

2017 Mission Spending Plan Narrative

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

For the Healing of the Nations

In 2017, we will receive **\$1,651,400** in income primarily from congregational mission support. Like any organization of its size, the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod uses a budget to manage its financial affairs. The budget is an important tool for ministry because it helps us direct our financial resources to our ministry priorities. **Your generous support** will make it possible to focus on these ministry priorities in the coming year:

Capable Leaders - \$326,370 (20%)

20% of our annual budget is devoted to developing a corps of leaders who will provide vision and energy to meet the challenges of ministry in the 21st century. Specifically we will:

- Nurture Candidates for ordained ministry
- Support Gettysburg Seminary (\$82,000 /6% of budget)
- Provide First Call Theological Education
- Provide continuing education events for Pastors such as the annual Bishop's Convocation.

Vibrant Local Congregations \$314,160 (19%)

Local congregations are the heart of the church. They are the place where faith is nurtured and discipleship is practiced. Supporting the work of local congregations is a key priority of the synod staff. In 2017 we will:

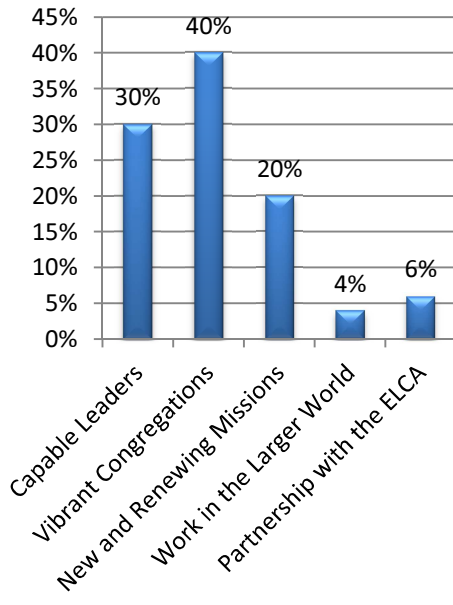
- Preach and celebrate with congregations for anniversaries, ordinations, dedications and other special events
- Walk with congregations through times of pastoral transition
- Provide support and guidance to congregations in times of conflict and uncertainty
- Provide workshops and materials for congregational ministry in areas such as stewardship and evangelism
- Provide activities for young adults and youth that complement and supplement the programs of local congregations
- Provide resources and training to support local congregations and leaders in confronting racism in our church and in the world (\$10,000) (see sidebar)



Confronting Racism

On June 17, 2015 a young man who had been raised in an ELCA congregation walked into a bible study at Emmanuel A.M.E., an African American congregation in Charleston, South Carolina. After spending an hour at the bible study, he pulled out a gun and killed 9 people including two pastors who were trained at an ELCA seminary. The tragedy shocked our nation and, along with other events on the news last summer, has given rise to a new national conversation on race and racism in our country. Many Lutherans have joined in that conversation, particularly grieved that the Charleston shooter had been raised in an ELCA congregation. Our Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton invited us all into conversation in a live webcast, 'Confronting Racism, A Holy Yearning' which was broadcast in January of this year and is available on the ELCA's website (<http://www.elca.org/webcast>). Our synod has taken seriously the work of confronting racism and has established a new racial equity team to provide training and resources to congregations to engage in this effort. We have dedicated financial resources (\$10,000 in 2017) and staff time to this effort. During today's assembly, you will have the opportunity to learn more about this work and how your congregation can participate.

Staff Time



New and Renewing Missions \$296,580 (18%)

In a changing world, an important part of our work as a synod is to support congregations who are trying new and innovative ways of doing ministry and to raise up new communities where the gospel can be shared and disciples can be formed. We are offering coaching and support to several congregations who are working to revitalize their communities and we are walking with several new congregations and worshipping communities. In addition, our goal is to start 3 to 5 new congregations over the next five years. In 2017 we will:

- Continue to support new and renewing ministries such as River of Grace, Oromo Evangelical and La Sagrada Familia in Langley Park
- Support the development of a new Amharic speaking ministry at Resurrection in Arlington
- Support renewal efforts in existing congregations

Work in the Larger World \$118,816 (8%)

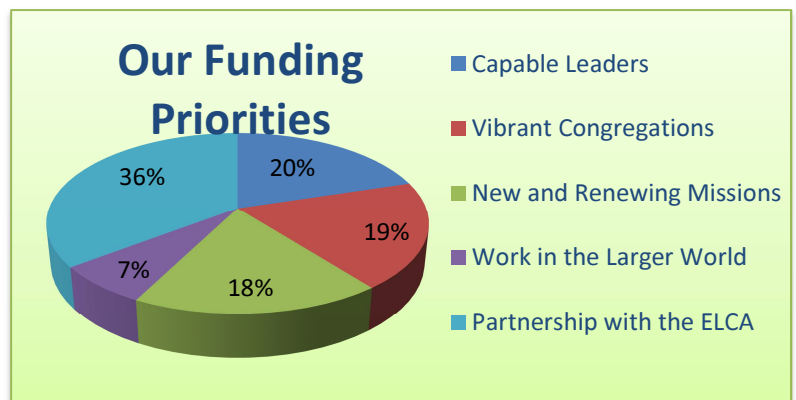
As a synod, we can't and don't want to do everything ourselves. We have important partnerships that help us have an impact in and beyond our local area. In 2017 we will:

- Support 5 campus ministries (\$50,000)
- Support 2 camp ministries (\$12,000)
- Work with ecumenical partners as advocates for justice in Washington DC, Richmond and Annapolis (\$5,500)
- Support Gifts of Hope and Lutheran Planned Giving Consortium in their work to raise funds and provide resources for service in the name of Christ (\$6,000)
- Partner with Lutheran churches in Slovakia, Namibia and El Salvador

Partnership with the ELCA \$605,474 (35%)

We will share 35% of our income with the ELCA churchwide organization in 2017 in order to further the work of the Gospel around the country and throughout the world. Our contributions to the ELCA will go to:

- Support missionaries and companion church ministries in over 90 countries
- Address the root causes of hunger and poverty
- Provide relief and renewal when disaster strikes
- Care for God's creation and humanity through study and deliberation on current issues
- Build global and ecumenical relationships to further the work of the gospel



**Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.