body in our synod which walks with everyone sensing a call to rostered ministry (Associates in Ministry, Diaconal Ministers, Deaconesses and Ordained Clergy). Of everything in my new portfolio, this part of my work surprised me the most because the learning curve was steepest. The reason is that the candidacy process is very intense and time-consuming. The amount of paperwork associated with the candidates and the number of candidates in the Metro DC process makes for A LOT of paper, and thus, a lot of people! Together with the candidacy committee chair, Dr. Anna Graeber, I have managed the work of the candidacy committee. Dr. Graeber will be stepping down from this position, and the synod owes her a great debt of gratitude for the amazing work she has done for so many years. She has held this intense process together for many years, and we (especially me) will miss her greatly. Thank you, Anna!

Young Adults

In light of my new portfolio items, the ministry of young adults has received less attention. Travel still continues. Pastor Sarah Scherschligt took a group of young adults to Haiti and Pastor Brian Erickson took a group of young adults to the U.S./Mexico border.

Congregations continue to prioritize this work. Luther Place Church continues to have a burgeoning group of young adults as does Faith in Arlington. Other congregations continue to see this as one of their ministries, and I know that many people are always on the look-out for connecting with young adults in their congregations. Since the year of the Young Adult in 2010, both the awareness of young adults and ministry to and with them as definitely increased in our synod.

River of Grace

It has been a joy to work with Pastor Connie Thomson and the people of River of Grace on the revitalization of that congregation. For more information about River of Grace, see the report of the New and Renewing Missions Table.

The Journey

Many of you may remember the 2012 synod assembly speaker, Pastor Chris Nelson, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN. I came to know Pastor Nelson when I started working on young adult ministry, and learned that he was one of the first pastors in the ELCA to have formed a young adult congregation: Spirit Garage. I contacted Pastor Nelson, learned about his work, and was so impressed by his ministry and his generous spirit that I thought it would be wise to stay in touch with him. During this time, I learned the story of his congregation, the ways it changed during his tenure, and the fact he travelled around the world sharing some of what he learned about successful congregations. But until he and I discussed it, he had never shared his learnings in the United States.

After a few conversations, we thought we would offer some of what he was teaching in other places to congregations in our synod. The participation has been far greater than we ever expected. We have completed four of the six sessions: Purpose and Focus; Communicating for a Change; Leading your congregation through change; Small Groups; Setting Lay People loose for Ministry; and Mission in the

Community. Congregational changes are beginning to emerge, but there is more to come. I look forward to continue experiencing The Journey's innovations in our congregations.

Gratitude

In closing I want to thank the people I work with: Bishop Graham, Pastor Phil Hirsch, Amy Acland, Karen Krueger, John Handley and Florence Heacock. I also want to reiterate my thanks to the outgoing candidacy chairperson, Dr. Anna Graeber. Finally, I want to say special thanks to Lori Pitts. Lori joined the staff in January, when I realized I needed help with work of congregations in transition, mobility and candidacy. Lori will be leaving us in August, but her presence has been an absolute joy in our office. She is a hard worker, and she has made my work so much easier.

All of these people are enormously faithful and work in the midst of great challenges. It is an honor, a privilege, and a joy to call them colleagues and friends.

Report of the Director for Evangelical Mission
Pastor Philip C. Hirsch, Assistant to the Bishop

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 1 Corinthians 3.6

I have been doing a lot of planting and watering this year with many of you and a trusting in God for the growth. Most of the highlights are below and in the reports of the New and Renewing Missions Table and The Stewardship and Mission Support Table.

1. Website Report. In an effort to help every congregation think about how it is being perceived online, we have completed a survey of every congregation's website in the Metro DC Synod. A very special THANK YOU to Lori Pitts who has been working on our Synod Staff to complete this work. **Every pastor and Synod Assembly voting member should have received a copy of your congregation's report.**
2. New Start Initiative. At a joint meeting of the New and Renewing Missions Table and the Stewardship and Mission Support Table a new effort was commissioned in our synod to start 6-8 new congregations in the next 3-5 years. A small group, appointed by the Bishop, will begin planning for this effort this year. Look for more information in January, 2015. Please pray for this effort.
3. Together in Mission: Thanks to Pastors Kate Davidson and Mike Gutzler who helped reimagine a Tedx like event for sharing ministry ideas that make a difference. All of the talks are at <http://timmetrodc.org>
4. Best Practices for Growing Congregations is a talk I gave at the TIM event. It is available in a Powerpoint on the blog post section of the Synod Website. <http://metrodcelca.org/2014/02/best-practices-for-growing-congregations/>
5. How to welcome guests is a blog post with practical tips to help your congregation develop authentic and effective ways of welcoming people, not just to worship but into the life of the community. <http://metrodcelca.org/2014/04/no-such-thing-as-a-friendly-church/>

Notes on Congregations and Ministries in our Synod:

+ Our Savior's Temple Hills and Saint Michael's Truth have voted to merge into one new congregation with shared staff and leadership.

+ Epiphany Lutheran Church, Burtonsville MD has extended an agreement share a part time pastor (Matt Pensinger) with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Gaithersburg, MD. Pastor Dave Sonnenberg is the Senior Pastor at Good Shepherd and is stewarding this effort.

+ Good Samaritan Lutheran Church, Lanham MD voted to become a redevelopment and are receiving Bethany Funds to support this effort. Pastor Gloria Cline-Smythe is leading this work.

+ Pastor Leila Ortiz began work at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Herndon, VA as a part time Pastor in Residence focusing on ministry among 2nd and 3rd generation immigrants and finishing work on a PhD. (with \$10,000 from Bethany Funds).

+ ELCA Campaign (As LSS winds up their capital campaign at the end of 2014, the Synod will continue to raise money and attention for the Malaria Campaign as a part of the overall Campaign for the ELCA in 2014 and will focus on new congregations in the Metro DC Synod and beyond in 2015.

I continue to be grateful for the partnership with each of you and especially for those with whom I work in the Synod Office: Bishop Graham, The Rev. Amy Thompson Sevimli, Amy Acland, Lori Pitts, John Handley and Karen Kruger.

In Christ,

Pastor Phil Hirsch

Report of the Synod Council
Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod Assembly
June 21, 2014

The Synod Constitution and By-laws defines The Synod Council as “the board of directors of this Synod,” which serves as its “interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly.” (S10.02). The Council consists of four officers and members (rostered, lay, and at-large) from the Synod conferences, the Women’s Organization and the Youth representative.

This year, our Council has become accustomed to its role as the Primary Mission Table, investing its wisdom – collective and individual – in the work of the Synod. At times the work is complicated, hard to tease out a unifying thread. Other times, they clearly see a need that transcends structure and definition, and affirm the mission of our church and our faith through new ministries for a changing world.

We continue simultaneously to cherish and challenge traditional ways of doing things, seeing things, and structuring things in the life of the church. Great wisdom resides in the traditions and practices from the past; recognizing them connects our spirit with theirs through the centuries. But so many of those practices responded to a world which is different now. To pursue our mission – which has not and will not change -- we have examined these practices, and praying for the same wisdom so evident in the legacy practices, we seek implement changes small and large that help equip all of us in the Washington DC Synod to respond to the Great Commission with which Christ has charged us.

Bishop Graham and Assistants to the Bishop Rev. Amy Sevimli and Rev. Phil Hirsh have provided much of the good work of the body, in discernment and ingenuity and rejoicing at the growth and diversity in our Synod; Treasurer John Handley serves as a faithful witness to our stewardship and as an essential Sherpa through the cold and treacherous slopes of finance. Our Secretaries this year, Pr. John Bradford and Kevin Anderson, have served as heroic chroniclers and organizers of our proceedings, enabling understanding and consensus to move on.

The members of the Council for 2013-2014 are:

- Mr. Larry Evans, DC Conference;
- Mr. Kurtis Lowe, at large;
- Mr. Stanley Medikonda, VA Conference;
- Diaconal Minister Kathy Garrison, at large;
- Rev. Margarethe Kleiber, at large
- Ms. Karen Consiglio, at large;
- Rev. Tom Knoll, DC Conference;
- Rev. Gerard Johnson, Fairfax Conference;
- Mr. Robert Schilpp, Fairfax Conference;
- Rev. Emmanuel Grantson, Maryland Conference;

- Ms. Margretta Williams, Maryland Conference;
- Rev. Christine Stephan, Montgomery Conference;
- Mr. Tom Kern, Montgomery Conference;
- Rev. Charles Oberkehr, Potomac Conference
- Mr. Wendell Anderson, Potomac Conference;
- Rev. Mark Edwards, Virginia Conference;
- Ms. Kathy Meier, Synodical Women's Organization, ELCA;
- Mr. Jack Hill, Youth.

Actions of the Council. The Council has approached its many issues, challenges and joys with the motivation for renewal and re-alignment to current opportunities, inspired by the Bishop's initiative in the Shape of the Synod. Among these were:

- Good Samaritan under redevelopment and synodical administration, Gloria Cline-Smythe;
- The cognizance and oversight in the successful and inspirational emergence of River of Grace Lutheran in Manassas, VA.;
- Support, encouragement, and enactment of the Shape of the Synod recommendations and concomitant changes to the By-Laws;
- A new mission to 2nd and 3rd generation immigrants through sponsoring Pr. Leila Ortiz at Holy Cross Herndon;
- Pr. Hirsch's inspired codification of Closing as an Act of Mission;
- Beginning of plans for Signs of God Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community (SAWC) near Gallaudet;
- Establishment of In Christ Washington Fellowship, a SAWC;
- Consolidation of St. Michael's Truth and Our Savior's in Prince George's County;
- Support for a growing Indian Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community, as well as The La Sagrada Familia congregation, and the congregations of the Oromo and Amharic communities of believers.

We feel your prayers and your good will surrounding us as we do our work. Your love envelopes us, as it has the whole of our Church for a quarter century and more. We are grateful to you, the Assembly, the members of our congregations, and all whom we are called to serve.

In His Service,

John White, Vice President

Metropolitan DC Synod - 2015 Spending Plan Proposal

	2015 Proposed	2014 Approved	2013 Actuals
Receipts			
Congregational Mission Support	\$1,720,000	\$1,838,000	\$1,728,022
Interest and other support	\$25,000	\$15,800	\$38,875
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$1,745,000	\$1,853,800	\$1,766,897
Expenditures			
Churchwide Mission Support	\$860,000	\$919,000	\$846,275
New and Renewing Missions			
New Starts ¹	\$10,000	\$70,000	
Newly Formed Congregations ²	\$21,000	\$20,000	
Redevelopments ³	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Specific Existing Ministries ⁴	\$21,500		
Sub-total	\$62,500	\$100,000	\$84,558
La Sagrada Familia ⁵	\$35,000		
Stewardship and Mission Support			
Gifts of Hope	\$6,500	\$6,000	\$2,000
Table expenses and materials	\$1,500	\$1,000	
Sub-total	\$8,000	\$7,000	\$2,000
Office of the Bishop			
Ecumenical Affairs Committee	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$5,549
Candidacy Committee	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$7,487
LTSG (Gettysburg Seminary)	\$83,000	\$91,900	\$90,000
Seminary Student Financial Aid	\$10,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
First Call Theological Education	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,955
Young Adults Initiative	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$898
Bishop's Emergency Fund	\$0	\$250	\$0
Sub-total	\$106,000	\$121,650	\$117,889
Global Mission and Companion Synod	\$5,500	\$6,000	\$4,589
Camps and Campus Ministry Support			
Camps	\$15,000	\$18,000	12000
Campus Ministry	\$60,000	\$65,000	\$67,000
Sub-total	\$75,000	\$83,000	\$79,000
Administration and Operations			
Ordained Staff Comp & Benefits	\$270,000	\$263,000	\$254,127
Office Staff Comp & Benefits	\$160,000	\$176,000	\$124,628
Office Operations	\$70,000	\$85,000	\$102,810
Occupancy	\$85,000	\$85,000	\$96,475
Region 8 Support	\$8,000	\$7,960	\$7,868
Sub-total	\$593,000	\$616,960	\$585,908
TOTAL EXPENDITURES ⁶	\$1,745,000	\$1,853,610	\$1,720,220

2015 NOTES:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. River of Grace | 2. Three existing Oromo congregations |
| 3. Good Samaritan, Lanham | 4. San Marcos and Santa Maria |
| 5. Funding for La Sagrada Familia was previously included in New and Renewing Missions | |

2013 NOTE:

- | |
|--|
| 6. 2013 Actuals does not include expenses for which no line items exist (Youth Events and Synod Assembly). |
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Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

Saturday, June 21, 2014

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Proposed Rostered Leadership Compensation

Recommendations for 2015

transmitted by the Synod Council for consideration

The recommendation for increases to the unadjusted base salary for rostered persons in 2015 is based, as in years past, on the average consumer price index over the last 11 months for the Baltimore Washington area.

- That average is 1.42%
- Accordingly, the Synod Council recommend increasing the Compensation Guidelines by 1.4% for 2015.

The impact is as follows (2014 → 2015):

Pastors not living in a parsonage \$56,898 → \$57,695

Pastors living in a parsonage \$44,714 → \$45,340

Rostered lay persons \$37,675 → \$38,202

	A	B	C	V	W	X	Y	Z
1			Treasurer's Report					Schedule 1
2			Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, ELCA					
3			Comparison of Receipts and Expenditures for Unrestricted Funds					
4			Period Ending January 31, 2014					
5								
6				As of		As of		As of
7				11/30/13		12/31/13		01/31/14
8			Receipts					
9			Congregational Benevolence	\$1,318,616		\$1,521,397		\$1,728,022
10			Misc. Congregational Gifts	2,773		3,151		3,151
11			Fees	138,072		154,862		156,587
12			Other	22,340		27,665		33,309
13			Interest	3,110		3,467		5,566
14			Total Undesignated Receipts	1,484,910		1,710,542		1,926,635
15								
16			Designated Receipts	130,283		170,628		187,386
17			Total Receipts	1,615,194		1,881,170		2,114,021
18								
19			Expenditures					
20			Program Expenses	\$949,696		\$1,107,053		\$1,192,087
21			General & Administrative Expenses	482,333		528,998		578,040
23			Synod Assembly Costs	115,620		115,620		115,620
24			Year-to-date Program Expense	1,547,649		1,751,672		1,885,747
25								
26			Designated Distributions	125,945		148,276		192,237
27			Total Expenditures	\$1,673,594		\$1,899,947		\$2,077,984
28								
29			Undesignated Surplus/Deficit	(\$62,739)		(\$41,130)		\$40,888
30								
31			Projections					
32			Benevolence Needed to Make Budget	\$1,368,173		\$1,594,169		\$1,800,000
33			Projected Congregational Benevolence	\$1,734,802		\$1,717,832		\$1,728,022
34								
35			Comparisons					
36			Current Period					
37			Benevolence Only - 2013	\$111,942		\$202,781		\$206,626
38			Benevolence Only - 2012	\$178,029		\$231,784		\$183,163
39			Benevolence Only - 2011	\$128,205		\$188,733		\$195,005
40			Benevolence Only - 2010	\$111,562		\$215,321		\$227,426
41			Benevolence Only - 2009	\$125,850		\$227,103		\$237,356
44								
45			YTD vs. last year					
46			Benevolence Only - 2013	\$1,318,616		\$1,521,397		\$1,728,022
47			Benevolence Only - 2012	\$1,403,968		\$1,635,752		\$1,818,914
48			Benevolence Only - 2011	\$1,393,314		\$1,582,047		\$1,777,052
49			Benevolence Only - 2010	\$1,358,192		\$1,573,513		\$1,800,939
50			Benevolence Only - 2009	\$1,407,613		\$1,634,715		\$1,872,071
53								
54			Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2013	(\$62,739)		(\$41,130)		\$40,888
55			Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2012	(\$89,584)		(\$24,678)		\$43,618
56			Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2011	(\$104,009)		(\$59,047)		(\$25,187)
57			Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2010	(\$130,500)		(\$37,880)		\$365
58			Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2009	(\$110,533)		(\$56,364)		(\$1,265)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Treasurer's Report									Schedule 2
2	Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, ELCA									
3	Budget Report									
4	Period Ending January 31, 2014									
5				FY13	Designated	Total		FY13		% of
6				Budget	Income	Available		Expense		Approved
7	The Larger Church									
8			Churchwide Support	\$900,000		\$900,000		\$846,275		94%
9			Region 8	7,960		7,960		7,868		99%
10	Total Churchwide Support			907,960	0	907,960		854,143		94%
11										
12	Synod Programs									
13	Divisions									
14			Mar-Lu-Ridge	6,000		6,000		6,000		100%
15			Caroline Furnace	6,000		6,000		6,000		100%
16			Youth Events	0	52,645	52,645		49,557		94%
17			Christian Ed	200		200		350		175%
18			Young Adults	6,000		6,000		898		15%
19			Congregational Life Total	18,200	52,645	70,845		62,806		89%
20										
21			American Univ.	3,000		3,000		3,000		
22			Georgetown Univ.	3,000		3,000		3,000		
23			George Mason Univ.	10,000		10,000		5,000		
24			Univ. of Maryland	46,000		46,000		46,000		
25			Howard Univ.	10,000		10,000		10,000		
26			Higher Education Total	72,000		72,000		67,000		93%
27										
28			First Call Theological Education	2,000		2,000		1,955		
29			Candidacy	6,000	2,400	8,400		7,487		
30			Seminary Student Financial Aid	12,000		12,000		12,000		
31			Gettysburg Seminary	90,000		90,000		90,000		
32			Ministry Total	110,000	2,400	112,400		111,442		99%
33										
34			New and Renewing Missions Leadership	0		0		1,763		
35			In Christ Fellowship	0		0		0		
36			UMDCP	2,500		2,500		2,500		
37			La Sagrada Familia	17,000		17,000		17,000		
38			Oromo Resurrection	4,000		4,000		4,000		
39			Oromo Evangelical	9,000		9,000		9,000		
40			San Marcos/St. Mark's	13,000		13,000		13,000		
41			Peace African Immigrant Ministry	5,000		5,000		2,708		
42			River of Grace/CV	20,000		20,000		20,000		
43			Good Samaritan, Lanham	2,000		2,000		2,087		
44			Santa Maria/Augustana	12,500		12,500		12,500		
45			New and Renewing Missions Total	85,000		85,000		84,558		99%
46										
47			Global Missions Leadership					562		
48			Companion Synod - Namibia					1,173		
49			Middle East Working Group					238		
50			Companion Synod - Slovakia					333		
51			Companion Synod - El Salvador					2,283		
52			Global Missions Totals	4,500		4,500		4,589		102%
53										
54			Gifts of Hope	2,000		2,000		2,000		
55			Stewardship and Mission Support Total	12,000		12,000		2,000		17%
56										
57	Offices & Committees									
58			Ecumenical Affairs	7,000		7,000		5,549		79%
59	Total Synod Programs			308,700	55,045	363,745		337,944		93%
60										
61	Leadership & Administration									
62			Ordained Staff Comp. & Benefits	260,000		260,000		254,127		98%
63			Office Staff Comp. & Benefits	180,000		180,000		124,628		69%
64			Office Operations	85,000	2,112	87,112		102,810		118%
65			Occupancy Costs	80,000	16,755	96,755		96,475		100%
66			Synod Assembly	0	101,542	101,542		115,620		114%
67										
68	Total Leadership & Administration			605,000	120,409	725,409		693,661		96%
69										
70	Grand Total			\$1,821,660	175,454	\$1,997,114		\$1,885,747		94%

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Treasurer's Report								Schedule 3
2	Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, ELCA								
3	Temporary Restricted Funds Report								
4	As of January 31, 2014								
5	Responsible Party	Balance	Balance					MWDC	
6	Project	2/1/2012	1/14/2014			Change		Acct #	
7									
8	Congregational Life								
9	ELCA Grant - Book of Faith Advocate	\$3,000	\$3,000			\$0		3454515	
10	Young Adult Holy Land Trip	\$2,600	\$2,224			(\$376)		3510102	
11	Young Adult Ministry	\$2,324	\$2,324			\$0		3544821	
12	Total Congregational Life	\$7,924	\$7,548			(\$376)			
13									
14	Higher Education and Schools								
15	LCM - General	\$2,500	\$6,075			\$3,575		3524311	
16	DC Campus Ministry	\$18,204	\$18,204			\$0		3544707	
17	Total Higher Education and Schools	\$20,704	\$24,279			\$3,575			
18									
19	Ministry								
20	Emch Memorial	\$0	\$1,372			\$1,372		3540301	
21	Seminarian Financial Aid	\$11,469	\$2,858			(\$8,611)		3544704	
22	Total Ministry	\$11,469	\$4,231			(\$7,238)			
23									
24	Global Mission								
25	El Salvador Pastors' Salary Fund	\$10,194	\$350			(\$9,844)		3540401	
26	Slovakia Companion Synod	\$2,850	\$3,580			\$730		3544712	
27	Namibia Companion Synod	\$3,198	\$4,658			\$1,460		3544715	
28	El Salvador Companion Synod	\$12,848	\$13,617			\$769		3544717	
29	Total Global Mission	\$29,090	\$22,205			(\$6,885)			
30									
31	New and Renewing Congregations								
32	Transforming Ministry Event Grant	\$1,857	\$1,857			\$0		3454507	
33	River of Grace	\$0	\$0			\$0		3540501	
34	Bethany - PG County	\$332,665	\$293,949			(\$38,716)		3540502	
35	Bethany - non-PG County	\$332,665	\$232,423			(\$100,242)		3540503	
36	Bethany - LT - PG	\$0	\$359,710			\$359,710		3540504	
37	Bethany - LT - non-PG	\$0	\$58,453			\$58,453		3540505	
38	The Journey	(\$872)	(\$1,075)			(\$203)		3540510	
40	Ortiz 2nd generation	\$0	\$2,350			\$2,350		3540512	
41	Evangelism Workshops	\$2,099	\$2,099			\$0		3544718	
42	Metro 200 Mission Partner Fund	\$10,758	\$4,162			(\$6,596)		3544738	
43	Small Congregation Event	\$2,236	\$2,236			\$0		3544774	
44	Synodical Latino Ministry - General	\$3,172	\$4,172			\$1,000		3544779	
45	La Sagrada Familia Mission	\$0	\$490			\$490		3544790	
46	Bethany, Forestville wind down	\$2,130	\$0			(\$2,130)		3544822	
47	Resurrection Fund	\$36,000	\$36,000			\$0		3544835	
48	New Congregations Fund	\$2,384	\$8,024			\$5,639		3544840	
49	Total New & Renewing Congregations	\$725,095	\$1,004,849			\$279,755			
50									
51	Stewardship & Mission Support								
52	Planned Giving	\$0	\$17,598			\$17,598		3540601	
53	Stewardship Education	\$10,129	\$7,649			(\$2,480)		3544722	
54	Gifts of Hope - Dues/Expenses	\$22,256	\$20,447			(\$1,809)		3544742	
55	Gifts of Hope	\$107,626	\$92,591			(\$15,036)		3544784	
56	Total Stewardship & Mission Support	\$140,012	\$138,286			(\$1,726)			
57									
58	Synod Office								
59	EOCM DEM Expense grant	\$0	\$3,300			\$3,300		3454517	
60	Dora Johnson Memorial	\$255	\$255			\$0		3541016	
61	Baker Trust	\$31,000	\$22,691			(\$8,309)		3541017	
62	General Background Checks	\$80	\$4			(\$76)		3541018	
63	Maryland Conference Expenses	\$48	\$48			\$0		3541019	
64	Together in Mission/TEDx	\$0	(\$1,360)			(\$1,360)		3541026	
65	2013 reformation Service	\$0	(\$335)			(\$335)		3541027	
66	2013 Advent Eucharist	\$0	\$69			\$69		3541028	
67	Bishop Foreign Travel	\$526	\$526			(\$0)		3544730	
68	Bishop's Emergency Fund	\$1,731	\$1,857			\$126		3544736	
69	Virginia Conference Expenses	\$250	\$250			\$0		3544805	
70	Total Synod Office	\$33,890	\$27,305			(\$6,585)			
71									
72	Grand Total	\$968,183	\$1,228,703			\$260,520			

Treasurer's Report									Schedule 4
Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, ELCA									
Status of Board Designated Funds									
Period Ending January 31, 2014									
Fund			Value		Value				MWDC
			2/1/2013		1/31/2014		Change		Acct #
		Bishop's Emergency Fund	\$ 6,562		\$ 862		(\$5,700)		4110002
		Capital Equipment Replacement Reserve	\$ 12,668		\$ 11,737		(\$931)		4110003
		Horizon Internship Reserve	\$ 8,000		\$ -		(\$8,000)		4110005
		Howard U. Internship Reserve	\$ 8,000		\$ -		(\$8,000)		4110006
		Youth Event Scholarship Fund	\$ 7,225		\$ 6,783		(\$442)		4110007
		Total - Board Designated Funds	<u>\$ 42,455</u>		<u>\$ 19,382</u>		<u>(\$23,072)</u>		

Treasurer's Report							Schedule 5
Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, ELCA							
Status of Permanent Restricted Funds							
Period Ending January 31, 2014							
Fund		Value	Value				MWDC
		2/1/2013	1/31/2014	Change			Acct #
Bethany Fund							
Long-Term							
	For PG County	\$ 358,497	\$ -	(\$358,497)			1013001
	For non-PG County	\$ 358,683	\$ 301,787	(\$56,895)			1012000
Faith Fund							
	Corpus	\$ 764,072	\$ 823,114	\$59,041			1640000
	Distribution Accounts						1640020
	Outreach	\$ 24,394	\$ 41,659	\$17,265			1640011
	Ministry	\$ 7,654	\$ 8,787	\$1,133			1640012
	Adjusted Corpus for 2013 = \$669,648						
Mission Endowment Trust							
	Corpus	\$ 403,826	\$ 426,765	\$22,939			1630000
	Distribution Account	\$ 14,191	\$ 22,603	\$8,412			1014001
Mission Development Trust							
	Corpus	\$ 60,752	\$ 60,793	\$41			1210000
	Distribution Account	\$ 39,738	\$ 8,580	(\$31,157)			1110000
Campus Ministry Trust							
	Corpus	\$ 14,140	\$ 14,140	\$0			1620000
	Distribution Account	\$ 12,704	\$ 12,953	\$248			1011002

2013 Faith Fund Report

Summary

The Faith Fund portfolio performed well in 2013. The total value of the Faith Fund as of 12/31/13 was \$887,807 compared to a closing value of \$774,515 at the end of 2012. For 2013, the value of the main portfolio, net of amounts transferred to the distribution accounts, gained 12.8%.

The Faith Fund comprises three accounts:

- The main investment portfolio,
- A distribution account for seminarian support; and,
- A distribution account for local missions

The investment portfolio is managed by Thrivent Investment Management. The portfolio is invested for the long term in a moderately aggressive mix of stocks (approx. 78%), fixed income securities (20%) and cash (2%). Each of the distribution accounts is invested in the Thrivent Money Market Mutual Fund.

As of 12/31/13, the values of the three components of the Faith Fund were as follows:

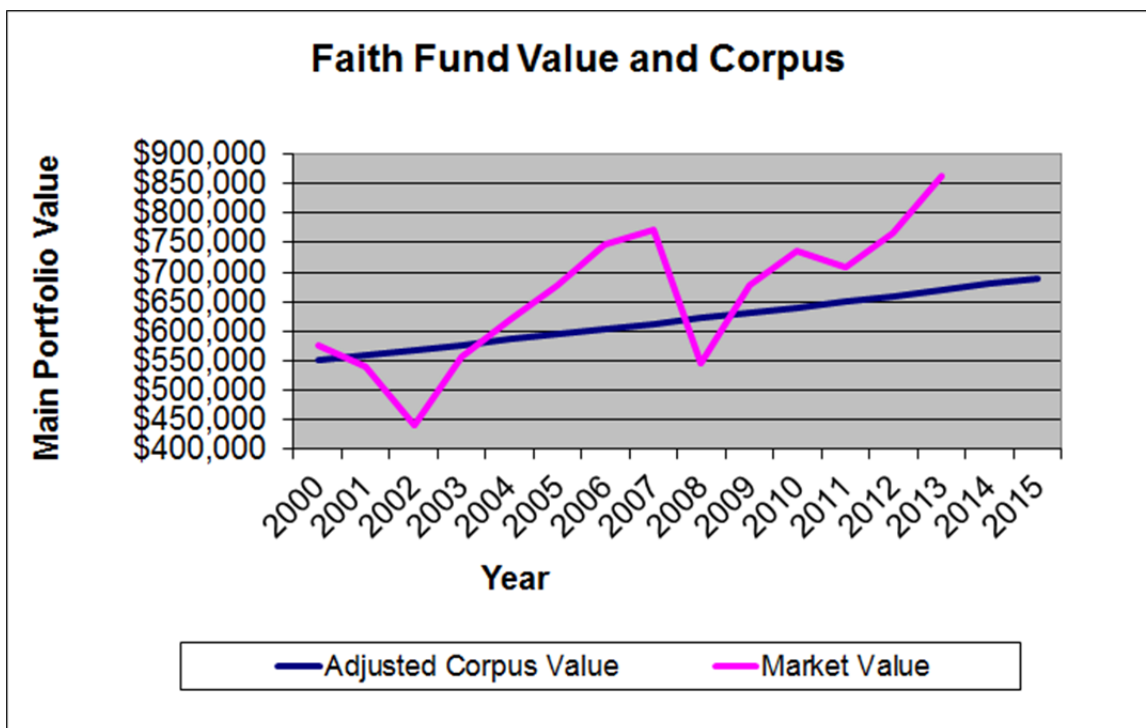
- Main investment portfolio = \$863,259
- Seminarian support distribution account = \$7,654 (pending the transfer out of \$7,500 to cover 2013 distributions)
- Local mission distribution account = \$24,394

Since the current Faith Fund Memorandum of Understanding was approved in December of 2006, a total of \$157,530 has been transferred to the distribution accounts. Since then, \$44,490 has been granted as financial aid to seminarians from the Faith Fund. \$65,000 has been granted to congregations of the synod from the Faith Fund.

Distribution Calculation

The Faith Fund MoU includes a calculation of the Adjusted Corpus of the fund. No annual distributions are made from the fund that would cause the balance of the main investment account to fall below the Adjusted Corpus amount.

The Adjusted Corpus amount as of 12/31/13 was \$669,648. Since 97% of the value of the main investment account was above the Adjusted Corpus, full distributions were made from the main investment account for 2013. The following chart shows the adjusted corpus amount and the year-end value of the main investment portfolio since the fund's inception in October, 2000.



In January 2014, two percent of the value of the investment portfolio was transferred to the distribution account for local missions. The amount transferred was \$17,265. One percent of the value of the investment portfolio was transferred to the distribution account for seminarian support. The amount transferred was \$8,633.

2013 Activity

During 2013, Synod Council did not approve any grants from the Faith Fund to assist with the building programs. After all transfers were completed, the distribution account for local missions held \$41,659.

During fiscal year 2013, \$7,500 in financial aid was granted to seminarians from the Faith Fund. \$7,500 was transferred from the distribution account to cover this expense prior to the end of fiscal 2013. After pending transfers in and out, the distribution account for seminarian support held \$8,787.

John Handley

Treasurer, Metropolitan Washington DC Synod

Financial Advisor to the Faith Fund Management Committee

FY2013 Metropolitan Washington DC Synod Summary of Benevolence and Other Giving by Congregation

		2012 Actual	2013 Intent		2013 Actual	Other
MWDC	Congregation Name	Benevolence	%	\$	Benevolence	Giving
DC CONFERENCE						
100	Augustana Lutheran Church	\$37,400	11%	\$44,000	\$47,500	\$2,335
105	Christ Lutheran Church	\$9,167		\$10,000	\$9,583	
110	Community of Christ Lutheran	\$900			\$900	\$1,540
115	First Trinity Lutheran Church	\$17,000		\$17,000	\$17,000	\$3,410
120	Georgetown Lutheran Church	\$4,500			\$6,000	
125	Grace Lutheran Church	\$3,188			\$1,000	\$370
130	Holy Comforter Lutheran Church			\$200	\$400	\$1,010
135	Luther Place Memorial Church	\$20,175			\$22,100	\$1,620
137	Oromo Evangelical Church	\$3,000			\$2,000	
138	Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church				\$500	
140	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	\$1,680		\$2,500	\$838	
145	Peace Lutheran Church	\$14,500	10%		\$13,691	
150	Reformation Lutheran Church	\$17,000		\$25,000	\$23,359	\$1,270
155	St. Matthew Lutheran Church	\$15,000			\$3,000	
160	St. Paul's Lutheran Church	\$68,002		\$68,500	\$68,500	\$5,785
DC CONFERENCE TOTALS		\$211,511		\$167,200	\$216,372	\$17,340

MARYLAND CONFERENCE						
200	Abiding Presence Lutheran Church	\$5,775		\$6,000	\$6,000	\$670
205	All Saints Lutheran Church	\$36,195		\$35,398	\$25,846	\$4,275
220	Good Samaritan Lutheran Church (Lanham)	\$550			\$805	
221	Good Samaritan Lutheran Church (Lexington Park)	\$11,503	3%		\$6,469	
225	Grace Lutheran Church (Bowie)	\$12,645	10%		\$12,015	\$5,598
230	Grace Lutheran Church (Fort Washington)	\$12,470			\$12,000	\$3,438
235	Hope Lutheran Church (Clinton)	\$11,442			\$12,824	
240	Hope Lutheran Church (College Park)	\$11,394		\$9,750	\$10,440	\$955
245	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church	\$400			\$0	\$0
250	Peace Lutheran Church	\$35,000		\$35,000	\$32,083	
255	St. John Lutheran Church (Riverdale)	\$3,477			\$3,528	\$100
260	St. Michael's Truth Lutheran Church	\$3,000		\$4,000	\$4,000	\$585
265	St. Nicholas Lutheran Church	\$9,650		\$10,200	\$8,500	\$510
270	Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (Takoma Park)	\$3,000			\$3,500	\$950
MARYLAND CONFERENCE TOTALS		\$156,501		\$100,348	\$138,011	\$17,081

MONTGOMERY CONFERENCE						
300	Christ Lutheran Church (Bethesda)	\$11,833			\$11,000	
305	Christ the Servant Lutheran Church (Mont. Village)	\$17,685	8%	\$12,094	\$12,094	\$3,334
310	Living Faith Lutheran Church	\$12,600		\$11,750	\$12,225	\$20
315	Emmanuel Lutheran Church (Bethesda)	\$34,258		\$35,311	\$26,971	\$5,417
320	Epiphany Lutheran Church (Burtonsville)	\$6,000		\$6,000	\$6,500	\$1,295
325	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Gaithersburg)	\$63,000	6%	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$10,093
330	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church	\$23,835		\$22,075	\$18,396	
336	Oromo Resurrection (Kensington)	\$1,000			\$1,000	
340	St. John Lutheran Church (Rockville)	\$5,614	2%		\$5,389	\$3,941
345	St. Luke's Lutheran Church (Derwood)	\$400			\$3,963	
350	St. Luke Lutheran Church (Silver Spring)	\$164,320	16%	\$164,000	\$152,497	\$30,949
355	St. Stephen Lutheran Church	\$11,470		\$12,000	\$10,440	\$9,625
360	Trinity Evangelical Lutheran	\$38,000		\$42,000	\$42,000	\$28,449
708	La Sagrada Familia	\$1,692			\$931	
709	In Christ Fellowship					\$100
MONTGOMERY CONFERENCE TOTALS		\$391,707		\$380,230	\$378,405	\$93,224

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE						
400	Christ the King Lutheran Church	\$31,800		\$33,000	\$32,290	\$85
401	Bethel Lutheran Church (Lovettsville)	\$800		\$800	\$667	\$175

FY2013 Metropolitan Washington DC Synod Summary of Benevolence and Other Giving by Congregation

MWDC	Congregation Name	2012 Actual	2013 Intent		2013 Actual	Other Giving
		Benevolence	%	\$	Benevolence	
405	Christ the Servant Lutheran Church (Reston)	\$10,255		\$11,000	\$11,000	\$5,516
410	Community Lutheran Church	\$55,179		\$22,508	\$28,657	\$13,253
415	Emmanuel Lutheran Church (Vienna)	\$77,919		\$81,204	\$77,499	\$31,733
420	Holy Cross Lutheran Church	\$15,000		\$18,000	\$6,250	
430	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Leesburg)	\$1,106		\$15,000	\$1,316	
435	King of Kings Lutheran Church	\$80,711	10%	\$72,000	\$71,568	\$5,425
440	New Jerusalem Lutheran Church	\$11,961	8%	\$13,992	\$12,466	\$2,260
445	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer	\$48,613		\$50,000	\$52,000	\$750
450	St. Andrew Lutheran Church	\$50,400			\$50,400	\$1,520
455	Zion Lutheran Church (Lovettsville)	\$4,508		\$4,600	\$4,609	\$1,143
VIRGINIA CONFERENCE TOTALS		\$388,252		\$322,104	\$348,722	\$61,859

FAIRFAX CONFERENCE						
500	Lutheran Church of the Abiding Presence (Burke)	\$65,095		\$58,408	\$54,541	\$3,564
505	Bethel Lutheran Church (Manassas)	\$28,820		\$8,500	\$8,625	\$2,555
510	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	\$20,000		\$15,000	\$15,000	\$3,913
520	Christ Lutheran Church (Fairfax)	\$29,546		\$29,000	\$35,000	\$3,385
525	River of Grace (Christus Victor) Lutheran Church	\$9,500	10%	\$14,000	\$12,865	\$220
530	Lutheran Church of the Covenant	\$10,500		\$10,500	\$10,500	
535	Epiphany Lutheran Church (Dale City)	\$5,703	4%	\$5,083	\$5,021	
540	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Woodbridge)	\$11,977	4%	\$10,900	\$11,656	\$6,419
545	Lord of Life Lutheran Church	\$63,000		\$64,000	\$64,000	
550	St. Mark's Lutheran Church	\$54,860		\$40,000	\$40,000	\$22,216
555	St. Matthew Lutheran Church	\$123,417		\$128,000	\$128,129	\$22,917
560	Shepherd of the Hills Church	\$16,249	10%		\$28,782	
FAIRFAX CONFERENCE TOTALS		\$438,667		\$383,391	\$414,119	\$65,189

POTOMAC CONFERENCE						
600	Advent Lutheran Church	\$15,277	9%	\$14,745	\$14,726	\$4,083
605	Epiphany Lutheran Church (Alexandria)	\$1,350		\$5,000	\$5,100	\$171
610	Faith Lutheran Church	\$24,000		\$24,000	\$24,000	\$1,500
615	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Alexandria)	\$42,862	11%	\$40,000	\$39,162	\$5,607
620	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Falls Church)	\$14,014			\$18,847	\$8,176
625	Hope Lutheran Church (Annandale)	\$31,324	10%	\$28,000	\$27,198	\$580
630	Messiah Lutheran Church		5%	\$6,500	\$500	\$460
635	Nativity Lutheran Church	\$1,256			\$1,194	\$1,662
640	Peace Lutheran Church (Alexandria)	\$33,125		\$34,500	\$34,375	\$3,995
645	Resurrection Lutheran Church (Arlington)	\$66,889	10%	\$61,733	\$56,691	\$5,890
POTOMAC CONFERENCE TOTALS		\$230,097		\$214,478	\$221,794	\$32,123

MWDC TOTALS		\$1,816,736		\$1,567,751	\$1,717,421	\$286,816
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Report of the “New and Renewing Congregational Mission Table”

The Mission of the New and Renewing Mission Table is:

To encourage all the baptized of the Metro DC Synod to see themselves as disciples and missionaries for the renewal of the church and to live into Jesus’ Great Commission, “Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them....” (Matthew 28:19-20), and,

To work with Mission Planners, Full Communion, ecumenical partners, pastors, lay leaders, all people of faith and good will to envision and plan for new missions in our Synod, and to work with existing congregations and ministries to make disciples in the places where we live and serve. By the grace of God and through your mission support we celebrate the following:

Two congregations under development (see the note in Pastor Hirsch’s Report about more to come)

+ **River of Grace Lutheran Church**, Dumfries VA Our newest mission in Dumfries, VA. (re-start of Christus Victor that closed) The Rev. Connie Thomson, Pastor Developer
2014 Funds: \$30,000 from ELCA, + \$20,000 from Metro DC Synod Budget, + \$47,000 Bethany Funds + \$6,000 from Metro 200 Funds.

+ **In Christ Fellowship** of Washington, DC is a Tamil (Indian) Congregation that meets at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bethesda. They celebrated one year as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community with 178 people in worship and are on schedule to be received as a congregation by 2015. The Rev. Chandran Lite, Pastor. 2014 Funds: \$15,000 from the ELCA, + \$15,000 from Metro DC Synod (Mission Fund)

Two worshipping communities are supported as a part of existing congregations

+ **San Marcos / St. Mark’s**, Springfield, VA A thriving Latino community as a part of an established congregation. Pastor in transition. 2014 Funds: \$15,000 from Metro DC Synod Budget

+ **Santa Maria / Augustana**, Washington, DC. A Latino ministry that is a part of an established congregation and serves people near and further away from the Church. The Rev. John Kidd
2014 Funds: \$7,500 from the ELCA, + \$10,000 from Metro DC Synod Budget

Three New Congregations Continue to Grow!

+ **Oromo Resurrection Evangelical Church** of Kensington, MD The newest congregation in our Synod. Organized in 2012, they are quickly out growing the building that was donated to them by an ELCA congregation that closed. The Rev. Teka Fogi, Pastor. 2014 Funds: \$22,000 from the ELCA, + \$4,000 from Metro DC Synod Budget

+ **The Oromo Evangelical Church** of Washington, DC. A congregation of Ethiopians who are ethnically and linguistically Oromo. Under development for almost 20 years, they still receive financial support from the Synod and ELCA. They are in the call process. 2014 Funds: \$30,000 from the ELCA, + \$9,000 from Metro DC Synod Budget,

+ **The Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church** was established in 2013, they are worshipping at Grace Lutheran in Washington and seeking mission support and are in process of calling a pastor.

Two Ventures to Reach Young Adults are Supported!

+ **Signs of God** is a newly proposed mission “test study” in the H Street area of NE Washington that would reach out to young adults who are deaf. Marquita Jones, leader. Funds for 2014 \$15,000 ELCA

+ **University of Maryland:** The Synod is providing a ministry grant for a new 3 year initiative to reach young adults on and off campus to began in the fall of 2013. Learnings will be shared with congregations.

Congregations on the Journey Complete a Second Year of Gatherings

The Synod has Created “**The Journey:**” Now 2 years into a 3 year program involving over 30 congregations led by Pastor Chris Nelson on a variety of topics related to growth and effectiveness in congregations. (See the Rev. Amy Thompson Sevimli’s Report) Up to \$40,000 from the Bethany Funds

A Redevelopment has Begun.

Good Samaritan Lutheran Church, Latham MD is the first “official” redevelopment in our Synod in many years. Pastor Gloria Cline-Smythe has begun a three year effort on Jan 1, 2014.
2014 Funds: Metro DC Budget: \$10,000 Bethany Funds: \$90,500

Go Grants are like Venture Capital for Congregations to Try New Things!

The Synod offers grants to congregations that want to try something new in reaching out to their neighbors. In the last three years these...

- + **Luther Place** in Washington was able to do outreach to young adults in the Arts Community.
- + **Epiphany,** Burtonsville sponsored an outreach conference and received coaching for mission.
- + **King of Kings** in Fairfax began a project to reach out to families with children who have disabilities and invite them to worship.

In Transition

+ **La Sagrada Familia,** Langley Park MD Though a thriving ministry, it was not developing into a new congregation. At this assembly, the Mission Spending Plan proposal is to support this ministry in a new way. They will continue to do mission among Latinos from El Salvador living in one of the poorest communities in our region. The Rev. Rosario Hernandez Cruz, Pastor Developer
2014 Funds: \$23,000 from ELCA, + \$25,000 from Metro DC Synod Budget + \$10,000 from Bethany Funds

+ **The Amharic Community at Peace,** Alexandria, VA. Has voted to leave Peace Lutheran Church and the ELCA and has begun its own independent ministry.

When we realize that the call of the Gospel compels us to respond to Jesus’ Great Commission the New and Renewing Mission Table is ready to be a partner in the dialogue. **Members of the Mission Table: Mr. Wendell Anderson, Rev. Dave Bohannon, Rev. Steven Buechler, Rev. Mark Olsen, Rev. Gary Rhinesmith, Rev. Margrethe Kleiber, Rev. Dr. Carmelo Santos, Rev. Dr. Phil Hirsch (Director Evangelical Outreach and Stewardship)**

Respectfully submitted: Rev. Dr. Joseph M. Vought, Chair

2013 GLOBAL MISSION REPORT

Enabling the congregations of the Metro Washington, D.C. Synod to proclaim Jesus Christ throughout the world is the focus of efforts by the Global Mission Committee. This is done through strengthening Companion Synod relationship, advocacy for peace in the Middle East, supporting Missionaries, forming Sister Congregations, offering Gifts of Hope and caring for people in need worldwide.

Companion Synods

A. Namibia – Mark Victorson & Kathy Tobias, Co-Chair

1. Companion Synods Consultation in Chicago – November 11-12, 2013

- ELCA Staff – Rev. Benyam Kassahun, Area Director, Southern Africa & Rev. Barbara Berry-Bailey in charge of programs for Eastern and Southern Africa.
- Northeastern Iowa and DC Metro Synods attended along with Ann Sponberg Peterson of Luther College. Southwest Washington and New Jersey Synods did not have representatives present.
- Bishop Ernest // Gamxamub replaced the retiring Bishop Kameeta as Bishop of the ELCRN during a consecration ceremony on November 3, 2013, attended by about 2000 people, to include Rev. Dr. Philip Knutson, ELCA Global Mission. In the ELCIN Bishop Shanghala of the western diocese is retiring, Bishop Lambala in the East is remaining. Bishop Hertel of the German Synod is also retiring.
- The Namibian church's resources continue to be limited, and the Paulinum Seminary is struggling financially. I do have good news about the hostels, which I'll impart shortly.
- We discussed strategies for making the Companion Synod Network effective in a period of austere budgets. The ELCA staff advised that we place the emphasis on Church family-to-Church family relations, rather than on sister parish relations, which tend to reward the individual Namibian parishes with connections to sister American parishes. Sister parishes might wish to practice reciprocal prayers on topics exchanged between the parishes.
- We agreed to a series of quarterly telephone conferences to augment the annual meetings.

2. Missionary Pastor 2014

- We began discussion on the possibility of support of the visit of a Namibian missionary pastor to our synods this year.
- Rev. Rhea Evanson, Chair of the Northeastern Iowa Synod's Companion Synod Committee, volunteered to be the coordinator for the visit.

- Upon returning home, I combed Pastor Lowell Knauff's files for information and provided to Rev. Evanson an itemized listing of expenses for the visit of two pastors in 2011 and the letter of instruction Lowell sent to one of the pastors laying out the ground rules and the itinerary for the trip. Whether we will have the time and the funds to put together a mission visit this year remains to be seen.

3. Children's Hostels

- Thanks to Pastor Allard, I once again had the honor of receiving a \$1,700 donation to Friends of Namibian Children from the Woodbridge Rotary Club.
- For Janet Wenk, President and Founder, FNC, I reported to the Rotarians:
 - Through FNC's partnership with Hope4Kids International, 117 children in two hostels are now sponsored and communicating with American families and 34 volunteers traveled to Namibia on two mission trips to repair bathrooms and do other work in the two hostels.
 - 271,000 meals for the children in all the 19 youth hostels were sent in the form of Manna Paks from Feed My Starving Children, while FNC paid \$11,000 from generous donations to ship the container. This shipment arrived in mid-November and will provide each child with one nutritious meal each day for 6 months.
 - In 2013 FNC sent \$7,000 in support to the hostels and will soon forward another \$5,000 from donations received this year. It has also collected \$3,085 in support of the "Grow the Gardens" efforts to establish a garden at each hostel. These gardens will provide the children fresh vegetables and will enable them to sell produce for income for the hostels.
 - The Namibian government's Ministry of Education has provided a new stipend amount, which raises the support for hostel children to a daily allowance almost double from their previous allowance. Hostels will now receive N\$22 per pupil – a N\$10 increase from the current N\$12 per head allocated to each pupil.

4. Lutheran World Federation Gather in Namibia 2017

- 2015 – There will be celebrations of the first Christian missions in Tanzania.
- 2017 – Lutheran World Federation will meet in Namibia.

5. Sister Congregations

Abiding Presence, Burke, VA Onayena (ELCIN)

Christ the King, Great Falls, VA Xhorixas (ELCRN)

Community, Sterling, VA	Swakopmund (ELCRN)
Covenant, Woodbridge, VA	Oshikali (ELCIN)
Emmanuel, Bethesda, MD	Onemanya (ELCRN)
Emmanuel, Vienna, VA	Soweto (ELCIN)
Faith, Arlington, VA	Immanuel Keetmamshoop (ELCRN)
Good Shepherd, Alexandria, VA	Onaingalo (ELCIN)
Holy Cross, Herndon, VA	Olulongo (ELCIN)
Holy Trinity, Falls Church, VA	Oshakatti (ELCIN)
Hope, Annandale, VA	Ongwadiva (ELCIN)
Hope, College Park, MD	Olupandu (ELCIN)
King of Kings, Fairfax, VA	Ondobe (ELCIN) Paulus, Rehobeth (ELCRN)
Our Redeemer, Washington, DC	Eengolo (ELCIN)
Peace, Waldorf, MD	Epembe (ELCIN)
Reformation, Washington, DC	Martin Luther Komasdahl (ELCRN) Cluistus Kriche (DELK)
St. Andrew, Centreville, VA	Oniipa (ELCIN)
St. Luke, Silver Spring, MD	Mupini Parish
St. Johns, Rockville, MD	Ohaanda (ELCIN)
St. Matthews, Woodbridge, VA	Okahao (ELCIN)

B. El Salvador – Jane Hanlon & Kelly Baugh, Co-Chair

ON GOING

Gifts of Hope:

- The Endowment Fund continued as an option for Gift's of Hope; additionally, an opportunity to give towards food/milk was again provided. Final numbers are not yet available.

Mission Trip:

- A group of 13 people traveled to El Salvador from King of Kings in Fairfax (the Hirsch family, Phuong Robinson, Jane Hanlon, Kelly & John Baugh, and the Akey family). They participated in the Savior of the World celebration and march, and spent time building a relationship with their sister parish, Nueva Esperanza.
- Plans are in the works for synod delegation trip for August 2-11, 2014.

Pastor Visitation to US

- **June – Pastor Norma Castillo:** Norma visited Emmanuel, King of Kings, St. Marks (San Marcos), Augustana (Santa Maria) and Rosario Hernandez' ministry in Takoma Park. Phil Loar, Norma and Kelly Baugh visited community members with Rosario in the public housing in Takoma Park. It was a moving experience for all. Norma stayed with John Kidd for three nights, with Marion McInturff for several nights and with Kelly Baugh for two nights. She was able to visit LIRS, Luther Place, N Street Village, etc. She worshipped with the Latino congregations and strengthened the committee's ties with those congregations.
- **November - Pastor Wilma Rodriguez:** A week in Gettysburg and a day of worship at King of Kings.
- **January – Bishop Gomez:** Plans were made in December for a January visit from Bishop Gomez (see attached schedule)

Companion Synod Sunday

- Pastor Margrethe Klieber has developed materials for use on Sunday, January 26. The materials were e-mailed out to pastors. Additionally, a message from Bishop Gomez is being video taped on Sunday, January 19 and will be placed on the ELCA Washington web page to be available for the Sunday services on the 26th.

Encuentro

- Phil Hirsch attended the meeting in Bogota, Columbia.

Welcoming Congregations Initiative: Skype Call on Oct. 21

- Report on Skype call with Mary Campbell and reps from other synods to discuss welcoming migrants to church:

Skype Call with Mary Campbell – October 21, 2013**Topic: Organizing “Welcoming Congregations’ for Migrants within Synods...Laying the Groundwork**

Call members: Ruth Cruddas (Sierra Pacific), Alexis Salvatierra (special assistant to the bishop, Southwest California Synod), Marion McInturff (DC Metro Synod), Mary Campbell (ELC, Milwaukee), Anna Kari-Johnson, Maria Paiva

Southwest California synod has been working on this project for 9 months

- Developed a letter of introduction to congregations with guide book which includes names of welcoming churches and the services they provide
- Churches meet once/quarter for fellowship and support
- Target: Progressive and suburban churches which have not been involved with immigrant populations
- Synod council on this topic must do the following to present an aggressive outreach:
 - Identify key resources
 - Prepare an information packet
 - Visit church councils
 - Connect with a sister church

The process started when Bishop Gomez met with Latino congregations with immigrations as the focus. Then they steps were/are:

- Identify congregations that might be interested in becoming a Welcoming Congregation
- Bishop speaks about El Salvador at synod assembly/show Powerpoint presentation
- Synod task force divides congregations into subgroups and meets with interested people from those congregations
- At first meeting determine: The Vision, Immigrant needs, Obstacles, Needs of congregations
- Interesting Data: 300 people leave El Salvador every day for the U.S.

Speaking to congregations:

- Pair of synod task force members come with an introduction – one immigrant/one non-immigrant
- At least one person in a congregation needs to speak Spanish and be willing to publish his/her phone number as a contact person
- Be able to inform migrants about health, legal, and pastoral care in the area (booklet form)
- Synods need to form a task force to implement the process in order to make the November 2012 Bishops' Agreement a reality.

El Salvador to be the pilot focus for this initiative. Other countries will follow. Guidebook must be created by small group of congregations. (Watsonville, CA, now has a sister-city with El Salvador)

There is a legal right to help undocumented people.

Regional Goal: build immigrant/non-immigrant congregational relationships

An exchange of passion and hope

Ultimate goal: Deal with public policy

Because the Earth is God's Creation, no one in any part of the world is illegal

As Bishops, Pastors and Lay Leaders from four Synods (Greater Milwaukee, Southwest California, Sierra Pacific and the Sinodo Luterano Salvadoreno), we met the 9th and 10th of November in the city of San Salvador and reflected biblically and theologically on our common concern for the impact of the migration of Salvadoran citizens to the United States.

- We recognize that the theme of migration between our nations is complex, transcending the pastoral and diaconal work that we do in the churches. Regardless, we are called to reflect profoundly, ethically, morally, spiritually and pastorally, seeking alternative responses to the great needs of this sector.
- We recognize the intense efforts that others have made in this area, and the accomplishments that they have achieved in the arenas of organization and the respect for the urgency of the situation. However, much more is required in order to overcome the serious problems experienced by migrants before, during, and after they reach their destination. Our role needs to include orientation, accompaniment, education and the demand for holistic justice.
- We are sure that the problem of migration has its roots in the lack of real opportunities in the areas of employment, education, security and recreation that are aggravated by the poverty, misery and marginalization that characterizes the migrants' countries of origin and that requires them to immigrate to the United States and other countries seeking the "American Dream", too often at the cost of their own lives and their families, and saddest of all, without the certainty that they will achieve their goal.
- For this reason, we have come together in El Salvador, under the theme: "Because the earth is God's creation, no one in any part of the world is illegal, in order to:
 1. Create a Migrant Pastoral Ministry between the participating Synod that would take various actions, including the development of a Guide and workshops for those who are considering migration as well as the churches that will need to welcome them, and to educate all the congregations with the goal of enabling them to do the same.
 2. Advocate for public policies that benefit potential immigrants in their countries of origin, as well as in the United States, such as immigration reform.
 3. Develop and promote projects and services that benefit the economy and the people.
 4. Strengthen the Endowment Fund for Mission for El Salvador.

2012 Encuentro

C. Slovakia – Rosemary Burton, Chair

Gifts of Hope

This Year's Gift Listing:

Church refurbishing 100

Many congregations in the mountainous Tornaľa area, served by the **Lutheran Church of Slovakia**, face difficult economic conditions and limited electricity, so church contents are deteriorating. This Gift will help congregations replace and repair worship space – providing for chairs, lighting, and heat – bringing comfort into a spiritual place.

Money sent for last two year's gifts occurred in October 2013 for the amount of \$3,896.14. The thank you letter from Bishop Klatik was received.

Wittenberg Study Trip

A collaborative church study trip had been planned in July of 2013 to go to Wittenberg to study a section of the writings of Martin Luther. It would have been combined with an exploration of the important sites in Wittenberg that are so important to the early Lutheran church. This trip was cancelled due to lack of sufficient registrations on the American side. Fifteen Slovak participants were registered as well as five American participants. All prospective registrants were notified and applicable registration fees were returned. The committee is still looking into a possible rescheduling of the trip.

Youth Service Project

A young 15 year old lady and her father, Paul Wengert, requested a church contact in Slovakia. They reached out to me through their Pastor, Yvette Schock, to help them connect with someone from the Lutheran Church in Slovakia. The young lady, Kelsey Wengert, was interested in doing a service project in connection with the Girl Scouts. They attend Faith Lutheran Church in Arlington. I met with them at their church and provided them with a powerpoint presentation on the Church in Slovakia. I then contacted Bishop Klatik's liaison, Matus Kopca, who arranged for her to get into contact with chaplains Dano and Tatiana Benuch who run a youth ministry in Slovakia.

Plans for Early Childhood Education Information Exchange

A proposal was written to begin an initiative that would connect early childhood education teachers working in church programs in Slovakia with their counterparts in the Washington, DC Metro area. Approval is being

sought from both Bishops. This initiative would involve a sharing of e-mails, pictures, videos, and children's work between programs. The hope is that an opportunity for American teachers would eventually visit their counterparts in Slovakia and share teaching strategies and other mutual experiences in their work to educate young children.

Middle East Working Group – Nathan Rich, Chair

- In FY2013 the MEWG met in person Feb. 10, April 3 and Jan. 26
- June 7-17 – A group of young adults from Metro DC Synod traveled to the Holy Land to “walk with” Christians living there. This trip was led by Karin Brown and Ray Ranker.
- June 21 – At the metro DC Synod Assembly, MEWG sponsored a resolution called ACCOMPANIMENT, AWARENESS-RAISING, & ADVOCACY FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE HOLY LAND which was passed. Rev. Phil Anderson was the voting member sponsor. Anne Lipe represented MEWG with a table and materials at 2013 synod assembly (\$150)
- Summer – Jean Martensen and Anne Lipe conducted a survey of congregational leaders from the Montgomery Conference (9 of 13 congregations) on attitudes toward and knowledge of Peace Not Walls and the Israel/Palestine situation.
- Sept. 13 – MEWG hosted dinner and conversation at First Trinity – DC with synod young adults who went on Holy Land trip in June 2013. About 25 attended (14 YA, 11 MEWG) (\$127)
- Nov. 8-10 – Conference “Waging Peace in Palestine & Israel” @ Calvary Baptist Church, featuring Rev. Mitri Raheb, was sponsored by the Alliance of Baptists Justice in Palestine & Israel Community. John Scheffler attended.
- Nov. 9 – Meeting with Mitri Raheb to discuss investment in Palestine. Present: Mitri Raheb, Beth Nelson Chase (Vice President, Bright Stars of Bethlehem), Phil Anderson, Karin Brown, Michael Wilker, Kathy Tobias, Paul Verduin, Russ Siler, Paul Wee, Bob Francis. Avenues to pursue include ELCJHL, Oikocredit, example of Presbyterian Foundation/PCUSA.
- Dec. 21 – 7th annual Bethlehem simulcast service with Christmas Lutheran Church at Washington National Cathedral – Bishop Graham participated.
- Jan. 2014 – Purchased 10 copies of Zionism Unsettled: A Congregational Study Guide for use by synod congregations (\$88)
- MEWG is supporting boycott of Sodastream beverage carbonation products because they are manufactured in an illegal settlement in the West Bank. https://www.kairoresponse.org/Sodastream_Boycott.html. The DC Chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace is leading this initiative in our area.
- The MEWG is continuing to evaluate appropriate use for the Dora Johnson Memorial Fund of the synod.
- Participants included Paul Verduin, Anne Lipe, Jean Martensen, Jarrod Jabre, Nathan Rich, Bishop Graham, Karin Brown, Rev. Ray Ranker, Kathy Tobias, Rev. Michael Wilker, Rev. Paul Wee, Rev. Phil and Mavis Anderson, Rev. Mike Gutzler, Laurin-Whitney Gottbrath, Rev. Tom Knoll

Malaria Campaign – Dorothy Sorrell, Chair

The ELCA Malaria Campaign has received contributions of more than \$11 million, and the Metro DC Synod has contributed almost \$290,000 of that total (3/1/14). The ELCA has been able to increase its outreach because of these contributions, and is now working with thirteen Lutheran church companions to carry out work in Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia (Metro DC Companion Synod), Nigeria, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Lutheran churches in Africa are centers of community life, and the ELCA has long supported health care through these Lutheran church bodies. The focus of the Malaria Campaign is in education, prevention and treatment. Results to date include:

- **9,227** church leaders, program staff, health workers, community leaders and volunteers trained in malaria prevention and control
- **1,912,445** people reached through malaria programming
- **8,108** workshop or educational sessions held
- **22,056** nets distributed
- **60,788** educational pamphlets distributed
- **80** bicycles and bicycle ambulances distributed to community volunteers
- **100,304** people tested for malaria
- **19,336** people treated for malaria
- **32,179** pregnant women received pre-natal malaria care
- **4,429** people participated in community-based savings and self-help groups
- **\$107,311** in US dollars mobilized through community-based savings and self-help groups

The ELCA has produced many excellent resources regarding this work and ideas for congregations to promote awareness of the Malaria Campaign. The website is www.elca.org.malaria. Latest resources include a World Malaria Day Toolkit and Vacation Bible School Curriculum, both of which can be adapted for use at any time during the year.

Locally contact Dorothy J. Sorrell, Metro DC Synod Malaria Campaign Coordinator, for information about malaria resources and/or assistance with a Malaria Campaign in your congregation. djsorrell1@verizon.net or (703) 591-2236.

Gifts of Hope

- **Namibia**

Healthy Livestock (ELCIN)	\$5,419.74
Drip Irrigation System (ELCRN)	4,873.50
Book for Namibian Seminary Library	3,441.18

- **El Salvador**

Salary Support for Pastor	\$1,791.05
Food for a Family	3,256.34

- **Slovakia**

Church Refurbishing		\$4,685.00
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Missionary Support

St. Luke Silver Spring, MD	Stephen Deal	\$2,500.00
Trinity North Bethesda, MD	Stephen Deal	\$2,000.00
Trinity North Bethesda, MD	Andrew & Barbara Hinderlie	\$2,000.00
King of Kings Fairfax, VA	Stephen Deal	\$1,000.00
All Saints Bowie, MD	Stephen Deal	\$1,500.00
Good Shepherd Alexandria, VA	Stephen Deal	\$2,000.00
Grace Bowie, MD	Stephen Deal & Marta Giron	\$1,500.00
Holy Trinity Falls Church, VA	Stephen Deal	\$4,000.00
First Trinity Washington, DC	Stephen Deal	\$1,000.00
St. Nicholas Huntingtown, MD	Phil Knutson	\$1,500.00
St. Stephen Silver Spring, MD	Stephen Deal	\$200.00

Metro D.C. Synod Global Mission Committee

Pastor Bob Allard, Chair, Global Mission Committee
 Barbara O'Keefe, Secretary
 Rosemary Burton, Chair, Slovakia Companion Synod Task Force

Mark Victorson & Kathy Tobias, Co-Chair, Namibia Companion Synod Task Force
Jane Hanlon & Kelly Baugh, Co-Chair, El Salvador Companion Synod Task Force
Nathan Rich, Chair, Middle East Working Group
Dorothy Sorrell, Chair, Malaria Campaign

Phil Anderson
Ann Foltz
Rhoda Kluge
Barbara Plotter
Ruth Manchester
Paul Wee

OFFICE FOR ECUMENICAL AFFAIRS REPORT TO SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2013 - 2014

Chair: Thomas A. Prinz

The Office for Ecumenical Affairs is a unit of the synod charged with consulting with the bishop, as the chief ecumenical officer of the synod, maintaining synodical grants to ecumenical agencies and representing the bishop when requested. It also sustains both ecumenical and interreligious conversations on behalf of the synod and prepares itself through joint study and cooperation to assist congregations and clergy in their study and cooperation with persons and communities of faith within and beyond the Christian family.

Since the inception of the ELCA the Metro Synod has supported the work of the Interfaith Conference of Washington. We congratulate the Rev. Clark Lobenstine, founding director of the IFC, on his retirement this June. The OEA also oversees funding for the Virginia Council of Churches, which maintains an active Faith and Order committee and also a number of social advocacy and direct ministries to vulnerable populations in the Commonwealth. We are represented in this work by Mr. Thomas Van Poole on the Executive Board as well as by Bishop Graham. Another much smaller grant is made annually to the Virginia LARCUM conference (Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Anglican and United Methodist judicatories) all signatories to the Virginia Covenant of 1992. This last November the LARCUM Conference was held in Winchester, VA on the final of a three year assessment of Vatican II. The presenter was the Rt. Rev. Frank T. Griswold, former Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. The chair for this conference was the Rev. Thomas Prinz.

Each year the OEA promotes observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the middle of January. Observances and services are held throughout the region under various sponsorships. The OEA is directly involved in planning a vesper service each year in Northern Virginia led by the bishops of the LARCUM judicatories.

The longest running dialogue has been the Lutheran-Roman Catholic conversation that traces its origin to the time of the Vatican II Council. It has been in continuous existence since 1965. The group has of course changed personnel over the years but continues to study together the steady stream of agreements and documents from the international and national dialogue groups. Presently the Lutheran-Roman Catholic conversation has focused on the international common statement entitled From Conflict to Communion. This document in wonderfully jargon proof language rehearses the significant convergence of agreements, notes points of continued conversation and encourages a strong ecumenical commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. Congregations and groups of clergy and laity will find this a solid resource to support conversation among Lutherans and Roman Catholics.

The other longstanding conversation is the Lutheran/Episcopal Coordinating Committee (LECC). Formed in 1996, even before the full communion agreement of 1999, the committee has met continuously

averaging five to six times a year. Often active in planning joint events with the Episcopal Dioceses of Washington and the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia the committee also assisted in the preparation of two pastoral letters issued jointly by the bishops of the judicatories. The committee has sponsored in the past bi-annual joint meetings of the bishops and has both studied important documents issued by the churches, e.g., topics have included lay presidency of the Eucharist, Baptism, the diaconate and various full communion proposals of the two churches and material from the international and national LECC entities, as well as promoted college and military chaplaincy and joint congregational projects including an ongoing consultation on supporting leadership and laity in challenged situations. The chair of OEA serves as co-chair of this group.

As we approach the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation the committee has entered into active conversation with our local Roman Catholic and Episcopalian partners to find ways to commemorate the occasion in an ecumenically responsible and informed way.

Through its members the OEA has attended the North American Academy of Ecumenists (NAAE), National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU), Center for Evangelical and Catholic Theology (CCET) Annual Conference at Loyola University in Baltimore and occasional conferences such as one on the Council of Trent held at Georgetown University last fall. The chair of the committee serves on the Lutheran Ecumenical Representatives Network (LERN) coordinating committee which holds monthly conference calls and meets annually at the NWCU. We have participated in the production of a series of videos for congregational use on basic ecumenical topics and are involved on the Board of Trustees of the Washington Theological Consortium (WTC). This listing represents not things done but serious and deepening relationships with committee people in Christian communions both locally and beyond.

As has become the practice in the ELCA at the national and synodical level the OEA also has responsibility for inter-faith relations. We have a strong and mature relationship with the local unit of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) interfaith office. The committee has a less regular relationship with various Muslim groups, this being governed by the diffuse and diverse nature of the Muslim community. Through the IFC the synod maintains contact and relationships with a wide variety of faith communities in the Washington region.

For nearly a decade the OEA has operated under a set of protocols that define its accountability and its focus giving structure and direction to its work. The OEA meets five to six times a year and has a roster of five members. As the synod assembly considers a restructuring of the synod program units we may look forward to a change in name and operation which will demand our attention in the year to come. Large reductions in budget, true for all synod units, also affect the work of the committee which continues to find ways to do what the synod and the work require.

1 Reference and Counsel Number: 2014-01

Secretary's Number: 6.1

2
3 Received by the Secretary of the Synod: May 27, 2014

4
5 **RESOLUTION Greetings**

6
7 Submitted by: The Committee on Reference and Counsel

8
9 **WHEREAS,** other synods throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
10 (ELCA) are gathering in assembly at the same time as the Metropolitan
11 Washington, D.C. Synod meets in Assembly, and

12
13 **WHEREAS,** we are partners in the Mission of the Gospel with other synods of this
14 church; therefore be it

15
16 **RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly direct the
17 Secretary of the Synod to extend best wishes to the:

18
19 Upper Susquehanna Synod and
20 Florida - Bahamas Synod

21
22 and express to them our greetings in Christ as they gather in assembly.

Reference and Counsel Number: 2014-02

Secretary's number: 6.2

Received by the Secretary of the Synod May 13, 2014

RESOLUTION "I Love Camp" Month

Submitted by: Rev. Sarah Scherschligt, Rev. Jeff Wilson, and Rev. Mark Olsen

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 DC (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 fund-raisers 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 DC Synod; and be it further

- 47 **RESOLVED,** that congregations of the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod are
48 encouraged to use all manner of communications available to them
49 (such as announcements, bulletins, newsletters, websites, facebook
50 pages, and the like) to share and distribute information and materials from
51 and about Mar-Lu-Ridge and Caroline Furnace, in particular regarding
52 summer camp; and be it further
53
- 54 **RESOLVED,** that, at any time, but especially during February, congregations are
55 encouraged to invite staff members of Mar-Lu-Ridge and Caroline
56 Furnace, who are willing and able, to speak before them in an effort to
57 raise awareness of these ministries; and be it further
58
- 59 **RESOLVED,** that the congregations of the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod are
60 encouraged to pray for the ministries of Mar-Lu-Ridge and Caroline
61 Furnace, to seek to partner with them in a variety of ways (including
62 encouraging their children and youth to attend their summer camps,
63 using camp facilities for congregation retreats and Council retreats, and
64 hosting mobile Day Camps in their congregations), and to support Mar-Lu-
65 Ridge and Caroline Furnace in all ways possible (including participating in
66 Volunteer Service events at camp and providing direct financial support).

Reference and Counsel Number: 2014-03

Secretary's Number: 6.3

Received by the Secretary of the Synod: May 13, 2013

RESOLUTION Calling upon the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod to stand in prayerful solidarity with those suffering under current immigration laws

Submitted by: Augustana Lutheran Church and the Community of Santa Maria; Rev. John Kidd; Rev. Tom Knoll; Rev. Wendy Moen; Rev. Janice Mynchenberg; Rev. Tom Omholt; Rev. Karen Brau; and Rev. Kathy Hiatshwayo.

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 DC 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 baqattootaaf 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)

*Kaṭavu! anpāṇavar... Lattīṇ ācīrvatittu, orōmō, tamil pēcum marrum tarṇōtaiya kuṭivaravu caṭṭaṇkaḷiṇ kīl payam, taṇimai pātikkappaṭukinṇaṇar eṇka! tēvālayam marrum camūkattīṇ aṇaittu uṇṇuppiṇarka! Valaṇkum tēvaṇuṭaiya piḷḷai uṇka! paṭattai pārkka telivāka marrum mikavum eṇka! kuṭiyēṇra cakōtararka! marrum cakōtarika! cikiccai eṇru caṭṭaṇkaḷai iyarṇa talaivarka! marrum caṭṭamanṇa uṇṇuppiṇarka! ūkkuvikkum. Eṇka! lukku toṭarntu nīṇṭa atu rūṭ marrum malarum eṭukka niyāyamāṇa, nēmaiyaṇa caṭṭaṇka! eṭukkum eṇa kiṛistu avarkaḷai niṛka utavum. Uṇka! karuṇai iṇaivaṇ... **Eṇka! jepattai kēlum.***

(Tamil)

And be it further

RESOLVED, that Metropolitan Washington DC 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 DC 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.



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

2014 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly

CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

Candidate for the position of:

*Candidate's name:
(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

Home Phone: Work Phone:

Cell Phone: Email:

Congregational Membership:
Name

City, ST

Occupational History:

- 2007-present: BDO USA, LLP, National Tax Office, Bethesda, MD
- 1999-2006: Partner, Deloitte Tax LLP, Washington National Tax Office, Washington, DC
- 1998-1999: Partner, Foley & Lardner LLP, Chicago, IL
- 1995-1998: Associate Tax Legislative Counsel, Office of Tax Policy, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC
- 1981-1995: Partner, Foley & Lardner, Milwaukee, WI

Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

- January 2014 – present: Interim Secretary, Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod
- 2009 – present: Trustee, Portico Benefit Services (f/k/a ELCA Board of Pensions)

- 2007-2013: Member, Churchwide Committee of Hearing Officers
 - 2007 and 2009: Voting Member, Churchwide Assembly
 - 2003-2008: Synod Council Member
 - 2006-2007: Synod Ministry Review Task Force Chair
 - 2004-2008: Liaison to United Lutheran Appeal Board
 - 2004-2006: Member, Executive Committee (Synod Council)
 - 2005-2012: Member, Synod Committee on Reference and Counsel
 - 2002-2008 and 2013: Lay Voting Member, Synod Assembly
-
-
-
-

Participation at Congregational level:

- 2002-2007: Member, Congregation Council
 - 2002-2004: President, Congregation Council and Congregation
 - 2005: Vice President, Congregation Council and Congregation
 - 2002-2007: Member, Executive Committee
 - 2005-2007: Member, Personnel Committee
 - 1995 – present: Member, Chancel Choir
 - 1986-1995: President, Vice President, Council Member, and other roles, Memorial Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI
-
-
-
-

Community Involvement:

- 2003-2010: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance participant
 - 1988 – present: American Bar Association Section of Taxation (member of Council, 2009-2012, various committee chair and vice chair positions)
 - 2009 – present: American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (member of S Corporations Technical Resource Panel)
-
-
-

Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

X Male ☐ Female

☐ Rostered X Lay

☐ African-American/Black ☐ Asian/Pacific Islander

☐ Arab/Middle Eastern X White/Caucasian ☐ Latino

☐ American Indian/Alaska Native

☐ Person with a primary language other than English

Digital photo attached*? (X) Yes () No

Send to the Rev. Albert Triolo, Nominations Committee Chair, at atriolo@stmarks-elca.org.

Form is due by April 30, 2014.

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Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

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God's work. Our hands.

2014 Synod Assembly

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate for the position of: Synod Council – DC Council Clergy _____

Candidate's name: Rev Thomas J Knoll _____

Home Phone: XXX-XXX-XXXX _____ **Work Phone:** XXX-XXX-XXXX _____

Cell Phone: XXX-XXX-XXXX _____ **Email:** xxx@xxx.xxx _____

Congregational Membership: First Trinity Lutheran, Washington, D.C.

Occupational History:

<i>1982 to 2002</i>	<i>Community Family Life Services</i> 305 E Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001 Executive Director
<i>1982 to Present</i>	<i>First Trinity Lutheran Church</i> 309 E Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001 Associate Pastor, Senior Pastor, 2003-to present
<i>1979 to 1981</i>	<i>Trinity Lutheran Church, Bogota, New Jersey</i> Interim Pastor

Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

Corporate Board Member: Fellowship Square Foundation
Division Chair: *Higher Education and Schools*

Participation at Congregational level:

Pastor First Trinity

Community Involvement:

President of Trinity Landholding Corporation
Chairman of the Board of 3rd & Eats Restaurant Corporation
Clergy Membership: *Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod*
Member: *Downtown Cluster of Churches*
Member: *Downtown Business Improvement District: Board of Directors,*
Board Member: *Urban Alliance*
Washingtonian of the Year –Awarded by *Washingtonian Magazine 2000.*
Member of National Association of Social Workers: *1981 to Present*

Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

☒ Male ☐ Female

☒ Rostered ☐ Lay

☐ African-American/Black ☐ Asian/Pacific Islander

☐ Arab/Middle Eastern ☒ White/Caucasian ☐ Latino

☐ American Indian/Alaska Native

☐ Person with a primary language other than English

Digital photo attached*? (☒) Yes (☐) No



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2014 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly

CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

Candidate for the position of:

*Candidate's name:
(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

Home Phone: Work Phone:

Cell Phone: Email:

Congregational Membership:
Name

City, ST

Occupational History:

Interim CEO, **Lutheran Social Services**, Columbus Ohio (2010 – 11)

Marketing Management Consultant , **JF Lehman**, Boonton, NJ (2009 – 10)

Ashland Hercules Water Technologies (1979 – 2009)

- VP AWT GM Drew Marine (2008 -9)
- VP AWT Business Model Redesign/Implementation (2006-8)
- VP AWT Marketing & Business Development (1999-2006)

Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

Trustee **Gettysburg Seminary** Endowment Foundation (2012 – present)

Participation at Congregational level:

Shepherd of the Hills , Congregation Council; Worship Assistant; Usher; Greeter, etc.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Dover, NJ Congregation Council; Building Committee; Worship Assistant; Sunday School Teacher; Usher, etc.

Messiah Lutheran Church, Oakland, NJ, Congregation Council; Worship Assistant; Sunday School Teacher; Usher, etc.

Community Involvement:

7.2.2a-2

Vice Chair **Lutheran Social Services, NCA** (2012 – present)

Horse Leader **Sprout Therapeutic Riding Academy** (2012 – present)

Trustee, Exec. Com. Member, **LSS CO** (20008 -11)

Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

☒ Male ☐ Female

☐ Rostered ☒ Lay

☐ African-American/Black ☐ Asian/Pacific Islander

☐ Arab/Middle Eastern ☒ White/Caucasian ☐ Latino

☐ American Indian/Alaska Native

☐ Person with a primary language other than English

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2014 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly

CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

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*Candidate's name:
(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

Home Phone: Work Phone:

Cell Phone: Email:

Congregational Membership:
Name

City, ST

Occupational History:

Gretta is a professional flutist and teacher of instrumental music. She has taught instrumental music for over 30 years in the US and overseas in German, Italy and Japan. For six years in Japan, Gretta also taught ESOL, working with Japanese students who were studying for the Test of English Fluency. Concomitant with this work, Gretta worked with the Yokosuka City Schools in Japan as an instructor and coordinator for the western teachers of English in the school system. Currently, Gretta works in Prince George's County Public Schools in Maryland as a middle school Orchestra teacher. Additionally, she serves as a Mentor teacher for the University of Maryland, Catholic University and Prince George's county instrumental teachers.

Occupational History:

1. 1. Professional flutist and private teacher for over 30 years
2. 2. Instrumental Music Teacher in Prince George's County, Maryland; King County, Washington; DoDDS Schools in Stuttgart, Germany, Naples, Italy and Yokosuka, Japan
3. 3. Mentor Teacher for the University of Maryland and the Catholic University
4. 4. Teacher of the conversational English and the TOEFL Test in Yokohama and Yokosuka, Japan

Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

Maryland Conference Synod Council Member

Participation at Congregational level:

Peace Lutheran Church, Waldorf, MD:

Worship and Music Liaison on Church Council
 Worship Planner
 Instruments of Peace (instrumental group)
 Multimedia Ministry
 Assisting Minister
 Worship Assistant Ministry Scheduler
 Visioning Team

Community Involvement:

Safe Nights meals at Peace Lutheran

2

Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

Male ☐ Female ☒

Rostered ☐ Lay ☒

☒ African-American/Black ☐ Asian/Pacific Islander

☐ Arab/Middle Eastern ☐ White/Caucasian ☐ Latino

☐ American Indian/Alaska Native

☐ Person with a primary language other than English

Digital photo attached*? () Yes () No

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2014 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly

CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

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(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

Home Phone: Work Phone:

Cell Phone: Email:

Congregational Membership:
Name

City, ST

Occupational History:

Executive Vice President, Intelligent Transportation Society of America—Current

Director, Knowledge Management, Annie E. Casey Foundation—2001-2007

Deputy EVP, American Consulting Engineers Council—1991-2001

Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

Synod Council—2012-2014

Shape of the Synod Task Force—2010--present

Participation at Congregational level:

Council Member, Secretary, Finance Committee Chair, Mutual Ministry Chair,
President—1993--2012

Lector, Assisting Minister, Usher, Teller, Sunday School Teacher

Fund Raising Chair, Committee member—1994, 2004

Community Involvement:

Referee—Montgomery County Swim League (1990—20202)

Board Member—Grace Episcopal School (1994-1996)

President—Washington Storytellers Theater, Telling Moments Theater (1990-2013)

Board Member, Secretary, President—London School of Economics Alumni
Association (1999—present)

Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

☒ Male ☐ Female

☐ Rostered ☒ Lay

☐ African-American/Black ☐ Asian/Pacific Islander

☐ Arab/Middle Eastern ☒ White/Caucasian ☐ Latino

☐ American Indian/Alaska Native

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CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

Candidate for the position of:

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(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

Home Phone: Work Phone:

Cell Phone: Email:

Congregational Membership:
Name

City, ST

Occupational History:

Office Manager for Population, Health & Nutrition Unit, East Asia & Pacific Region, World Bank, Washington, DC (Retired)

Self-Employed – Personal Chef

Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

Have participated in a number of Synod Assemblies

Have participated in at least 2 Churchwide Assemblies

As part of a synod delegation I participated in a joint synod assembly in Namibia with our sister congregations

Have also visited sister congregations in Eastern Europe (as part of a church group)

Participation at Congregational level:

Have served as Council President, Deacon and Recording Secretary many times

Participated in "Mission Transformation"

Currently participating in "The Journey"

Community Involvement:

Volunteer with A-SPAN Homeless shelter in Arlington

Have helped with collection and bagging of groceries for AFAC

Have helped with gleaning and bagging of vegetables for AFAC

Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

☐ Male ☒ Female

☐ Rostered ☒ Lay

☒ African-American/Black ☐ Asian/Pacific Islander

☐ Arab/Middle Eastern ☐ White/Caucasian ☐ Latino

☐ American Indian/Alaska Native

☐ Person with a primary language other than English

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2014 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly

CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

Candidate for the position of:

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Home Phone: Work Phone:

Cell Phone: Email:

Congregational Membership:
Name

City, ST

Occupational History:

Associate Pastor, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Vienna VA	2006-Present
Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Fort Washington, MD	1999-2006
Seminarian, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago	1994-1998
Submarine Officer, US Navy	1979-1994

Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

Synod Council Clergy Rep	2002-2006, 2012-Present
Synod Reference & Counsel Committee	2000-Present
First Call Theological Education Facilitator	2005-2008
Member, Synod Evangelism Team (Div for Cong. Life)	2000-2011

Participation at Congregational level:

Pastor	1999-Present
Congregation Council member – St Mark’s Lutheran, Springfield, VA	1991-1994
Youth Group Leader, St Mark’s Lutheran, Springfield, VA	1990-1994
Choir Member, St Mark’s Lutheran, Springfield, VA	1989-1994

Community Involvement:

Choir Boosters, Chantilly HS	2009-2012
Neighborhood Watch, Fort Washington Forest, MD	2000-2004
Board Member, Prince George’s Co. Habitat for Humanity	2003-2005

Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

☒ Male ☐ Female

☒ Rostered ☐ Lay

☐ African-American/Black ☐ Asian/Pacific Islander

☐ Arab/Middle Eastern ☒ White/Caucasian ☐ Latino

☐ American Indian/Alaska Native

☐ Person with a primary language other than English

Digital photo attached*? (X) Yes () No

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THANK YOU.

2014 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly

CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

Candidate for the position of: Synod Council At-Large Representative, Lay

*Candidate's name: Ms. Karen L. Consiglio

Home Phone: xxx-xxx-xxxx Work Phone: xxx-xxx-xxxx Cell Phone: xxx-xxx-xxxx
Email: xxx@xxx.xxx

Congregational Membership: Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, Reston, Virginia

Occupational History:

Jacobs Engineering - April 2010 to Present - Senior Project Engineer for Dulles Corridor
Metrorail Project supporting Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority

Virginia Department of Transportation - May 2006 to April 2010 - Transportation Program
Manager

Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation - March 2004 to May 2006 - Dulles
Corridor Metrorail Project, Manager for Right of Way, Utilities and Permits

Florida Department of Transportation June 1995 to March 2004 - Engineer Trainee, Traffic
Operations Engineer, Construction Project Manager, Resident Construction Engineer

Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

Synod Council Member July 2012 to Present

Synod Council Finance Committee February 2013 to Present

Voting Member - Metropolitan DC Synod Assembly 2008, 2011, and 2012 Participant -
Metropolitan DC Synod Assembly Fall Session 2009

Participation at Congregational level:

Christ the Servant Lutheran, Active Member 2004 to Present

Worship and Music Committee Co-Chair July 2013 to Present

Led Risk Assessment Workgroup, produced Risk Management Plan, and drafted proposed
Operating Reserve Policy for the congregation - Fall 2011

Served on Ad hoc "Planning Committee" to address short- and medium-term financial
challenges - June 2010 to June 2011

Coordinated Fall Stewardship Campaign Fall 2010

Worship and Music Committee member - 2005 to Present

Choir member - Fall 2004 to Present

Past Congregation, Jacksonville, FL:

Small Group Facilitator for confirmation classes - 3 years

Started AAL Branch 7051 at the church and served as Treasurer for first 3 years

Choir member

Bell choir member

Community Involvement:

Reston Interfaith: Board of Directors, 2005 to 2011 Finance and Audit Committee Chair,
Reston Interfaith Board of Directors, 2007 to 2011 Volunteer Tutor, 2004 - 2005

Sunset Hills Montessori School PTA - active member 2009 to June 2013 President 2012-2013
School Year

Volunteer Mentor and Reading tutor for programs in Jacksonville, Florida

Demographic Information (*Please check all that apply*): Male Female **X** Rostered
Lay **X** African-American/Black Asian/Pacific Islander Arab/Middle Eastern
White/Caucasian **X** Latino American Indian/Alaska Native Person with a primary
language other than English

Digital photo attached*? (X) Yes () No

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THANK YOU.



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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2014 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly

CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

Candidate for the position of:

*Candidate's name:
(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

Home Phone: Work Phone:

Cell Phone: Email:

Congregational Membership:
Name

City, ST

Occupational History:

Kathy worked as a chaplain and managed the volunteer pastoral care givers for nearly 10 years at Inova Alexandria Hospital.

She was Director and Instructor of the Art of Pastoral Care training program for 11 years.

While currently on Leave from Call, she continues to provide workshops for individual groups and congregations throughout the area, on various aspects of pastoral care.

Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

Liaison with River of Grace for the Synod Council.

Mentorship/Spiritual Direction for Diaconal Candidates

Participation at Congregational level:

Until this spring, organized, scheduled and trained those assisting at the altar of Augustana for about 6 years.

Work on special projects through the congregation's Lydian group.

Am on-call for pastoral care when the pastor is out of town.

Community Involvement:

Provide pastoral support and encouragement where ever I find the need.
Whether it is family members or strangers in the airport—I am available.

Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

☐ Male + ☐ Female

+ ☐ Rostered + ☐ Lay

☐ African-American/Black ☐ Asian/Pacific Islander

☐ Arab/Middle Eastern + ☐ White/Caucasian ☐ Latino

☐ American Indian/Alaska Native

☐ Person with a primary language other than English

Digital photo attached*? () Yes (+) No

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THANK YOU.



About the Mission Investment Fund

The Mission Investment Fund (MIF), a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, makes low-interest **loans** to established ELCA congregations, new-start congregations and ELCA-related ministries for capital projects.

Established congregations use MIF loans to renovate, expand or relocate. New-start congregations rely on MIF loans to buy land and construct their first church buildings. ELCA-related ministries use MIF loans for a variety of capital projects.

To fund these loans, MIF offers a variety of **investments** for congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries to purchase. MIF investments offer adjustable- or fixed-rate terms and earn interest at competitive rates.

The Mission Investment Fund is **financially strong and stable**, with a record of steady, controlled growth:

- With total assets of \$660 million and net assets of \$190 million at year-end 2013, MIF achieved a capital ratio of 28.8 percent, maintaining MIF's position in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds.
- At year-end 2013, loans for capital projects for more than 780 ELCA congregations and ministries totaled \$464 million. MIF investments by congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries totaled \$464 million.

Investments and Loans in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod

As of December 31, 2013:

- 14 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of **\$8,533,199**, are at work throughout the synod.
- Investments in the Mission Investment Fund by 168 individuals, 39 congregations, 10 ministries, and the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod totaled **\$10,544,102**.

MIF representative for the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod:

The Rev. Kent Peterson, Regional Manager: Tel. (276) 698-7970; email: kent.peterson@elca.org

METRO D.C. SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION (SWO) 2014 REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

PURPOSE STATEMENT OF THE METRO DC SWO

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

THE METRO DC SWO MINISTRY MARCH 2013 THROUGH MARCH 2014

The annual spring convention, *Communication – Vertical and Horizontal* was held on Saturday, April 27, 2013 at Faith Lutheran Church, in Arlington, Virginia

Jackie Wilson, Secretary, Women of the ELCA Executive Board, brought greetings and information from the officers and members of the churchwide board and staff. Offerings collected were split evenly between the Women of the ELCA and the WELCA 25th Anniversary appeal (of which a portion went to the Malaria Campaign). In-kind offerings were donated for the Faith Lutheran Church food bank.

Delegates to the business meeting adopted a budget of \$12,850 for 2013-2014 and elected the following women to the board: Vice President – Marva Benn, Bethlehem, Fairfax; Secretary – Kathi Schultz, Abiding Presence, Burke; Treasurer - Cheryl Dwyer, St. Mark's Springfield; Board Members – Barbara O'Keefe, Good Shepherd, Alexandria; Sue Orndorff, St. Matthews, Woodbridge; Joyce Skoglund, Christ, Fairfax; and Paulette Sandene, Faith, Arlington (for a one-year term); Nominating Committee – Barbara O'Keefe, Good Shepherd, Arlington; and Pau Nau, Christ, Fairfax. Also elected were two delegates and two alternate delegates to the 2014 Triennial Convention – Delegates: Wilma Dublin and Fran Eck, St. Mark's Springfield; and Alternate Delegates: Mary Seale, All Saints Lutheran, Bowie and Bonnie Priebe, First Trinity, Washington, DC.

The Conference of Presidents was held February 21-23, 2014 at the Lutheran Center in Chicago, IL, and Kathy Meier attended for Metro DC. The productive leadership training, workshops, and Region 8 caucuses led to opportunities for fellowship, support, new ideas, and spiritual renewal.

New Projects Introduced this year included bringing the SWO into the social and electronic media world. A communications committee was formed and given the task of researching the most effective and economical server for our type of site. The web site was successfully developed and launched in September, 2013. Site addresses are as follows: Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/metrodcsw> and Web site – <http://dwyercl2.wix.com/welca-metrodcsynod>

The second major project was to begin a program to grow active membership in the SWO. A Committee was formed, and we have updated our contact records and have

begun discussions with several churches regarding forming or re-forming a WELCA group. This work will continue into 2015. The objective is two-fold: 1) to tell the WELCA story of who we are and what we do as women of many generations and 2) develop a model for future Board Members to continue this type of contact with Synod units throughout the year.

The 2011-2013 project for the SWO continued through June 2013. The challenge of an additional \$5,000 donation for the SWO's Endowment to Roanoke College was met by member donations and an additional \$2,500 from the Mission Fund. This endowment provides scholarships to needy Lutheran students who are members of the Metro DC Synod or of a Companion Synod in Slovakia, Namibia, or El Salvador. One student was awarded a scholarship last year.

A New Giving Campaign was approved by The Executive Board to run through June 2015. Lutheran Campus Ministries in the DC Metro Area is the designated recipient, and that program is currently under way.

Triennial Gathering 2014 is a few months away. We have 24 people registered to attend the Gathering in Charlotte, North Carolina. Attendees from Metro DC will wear a Red, White, and Blue Stars and Stripes scarf and will gather together as a group as often as possible. Three delegates will attend the Convention, which occurs immediately preceding the Gathering.

Joyful News continues to be published three times per year with special issues as needed. The upcoming focus is to provide the newsletter via e-mail to all contacts and for them to forward to women in their unit. This will broaden current distribution and cut printing and mailing costs considerably.

A New Executive Board was elected and installed at the May 3, 2014 SWO Convention. Although outside the reporting period for the Assembly, these are the current members.

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

May 2014 – May 2015

Officers:

President – Kathy Meier, St. Matthew's, Woodbridge, VA
 Vice President – Marva Benn, Bethlehem, Fairfax, VA
 Secretary – Sue Orndorff, St. Matthew's, Woodbridge, VA
 Treasurer – Cheryl Dwyer, St. Mark's, Springfield, VA

Board Members:

Kay Garrett – New Jerusalem, Lovettsville, VA
 Marcia Ihnen, Holy Trinity, Falls Church, VA
 Barbara O'Keefe, Good Shepherd, Alexandria, VA
 Bonnie Priebe, First Trinity, Washington, DC
 Joyce Skoglund, Christ, Fairfax, VA

2014 Report of Region 8 of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
to Synod Assemblies

For those new to Region 8, the Region is composed of eight synods in the mid-Atlantic region of the United States of America: Northwestern PA Synod, Southwestern PA Synod, Allegheny Synod, Lower Susquehanna Synod, Upper Susquehanna Synod, DE/MD Synod, Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, and WV/WMD Synod. On this territory, we find a wide variety of ministry locations: the region is composed of nearly 1100 congregations and nearly 453,000 baptized members with three major urban centers: Washington, DC, Baltimore and Pittsburgh, as well as many mid-sized cities and suburbs, and numerous town and country parishes (some dating to pre-Revolutionary War days). Region 8 also includes numerous institutional expressions of mission and ministry: the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, (the first and oldest Lutheran Seminary in North America) founded in 1826; three colleges of our Church: Gettysburg, Susquehanna and Thiel, eight outdoor ministry sites and numerous expressions of social services, schools and advocacy ministries.

While no one particularly enjoys reading constitutions and by-laws, it is important for churchwide, synodical and congregational leaders to ground their understandings of regions using Chapter 18 of the ELCA Constitution which defines regions “as a partnership between groups of synods and the churchwide organization for the purpose of exercising mutual responsibilities,” (August 2013 ELCA Constitution, 18.01, p. 141), going on to state that the function of the “regions shall be a means for coordinated responses by synods and the churchwide organization to mission and program opportunities within the region,” (18.11.11, p. 141).

Keeping all of that in mind – along with the Region 8 bishops perspective that it is not the region that creates program, but, that the region works with programs that others recognize as valuable to fulfill the Constitution’s description of the Region’s role – what follows is a brief description of several activities here in Region 8.

While not all regions operate in this manner, Region 8 finds value in cooperating on some key aspects of the First Call Theological Education (FCTE) program. Primarily this means the planning and implementing of a Region 8 FCTE Annual Conference; the office works with a Region-wide advisory council in planning. I also take primary responsibility for the details to arrange this event – from publicity to contracts to registration to evaluation to hospitality. In addition to the conference, each synod also provides more contextual opportunity.

In addition to my service at every synod’s candidacy committee meeting, I serve as the ‘go to’ person for all things candidacy. This varies from month to month, but, includes arranging Theological Review Panels and Competency Assessment Panels (as well as the follow-up report writing) and responding to the particular questions that often stymie synod staff people. Each year we hold a Region-wide candidacy gathering for each synod’s candidacy staff and committee chair person; also invited are any number of colleagues in ministry from across the region. In 2013 we utilized the skill of several LTSG colleagues to discuss the implications for the candidacy of the changed Association of Theological Schools’ guidelines for Masters of Divinity degrees. This resulted in the agreement to work cooperatively on a Region 8 project in the areas of candidacy and theological education. Region 8 bishops totally support this ongoing work and we anticipate having a plan in place by early 2015.

I give thanks to God for the many talented colleagues in ministry throughout Region 8 who volunteer their time in service of the ministry of the Gospel on our territory; my colleagues in ministry who serve on synod staff also willingly offer their numerous gifts and talents in our shared work and I express not only my thanks to God for these partners, I thank you for your support of their work here in Region 8.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy E. Gable, Diaconal Minister,
Coordinator for Missional Leadership - Region 8

ELCA Global Church Sponsorship



Missionaries • Young Adults in Global Mission • International Leaders • Global Ministries

Dear friend in Christ,

Thank you for participating in your synod assembly. Your leadership is a blessing to our church!

Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA gives us all the opportunity to reach out locally and globally in dynamic new ways. I am so excited to tell you about all the ways you can help build up Christ's global church as part of the campaign:

- **Share God's love!** Create a covenant of prayer, communication and financial support with one of the missionaries working alongside our global church partners in more than 40 countries around the world by sponsoring a **Missionary**.
- **Raise up young leaders!** Give 200 additional young adults the opportunity to participate in a year of service by supporting the **Young Adults in Global Mission** program.
- **Expand opportunities for women!** Equip more than 200 additional women leaders from our global companion churches with increased scholarships and educational opportunities by making a gift to **International Leaders - Women**.
- **Grow the global church!** Support new evangelism, education and church construction in Africa, Asia and Latin America by funding **Global Ministries** projects with our companion churches.

To learn more:

- Read global stories in the latest issue of Hand in Hand in your packet.
- Visit www.ELCA.org/globalchurch and www.ELCA.org/map.
- Contact me at 800-638-3522, ext. 2657, or globalchurch@elca.org.

A servant with you in Christ's global church,

Rev. Lanny Westphal
Director, ELCA Global Church Sponsorship



ELCA Global Church Sponsorship
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg

2014 Report to the Synods of Region 8

Gettysburg Seminary offers the Church an *unprecedented and increasing access to its educational* resources, creating an *award winning museum with faith-based content for the public*, one



of the most *generous student scholarship assistance* offers, expanding thought-provoking theological resources *access to all members* of the Church.

Gettysburg stewards its mission with particular care for those students the church sends our way, through an extraordinary faculty, in an historic place. We remain thankful for the steadfastness of the Synods of Region 8 in seminary financial support; and that more individuals and congregations are giving generously, joining *leadership giving circles* to undergird theological education and ministerial formation.

For the Nation: Seminary Ridge Museum opened July 1: Educating the nation about a pivotal struggle with the end of slavery and the role faith played in this great struggle, the Seminary Ridge Museum opened with LEED certification and national, regional and international recognitions and awards. Grand opening with thousands present launched this great offer to the nation, and especially to those who are engaging in the growing interest in historical and religious tourism. The Seminary Ridge Museum offers a unique focus on religious convictions that fueled the battle over slavery, the building's role as a field hospital and as strategic military lookout that adds up to the historic sacrifices for the sake of the nation, its unity and equality.

Extraordinary Learning Environment, Finest Teachers, Accessible Resources: As theological education is reimagined, Gettysburg Seminary is working on the front lines of creative solutions, preparing (thanks to a grant from the Lilly Endowment) a competency based curriculum to reduce time to degree and easier access to degree work, with Dean Robin Steinke co-chairing the ELCA's TEAC (Theological Education Advisory Cte), through collaborative sharing across seminary campuses, and public recognition of teaching and scholarship skills. In addition, Gettysburg received a green light from accreditors to expand its online and hybrid course offerings to make courses even more accessible.

GETTYSBURG SEMINARY OFFERS NEW LEVELS OF ACCESS:

First Mini MOOC Gettysburg was the first U.S. Seminary to offer a *Massive Open Online Course* this past year taught by Mark Vitalis Hoffman – one that will be repeated this early fall and its open to you! Watch for Survey of the *Lands of the Bible* this coming September at www.LTSG.EDU.

Academies for Spring and Fall: The faculty created a newly expanded experience around Spring Convocation and Luther Colloquy (fall) that offers a stimulating week long experience for students, seekers, congregation groups, interested lay persons, rostered leaders and prospective students. This fall, October 27-31, we invite you to join us for the Fall Academy: **"Reforming! From Conflict To Communion And Reconciliation."**

Gettysburg's "Seminary Explores" radio show is now available to everyone through podcast!

In its first months, you can tap 20 minute interviews exploring the origins of Christmas, Apocalyptic dynamics in the New Testament and American History, Women's Civil Rights, Conversation with one of America's best Civil War artists, Ecology, Martin Luther King, and the list goes on:

www.LTSG.edu/SeminaryExplores

"Every time we think of you" (which is often), all who have responded generously, all who continue supporting the Seminary's mission with your encouragement of prospective students, your prayers, critical financial support, **we "give thanks to God!"**

The Rev. Michael L. Cooper-White, President

Dr. James Lakso, Chairman of the Board



8.2.2

The Report of the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries

An established Cluster of seminaries adapts to change in its make up and continues a legacy of grants for innovation and the continuation of collaboration to be good stewards of the resources for theological education and now even a bequest.

The Eastern Cluster has again been the recipient of a major grant from the Lilly Endowment. ***The Abundant Life: The Seminaries Address the Economic Challenges Facing Future Ministers***, a grant of \$750,000 addresses student debt in the preparation for public ministry. It represents three experiments in one program to make theological education for public ministry more affordable. An overarching component of The Abundant Life endeavor will be research to determine the overall impact on Lutheran ministers of beginning their careers with a heavy load of debt accrued during undergraduate and theological studies. Five experimental initiatives envisioned at the three schools will help reduce costs of theological education. All three schools will strengthen courses in stewardship and expand financial coaching so that every student has access to personal counseling in managing money, minimizing expenses, and becoming stronger leaders in congregational stewardship. Each school will use a portion of the grant to revise and streamline the educational process; for many students, the time required to complete a Master of Divinity degree may be shortened by a semester or more, thereby reducing the overall cost of preparing to serve as an ordained minister. The schools will also develop new grant-supported fundraising efforts to build their scholarship pools and offer greater financial aid to students with need.

Philadelphia will pioneer a FAR (Flexible, Affordable, Relevant) curricular approach; at Gettysburg, many students will shorten their time in seminary through a competencies-based approach in which they can meet requirements on the basis of prior educational or vocational credentials; Southern will pilot test an “articulation” agreement with Lenoir-Rhyne University through which some students may shorten substantially their total years spent in undergraduate and theological education.

A Bequest: The Cluster has now reached a level of maturity that one of its founders, Dr. Dorothy Marple, has left a substantial estate to support the teaching of courses in ecumenism at each seminary. The Cluster rejoices in Dr. Marple’s vision and commitment to resourcing theological education.

Some Highlights: For the Cluster and Southern Seminary the past year has been one of solidifying the **LTSS/Lenoir Rhyne** merger, with the seminary now on a sustainable trajectory. President Wayne Powell of Lenoir Rhyne University attends Eastern Cluster Board meetings with Dr. Clay Schmit, the Provost of LTSS, demonstrating Lenoir Rhyne’s support for the Cluster. **The Civil War Museum** at LTSG has been nominated for two prestigious international museum awards. **LTSP** is celebrating its 150th Anniversary on October 16, 2014 and Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will be the keynote speaker. The boards of LTSG and LTSP have been meeting to discern how the two schools can best be good stewards of the resources for theological education in the northeast. There is already one internship and CPE program, as well as expanded faculty sharing between the two schools.

Philip D.W. Krey
Executive Director
Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries

William B. Trexler
Advisory Council Chair
Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries



Religious and Spiritual Life

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Gettysburg College Report to Synod Assemblies 2014 Report

Grace, mercy and peace!

Gettysburg College and the ELCA supporting synods to Gettysburg College share a commitment to education and the formation of maturing young adults.

We educate and support maturing young adults by fostering habits of mind and heart that will aid them in making this world better and more just. At Gettysburg, we talk about our graduates becoming citizens of the world, engaged in their professional and personal lives in such ways as to make the communities they live in stronger. The vocation of learning is also a call to integrate leadership, service, academic excellence and wisdom.

The Lutheran Christian community was born in the context of a University. Since its inception, Lutherans have placed a high premium on education. As a highly selective, national liberal arts college, Gettysburg College remains faithful to principles that are in keeping with the heart of this tradition. While doing this Gettysburg College is also committed to increasing diversity and internationalization amongst students, faculty and staff.

Core values that Gettysburg College seeks to instill are:

- The worth and dignity of all people
- Critical thinking, communication skills, sensitivity to the human condition, and a global perspective
- A free and open marketplace of ideas and the exploration of the ethical and spiritual dimensions of life
- A commitment to service
- The residential college as a model community

Gettysburg College encourages students to be self-reflective and to recognize the interconnectedness of learning and life values.

We pride ourselves on the distinctiveness of our dedication and location. A hallmark of a Gettysburg education is the relationship shared between students and faculty both in and outside of the classroom.

At Gettysburg, students may find themselves alongside faculty retracing the roots of the Civil Rights movement, researching the benefits of fish oil with their professor, promoting grassroots development in Nicaragua, or videotaping Viking ruins in the British Isles. They may also find themselves discussing class work (and other weightier matters of life) over dinner at a faculty or staff member's house.

The charter of Gettysburg College states our purpose:

to serve the cause of liberal education in changing times, by providing a community of learning both inside and outside the classroom committed to the discovery, exploration, and evaluation of the ideas and actions of humankind, and to the creative extension of that developing heritage, and the promotion of music, the arts, theater, leadership and volunteerism within the local, regional and global communities.

As we look to the future we witness increasing attention being given to globalization and internationalization by current and future generations of students. These students expect and, quite frankly, need to be at the forefront of cultural and political shifts across the globe.

In a world where present challenges may at times seem daunting, Gettysburg College understands that the best way to secure the future is by preserving integrity and maintaining the highest quality in teaching, learning, research and service.

We share with the synods of the ELCA a commitment to helping maturing young adults integrate faith and learning.

We hope that you will join us in this our common mission by encouraging young people to matriculate with us! Here they will find a home away from home in a community that welcomes and supports them in life and learning as they go about the process of becoming global citizens.

Blessings and peace!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph A. Donnell, II". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Donnell II
Chaplain of the College
Adj Prof - Religious Studies
Gettysburg College
Gettysburg, PA 17325
phone: 717-337-6280
donnell@gettysburg.edu

NATIONAL LUTHERAN COMMUNITIES & SERVICES

2013 REPORT

2013 was a year of continued rejuvenation and progress for National Lutheran Communities & Services (NLCS) and its family of retirement communities and services. Through newly established partnerships and the addition of expanded services, NLCS continues to meet the ever-changing needs of seniors.

The Village at Rockville (TVAR): The community entered the second half of the renovation project in the main building. In March, the new assisted living neighborhood opened featuring 18 apartment suites with priority access given to independent living residents; by the summer all 18 were filled. A revamped gym on the first floor opened for the independent living residents, safely equipped with the tools to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle. A section of the remodeled ground floor unveiled a new front entrance with additional parking spaces, large portico and extended lobby space to accommodate visitors and improve the traffic flow. In November, 33 private, short-term rehabilitation rooms were added, totaling 66 rooms for the myPotential Rehabilitation program. Furthermore, approximately \$6.8 million in benevolent care was provided to 52% of the residents no longer able to afford the cost of services.

The Village at Orchard Ridge (TVOR): 2013 marked new beginnings for TVOR in Winchester, Va.; most notably the first residents were welcomed in February. This was celebrated with a Grand Opening event on June 17, featuring caregiving and wellness advocate Joan Lunden. Approximately 700 residents and guests from the greater community attended. In May, the Chapel and Orchard Woods Health Center opened, completing phase one of construction. The health center features 18 private suites available for assisted living memory care, and 10 private rooms for nursing care and short-term rehabilitation services. Later in July, TVOR partnered with Eastern Mennonite Seminary on Clinical Pastoral Education, inviting students to earn credits toward their denominational ordination requirements and/or certification as professional chaplains through supervised learning opportunities. Reverend Dr. William Boldin joined the community as the first Chaplain on staff to help serve residents' spiritual needs and interests.

The Legacy at North Augusta (TLNA): TLNA continues to offer independent living with assisted services as a rental community in Staunton, Va. Improving common space and meeting the spiritual needs of residents was a top priority. In July, TLNA also welcomed their first Chaplain on staff, Reverend Dr. William Boldin, who shares his time between their community and TVOR. Following in October, a parking lot expansion included 17 more spaces. In 2013, \$100,000 in benevolent care was provided to 6% of the residents no longer able to afford the cost of services.

NLCS: At NLCS, the year brought forth new relationships and continued growth for enhancing the mission and ministry. The Village at Crystal Spring in Annapolis, Md., is anticipated to receive all approvals by fall 2014. The Community Impact program established its first advisory council and awarded their first grants to Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area and Diakon Adult Day Services at Ravenwood. In December, NLCS contracted with Fellowship Square Foundation to act as the management agent for their fellowship houses. This collaboration came out of a shared mission to serve area seniors with housing and health care options. NLCS also received licensure in Virginia to offer in-home health services, known as myPotential at Home—A National Lutheran Service. The first phase of offerings for this service was made available to residents at TVOR, with anticipation of rolling it out to the greater Winchester and Staunton area this fall.

For more updates and information, visit www.nationallutheran.org

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

MINUTES of the 2013 Synod Assembly

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

June 21-22, 2013

“Praying, Discerning, Renewing”

National Conference Center

Leesburg, Virginia



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Introductory Activity

Prior to the Opening of the Synod Assembly, a Synod Council meeting was conducted. 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
FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2013
National Conference Center
Leesburg, Virginia**

Opening of Assembly

Bishop Richard Graham opened the Synod Assembly and called on the Rev. Kate Davidson, Worship Chair, to lead the Synod Assembly in devotions.

Report of the Registrar

Present:	Lay Voting Members	145
	Rostered Voting Members	<u>82</u>
	Total Voting Members	227
	Visitors	16

MOTION SA 13.06.01 to seat the Voting Members was adopted.

.....

Reading of Excused Absences of Rostered Leaders

The Rev. Dean Anderson	The Rev. Myron Barbour
The Rev. Mark Blice-Baum	The Rev. John Bradford
The Rev. Bruce Burslie	The Rev. Roger Dahlin
The Rev. Harold Deal	The Rev. Wendy Deeben
The Rev. Nancy Eggert	The Rev. Brian Erickson
The Rev. Catherine Feil	The Rev. Gregory Gaertner
Ms. Kathy Garrison (Diaconal Minister)	The Rev. Sherman Hicks
The Rev. Lisa Hufford	The Rev. Wollom Jensen
The Rev. Stephanie Johnson	The Rev. Mary Kieser
The Rev. Michael Kuchinsky	The Rev. Chandra Sundram Lite
The Rev. Daniel Martenson	The Rev. John Muller
The Rev. Tom Omholt	The Rev. Geraldine Opsahl
The Rev. Paul Opsahl	Mr. Jeffrey Pannebaker (AIM)
Ms. Linda Pannebaker (AIM)	The Rev. Gary Rhinesmith
The Rev. Lee Ann Schray	The Rev. Lowell Schuetze
The Rev.. Ross Trower	The Rev. Susan Tyykila

2013 Synod Assembly 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. One-half (1/2) 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, consent of the person to be nominated, both to be submitted to the secretary at the time of the nomination.

Election of the Bishop

18. Speeches by candidates for the office of Bishop, prior to the fourth ballot, shall be limited to seven (7) minutes per candidate.

Minutes

19. Minutes of this assembly shall be available for review by Synod Council by the following September 30th.

Committee on Reference and Counsel

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

Applications for Displays

21. The Assembly Planning Committee shall determine the amount of space available for displays at each assembly site, year by year, and shall determine the fees charged for displays that are and are not directly related to the offices and divisions of this synod in coordination with the Synod Council.

Applications will be reviewed by the planning committee for content of display and how it relates to the Synod Assembly theme. Permission or license for displays at each assembly shall be given in light of the following priorities:

First Priority: Synod divisions and offices.

Second Priority: Agencies and ministries directly affiliated with this synod, its congregations and/or the ELCA, including Augsburg/Fortress.

Third Priority: Independent organizations, services, or ministries related or useful to the ministry of this church (e.g. church fund raising organizations, ecclesiastical arts agencies).

In principle, display authorization at this synod's assemblies shall always be considered a privilege and shall never be considered a right of any organization not officially affiliated with this synod and/or the ELCA.

In accord with available "third party space," the Assembly Planning Committee shall choose as many as seems appropriate from among the applicants.

Organizations whose prior behavior or whose styles of ministry are thought to be or have been demonstrated to be demeaning of persons of differing viewpoints as to their worth as individuals, or their worthiness to hear the Gospel or to live in community with other believers, shall not be permitted the privilege of display at assemblies of this synod. Decisions of the Assembly Planning Committee in this regard are considered final.

MOTION SA 13.06.02 approved the Registrar's Report, Synod Assembly Agenda, excused absences of rostered leaders and the Rules of Procedure.

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2012 Minutes

MOTION: SA 13.06.03 approved the Minutes of the 2012 Synod Assembly.

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Reception of Oromo Resurrection Evangelical Church

The Rev. Philip Hirsch, Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, told the story of Resurrection Evangelical Church which, in Closing as an Act of Mission, passed on their building to the Oromo Resurrection Evangelical Church. The Oromo Resurrection Evangelical Church is filled to capacity on Sundays. Worshippers flow into the narthex. Currently, the Oromo Resurrection Evangelical Church is seeking to birth a new ministry. A choir from the congregation shared the gift of a song with the Synod Assembly.

The Synod Assembly received the Oromo Resurrection Evangelical Church as a congregation of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod by acclamation.

Introduction of Ecumenical Guests

- The Rev. Jenee' Gilchrist brought greetings from the Virginia Council of Churches
- The Rev. Tom Andrews brought greetings from the Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Washington
- The Rev. Ralph Wiechmann brought greetings from the Rev. Dr. Jon Denninger, President, Southeastern District, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

- The Rev. Dr. Christopher Agnew brought greetings from the Rt. Rev. Shannon Sherwood Johnston, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Virginia

Report of ELCA Churchwide Representative

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, greeted the Synod Assembly in the name of the risen Christ. He presented greetings from the more than 10,000 congregations of the ELCA.

Presiding Bishop Hanson began by posing the question: “How is your soul?” He pointed out that to speak about the state of the church depends on the state of each individual in the ELCA. He then asked us to consider what we expected the Holy Spirit to do. He wondered if the ELCA has become a church of low expectations and observed that we may have become a church of low expectations and high anxiety. More strongly, however, he asserted that the Holy Spirit is writing a new chapter in the book of Acts for the ELCA.

Presiding Bishop Hanson stressed that we need to root ourselves in the Biblical narrative and God’s faithfulness. This is where we find our identity. We are rooted in the Lutheran confessions and their emphasis on God’s grace. We have an opportunity to give witness to the grace of God. Grace is the giftedness and the wonder of life. The grace of God is the Word made flesh and dwelling among us.

Presiding Bishop Hanson expressed the hope that, as Lutherans approach 2017, we would not quarrel over which church bodies are the true spiritual heirs to the Reformation. He would like us to make a unified evangelical witness. He expressed sadness that the president of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod would not meet with him as previous presidents had done.

Presiding Bishop Hanson went on to talk about the ELCA’s ecumenical activities. He noted that we have six new ecumenical partnerships with which we share ministry.

He also spoke about his recent participation in Lutheran World Federation (LWF) meetings and referred with sorrow to the actions of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus in terminating relations with the ELCA and the Church of Sweden.

Presiding Bishop Hanson also gave thanks for the ministries of this synod. He highlighted today’s reception of the Oromo Resurrection Evangelical Church and the new Tamil Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community that recently became a part of this synod.

He highlighted that God is always making things new. He also stressed all too often that we keep the good news to ourselves. He encouraged the Synod Assembly to proactively reach out to people and share God’s good news.

He spoke also of the ways we generate Social Statements and noted that we are to be commended for tackling tough issues like genetics.

He also described the ELCA’s work around the world through the LWF, through disaster relief and through military chaplaincy.

His prayer for the ELCA in the next 100 years is that historians would see us as a church that gives a faithful evangelical witness that is centered in the cross of Christ. He hopes that Lutherans will have the courage to be a voice of moderation in the face of extremism and

exclusion. He echoed the concern of John Douglas Hall that our focus is doing good deeds but we fail to proclaim the gospel. We need to be about proclaiming the Gospel to a world in need of healing. We need to be honest about human suffering, including our own. It is his prayer that we would boldly and imaginatively proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

He concluded that our hope is in the one who gives us hope. We are to be a sign of God's promised future.

Introduction of Synod Staff

Bishop Graham invited staff members to be recognized by the Synod Assembly.

Administrative Assistant &
Synod Assembly Coordinator
Director for Evangelical Mission &
Assistant to the Bishop
Assistant to the Bishop
Communications Coordinator
Synod Administrator

Ms. Amy Acland

The Rev. Phil Hirsch

The Rev. Amy Thompson Sevimli

Ms. Karen Krueger

Mr. Harold Sargeant, AIM

Process of Electing a Bishop

Presiding Bishop Hanson presented the process for election of a bishop. He compared the Synod Assembly to a Call Committee. It is a process that involves thoughtfulness, prayer and conversation.

He spoke briefly about the role of a bishop as a pastor for the synod. He also noted the role of the bishop as a connector and an administrator who oversees and stewards the life of the church.

Report of the Election Committee

The Rev. Steven Buechler, chair of the Election Committee, presented the process for the first nominating ballot.

The registrar's report was updated as follows:

Present:	Lay Voting Members	163
	Rostered Voting Members	<u>89</u>
	Total Voting Members	252
	Visitors	30

Before the first ballot Presiding Bishop Hanson read from Ephesians 2 and led the Synod Assembly in prayer. The Synod Assembly cast the first ballot.

Presiding Bishop Hanson returned the chair to Bishop Graham.

Pr. Jones, chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Team, gave instructions for lunch.

**PLENARY SESSION II
FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2013
National Conference Center
Leesburg, Virginia**

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 noted that his report took two forms, a written report and a video that had been posted on the synod website on the Shape of the Synod Task Force. He encouraged the Synod Assembly to read the report and listen to the video.

In addition to these reports, he shared the highlights from last summer's Companion Synod visit to Namibia. The people of Namibia suffered during the struggle for independence. Many, including Bishop Shanghala of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN), lost loved ones to violence during that period of Namibian history. Bishop Graham noted that in many places of violence in the world Christians continue to make a faithful witness.

He also shared his experiences with In Christ Fellowship, a Tamil speaking, Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community of the Metro D.C. Synod. The people of In Christ Fellowship serve a meal after worship and invite all kinds of people to join them, including folks from a motorcycle gang.

Finally, Bishop Graham celebrated the Rev. David Bohannon's many years of faithful ministry at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Woodbridge, Virginia.

All of these ministries are expressions of the rich diversity of the Metro D.C. Synod.

Greetings from the Lutheran Church in El Salvador

The Rev. Norma Castillo offered greetings from Bishop Medardo Gomez and the pastors of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church. Pr. Castillo reported that the church is growing and that there are now 57 congregations and 10 missions. She shared that it was a pleasure to represent the Salvadoran Lutheran Church at this assembly and to learn about the challenges that the church faces here in the United States.

As gifts to the synod, she presented a replica of the subversive cross that played such a significant role in the history of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church and a wooden wall hanging with an image of birds. In particular, Bishop Gomez reminded us of the story of the subversive cross. This cross is part of living out the Reformation in El Salvador. The image of the birds on the wall hanging represents family, and Pr. Castillo noted that we commend the care of our church families to Christ. She also reminded us of the words from Joshua 10:21, "Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and courageous." These gifts were sent in the spirit of inclusivity and accompaniment.

Pr. Castillo concluded by reminding us that we are not alone. We walk together. Christ is our foundation. She shared her blessings with us and requested prayers for El Salvador as the country goes to the polls in 2014 to elect a new president.

Introduction to Voting Devices

Ms. Jean Knight offered an introduction to the voting devices.

Report of the Vice President

Dr. White commended his written report to the Synod Assembly. He shared his joy with working with the members of the Synod Council.

Report of the Synod Treasurer

Mr. John Handley reviewed the financial reports for 2012. He noted that while we had to adjust expenditures somewhat, we were able to finish the year in the black. He thanked the assembly for its faithful support of the synod.

He mentioned the closure of Bethany Lutheran Church, Forestville, Maryland and subsequent sale of its property. The members of Bethany tithed from the net proceeds of the sale, tithed to the ELCA and donated the remainder of the proceeds of the sale to the synod to support new and renewing missions.

He noted that the synod's audited financial reports for fiscal year 2012 are available. He invited questions. There were none, and the Synod Assembly received the Treasurer's report with thanks.

Introduction to Compensation Guidelines

The Vice President, Dr. White, presented the Rostered Leader Compensation Guidelines for 2014.

MOTION: SA 13.06.04 to increase the base compensation for rostered leaders by 1.5 percent for 2014 was approved.

Yes	178
No	7
Abstain	7

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First Report of Reference and Counsel

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

Each Resolution has two numbers. The R&C number will begin with 2013 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 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod website as part of the pre-assembly packet.

Pr. Stephan advised the Synod Assembly that if anyone knows that they 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 it was written for the Synod Assembly. The amendment will not be shown until it is moved from the floor.

Pr. Stephan reminded the Synod Assembly that it is only the “Resolved” statements that are adopted. The “Whereas” statements are submitted as factual premises; they 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, Pr. Stephan advised that any Resolution arising out of the business of the Synod 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 Synod Assembly are Mr. Phil Soucy, the Rev. Margrethe Kleiber, the Rev. Mark Edwards, the Rev. Sarah Lewis, the Rev. Tom Prinz and the chair, Pr. Stephan. Thanks to each of them 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 Synod Assembly.

Pr. Stephan moved the Resolution, “Greetings.”

MOTION: SA 13.06.05 adopted the Resolution.

Yes	208
No	0
Abstain	9

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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: Caribbean Synod; and express to them our greetings in Christ as they gather in assembly.

Pr. Stephan moved the Resolution, "Accompaniment, Awareness-Raising, and Advocacy for the People of the Holy Land."

Discussion followed. It was moved to amend the Resolution as follows:

To delete all of subheading 3) of the fourth Resolved after the word "endeavors." The text remaining would read: "3) encouraging individuals to invest in Palestinian economic endeavors."

MOTION: SA 13.06.06 adopted the amendment.

Yes	121
No	75
Abstain	19

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MOTION: SA 13.06.07 adopted the Resolution as amended.

Yes	154
No	51
Abstain	15

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***Accompaniment, Awareness-Raising, and Advocacy
for the People of the Holy Land***

WHEREAS, *the prolonged Israeli occupation of and building of settlements in the West Bank and blockade of Gaza cause a great deal of suffering for Israelis and Palestinians; and*

WHEREAS, *the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) rejoices that our Palestinian brother in Christ Bishop Munib Younan is president of the Lutheran World Federation and gives thanks for our special relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) that is marked by mutual love and concern for lasting peace with justice; and*

WHEREAS, *the Peace Not Walls campaign of the ELCA is focused on Accompaniment, Awareness-raising and Advocacy as three aspects of engagement in response to the situation in Israel-Palestine; and*

WHEREAS, *the 2011 Churchwide Assembly adopted a resolution supporting positive investment in Palestinian goods and services and commending the "ELCA Economic Social Criteria Investment Screens" to its members, congregations, synods and agencies; and*

WHEREAS, *the 1995 ELCA Social Statement For Peace in God's World reminds us that bringing about peace with justice is the work of the church, and in support for just political structures "[acknowledges] that the responsible use of sanctions may on occasion be the most effective and least harmful measure to lead states to stop oppressing their people..." (5.C; p19); and*

WHEREAS, *on October 5, 2012, fifteen U.S. Christian leaders, including ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson, signed a letter urging Congress to “undertake careful scrutiny to ensure that our aid is not supporting actions by the government of Israel that undermine prospects for peace;” and*

WHEREAS, *the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod at its 2011 Synod Assembly resolved the Kairos Palestine document to be “an authentic perspective of Palestinian Christians on the state of affairs in their homeland,” and “an expression of their commitment to finding peace, justice, and reconciliation with their brothers and sisters through the way of the Christ we follow together;” and*

WHEREAS, *the Middle East Working Group of this synod continues to offer resources and people to congregations to facilitate learning about these issues; therefore be it*

RESOLVED, *that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly affirm its support for the work of Peace Not Walls as the means by which the ELCA implements its strategy for engagement in Israel and Palestine, and for our sisters and brothers in the ELCJHL as they remain faithful to the Gospel amid the injustices of occupation.; and be it further*

RESOLVED, *that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly direct the bishop of this synod to contact appropriate elected representatives in Congress for the states and districts covered by the Synod and encourages members of the synod to contact their elected representatives in Congress, urging them to hold hearings to examine Israel’s compliance with the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act and the U.S. Arms Export Control Act, as requested in the October 5, 2012 letter from Christian leaders.*

RESOLVED, *that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly direct the bishop of this synod to report to the 2014 Synod Assembly the number of congregations in each conference of this synod that have undertaken a study of the Kairos Palestine document.*

RESOLVED, *that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly memorialize the ELCA Churchwide Assembly meeting August 2013 to commit to socially responsible economic practices by:*

- 1. directing the Church Council to develop and implement social-criteria investment screens that pertain specifically to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and*
- 2. urging members with money invested through Portico to make individual choices about how their retirement funds are invested so as to avoid supporting companies that benefit from the Occupation; and*
- 3. encouraging individuals to invest in Palestinian economic endeavors.*

Pr. Stephan moved the Resolution, “The Community of St. Dysmas.”

MOTION: SA 13.06.08 adopted the Resolution.

Yes	192
No	18
Abstain	15

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The Community of St. Dysmas

WHEREAS, in Matthew's gospel [Matthew 25:34a, 36b, 39-40] we read, "Then the King will say... I was in prison and you came to visit me," and to the question, "When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" responded, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'; and

WHEREAS, Hebrews 13: 3 calls us to "Remember those who are in prison, as if you were together with them in prison," and

WHEREAS, the Proposed ELCA Social Statement on Criminal Justice entitled The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries, to be considered for adoption at the church-wide assembly in August 2013, urges "Synods, congregations, and individuals" to "support and join in ministry to those incarcerated," and

WHEREAS, The Community of St. Dysmas, a congregation supported by both the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod and the Delaware-Maryland Synod and a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is a unique congregation called to minister to inmates within correctional institutions of the Maryland Department of Corrections (currently serving in four locations in the Jessup and Hagerstown areas) and to those members who have been released to return to society; and

WHEREAS, The Community of St. Dysmas seeks to affirm and extend the love of God's creation, encourage spiritual growth, and enable people to live lives of service and witness by providing weekly offerings of Word and Sacrament, Bible studies, and other spiritual teachings; and

WHEREAS, The Community of St. Dysmas has, for over twenty-eight years supported the faith journeys and enriched the spiritual lives of many, both inside and outside these correctional institutions by proclaiming the Gospel and administering the sacraments according to Lutheran teachings; and

WHEREAS, Christian believers both receive and give blessings by worshipping with other believers within the prisons, by welcoming those brothers and sisters who are returned to us, and by praying for the ministry of The Community of St Dysmas to those who are incarcerated in the correctional institutions; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly encourage its members and congregations to designate the third Sunday in October , 2013 and in years following as "Community of St. Dysmas Sunday" by

- *Publicizing Community of St. Dysmas Sunday in church communications,*

- *Inviting congregational members to share their talents of leading worship, providing music, leading Bible studies, assisting with financial record keeping, mentoring and to testify to the ministry in their local congregations enabling awareness of St. Dysmas' witness among the incarcerated,*
 - *Designating a special offering on that day for The Community of St. Dysmas,*
 - *Considering the addition of The Community of St. Dysmas as a ministry line item in the congregation's budget and committing to the Community of St. Dysmas with an annual pledge,*
 - *Offering prayers for the members and ongoing ministry of The Community of St. Dysmas,*
 - *Promoting an ongoing awareness of The Community of St. Dysmas within the congregation in the worship and educational settings, through written and spoken communication provided by the Community of St. Dysmas and by inviting the pastor or other St. Dysmas representatives to speak at your Adult Sunday Forum and/or preach at your worship service.*
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Additional Resolution Proposed from the Floor

The Rev. Michael Wilker moved that the Synod Assembly consider an additional Resolution in recognition of the 75th Anniversary of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. It was seconded and the Synod Assembly voted to accept an additional Resolution.

MOTION: SA 13.06.09 adopted consideration of the Resolution.

Yes	194
No	24
Abstain	3

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Introduction of the Mission Spending Plan

The Rev. Greg Durig presented the 2014 Mission Spending Plan. There is a traditional line item spending plan for review. There is a modest increase of about 2% over the 2013 Mission Spending Plan. He highlighted the increase in congregation support and development.

There is also a Narrative Budget that explains the reasoning behind the line item budget.

He introduced members of the synod Finance Committee.

Mr. John Handley	Ms. Anita Nolan
Ms. Karen Consiglio	Mr. Jim McGee
The Rev. Phil Hirsch	The Rev. Darcy Tillman

Report of the First Ballot for Bishop

Presiding Bishop Hanson called on Pr. Buechler to report on the first ballot. Pr. Buechler presented the following:

240 valid votes were cast. 180 needed for election. The results were as follows:

The Rev. Richard Graham	176
The Rev. Phil Hirsch	12
The Rev. Emmanuel Grantson	7
The Rev. Ron Qualley	7
The Rev. Amy Thompson Sevimli	5
The Rev. Brent Thalacker	3
The Rev. David Bohannon	2
The Rev. John Kidd	2
The Rev. Tom Knoll	2
The Rev. David Lose	2
The Rev. Ray Michener	2
The Rev. Connie Miller	2
The Rev. Wendy Moen	2
The Rev. Beth Neubauer	2
The Rev. Tom Prinz	2
The Rev. Linda Thurston	2
The Rev. Suzanne Blume	1
The Rev. James Cobb	1
The Rev. Anne Dwiggin	1
The Rev. Mark Hanson	1
The Rev. Robert Lewis	1
The Rev. Mark Olsen	1
The Rev. Carmelo Santos	1
The Rev. Robin Steinke	1
The Rev. Christine Stephan	1
The Rev. Joe Vought	1
Total	240
Blank ballots	6
Invalid ballots	2

Pr. Buechler announced that the deadline for withdrawal would be 4:15 pm, Friday, June 21, 2013.

It was announced that Bishop Lozada-Montañez of the Caribbean Synod was reelected to a second term.

Shape of the Synod Task Force

Mr. Tom Kern and Ms. Barbara Topel presented an overview of the work of the Shape of the Synod Task Force.

They highlighted that the Gospel calls us to serve the poor and to make disciples. Lutherans are good at serving the poor. We are not so good at making disciples.

Mr. Kern and Ms. Topel went on to highlight the different initiatives undertaken by the task force. Members of the task force visited 14 congregations over the past year. They found that making disciples pushes us outside of our comfort zones. As a synod and as congregations we need to rethink our efforts, for example, focusing on small groups, thinking up ways to free pastors for mission, etc. They made it clear that we also need to customize our approach depending on community context.

Members of the Shape of the Synod Task Force:

Ms. Barbara Topel
Mr. Tom Kern
The Rev. Tom Knoll
The Rev. Amy Thompson Sevimli
The Rev. Phil Hirsch
Bishop Richard Graham

Additional Introductions

The Rev. Eric Wester was introduced as the Chaplain of the Synod Assembly. He is Director of the ELCA Bureau of Chaplaincy Ministries.

Ms. Ione Hanson, wife of Presiding Bishop Hanson, was introduced and thanked for her ministry of support both to Presiding Bishop Hanson and to the ELCA. It was duly noted that today, Friday, June 21, 2013, is the Hansons' 43rd wedding anniversary.

Report of the Nominating Committee and First Ballot

The Rev. Wendy Moen presented the report of the Nominating Committee.

SYNOD COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Office of Vice President

Mr. Benjamin Cutler
Dr. John White

D.C. Conference – Lay

Mr. Larry Evans
Mr. Morris Goff

Fairfax Conference - Rostered

The Rev. Gerard Johnson

Maryland Conference-Rostered

The Rev. Emmanuel Grantson

Montgomery Conference-Rostered

The Rev. Christine Stephan

Potomac Conference-Rostered

The Rev. Charles Oberkehr

Virginia Conference-Lay

Mr. Stanley Rufus Medikonda

At Large-Lay

Mr. Kurtis Lowe

At Large-Rostered

The Rev. Margrethe Kleiber

Youth Representative

Mr. Jack Hill

STANDING COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Committee on Discipline-Clergy

The Rev. Suzanne Blume

The Rev. Doug Jones

The Rev. Renata Eustis

Committee on Discipline-Lay

Mr. Marshal Love

Ms. Paula Wester

There was a nomination from the floor of Mr. Michael Philpy for the Virginia Conference Lay position on Synod Council. His nomination form will be copied and distributed.

Pr. Moen moved that all uncontested positions be elected by acclamation. It was seconded and by vote taken by voice.

MOTION: SA 13.06.10 adopted the Resolution by acclamation.

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Report of Gettysburg Seminary

The Rev. Michael Cooper-White, President of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, brought greetings from the faculty and students of the seminary. He also brought greetings from colleagues of the other ELCA seminaries. President Cooper-White thanked the Synod Assembly for the Synod's ongoing financial support of the seminary. He also thanked the members of this synod who have served on the seminary board as well as others who contribute to the life of Gettysburg Seminary.

He spoke on the role of the seminary in leadership development during these challenging times. He noted that all the seminaries have experienced enrollment declines. He encouraged members of the Synod Assembly to seek out people with leadership potential to consider vocation and entering seminary.

Next week the seminary will also be opening the Seminary Ridge Museum. It will explore questions of war and peace. They anticipate tens of thousands of visitors. They have garnered \$8.5 million in public/private funds for this project.

President Cooper-White also highlighted a number of innovative ideas and activities taking place on campus.

- In partnership with the Odyssey Network, Gettysburg developed a course on religion and the media.
- Gettysburg has initiated a program called Scholars of Abundance. Seminarians who complete internship will get their fourth year free.
- Gettysburg has also been recognized for campus greening efforts, including the use of geothermal heating and cooling.

Second Ballot for Synod Offices

Pr. Buechler introduced the next round of elections. The Synod Assembly cast its vote for Synod Vice President and D.C. Conference Lay seat on the Synod Council. On the ballot for these positions...

Synod Vice President

Mr. Benjamin Cutler
Dr. John White

Synod Council D.C. Conference Lay

Mr. Larry Evans
Mr. Morris Goff

The election for the Virginia Conference Lay Council seat was postponed until the Synod Assembly receives the nomination forms for Mr. Philpy. On the ballot for this position...

Synod Council Virginia Conference Lay

Mr. Stanley Medikonda
Mr. Michael Philpy

Anniversary Recognition

25th Anniversary of Ordination	The Rev. Karis K. Graham The Rev. Robert C. Layman
30th Anniversary of Ordination	The Rev. Joseph M. Vought The Rev. Mark D. Blice-Baum The Rev. Sue Tyykila
35th Anniversary of Ordination	The Rev. Bishop Richard Graham The Rev. James B. Vigen The Rev. James P. Wind The Rev. Thomas A. Prinz
40th Anniversary of Ordination	The Rev. Bruce L. Burslie

	The Rev. Leonel A. Cruz The Rev. Raymond W. Michener The Rev. Robert M. Holum The Rev. Sherman G. Hicks The Rev. Stephen J. Heetland
45th Anniversary of Ordination	The Rev. David M. Bohannon The Rev. George W. Schwantes The Rev. Lowell E. Schuetze The Rev. Myron L. Barbour Jr.
50th Anniversary of Ordination	The Rev. Neal R. Davidson The Rev. Richard Reichard
55th Anniversary of Ordination	The Rev. Barron B. Maberry The Rev. James T. Heinemeier
60th Anniversary of Ordination	The Rev. Harold S. Goers The Rev. Kenneth L. Mahler
65th Anniversary of Ordination	The Rev. Ross Forcey

**PLENARY SESSION III
FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2013
National Conference Center
Leesburg, Virginia**

Second Ballot for Bishop

The registrar's report was updated as follows:

Present:	Lay Voting Members	168
	Rostered Voting Members	<u>93</u>
	Total Voting Members	261
	Visitors	31

The following individuals remained candidates for the office of Bishop of the Metro D.C. Synod:

The Rev. David Bohannon
The Rev. James Cobb
The Rev. Richard Graham
The Rev. Emmanuel Grantson
The Rev. Raymond Michener
The Rev. Linda Thurston

Presiding Bishop Hanson read from 2 Timothy and led the Synod Assembly in prayer. Following this, the Synod Assembly cast the second ballot.

Report of Elections

The results of the first election were as follows:

Synod Vice President

221 votes were cast. 111 votes were needed for an election.

Mr. Benjamin Cutler	91
Dr. John White	130

Synod Council D.C. Conference Lay

199 votes were cast. 100 votes were needed for an election.

Mr. Larry Evans	112
Mr. Morris Goff	87

The election for Synod Council Virginia-Lay seat was again postponed until candidate forms could be provided.

Dr. White and Mr. Evans were declared elected.

Second Report of Reference and Council

Pr. Stephan moved the Resolution: “A Memorial Calling for Conversations about Ministering to Same-Gender Couples and Families.”

MOTION: SA 13.06.11 adopted the Resolution.

Yes	177
No	29
Abstain	12

.....

A Memorial Calling for Conversations about Ministering to Same-Gender Couples and Families

WHEREAS, *the ELCA, meeting in Assembly (2009) resolved to “commit itself to finding ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support, and hold publicly accountable lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships;” and*

WHEREAS, *the ELCA Social Statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust (2009) states that*

- 1. “the ELCA recognizes that it has a pastoral responsibility to all children of God.” (p. 19)*
- 2. “supports legislation and policies to protect civil rights” for all and has also “called upon congregations and members of this church to welcome, care for, and support same-gender couples and their families and to advocate for their legal protection.” (p. 19, emphasis added)*
- 3. “will attend to the need for equal protection, equal opportunities, and equal responsibilities under the law” for all (p. 33); and*

WHEREAS, *marriage has been recognized for same-gender couples in nine states and the District of Columbia and within the territory of twelve synods of the ELCA, which together minister to over 650,000 Lutherans (about 15% of total ELCA membership); and*

WHEREAS, *seven additional states (Illinois, Minnesota, Delaware, Rhode Island, Hawaii, Oregon, and New Jersey) are widely expected to consider legislation recognizing marriage for same-gender couples between 2013 and 2015, encompassing twelve additional synods that minister to over 1.1 million Lutherans (about 25% of total ELCA membership); and*

WHEREAS, *the Supreme Court of the United States is currently considering whether to declare two laws unconstitutional: the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and California’s Proposition 8, both of which restrict the individual and family protections afforded by marriage; and*

WHEREAS, *individuals, congregations, and pastors have requested advice and resources to assist in their mission to support same-gender couples and their families; therefore be it*

RESOLVED, *that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, meeting in assembly, memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:*

1. *to invite and encourage conversations among this church's congregations, rostered leaders, and the Conference of Bishops regarding the growing trend in state and federal laws towards marriage equality and how all the expressions of the ELCA can respond to the needs of the neighbor, including discussion and sharing of resources that would be most helpful for those wishing to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals and couples and their families as we seek to grow into this new reality; and*
 2. *to invite and encourage conversations among this church's congregations, rostered leaders, and the Conference of Bishops regarding ways that this church can advocate for equal protection under the law for same-gender couples and their families; and*
 3. *to invite and encourage the ELCA Church Council and the churchwide organization to make provision for Voting Members to engage in these conversations at the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, as the church continues to discern its ministry in the emerging context.*
-

Pr. Stephan moved the Resolution: "Memorial in Support of Legislation Prohibiting Employment Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity."

MOTION: SA 13.06.12 adopted the Resolution.

Yes	195
No	29
Abstain	5

.....

***Memorial in Support of Legislation Prohibiting Employment Discrimination
on the Basis of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity***

WHEREAS, *it is currently legal in 29 states to discriminate in the workplace on the basis of sexual orientation, and in 34 on the basis of gender identity; and*

WHEREAS, *employees should be judged on the quality of their work and nothing more; and*

WHEREAS, *legislation that would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity while providing for a broad religious exemption, has been introduced in every Congress since 1994; and*

WHEREAS, *the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (H.R. 1397/S. 812) is an example of such legislation; and*

WHEREAS, *the ELCA's Social Statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust states that "While Lutherans hold various convictions regarding lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships, this church is united on many critical issues" (p. 19). This church:*

1. *"supports legislation and policies to protect civil rights and to prohibit discrimination in housing, employment, and public services." (p. 19)*

2. *"has called upon congregations and members of this church to welcome, care for, and support same-gender couples and their families and to advocate for their legal protection."* (p. 19)
3. *"will advocate for public policies that support and protect families."* (p. 24)
4. *"will attend to the need for equal protection, equal opportunities, and equal responsibilities under the law, and just treatment for those with varied sexual orientation and gender identity. Such individuals are disproportionately and negatively affected by patterns of stigma, discrimination, and abuse;"* and

WHEREAS, *the 1997 ELCA Churchwide Assembly passed a memorial by 79.8% to endorse the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and to affirm advocacy "in support of laws barring discrimination against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation" (see CWA resolution CA97.06.29), therefore be it*

RESOLVED, *that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to call upon Congress to take up and pass legislation that would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity while providing for religious exemptions; and be it further*

RESOLVED, *that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, to urge the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, synodical bishops, clergy, and other church leaders to speak publicly in support of legislation that would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity while providing for religious exemptions; and be it further*

RESOLVED, *that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to urge the laity to make this Assembly's position and the ELCA's position known to their Members of Congress in the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate.*

Pr. Stephan moved the Resolution: "Memorial in Support of the Uniting American Families Act (UAFA)."

MOTION: SA 13.06.13 adopted the Resolution.

Yes	195
No	22
Abstain	15

.....

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

WHEREAS, *under current U.S. immigration law, a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident is permitted to sponsor his or her spouse, child, or parent for permanent resident status; and*

- WHEREAS, *U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents are not permitted to sponsor their same-gender partners for permanent resident status; and*
- WHEREAS, *twenty-five other countries allow their citizens to sponsor their same-gender partners in the immigration process(1); and*
- WHEREAS, *there are approximately 36,000 bi-national, same-gender families in the U.S.(2); and*
- WHEREAS, *35% of male bi-national couples and 39% of female bi-national couples are raising more than 17,000 children(3); and*
- WHEREAS, *due to the inability of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents to sponsor their same-gender partners, these families can be forced to live abroad, thus uprooting their children, disrupting their careers, and breaking ties with their families, communities, and places of worship; and*
- WHEREAS, *current immigration law does not provide for equal justice and equal protection for gay and lesbian citizens and legal permanent residents; and*
- WHEREAS, *the ELCA has a long-standing commitment to comprehensive federal immigration reform; and*
- WHEREAS, *a bill called the Uniting American Families Act (UAFA) has been introduced in the Federal legislature to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in immigration by permitting permanent partners of United States citizens and of lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and of lawful permanent residents and to penalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent partnerships; and*
- WHEREAS, *the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, in assembly in 2012 memorialized the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly “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,” therefore be it*
- RESOLVED, *that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, in Assembly, memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to call upon President Obama and elected officials in Congress to support and to press for passage of the Uniting American Families Act (UAFA) or its equivalent as a component of comprehensive immigration reform; and be it further*
- RESOLVED, *that if a bill for comprehensive immigration reform is passed before the start of the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, and if the bill does not include UAFA or its equivalent, the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, meeting in assembly, memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to call for the reintroduction of UAFA in the U.S. legislature; and be it further*
- RESOLVED, *that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, meeting in assembly, memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to commend*

Bishop Thomas M. Aitken, Northeastern Minnesota Synod,

*Bishop James A. Arends, La Crosse Area Synod,
Bishop David H. Brauer-Rieke, Oregon Synod,
Bishop Jessica R. Crist, Montana Synod,
Bishop H. Julian Gordy, Southeastern Synod ,
Bishop Richard H. Graham, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod,
Bishop Wolfgang D. Herz-Lane, Delaware-Maryland Synod,
Bishop Mark W. Holmerud, Sierra Pacific Synod,
Bishop Felipe Lozada-Montañez, Caribbean Synod,
Bishop Dean W. Nelson, Southwest California Synod,
Bishop Margaret Payne, New England Synod,
Bishop Robert A. Rimbo, Metropolitan New York Synod,
Bishop Michael Rinehart, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod,
Bishop Stephen S. Talmage, Grand Canyon Synod, and
Bishop Martin D. Wells, Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod*

for their courageous witness and their stand for justice in adding their names to the February 2013 Faith Coalition for UAFA letter (4); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, meeting in assembly, memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to encourage the clergy and other leaders of congregations in this church to support the Uniting American Families Act in writing, preaching, praying, and teaching; by financially supporting organizations working for immigration reform; by participation in public discussions and rallies in support of immigration reform and the UAFA; and by communicating with their elected representatives encouraging them to co-sponsor and to support a just, comprehensive reform of U.S. immigration law that includes the principles of UAFA.

(1) Immigration Equality Action Fund (<http://immigrationequalityactionfund.org/legislation/summaries/>)

(2) Ibid.

(3) Ibid.

*(4) Immigration Equality Action Fund
(http://immigrationequalityactionfund.org/images/FaithCoalition_SignOnLetter.pdf)*

Pr. Stephan moved the Resolution: "Safe and Responsible Use of Firearms."

MOTION: SA 13.06.14 adopted the Resolution.

Yes	193
No	33
Abstain	6

.....

Safe and Responsible Use of Firearms

WHEREAS *,in Christian faith, we are called to trust in God, to worship the One who comes as Prince of Peace and to serve as peacemakers, seeking God's shalom for all the world; and*

- WHEREAS, *the Lutheran understanding of freedom is that God makes us free but that with freedom comes the responsibility to serve one's neighbor in love; and*
- WHEREAS, *we grieve with those in Newtown, Connecticut and other communities who have suffered from gross acts of violence involving irresponsible use of firearms; and*
- WHEREAS, *United States Supreme Court decisions have upheld the "right to keep and bear arms," these decisions also have made it clear that this right is not unlimited (1); and*
- WHEREAS, *every day, on average, 86 people in the United States die from gun violence and another 196 are shot and survive (2) and victims are "disproportionately young," making firearms a leading cause of death among juveniles; (3) and*
- WHEREAS, *in addition to injury and death, gun violence contributes to other economic losses involving medical expenses, lost productivity, lower property and tax values, the cost of which has been estimated at \$325 per resident per year; therefore, be it*
- RESOLVED, *that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, meeting in Assembly, urge the people of its congregations to demonstrate responsible use of any guns in their possession and responsible stewardship in the storage and use of their guns, and be it further,*
- RESOLVED, *that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, meeting in Assembly, urge its congregations to engage people in their communities in a year of prayer, reflection and education on ways to curb gun violence, and to assure responsible use of guns in service of our neighbors, be it further,*
- RESOLVED, *that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, meeting in Assembly, urge congregations to partner with other faith communities to call for an end to gun violence, and be it further,*
- RESOLVED, *that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, meeting in Assembly, direct our bishop and encourage members of the synod to urge elected officials at state and federal levels of government to develop and enact legislation to promote gun safety including: tighter regulation and oversight of gun sellers; require background checks for everyone purchasing a gun, including private transactions; require firearms handling safety classes for all firearms purchasers; ban military style high capacity weapons and high-capacity magazines more than 10 rounds; prohibit firearm purchases for high-risk groups and enact stronger child access to guns prevention laws (5), and be it further,*
- RESOLVED, *that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2013 ELCA Churchwide assembly to develop an investment screen for civilian firearms to be used by those responsible in the ELCA to invest church funds and by Portico Benefit Services as it develops criteria for the ELCA Retirement Social Purpose Funds.*

(1) Webster, DH, Vernick, JS, Vitti, K., McGinty, EE, Teret, SP, and Frattaroli, S. The Case for Gun Policy Reforms in America, Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research, Bloomberg School of Public Health; October, 2012.

http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/publications/WhitePaper102512_CGPR.pdf

(2) CDC, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control; Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System; Reported in Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence www.bradycampaign.org/XShare/Facts/Gun_Death_and_Injury_Stat_Sheet_3_Year_Average_FINAL.pdf. Retrieved 04/22/13.

(3) Webster et al; *The Case for Gun Policy Reforms in America*.

(4) Shapiro RJ, Hassett KA. *The Economic Benefits of Reducing Violent Crime: A Case Study of 8 American Cities*. Center for American Progress, Washington, DC, June, 2012; cited in Webster et al.

(5) Recommendations offered by the Children's Defense Fund: *Protect Children, Not Guns; The Truth About Guns* (March 29, 2013)

Third Ballot for Synod Office

The Synod Assembly voted for the Virginia Conference-Lay member of Synod Council.

Worship

Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson was the preaching minister and Bishop Richard Graham served as the presiding minister.

Dinner followed.

**PLENARY SESSION IV
FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2013
National Conference Center
Leesburg, Virginia**

Report of the Elections Committee

Pr. Buechler reported on the election for Synod Council Virginia Conference-Lay.

The results of the first election were as follows.

229 votes were cast. 115 were needed for election. The results were as follows:

Mr. Stanley Medikonda	122
Mr. Michael Philpy	107

Mr. Medikonda was declared elected.

Report of the Second Ballot for Bishop

Presiding Bishop Hanson presided over the report relating to the election of the Bishop. Pr. Buechler reported on the second ballot for bishop.

238 votes were cast. 172 votes were needed for election. The results were as follows:

The Rev. David Bohannon	9
The Rev. James Cobb	2
The Rev. Richard Graham	211
The Rev. Emmanuel Grantson	7
The Rev. Raymond Michener	4
The Rev. Linda Thurston	5

Bishop Graham was declared elected to a six-year term as Bishop, effective September 1, 2013.

Bishop Graham reassumed his role as chair of the Synod Assembly and spoke briefly after the results of the election. He read from Hebrews, Chapter 12.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

He paid tribute to those bishops who had gone before him. Highlighting the phrase “let us run with perseverance,” Bishop Graham affirmed his commitment to persevering in the tasks of the synod and invited the Synod Assembly to join in this work.

Proposed Constitutional Changes

Pr. Sevimli presented the proposed changes to the Constitution. The purpose of these changes is to bring the synod constitution in line with the changes made by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

These changes were moved by action of the Synod Council and brought before the Synod Assembly for a vote.

MOTION: SA 13.06.15 to bring our synod's constitution in line with the changes to the model constitution enacted by the ELCA 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

The motion was adopted unanimously with 205 votes cast.

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Proposed Changes to Bylaws

Pr. Hirsch presented the proposed changes to the bylaws. The synod's structure has remained the same since the establishment of the ELCA in 1988. However, the synod's practices have changed. There are two primary reasons for changing the bylaws.

1. To bring synodical structures in line with synodical practice
2. To ensure that the bylaws accurately articulate the synod's priorities for mission

Pr. Hirsch called the Synod Assembly's attention to p. 32. The synod is no longer using the terminology of divisions and offices but is moving to the language of table and team.

In the discussion that followed members of the Synod Assembly raised questions about the implications of the changes.

MOTION: SA 13.06.16 to cease debate on the motion was made.

Yes	120
No	78
Abstain	1

The motion failed for lack of the required two-thirds majority.

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MOTION: SA 13.06.17 to table the matter was approved by a voice vote.

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Third Report of Reference and Council

Pr. Stephan moved the Resolution, "Resolution on Criminal Justice."

Discussion followed. It was moved to amend the Resolution by striking paragraph a of the final resolved.

MOTION: SA13.06.18 approved the amendment.

Yes	110
No	68
Abstain	13

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Resolution on Criminal Justice

WHEREAS, in April 2013 a Proposed Social Policy The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries was approved by the ELCA Church Council for presentation at the August 2013 Churchwide Assembly, and

WHEREAS, this Statement resulted from an earlier Draft Policy Statement on Criminal Justice which was reviewed and commented upon by many throughout the church; and

WHEREAS, this Proposed Social Policy reflects the input of commentary by members of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod as well as others throughout the church, and

WHEREAS, there is evidence that concern regarding inequities and inefficiencies of the US criminal justice system has been receiving considerable discussion in the public forum, for example:

- An increasing number of civic advocates have called for a comprehensive review of the effectiveness, efficacy and justice of the U.S. prison system;*
- The United States Sentencing Commission has called for a return to judicial discretion for many crimes now covered under mandatory sentencing guidelines that have resulted in a drastic increase in the number and duration of incarcerations; and*
- The ELCA was a signatory organization supporting the passage of the Second Chance Act of 2008, which provides for increased services to prevent recidivism and to assist former prisoners to make successful transitions to community life; and*

WHEREAS, a series of implementing resolutions regarding the Proposed Social Policy The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries will be presented to voting members of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August, 2013, be it therefore,

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly, express gratitude to the ELCA Task Force on Criminal Justice for the good work done in developing The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries, and be further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly extend its efforts to discuss and articulate an effective and faithful approach to criminal justice in our society today by doing the following:

- A. Encourage synod-wide and/or regional gatherings of persons and organizations that have long been active in criminal justice reform and services, to raise awareness and develop working relationships among our members and the wider community*

- B. *Facilitate the use of social media (e.g., the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod website, web-conferencing, Facebook, and so forth) to facilitate networking and dissemination of knowledge regarding the issues raised in the Proposed Statement so as to equip our membership and others of good will for ministry and advocacy concerning criminal justice ; and*
- C. *Encourage congregations of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod to commit themselves to pray for healing, justice and reconciliation for all touched by the criminal justice system, including those who work in and set policy, crime victims, those incarcerated and their families.*

MOTION: SA 13.06.19 adopted the Resolution as amended.

Yes	181
No	6
Abstain	6

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The Synod Assembly's activities concluded for the evening.

**PLENARY SESSION V
FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2013
National Conference Center
Leesburg, Virginia**

Morning Devotions

Presiding Bishop Hanson gave a morning devotion from Lamentations, reminding us that “the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.” He noted that we may need to relinquish the past to make way for the renewing work of God.

Report of Assistant to the Bishop, the Rev. Amy Thompson Sevimli

Pr. Sevimli referred to her written report and invited the members of the Synod Assembly to read it.

Citing an article from the Atlantic magazine titled Listening to Young Atheists: Lessons for a Stronger Christianity, Pr. Sevimli challenged the members of the Synod Assembly to consider how we present the faith to those around us. The author of the article found that young people do not feel that their experience in church is reflective of a Triune God. It is not just atheists who are giving this critique of the church. For many, the church does not convey that Jesus really matters. The church is perceived as religious without being spiritual.

As part of her report Pr. Sevimli invited participants who went on the synod sponsored Young Adult trips to the U.S. Mexico Border and the Holy Land to share some of the highlights from their experiences.

Lindsay Parsons from Faith Lutheran Church in Arlington shared stories from her trip to Ciudad Juarez and the community of Cristo del Rey. She spoke of the importance of being vulnerable to build genuine connections among people.

Heidi Eickstadt and the Rev. Ray Ranker shared stories about their journey to the Holy Land. They described the hardships experienced by the Palestinian people as well as stories of the people, both Palestinians and Israelis, who work for peace.

Pr. Sevimli concluded her report with a few comments on Project Connect, the Synod Youth Protection Policy and The Journey, a training for pastors and congregation leaders taught by the Rev. Chris Nelson and the Rev. Mary Pechauer. Details about these initiatives can be found in her written report.

Bylaw Revisions Continued

The Synod Assembly resumed discussion about the revisions to the bylaws.

MOTION: SA 13.06.20 referred the bylaw changes to the Synod Council for additional work and to report back to the 2014 Synod Assembly.

Yes

189

No	35
Abstain	6

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**Report of Director for Evangelical Mission and
Assistant to the Bishop, The Rev. Philip Hirsch**

Pr. Hirsch described the work of the New and Renewing Mission Table and referred the Synod Assembly to his report and the report of the New and Renewing Mission Table.

Pr. Hirsch invited the Rev. Dave Sonnenberg to provide an update on the work of the synod's Stewardship and Support Table. Pr. Sonnenberg noted that the Table's purpose is to be a resource to congregations in their stewardship ministry as well as grow the financial resources of the synod. One of the synod's goals is to help people grow in generosity. He called the Synod Assembly's attention to the Embrace Generosity resource in the Synod Assembly download.

Pr. Hirsch continued his report by sharing the recent statistics regarding church growth and worship attendance in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod. The number of people joining our congregations by affirmation of faith or adult baptisms is flat or diminishing. Collectively, there are about 10,000 people worshipping in the Metropolitan Washington, D. C. Synod congregations on a Sunday morning. Worship attendance is down across the country and across denominations.

Nonetheless, there are new initiatives and new growth taking place. Pr. Hirsch cited the example of the Rev. Connie Thomson who proactively shares Jesus out of compassion. He challenged members of the Synod Assembly to look at ways Christ can work through us. How can we offer Christ out of compassion for others?

Finally, Pr. Hirsch invited the Rev. Mike Gutzler and the Rev. Kate Davidson to describe the 2014 re-launch of Together in Mission. It is scheduled for January 25, 2014, at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. It will be organized in cooperation with the VTS and will utilize a TED talk format. The 2014 TIM talks will invite between 20-30 speakers to share their best ideas for mission.

Offering

The offering taken during Friday's worship service totaled \$2,393.71. It will be entrusted to Presiding Bishop Hanson to support ministry in the ELCA as he sees fit.

ELCA Foundation

Ms. Alice Benson provided a quick update on the ELCA Foundation, emphasizing that the Foundation is a tool for ELCA congregations and members.

Adoption of the Mission Spending Plan

Pr. Durig presented for a second time the 2014 Mission Spending Plan.

Bishop Graham invited discussion. Pr. Durig emphasized how reorganizing the items in the line item spending plan reflects synodical priorities. He also described how the narrative budget provides background on these priorities.

MOTION: SA 13.06.21 approved the 2014 Mission Spending Plan.

Yes	195
No	0
Abstain	1

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2014 Mission Spending Plan

Receipts from:	
Congregational Benevolence	1,838,000
Interest & Other Congregational Support	\$15,800
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 1,853,800
Expenditures for:	
<i>Churchwide Support (50% of Benevolence)</i>	<i>\$ 919,000</i>
New Congregational Development	70,000
Congregational Redevelopment	20,000
Congregational Renewal	10,000
<i>New & Renewing Missions Table</i>	<i>\$ 100,000</i>
Gifts of Hope	6,000
Other Stewardship & Mission Support	1,000
<i>Stewardship and Mission Support</i>	<i>\$ 7,000</i>
Ecumenical Affairs	4,500
Candidacy	6,000
Gettysburg Seminary (5% of Benevolence)	91,900
Seminary Student Financial Aid	12,000
First Call Theological Education	2,000
Synod Young Adults Initiative	5,000
Bishop's Emergency Fund	250
<i>Office of the Bishop</i>	<i>\$ 121,650</i>
<i>Global Mission & Companion Synods</i>	<i>\$ 6,000</i>
Synod Supported Camps	18,000
Synod Supported Campus Ministries	65,000
<i>Camp and Campus Ministry Support</i>	<i>\$ 83,000</i>
Region 8 Support	7,960
Ordained Staff Comp. & Benefits	263,000
Office Staff Comp. & Benefits	176,000
Office Operations	85,000

Occupancy Costs	85,000
<i>Administration & Operations</i>	<i>\$ 616,960</i>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 1,853,610
RECEIPTS LESS EXPENDITURES	\$ 190

Creation Care Team

The Creation Care team provided an update on its work in the synod.

Lutheran World Relief

Representatives from Lutheran World Relief gave thanks to members of the Synod Assembly for their ongoing and continued support.

Portico Benefit Services

Ms. Barbara Debski, representative of Portico Benefit Services, brought greetings and news from Portico. She provided an update on changes related to the Affordable Care Act. Portico remains committed to its members and will continue to provide benefits to those covered by the ELCA health plan. This fall there will be an open enrollment with changes going into effect in 2014. The health plan will go from offering one option to four options. Details will be available after the Churchwide Council meets. Portico will provide this information to plan members and congregations as soon as it is available.

She invited members of the Synod Assembly to stop by the Portico table for additional information.

Fourth Report of Reference and Counsel

The Resolution, "Giving Thanks and Praise to God for LIRS 75th Anniversary," was considered.

MOTION: SA 13.06.22 approved the Resolution.

Yes	201
No	0
Abstain	5

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Giving Thanks and Praise to God for LIRS 75th Anniversary

WHEREAS, in 1939, as Europe was once again engulfed in war, Lutherans in the United States were compelled by their faith to organize a joint effort to welcome refugees to this country and to offer hospitality in their local communities; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), in partnership with Lutheran congregations and social ministry organizations in the Metropolitan, Washington,

D.C. Synod and across the country, has resettled over 400,000 refugees in its 75 years of ministry; and

WHEREAS, LIRS, in partnership with Lutheran congregations and social ministry organizations, continues to serve over 10,000 newly arrived refugees and 20,000 detained torture survivors, victims of trafficking, and unaccompanied children every year; and

WHEREAS, we have just commemorated World Refugee Day (June 20) – praying for those who are fleeing and in danger, remembering those who wait and are separated from loved ones; and celebrating the gifts that our new refugee neighbors are; and

WHEREAS, we fulfill the call to love the neighbors God gives to us by embracing refugees and migrants as assets in our communities and congregations, and accompanying them as they build new lives in America; and

WHEREAS, the mission of LIRS invites us to join in witnessing to God's love for all people, by standing with and advocating for migrants and refugees, transforming communities through ministries of service and justice; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod commit itself to commemorating World Refugee Day in 2014 and to encourage all congregations to celebrate Sunday, June 22, 2014, as Refugee Sunday in which congregations offer thanks and praise to God for the 75 years of welcoming migrants and refugees through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service in cooperation with Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area;

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly memorialize the 2013 Churchwide Assembly to declare Sunday, June 22, 2014, as Refugee Sunday in which congregations offer thanks and praise to God for the 75 years of welcoming migrants and refugees through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service; and direct the Presiding Bishop to:

- invite congregations to tell the stories of their acts of welcome to refugees and migrants—signs of witness, mercy, and life together;*
- utilize ELCA communications mechanisms to share these stories and inspire action throughout 2014; and*
- encourage congregations and organizations to engage with and support the LIRS mission of welcoming the stranger through gifts of time, talent, and treasure.*

Pr. Stephan moved the Resolution, “Expression of Thanks and Gratitude for Service of Harold Sargeant, Associate in Ministry (AIM),” and proposed the Synod Assembly vote by acclamation.

MOTION: SA 13.06.23 approved the Resolution by acclamation.

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**Expression of Thanks and Gratitude
for Service of Harold Sargeant, Associate in Ministry (AIM)**

- WHEREAS, *Mr. Harold Sargeant, AIM, has served the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod for 6 years as the Synodical Administrator and has faithfully carried out his duties with care and diligence; going above and beyond expectations on a regular basis and;*
- WHEREAS, *he has served God's church in many and innumerable ways which have advanced God's kingdom and, with a special recognition to his home congregation St. Mark's in Springfield, Virginia;*
- WHEREAS, *his gentle nature and dry humor always made others comfortable and made to feel welcome and;*
- WHEREAS, *he is retiring from his position to enjoy life to the fullest in Pennsylvania therefore be it:*
- RESOLVED, *that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod expresses its sincere appreciation and love for his contribution to the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and further be it*
- RESOLVED, *that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod extends blessings to him, Donita, and his entire family for good health and best wishes for the future.*
-

Pr. Stephan moved the Resolution, "Expression of Thanks and Gratitude."

MOTION: SA 13.06.24 adopted the Resolution.

Yes	206
No	1
Abstain	2

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Expression of Thanks and Gratitude

- WHEREAS, *the staff of the National Conference Center in Landsdowne, Virginia have served as gracious hosts for the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly, providing facilities and support for this 2013 Synod Assembly; and*
- WHEREAS, *the 2013 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 of the National Conference Center in Landsdowne, Virginia;*

- *the Reverend Mark S. Hanson, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for his leadership and guidance; the Reverend Amy Thompson Sevimli, Assistant to the Bishop; 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; the Reverend John Bradford, Secretary of the Synod; and Mr. John Handley, Treasurer of the Synod; Ms. Amy Acland for registration and on-site administrative support; 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;*
- *With a special ‘shout out’ to the Reverend Margathe Kleiber for her quick typing skills and willing heart as the secretary pro tempore; and Mr. Kevin Anderson for his willingness to provide additional secretarial skills.*
- *the Synod Assembly Planning Committee, under the leadership of the Reverend Douglas Jones: Ms. Amy Acland, the Reverend Kate Davidson, the Reverend Steve Buechler, the Reverend Christine Stephan, the Reverend Sandra Shaw, Ms. Karen Krueger, the Reverend Stephanie Johnson, the Reverend Wendy Moen, Mr. Phillip Meuschke, the Reverend John Bradford*
- *the Media Coordinators for their volunteer service with communications: Mr. David Carlson, Ms. Rose Beeson, Mr. Philip Meuschke with Communications;*
- *the Nominating Committee under the leadership of the Reverend Wendy Moen; the Reverend Jeff Wilson, the Reverend Doug Jones, the Reverend Yvette Schock, the Reverend Wendy Deeben, the Reverend Sarah Lewis*
- *the Elections Committee under the leadership of the Reverend Steve Buechler: the Reverend Susanne Blume, the Reverend Jane Halpern, the Reverend Mitch Watney, Mr. Larry Evan, Ms. Paula Green; Ms. Lynn Kingsley, Mr. Larry Evans, Ms. Loretta Walker; and Interns of this Synod: Gloria Cline-Smythe, Karen Sease, Deb Haynes, Amy Feira*
- *the Reference and Counsel team under the leadership of the Reverend Christine Stephan: the Reverend Mark Edwards, the Reverend Margathe Klieber, the Reverend Sarah Lewis, the Reverend Thomas Prinz, Mr. Phil Soucy*
- *the Assembly parliamentarian, Mr. Richard Ahlberg;*
- *the Assembly Worship Planning Team, led by the Reverend Kate Davidson:*
 - *the Reverend Mark S. Hanson for preaching at the Eucharist and leading worship.*
 - *the Reverend Richard Graham for celebrating the Eucharist;*

- *The Reverend Eric Wester for leading closing worship and the Reverend Mike Wilker for assistance with coordinating worship.*
 - *All others who served in worship leadership roles including the lectors, ushers, and communion assistants.*
 - *Mr. Jeremy Shoop for his excellent musical leadership throughout worship and the assembly.*
 - *the Reverend Eric Wester for his willingness to serve as chaplain for this assembly and his work for the bureau for federal chaplaincy.*
- *All those who permitted their names to be placed before this assembly for consideration as Bishop of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit;*
- *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:*
 - *Amanda Wahlig, Bill Johnson, and Shirley Gibbs*
- *Ecumenical and other invited guests who attended the assembly:*
 - *the Reverend Ralph Weichmann, the Reverend Doctor Christopher Agnew, Father Tom Andrews, the Reverend Jenee Gilchrist*
- *A special thank you to Mrs. Ione Hanson for being with us and many blessings to her and Bishop Hanson as they celebrate their wedding anniversary.*
- *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.*

Concluding Comments from Presiding Bishop Hanson

Presiding Bishop Hanson expressed gratitude to Bishop Graham and for his leadership of the Synod Assembly and the synod and for his leadership in the Conference of Bishops and the ELCA. He also commended the Synod Assembly for its wise choice of reelecting Bishop Graham. He also expressed thanks to Nancy Ann Graham for her support of the Bishop and this synod and the wider church.

He expressed gratitude for the leadership in this synod. He particularly mentioned Pr. Sevimli and Pr. Hirsch. He sees in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod signs of the future of the church. He described the people of this synod as living stones, as a cairn – a gathering of stones that someone has piled up. He noted that sometimes a cairn is a memorial to the past, a sign honoring those who have gone before us. On other occasions a cairn points the way. He went to say that we are to be living stones, to be a cairn that points the way to Jesus Christ; that points the way to a church that is hospitable to immigrants; that points the way to care for God's creation.

Presiding Bishop Hanson concluded by giving thanks for being gathered with us in the cairn that is the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod.

Concluding Comments from the Bishop Graham

Bishop Graham shared thoughts about what it means to be a synod, about being on the road together.

He described congregations of the synod as missional outposts. He noted that we are never going to have all the money we want but that we have all the money we need. Therefore, we can afford to be generous. With God's blessings come great responsibilities. God expects us to be faithful and generous in return. As a synod we need to have new ideas and undertake experiments. The role of the bishop is to be the "cheerleader-in-chief" for people who want to struggle together as we grow in faith hope and love.

Report from the Bureau for Federal Chaplaincy Ministries

The Rev. Eric Wester, Director of the ELCA Bureau for Federal Chaplaincy Ministries, described the breadth of ELCA federal chaplaincies. Chaplains walk with members of the U.S. military, veterans and their families. ELCA chaplains are ambassadors of our church.

He highlighted the new ELW Prayer Book for the Armed Services. He challenged the congregations of the synod to provide copies of this resource to members of their congregation who serve in the Armed Forces.

Finally, he talked about how our ELCA chaplains live out our full communion partnership with the Episcopal Church USA, sharing in various chaplaincy ministries and participating in common retreats.

Service of Installation and Sending

Pr. Wester led the worship service concluding the Synod Assembly.

The Synod Council was installed at this service.



CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD, EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

10.2

September 2013 Edition – with markings indicating proposed changes

This edition of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America supersedes all previous editions. It incorporates all amendments approved by the 2007 and 2013 Synod Assemblies and by the 2007, 2009, 2011, and 2013 Churchwide Assemblies.

The provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the Continuing Resolutions that pertain to the same matter have been placed together. This arrangement requires that the three types of material be identified by means other than physical separations. The three types of provisions are identified by the following devices:

- a. The numbers of all constitutional provisions are printed in **boldface** type.
- b. The numbers of all bylaw provisions are printed in regular type.
- c. The numbers of all continuing resolution provisions are printed in *italics*.
- d. All numerical codification indicates general subject, constitutional provisions, bylaw provisions, and continuing resolutions. For example, **†S7.01.** is a constitutional provision dealing with the synod assembly; *S7.13.01.* is a bylaw also dealing with the synod assembly; while *S7.27.A92.* is a continuing resolution adopted in 1992 dealing with the allocation of lay members of the Synod Assembly.

All provisions mandated by the ELCA Constitution have a "†" before the numerical codification (e.g. **†S1.01.**).

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Chapter 1. NAME AND INCORPORATION

- †S1.01. The name of this synod, as determined by the Churchwide Assembly, shall be Metropolitan Washington D. C. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †S1.02. For the purposes of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is hereafter designated as "this synod" or "the synod."
- †S1.11. This synod shall be incorporated. Amendments to the articles of incorporation of this synod shall be submitted to the Church Council for ratification before filing.
- †S1.21. The seal of this synod is a cross with three united flames emanating from the base of the cross and three entwined circles beside the cross. The name of this synod and the year of its constituting convention form the circular outer edge of the seal.

Chapter 2. STATUS

- †S2.01. This synod possesses the powers conferred upon it, and accepts the duties and responsibilities assigned to it, in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, which are recognized as having governing force in the life of this synod.
- †S2.02. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA or “this church”) as used herein refers in general references to this whole church, including its three expressions: congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is also the name of the corporation of the churchwide organization to which specific references may be made herein.
- †S2.03. No provision of this constitution shall be inconsistent with the constitution and bylaws of this church.
- S2.04. This synod shall be the successor in law and in fact of those portions of the jurisdictional units of the American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and the Lutheran Church in America previously located on its territory, and shall assume all the privileges and obligations of its predecessors.

Chapter 3. TERRITORY

- †S3.01. The territory of this synod, as determined by the Churchwide Assembly, shall be the District of Columbia; the counties of Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince Georges, and St. Mary's in the State of Maryland; the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William and the independent cities of Falls Church and Fairfax City within these counties, and the independent City of Alexandria in the Commonwealth of Virginia; Bermuda.
- †S3.02. "Determined by the Churchwide Assembly," as stipulated by †S3.01., is understood to include the reported changes in synod relationship made by any congregation in a border area agreed under ELCA bylaws 10.01.11. and 10.02.02.

Chapter 4. CONFESSION OF FAITH

- †S4.01. This synod confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- †S4.02. This synod confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.
- a. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.
 - b. The proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in the history of Israel, and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
 - c. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.
- †S4.03. This synod accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life.
- †S4.04. This synod accepts the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of this synod.
- †S4.05. This synod accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a true witness to the Gospel, acknowledging as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.
- †S4.06. This synod accepts the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord, namely, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles and the Treatise, the Small Catechism, the Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord, as further valid interpretations of the faith of the Church.
- †S4.07. This synod confesses the Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scripture and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the Church for God's mission in the world.

Chapter 5. NATURE OF THE CHURCH

- †S5.01. All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this synod are to be carried out under his rule and authority.
- †S5.02. The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations. This church, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day.

Chapter 6. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- †S6.01. The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.
- †S6.02. To participate in God's mission, this synod as a part of the Church shall:
- a. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.
 - b. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.
 - c. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless and committing itself to their needs.
 - d. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.
 - e. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
 - f. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.
- †S6.03. Each synod, in partnership with the churchwide organization, shall bear primary responsibility for the oversight of the life and mission of this church in its territory. In fulfillment of this role and consistent with policies and procedures of this church, the synod shall:
- a. Provide for pastoral care of congregations and rostered leaders in the synod;
 - b. Plan for, facilitate, and nurture the mission of this church through

congregations;

- c. Strengthen interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and foster relationships with agencies and institutions affiliated with or related to this church as well as ecumenical partners.
- d. Interpret the work of this church to congregations and to the public on the territory of the synod.

†S6.03.01. In providing for pastoral care of congregations and rostered leaders in the synod, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:

- a. providing for pastoral care of congregations, ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers in the synod, including:
 - 1) approving candidates for the ordained ministry in cooperation with the appropriate seminaries of this church, which may be done through multi-synodical committees;
 - 2) authorizing ordinations and ordaining on behalf of this church;
 - 3) approving associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers, which may be done through multi-synodical committees; and
 - 4) authorizing the commissioning of associates in ministry, the consecration of deaconesses, and the consecration of diaconal ministers of this church; and
 - 5) consulting in the calling process for ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers.
- b. providing for leadership recruitment, preparation, and support in accordance with churchwide standards and policies, including:
 - 1) nurturing and supporting congregations and lay leaders;
 - 2) seeking and recruiting qualified candidates for the rostered ministries of this church;
 - 3) making provision for pastoral care, call review, and guidance;

- 4) encouraging and supporting persons on the rosters of this church in stewardship of their abilities, care of self, and pursuit of continuing education to undergird their effectiveness of service; and
 - 5) supporting recruitment of leaders for this church's colleges, universities, seminaries, and social ministry organizations.
- c. providing for discipline of congregations, ordained ministers, and persons on the official lay roster; as well as for termination of call, appointment, adjudication, and appeals consistent with Chapter 20 of this constitution.
 - d. providing for archives in conjunction with other synods.

†S6.03.02. In planning for, facilitating, and nurturing of the mission of this church through congregations, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:

- a. developing of new ministries, redevelopment of existing ministries, and support and assistance in the conclusion, if necessary, of a particular ministry;
- b. leading and encouraging of congregations in their evangelism efforts;
- c. assisting members of its congregations in carrying out their ministries in the world;
- d. encouraging congregations to respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and the suffering, and participate responsibly in society;
- e. providing resources for congregational life;
- f. grouping congregations in conferences, clusters, coalitions, or other area subdivisions for mission purposes.

†S6.03.03. In strengthening interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and in fostering relationships with agencies and institutions affiliated with or related to this church as well as with ecumenical partners, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:

- a. promoting interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and entering into

partnerships with other synods in the region;

- b. fostering organizations for youth, women, and men, and organizations for language or ethnic communities;
- c. developing relationships with social ministry organizations and ministries, participating in their mission planning, and providing partnership funding;
- d. supporting relationships with and providing partnership funding on behalf of colleges, universities, and campus ministries;
- e. maintaining relationships with and providing partnership funding on behalf of seminaries and continuing education centers;
- f. fostering supporting relationships with camps and other outdoor ministries;
- g. fostering supporting relationships with preschools, elementary schools, and secondary schools operated by congregations of the synod;
- h. fostering relationships with ecumenical and global partners;
- i. cooperating with other synods and the churchwide organization in creating, using, and supporting regions to carry out those functions of the synod which can best be done cooperatively with other synods and the churchwide organization.

†S6.03.04. In interpreting the work of this church on the territory of the synod, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:

- a. encouraging financial support for the work of this church by individuals and congregations;
- b. participating in churchwide programs;
- c. interpreting social statements in a manner consistent with the interpretation given by the churchwide unit or office which assisted in the development of the statement, and suggestion of social study issues;
- d. providing ecumenical guidance and encouragement.

†S6.04. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, the Synod Council shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of

the members of the synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be lay persons; and that, as nearly as possible, 50 percent of the lay members of assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be female and 50 percent shall be male; and that, where possible, the representation of ordained ministers shall be both male and female. This synod shall establish processes that will enable it to reach a minimum goal that 10 percent of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.

†S6.04.A01. It is the goal of this synod that 10 percent of the membership of synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards and/or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.

†S6.04.B09. It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term "youth" means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term "young adult" means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.

†S6.05. Each assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body of this synod or any synodical units shall be conclusively presumed to have been properly constituted, and neither the method of selection nor the composition of any such assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body may be challenged in a court of law by any person or be used as the basis of a challenge in a court of law to the validity or effect of any action taken or authorized by any such assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body.

†S6.06. References herein to the nature of the relationship between the three expressions of this church—congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization—as being interdependent or as being in a partnership relationship describe the mutual responsibility of these expressions in God's mission and the fulfillment of the purposes of this church as described in this chapter, and do not imply or describe the creation of partnerships, co-ventures, agencies, or other legal relationships recognized in civil law.

Chapter 7. SYNOD ASSEMBLY

- †S7.01. This synod shall have a Synod Assembly, which shall be its highest legislative authority. The powers of the Synod Assembly are limited only by the provisions in the Articles of Incorporation, this constitution and bylaws, the assembly's own resolutions, and the constitutions and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †S7.11. A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held at least biennially.
- S7.12. Special meetings of the Synod Assembly may be called by the bishop with the consent of the Synod Council, and shall be called by the bishop at the request of one-fifth of the voting members of the Synod Assembly.
- a. The notice of each special meeting shall define the purpose for which it is to be held. The scope of actions to be taken at such a special meeting shall be limited to the subject matter(s) described in the notice.
 - b. If the special meeting of the Synod Assembly is required for the purpose of electing a successor bishop because of death, resignation, or inability to serve, the special meeting shall be called by the Synod Council after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- S7.13. Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be given by the secretary of this synod.
- S7.13.01. The secretary shall give written notice to the membership of the time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.
- S7.13.02. The secretary shall provide the membership with all reports and recommendations to be considered at a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly at least 10 days in advance of the meeting.
- S7.13.A93 All recommendations and resolutions of units of this synod, the Synod Council, ~~divisions and offices~~, as well as those from affiliated or related agencies of this synod, upon which Synod Assembly action is requested shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Synod no later than March 1, or 60 days before the opening of the assembly.
- S7.13.B93 Resolutions may be received from ~~delegates~~voting members to the assembly, congregation councils, ~~divisions, offices, and other units of the synod~~tables, teams, and affiliated agencies and institutions. Conferences may present resolutions through the signature of delegates, clergy or lay,

or through congregation councils.

S7.14. One-half of the members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.

†S7.21. The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60 percent of the voting membership shall be composed of laypersons, shall be constituted as follows:

- a. All ordained ministers under call on the roster of this synod in attendance at ~~this~~the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.
- b. All associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers, under call, on the official lay rosters of this synod shall have both voice and vote as lay voting members in the Synod Assembly, in addition to the voting membership of lay members of congregations provided in item **†S7.21.c.**
- c. A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with more than 175 baptized members related to this synod, one of whom shall be male and one of whom shall be female, shall be voting members. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of number of members in the congregation. The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that, as nearly as possible, 50 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be female and 50 percent shall be male. Additional members from each congregation normally shall be equally divided between male and female.
- d. Voting membership shall include the officers of this synod.

†S7.21.01. Voting members shall begin serving with the opening of a regular Synod Assembly and shall continue serving until voting members are seated at the next regular Synod Assembly.

S7.21.A92. For the allocation of lay members of the Synod Assembly the most current church body statistics are the basis for determining baptized members. To achieve the proper ratio, each congregation of 450 baptized members will be entitled to an additional voting member and another voting member for each full 250 members over 450.

S7.21.02. Congregations with a baptized membership which consists of at least 10% persons of color and/or whose primary language is other than English will

be entitled to one additional member. That member will be a person of color or whose primary language is other than English.

S7.22. This synod may establish processes that permit retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with **†S7.21.c.** above. The synod may establish processes that permit ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers who are on leave from call, or those designated as disabled, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with **†S7.21.c.** above. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered leaders specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

S7.22.01. Retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this synod shall have voice and vote at Synod Assemblies.

S7.23. The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall ~~also~~ have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.

S7.24. Ordained ministers under call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the roster of ordained ministers of this synod. Associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers of this church serving under call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the official lay roster of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until replaced by the election of new members or until they have been disqualified by termination of membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

†S7.25. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution or in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions* of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, each voting member of the Synod Assembly shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.

S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of ~~mission settings formed with the intent of becoming~~

~~chartered~~ congregations under development and authorized worshiping communities of the synod, under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.

S7.26.01. Authorized worshiping communities of this synod shall each be allocated a maximum of two voting members of the Synod Assembly.

S7.27. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant an ordained minister from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that ordained minister's service in a congregation of this church.

S7.27.01. An ordained minister from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall have the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that ordained minister's service in a congregation of this church upon the recommendation of the bishop and the approval of the Synod Council.

S7.28. Duly elected voting members of the Synod Council who are not otherwise voting members of the Synod Assembly under †S7.21. shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote as members of the Synod Assembly.

†S7.31. Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of this synod.

S7.32. *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly, unless otherwise ordered by the assembly.

S7.32.01. Special rules of procedure may be adopted at the beginning of each regular or special meeting of the Synod Assembly as long as they are not in conflict with *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition.

S7.33. "Ex officio" as used herein means membership with full rights of voice and vote unless otherwise expressly limited.

Chapter 8. OFFICERS

†S8.01. The officers of this synod shall be a bishop, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.

S8.10. Bishop

†S8.11. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The bishop shall be a pastor who is an ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

†S8.12. As this synod's pastor, the bishop shall be an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament who shall:

- a. Preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church.
- b. Have primary responsibility for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this synod and its congregations, providing pastoral care and leadership for this synod, its congregations, its ordained ministers, and its other rostered leaders.
- c. Exercise solely this church's power to ordain (or provide for the ordination by another synodical bishop of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for the office of ordained ministry (and as provided in the bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).
- d. Commission (or provide for the commissioning of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as associates in ministry; consecrate (or provide for the consecration of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as deaconesses of the ELCA; and consecrate (or provide for the consecration of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as diaconal ministers of this church.
- e. Attest letters of call for persons called to serve congregations in the synod, letters of call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons on the rosters of this synod called by the Church Council.
- f. Install (or provide for the installation of):

- 1) the pastors of all congregations of this synod;
 - 2) ordained ministers called to extra parish service within this synod; and
 - 3) persons serving in the other rostered ministries within this synod.
- g. Exercise leadership in the mission of this church and in so doing:
- 1) Interpret and advocate the mission and theology of the whole church;
 - 2) Lead in fostering support for and commitment to the mission of this church within this synod;
 - 3) Coordinate the use of the resources available to this synod as it seeks to promote the health of this church's life and witness in the areas served by this synod;
 - 4) Submit a report to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly concerning the synod's life and work; and
 - 5) Advise and counsel this synod's related institutions and organizations.
- h. Practice leadership in strengthening the unity of the Church and in so doing:
- 1) Exercise oversight of the preaching, teaching, and administration of the sacraments within this synod in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church;
 - 2) Be responsible for administering the constitutionally established process for the resolution of controversies and for the discipline of ordained ministers, other rostered leaders, and congregations of this synod;
 - 3) Be the chief ecumenical officer of this synod;
 - 4) Consult regularly with other synodical bishops and the Conference of Bishops;
 - 5) Foster awareness of other churches throughout the Lutheran world communion and, where appropriate, engage in contact with leaders of those churches;

- 6) Cultivate communion in faith and mission with appropriate Christian judicatory leaders functioning within the territory of this synod; and
 - 7) Be *ex officio* a member of the Churchwide Assembly.
- i. Oversee and administer the work of this synod and in so doing:
- 1) Serve as the president of the synod corporation and be the chief executive and administrative officer of this synod, who is authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to sign deeds or other instruments and to affix the seal of this synod;
 - 2) Preside at all meetings of the Synod Assembly and provide for the preparation of the agenda for the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, and the council's Executive Committee;
 - 3) Ensure that the constitution and bylaws of the synod and of the churchwide organization are duly observed within this synod, and that the actions of the synod in conformity therewith are carried into effect;
 - 4) Exercise supervision over the work of the other officers;
 - 5) Coordinate the work of all synodical staff members;
 - 6) Appoint all committees for which provision is not otherwise made;
 - 7) Be a member of all committees and any other organizational units of the synod, except as otherwise provided in this constitution;
 - 8) Provide for preparation and maintenance of synodical rosters containing:
 - a) the names and addresses of all ordained ministers of this synod and a record of the calls under which they are serving or the date on which they become retired or disabled; and
 - b) the names and addresses of all other rostered persons of this synod and a record of the positions to which they have been called or the date on which they

become retired or disabled;

- 9) Annually bring to the attention of the Synod Council the names of all rostered persons on leave from call or engaged in approved graduate study in conformity with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church and pursuant to prior action of this synod through the Synod Council;
- 10) Provide for prompt reporting to the secretary of this church of:
 - a) additions to and subtractions from the rosters of this synod and the register of congregations;
 - b) the issuance of certificates of transfer for rostered persons in good standing who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested, regular letter of call under the jurisdiction of another synod; and
 - c) the entrance of the names of such persons for whom proper certificates of transfer have been received;
- 11) Provide for preparation and maintenance of a register of the congregations of this synod and the names of the laypersons who have been elected to represent them; and
- 12) Appoint a statistician of the synod, who shall secure the parochial reports of the congregations and make the reports available to the secretary of this church for collation, analysis, and distribution of the statistical summaries to this synod and the other synods of this church.

†S8.13. The synodical bishop may appoint an attorney, admitted to the bar within the territory of the synod or the state where the synod is located, to be Synod Attorney. The appointment must be approved by the Synod Council and reported to the Synod Assembly and to the ELCA secretary. The appointment continues until resignation or until a successor is appointed. The Synod Attorney provides legal advice and counsel to the synodical officers and the Synod Council. The Synod Attorney is expected to be familiar with the governing documents and policies of the synod and, as necessary, to attend meetings of the Synod Council. The Synod Attorney serves without salary but may be retained and compensated for specific legal services requested by the synod.

S8.14. The synodical bishop may have such assistants as this synod shall from time to time authorize.

†S8.15. The presiding bishop of this church, or the appointee of the presiding bishop, shall install into office, in accord with the policy and approved rite of this church, each newly elected synodical bishop.

†S8.16. Conflicts of Interest

†S8.16.01. The following procedures shall govern matters of potential conflicts of interest for synodical bishops:

- a. Whenever a synodical bishop determines that a matter of the kind described in **†S8.16.01.b.** may require his or her determination or action with respect to a related individual as defined in **†S8.16.01.c.**, the synodical bishop shall withdraw from personal involvement in such matter and shall so notify the presiding bishop. The presiding bishop shall then appoint another synodical bishop from the same region to handle the matter to conclusion. In dealing with such matter, the appointed bishop shall exercise all of the functions and authority to the same extent as if the appointed bishop were the elected bishop of the withdrawing bishop's synod.
- b. Matters include any proceedings under Chapter 20, proceedings under provision 7.46. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* (**†S14.13.**), candidacy, reinstatement, and similar matters where determinations or actions by the synodical bishop could change, limit, restrict, approve, authorize, or deny the related individual's ministry on one of the official rosters of this church.
- c. A related individual is one who, with respect to the synodical bishop, is a spouse, parent, son, daughter, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, including corresponding members of blended families and in-laws (parent, son, daughter, or sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a sibling).

S8.20. Vice President

†S8.21. The vice president shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The vice president shall be a layperson. The vice president shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The vice president shall not receive a salary for the performance of the duties of the office.

| **S8.21.01.** ~~As of the year 2001 the~~The vice president will serve as a member *ex officio*

of all Churchwide Assemblies.

S8.22. The vice president shall chair the Synod Council.

S8.23. In the event of the death, resignation, or disability of the bishop, the vice president, after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall convene the Synod Council to arrange for the conduct of the duties of the bishop until a new bishop shall be elected or, in the case of temporary disability, until the bishop resumes full performance of the duties of the office.

S8.30. Secretary

†S8.31. The secretary shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The secretary shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The secretary may be either a layperson or an ordained minister.

†S8.32. The secretary shall:

- a. Keep the minutes of all meetings of the Synod Assembly and Synod Council, be responsible for the printing and distribution of such minutes, and perform such other duties as this synod may from time to time direct.
- b. Be authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to attest all instruments which require the same, and which are signed and sealed by the bishop.
- c. In consultation with the bishop, classify and arrange all important papers and documents and deposit them in the archives of this synod.
- d. Submit to the secretary of this church at least nine months before each regular Churchwide Assembly a certified list of the voting members elected by the Synod Assembly.

S8.40. Treasurer

†S8.41. The treasurer may be elected by the Synod Assembly or may be appointed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The treasurer may be either a layperson or an ordained minister.

S8.42. The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:

- a. Management of the monies and accounts of this synod, its deeds,

mortgages, contracts, evidences of claims and revenues, and trust funds, holding the same at all times subject to the order of this synod.

- b. Investment of funds upon the authorization of the Synod Council.
- c. Receipt and acknowledgment of offerings, contributions, and bequests made to this synod, collecting interest and income from its invested funds, and paying regular appropriations and orders on the several accounts as approved and directed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall transmit each month to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the funds received by this synod for the general work of this church.
- d. Maintenance of a regular account with each congregation of this synod and informing the congregation, at least quarterly, of the status of this account.
- e. Rendering at each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly a full, detailed, and duly audited report of receipts and disbursements in the several accounts of this synod for the preceding fiscal year, together with the tabulation, for record and publication in the minutes, of the contributions from the congregations.
- f. Giving of corporate surety in the amount determined by the Synod Council, which shall be in the custody of the secretary, and the premium therefor shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.

S8.50. General Provisions

†S8.51. The terms of office of the officers of this synod shall be:

- a. The bishop of this synod shall be elected to a term of six years and may be re-elected.
- b. The vice president and secretary of this synod shall be elected to a term of four years and may be re-elected.
- c. The treasurer of this synod shall be elected or appointed to a four-year term and may be re-elected or reappointed.

S8.52. The terms of newly elected officers shall begin on September 1 immediately following election.

- †S8.53.** Each officer shall be a voting member in a congregation of this synod, except that the bishop need not be a member of a congregation of this synod at the time of election.
- †S8.54.** Should the bishop die, resign, or be unable to serve, the vice president, after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall convene the Synod Council to arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the bishop until an election of a new bishop can be held or, in the case of temporary disability, until the bishop is able to serve again. Such arrangements may include the appointment by the Synod Council of an interim bishop, who during the vacancy or period of disability shall possess all of the powers and authority of a regularly elected bishop. The term of the successor bishop, elected by the next Synod Assembly or a special meeting of the Synod Assembly called for the purpose of election, shall be six years with the subsequent election to take place at the Synod Assembly closest to the expiration of such a term and with the starting date of a successor term to be governed by constitutional provision S8.52.
- S8.55.** Should the vice president, secretary, or treasurer die, resign, or be unable to serve, the bishop, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, shall arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the officer until an election of a new officer can be held or, in the case of temporary disability, until the officer is able to serve again. The term of the successor officer, elected by the next Synod Assembly, shall be four years.
- †S8.56.** The Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall determine whether an officer is unable to serve; the officer may appeal the decision of the Executive Committee by requesting a hearing before the Synod Council. A meeting to determine the ability of an officer to serve shall be called upon the request of at least three members of the Executive Committee and prior written notice of the meeting shall be given to the officer in question at least 10 calendar days prior to the meeting.
- †S8.57.** The recall or dismissal of an officer may be effected in accordance with the procedure established by the Committee on Appeals of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †S8.58.** If the bishop is to be temporarily absent from the synod for an extended period, the bishop, with the consent of the Synod Council, may appoint as acting bishop for such period an ordained minister of this church. Except as limited by action of the Synod Council, an acting bishop shall possess all of the powers and authority of a regularly elected bishop other than authority to ordain or to authorize the ordination of properly approved candidates for ordination.

Chapter 9. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- †S9.01. The Synod Assembly shall elect such officers of this synod and such other persons as the constitution and bylaws may require, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws.
- †S9.02. In all elections by the Synod Assembly, other than for the bishop, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.
- S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee appointed by the Synod Council to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee.
- S9.03.01. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of the six conference deans and five lay at-large members. The lay and clergy makeup of this committee should be in the spirit of **S6.04** and **S7.21** of the Constitution.
- S9.04. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60% of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot.
- S9.05. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for vice president; additional nominations may be made from the floor.
- S9.06. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for secretary; additional nominations may be made from the floor.
- S9.07. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for treasurer; additional nominations may be made from the floor.
- S9.08. In all elections, except for the bishop, the names of the persons receiving the highest number of votes, but not elected by a majority of the votes cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot to the number of two for each vacancy unfilled. On any ballot when only two

names appear, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.

- S9.09.** The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced in detail to the assembly.
- S9.11.** The Synod Council shall elect or appoint representative(s) to the steering committee of its region.
 - S9.11.01. The Synod Council shall appoint from its membership representative(s) to the coordinating council of its regional center for mission.
- †S9.12.** Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated as synodical officers prior to their election, if possible, or as soon as practical after their election. The specific procedures and timing of background checks and screening shall be determined by the Synod Council.

Chapter 10. SYNOD COUNCIL

- †S10.01.** The Synod Council, consisting of the four officers of the synod, 10 to 24 other members, and at least one youth and at least one young adult, shall be elected by the Synod Assembly.
- a. Each person elected to the Synod Council shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, with the exception of ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod. The process for election and the term of office when not otherwise provided shall be specified in the bylaws. A member of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, unless otherwise elected as a voting member of the Synod Council, may serve as an advisory member of the Synod Council with voice but not vote.
 - b. The term of office of members of the Synod Council, with the exception of the officers and the youth member, shall be two years.
- †S10.02.** The Synod Council shall be the board of directors of this synod and shall serve as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. It may make decisions which are not in conflict with actions taken by the Synod Assembly or which are not precluded by provisions of this constitution or the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- S10.03.** The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:
- a. Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of this synod.
 - b. Recommend program goals and budgets to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly.
 - c. Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.
 - d. Provide for an annual review of the roster of ordained ministers and of other official rosters, receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA, and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's actions in this regard.
 - e. Issue letters of call to ordained ministers and letters of call to associates in ministry, members of the Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal

ministers as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA.

- f. Fill vacancies until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly, except as may otherwise be provided in the constitution or bylaws of this synod, and determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of this synod.
- g. Report its actions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- h. Perform such other functions as are set forth in the bylaws of this synod, or as may be delegated to it by the Synod Assembly.

S10.04. When requests for appropriations or changes to the recommended appropriations are made from the floor of the Synod Assembly, they shall be referred to the Synod Council. If its report on the request is favorable, a simple majority of the members voting shall be required for adoption; but if its report is unfavorable, a two-thirds vote of the members voting shall be required for adoption. Any request to increase the budget presented by the Synod Council must be accompanied by a statement detailing the source of the necessary revenue.

S10.05. No elected member of the Synod Council shall receive compensation for such service.

S10.06. If a member of the Synod Council ceases to meet the requirements of the position to which she or he was elected, the office filled by such member shall at once become vacant.

S10.07. The composition of the Synod Council, the number of its members, and the manner of their selection, as well as the organization of the Synod Council, its additional duties and responsibilities, and the number of meetings to be held each year shall be as set forth in the bylaws.

~~S10.07.01. The Synod Council shall consist of the four officers of this synod; one pastor and one lay person from each of this synod's conferences; four members elected at large, one of whom shall be an associate in ministry, deaconess or diaconal minister; one member from the youth organization; and one member from the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on the territory of this synod. The pastor and lay person for each conference shall be members from different congregations.~~

S10.07.01. To the extent permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees may be held electronically or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

- S10.07.02. The Synod Council shall consist of the four officers of this synod; one pastor and one lay person from each of this synod's conferences; four members elected at-large, one of whom shall be an associate in ministry, deaconess or diaconal minister; one member from the youth organization; and one member from the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on the territory of this synod. The pastor and lay person for each conference shall be members from different congregations.
- S10.07.03. The representatives of the conferences to the Synod Council shall be elected by the Synod Assembly from nominations made from the conferences. At least one nominee shall be given for each representative from the conferences. The members-at-large shall be elected by the Synod Assembly from the nominees presented by the Nominating Committee. The youth representative shall be elected by the Synod Assembly from the nomination made by the youth organization. The representative from the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on the territory of this synod shall be elected by the Synod Assembly from the nomination made by the women's organization. The term of office shall be two years and she would be eligible for two successive terms.
- S10.07.04. The representatives from the conferences and the members elected at large shall be elected for a term of two years and are eligible for two full successive terms. Terms of office shall be staggered so that terms of one-half of the clergy representatives and the terms of one-half of the lay representatives shall expire each year. Within each conference, the clergy and lay terms shall expire in alternate years. The terms of one-half of the at-large members shall expire each year.
- S10.07.05. The Synod Council shall meet at least four times annually. Special meetings may be called by the bishop and shall be called by the bishop at the request of six members of the Synod Council.
- S10.07.06. There shall be an Executive Committee which shall consist of the bishop, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and four members of the Synod Council. Of the four members elected by the Synod Council, no more than one shall be from the same conference. The Executive Committee shall exercise such powers as delegated by the Synod Council.
- S10.07.07. The Synod Council shall assist the life and mission of this synod through oversight, coordination, and support of all the ~~divisions, offices, tables, teams,~~ and committees of this synod. Whenever ~~an office, division, a table, team,~~ or committee fails to fulfill its responsibilities, the Synod Council shall first encourage the leadership of said ~~office, division, table, team,~~ or committee to fulfill their responsibilities before exercising its own

oversight obligation.

- | S10.07.08. Any activity or responsibility of this synod not defined or specified for any officer, ~~office, commission, division~~table, team, and committee shall be the responsibility of the Synod Council.
- S10.07.09. The Synod Council, upon recommendation of the bishop, shall appoint an archivist for this synod.
- | S10.07.10. No member of the Synod Council shall simultaneously serve as chair of a synodical ~~division~~table.

Chapter 11. COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONAL UNITS

†S11.01. There shall be an Executive Committee, a Consultation Committee, a Committee on Discipline, a Mutual Ministry Committee, an Audit Committee, and such other committees as this synod may from time to time determine. The duties and functions of such committees, or any other organizational units created by this synod, and the composition and organizational structure of such units, shall be as set forth in this constitution or in the bylaws or continuing resolutions, and shall be subject to any applicable provisions or requirements of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

S11.01.01. The work of this synod shall be carried out by its organizational units. Unless otherwise provided, membership of each organizational unit shall consist of the chairperson and ~~not less than five or more than twelve clergy and lay members, one of whom shall be a member of the Synod Council at least two other persons.~~ The bishop of this synod shall be an *ex-officio* member of all organizational units. Each organizational unit shall report to the Synod Council.

~~S11.01.02. Appointment to synodical divisions shall be approved by the Synod Council as recommended by the bishop. Appointment to synodical offices will be by the bishop with the concurrence of the Synod Council. Every effort will be made to respect the provisions of †S6.04. in all appointments. For this process, the advice and counsel of the conference deans shall be sought. No officers, assistants to the bishop or other administrative staff personnel shall be members of the organizational units except in ex-officio capacity as designated by the bylaws.~~

~~S11.01.03~~S11.01.02. Each organizational unit may, with the approval of the Synod Council, form necessary subcommittees to carry out their purposes and responsibilities and appoint members thereof without restriction as to number.

~~S11.01.04. Appointment to synodical divisions shall be for a period of four years. Appointment to synodical offices shall be for an indefinite period, but shall expire upon the change of bishop.~~

~~S11.01.05. Each organizational unit shall meet at least three times annually.~~

~~S11.01.10.~~

~~DIVISIONS: A division is an organizational unit of this synod to which is assigned responsibility for an identified portion of the program to fulfill the mission of this synod.~~

~~§11.01.11.~~ There shall be a Division for Congregational Life, which shall identify needs and develop or assist in the development of programs to support congregations of this synod. This division shall address the following areas of mission in their work: Christian education, evangelism, outdoor ministries, singles ministry, stewardship, worship, and youth ministry.

~~§11.01.12.~~ There shall be a Division for Higher Education and Schools, which shall be concerned with this synod's relationships to this church's colleges and universities, and with campus ministry at the public and private colleges and universities in the territory of this synod.

~~§11.01.13.~~ There shall be a Division for Ministry, which shall be concerned with and supportive of the ministries of the ordained ministers, rostered lay ministers, and of the laity of this synod. It shall assist in the certification of candidates for ordination, provide support for the interns assigned to this synod's congregations, be supportive of interim ministry and specialized ministry, and cooperate with other synods in the certification of associates in ministry, deaconesses and diaconal ministers. It shall be concerned with this synod's relationships to this church's seminaries.

~~§11.01.14.~~ There shall be a Division for Outreach and Global Mission, which shall support this synod as it reaches out in witness to the Gospel. It shall be concerned with the planning, development and support of new ministries; partnerships among congregations, ministries, agencies and institutions; and the global mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

~~§11.01.15.~~ There shall be a Division for Church in Society, which shall be concerned with the social ministry agencies, the congregational social ministry programs of this synod, and the synod's advocacy with state and local governments. It shall provide guidance and advice to this synod and to congregations, specialized ministries, and individuals on societal issues.

~~§11.01.20.~~ OFFICES: An office is an organizational unit of this synod which shall assist the bishop and other officers of this synod in the performance of functions that are their responsibility.

~~§11.01.21.~~ There shall be an Office for Multicultural Ministries, which shall assist and counsel this synod and its congregations in working toward the goal of full partnership of people, without distinction of color or primary language. It shall assist the bishop and Synod Council in attaining the goal stated in the relevant provisions of **S6.04**.

~~§11.01.22.~~ There shall be an Office for Resource Development, which shall develop and implement programs to provide the financial resources and volunteer skills necessary for the work and mission of this synod. This office shall also

coordinate all approved churchwide and synod special appeals and other synod-wide financial support programs.

~~S11.01.23.~~ There shall be an Office for Ecumenical Affairs, which shall advise and assist the bishop of this synod in carrying out the bishop's role as the chief ecumenical officer of this synod as the bishop seeks to coordinate the ecumenical, inter Lutheran, and interfaith activities of this synod and recommend policies relating thereto to the Synod Assembly and Synod Council, such activities and policies being in keeping with those of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

~~S11.01.24.~~ There shall be an Office for Personnel, which shall be responsible for a personnel policy for this synod, maintaining salary guidelines for the clergy and rostered lay ministers of this synod, and providing support for the bishop and staff persons of the synod through a Mutual Ministry Committee as specified in S11.01.33. This office shall provide assistance concerning other personnel matters within this synod when required.

~~S11.01.25.~~ There shall be an Office for Finance, which shall assist the officers and Synod Council in fulfilling their responsibilities for the financial affairs of this synod by preparing an annual budget, providing recommendations concerning financial management, and reporting regularly to the Synod Council.

~~S11.01.30.~~ ~~COMMITTEES: A committee is an organizational unit of this synod which is given the responsibility for a specific task or function.~~

~~S11.01.32.~~ Additional committees may be established as necessary by the Synod Assembly, the Synod Council or the bishop, and shall report to the electing or appointing agency.

~~S11.01.33.~~ ~~Roberts03.~~ Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Council, organizational units, and official business meetings of the conferences.

S11.01.10. TABLES

S11.01.11. A table is an organizational unit of the synod which has been designated by the Synod Council.

S11.01.12. Members of tables are appointed by the bishop unless their membership is provided for elsewhere in the constitution or bylaws. The Synod's Director for Evangelical Mission shall be an *ex-officio* member of all tables.

S11.01.13. There shall be a Primary Mission Table, which shall be the Synod Council. This table shall be responsible for the overall Mission Strategy of the synod

that makes and grows disciples of Jesus Christ. The Primary Mission Table shall make decisions regarding the funding of synodical initiatives, starting new congregations, and opening missions, and may make recommendations to the Synod Assembly. This table shall be accountable to the Synod Assembly. Membership and meetings shall be identical to those of the Synod Council.

S11.01.14. There shall be a New and Renewing Mission Table, which shall develop and renew existing congregations in the synod for the purpose of making and growing disciples of Jesus Christ. This table shall make decisions regarding budgeted and dedicated mission funds and make recommendations to the Synod Council regarding strategies involving new and existing congregations. This table shall be accountable to the bishop and to the Synod Council.

S11.01.15. There shall be a Stewardship and Mission Support Table, which shall assist congregations in their ongoing stewardship ministries that make and grow disciples of Jesus Christ, and shall provide leadership in developing a unified mission funding strategy for all synodical, churchwide, and cooperative ministries. This table shall communicate and interpret the mission work of this, and shall oversee Gifts of Hope. This table shall be accountable to the bishop and to the Synod Council.

S11.01.20. TEAMS

S11.01.21. A team is an organizational unit of the synod whose work is directed toward a specific issue, initiative, or focus in the life of the synod. A team may be organized as a standing body or as a single-task, temporary body. A recognized synod team shall have the cognizance, consent, and approved resources to perform activities and make recommendations to others in the specific area for which it was organized.

S11.01.22. A team shall apply to the Synod Council for recognition and support, proposing its own mission, structure, duration, and membership. Where possible, the team's membership shall be consistent with membership principles expressed in **†S6.04**.

S11.01.23. A team shall report to the Synod Council at least once each year or as otherwise directed by the Synod Council. Teams may carry out their tasks in concert with synod tables, committees, and other teams. The Synod Council may rescind a team's organizational unit status at any time. A team may end its own organizational unit status at any time by notification to the Synod Council.

S11.01.30. COMMITTEES

S11.01.31. A committee is an organizational unit of this synod which is given the responsibility for a specific task or function.

S11.01.32. In addition to the committees identified in †S11.01, committees may include a Candidacy Committee, an Ecumenical Affairs Committee, a Finance Committee, a Global Mission Committee (with companion synod subcommittees and working groups established in cooperation with churchwide global mission partners), a Personnel Committee, and a Youth Ministry Committee. Additional committees may be established as necessary by the Synod Assembly, the Synod Council, or the bishop, and shall report to the electing or appointing organizational unit.

†S11.02. The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of at least six persons and not more than 12 persons, of whom half shall be ordained ministers and half shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive re-election. The functions of the Consultation Committee are set forth in Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and in Chapter 17 of this constitution. The size of the Consultation Committee, in accord with this provision, shall be defined in this synod's bylaws.

S11.02.01. The Consultation Committee shall be composed of ~~twelve~~12 members, six ~~clergy~~ordained ministers and six ~~lay~~laypersons. The terms of committee members shall be staggered so that the terms of four members (two ~~clergy~~ordained ministers and two ~~lay~~laypersons) shall expire every two years ~~on~~in even numbered years.

~~(The Synod Council shall have the authority to determine the terms of office for persons currently elected to the committee. This parenthetical implementation sentence shall expire at the conclusion of the 2002 Synod Assembly.)~~

†S11.03. The Committee on Discipline of this synod shall consist of 12 persons, of whom six shall be ordained ministers and six shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive re-election.

- a. The functions of the Committee on Discipline of this synod are set forth in Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.
- b. The terms of committee members shall be staggered so that the terms of four committee members (two clergy and two lay) expire every two years.
- c. The Synod Council shall fill vacancies on the Committee on

Discipline for any unexpired term. ~~(During the 1999-2001 biennium, in order to implement such staggered terms for a 12-member committee, the Synod Council may designate terms and may transfer members from the Consultation Committee to the Committee on Discipline consistent with models prepared by the secretary of this church. This parenthetical implementation sentence shall expire at the conclusion of the 2001 Churchwide Assembly.)~~

S11.03.01. The terms of office for members of the Committee on Discipline shall be so arranged that the terms of four members (two clergy and two lay) shall expire every two years ~~even~~ odd numbered years.

†S11.04. The Mutual Ministry Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Synod Council to provide support and counsel to the bishop.

S11.04.01. The committee, composed of five persons, shall seek to give encouragement by its concern for the spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of the bishop and staff persons of this synod. It will offer support when they are experiencing personal or pastoral stress. It will allow for open communication concerning attitudes and conditions within this synod.

†S11.05. The Audit Committee of this synod shall consist of three to six persons, none of whom are members of the synod staff. Up to half of the committee members may be Synod Council members. The Audit Committee members shall be elected by the Synod Council for a term of three years and be eligible for re-election to a second consecutive three-year term. The terms of the Audit Committee members shall be staggered. The Audit Committee shall be responsible for assisting the Synod Council in fulfilling its general oversight of the synod's accounting, financial reporting, internal control systems, and external audit processes as provided in **†S15.31**.

S11.10. General Provisions

S11.11. This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to ensure that the members of its committees and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of **†S6.04**. With the exception of ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a committee of this synod, or any other organizational unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of the congregation of this synod.

Chapter 12. CONFERENCES, CLUSTERS, COALITIONS ~~or Other Area Subdivisions~~, AREA SUBDIVISIONS, AND NETWORKS

†S12.01. This synod may establish conferences, clusters, coalitions, area subdivisions, and networks as appropriate within its territory and in collaboration with other synods and partners as specified in the bylaws and continuing resolutions. The purpose of such groupings shall be to foster interdependent relationships for missional purposes among congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and other partners.

S12.01.01. There shall be six conferences in this synod designated as follows:

- a. The Virginia Conference which shall include all congregations in Loudoun County and that area of Fairfax County north of Interstate 66 in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- b. The Fairfax Conference which shall include all congregations in Prince William County. It shall also include that area of Fairfax County south of Interstate 66 and west of Interstate 495, and west of Interstate 95 in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- c. The Potomac Conference which shall include all congregations in Arlington County, the City of Alexandria and those areas of Fairfax County, south of Interstate 66 and east of Interstate 495, and east of Interstate 95 in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- d. The District of Columbia Conference which shall include all congregations in the District of Columbia, and Bermuda.
- e. The Montgomery Conference which shall include all congregations in Montgomery County in the State of Maryland.
- f. The Maryland Conference which shall include all congregations in Prince George's, Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties in the State of Maryland.

S12.01.02. Congregations which are located in close proximity to the territory of another conference may apply to the Synod Council for a transfer to that conference. The Synod Council shall provide a hearing for the appropriate leadership of the petitioning congregation and shall upon due consideration report its actions to that congregation.

S12.01.03. Each conference shall elect from its pastors a dean, and from among its pastors or lay members a secretary under procedures established by each conference. They shall serve two-year terms and are eligible for two full consecutive terms.

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- S12.01.04. Each conference shall hold meetings of its ordained ministers, rostered lay ministers, and lay delegates at least twice a year. The meeting prior to the Synod Assembly shall be the annual meeting for the conference. Special meetings may be called by the bishop of this synod or by the dean of the conference in consultation with the bishop and shall be called by the dean upon the request of one-fifth of the number of the ordained ministers, rostered lay ministers, and lay delegates of the conference. One-third of the ordained ministers, rostered lay ministers and lay delegates of the conference shall constitute a quorum.
- S12.01.05. Persons elected by congregations to be voting members of the Synod Assembly, or their duly chosen alternates, shall attend the annual meeting of their conference. Each conference congregation is entitled to the same number of voting members at conference meetings as at the Synod Assembly and when official business of the conference is to be conducted.
- S12.01.06. It shall be the responsibility of the dean of the conference to:
- a. Advise and assist the bishop in matters pertaining to the ordained ministers, rostered lay ministers, the congregations, and the conference.
 - b. Call and preside over the meetings of the conference and be responsible for setting the agenda for such meetings.
 - c. Encourage collegiality and study among the ordained ministers, rostered lay ministers, and congregations of the conference.
 - d. Encourage collegiality and clustering among the ordained ministers and congregations on an inter-conference level.
 - e. Perform other functions as this synod may assign.

Chapter 13. CONGREGATIONS

- †S13.01. Each congregation, except those certified as congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the uniting churches, prior to being listed in the register of congregations of this synod, shall adopt the *Model Constitution for Congregations* or one acceptable to this synod that is not in contradiction to the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- a. **New congregations.** A congregation newly formed by this church and any congregation seeking recognition and reception by this church shall:
 - 1) Accept the criteria for recognition and reception as a congregation of this church, fulfill the functions of the congregation, and accept the governance provisions as provided in Chapter 9 of the ELCA constitution and bylaws.
 - 2) Adopt governing documents that include fully and without alterations the Preamble, Chapter 1, where applicable, and all required provisions of Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 in the *Model Constitution for Congregations* consistent with requirements of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church. Bylaws and continuing resolutions, appropriate for inclusion in these chapters and not in conflict with these required provisions in the *Model Constitution for Congregations*, the constitution of this synod, or the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, may be adopted as described in Chapters 16 and 18 of the *Model Constitution for Congregations*.
 - 3) Accept the commitments expected of all congregations of the ELCA as stated in *C6.01., *C6.02., and *C6.03., of the *Model Constitution for Congregations*.
 - b. **Congregations from another church body.** If a congregation is a member of another church body, the leaders of the congregation first should consult with the appropriate authorities of that church body before taking action to leave its current church body. After such consultation, leaders of the congregation should make contact with the ELCA synod bishop or staff where the congregation is located.
 - c. **Recognition and reception.** Recognition and reception into this church of transferring or independent congregations by the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is based on the judgment of the synod and action by the synod through the Synod Council and Synod Assembly. The synod bishop shall provide for prompt reporting of such additions to the secretary of this church for addition to the register of congregations.

- †S13.02. It shall be the responsibility of each congregation of this synod annually to choose from among its voting members laypersons to serve as members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected by each congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by this synod.
- S13.11. When a pastor or a rostered lay minister resigns, the Congregation Council shall receive the letter of resignation, report it to the congregation, and at once notify the bishop of this synod.
- S13.12. A congregation under financial obligation to its former pastor or rostered lay minister shall make satisfactory settlement of the obligation before calling a successor.
- †S13.19. A congregation considering a relocation shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected.
- †S13.20. A congregation considering development of an additional site to be used regularly for worship shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.
- S13.21. The alignment of congregations in pastoral charges, and all alterations in any alignment, shall be subject to approval by the Synod Assembly or by the Synod Council.
- †S13.22. Each congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America within the territory of this synod, except those which are in partnership with the Slovak Zion Synod, shall establish and maintain a relationship with this synod.
- †S13.23. Provision 9.71. of the ELCA constitution shall govern the relationship of this synod and a congregation of this synod regarding the property of the congregation. This synod may transfer or convey property to a congregation of the synod, subject to restrictions accepted by the

congregation, including provision that if the Synod Council, in its sole and exclusive discretion, determines (1) that the property is not being used to serve the mission and ministry needs of this church, or (2) that the congregation has transferred, encumbered, mortgaged, or in any way burdened or impaired any right, title, or interest in the property without the prior approval of the Synod Council, then title to the property shall revert to the synod, and the congregation, upon written demand, shall reconvey the property to the synod.

- S13.24.** If any congregation of this synod has disbanded, or if the members of a congregation agree that it is no longer possible for it to function as such, or if in the opinion of the Synod Council that the membership of a congregation has become so scattered or so diminished in numbers as to make it impractical for such a congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized or that it is necessary for this synod to protect the congregation's property from waste and deterioration, the Synod Council, itself or through trustees appointed by it, may take charge and control of the property of the congregation to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of this synod. The congregation shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Synod Assembly.
- S13.25.** This synod may temporarily assume administration of a congregation upon its request or with its concurrence.
- S13.30. Discipline**
- †S13.31.** Congregations and members of congregations are subject to discipline in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 20 of the ELCA constitution and bylaws.
- S13.40. Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities**
- S13.41.** Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.

Chapter 14. ORDAINED MINISTERS AND LAY ROSTERED MINISTERS

- †S14.01. The time and place of the ordination of those persons properly called to congregations or extra parish service of this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.
- †S14.02. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
- a. Every ordained minister shall:
 - 1) preach the Word;
 - 2) administer the sacraments;
 - 3) conduct public worship;
 - 4) provide pastoral care; and
 - 5) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.
 - b. Each ordained minister with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:
 - 1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;
 - 2) supervise all schools and organizations of the congregation;
 - 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council; and
 - 4) with the council, administer discipline.
 - c. Every pastor shall:
 - 1) strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad;
 - 2) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the gospel;
 - 3) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its periodicals and other publications;

and

- 4) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the ELCA churchwide organization and of this ELCA synod.

S14.02.05. Following the acceptance of a letter of call from a congregation and the pastor's installation into the pastoral office of that congregation, the pastor shall become a member of that congregation. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

S14.03. The pastor shall (a) keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, (b) shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod, and (c) shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

S14.04. Whenever members of a congregation move to such a distance that regular attendance at its services becomes impractical, it shall be the duty of the pastor to commend them, upon their consent, to the pastoral care of a Lutheran congregation nearer to their place of residence.

S14.05. Each ordained minister on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

†S14.11. When a congregation of this church desires to call a pastor or a candidate for the pastoral office in the ordained ministry of this church:

- a. Each congregation of this synod shall consult the bishop of this synod before taking any steps leading to the extending of a call to a prospective pastor.
- b. For issuance of a letter of call to a pastor or pastoral candidate by a congregation of this synod in accord with ELCA constitutional provision **7.41.**, a two-thirds majority ballot vote shall be required of members of the congregation present and voting at a meeting regularly called for the purpose of issuing such a call.
- c. When the congregation has voted to issue a call to a prospective pastor, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.

S14.12. No ordained minister shall accept a call in this synod without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. An ordained minister shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances, with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

†S14.13. Termination of a call:

- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by death or, following consultation with the synodical bishop and for the following reasons:
 - 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
 - 2) resignation of the pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
 - 3) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in that congregation in view of local conditions;
 - 4) physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor;
 - 5) suspension of the pastor through discipline for more than three months;
 - 6) resignation or removal of the pastor from the roster of ordained ministers of this church;
 - 7) termination of the relationship between this church and the congregation;
 - 8) dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
 - 9) suspension of the congregation through discipline for more than six months.
- b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,

- 1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two ordained ministers and one layperson, or
 - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop shall personally investigate such conditions together with a committee of two ordained ministers and one layperson.
- c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant and the pastor shall be listed on the clergy roster as disabled. Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the pastor to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
- d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the pastor and then to the congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee must address whether the pastor's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by the congregation and by the pastor, if appropriate. If the pastor and the congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.
- e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the pastor's call, the congregation may dismiss the pastor only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a simple majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.

- f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

†S14.14. Ordained ministers shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited to do so by the pastor, or if there is no duly called pastor, then by the interim pastor in consultation with the Congregation Council.

†S14.15. The parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members transferred or dismissed, members who have become inactive, or members excluded from the congregation shall be kept accurately and permanently. They shall remain the property of each congregation. At the time of the closure of a congregation, such records shall be sent to the regional archives. The secretary of the congregation shall attest to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in his/her hands in good order by a departing pastor before:

- a. installation in another field of labor, or
- b. the issuance of a certificate of dismissal or transfer.

†S14.16. The pastor shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:

- a. installation in another field of labor, or
- b. the issuance of a certificate of dismissal or transfer.

†S14.17. During service to a congregation, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in the congregation of a regularly called pastor. The interim pastor may delegate the same in part to an interim supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of this synod. The interim pastor and any ordained ministers who may assist shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor. Upon completion of service, the interim pastor shall certify to the bishop of this synod that the parochial records, for the period for which the interim pastor was responsible, are in order.

†S14.18. With the approval of the synodical bishop expressed in writing which sets forth a clear statement of the purpose to be served by such a departure

from the normal rule of permanency of the call as expressed in †S14.13., a congregation may call a pastor for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop of this synod or a representative of the bishop shall meet with the pastor and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of †S14.13.

S14.21. All ordained ministers under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the pastors of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference.

S14.30. Official Rosters of Laypersons

†S14.31. The provisions in the churchwide documents and such provisions as may be developed by the appropriate churchwide unit governing associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers of this church shall apply in this synod.

- a. When a congregation of this synod desires to call an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister or a candidate for these official rosters of laypersons of this church:
 - 1) Such a congregation of this synod shall consult the synodical bishop before taking any steps leading to extending such a call.
 - 2) Issuance of such a letter of call shall be in accord with criteria, policies, and procedures developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - 3) When the congregation has voted to issue a call to an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.
- b. An associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister shall confer with the bishop of this synod before accepting a call within this synod.
- c. The call of a congregation, when accepted by an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which, except in the case of the death of the individual, shall be terminated only

following consultation with the synodical bishop in accordance with policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

- d. Associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers on the roster of this synod who are serving under call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly.

Chapter 15. FINANCIAL MATTERS

†S15.01. The fiscal year of this synod shall be February 1 to January 31.

†S15.11. Since the congregations, synods, and churchwide organization are interdependent units that share responsibly in God's mission, all share in the responsibility to develop, implement, and strengthen the financial support program of the whole church. The gifts and offerings of the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are given to support all parts of this church and thus partnership in this church should be evidenced in determining each part's share of the gifts and offerings. Therefore:

- a. The mission of this church beyond the congregation is to be supported by such a proportionate share of each congregation's annual budget as each congregation determines. This synod shall develop guidelines for determining "proportionate share," and shall consult with congregational leaders to assist each congregation in making its determination.
- b. This synod shall receive the proportionate share of the mission support from its congregations, and shall transmit that percentage of each congregation's mission support as determined by the Churchwide Assembly to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

†S15.12. The annual budget of this synod shall reflect the entire range of its own activities and its commitment to partnership funding with other synods and the churchwide organization. Unless an exception is granted upon the request of this synod by the Church Council, each budget shall include the percentage of congregational mission support assigned to it by the Churchwide Assembly.

S15.13. On the basis of estimated income, the Synod Council shall authorize expenditures within the budget for the fiscal year. Expenditure authorizations shall be subject to revision, in light of changing conditions, by the Synod Council.

S15.13.01. The Synod Council shall have power to borrow money on such property as this synod may own or may hereafter acquire, and to authorize the execution of mortgages, bonds, warrants or other instruments of indebtedness therefore.

S15.13.02. The Synod Council may authorize the sale, assignment or transfer of any property belonging to this synod.

- S15.13.03. The Synod Council may acquire such property as it may deem necessary to the work of the synod or its ultimate welfare.
- S15.13.04. The Synod Council shall have the power to reapportion all synodical items within the budget in order to meet properly the needs of the various agencies and objectives of this synod.
- S15.13.05. The Synod Council shall periodically cause a study to be made of the investments of this synod to determine whether such investments are consistent with Christian commitment to justice and business practice.
- S15.14.** Except when such procedure would jeopardize current operations, a reserve amounting to no more than 16% of the sum of the amounts scheduled in the next year's budget for regular distribution to synodical causes shall be carried forward annually for disbursement in the following year in the interest of making possible a more even flow of income to such causes. The exact number of dollars to be held in reserve shall be determined by the Synod Council.
- S15.21.** No appeal to congregations of this or any other synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the raising of funds shall be conducted by congregations or organizations related to or affiliated with this synod without the consent of the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council.
- S15.21.A11.* This synod authorizes the establishment of Gifts of Hope to increase understanding and strengthen relationships between the beneficiary organizations and the congregations of the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod and to raise funds for the beneficiary organizations. The Synod Council shall appoint an *ex-officio* member to the Gifts of Hope coordinating committee. The council shall approve any changes to this statement of purpose.
- †S15.31.** This synod shall arrange to have an annual audit of its financial records conducted by a certified public accountant firm recommended by the synod Audit Committee and approved selected by the Synod Council. The audited annual financial report shall be submitted by this synod to the churchwide Office of the Treasurer and to the congregations of this synod. The financial reports shall be in the format approved from time to time by the churchwide Office of the Treasurer.
- †S15.32.** This synod shall maintain adequate, continuous insurance coverage in accordance with standards recommended by the churchwide organization. Insurance programs offered or endorsed by the churchwide organization shall be deemed to fulfill this obligation.

Chapter 16. INDEMNIFICATION

†S16.01. Subject to the limitations and duties imposed by law, each person who is or was made or threatened to be made a party to any proceeding by reason of the present or former capacity of that person as a Synod Council member, officer, employee, or committee member of this synod shall be indemnified against all costs and expenses incurred by that person in connection with the proceeding. Indemnification of any person by reason of that person's capacity as a director, officer, employee, or committee member or any other organization, regardless of its form or relationship to this synod, is subject to the provisions of section **†S16.02**.

- a. The term "proceeding" means a threatened, pending, or completed lawsuit, whether civil or criminal, an administrative or investigative matter, arbitration, mediation, alternative dispute resolution, or any other similar legal or governmental action. Except as otherwise required by law, the term "proceeding" does not include (a) any action by this synod against the individual seeking indemnification, or (b) subject to **†S16.04.**, a disciplinary hearing or related process described in Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.
- b. The term "indemnification" includes reimbursement and advances of costs and expenses for judgments, penalties, fines, settlements, excise taxes, reasonable attorneys' fees, disbursements, and similar required expenditures.

†S16.02. Whenever a person who, while a Synod Council member, officer, committee member, or employee of this synod, is or was serving at the request of this synod (or whose duties in that position involve or involved service in the capacity of) a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or agent of another organization, is or was made or threatened to be made a party to a proceeding by reason of such capacity, then such person shall be entitled to indemnification only if (a) the Synod Council has established a process for determining whether a person serving in the capacity described in this section shall be entitled to indemnification in any specific case, and (b) that process has been applied in making a specific determination that such person is entitled to indemnification.

†S16.03. This synod may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of itself or any person entitled to indemnification pursuant to this chapter against any liability asserted against and incurred by this synod or by such other person in or arising from a capacity described in section **†S16.01**. or section **†S16.02**.

†S16.04. When written charges against an ordained minister or a layperson on an official roster of this church are made in disciplinary proceedings under Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* by the synodical bishop or when written charges against a congregation are made in disciplinary proceedings by the Synod Council or the synodical bishop, and the discipline hearing committee determines that no discipline shall be imposed, then if such determination is not reversed or set aside on appeal, indemnification shall be made by the synod to the accused for reasonable attorney's fees and other reasonable expenses related to the defense of the charges. The determination of the reasonableness of such fees and expenses shall be decided by the Synod Council.

Chapter 17. ADJUDICATION

- †S17.01. The synodical bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall be available to give counsel when disputes arise within this synod.
- †S17.02. The synodical bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall receive expressions of concern from ordained ministers, associates in ministry, or other persons on the official lay rosters of this church, congregations, and organizations within this synod; provide a forum in which the parties concerned can seek to work out matters causing distress or conflict; and make appropriate recommendations for their resolution. When the matter at issue cannot be resolved in this matter, the prescribed procedures for investigation, decision, appeal, and adjudication shall be followed. Allegations or charges that could lead to the discipline of an ordained minister or a person on the official lay roster of this church shall not be addressed by the Executive Committee but shall be resolved through the disciplinary process set forth in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.
- †S17.03. When there is disagreement among units of this synod on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, the aggrieved party or parties may appeal to the synodical bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council for a consultation. If this consultation fails to resolve the issue, a petition may be addressed by the parties to the Synod Council requesting it to arbitrate the issue. The decision of the Synod Council shall be final.
- †S17.04. When a component or beneficiary of a synod has a disagreement on a substantive issue that it cannot resolve, it may address an appeal to the synodical bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council. In this case the decision of the Executive Committee shall prevail, except that upon the motion of a member of the Synod Council, the decision shall be referred to the Synod Council for final action.
- †S17.10. **Adjudication in a Congregation**
- †S17.11. When there is disagreement among factions within a congregation on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, members of a congregation shall have access to the synodical bishop for consultation after informing the chair of the Congregation Council of their intent. If the consultation fails to resolve the issue(s), the Consultation Committee of this synod shall consider the matter. If the Consultation Committee of this synod shall fail to resolve the issue(s), the matter shall be referred to the Synod Council, whose decision shall be final.

Chapter 18. AMENDMENTS, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

†S18.10. Amendments to Constitution

†S18.11. Certain sections of this constitution incorporate and record therein required provisions of the constitution and bylaws of this church. If such provisions are amended by the Churchwide Assembly, corresponding amendments shall be introduced at once into this constitution by the secretary of this synod upon receipt of formal certification thereof from the secretary of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

†S18.12. Whenever the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially informs this synod that the Churchwide Assembly has amended the *Constitution for Synods*, this constitution may be amended to reflect any such amendment by a simple majority vote at any subsequent meeting of the Synod Assembly without presentation at a prior Synod Assembly. An amendment that is identical to a provision of the *Constitution for Synods* shall be deemed to have been ratified upon its adoption by this synod. The Church Council, through the secretary of this church, shall be given prompt notification of its adoption.

†S18.13. Other amendments to this constitution may be adopted by this synod through either of the following procedures:

- a. An amendment may be adopted by a two-thirds vote at a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly after having been presented in writing at the previous regular meeting of the Synod Assembly over the signatures of at least five members and been approved by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at such a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- b. The Synod Council may propose an amendment, with notice to be sent to the congregations of this synod at least six months prior to the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Such an amendment shall require for adoption a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at such a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

All such amendments shall become effective upon ratification by the Churchwide Assembly or by the Church Council.

†S18.20. Amendments to Bylaws

†S18.21. This synod may adopt bylaws not in conflict with this constitution or with the constitution and bylaws of the churchwide organization. This synod may amend its bylaws at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a two-

thirds vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting. Newly adopted bylaws and amendments to existing bylaws shall be reported to the secretary of this church.

†S18.30. Amendments to Continuing Resolutions

†S18.31. This synod may adopt continuing resolutions not in conflict with this constitution or its bylaws or the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of the churchwide organization. Such continuing resolutions may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Synod Assembly or by a two-thirds vote of Synod Council. Newly adopted continuing resolutions and amendments to existing continuing resolutions shall be reported to the secretary of this church.



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

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Proposed Changes to the Constitution & Bylaws
of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
to be considered by the 2014 Synod Assembly

FAQs

Q: Why are we doing this?

A: The current Synod structure is patterned after what the ELCA had in mind when it was created in 1988. Since then, a lot of change has occurred in the way we work and in the organizational structure of the ELCA. In many ways, this is an effort to catch the Constitution and Bylaws up to the way we are working today and gives us flexibility for the future church.

Q: Do the representational principles apply?

A: Yes, that provision in the Bylaws remains intact and will apply to all Committees, Teams, and Tables.

Q: Where does the term "Table" come from?

A: The ELCA started using the term and has asked Synods to adopt it in their structure. Three Tables are suggested (Primary Mission, New and Renewing Congregations, and Stewardship and Mission Support). Pastor Steve Bouman, who currently serves as the Executive Director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit of the ELCA, wrote a short book *"The Mission Table: Renewing Congregation and Community"*, explaining the concept: <http://www.christianbook.com/mission-table-renewing-congregation-and-community/stephen-bouman/9781451478129/pd/1478129?dv=c&en=google-pla&event=PLASHOP&kw=church-and-pastoral-0-20&p=1167941&gclid=CPSfjsf8rr4CFcg7OgodfFcACA>

Q: What is the difference between the Synod Council and the Primary Mission Table?

A: The ELCA has asked Synods to establish a "Table" or group that would oversee the big picture mission strategy of the synod. For us it made sense to extend the work of the Synod Council to include the responsibilities of this visioning and oversight as stated in Synod Bylaw S11.01.13.

Q. Why do we need teams and committees and what's the difference between them?

A: The intent of having these two different kinds of bodies is flexibility; there needs to be both top-down and bottom-up opportunities for participation in the Synod. Committees are longstanding bodies and allow a synod ministry priority to move forward with interested leadership. They are created by the ELCA (through



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required provisions in our governing documents) or by the Synod Council for the various purposes that the ELCA and/or the Synod need to function.

Teams are temporary functioning bodies and are generated by synodical grass roots movements from congregations in the synod. Teams allow a group of people to be formed quickly, request synod council recognition, and begin work. Once the work for which they were formed is complete, the team disbands.

Q: Who has the authority to form Committees and Teams?

A: Although the Synod Council generally has the authority to establish Committees and Teams, five Committees are required under the mandatory provisions of the Synod's Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions. They are the Executive Committee, the Consultation Committee, the Committee on Discipline, the Mutual Ministry Committee, and the Audit Committee.

Q: What happened to the Division for Outreach and Global Missions and Division for Congregational Life?

A: The Division for Outreach is now the New and Renewing Missions Table and the Division for Global Mission will be a committee of the New and Renewing Missions Table. The work of the Division for Congregational Life will now become the work of committees and teams.

Q: How is a Mutual Ministry Committee different from a Personnel Committee?

A: The Personnel Committee's function is to review and revise Synod policies and guidelines. The Mutual Ministry Committee's function is to provide support and guidance in regard to pastoral issues.

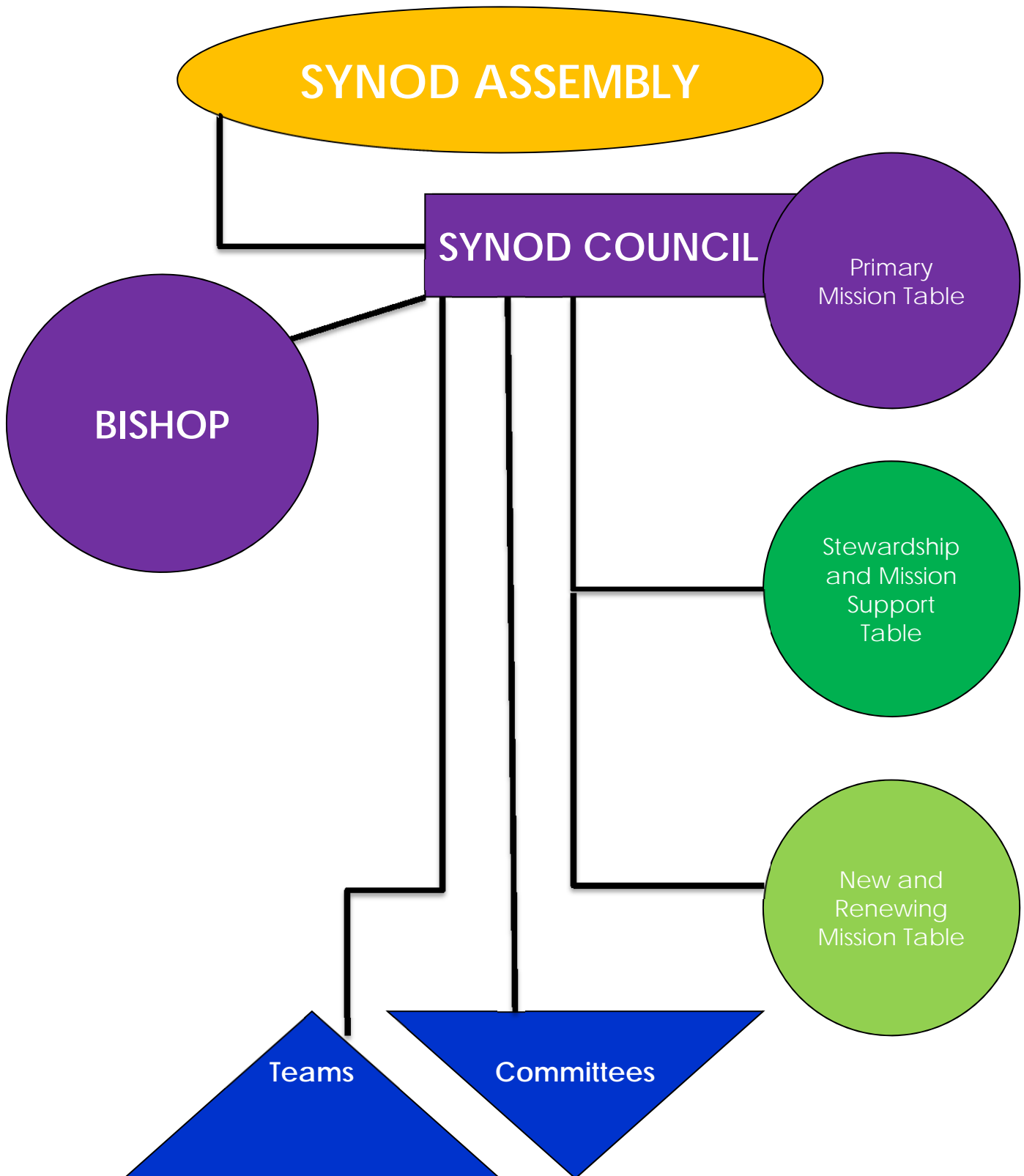
Q: What provisions of the current constitution and bylaws will not be included in the new version?

A: There were some "Offices" in the previous Constitution that were inactive and, therefore, are not specifically provided for in the proposed revisions.

Q: Some of the activities I care about don't seem to be in this new structure. What happened?

A: The Synod Council understands that people have passions about those things they care about and we want to see that continue. The purpose of revising the Constitution is so that we can do that work more fully, while remaining within the legal structure provided by our governing documents. Some of the activities now fall under the responsibility of a Table or report directly to Synod Council; some activities are better accomplished by becoming a Team and some as a Committee. Even if it isn't specifically mentioned in the Constitution, the work is still being done, and we want that to continue!

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, ELCA



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Organizational Chart

