

**WHAT:** Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting  
Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, ELCA  
**WHEN:** January 23, 2010  
**WHERE:** Saint Paul Lutheran Church, Washington, D.C.

**Present:** Bishop Richard Graham, Secretary Rev. Dr. Marguerite Rourk, Treasurer John Handley, Pr. Teka Obba Foge, Pr. Joel Guttormson, Pr. Jane Halpern, Marcia Ihnen, Ruth Manchester, Deacon Kati Miller-Holland, Robert Joppa, Philip Moeller, Pr. Elizabeth Platz, Phil Soucy, Pr. Kendall Summers, Barbara Topel, John White, Pr. Michael Wilker  
**Excused:** Pr. Joel Guttormson, Pr. Jane Halpern, Assistant to the Bishop Pr. Phil Hirsch, Pr. Elizabeth Platz, Synod Secretary Dr. Marguerite Rourk, Pr. Kendall Summers  
**Synod Staff:** Administrative Assistant Amy Acland, Synod Administrator Harold Sargeant  
**Guests:** Pr. Galeta, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Springfield, VA Member of ELCA Church Council

The Synod Council (SC) was welcomed by Pastor Thomas Omholt, St Paul, Washington, D.C. VP White called meeting to order.

Devotions were led by Shirley Gibbs, with prayers for Pr. Rourk and family, and all of Haiti.

+ SC meeting and devotional schedule was clarified (see handout).

+ Minutes from SC meeting on 21 November 2009 SC meeting were approved with amendment to Treasurer's report showing the Reformation Service offering to have been \$3,000 rather than approximately \$2,500 as originally reported.

### **Bishop's Report**

+ Roster report (attached) approved as presented.

+ The Synod computer network has experienced some difficulties receiving and sending messages.

+ The National Lutheran Home has developed a new governance structure:

- It has been revised to reflect two sites/locations
- There are three separate corporations (umbrella organization and separate corporations for DC and VA)
- The member synods of Metro D.C., Del/MD and VA must approve
- There are necessary changes to the bylaws in order to comply with ELCA guidelines and for organizations
- The synods hold no financial responsibility or liability

The Bishop moved approval of the "Unanimous Written Action of the Members of the National Lutheran Home for the Aged, Inc." and the "Articles of Amendment and Restatement of the National Lutheran Home for the Aged, Inc." **MOTION SC 01.10.01** carried.

+ The Regional Archivist and Regional Coordinator requested assessment for the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in the amount of \$2,030. **MOTION SC 01.10.02** authorizing the Synod treasurer to remit this amount carried.

+ The Synod Structure Committee is to review proposals and make recommendations utilizing information from winter 2007 audit and other materials. Committee members include Jim Brookshire, Michael Wilker, Tom Kern, Pr. Sevimli and Bishop Graham. The committee will report to the Council in March.

**Women of the ELCA Report** (attached) was presented by Marcia Ihnen

- The 2010 Convention will be at St. Mark, Springfield on Saturday, May 1.
- The focus will be on Refugee/Immigration and Anti-Racism.

### **Vice President's Report**

+ A nominating committee must be formed, with By-Laws stipulating a membership five Conference Deans and five others (suggestions included Pr. Kendall Summers, Shirley Gibbs, Kelsey Glass, Dr. Tommie Robinson, and Greg Roeman. The Executive Committee is to prepare a list of committee members and submit to Council for approval in March. There was discussion of possible amendment/s to the Synod Constitution/By-Laws pertaining to restructuring of this committee.

### **Treasurer's Report**

+ The 2010 Spending Plan is to be approved via electronic vote. There has been no substantive change since Council met in November.

+ There was successful teleconferencing with congregational treasurers, etc. regarding financial management.

+ The SC must vote on new signatories for bank accounts, replacing Dr. Robinson with Dr. White. **MOTION SC 01.10.03** to do so was carried.

+ Review of December financials:

- Schedule 1, line 31 reflects deficit of \$59,000, larger than prior years
- Schedule 2, youth events not updated. Self-managed as long as it nets out
- There was discussion of establishing a scholarship fund to help cover cost for youth attending events, enabling all to have the opportunity
- Synod books on 2009 will close by 5 February 2010

### **Presentation on ELCA Church Council by Pastor Galeta, St. Mark, Springfield**

- Handout attached
- Council meets 3 times per year in Chicago
- Overview and strategic direction
- Presiding Bishop Hanson regarding the outcome of the vote on Social Statement on Human Sexuality: "We stand together in God's grace but we are not standing still."
- The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod reaction and response was to continue working together despite our differences
- Lilly Endowment funds are allocated to help reduce seminarian debt
- Hunger Appeal - one of the strongest appeals and receives the most donations
- Our Metro D.C. Synod is among the highest in benevolence giving to the ELCA (and among the highest in per capita income)
- The ELCA Budget for 2010 is 10% below that of 2009, with 40 positions currently targeted for elimination

### **Liaison Reports**

+ Global Missions – There is concern about getting their message out. It is felt that more focus is needed on external communications, and they will develop a plan.

### + Resource Development

+ Teleconference with congregational treasurers/financial officers:

- 1/3 of synod (25 congregations/30+ people) participated
- Website support for telecommunications worked quite well
- Discussed and reviewed the functions of positions, audits, and stewardship
- They want to create an ongoing communications network and resources for the group.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Topel

for

The Rev. Dr. Marguerite M. Rourk

Secretary of the Synod