

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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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