

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON D.C. SYNOD OF THE ELCA
SUMMARY OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING – APRIL 21, 2012

The minutes of the March 17, 2012 Synod Council Meeting were approved.

Submission of the 2013 budget by the Office for Finance. The Bishop explained the budget, mentioning specifically the way that giving is changing across the whole of the ELCA including in our synod and our congregations. He also discussed the 33% cut to campus ministry in detail, noting that it is expected that campus ministry will slowly move under the care of congregations near campuses. The Bishop then moved the budget of \$1,812,160 for FY 2012. Kati Miller-Holland seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Matters for discussion by the Primary Mission Table:

Pr. Phil Hirsch proposed a narrative budget as a follow on to conversation about establishing priorities discussed at the March 17, 2012 council meeting. He noted that this draft narrative budget it is only descriptive of what we do and does not yet take the step of setting priorities. He hopes that future narrative budgets will include synod priorities as well.

Staff and Officer Reports:

Treasurer

Mr. Handley

The big news for this month is the closing of the sale of the former Bethany, Forestville property. Those proceeds are shown in the temp restricted account that has been holding all of the wind down expenses. Once we feel that all of the expenses have been paid, we will disburse the benevolences as agreed with the members of Bethany when they decided to close as an act of mission. After the benevolences have been paid, we will move the funds to their destination accounts as previously decided by the synod council.

Mr. Handley added two new lines to Schedule 1 so that we can track progress against our budgeted income for the year. The new line 32 shows the cumulative Congregational Benevolence needed if we are to stay on track to meet our budget. The new line 33 shows the projected amount of congregational benevolence that we will receive for the year. Both numbers are based on a five-year trend of actual receipts by month. The numbers tend to vary significantly early in the year for two reasons: 1) any significant contributions early in the year can skew the data across the smaller sample set, and 2) our income, as with congregations, tends to see a positive trend around Easter. Since Easter can fall in either March or April, our month-based data can vary based on the month in which Easter falls. Also understand that our receipts generally lag congregational receipts by a month to allow time for funds to flow from individuals to congregations to the synod.

Assistant to the Bishop Pr. Amy Sevimli

Synod Assembly Speaker: Pastor Chris Nelson, senior pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN, will speak at the synod assembly. In addition, he has offered to lead a three year program with interested congregations, who want to learn from his evangelism and growth experiences.

She also provided an update on sale of Bethany Lutheran Church, Forestville. Bethany was sold on April 11, 2012. Ten percent of the net proceeds will be sent to charities designated by Bethany members at its June 5, 2011, meeting. 10% of the remaining proceeds will be given to the ELCA Churchwide organization. The remaining 80% of the net proceeds will be used for new and renewing missions in the synod. At least 50% of those will be used for new and renewing missions in Prince Georges County.

Vice President

Dr. White

Synod Assembly Agenda--The agenda will be sent by email to the council and will be approved by email. This will be completed by Monday, so that the draft agenda can be posted ASAP.

Proposed compensation adjustments--Synod Administrator, Harold Sargeant, reported that after investigating government recommendations and cost of living increases that compensation for rostered leaders be increased by 3% in 2013

Bishop Graham

There were not rostered matters to report, but the Bishop thanked everyone for being present. April is often a hard month for us to reach a quorum, so he was grateful for everyone's present.

Youth Report

Minutes taken by The Rev. Amy Thompson Sevimli for the Secretary of the Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John C. Bradford".

The Rev. John Bradford
Secretary of the Synod