

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD OF THE ELCA
SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 24, 2022
By Zoom

Present: Bishop Leila Ortiz
Vice President Jennifer Slagle Peck
Secretary Barbara Bilodeau
Treasurer Julie Hamre
Andreas Dangin
Sheena Foster
Pr. Eugene Kern
Pr. Elijah Mwitanti
Pr. Sarah Scherschligt
Melody Stachour
Pr. Eva Steege
Pr. Henry Langknecht
Kirsten Nusum
Anita Smallin

Absent: Pr. Angela Shannon
Donald Wallace
Pr. Judith VanOsdol

Vacancies: Maryland Conference lay
Potomac Conference lay
Youth representative

Synod Staff: Assistant to the Bishop, Pr. Sarah Garrett Krey
Assistant to the Bishop and DEM, Pr. Lamar Bailey
Assistant to the Bishop, Pr. David Shank
Deacon Nicole Roop, Youth and Family Ministry

Call to Order Vice President Slagle Peck called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The secretary verified the roll via the zoom display.

Devotions During our time of devotions, Vice President Slagle Peck shared a poem from Pastor Gary Westgard of the South Dakota Synod (“I Shall Miss Bananas”) and a reflection on Genesis 1:31 (“God saw everything God had made, and behold, it was very good.”). Vice President Slagle Peck invited each member to introduce themselves and answer Barbara Brown Taylor’s question: “what is saving your life right now?”

Moved/Seconded/Voted: SC22.09.27 To approve the agenda for the September 24, 2022, Synod Council meeting.

Moved/Seconded/Voted: SC22.09.28 To approve the minutes of the June 10, 2022, Synod Council meeting and the June 30-July 5, 2022, electronic meeting.

Reports and Other Matters

1. **Council** – Bishop Ortiz and Vice President Slagle Peck introduced the new Council to the structure and commitments of the Synod Council, tables, and committees.

Moved/Seconded/Voted: SC22.09.29 To confirm the Synod Council's commitments as documented in the "Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, Synod Council Member commitments and Expectations 2022-2023."

Moved/Seconded/Voted: SC22.09.30 To appoint Stanley Medikonda to the vacancy in the Consultation Committee.

2. **Staff and Officer Reports**

- a. Bishop Ortiz

- i. Noted that there was discussion at the Church Wide Assembly regarding the five synods in the financial "experiment" and how the MetroDC structure of giving differs from the other synods. We are looking for more research to determine if we should adjust as there is no written agreement or communication that would indicate what is considered correct.
- ii. Discussion of the Building Puentes fund and how the Caribbean Synod has requested our support of its rostered leaders. We are in the process of planning a retreat for next spring which will use approximately \$55,000 of the current fund.

Moved/Seconded/Voted: SC22.09.31 That the Rev. Karis Graham be placed On Leave from Call effective July 20, 2022; That the Rev. Nathan Swenson-Reinhold be placed On Leave from Call effective August 1, 2022; and That the Rev. Katherine Tuttle be called to Specialized Ministry as an Interim for Lutheran Church of the Reformation in Washington, DC effective August 15, 2022.

- b. Treasurer's Report, Ms. Julie Hamre

- i. August financial reports were reviewed.
- ii. Audit report was shared and the council discussed the requirements for an annual audit.

Moved/Seconded/Voted: SC22.09.32 To approve the adoption of the document entitled "Gift Acceptance Policy of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, ELCA" in the form presented to the meeting.

Moved/Seconded/Voted: SC22.09.33 That the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod of the ELCA establish an account with Charles Schwab. Investments made via this account shall comply with the Synod's overall investment policy. Both the Bishop and the Treasurer shall be signatories on the account but only one signature shall be required to effectuate transactions. The current persons so authorized are as follows: Bishop Leila Ortiz, Treasurer Julie P. Hamre.

- c. Assistant to the Bishop for Generosity, Pr. David Shank
 - i. Campus Ministry Grant Program - Explanation and Discussion

Moved/Seconded/Voted: SC22.09.34 To allocate \$50,000 of unrestricted funds on hand to be used as a "matching gift incentive" (\$1 dollar - \$1 dollar match) to promote generosity during our first Autumn Appeal season for the Local Ministry Fund.

Moved/Seconded/Voted: SC22.09.35 To create a "Local Ministry Fund" for our synod. This fund will replace and rename the item line 41040 in our budget and moving forward this fund will serve as one more additional income stream to support the local ministries in our synod and our churches.

- d. Assistant to the Bishop and DEM, Pr. Bailey
 - i. New and Renewing Missions Table
 - ii. Stewardship and Mission Support Table
 - iii. Racial Equity Team
- e. Assistant to the Bishop, Pr. Sarah Garret Krey
 - i. Mobility and candidacy
- f. Assistant to the Bishop, Youth & Family Ministry, Deacon Nicole Roop
- g. Vice President's Report, VP Slagle Peck
 - i. Churchwide Assembly Memorials
 - ii. Racial equity developments

3. New Business - None

The meeting adjourned with a prayer at 12:02pm
Next Scheduled Meeting: November 12, 2022 (zoom)

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara A. Bilodeau
Secretary