

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD OF THE ELCA
ELECTRONIC SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING
October 28, 2025

The Synod Council conducted a meeting through electronic communications in order to address the following motion:

SC25.10.41 For the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod to join in signing on to a lawsuit that would protect local immigrant communities from systematic, warrantless arrests.

This is moved by Bishop Hirsch and seconded by VP Anderson.

Due to outside constraints, the Council was given an unusually short timeframe in which to respond with a vote, and consequently several members sent in votes after the time expired. These are recorded under the “late voting” to give a full sense of the Council’s decision.

The following identifies the members who voted on the motion by means of a responding electronic mail message:

Voting:

Bishop Phil Hirsch, Bishop
Patrick Anderson, Vice President
Barbara Bilodeau, Secretary
Pr. Judith VanOsdol, DC – Rostered
Pr. Kelsey Kresse, Fairfax – Rostered
Rachad Ya Ntima Esengo, Maryland – Lay
Pr. Eric T. Randolph, Maryland - Rostered
Anita Smallin, Montgomery – Lay
Pr. Alexander P. Stall, Jr., Potomac – Rostered
Edyn Wheeler, At-Large Young Adult
Ethan B, At-Large Youth

Late Voting:

Camille Trott, DC – Lay
Pr. Kari Parsons, Montgomery – Rostered
Deborah Tyler, Virginia - Lay

Not Voting:

Breeze Lawless, Fairfax - Lay
Mike Gutzler, Treasurer
Pr. Elijah Mwitanti, Virginia - Rostered

All 11 votes cast were in favor, no abstain, and no votes opposed. The motion was approved. The three late votes were also in favor, no abstain, and no votes opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

October 28, 2025

Barbara A. Bilodeau
Secretary