

WHAT: Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting
Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, ELCA
WHEN: September 11, 2010
WHERE: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Falls Church, Virginia

Present: Bishop Richard Graham, Vice president Dr. John White, Jim Brookshire, Shirley Gibbs, Pr. Jane Halpern, Deacon Kati Miller-Holland, Bonnie Priebe, Robert Schilpp, Barbara Topel, Amanda Wahlig, Pr. Michael Wilker

Absent: Secretary Rev. Dr. Marguerite Rourk, Treasurer John Handley, Assistant to the Bishop Pr. Phil Hirsch, Synod Administrator Harold Sargeant, Wendell Anderson, Rachel Carle, Pr. Teka Obsa Fogi, Pr. Dax Jordan, Ruth Manchester, Pr. Tom O'Brien, Pr. Kendall Summers,

Staff: Assistant to the Bishop Pr. Amy Sevimli

The Council was welcomed by Pastor Jane Halpern of Holy Trinity.
VP John White called meeting to order and Barbara Topel lead devotions.

Minutes from the 23 January 2010 Council meeting were approved as presented.

Former Synod Council member Kevin Anderson presented an overview on the: Responsibilities and Selected Risks of Synod Council Membership. (See attached handout)

Reports:

Treasurer's Report (John Handley not present at the meeting.)

Mission Spending Plan -Bishop Graham led the discussion over the proposal to reduce the 55% contribution to Churchwide.

- + This discussion came out of the spring Synod Assembly session.
- + Metro Synod is one of only a few still contributing at the 55% level.
- + Individuals, groups from within our Synod as well as representatives from Chicago have asked that the Metro Synod reconsider the reduction in contributions, which would show support and allow for viewing restructure of ELCA Churchwide
- + Finance Committee will send the 2011 Spending Plan recommendation to Synod Council on September 13.
 - Recommendation will likely include deferral of the LaPlata project
 - Seminary funding being significantly below what was requested
 - A forum for Synod Council members will be held Tuesday, September 14 to discuss the recommendation, with additional on-line discussion and then voting on-line after forum
- + Synod Council recommended that the Spending Plan be posted on-line and also distributed to congregations on Friday, September 17, in preparation for upcoming Assembly session on Saturday, Sept. 25.

Bishop Richard Graham

- + Genetics study - there will be two local presentations on the study:
 - Sept. 12 at St. Mark's in Springfield
 - Oct. 9 at St. Luke's in Silver Spring
 - There are many comments, and this study's implications are significant and challenging.
- + LIFT update - task force welcomes website viewing and people are invited to offer comments at www.ELCA.org/LIFT

+ Roster Matters:

- Rev. Peter Bastion, Gaithersburg is retiring
 - Rev. Mark Olson, returning to area at Shepherd of the Hills
 - Rev. Nancy Eggert on leave from call, 2nd request (**MOTION SC 10.09.01** approved)
 - Rosario Hernandez Cruz, Langley Park completing seminary, Synod Council to call to serve as pastor of La Sagrada Familia (**MOTION SC 10.09.02** approved). Rosario is to be ordained at St. Luke in October.
 - La Sagrada Familia is a Synodical Organized Worshiping Community. Will move to “under development” soon.
 - Comments/discussion regarding those “under call to Synod” -
 - 1) know/have a financial package to ensure minimum guidelines for pay and retirement,
 - 2) mission developers to report regularly to Synod Council on their activities (Pr. Hirsch is to assist/coordinate this.)
 - 3) ask about/develop a list of those called by Synod to include financial/compensation data
- + Michael Cooper White to preach at the Synod Reformation at Washington National Cathedral on Sunday, 31 October. service. Offering is to be designated for the Seminary
- + Nominations needed for Consultation Committee
- + Resolution for upcoming assembly inviting support of, and for, ELCA (see attached) was presented by The D.C. Conference. Pr. Wilker moved the resolution, and **MOTION SC 10.09.03** was passed with 2 abstentions. A motion was made to amend Motion SC 10.09.03 to stipulate that the Bishop and his staff be asked to communicate that this invitation is extended to all congregations in the Metro DC Synod. **MOTION SC 10.09.04** passed with 1 abstention.

Vice president John White

- + Executive Committee- new members Pr. Jane Halpern (1year), Pr. Michael Wilker, and Ruth Manchester
- + Gifts of Hope/ULA merger necessitates an amendment to by-laws; this will be distributed electronically for consideration, discussion and vote.

Assistant to the Bishop Pr. Amy Sevimli

- + Maternity leave will be 12 weeks beginning around Thanksgiving
- + Housing allowance change - from \$35K to \$44K in 2010. Motion - The portion of Pastor Sevimli’s compensation for housing allowance per IRS guidelines for tax year 2010 is increased by \$9,000. **MOTION 10.09.05** passed unanimously.

Assistant to the Bishop Pr. Phil Hirsch (absent from meeting)

WELCA report attached.

The next Synod Council meeting will be Saturday, 20 November 2010, at Crusader Lutheran Church in Rockville, Maryland.

Respectfully submitted, as transcribed from minutes recorded by Barbara Topel,

The Rev. Dr. Marguerite M. Rourk
Secretary of the Synod