

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON D.C. SYNOD OF THE ELCA
SUMMARY OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING – MARCH 17, 2012
HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, HERNDON, VIRGINIA**

The proposed agenda for the March 17, 2012 meeting of the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod Council was accepted.

The minutes of the January 18, 2012 Synod Council (Teleconference) Meeting were approved.
The minutes of the January 28, 2012 Synod Council Meeting were approved.
The minutes of the February 28, 2012 Synod Council (Teleconference) Meeting were approved.

Mission Developer of Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Manassas, VA, The Rev. Connie Thomson was introduced by Pr. Amy Thompson Sevimli.

Pr. Phil Hirsch gave an update on Shepherd of the Hills (SoH), Haymarket, VA.

Pr. Doug Jones, Chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee gave an update and offered for the council's consideration the **Schedule of Fees for the 2012 Synod Assembly**.

Motion 17.03.01 as amended was adopted as follows:

The 2012 Synod Assembly fee schedule as submitted by the Synod Assembly Planning Committee is approved, modified as follows...

\$325 per person for voting members for the spring assembly

\$50 per person for all attending the fall assembly

Primary Mission Table Conversation

Presentation on priorities for the Synod

Pr. Phil Hirsch

The purpose for this discussion stems from conversations around budget – out of the issues of budget come questions about what is really important and what are we going to establish as priorities for funding – on the congregation, synod and national levels, which leads eventually into conversations about narrative budgets.

What are we doing? What do we want to be about? What do we really hope happens as the result of our efforts? What is the mission of the synod in all of this?

The Synod exists to help inspire, resource and guide:

Vibrant communities of faith

That engage with a wide array of people (younger and more diverse)

So that people will come **to follow the way of Christ**

In order to care for the needs of the world

Ideas we can take to the assembly to promote this way of thinking and visioning:

Propose how the synod helps do this:

- Inspire (to be creative, think outside the box)
- Resource (financial, people, placement of leaders)
- Guide

What will our priorities be to do the hard work on being or becoming vibrant, healthy congregations?

- Prayer (focuses on clarity of mission)
- Engage with evangelism (techniques – what is working in growing congregations?)
- Stewardship Emphasis (best practices)
- Micro-strategies (emerging ideas as we talk about ministries to help, i.e., young adult initiatives, including existing congregations for those connected and new congregations for those not connected; RLC to Oromo; Sale of Bethany; Building on strengths; Latino)

Congregational Mission Planning in the Synod

Pr. Phil Hirsch

There is a retreat coming up this spring for congregational councils where we will introduce this topic and work on the process of mission planning. But before developing a mission plan, must focus on prayer – must “unbind” the gospel. Have to start by listening to God, listening to each other, and listening to our context.

Funds for transitional ministry at Our Saviour’s/St. Michael’s Truth

Pr. Phil Hirsch

As discussed at the January 28, 2012 Synod Council Meeting, Saint Michael's Truth and Our Saviors Lutheran Church, in consultation with the Synod office, have been exploring merging for the sake of mission. On March 8 a call was made by the pastors urgently seeking financial assistance for a new worship service that they started at Our Saviors on February 26 at 8:30 am on Sundays. The cost is around \$500 a week. This topic was referred back to the New and Renewing Missions Table for further consideration.

Staff and Officer Reports:

Treasurer

Mr. Handley

A pre-close version of the FY 2011 financials was shared. We ended the year with a small deficit. The trend that we need to be concerned about is congregational benevolence receipts – definite negative trend going on – as a result, for FY 2012, will be suggesting cuts to our 2012 budget, then FY 2013 will have to follow same trend context. Potential changes to the FY 2012 budget will be discussed at a future council meeting.

The better news is that we are managing our spending to anticipated income. We only spent 92% of available budgetary funds, which keeps us from being in a more serious deficit at the end of the FY.

Temporary restricted funds – The Metro 200 fund was used quite a bit for Belmont Ridge and the remainder will be used for Christus Victor. Gifts of Hope are up over FY 2010 thus people are giving more to causes than the institution.

Designated Funds. The Synod Assembly Reserve is down to \$13,000, thus the concern over registration fees for the event. Capital equipment replacement reserve is down as some of it was used for new equipment when the Synod office moved into new space. Howard U internship fund and Horizon Internship Fund will be held for the remainder of the fiscal year. If the funds are not used by the end of the fiscal year, the restriction on the funds will be removed.

Permanent restricted funds – The Mission Endowment Trust, Campus Ministry Trust, and Mission Development Trust all have shown small but steady gains. The Camus Ministry Trust and the Mission Development Trust are invested through MIF. The Mission Endowment Trust is invested in the ELCA Pooled Trust. The Faith Fund distribution account for outreach has \$59,000 available, \$50,000 of which is designated for SoH.

Vice President

Dr. White

2013 Budget has not yet been presented. Will be presented at the April 21, 2012 Council Meeting.

Bishop Graham

Presented by Administrative Assistant, Amy Acland

➤ Roster matters approved:

Request to be placed on leave from call by Diaconal Minister Kathy Garrison

Request to be placed on leave from call by Diaconal Minister Wayne Ralston

WELCA Report

Youth Report