

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON D.C. SYNOD OF THE ELCA
SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING – MAY 11, 2014
RIVER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, DUMFRIES, VA

Call to Order Dr. White called the meeting to order at 9:23 a.m. with introductions from Pr. Connie Thomson and members of River of Grace.

Devotions Mr. Robert Schilpp offered devotions.

SC14.05.14: To approve the agenda for the May 10, 2014, Synod Council meeting.

SC14.05.15: To approve the minutes of the March 15, 2014, Synod Council meeting.

1. Synod Council Primary Mission Table

- a. Discussion of FY2015 Mission Spending Plan Proposal: Karen Consiglio presented the FY2015 mission spending plan (budget) proposal on behalf of the Finance Committee. This proposal provides for expenditures of \$1,745,000, a decrease from the approved plan for FY2014 of \$1,853,610. Council members raised questions about financial implications of River of Grace, the Bethany Funds, and the projected decrease in receipts for the year.

SC14.05.16: To approve the proposed FY2015 Mission Spending Plan as presented to the Synod Council, and to recommend approval by the Synod Assembly.

- b. Roster Matters: None to discuss

- c. Discussion of By Law Amendments: Vice President White led a discussion of the proposed changes to the By Laws to be presented to the Synod Assembly. The discussion centered on the process of communicating the nature of the proposed changes to the Synod Assembly, the intended differences between committees and teams, and the prospect (and process) for amendments from the Synod Assembly. Among the suggestions for communicating with the voting members in advance of the Synod Assembly were the development of a series of Frequently Asked Questions, the distribution of charts and other visual aids, the production of a video from the Office of the Bishop, and a conference call for interested voting members.

SC14.05.17: To approve the proposed changes to the By Laws of the Synod as presented to the Synod Council, and to recommend approval by the Synod Assembly.

The vote on this motion included one dissenting vote. One member abstained from voting on this motion.

- d. Rostered Leader Compensation Guidelines for 2015: Vice President White presented a proposal for revised rostered leader compensation guidelines for 2015. The guidelines reflect an increase in the unadjusted base salary of 1.4% for 2015, based on changes in the consumer price index from 2013 to 2014.

SC14.05.18: To approve the proposed Rostered Leader Compensation Guidelines for 2015 in the form presented to the Synod Council, and to recommend approval by the Synod Assembly.

- e. Draft Synod Assembly Agenda: The current version of the draft of the agenda for the 2014 Synod Assembly was presented to the Synod Council for discussion and approval.

SC14.05.19: To approve the draft agenda for the 2014 Synod Assembly, in the form presented to the Synod Council.

- f. Report of Committee on Reference and Counsel: The Council members were advised that two resolutions had been submitted to the Committee and will be presented to the Synod Assembly for approval, *i.e.*, an “I Love Camp” Month resolution and a resolution to encourage congregations of the Synod to stand in solidarity with those suffering under current immigration laws. No specific action was taken with respect to these resolutions.
- g. Report of Synod Assembly Planning Committee: Although no member of this Committee was present for the meeting, the Council discussed in general terms the plans for the Synod Assembly. Vice President White requested members of the Council to advise him as to whether they would be attending the Assembly as voting members of their respective congregations or as voting members by virtue of their status as Synod Council members.

2. Staff and Officer Reports

- a. Assistant to the Bishop, Pr. Sevimli:
 - i. River of Grace: Pr. Sevimli provided an update on the status of River of Grace, a congregation under synodical administration, on matters including worship attendance, financial condition, budgetary process, and sustainability.
- b. Treasurer’s Report:

- i. **Financial Statements Review:** Treasurer John Handley distributed and reviewed the most recently available financial reports. No specific action was taken with respect to these reports.

3. **Synodical Women's Organization**

Ms. Meier referred the Synod Council to her written report, noting especially the SWO's recent annual meeting. Ms. Meier also noted that the SWO had new officers, although she would remain as President for another term. Pr. Grantson discussed efforts in the Maryland Conference to develop one or more women's groups.

4. **New Business**—Council members discussed the absence of a youth representative on the Council and inquired as to whether a nomination had been made to elect another such representative.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 11:48 a.m.