REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Direct link: **https://goo.gl/HjpbAZ**

Council Action

SC 17.03.19. Approval of Voice and Vote. The Council voted to approve granting of voice and vote at the 2017 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly to Rev. Paula Harris under provision S7.27. of the Greater Milwaukee Synod's constitution.

SC 17.05.06. Approval of Voice. The Council voted to approve granting voice but not vote at the 2017 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly to Rev. Jay Thorson, serving under contract at Capitol Drive Lutheran Church, Milwaukee.

SC 17.05.07. Approval of Voice and Vote. The Council voted to approve granting of voice and vote at the 2017 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly to Rev. Ron Ballew under provision S7.27. of the Greater Milwaukee Synod's constitution.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Direct link: **https://milwaukeesynod.org/report-of-the-vice-president/**

REPORT OF THE BISHOP

Direct link: **https://milwaukeesynod.org/report-of-the-bishop/**

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

The Greater Milwaukee Synod (GMS) continues to exercise a high level of fiscal responsibility in fulfilling its various mission objectives. I am pleased to report the Mission Support from our congregations were $1,967,131.48 in fiscal year 2016. This is $70,474 less than last year's total. We received 96.0% of our budgeted income based on congregational intent. I would like to thank all of our congregations for their generous support in our ministry and mission.

The GMS forwarded 55.0% of our mission support to the Churchwide ministries of the ELCA. The total amount sent for 2016 was $1,081,922.33. The funds we forward on to the ELCA support global missions, synodical and congregational missions here in the Greater Milwaukee area, mission advancement and support of the ELCA leadership, who represent us in a myriad of ways nationally and globally. Much of this is directed right back to our synod to help us with our ministry here in the GMS.

We were also able to support our partnership ministries with $97,600.32. These partnerships include Lutheran Campus Ministry here in the Greater Milwaukee Synod, our seminaries where the leaders of tomorrow are being prepared today and partnerships with other denominations in the Greater Milwaukee area through Wisconsin Council of Churches, Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee, Lutheran Office of Public Policy and others.

Through our generous giving, we also provide resources to enable the synod to help support our congregations and their ministries. This includes the bishop and his staff, shepherding candidates for rostered and lay leadership, leadership development and anti-racism training.

Our challenge this year is to try and grow the congregational support for 2017-2018. This support provides key resources to help us in daily ministries at the congregational, synodical and Churchwide level. We have done and continue to do great things in this synod all because of the direct support from our congregations. On the 500th anniversary of the reformation, we are inviting congregations to increase their annual giving by $500.00. This will allow us as a synod to increase our staff to better allow us to work and walk with congregations as they strive to do God's work here on earth.

Please take time to review the budget for fiscal year 2018-2019 provided in the Assembly handouts. You can always contact any of the members of the Synod Finance Committee or the synod staff with any questions or concerns.

I would like to thank our Finance Director, Dave Groenewold, for the great work he does in the day-to-day handling of the finances. Dave is retiring and his work and dedication these last 14 years have been vital to the God's mission here in the GMS. I would also like to thank the entire Synod Stewardship and Finance committees for their hard work and dedication in working with congregations as they plan their budgets and mission support. Our efforts help to provide the great ministry that happens every day in our GMS.

It has truly been a great privilege to serve as Synod Treasurer and I want to thank you for this opportunity.

Yours in Christ, Lee D. Johnston, Treasurer