

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON D.C. SYNOD OF THE ELCA**  
**SUMMARY OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING – JULY 14, 2012**  
**THE VILLAGE AT ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

The following minutes of the council and assembly were approved:  
Synod Council Meeting, April 27, 2012  
Synod Assembly, April 27-28, 2012  
Synod Council (electronic) Meeting, June 13, 2012

**1. Staff and Officer Reports**

- a. Bishop Graham:
  - Introduction of members of Synod Council
  - Welcome to council members
  - Roster Matters: Council approved the following:
    - Pr. Margrethe Kleiber – On leave from call
      - Motion 14.07.01** approved Pr. Kleiber to be on leave from call
    - Pr. Susanne Blume – call to specialized ministry as Executive Director, Lifeline Partnership, Inc., Washington, DC
      - Motion 14.07.02** approval Pr. Blume for call to specialized ministry.
- b. VP White:
  - Elections – two members for the Executive Committee:
    - The following individuals were elected to the Executive Committee:
      - Shirley Gibbs
      - Bonnie Priebe
- c. Assistant to the Bishop Pr. Phil Hirsch:
  - i. Mission congregation update
    - Six mission congregations in Synod
    - Three new ones:

Oromo Christian Fellowship, Kensington, MD Oromo  
Will be received on Reformation Sunday at the National  
Cathedral as an official congregation

La Sagrada Familia, Langley Park, MD

River of Grace, Manassas, VA (formerly Christus Victor)

Pr. Connie Thomson, Mission Developer

Worship has doubled

Council to hold congregation accountable for growth

Bill Johnson is liaison to council for River of Grace

A synod council member will worship at River of Grace  
every six months

San Marcos – Spanish speaking congregation inside St. Mark,  
Springfield, VA – doing very well; worshipping over 100 per  
week.

Santa Maria in Augustana, DC

Ethiopian congregation at Peace Lutheran in Alexandria, VA

ii. Status of congregations in the Synod

75 congregations in Synod – five million people and growing  
(60 mile radius around Washington DC, plus  
Bermuda)

Out of the 75 congregations:

24 congregations are strong (very stable or growing)

6 congregations are stable with growing potential

13 congregations are stable (holding their own)

24 congregations are being watched with concern (declining)

8 congregations are critical (not able to afford full time pastor,  
worshipping well below 50 people) – of these 8 there are 3  
congregations that are critical (uncertain of being able to  
continue)

iii. Use of Bethany funds

In 2010, Bethany Lutheran Church, Forestville MD voted to close “as an act of mission,” and designated the majority of the funds remaining from the sale of the property to “*be used to start new congregations and redevelop existing congregations on the territory of the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod.*”

The Synod Council designated that half of the funds be made available for immediate use and half be held for two years. The Synod Council further designated one half of all funds be used in Prince George’s County and one half of all funds be set aside for immediate use. Council also agreed to review the use of the Bethany Funds after two years.

The initial balance for use with new and renewing missions will be about \$1.43M.

The New and Renewing Mission Table Approved the following proposals\* and recommends them to the Synod Council.

Bethany Fund		Restricted to Prince George's County	Non- Restricted	1,429,650
Short-Term Available		\$357,413	\$357,413	
	River of Grace		-\$150,000	
	<i>Proposed La Sagrada Familia</i>	-\$60,000		
	<i>Proposed Good Shepherd</i>		-\$128,510	
	<i>Proposed Journey with Pr. Chris Nelson (help for declining congregations) Twice a year for 3 yrs – Pr. plus one lay leader</i>		-\$45,000	
	ST Balances*	\$297,413	\$33,903	\$331,315
Long-Term Invested		\$357,413	\$357,413	
	LT Balances	\$357,413	\$57,413	\$414,825
	Totals	\$654,825	\$91,315	\$746,140

**Motion 14.07.03** approval of the proposal for designation of \$45,000 for The Journey was set forth through a motion and seconded. Amendment to prorate the \$45,000 by congregation made and seconded. Amendment passed. Motion, as amended, passed.

**Motion 14.07.04** approval of the proposal for designation of \$60,000 for La Sagrada Familia was set forth through a motion and seconded (Proposal attached). Motion passed. Pr. Tom Knoll agreed to be Synod Council Liaison for this project.

**Motion 14.07.05** approval of the proposal for designation of \$128,510 for Good Shepherd, Gaithersburg, MD was set forth through a motion and seconded (Proposal attached). There was considerable discussion regarding the apparent lack of commitment to a tithe for benevolence. Amendment to refer motion to New and Renewing Mission Table to work with Good Shepherd to get to a tithe by 2016 was made and seconded. Amended motion passed.

d. Assistant to the Bishop Pr. Amy Sevimli

i. Update on Young Adult Ministry

At the beginning of this ministry, we had approximately 60 young adults gathering; now over 200 per month gathering.

Want this growth to be sustainable.

Programs must be developed and sustained by congregations rather than one person from the synod office.

Retreats are being taken over by congregations so there will be no need for synod to sponsor retreats in the future.

Domestic and international (mission) trips planned in the coming year.

Connecting the disconnected – these are young adults in the area who are not affiliated in any way with congregations. Strategizing the development of networks of young adults in the synod to reach out to those who are disconnected.

Young Adult start. Looking for the right leader for this effort.

Would like to have a young adult liaison from synod council.

ii. Update on the meeting of congregation council officers

This project is taking a different direction, so there is nothing new to report at this time.

## 2. Orientation

- a. Treasurer's Report and Orientation
  - i. Unrestricted Accounts
    - 1. General Funds
      - a. Benevolence/Mission support
      - b. Interest on unrestricted and temp restricted investments
      - c. Support the budget
    - 2. Funds held for others
      - a. Pass through benevolences
      - b. Paid out directly to the beneficiary organizations
  - ii. Temporary Restricted Accounts
    - 1. Grants and Projects (examples include, Bethany, Gifts of Hope, and Project Connect)
  - iii. Permanently Restricted Accounts
    - 1. Endowments

Unrestricted cash includes a current balance of about \$1.85 million

The temporary restricted and unrestricted receipt are comingled for investment purposes

The permanently restricted accounts are in separate accounts for each fund  
Bethany funds are currently held as unrestricted until final accounting is complete.

Permanently restricted accounts are invested in segregated accounts, and include four endowments – Faith Fund; Mission Endowment Fund; Mission Development Fund; and Campus Ministry Endowment Fund.

Review of the financial reports for the period ending June 30, 2012, indicating a current fiscal year deficit of \$86,310.

Review and explanation of schedules 1-5

- b. Overview of Synod by Bishop Graham, including the functions of the Synod Council/Responsibilities of Synod Council Members, specifically the Synod Council as Board of Directors and Primary Mission Table
- c. Mission Tables
- d. Divisions and Offices
- e. Schedule of Synod Council Meetings, September 2012 through July 2013
- f. Bishop's Time
  - i. State of the Synod
  - ii. State of the ELCA
  - iii. State of our finances
- g. Financials briefing for remainder of fiscal year  
Congregational benevolence continues to lag the rate necessary to support the original FY12 spending plan.  
200K deficit anticipated for this fiscal year  
Must be responsible and not spend beyond our means

Briefing on proposed reduction of budget to cover anticipated deficit

**Motion 14.07.06** moved and seconded to approve change in spending plan for remainder of fiscal year 2012 to create a balanced budget. Motion passed. See attachment for specific plan.