

# Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod Synod Council Meeting

June 21, 2013  
National Council Center  
Lansdowne, Virginia

Dr. White called the meeting to order at 9:08 am.

**Motion 13.06.01** approved the agenda for the June 21, 2013 Synod Council Meeting.

**Motion 13.06.02** approved the minutes of the May 18, 2013 Synod Council Meeting.

**Report of the Committee for Reference and Council** **Pr. Stephan**  
The resolutions will be presented in the order in which they are numbered. Pr. Stephan is aware that there will be at least one motion from the floor. She also noted that the resolution on Holy Land should be renumbered 2013-02.

**Report of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee** **Pr. Jones**  
The synod council thanked Pr. Jones for the work of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee.

## **Officer and Staff reports:**

**Report of the Vice President** **Dr. White**  
Dr. White noted the illness of the Rev. John Bradford.

**Report of the Treasurer**  
Mr. Handley reviewed the financial reports. Benevolence appears to be on track. Spending is as anticipated.

He noted that the auditors have completed their work and audited financial statements are available for any interested party. The auditors suggested that the Bethany Funds be placed in the temporary restricted category

**Report of the Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission**  
Good Samaritan Lutheran Church in Lanham is scheduled to vote on Sunday, June 23, 2013 on requesting temporary synodical administration. If the congregation approves this, the Synod Council will vote on assuming this responsibility. An administrative team would be appointed to manage the congregation's affairs.

Also coming up is a vote by Christ Lutheran Church in Bethesda on June 30, 2013. They are voting on a massive redevelopment project. They will tear down the existing building and convert it to condominiums and a build a new sanctuary.

At the next Synod Council meeting, we anticipate adding Pastor Chandran Lite of *In Christ Fellowship*, a new synodically authorized worshipping community, to the roster. *In Christ Fellowship* is a Tamil-speaking congregation.

Oromo Resurrection Lutheran Church will be officially received today at the Synod Assembly as a congregation of the synod. This is the last official step in becoming a congregation of the synod. Fourteen young adults will represent the congregation before the assembly. Currently, Oromo Resurrection Lutheran Church has plans to develop another new ministry.

Tyson's Corner development: It appears likely that there will be at least 100,000 new people moving to the Tyson's area as a result of new development.

**Report of the Assistant to the Bishop**

**Pr. Sevimli**

The Council welcomed Pr. Sevimli back from family leave.

**Report of the Bishop**

**Bishop Graham**

There are no roster matters to be considered.

The Shape of the Synod Task Force will present their findings to the assembly today.

**Report of the Presiding Bishop**

**Presiding Bishop Hansen**

Presiding Bishop Hansen noted that this year's synod assemblies have been stellar. During the past several years we have gained greater clarity regarding who we are and where we are going. There is a lot of positive energy and excitement.

Bishop Hansen also reported on recent meetings in Geneva with the Lutheran World Federation. He noted that there is a greater sense of being a communion of churches.

He also commended the Metro D. C. Synod for being a forward thinking and acting synod and Bishop Graham, in particular, for his leadership on the ELCA's LIFT task force. He described synods as accompaniers: accompaniers of congregations, of churchwide, and of companion synods.

He also noted that in 2017, the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, we may anticipate discussions about true heirs to Luther's legacy.

Pr. Edwards inquired about ecumenical relationships with the Roman Catholic Church. Bishop Hansen commented on the interesting peculiarities of ecumenical relationships in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Ironically, churches with theological affinities, may find themselves at odds when it comes to social issues. The converse is true as well.

In a number of instances, church bodies with deep historical and theological divisions have formed alliances with respect to social/moral issues.

Tom Kern asked about where Bishop Hansen saw the church in 100 years. Bishop Hansen responded that, just as we are currently experiencing, the cultural supports of Christianity will continue to diminish. He anticipates that the Lutheran witness will endure in some form or another. He also noted the importance of ongoing conversations with people of other faiths. He expressed concern about extremism among people of all faiths and the importance of being reflective and open to conversation with others.