

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD OF THE ELCA**  
**SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING – MAY 19, 2018**  
**LUTHER PLACE MEMORIAL CHURCH, WASHINGTON, DC**

**Call to Order** Vice President Crenshaw called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Devotion** Jackson Droney provided a brief devotional message to open the meeting.

**Greetings** The greetings on behalf of the host congregation were provided by two members of the Synod Council who are also members of Luther Place Memorial Church. Treasurer Julie Hamre and Jackson Droney greeted the members of the Synod Council and provided a brief history and profile of Luther Place Memorial Church, founded in 1873 (several years after the end of the Civil War) as a monument to peace. Members noted that the congregation also played a central role in the creation of N Street Village, Lutheran Volunteer Corps, and the Steinbruck Center.

Vice President Crenshaw presented the proposed agenda for the meeting.

**SC18.05.21:** To approve the agenda for the May 19, 2018, Synod Council meeting.

The draft minutes of the April 21, 2018, Synod Council meeting were presented to the Council for approval. Vice President Crenshaw asked for corrections or amendments. There were none.

**SC18.05.22:** To approve the minutes of the April 21, 2018, Synod Council meeting.

**1. Synod Council Primary Mission Table**

a. New Connections Campaign Update

Pastor Hirsch provided a brief update on the status of the New Connections Campaign. Another E-Vent was held on Saturday, April 28, 2018, at Grace Lutheran Church, Washington, DC. This two-hour workshop, using the title “How to Start and Maintain Spiritual Conversations Without Being a Jerk,” was led by Pr. Fred Nelson, Lead Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Chicago.

In addition, Pr. Hirsch noted that all relevant data for the Campaign are being placed onto a new database system.

b. Christ Lutheran, Bethesda, Financing Proposal

Bishop Graham and Pr. Hirsch provided the Synod Council with a summary of the multi-year project undertaken by Christ Lutheran Church, Bethesda, to develop its property, with a closing expected in the fall of this year. While it was originally believed that the congregation would be seeking a loan from available synod funds, the Synod Council was advised that the specific role of the Synod in this project has yet to be determined. Accordingly, no specific proposal was put before the Synod Council, and no specific action was taken.

## 2. Staff and Officer Reports

a. Bishop Graham:

- i. Roster Matters for Synod Council Action. No roster matters were brought to the Synod Council at this meeting.
- ii. Synod Assembly Planning Update. Pastor Kleiber led a discussion of the current status of planning process for the 2018 Synod Assembly, to be held on June 16. In addition to a summary of the draft agenda for the Assembly, updates were provided in the areas of registration, resolutions, nominations, and elections. The services of translators and bloggers have been retained. Materials for the Assembly will be made available through the ELCA Guidebook app.

b. Assistant to the Bishop, Pr. Ortiz:

- i. Building Puentes Update. In the absence of Pr. Ortiz, Bishop Graham provided an update on the Building Puentes efforts. The Delaware-Maryland Synod has advised the synod staff that funds available in their synod will be transferred to our synod for use in our efforts to work alongside the Caribbean Synod. Secretary Kevin Anderson noted that, at the April 21 meeting of the Synod Council, Pr. Carmelo Santos brought forth several recommendations to further these efforts, but that no specific action was taken. A more specific proposal will be brought to a subsequent meeting of the Synod Council for action.

c. Assistant to the Bishop and DEM, Pr. Hirsch:

- i. In Christ Washington Fellowship. Pastor Hirsch provided background on the history of In Christ Fellowship of Washington, DC, and its status as a synodically authorized worshipping community (“SAWC”) pursuant to ELCA bylaw 10.02.03. This status was most recently renewed for a period of one year beginning on January 20, 2018. The death of its pastor and its search for a new pastor have necessitated a reexamination of the status of the organization as a SAWC. Because the organization is seeking a pastor who would not be on the ELCA

roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament, the Synod Council concluded, with regret and with gratitude for their friendship, that it was advisable to withdraw its status as a SAWC.

**SC18.05.23:** To withdraw the status of “In Christ Fellowship of Washington, DC,” as an authorized worshipping community pursuant to ELCA bylaw 10.02.03, effective on the date of adoption of this resolution.

d. Treasurer’s Report:

- i. Review of Year-to-Date Financial Statements. Treasurer Julie Hamre distributed copies of the financial statements for the first three months of the Synod’s current fiscal year, *i.e.*, the period ended April 30, 2018. These statements reflect a deficit in undesignated receipts, compared with expenditures, of approximately \$57,000.
- ii. Proposed FY 2019 Spending Plan. Ms. Hamre also distributed a proposed spending plan for the next fiscal year beginning February 1, 2019. The plan was distributed in three different forms. First, a detailed, account-by-account plan was distributed to the Synod Council, showing a comparison with budgeted amounts for the current and prior fiscal years, a set of projected amounts for the current fiscal year, and the actual amounts for the prior fiscal year. The second version is a one-page summary to be put before the Synod Assembly for its approval. The third version is a narrative summary, showing totals for four principal categories. Ms. Hamre explained that the Synod staff is currently negotiating a reduction to the rent paid to Community Family Life Services in light of the departure of the ELCA Federal Chaplaincy. The spending plan includes annual rent of \$55,000; that amount may go as high as \$60,000 after negotiations are complete. Since the current plan shows a surplus of about \$4,500, such a change to the rent would not have a material effect on the proposed budget.

**SC18.05.24:** To approve a mission spending plan for the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2019, providing for total spending of \$1,794,960, and to recommend the plan for approval by the 2018 Synod Assembly.

### 3. Synodical Women’s Organization

Cheryl Dwyer provided comments to supplement the written report that had been provided to the members of the Council in advance of the meeting. Much of the report was devoted to a summary of the 2018 SWO Convention that was held on May 5 at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, Springfield, Virginia, under the theme “Take Heart—Getting to Wholeness” (Depression and Suicide Prevention). In furtherance of the one-year project

to raise funds for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, one-half of the convention offering was sent to LIRS.

**4. Youth Organization Report**

No report.

**5. New Business**

None.

**The meeting adjourned** with the Lord's Prayer at 11:25 a.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: June 16, 2018; Lord of Life Lutheran, Fairfax, Virginia (immediately preceding the 2018 Synod Assembly).