

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD OF THE ELCA
SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING – November 4, 2023
King of Kings Lutheran Church, Fairfax, VA

King of Kings Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Manahoac peoples. We give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

Present:

Bishop Leila Ortiz, Bishop
Jennifer Slagle Peck, Vice President
Barbara Bilodeau, Secretary
Julie Hamre, Treasurer
Sheena Foster, DC – Lay
Pr. Judith VanOsdol, DC – Rostered
Melody Stachour, Fairfax - Lay
Pr. Elijah Mwitanti, Fairfax - Rostered
Pr. Eric T. Randolph, Maryland - Rostered
Pr. Betty Landis, Montgomery – Rostered
Wendell Anderson, Potomac – Lay
Don Wallace, Virginia - Lay
Pr. Henry Langknecht, Virginia – Rostered
Kirsten Nusum, At-Large Young Adult

Absent:

Brother Love, Maryland – Lay
Anita Smallin, Montgomery - Lay
Pr. Alexander P. Stall, Jr., Potomac – Rostered
Breeze H Lawless, At-Large Youth

Synod Staff:

Pr. Sarah Garrett Krey
Katharyn Wheeler

Guests: Pastor Christian Chavarria, from our partner Synod in El Salvador (during Worship and Conversation)

Vacancies:

Potomac – Lay, which was filled during the meeting.

Worship in the Sanctuary

Conversation with Pastor Christian Chavarria, from our partner Synod in El Salvador

Call to Order Vice President Slagle Peck called the meeting to order at 10: 30. The secretary verified the attendance.

Moved/Seconded/Adopted: SC23.11.25 To approve the agenda for the November 4, 2023, Synod Council meeting; and to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2023.

Reports and Other Matters

1. Council

- a. Wendell Anderson was nominated to the vacant Synod Council position
Moved/Seconded/Adopted: SC23.11.26 . To appoint Wendell Anderson to the Synod Council for the Potomac Conference, Lay, completing the term until the Synod Assembly in June 2024.
- b. VP Slagle Peck lead an opening activity of introductions, sharing information about a favorite song.

2. Staff and Officer Reports

- a. Bishop Ortiz
 - i. Roster matters - **Moved/Seconded/Adopted: SC23.11.27** the following change in status: That the Rev. Wollom Jensen be removed from the roster as he has transferred to be a priest in the Jurisdiction of the Armed Forces and Chaplaincy of the Anglican Church in North America effective April 16, 2023.
 - ii. Events, activities, and other updates – seen in written report
 - iii. Status of DEM position / Mission Support to churchwide: Discussed the possible changes in the support of the DEM and the relationship with Churchwide, where MetroDC Synod would increase the amount of mission support provided to ELCA and the ELCA would provide a grant to support the DEM. Noted that while the DEM position is vacant, the numbers are hypothetical. **Moved/Seconded/Adopted: SC23.11.28** To approve the concept of increasing the mission support percentage to the ELCA while ELCA provides a grant to cover most of the DEM expenses, committing to an on-going relationship; that when a DEM candidate is called, there will be a written agreement for the record; and that the call document would be issued from both the Churchwide and Synod.
- b. Treasurer's Report, Ms. Julie Hamre
 - i. The proposed fee structure for 2024 Synod Assembly was provided by Jeffrey M. Wilson, 2024 Synod Assembly Planning Team, Chair. **Moved/Seconded/Adopted: SC23.11.29** To approve the fee structure for a one-day Synod Assembly as follows:
 - *\$115 for all early bird rates, including visitors, except for retirees and voting members under 30 which will be \$105.*
 - *\$140 for all regular registrations, including visitors, except for retirees and voting members under 30 which will be \$130.*
 - *\$155 late registration regardless of category.**And that in case we need to pivot to a 100% online forum that the 2024 Synod Assembly Fees be set at 75% of the rates listed above.*

- ii. The Treasurer provided recommendations for housing allowances for ordained staff for the calendar year 2024. **Moved/ Seconded/Adopted: SC23.11.30** That for the fiscal year 2024-25, 45 percent of the compensation paid in the form of salary to Bishop Leila M. Ortiz and 30.3 percent of the compensation paid in the form of salary to the Rev. Sarah Garrett Krey be designated as a rental/housing allowance in accordance with the provisions of section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code.
- iii. The FY2022 Synod Audit was presented. **Moved/Seconded/Adopted: SC23.11.31** To accept the FY2022 Synod Audit.
- iv. Financial reports – extensive discussion on financial trends, stewardship, mission support, donor recognition.
- v. Reviewed the Finance Committee recommendations regarding the capital proposals from the Mar-Lu-Ridge and Caroline Furnace Camp and the Faith Fund interest income **Moved/Seconded/Adopted: SC23.11.32** To approve disbursing \$20,000 to Mar-Lu-Ridge and \$15,000 to Caroline Furnace from the Faith Fund to be used for capital projects as described in the grant proposals attached.
- vi. Grant process was provided with updated edits, intending to have an approach that can be used consistently across tables and committees. **Moved/Seconded/Adopted: SC23.11.33** to approve the Grant Process in document dated November 2023, replacing the earlier document from January 2023.
- c. Assistant to the Bishop, Candidacy and Mobility, Pr. Sarah Garret Krey
 - i. Report provided.
 - ii. Encouraged all to try to attend ordinations and installations to help establish connections to each other and synod staff.
- d. New and Renewing Missions Table
 - i. Reviewed grant request from Reformation Lutheran Church, DC. **Moved/Seconded/Adopted: SC23.11.34** To grant \$15,000 as a one-time grant from the Bethany fund for “Space For Grace Jazz” as described in the attached grant request.
 - ii. King of Kings Lutheran Church, Fairfax - \$70,000 over 3 years for “King of Kings 2.0 Dulles South Campus”. Request was tabled until the next meeting for gathering more info, review, and discernment.
- e. Assistant to the Bishop, Youth & Family Ministry, Deacon Julie Stecker – absent as eight of our congregations are involved in a middle school retreat. Have requested volunteers for the Youth and Family Committee.
- f. Vice President’s Report, VP Slagle Peck
 - i. Update on Racial Equity work provided in written report.
 - ii. Compensation analysis / rostered minister equity fund / reparations committee: described the challenges some of our pastors have in making ends meet, looking at what combination of stakeholders should be involved.
- g. Secretary’s Report, Barbara Bilodeau

- i. Noted that a function of the Secretary is review and approval of amendments to Congregational Constitutions. For the purposes of providing transparency and a record of approvals, they will be reported at Council meetings. These constitutions were reviewed; provided recommendations and list of changes to comply with the model passed at the 2022 Church-wide Assembly:
 - Christ, DC (September 2023)
 - Emmanuel, Bethesda (September 2023)
 - Good Shepherd, Alexandria (October 2023)
 - St. Michael's Truth (September 2023) [shared new model only]Concurred with changes; requested final document for official approval after voted on by Congregation:
 - Grace, Fort Washington (September 2023)
 - Reformation, DC (October 2023)

3. Committees, Tables, and Teams - Reports as needed

- a. Update from ELCA Church Council, Sheena Foster. Noted that the Church Council is currently meeting in Chicago. A review of governing documents has been completed and results will be sent to synods.
- b. Update from Commission on Renewed Lutheran Church, Melody Stachour. Attended first meeting in late July; 2 days of discernment, working through language. This is a time for listening across the Church. Commission is to provide recommendations to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly, not to implement those recommendations.

4. New Business – n/a

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 with prayer.

Next Scheduled Meeting: January 20, 2024 via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara A. Bilodeau
Secretary