

METRO D.C. SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION (SWO) 2014 REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

PURPOSE STATEMENT OF THE METRO DC SWO

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

THE METRO DC SWO MINISTRY MARCH 2013 THROUGH MARCH 2014

The annual spring convention, *Communication – Vertical and Horizontal* was held on Saturday, April 27, 2013 at Faith Lutheran Church, in Arlington, Virginia

Jackie Wilson, Secretary, Women of the ELCA Executive Board, brought greetings and information from the officers and members of the churchwide board and staff. Offerings collected were split evenly between the Women of the ELCA and the WELCA 25th Anniversary appeal (of which a portion went to the Malaria Campaign). In-kind offerings were donated for the Faith Lutheran Church food bank.

Delegates to the business meeting adopted a budget of \$12,850 for 2013-2014 and elected the following women to the board: Vice President – Marva Benn, Bethlehem, Fairfax; Secretary – Kathi Schultz, Abiding Presence, Burke; Treasurer - Cheryl Dwyer, St. Mark's Springfield; Board Members – Barbara O'Keefe, Good Shepherd, Alexandria; Sue Orndorff, St. Matthews, Woodbridge; Joyce Skoglund, Christ, Fairfax; and Paulette Sandene, Faith, Arlington (for a one-year term); Nominating Committee – Barbara O'Keefe, Good Shepherd, Arlington; and Pau Nau, Christ, Fairfax. Also elected were two delegates and two alternate delegates to the 2014 Triennial Convention – Delegates: Wilma Dublin and Fran Eck, St. Mark's Springfield; and Alternate Delegates: Mary Seale, All Saints Lutheran, Bowie and Bonnie Priebe, First Trinity, Washington, DC.

The Conference of Presidents was held February 21-23, 2014 at the Lutheran Center in Chicago, IL, and Kathy Meier attended for Metro DC. The productive leadership training, workshops, and Region 8 caucuses led to opportunities for fellowship, support, new ideas, and spiritual renewal.

New Projects Introduced this year included bringing the SWO into the social and electronic media world. A communications committee was formed and given the task of researching the most effective and economical server for our type of site. The web site was successfully developed and launched in September, 2013. Site addresses are as follows: Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/metrodcsw> and Web site – <http://dwyercl2.wix.com/welca-metrodcsynod>

The second major project was to begin a program to grow active membership in the SWO. A Committee was formed, and we have updated our contact records and have

begun discussions with several churches regarding forming or re-forming a WELCA group. This work will continue into 2015. The objective is two-fold: 1) to tell the WELCA story of who we are and what we do as women of many generations and 2) develop a model for future Board Members to continue this type of contact with Synod units throughout the year.

The 2011-2013 project for the SWO continued through June 2013. The challenge of an additional \$5,000 donation for the SWO's Endowment to Roanoke College was met by member donations and an additional \$2,500 from the Mission Fund. This endowment provides scholarships to needy Lutheran students who are members of the Metro DC Synod or of a Companion Synod in Slovakia, Namibia, or El Salvador. One student was awarded a scholarship last year.

A New Giving Campaign was approved by The Executive Board to run through June 2015. Lutheran Campus Ministries in the DC Metro Area is the designated recipient, and that program is currently under way.

Triennial Gathering 2014 is a few months away. We have 24 people registered to attend the Gathering in Charlotte, North Carolina. Attendees from Metro DC will wear a Red, White, and Blue Stars and Stripes scarf and will gather together as a group as often as possible. Three delegates will attend the Convention, which occurs immediately preceding the Gathering.

Joyful News continues to be published three times per year with special issues as needed. The upcoming focus is to provide the newsletter via e-mail to all contacts and for them to forward to women in their unit. This will broaden current distribution and cut printing and mailing costs considerably.

A New Executive Board was elected and installed at the May 3, 2014 SWO Convention. Although outside the reporting period for the Assembly, these are the current members.

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

May 2014 – May 2015

Officers:

President – Kathy Meier, St. Matthew's, Woodbridge, VA
Vice President – Marva Benn, Bethlehem, Fairfax, VA
Secretary – Sue Orndorff, St. Matthew's, Woodbridge, VA
Treasurer – Cheryl Dwyer, St. Mark's, Springfield, VA

Board Members:

Kay Garrett – New Jerusalem, Lovettsville, VA
Marcia Ihnen, Holy Trinity, Falls Church, VA
Barbara O'Keefe, Good Shepherd, Alexandria, VA
Bonnie Priebe, First Trinity, Washington, DC
Joyce Skoglund, Christ, Fairfax, VA