

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON D.C. SYNOD OF THE ELCA**  
**SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING – APRIL 20, 2013**  
**FIRST TRINITY, WASHINGTON DC**

Dr. White called the meeting to order at 8:55 am.

**Motion 13.04.02** approved the agenda for the April 20, 2013 Synod Council Meeting.

**Motion 13.04.03** approved the minutes of the March 24, 2013 Synod Council Meeting.

**Motion 13.04.04** approved the minutes of the April 9, 2013 (Electronic) Synod Council Meeting  
It was noted that this action was not intended to rescind the fees for 2014.

**Report of the Shape of the Synod Task Force**

Bishop Graham noted that the shape of the synod task force has been working on language that emphasizes congregational ministries and making disciples.

**Report of the Office of Finance**

**Dr. White**

John Handley walked the council through the proposed 2014 Budget. Mr. Handley noted that the increase from \$85,000 to \$100,000 for the new and renewing mission table reflects the work of the shape of the synod task force and the emphasis on strengthening congregations and making disciples.

Bishop Graham noted that a narrative will accompany the budget. This narrative budget will reflect our understanding of the budget as a mission spending plan.

**Motion 13.04.05** approved that Synod Council recommend to the synod assembly the adoption of the 2014 budget with total expenditures of \$1,853,610.

**Report on proposed Bylaw Revisions**

**Ms. Wahlig**

Amanda Wahlig presented the bylaw revisions. She noted that there are two kinds of changes. 1. Required changes to the constitution resulting from churchwide assembly actions.  
2. Conforming changes to the bylaws to reflect consistency with these constitutional changes.

She recommended the adoption of the required changes with the exception of S8.52. This section deals with the terms of newly elected officers. She suggested that instead of having terms begin on September 1 (as recommended by churchwide) we provide our own language regarding start date.

**Motion 13.04.06** approved that Synod Council recommend to the synod assembly the adoption of amendments to the synod constitution as enacted by the ELCA with the exception of the recommended provision in S8.52 of the constitution.

**Staff and Officer Reports:**

**Vice President**

**Dr. White**

**Proposed Adjustment to Synod Compensation Guidelines**

**Motion 13.04.07** approved that Synod Council recommend to the synod assembly the adoption of a 1.5% increase to the unadjusted base salary for pastors and rostered lay leaders in the 2014 Synod Compensation Guidelines.

Note: As a result of this action the base salary for pastors not living in a parsonage increases to \$56,898, for pastors living in a parsonage to \$44,714, and for rostered laypersons to \$37,675.

**Treasurer**

**Mr. Handley**

Mr. Handley reviewed the first quarter budget report. The synod is running a slight deficit. This is lower than last year's deficit at the same point in the budget year. It is still too early, however, to predict giving trends for 2013.

**Assistant to the Bishop**

**Pr. Hirsch**

Pr. Hirsch noted that there are a number of requests for capital campaigns coming up. Among those under discussion is a request from Lutheran Social Services to conduct a capital campaign of \$3,000,000 during the run up to its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

National Lutheran Communities and Services in Winchester is also seeking approval to run a capital campaign for new chapel furnishings at The Village at Orchard Ridge.

The ELCA will also be embarking on a comprehensive capital campaign shortly.

**Motion 13.04.07** approved the request of National Lutheran Communities and Services to conduct a capital campaign during 2013 to furnish the chapel at The Village at Orchard Ridge.

Pr. Hirsch also gave an update on Shepherd of the Hills. They have moved into their new building. Worship attendance has been good; they have already started a second worship service.

**Assistant to the Bishop**

**Pr. Sevimli**

Pr. Sevimli presented an update on River of Grace. River of Grace has now reached its goal of over \$100,000 in pledges.

**Bishop's Report on Roster Matters**

**Bishop Graham**

**Motion 13.04.08** extended a non-stipendiary call to the Rev. Lee Ann Schray for service at Christ Lutheran Church, Washington DC.

This is one-year call. Christ Lutheran Church will need to apply to the Synod Council in a year if it intends to continue the call.

Bishop Graham acknowledged Associate in Ministry Harold Sargeant's faithful service over the past six years as a member of the Synod staff. Mr. Sargeant's last Synod Council Meeting will be in May.

**WELCA Report**

**Ms. Meier**

**Youth Report**

**Mr. Hill**

**Closing Prayer and Adjournment** at approximately 11:10 am.