

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD OF THE ELCA
SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING – JULY 30, 2016
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, MCLEAN, VIRGINIA

Call to Order Dr. White called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Introductions Inasmuch as the Synod Council included several new members who had been elected by the 2016 Synod Assembly, Dr. White invited all of the members to provide a brief biographical introduction.

Devotion Bishop Graham provided a devotional message based on Genesis 18.

Greetings Pastor Kessinger greeted the members of the Synod Council and provided a brief history and profile of Redeemer Lutheran Church, its demographics, and its challenges.

Dr. White noted that the vacant position of lay Synod Council member from the Maryland Conference had not been filled by the 2016 Synod Assembly because the Conference did not have a nominee for the Assembly to consider. Since the completion of the Assembly, the Maryland Conference nominated Kimberly Watson to serve in this capacity. The members of the Synod Council were provided with brief biographical information on Ms. Watson. There were no other nominations, and Dr. White declared the nominations for the position of lay member from the Maryland Conference to be closed.

SC16.07.35: To elect Kimberly Watson to serve as the lay Synod Council member from the Maryland Conference, to serve until her successor is elected at the 2018 Synod Assembly.

Orientation Bishop Graham provided a brief, informal orientation for Synod Council members, including the obligations of members of non-profit boards generally, the nature of the Synod Council, and its responsibilities as the Primary Mission Table of the Synod. Members discussed the nature of, and reasons for, abstaining from voting on a particular matter, as well as the circumstances under which a member may be recused from considering a particular matter. Bishop Graham also noted that the Synod has a designated legal counsel to the Synod, Robert Tuttle, who is available to members of the Synod Council on matters relating to their official capacities as Council members.

Vice President White presented the proposed agenda for the meeting.

SC16.07.36: To approve the agenda for the July 30, 2016, Synod Council meeting.

The draft minutes of the June 18, 2016, Synod Council meeting were presented to the Council for approval. Vice President White asked for corrections or amendments. There were none.

SC16.07.37: To approve the minutes of the June 18, 2016, Synod Council meeting.

1. Synod Council Primary Mission Table

No matters were brought before the Synod Council in its capacity as the Primary Mission Table.

2. Staff and Officer Reports

a. Bishop Graham:

- i. Roster Matters for Synod Council Action. Bishop Graham brought three roster matters to the Synod Council.

SC16.07.38: That:

- 1. The Rev. Michael Lohmann be placed on leave from call for graduate study, effective July 18, 2016;
 - 2. The Rev. Angela Zimmann be called to Specialized Ministry as Vice President of Advancement at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, effective July 1, 2016; and
 - 3. The Rev. Leila Ortiz be called to serve as the Assistant to the Bishop, effective August 8, 2016.
- ii. Roster Matters for Information. Although not requiring any action on the part of the Synod Council, Bishop Graham's written report to the Council noted the following additional matters affecting the Synod's rostered leaders:
 - 1. The Rev. James Judy, retired, transferred from the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, effective July 18, 2016;
 - 2. The Rev. Susan M. Gaeta has transferred to the New England Synod, effective July 1, 2016; and
 - 3. The Mr. Lamar Bailey will be ordained and installed as part of Saint Stephen Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, on August 14, 2016.
 - iii. 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Bishop Graham identified several events that will take place in the area to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. Most of his comments were devoted to plans for the National Lutheran Choir, Minneapolis, Minnesota, to perform a concert at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on October 22, 2017. Bishop Graham had been presented with a contract by which the Synod would be asked

to assume financial responsibility for the payment of between \$16,000 and \$20,000 to reimburse the choir for costs incurred in presenting the concert. The proposed contract provides that one-half of the amount would be payable in the summer of 2017 and the balance would be payable at the time of the concert. Bishop Graham expressed his expectation that the entire cost of the contract would be provided through fundraising efforts and not out of the general funds of the Synod. If this goal is achieved, the Synod would not be charging admission to the event or requesting an offering during the event.

SC16.07.39: That the officers of Synod be authorized to enter into a contract with the National Lutheran Choir, Minneapolis, Minnesota, at a cost not to exceed \$20,000, to provide for a concert at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C., on October 22, 2017.

b. Assistant to the Bishop, Pr. Sevimli:

Pr. Sevimli made her last appearance before the Synod Council as the Assistant to the Bishop, having previously announced her resignation from the position. She had no formal report to make, but expressed her gratitude to the Synod and its staff upon her departure.

c. Vice President White:

Synod Council Executive Committee Membership. Dr. White described the composition of the Executive Committee and its duties. Of the four members of the Executive Committee (excluding the officers), one member will continue in the second year of his two-year term. Accordingly, three vacancies on the Committee remain to be filled, one for a one-year term and two for two-year terms. After soliciting nominations for these three vacancies, Pr. Sarah Lewis agreed to serve in completing the one year remaining on the two-year term expiring in 2017.

SC16.07.40: That, Pr. Sarah Lewis is elected to the Executive Committee for a term that will expire on the earliest of (a) one year from the date of election, (b) the election of her successor, or (c) the expiration of her term as a member of the Synod Council.

d. Treasurer's Report:

Overview of Financial Statements. In the absence of Treasurer Pr. Tom Knoll, Bishop Graham provided a general overview of the size of the Synod's budget, the sources of support, and the general financial condition of the Synod. More detailed information will be provided in subsequent meetings.

e. Secretary's Report:

Secretary Kevin Anderson provided an overview of the processes by which members are kept informed of upcoming Synod Council meetings and the materials for the meetings. He also distributed a schedule of proposed meetings for the 2016-17 Council year and asked members to offer their congregations as hosts for upcoming meetings and to provide opening devotions for the meetings.

3. Synodical Women's Organization

Cheryl Dwyer provided comments to supplement the written report that had been provided to the members of the Council in advance of the meeting, and responded to questions.

4. Youth Organization Report

None.

5. New Business

The Synod Council held a brief discussion of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly to be held in New Orleans on August 8-13. Several current and former Synod Council members will be attending as voting members. Several important actions will be brought before the Churchwide Assembly, including the unification of the three lay rosters into a single roster of ministers of Word and Service, changes to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA, the election of a Vice President, and the election of many individuals to councils, boards, and committees of the church and its separately incorporated ministries. Bishop Graham noted that three pastors from the synod had been selected to preach at worship services to be held during the Assembly.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 11:35 a.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: September 17, 2016, with the location to be determined at a later time.