

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD OF THE ELCA
SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING – JUNE 14, 2019
COLLEGE PARK MARRIOTT AND CONFERENCE CENTER,
HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND

Call to Order Vice President Crenshaw called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Devotion Paul Culler, attending his final meeting as a member of the Synod Council, provided a devotional message focused on the Holy Spirit, in view of the fact that the immediately preceding Sunday, June 9, was Pentecost.

Vice President Crenshaw presented the proposed agenda for the meeting.

SC19.06.18: To approve the agenda for the June 14, 2019, Synod Council meeting.

The draft minutes of the May 18, 2019, Synod Council meeting were presented to the Council for approval. Vice President Crenshaw asked for corrections or amendments. There were none.

SC19.06.19: To approve the minutes of the May 18, 2019, Synod Council meeting.

1. Synod Council Primary Mission Table

a. New Connections Campaign Overview and Update

A financial report for the campaign was distributed to the members in advance of the meeting. No further updates were provided.

2. Bishop Transition Task Force/Election Committee Update

The task force provided its final report to the Synod Council in connection with the election of the synodical bishop to take place during the Synod Assembly to begin immediately upon the conclusion of the Synod Council meeting.

3. Synod Assembly Planning Update

Pastor Edwards provided an overview of the resolutions that had been submitted to the Reference and Counsel Committee. Setting aside the traditional resolutions that are prepared by the Committee each year (greetings, appreciation, etc.), there was only one substantive resolution for consideration by the Synod Assembly, regarding the draft document entitled “Trustworthy Servants of the People of God,” which had been

returned to the churchwide Domestic Mission Unit by the Church Council for further consideration.

4. Staff and Officer Reports

a. Bishop Graham:

- i. Roster Matters for Synod Council Action. Bishop Graham brought one roster matter to the Synod Council.

SC19.06.20: That Deacon Katherine Miller Holland's status as on leave from call be extended for one year, effective April 21, 2019.

- ii. Roster Matters for Information. Although not requiring any action on the part of the Synod Council, Bishop Graham informed the Council of one additional matter involving the Synod's rostered ministers, *i.e.*, that Sister Ramona Daily transferred from the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, effective May 8, 2019.

- iii. Our Redeemer Update. Bishop Graham provided an update on the status of the Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Washington, D.C., which had been placed under voluntary synodical administration pursuant to S13.25 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Synod. The congregation, having previously established its own congregation council, has arranged for supply preaching and is assessing its building and property needs. The congregation has requested that the status of synodical administration be terminated.

SC19.06.21: That Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Washington, D.C., having been previously placed under synodical administration pursuant to S13.25 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions, be withdrawn from synodical administration, effective immediately, and that the congregation be promptly advised of this resolution.

- iv. Proposed Synod Compensation Guidelines. Bishop Graham brought to the Council the proposed Rostered Ministry Compensation Guidelines for adoption by the Synod Assembly. No changes are being recommended to this document when compared with the document adopted by the 2018 Synod Assembly, although it does provide for an automatic increase in specified dollar amounts based on changes in the cost of living.

SC19.06.22: To approve the continued use of the Rostered Ministry Compensation Guidelines adopted by the 2018 Synod Assembly, without modification, and to recommend their adoption by the 2019 Synod Assembly.

b. Director for Evangelical Mission in Transition, Pr. Rhinesmith:

Pastor Rhinesmith noted that La Sagrada Familia (Spanish for “The Holy Family”) is a Spanish-speaking gathering currently served by Pr. Franklin Morales, who has been called by Saint Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, Maryland. The group had previously been designated as an authorized worshipping community pursuant to ELCA bylaw 10.02.03. However, it has evolved such that it no longer meets the criteria for an authorized worshipping community but instead should be treated as a ministry of Saint Luke Lutheran Church. Accordingly, Pr. Rhinesmith recommended that its status as an authorized worshipping community be terminated.

SC19.06.23: To terminate the status of La Sagrada Familia as an authorized worshipping community pursuant to ELCA bylaw 10.02.03, effective immediately.

c. Assistant to the Bishop, Pr. Ortiz

Pastor Ortiz reported that there are nine congregations in the study process, with two awaiting names of candidates. There were no calls extended since the last Synod Council meeting. Regarding candidacy, there was one entrance and three approvals.

Pastor Ortiz also advised that the Building Puentes efforts are on hold until after the conclusion of the Synod Assembly.

d. Treasurer’s Report:

- i. Year to Date Financial Statements. Treasurer Julie Hamre had distributed copies of the financial statements for the first four months of the Synod’s current fiscal year, *i.e.*, the period ended May 31, 2019, in advance of the meeting. These statements reflect a surplus in undesignated receipts, compared with expenditures, of approximately \$113,000. However, a substantial portion of this surplus is attributable to the excess of Synod Assembly registration fees collected over the expenses paid to date. With many Synod Assembly expenses being paid in the month of June, this surplus is not expected to remain at the end of June.
- ii. Status of Financial Statement Audit. The independent accounting firm has not completed all of its work in connection with its examination of the Synod’s financial statements for the year ended January 31, 2019. Their report will be made available to the Synod Council at a subsequent meeting.

5. ELCA Representative Report

The Council extended a welcome to Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, Assistant to the Secretary/Executive for the Office of the Secretary Administration, serving as the churchwide representative to the Synod Assembly. Deacon Rothmeyer previewed her

role as the churchwide representative, including the process of presiding over those portions of the Synod Assembly involving the election of a bishop.

6. **New Business**

Secretary Kevin Anderson recognized those members of the Synod Council who were attending their last meeting: Paul Culler, Pr. Michael Guy, Pr. Gary Rhinesmith, and Katherine S.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 9:18 a.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: July 20, 2019; Location TBD.