

WRAP-UP

2018 METRO D.C. SYNOD ASSEMBLY



OUR TIME TOGETHER

New connections permeated this year's Synod Assembly, when over 300 people got together for worship, workshops, deliberation, decision-making, support and inspiration. The counter-cultural welcome of Christian teaching was in the room, and is being nurtured in our congregations and in the way we interact with our brothers and sisters whether next door or much farther away. Echoed by many, an Assistant to the Bishop put it: "[We] have something good and life giving to offer an increasingly disconnected and skeptical society and it is as simple and profound as: Hope, faith, and most importantly love."

WORSHIP

Our spirits and voices were raised in praise through beautiful music led by Deacon Jeffrey Pannebaker, a Latin Ensemble led by Julio Cuellar, and more. In his opening worship sermon (find in livestream archived on Facebook at 18 minute mark), Bishop Richard Graham said: "You don't need me to tell you that everything in the world around us conspires these days to isolate us from everybody who is not exactly as we are... We are not used to the kind of otherness that the Christian community exposes us to. Our churches are places where the Holy Spirit gathers diverse groups of people... Our churches are places where we learn to greet one another and care for one another not because this is easy or natural but because it is what Jesus call us to and what Jesus blesses... We welcome one another and find that we are living in outposts of the kingdom of God where the joy takes us by surprise."



TRYING NEW THINGS

We upped our game! Matching the New Connections advice to try something new, knowing that not everything will work but that trying nothing will definitely not encourage growth, we gave several things a try in 2018. Interpreters made it possible for people most comfortable using Spanish to engage with worship, plenaries and some workshops. The Guidebook app was available to participants who could readily access materials and even sing hymns from their phone or other device. A multi-angle livestream of worship has been viewed over 600 times. And the synod website sports an upgrade.



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SYNOD ASSEMBLY WRAP-UP



ELECTED LEADERS

These leaders were elected by the 2018 Synod Assembly. SYNOD COUNCIL OFFICER: Secretary – Kevin Anderson. SYNOD COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: D.C. Conference - the Rev. David Trott, Sr.; Fairfax Conference - Virginia "Ginny" Trygstad; Maryland Conference - Ashelyn Mosby; Montgomery Conference - the Rev. Jeanne Lowe and Cleophas Tsokodayi; Potomac Conference - the Rev. Michael Guy and Cynthia Reese; Virginia Conference - the Rev. Sandra Kessinger; At-large - Deacon Rebecca Kolowé and Jackson Droney; Synodical Women's Organization - Sheena Foster; and Youth/Young Adult - Katherine S. VOTING MEMBERS TO THE 2019 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY: Kevin Anderson, the Rev. Mark Edwards, Deacon Rebecca Kolowé, Deacon David Larrabee, the Rev. Jeanne Lowe, and Kathryn Moran. CONSULTATION COMMITTEE: Michael Sonnenberg and the Rev. Scott Zimmerer.



FORMULATED ISSUES DISCUSSION

Five resolutions were adopted by the Synod Assembly. "Child Protection Policies" asks each synod congregation to have adopted a Child Protection Policy by next year's meeting along with accompanying training. "No Way to Treat a Child: Protecting the Human Rights of Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation" encouraged learning about and advocacy on behalf of the lives of Palestinian children—especially the treatment of Palestinian children in the Israeli military courts. The Rev. Mark and Kari Olsen, who are leaving our area, were given a special "Thanks and Farewell" for their service to the Church here. Plus, traditional "Greetings" were extended to ELCA synods meeting at the same time as ours, and a list of names were read from the "Expression of Thanks and Gratitude" resolution expressing gratitude to the many people who put an event like this together. Find full texts at metrodcclca.org.

MORE REPORTING

Peruse social media for tweets, Instagram posts as well as around 100 photos on Facebook from our time together. Flavor and facts are posted from our guest bloggers. Review "De la Asamblea – 2018 Asamblea del Sínodo" and "From the Floor - 2018 Synod Assembly blog" online. Both list videos shown, many of which are on the synod YouTube channel.

OTHER DECISIONS

Our synod adopted a Mission Spending Plan, stewarding almost \$1.8 million in ministry directions. Also adopted were 2019 Compensation Guidelines for rostered ministers. Find both in detail online.