

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD OF THE ELCA
SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING – JUNE 10, 2022
COLLEGE PARK MARRIOTT HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER;
HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND

Call to Order Vice President Slagle Peck called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The roll was called to verify attendance.

Devotions Vice President Slagle Peck provided a devotional message based on a writing by Pr. Emmy Kegler entitled “For All the So-Called Lost.”

Vice President Slagle Peck presented the proposed agenda for the meeting and the minutes of the previous meeting as a single motion. The draft minutes of the April 9, 2022, Synod Council meeting were presented to the Council for approval. Vice President Slagle Peck asked for corrections or amendments. There were none.

Moved:

Seconded: To approve the agenda for the June 10, 2022, Synod Council meeting and the minutes of the April 9, 2022, Synod Council meeting.

VOTED

SC22.06.22 To adopt the foregoing motion.

Vice President Slagle Peck declared the motion was adopted.

1. Synod Assembly Planning Update

a. Overview of Synod Assembly Agenda

Members reviewed the highlights of the agenda for the Synod Assembly. Secretary Kevin Anderson called the members’ attention specifically to the plans for authorizing the use of a hybrid Assembly pursuant to which some voting members participated in person while others participated virtually. A separate resolution would be introduced early in the Assembly pursuant to which the voting members participating in person would authorize the hybrid assembly approach.

b. Committee on Reference and Counsel

Secretary Kevin Anderson briefly summarized the resolutions that are proposed to be brought before the Synod Assembly. In the category of substantive resolutions,

there are proposals entitled “The Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival,” “LGBTQ+ Programming for Events,” “Memorial on LGBTQ+ Welcome,” and “Memorial on ELCA Restructuring.” The last resolution was submitted after the deadline established by the Rules of Procedure and, as such, will only be considered by the Synod Assembly if there is an initial two-thirds vote of the Assembly to hear it. In the category of traditional or ceremonial resolutions, there are proposals entitled “Greetings,” “The Reverend Dr. Richard H. Graham” (conferring the title of “Bishop Emeritus”), “Thanks and Farewell” (for Pr. Erin Swenson-Reinhold upon her departure from the synod staff), “Thank You, Kevin Anderson,” and “Expression of Gratitude.” Secretary Anderson summarized the responses that had been received from the sharing of the text of the “Greetings” resolution with the affected synods in advance of the Assembly.

2. Staff and Officer Reports

a. Bishop Ortiz:

- i. Roster Matter for Synod Council Action. Bishop Ortiz brought one roster matter to the Synod Council.

Moved:

Seconded: That the Rev. Lanny Westphal be called to specialized ministry to serve as interim pastor of Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Fairfax and Clifton, Virginia, effective July 15, 2022.

VOTED

SC22.06.23 To adopt the foregoing motion.

Vice President Slagle Peck declared the motion was adopted.

- ii. Synod Assembly Report. Bishop Ortiz previewed the report she would be giving to the full Synod Assembly.
- iii. Interim Bishop Plans. Bishop Ortiz noted that someone would be needed to serve as interim synod bishop during her three-month sabbatical leave scheduled to begin in the fall. She announced her intention to cause Pr. Lamar Bailey, currently Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission, to be appointed to serve in this role during her absence. Bishop Ortiz described the extent to which Pr. Bailey would, and would not, possess the authority and responsibilities of the office of synod bishop during her absence.
- iv. Farewells. Bishop Ortiz noted two departures from synod leadership scheduled to take effect shortly after the conclusion of the Assembly. First, Pr. Swenson-Reinhold has resigned from the synod staff, effective June 30, 2022, in order to

accept a call from Preston Meadow Lutheran Church, Plano, Texas. Second, Secretary Kevin Anderson would be concluding his second four-year term as Synod Secretary on August 31, 2022, and was not a candidate for another term. Bishop Ortiz expressed her appreciation for the contributions that both had made to the work of the synod.

b. Assistant to the Bishop and DEM, Pr. Bailey:

Pastor Bailey provided a written report and made brief additional remarks regarding the work of his office. Most of the work has been focused on planning for the Synod Assembly. He noted that Pr. Shannon Anderson has stepped down from her role as Chair of the New and Renewing Missions Table. Finally, his one-month sabbatical leave will be taken in the month of July.

c. Assistant to the Bishop, Pr. Swenson-Reinhold:

Pastor Swenson-Reinhold provided a written report and provided additional remarks, noting that most of her efforts have been devoted to the transition of her responsibilities to her successor, Pr. Sarah Garrett Krey.

d. Assistant to the Bishop for Generosity, Pr. David Shank:

Pastor Shank provided a written report and provided additional remarks, including the plans for the first financial appeal in the fall, the commencement of the Campus Ministry Grant Fund, and his vacation plans.

e. Vice President Jennifer Slagle Peck:

Vice President Slagle Peck announced her intention to omit the traditional organizational meeting for the newly-constituted Synod Council in July, and instead to plan a retreat for Saturday, September 24.

f. Treasurer Julie Hamre:

Treasurer Julie Hamre had distributed copies of the financial statements for the first four months of the current fiscal year, *i.e.*, the period ended May 31, 2022, in advance of the meeting. These statements reflect a deficit in undesignated receipts, compared with expenditures, of approximately \$59,000 before consideration of investment income, gain/loss from investments, and investment fees. Of this total, more than \$90,000 consisted of four categories of expenditures where all (or substantially all) of the full-year budgeted amount had been disbursed.

3. Report of/Discussion with ELCA Representative

Judith Roberts addressed the Synod Council as the representative from the churchwide organization to the Synod Assembly. She referred to a task force that is in the process of being organized to study the educational debt of rostered ministers, as well as the strategy of Striving Toward Ethnic Diversity that had been adopted in 2019. She described the new working arrangements for staff of the churchwide organization, in which individuals were categorized based on whether their duties required them to be physically present in an office on a regular basis, only occasionally, or only as requested. She did not comment on any matters involving the Sierra Pacific Synod beyond the public statements that had been made by the churchwide organization.

4. **Recognition of Departing Members**

Vice President Slagle Peck identified the Synod Council members whose terms of service are ending with (or shortly after) the conclusion of the Synod Assembly, as follows:

- Secretary Kevin Anderson
- Dcn. Katherine Miller-Holland
- Heather Light
- Pr. Krista Vingelis
- Pr. David Trott
- Cameron Johnson
- Ashelyn Mosby
- Melody Mobley
- Laura Stall

Melody Stachour has agreed to be a candidate for a second two-year term at the conclusion of the first two-year term. Members expressed their gratitude for the service of all those members whose service on the Synod Council is ending.

5. **New Business**

None.

The meeting adjourned with a prayer from Holden Village at 10:15 a.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: September 2022 (specific date and location TBD)

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin D. Anderson
Secretary