NC Synod Council meeting, December 6-7, 2019—**Summary of actions**

The NC Synod Council gathered December 6-7, 2019, at the synod office in Salisbury, NC.

**The council approved the following:**

* Merging the Silver Valley and Salem Conferences into the Yadkin Conference.
* The revised constitutions of Holy Communion, Dallas; Living Saviour, Charlotte; St. Mark’s, Lumberton; and Good Shepherd, Brevard.
* Synod Council calls for Deacon Laura Buff Alexander (Westminster Presbyterian, Greensboro), and Pastor Matt Hoffman (campus pastor, Warren Wilson College).
* Changes for rostered ministers in term calls, those on leave from call, and those retiring.
* The formation of a nonprofit corporation, The Mission Fund Corporation, for the purpose of performing fiscal agent duties for mission developments in the NC Synod and that the corporation take prompt action to qualify as a 501c3 organization under IRS rules and guidelines.
* A five-member Board of Directors for The Mission Fund Corporation.
* A Supervision Chart for NC Lutheran Synod Staff, housing allowances for rostered staff, as well as 2020 staff salaries as recommended by the Synod Council’s Personnel Advisory Committee.
* Begin a Mission Start called The Dwelling in downtown Winston-Salem.
* Authorize the start of ‘Christ Lutheran Online’ as an Alternative Worship Site for Christ-Providence.

**In addition to staff and officer reports, the following information was received:**

* The Lifeline Fund Steering Committee reported on the conclusion of their first phase is estimated to have erased in excess of 100 years of cumulative debt for rostered leaders in NC! Also, there has been an approximately $1.1 Million increase in giving across the NC Synod attributed to “Stewardship for All Seasons.”
* Athena Thomasson-Bless was introduced as the synod’s new Social Justice and Advocacy Coordinator.
* Bishop Smith reported that six congregations are considering disaffiliation. He shared his goal of making sure that each congregation in the NC Synod understands that they are seen, heard, and valued as part of the NC Synod.
* Conferences will enjoy an equal balance of male and female deans, likely for the first time.

**The next council meeting will be March 20-21, 2020 at the synod office.**