

## SYNOD COUNCIL MEETS, SETS ASSEMBLY DATES

Synod Council met on Jan. 15 at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Severna Park. For the first time, the council followed its newly developed meeting format which provides significant time for prayer, bible study and discussion on mission and visioning. During these times, the council continued work that had begun at the November overnight retreat on mission priorities and prayed by name for the congregations in the Frederick Conference. Also, the synod's new webmaster, Pastor Greg Fetzer, gave council members a sneak preview of the new website which will be going live soon.

In other action, the Synod Council ...

- decided that future Synod Assemblies through 2015 will be held at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, Md. and set the dates for the 2013 - 2015 assemblies. With previous decisions, the dates are as follows:

June 2 - 4, 2011, theme: Stewardship

May 31 - June 2, 2012, Evangelism: "Every Member a Missionary"

May 30 - June 1, 2013, Leadership: "Every Pastor/Rostered Leader a Mission Director"

May 29 - May 31, 2014, Mission: "Every Congregation a Vital Center for God's Mission"

May 28 - May 30, 2015, theme TBD

- heard a report from Synod Vice President Yolanda Tanner and learned that she is making herself available for re-election when her term expires at this year's Synod Assembly;

- accepted the resignation of Donna Kent as team leader of the Mission Through Congregations Team and appointed Pr. Michael Dubsy to fill Donna's unexpired term through 2013; also appointed new members to the mission teams;

- at the recommendation of Bishop Wolfgang Herz-Lane, extended the contract of Pr. Roland Hobbs as interim Assistant to the Bishop (part-time) through January 31, 2012, recognizing that the current financial situation of the synod does not allow for this position to be filled full-time as had been planned;

- learned that currently four congregations are in consultation with the Bishop's Office as required by the church's constitution following a first vote to leave the ELCA: St. Martin, Annapolis (taking a second vote Jan. 30), St. John, Edgemere (Feb. 13), St. Matthew, Bowley's Quarter (also Feb. 13), Emmanuel, Pasadena (second vote not scheduled yet);

- heard a report from Bishop Wolfgang regarding this year's "Partners in Faith / Partners in Vision (PIF/PIV)" and learned that three identical one-day events are being planned in different locations around the theme of "Every Member a Missionary." The dates are November 5 (Western Cluster), November 12 (Eastern Cluster), November 19 (Central Cluster). The events will be called "Partners 2.0: Re-Tooling for Mission."

## TWO NEW CONGREGATIONS TO BE RECEIVED

Two new congregations will be officially received at this year's Synod Assembly in Ocean City: Joy Reigns, Edgewater, has set its Organization Sunday for April 3, and Grace of God, Millsboro, Delaware, will become a full-fledged ELCA congregation on Sunday, May 15. Both of these missions have been under development since 2003 and 2005, respectively. Pastor Nicki Parrish is serving as mission developer at Joy Reigns, Pastor Judy Moller-Gavlick at Grace of God.

## BISHOP WOLFGANG'S SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

- Jan. 25 Office appointments in the a.m.  
Lunch meeting with Bishop emeritus Jerry Knoche  
Church Council meeting, Emmanuel, Pasadena
- Jan. 26 Candidacy Committee, Divinity, Towson
- Jan. 27 Office appointments  
Mission Through Partnership team meeting
- Jan. 28 Day off  
eve: Mar-Lu-Ridge board retreat
- Jan. 29 Mar-Lu-Ridge board retreat
- Jan. 30 preach, St., John, Edgemere  
congregational meeting, St. Martin, Annapolis
- Jan. 31 Staff meeting, noon Eucharist  
Interviews with candidates

--

Peace & Blessings,

Bishop Wolfgang D. Herz-Lane  
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA