

	A	B	C	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	AB
1			Treasurer's Report											Schedule 1	
2			<b>Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, ELCA</b>												
3			<b>Comparison of Receipts and Expenditures for Unrestricted Funds</b>												
4			<b>Period Ending January 31, 2016</b>												
5															
6				As of	As of	As of	As of	As of	As of	As of	As of	As of	As of	As of	
7				07/31/15	08/31/15	09/30/15	10/31/15	11/30/15	12/31/15	01/31/16					
8			<b>Receipts</b>												
9			Congregational Benevolence	\$737,194	\$874,015	\$987,045	\$1,119,749	\$1,245,550	\$1,453,026	\$1,566,891					
10			Misc. Congregational Gifts	365	502	565	565	707	\$707	707					
11			Fees	123,350	123,389	123,964	124,003	125,628	\$144,554	144,740					
12			Other	9,929	11,588	13,145	14,702	16,431	\$18,032	20,784					
13			Interest	1,625	2,188	2,357	2,531	2,615	\$2,961	3,048					
14			Total Undesignated Receipts	872,463	1,011,683	1,127,076	1,261,550	1,390,931	\$1,619,280	1,736,169					
15															
16			Designated Receipts	69,634	79,158	92,616	111,383	131,773	\$172,259	183,407					
17			Total Receipts	942,097	1,090,841	1,219,692	1,372,933	1,522,704	\$1,791,539	1,919,576					
18															
19			<b>Expenditures</b>												
20			Program Expenses	\$536,682	\$626,592	\$717,889	\$789,717	\$880,181	\$1,021,401	\$1,096,927					
21			General & Administrative Expenses	308,721	351,290	401,725	445,936	505,882	\$552,378	604,479					
22			Synod Assembly Costs	98,315	98,315	98,615	98,615	98,615	\$98,615	98,615					
23			Year-to-date Program Expense	943,717	1,076,197	1,218,229	1,334,269	1,484,679	\$1,672,395	1,800,021					
24															
25			Designated Distributions	\$95,966	\$99,874	\$118,397	\$122,549	\$152,224	\$166,389	\$213,911					
26			Total Expenditures	\$1,039,683	\$1,176,071	\$1,336,626	\$1,456,818	\$1,636,903	\$1,838,784	\$2,013,933					
27															
28			<b>Undesignated Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>(\$71,254)</b>	<b>(\$64,514)</b>	<b>(\$91,154)</b>	<b>(\$72,719)</b>	<b>(\$93,748)</b>	<b>(\$53,115)</b>	<b>(\$63,852)</b>					
29															
30			<b>Projections</b>												
31			Benevolence Needed to Make Budget	\$769,849	\$914,474	\$1,046,252	\$1,210,458	\$1,334,312	\$1,546,860	\$1,546,860					
32			Projected Congregational Benevolence	\$1,670,983	\$1,667,796	\$1,646,251	\$1,614,234	\$1,628,918	\$1,639,147	\$1,767,597					
33															
34			<b>Comparisons</b>												
35			<b>Current Period</b>												
36			Benevolence Only - 2015	\$158,374	\$136,821	\$113,030	\$132,705	\$125,801	\$207,476	\$113,865					
37			Benevolence Only - 2014	\$131,978	\$101,519	\$148,680	\$229,011	\$99,739	\$237,577	\$237,577					
38			Benevolence Only - 2013	\$150,145	\$164,619	\$84,144	\$182,289	\$111,942	\$202,781	\$202,781					
39			Benevolence Only - 2012	\$100,293	\$157,144	\$150,303	\$133,654	\$178,029	\$231,784	\$231,784					
40			Benevolence Only - 2011	\$133,499	\$169,979	\$172,171	\$116,584	\$128,205	\$188,733	\$188,733					
45															
46			<b>YTD vs. last year</b>												
47			Benevolence Only - 2015	\$737,194	\$874,015	\$987,045	\$1,119,749	\$1,245,550	\$1,453,026	\$1,566,891					
48			Benevolence Only - 2014	\$707,929	\$809,448	\$958,128	\$1,187,138	\$1,286,877	\$1,524,454	\$1,524,454					
49			Benevolence Only - 2013	\$775,622	\$940,241	\$1,024,385	\$1,206,674	\$1,318,616	\$1,521,397	\$1,521,397					
50			Benevolence Only - 2012	\$784,838	\$941,982	\$1,092,285	\$1,225,939	\$1,403,968	\$1,635,752	\$1,635,752					
51			Benevolence Only - 2011	\$806,675	\$976,354	\$1,148,525	\$1,265,109	\$1,393,314	\$1,582,047	\$1,582,047					
56															
57			Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2015	<b>(\$71,254)</b>	<b>(\$64,514)</b>	<b>(\$91,154)</b>	<b>(\$72,719)</b>	<b>(\$93,748)</b>	<b>(\$53,115)</b>	<b>(\$63,852)</b>					
58			Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2014	<b>(\$96,934)</b>	<b>(\$95,032)</b>	<b>(\$102,259)</b>	<b>(\$36,816)</b>	<b>(\$56,840)</b>	\$15,581	\$15,581					
59			Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2013	<b>(\$6,155)</b>	<b>(\$4,937)</b>	<b>(\$45,971)</b>	<b>(\$48,694)</b>	<b>(\$62,739)</b>	<b>(\$41,130)</b>	<b>(\$41,130)</b>					
60			Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2012	<b>(\$90,488)</b>	<b>(\$89,504)</b>	<b>(\$115,883)</b>	<b>(\$93,400)</b>	<b>(\$89,584)</b>	<b>(\$24,678)</b>	<b>(\$24,678)</b>					

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1		Treasurer's Report			Schedule 1		
2		<b>Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, ELCA</b>					
3		<b>Comparison of Receipts and Expenditures for Unrestricted Funds</b>					
4		<b>Period Ending April 30, 2016</b>					
5							
6			As of		As of		As of
7			02/29/16		03/31/16		04/30/16
8		<b>Receipts</b>					
9		Congregational Benevolence	\$164,543		\$279,474		\$392,631
10		Misc. Congregational Gifts	104		197		197
11		Fees	196		24,197		26,281
12		Other	2,647		4,486		6,151
13		Interest	120		210		81
14		Total Undesignated Receipts	\$167,610		\$308,564		\$425,341
15							
16		Designated Receipts	\$15,910		\$26,449		\$39,509
17		Total Receipts	\$183,520		\$335,013		\$464,850
18							
19		<b>Expenditures</b>					
20		Program Expenses	\$74,315		\$82,187		\$142,223
21		General & Administrative Expenses	54,704		89,485		169,203
22		Synod Assembly Costs	0		0		0
23		Year-to-date Program Expense	\$129,019		\$171,672		\$311,426
24							
25		Designated Distributions	\$11,127		\$22,618		\$33,826
26		Total Expenditures	\$140,146		\$194,290		\$345,252
27							
28		<b>Undesignated Surplus/Deficit</b>	\$38,591		\$136,892		\$113,915
29							
30		<b>Projections</b>					
31		Benevolence Needed to Make Budget	\$79,797		\$225,315		\$344,236
32		Projected Congregational Benevolence	\$3,402,312		\$2,046,615		\$1,881,967
33							
34		<b>Comparisons</b>					
35		<b>Current Period</b>					
36		Benevolence Only - 2016	\$164,543		\$114,931		\$113,157
37		Benevolence Only - 2015	\$88,970		\$144,950		\$131,235
38		Benevolence Only - 2014	\$65,993		\$148,126		\$83,009
39		Benevolence Only - 2013	\$74,325		\$171,744		\$146,707
40		Benevolence Only - 2012	\$66,378		\$178,987		\$136,714
41		Benevolence Only - 2011	\$119,168		\$114,309		\$121,139
42		Benevolence Only - 2010	\$121,492		\$149,123		\$143,148
43		Benevolence Only - 2009	\$88,807		\$189,279		\$131,525
44		Benevolence Only - 2008	\$135,099		\$148,464		\$144,416
45		Benevolence Only - 2007	\$131,151		\$235,847		\$134,938
46							
47		<b>YTD vs. last year</b>					
48		Benevolence Only - 2016	\$164,543		\$279,474		\$392,631
49		Benevolence Only - 2015	\$88,970		\$233,920		\$365,155
50		Benevolence Only - 2014	\$65,993		\$214,118		\$297,128
51		Benevolence Only - 2013	\$74,325		\$246,069		\$392,776
52		Benevolence Only - 2012	\$66,378		\$245,365		\$382,079
53		Benevolence Only - 2011	\$119,168		\$233,477		\$354,616
54		Benevolence Only - 2010	\$121,492		\$270,615		\$413,763
55		Benevolence Only - 2009	\$88,807		\$278,085		\$409,611
56		Benevolence Only - 2008	\$135,099		\$283,563		\$427,980
57		Benevolence Only - 2007	\$131,151		\$366,998		\$501,936
58							
59		Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2016	\$38,591		\$136,892		\$113,915
60		Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2015	(\$21,196)		(\$17,604)		(\$26,592)
61		Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2014	(\$62,024)		(\$75,929)		(\$76,909)
62		Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2013	(\$28,711)		(\$16,652)		\$9,522
63		Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2012	(\$69,295)		(\$51,203)		(\$82,017)
64		Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2011	(\$16,161)		(\$28,245)		(\$44,718)
65		Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2010	(\$7,948)		(\$575)		\$2,244
66		Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2009	(\$14,748)		\$19,180		\$19,226
67		Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2008	\$619		(\$10,558)		(\$10,948)
68		Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2007	(\$12,515)		\$57,512		\$45,522
69							
70		All Receipts - 2016	\$183,520		\$335,013		\$464,850
71		All Receipts - 2015	\$107,701		\$287,963		\$438,060
72		All Receipts - 2014	\$89,019		\$282,540		\$372,656
73		All Receipts - 2013	\$85,205		\$295,515		\$459,992
74		All Receipts - 2012	\$73,688		\$305,813		\$481,441
75		All Receipts - 2011	\$143,713		\$286,411		\$460,422

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1				Treasurer's Report							Schedule 2
2				<b>Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, ELCA</b>							
3				<b>Budget Report</b>							
4				<b>Period Ending January 31, 2016</b>							
5					FY15	Designated	Total		FY15		% of
6					Budget	Income	Available		Expense		Approved
7											
8				<b>Churchwide Support</b>	<b>\$860,000</b>		<b>\$860,000</b>		<b>\$783,838</b>		<b>91%</b>
9											
10				<b>Synod Programs</b>							
11				New & Renewing Mission Total	62,500		62,500		56,017		90%
12											
13				La Sagrada Familia	35,000		35,000		35,000		100%
14											
15				Gifts of Hope	6,500		6,500		6,500		100%
16				Other Stewardship and Mission Support	1,500		1,500		0		0%
17				Stewardship and Mission Support Total	8,000	0	8,000		6,500		81%
18											
19				First Call Theological Education	2,000		2,000		1,400		70%
20				Youth Ministry	0	44,250	44,250		39,488		89%
21				Young Adult Initiative	2,000		2,000		1,021		51%
22				Candidacy	5,000	2,300	7,300		6,335		87%
23				Seminary Student Financial Aid	10,000		10,000		10,000		100%
24				Gettysburg Seminary	83,000		83,000		83,000		100%
25				Ecumenical Affairs	4,000		4,000		5,750		144%
26				Office of the Bishop Total	106,000	46,550	152,550		146,995		96%
27											
28				Global Mission & Companion Synods	5,500		5,500		576		10%
29											
30				Synod Supported Camps	15,000		15,000		15,000		100%
31				Synod Supported Campus Ministries	60,000		60,000		53,000		88%
32				Camp and Campus Ministry Total	75,000	0	75,000		68,000		91%
33											
34				<b>Total Synod Programs</b>	<b>292,000</b>	<b>46,550</b>	<b>338,550</b>		<b>313,088</b>		<b>92%</b>
35											
36				Ordained Staff Comp. & Benefits	270,000		270,000		286,103		106%
37				Office Staff Comp. & Benefits	160,000		160,000		132,837		83%
38				Office Operations	70,000	3,008	73,008		79,709		109%
39				Occupancy Costs	85,000	17,775	102,775		97,633		95%
40				Region 8	8,000		8,000		8,160		102%
41				Synod Assembly	0	98,190	98,190		98,615		100%
42				Leadership & Administration Total	593,000	118,974	711,974		703,058		99%
43											
44				<b>Total Synod Programs &amp; Synod Office</b>	<b>885,000</b>	<b>165,524</b>	<b>1,050,524</b>		<b>1,016,146</b>		<b>97%</b>
45											
46				<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,745,000</b>	<b>\$165,524</b>	<b>\$1,910,524</b>		<b>\$1,799,984</b>		<b>94%</b>

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Treasurer's Report									Schedule 2	
2	Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, ELCA										
3	Budget Report										
4	Period Ending April 30, 2016										
5					FY 16	Designated	Total		FY 16		% of
6					Budget	Income	Available		Expense		Approved
7											
8	Churchwide Support				\$577,500		\$577,500		\$137,421		24%
9											
10	Synod Programs										
11	New & Renewing Mission Total				100,000		100,000		24,850		25%
12											
13	La Sagrada Familia				45,000		45,000		0		
14											
15				Gifts of Hope	6,500		6,500		0		0%
16				Other Stewardship and Mission Support	0		0		0		0%
17	Stewardship and Mission Support Total				6,500	0	6,500		0		0%
18											
19				Ecumenical Affairs	4,000		4,000		0		0%
20				Candidacy	5,000	1,150	6,150		110		2%
21				Gettysburg Seminary	82,000		82,000		0		0%
22				Seminary Student Financial Aid	10,000		10,000		0		0%
23				First Call Theological Education	1,000		1,000		450		45%
24				Youth Ministry	0	21,272	21,272		19,044		90%
25				Young Adult Initiative	2,000		2,000		0		0%
26	Office of the Bishop Total				104,000	22,422	126,422		19,604		16%
27											
28	Global Mission & Companion Synods				4,500		4,500				0%
29											
30				Synod Supported Camps	15,000		15,000		0		0%
31				Synod Supported Campus Ministries	60,000		60,000		0		0%
32	Camp and Campus Ministry Total				75,000	0	75,000		0		0%
33											
34	Total Synod Programs				335,000	22,422	357,422		44,454		12%
35											
36				Ordained Staff Comp. & Benefits	435,000		435,000		94,157		22%
37				Office Staff Comp. & Benefits	145,000		145,000		36,793		25%
38				Office Operations	70,000	922	70,922		10,307		15%
39				Occupancy Costs	90,000	2,941	92,941		24,541		26%
40				Region 8	8,000		8,000		1,956		24%
41				Synod Assembly	0	0	0		0		
42	Leadership & Administration Total				748,000	3,863	751,863		167,754		22%
43											
44	Total Synod Programs & Synod Office				1,083,000	26,285	1,109,285		212,208		19%
45											
46	Grand Total				\$1,660,500	\$26,285	\$1,686,785		\$349,629		21%

Treasurer's Report				Schedule 3			
<b>Metropolitan Washington DC Synod,</b>							
<b>Temporary Restricted Funds Report</b>							
<b>As of January 31, 2016</b>							
Responsible Party	Balance	Balance					MWDC
Project	02/01/2015	01/12/2016	Change				Acct #
<b>Congregational Life</b>							
ELCA Grant - Book of Faith Advocate	\$3,000	\$0	(\$3,000)				3454515
Young Adult Ministry	\$2,581	\$2,581	\$0				3544821
<b>Total Congregational Life</b>	<b>\$5,581</b>	<b>\$2,581</b>	<b>(\$3,000)</b>				
<b>Higher Education and Schools</b>							
LCM - General	\$8,575	\$9,075	\$500				3524311
DC Campus Ministry	\$6,204	\$6,204	\$0				3544707
<b>Total Higher Education and Schools</b>	<b>\$14,779</b>	<b>\$15,279</b>	<b>\$500</b>				
<b>Ministry</b>							
Emch Memorial	\$1,457	\$1,526	\$68				3540301
Seminarian Financial Aid	\$0	\$0	\$0				3544704
<b>Total Ministry</b>	<b>\$1,457</b>	<b>\$1,526</b>	<b>\$68</b>				
<b>Global Mission</b>							
Slovakia Companion Synod	\$3,580	\$4,080	\$500				3544712
Namibia Companion Synod	\$5,658	\$6,701	\$1,043				3544715
El Salvador Companion Synod	\$17,584	\$21,512	\$3,928				3544717
<b>Total Global Mission</b>	<b>\$26,822</b>	<b>\$32,293</b>	<b>\$5,471</b>				
<b>New and Renewing Congregations</b>							
River of Grace	(\$2,916)	\$0	\$2,916				3540501
Bethany One Fund	\$0	\$666,133	\$666,133				3540513
Bethany - PG County	\$218,578	\$0	(\$218,578)				3540502
Bethany - non-PG County	\$119,656	\$0	(\$119,656)				3540503
Bethany - LT - PG	\$359,710	\$0	(\$359,710)				3540504
Bethany - LT - non-PG	\$58,453	\$0	(\$58,453)				3540505
Bethany - Intentional Impact	\$0	(\$43,103)	(\$43,103)				3540506
Metro DC Campaign for the ELCA	\$15,745	\$11,391	(\$4,354)				3541030
Good Shepherd, Gaithersburg Grant	\$6,253	\$0	(\$6,253)				3540511
Evangelism Workshops	\$2,099	\$1,249	(\$850)				3544718
Metro 200 Mission Partner Fund	\$2,862	\$0	(\$2,862)				3544738
Synodical Latino Ministry - General	\$5,172	\$8,172	\$3,000				3544779
African National Ministries	\$0	\$200	\$200				3544797
Resurrection Fund	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$0				3544835
New Congregations Fund	\$3,462	\$19,360	\$15,898				3544840
<b>Total New &amp; Renewing Congregations</b>	<b>\$825,074</b>	<b>\$699,401</b>	<b>(\$125,672)</b>				
<b>Stewardship &amp; Mission Support</b>							
Planned Giving	\$17,598	\$17,598	\$0				3540601
Macedonia Grant	\$6,667	\$4,880	(\$1,787)				3540610
Stewardship Education	\$7,360	\$7,060	(\$300)				3544722
Gifts of Hope - Dues/Expenses	\$18,525	\$32,855	\$14,329				3544742
Gifts of Hope	\$105,744	\$68,609	(\$37,135)				3544784
<b>Total Stewardship &amp; Mission Support</b>	<b>\$155,895</b>	<b>\$131,002</b>	<b>(\$24,893)</b>				
<b>Synod Office</b>							
EOCM DEM Expense grant	\$5,000	(\$205)	(\$5,205)				3454517
Dora Johnson Memorial	\$305	\$0	(\$305)				3541016
Baker Trust	\$21,566	\$18,832	(\$2,734)				3541017
General Background Checks	(\$467)	(\$868)	(\$401)				3541018
Maryland Conference Expenses	\$48	\$48	\$0				3541019
Bishop's Convo	\$3,692	\$0	(\$3,692)				3541024
2014 Reformation Service	\$2,897	\$0	(\$2,897)				3541033
TiM 2015	(\$1,939)	\$0	\$1,939				3541034
2014 Advent Eucharist	\$32	\$0	(\$32)				3541035
2015 Synod Assembly Offering	\$0	\$2,105	\$2,105				3541038
Portico Grant	\$0	\$8,674	\$8,674				3541040
2015 Advent Eucharist	\$0	\$255	\$255				3541041
Bishop's Emergency Fund	\$1,857	\$5,498	\$3,641				3544736
Virginia Conference Expenses	\$250	\$0	(\$250)				3544805
<b>Total Synod Office</b>	<b>\$33,241</b>	<b>\$34,339</b>	<b>\$1,097</b>				
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,062,848</b>	<b>\$916,420</b>	<b>(\$146,428)</b>				



Treasurer's Report				Schedule 4			
<b>Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, ELCA</b>							
<b>Status of Board Designated Funds</b>							
<b>Period Ending January 31, 2016</b>							
Fund			Value		Value		
			2/1/2015		1/31/2016		Change
		Synod Assembly Reserve Fund	\$12,779		\$0		(\$12,779)
		Capital Equipment Replacement Reserve	\$10,237		\$8,448		(\$1,789)
		Youth Event Scholarship Fund	\$6,223		\$6,458		\$235
Total - Board Designated Funds			<u>\$16,461</u>		<u>\$14,906</u>		<u>(\$1,554)</u>

Treasurer's Report				
<b>Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, ELCA</b>				
<b>Status of Permanent Restricted Funds</b>				
<b>Period Ending January 31, 2016</b>				
Fund		Value	Value	
		2/1/2015	1/31/2016	Change
Faith Fund				
Corpus		\$ 858,435	\$ 869,775	\$11,340
Adjusted Corpus for 2015 = \$689,888				
Distribution Accounts				
Outreach		\$ 59,359	\$ 59,359	\$0
Ministry		\$ 13,117	\$ 13,117	\$0
Mission Endowment Trust				
Corpus		\$ 446,534	\$ 428,617	(\$17,918)
Distribution Account		\$ 18,940	\$ 36,858	\$17,918
Mission Development Trust				
Corpus		\$ 60,752	\$ 60,788	\$36
Distribution Account		\$ 1,642	\$ 2,064	\$421
Campus Ministry Trust				
Corpus		\$ 14,140	\$ 14,140	\$0
Distribution Account		\$ 13,159	\$ 13,373	\$214
Total Corpus Accounts				
Total Distribution Accounts				
		\$ 1,379,861	\$ 1,373,319	
		\$ 106,218	\$ 124,771	



## FY2015 Metropolitan Washington DC Synod Summary of Benevolence and Other Giving by Congregation

		2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual
MWDC	Congregation Name	Benevolence	Benevolence	Benevolence
DC CONFERENCE				
100	Augustana Lutheran Church	\$47,500	\$41,000	32,165
105	Christ Lutheran Church	\$9,583	\$10,417	14,917
110	Community of Christ Lutheran	\$900	\$900	900
115	First Trinity Lutheran Church	\$17,000	\$18,000	18,737
120	Georgetown Lutheran Church	\$6,000	\$3,000	4,000
125	Grace Lutheran Church	\$1,000	\$2,500	2,135
130	Holy Comforter Lutheran Church	\$400	\$0	350
135	Luther Place Memorial Church	\$22,100	\$22,100	25,580
137	Oromo Evangelical Church	\$2,000	\$0	0
138	Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church	\$500	\$600	0
140	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	\$838	\$1,356	838
145	Peace Lutheran Church	\$13,691	\$13,025	0
150	Reformation Lutheran Church	\$23,359	\$26,816	41,449
155	St. Matthew Lutheran Church	\$3,000	\$3,250	3,000
160	St. Paul's Lutheran Church	\$68,500	\$68,500	75,245
DC CONFERENCE TOTALS		\$216,372	\$211,465	\$219,316

MARYLAND CONFERENCE				
200	Abiding Presence Lutheran Church	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,805
205	All Saints Lutheran Church	\$25,846	\$35,967	\$29,815
220	Good Samaritan Lutheran Church (Lanham)	\$805	\$3,194	\$696
221	Good Samaritan Lutheran Church (Lexington Park)	\$6,469	\$585	\$671
225	Grace Lutheran Church (Bowie)	\$12,015	\$10,333	\$10,284
230	Grace Lutheran Church (Fort Washington)	\$12,000	\$13,300	\$18,385
235	Hope Lutheran Church (Clinton)	\$12,824	\$7,682	\$4,673
240	Hope Lutheran Church (College Park)	\$10,440	\$3,025	\$10,061
245	Our Savior's, Temple Hill	\$0	\$0	\$910
250	Peace Lutheran Church	\$32,083	\$37,921	\$35,845
255	St. John Lutheran Church (Riverdale)	\$3,528	\$2,907	\$1,336
260	St. Michael's Truth Lutheran Church	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$2,722
265	St. Nicholas Lutheran Church	\$8,500	\$2,500	\$11,312
270	Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (Takoma Park)	\$3,500	\$3,250	\$1,380
MARYLAND CONFERENCE TOTALS		\$266,675	\$128,665	\$134,895

MONTGOMERY CONFERENCE				
300	Christ Lutheran Church (Bethesda)	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,350
305	Christ the Servant Lutheran Church (Mont. Village)	\$12,094	\$12,269	\$19,331
310	Living Faith Lutheran Church	\$12,225	\$12,000	\$10,465
315	Emmanuel Lutheran Church (Bethesda)	\$26,971	\$32,731	\$25,910
320	Epiphany Lutheran Church (Burtonsville)	\$6,500	\$6,000	\$8,935
325	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Gaithersburg)	\$75,000	\$69,368	\$105,084
330	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church	\$18,396	\$20,000	\$23,446
336	Oromo Resurrection (Kensington)	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$1,500
340	St. John Lutheran Church (Rockville)	\$5,389	\$1,215	\$4,983
345	St. Luke's Lutheran Church (Derwood)	\$3,963	\$3,563	\$4,611
350	St. Luke Lutheran Church (Silver Spring)	\$152,497	\$144,852	\$154,332
355	St. Stephen Lutheran Church	\$10,440	\$12,383	\$24,096
360	Trinity Evangelical Lutheran	\$42,000	\$46,000	\$71,211
708	La Sagrada Familia	\$931	\$699	1961
709	In Christ Fellowship	\$3,300	0	\$0
MONTGOMERY CONFERENCE TOTALS		\$381,705	\$373,580	\$467,215

# FY2015 Metropolitan Washington DC Synod

## Summary of Benevolence and Other Giving by Congregation

		2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual
MWDC	Congregation Name	Benevolence	Benevolence	Benevolence
VIRGINIA CONFERENCE				
400	Christ the King Lutheran Church	\$32,290	\$31,065	\$30,500
401	Bethel Lutheran Church (Lovettsville)	\$667	\$800	\$1,150
405	Christ the Servant Lutheran Church (Reston)	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$17,565
410	Community Lutheran Church	\$28,657	\$31,972	\$49,267
415	Emmanuel Lutheran Church (Vienna)	\$77,499	\$74,526	\$119,933
420	Holy Cross Lutheran Church	\$6,250	\$15,000	\$11,675
430	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Leesburg)	\$1,316	\$300	\$7,370
435	King of Kings Lutheran Church	\$71,568	\$76,000	\$33,448
440	New Jerusalem Lutheran Church	\$12,466	\$13,700	\$15,170
445	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer	\$52,000	\$52,500	\$56,900
450	St. Andrew Lutheran Church	\$50,400	\$40,750	\$42,665
455	Zion Lutheran Church (Lovettsville)	\$4,609	\$4,770	\$5,604
VIRGINIA CONFERENCE TOTALS		\$348,722	\$352,382	\$391,247

FAIRFAX CONFERENCE				
500	Lutheran Church of the Abiding Presence (Burke)	\$54,541	\$54,817	\$64,576
505	Bethel Lutheran Church (Manassas)	\$8,625	\$10,167	\$12,350
510	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	\$15,000	\$17,000	\$19,305
520	Christ Lutheran Church (Fairfax)	\$35,000	\$28,417	\$12,738
525	River of Grace (Christus Victor) Lutheran Church	\$12,865	\$15,540	\$14,071
530	Lutheran Church of the Covenant	\$10,500	\$9,625	\$14,799
535	Epiphany Lutheran Church (Dale City)	\$5,021	\$3,759	\$2,469
540	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Woodbridge)	\$11,656	\$9,124	\$17,635
545	Lord of Life Lutheran Church	\$64,000	\$64,600	\$58,730
550	St. Mark's Lutheran Church	\$40,000	\$42,500	\$73,936
555	St. Matthew Lutheran Church	\$128,129	\$129,504	\$140,338
560	Shepherd of the Hills Church	\$28,782	\$40,228	\$33,793
FAIRFAX CONFERENCE TOTALS		\$414,119	\$425,280	\$464,740

POTOMAC CONFERENCE				
600	Advent Lutheran Church	\$14,726	\$16,534	\$22,723
605	Epiphany Lutheran Church (Alexandria)	\$5,100	\$4,500	\$2,680
610	Faith Lutheran Church	\$24,000	\$34,000	\$35,207
615	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Alexandria)	\$39,162	\$45,902	\$46,023
620	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Falls Church)	\$18,847	\$13,174	\$14,416
625	Hope Lutheran Church (Annandale)	\$27,198	\$10,330	\$3,250
630	Messiah Lutheran Church	\$500	\$3,000	\$9,470
635	Nativity Lutheran Church	\$1,194	\$1,200	\$3,720
640	Peace Lutheran Church (Alexandria)	\$34,375	\$33,167	\$33,067
645	Resurrection Lutheran Church (Arlington)	\$56,691	\$62,975	\$74,113
POTOMAC CONFERENCE TOTALS		\$221,794	\$224,782	\$244,669

MWDC TOTALS		\$1,849,386	\$1,716,153	\$1,922,082
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## Report of the “New and Renewing Congregational Mission Table”

### **The Mission of the New and Renewing Mission Table is:**

To encourage all the baptized of the Metro DC Synod to see themselves as disciples and missionaries for the renewal of the church and to live into Jesus’ Great Commission, “Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them....” (Matthew 28:19-20), and,

To work with Mission Planners, Full Communion, ecumenical partners, pastors, lay leaders, all people of faith and good will to envision and plan for new missions in our Synod, and to work with existing congregations and ministries to make disciples in the places where we live and serve. By the grace of God and through your mission support we celebrate the following:

### **A New Ministry Is Taking Root:**

Resurrection Lutheran Church in Arlington is started a new worshipping community in the Amharic Language (Ethiopian) in September 2015. (Financially Self-sustaining with Resurrection).

### **Two worshipping communities are supported as a part of existing congregations**

+ **San Marcos / St. Mark’s**, Springfield, VA A thriving Latino community as a part of an established congregation. Pastor in transition.

2016 Funds: \$15,000 from Metro DC Synod Budget

+ **Santa Maria / Augustana**, Washington, DC. A Latino ministry that is a part of an established congregation and serves people near and further away from the Church. The Rev. John Kidd

2016 Funds: \$5,000 from Metro DC Synod Budget

### **Three New Congregations Continue to Grow!**

+ **Oromo Resurrection** Evangelical Church of Kensington, MD

The Rev. Teka Fogi, Pastor. 2016 \$0 (Financially self-sustaining this year)

+ **The Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church** of Washington, DC. A congregation of Ethiopians who are ethnically and linguistically Oromo. 2016 Funds: \$23,000 Metro DC Synod Budget.

+ **River of Grace Lutheran Church**, Dumfries VA Our newest mission in Dumfries, VA. The Rev. Connie Thomson, Pastor Developer

2016 Funds: \$50,000 from the Bethany Funds

### **Pastors of Congregations Considering Starting a Second Site or New Worshipping Community**

The Synod created a new learning community for pastors of 13 of our largest congregations whose churches have potential to help start a new congregation (or worshipping community) Led by Pastor Brian Zehr of Intentional Impact on models of replication for leaders and churches.

Up to \$40,000 from the Bethany Funds.

### **A Congregation is Renewing It’s Mission and Outreach.**

**St. Michael's Truth is stepping up Outreach at their Campus in Temple Hills, MD (Our Saviour's)**

Efforts include hiring a Youth Outreach worker, and increasing the music programs.

2016 Bethany Funds: \$42,405

**Go Grants are like Venture Capital for Congregations to Try New Things!**

The Synod offers grants to congregations that want to try something new in reaching out to their neighbors. In 2016 the Table awarded \$3,225 to

+ **St. John's Aspen Hill, MD** To start a ministry among parents with young children.

**Changes**

+ **In Christ Fellowship** of Washington, DC is a Tamil (Indian) Congregation that meets at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bethesda. They celebrated three years as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community. While they have delayed their decision to become a full congregation of the ELCA, they have also declined further financial assistance and are self-supporting.

The Rev. Chandran Lite, Pastor. 2016 Funds: \$0

+ **Hope, College Park and University of Maryland Campus Ministry** have joined together in mission to call Rev. Ray Ranker as Campus chaplain and Senior Pastor of Hope Lutheran and Rev. Julie Bringman as part time pastor.

2016 \$10,000 Metro DC Budget to support the transition.

When we realize that the call of the Gospel compels us to respond to Jesus' Great Commission the New and Renewing Mission Table is ready to be a partner in the dialogue. **Members of the Mission Table: Mr. Stanley Rufus, Rev. Steven Buechler, Rev. Mark Olsen, Rev. Gary Rhinesmith, Rev. Dr. Phil Hirsch (Director Evangelical Outreach and Stewardship), Pastor Shannon Anderson, Rev. Carmelo Santos.**

**Respectfully submitted: Rev. Dr. Joseph M. Vought, Chair**

### Report of the Stewardship and Mission Table

There was a time in my life that I didn't like to talk about money. A long time.

It became especially awkward for me when I became a pastor, and talking about money in relation to giving seemed to be rather self-serving. My salary, after all, comes out of those offerings people give.

But here's a couple of things I've learned that have changed things around for me:

First of all, I've learned people need to give. It's a spiritual practice. It's a sign of commitment. It connects us with others in a shared mission. And if that's not convincing enough, giving is good for our physical and mental health. (I'd guess that to be true both for individuals and congregations!)

If we're concerned about others' spiritual, emotional, and physical health, talking about money and encouraging people and congregations to give simply makes sense.

The second reason that I'm (nearly) no longer embarrassed to ask people to give money, is that I'm excited about what we do with that money!

Our synod is starting new ministries. We're an Acts 2 church, reaching out to new communities and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. When I'm at my Potomac conference meetings with Rev. Anteneh Gebreselassie, I hear about the joys and challenges of starting a new Amharic speaking ministry and know my congregation helped make it happen.

When the synod council approved the formation of an anti-racism team, members of my congregation were then able to be part of synod-wide conversations about racism. We have learned from each other and received resources which we use in our own congregation. This sharing is made possible because we're part of a synod.

We don't have a large youth group at Good Shepherd in Alexandria, and sometimes youth events are disappointing if only 2 or 3 attend. I am grateful that youth from our congregation can take part in synod-supported youth events such as Shema or Shekinah or Chrysalis. There I am assured that they will meet with other Lutheran youth, developing relationships and having faith-filled conversations which are important for their spiritual formation. (Our youth say that they are grateful that they have a good time!)

At the Stewardship and Mission table we talk about money. A lot.

This past year we've written letters to congregations thanking you for your financial gifts and sharing some of the stories of mission in and around our synod. We've hosted stewardship workshops to share best practices and help congregations develop their own stewardship plans. Most recently, we asked Bishop Graham to help with a YouTube "thank you" video that congregations might share with their councils, at annual meetings, on their website or Facebook pages. (The link is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OuxiMJOaCjc> Share it widely!)

Those around the table this year have included synod staff members Rev. Phil Hirsch, Rev. Shannon Anderson, Rev. Tom Knoll, and Maddie Tallman as well as Carolyn Sowinski, Alice Benson, Rev. Greg Durig, Bob Sargeant, Marlynn Bauch, Laura Newbury, and myself.

We want to help you and your congregation get excited about talking about money because your financial gifts translate into ministry.

Thank you for your support of our synod. Thank you for your support of our life together.

In Christ,

Rev. Jeanette Leisk

Chair, Stewardship and Mission Table

Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Alexandria VA

## Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Maryland, College Park (LCM @ UMD)

Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Maryland continues to build disciples and leaders in the church. Check out our webpage for photos, videos, and more information about campus ministry at the University of Maryland. [www.LutheranTerps.com](http://www.LutheranTerps.com)

**In the 2015-2016 school year we are engaging in faith formation, leadership development, and discipleship building through these weekly programs:**

- Dinner and casual, student-led worship every Sunday night during the semester
- 4 student led small groups (called “huddles”) centered around discipleship building in everyday lives
- Sharing lemonade on campus with students, providing an opportunity for relationship building
- Bible study for graduate students
- En Camino, our tutoring program for at-risk Latino children
- CARing Kids, our mentoring program pairing at-risk elementary school children with university student mentors
- Joyful Noise, our student led praise band

**In addition, we have several special events throughout the year:**

- Bi-annual student retreats focusing on service, learning, and worship
- A yearly alternate spring break trip with the Towson and UMBC LCM’s focused on learning about a specific issue of concern in the world; this past year, 14 people went to South Carolina to learn about race and poverty
- A yearly road trip at the end of the school year; last year, we went to southwestern Virginia and learned about the lives of people in rural Appalachia as well as the environmental issues they are facing. This year (2016) we will go to Haiti thanks to a grant from St. Luke in Silver Spring
- Ecumenical programming during Lent, including an ecumenical Ash Wednesday service and Stations of the Cross every year on Good Friday
- Worship with other Christian communities in the area
- Events for alumni and friends of the ministry, such as our annual Homecoming tailgate

We have a special focus on [sharing the good news](#) with students who have not heard it before (or, who have heard a distorted message). As such, we continue to reimagine what we do and how we do it in order to be completely welcoming to first time worshippers.

We are in the midst of a three year capital campaign to raise \$150,000 for LCM@UMD with the goal to [keep campus ministry strong](#) for the next fifty years.

Walking with students during these formative years in their lives and faith is an incredible opportunity. There are many [ways to support this ministry with young adults](#). If you or your congregation would like to sponsor one of our student dinners, collect supplies for our backpack or coat drives, host Joyful Noise (the student praise band), take a special offering to support the ministry, or more, please contact Pr. Ray Ranker at [rayranker@gmail.com](mailto:rayranker@gmail.com) or 410 294 6691.

Thank you for your continued prayers and generous support! [www.LutheranTerps.com](http://www.LutheranTerps.com)

## **2015 GLOBAL MISSION TEAM**

The Global Mission Team focused upon the enabling of congregations to proclaim Jesus Christ throughout the world by way of Companion Synod relationships with Lutheran Churches in Namibia, El Salvador and Slovakia, advocacy for peace through the Middle East Working Group, support of the ELCA Malaria Campaign, the work of the Immigration Team, ELCA Global Church Sponsorships, and Gifts of Hope.

### **COMPANION SYNOD TASK FORCES:**

#### **A. Namibia – Kathryn Tobias & Mark Victorson, Chairs**

A Companion Synods Consultation was held at ELCA headquarters in Chicago on 6 through 7 November 2014. Rev. Benyam Kassahun, Area Director, Southern Africa and Rev. Barbara Berry-Bailey in charge of programs for Eastern and Southern Africa presided. All four synods partnering with Namibian synods were represented. In addition to Kathy Tobias and Mark Victorson, the DC Metro Synod was also represented by Rev. Elijah Mwitanti, Pastor at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Woodbridge. His insights were especially helpful during the meeting.

We again addressed the possibility of supporting the visit of a Namibian missionary pastor to our synods this year. A committee was established to explore the options. Whether we will have the time and the funds to put together a mission visit this year remains to be seen.

There had been discussion during telephone conferences throughout the past year of partnering with non-synodical organizations in working with Namibia, and Mark suggested that Friends of Namibian Children (FNC) would make a good partner, since it is on the ground there and is a fine example of how we want to walk with our Namibian counterparts, rather than to seem to be telling them what we think is best for them. The representatives were generally supportive, although there was concern the FNC is not a Lutheran organization. Rev. Berry-Bailey is going to look into ELCA rulings on this subject.

Thanks to Pastor Bob Allard, Chair Mark Victorson received an \$1800 donation to Friends of Namibian Children (FNC) from the Woodbridge Rotary Club. Janet Wenk, CEO, FNC, reports that the "Grow the Gardens" program to establish a garden at each hostel has set up micro-drip irrigation gardens at ten of the hostels, and there are hopes to provide the gardens to the remaining nine hostels in the near future. These systems use very little water, and vegetables grow in black plastic bags to minimize the evaporation in the arid climate. These gardens will provide the children fresh vegetables and will enable them to sell produce for income for the hostels.

Some of FNC Board of Directors held a working meeting on 2 January 2015, and it was reported that 900 Bibles have been delivered to the International Book Project (IBP). The 96 Children's Story Bibles should be delivered after the new year. If IBP can match shipping funds, FNC will supply \$1,400 toward the shipping costs. Hostel Director Engelhardt Unaeb will be contacted to find out if he can present the Bibles at each youth hostel.



It was also reported that the tentative dates for the mission trips with Hope4Kids in 2015 are 13-26 February and 6-19 October. Hope4Kids provides teams to do maintenance and repair work at the hostels. Plumbing repair is one area in need of work. FNC is looking into non-profits, which provide toilets and septic systems. One such organization is World Toilet Organization (WTO). FNC is also researching on bio-latrines, a new kind of toilet being developed jointly by Kohler and Cal Tech.

Pastor Allard and Mark Victorson are now members of the eastern branch of the FNC Board of Directors, as is Rachel Schmidt, who attended our last meeting and who served for FNC in the Hostel's Director's office for three years. Rachel chairs the eastern branch of the Board.

This year there will be celebrations of the first Christian missions in Tanzania, and in 2017 the Lutheran World Federation will meet in Namibia.

## **B. El Salvador – Kelly Baugh & Phil Loar, Chairs**

## **C. Slovakia – Rosemary Burton, Chair**

### **Companion Synod Sunday**

A synod resource guide and Sunday School curriculum was created for Slovakia in honor of Companion Synod Sunday. In 2015, Slovakia was the featured companion synod honored on this Sunday. The curriculum included Sunday School lessons for each age group from Preschool through Adult. Most lessons were themed around the historic articular churches in Slovakia. These lessons were published on the Synod website. Among the features of the curriculum were kits that Sunday School youth could build replicating the historic articular churches.

### **Visit from Pastor Hroban, Martin, Slovakia**

Pastor Hroban from the Martin Lutheran School and Church visited the Synod early this year to share the work of his ministry in Martin. He gave a sermon at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and met with the Global Mission Committee members from Slovakia. He announced the building of a larger facility for the school in Martin, now named the Center for Christian Education, and was thankful for the generous donations from many of the congregations in the USA, including in the Washington DC Synod, that enabled him to proceed with this new initiative. The school provides children and youth from Martin and the surrounding areas the ability to receive a strong bilingual education based on Christian values. It is a school that is very popular in the region and this new building allows for more children on the waiting list to be able to attend.

### **Youth Representative**

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church Youth Group sponsored a Youth representative from Slovakia to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit this July. Filip Menky was the

International Representative chosen from Slovakia. He attended an initial orientation for international youth visitors in Chicago along with a youth representative from Saint Matthews. He then spent some time in Virginia with his host church youth group before leaving for Detroit. Filip met Global Mission Committee members at a dinner held at the Allard's house a few days before the ELCA Youth Gathering. He talked about growing up as a Pastor's son in Michalovce. His church was the first one for which local Gifts of Hope moneys were used to help build.

### **Preschool Idea Exchange**

Three preschools from the Washington Metro D.C. Synod have been paired with three preschools in Slovakia with the purpose of communication exchange. They have been introduced to each other by email and it is hoped that students and teachers will reach out to each other, exchange ideas and information about their respective schools and grow a relationship. Two schools paired were Saint Matthews in Lake Ridge Virginia with the Lutheran Academy in Martin. I met with the Director and teachers at Lord of Life Preschool in Fairfax and Faith Preschool in Arlington, Virginia to introduce the initiative and talk about the church in Slovakia. I then forwarded their contact information together with a notification of their interest to the foreign liaison in the Bishop's office in Bratislava. They were each paired with at least one school. Lord of Life was introduced to the Evangelical Preschool in Presov. Faith Preschool was introduced to the Evangelical preschool in Kosice.

### **Meeting with European Representative**

Bishop Graham and I met on Friday September 18 at the synod office with Johanna Olson, Manager for Relationships, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and Martina Helmer-Pham Xuan, the Regional Representative of the ELCA for Europe. Conversation revolved around the refugee crisis in Europe, most particularly in Germany and the work the Washington D.C. synod has done in conjunction with the Church in Slovakia. Bishop Graham asked for a project that could be worked on to monetarily support the efforts of the church in Europe to bring to the Synod Assembly for consideration. It was suggested that a contribution to the work of the Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovenia might be appropriate. He will get back to me to tell me if this was approved.

### **Gifts of Hope**

\$4,566.36 was sent to Bratislava on July 16, 2015 representing Gifts of Hope Donations to refurbish a very old church in Slovakia In Kamenany. The roof is damaged and the older church members who comprise most of the church congregation cannot afford to repair it. The Gifts of Hope request for next year will be the same as this request seemed to appeal to potential donors.

### **MIDDLE EAST WORKING GROUP – Nathan Rich, Chair**

Participants in 2015 included Rev. Philip Anderson, Heidi Eickstadt, Anne Lipe, Jean Martensen, Rev. Ray Ranker, Nathan Rich, Kathy Tobias, and Paul Verduin.

During the calendar year 2016, the ELCA Metro DC Middle East Working Group sponsored the following activities:

- March 14 - We were honored to have Rev. Mark Brown, the Lutheran World Federation Regional Representative in Jerusalem, in town to give us a briefing on "Humanitarian Assistance and Prospects for Peace in the Holy Land." He spoke about Augusta Victoria Hospital and other LWF Humanitarian services, East Jerusalem, and the peace process. The event was at St. Luke - Silver Spring.
- June 19 - Our Synod Assembly passed a resolution calling for "Conditioning U.S. Aid to Israel on Cessation of Israeli Settlement Construction in Occupied Areas."
- December 19 - The 9th Annual Bethlehem Prayer Service took place in the nave at the Washington National Cathedral. Bishop Graham continued his participation in this annual event, which is a joint simulcast with Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Palestine.

The ELCA Peace Not Walls team provides many resources and opportunities for the 3 A's of the PNW campaign: Accompaniment, Awareness Raising, and Advocacy. Here are some highlights from 2016:

Many of our youth who attended the National Gathering in Detroit experienced the PNW exhibit, which was a huge success. It enabled conversations with individuals and groups as they experienced the 3 A's. Volunteers were a mix of active PNW members (including former and future YAGM, former Ecumenical Accompaniers, ALAMEH member and Palestinian ELCA pastor, LWF representative), young adults from SE Michigan synod, and some of the ELCJHL youth who were attending the youth gathering.

Here is a sampling of some of the Action Alerts issued by the Peace Not Walls team (<http://elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Peace-Not-Walls>):

- June 2015 - Help members of Congress plan August recess trips to Israel.
- August 2015 - Urge your Members of Congress to issue a letter of authorization for the immediate transfer of 2015 allocations to the U.S. Agency for International Development in order to meet an urgent humanitarian need of the Palestinian people by covering at least 50 percent of the Palestinian Authority debt to Augusta Victoria Hospital and the other East Jerusalem hospitals.
- August 2015 - Tell Congress to end the Gaza blockade and promote a lasting peace to prevent more bloodshed and to build peace for Israelis and Palestinians.
- September 2015 - Urge your elected officials to call upon the Israeli government to halt separation wall/barrier construction and home demolitions.
- November 2015 - Tell Congress: Reject unconditional military aid to Israel.

The ACT Palestine Forum, in which the ELCA participates, sponsors a global ecumenical prayer vigil on the 24th of every month, until the Israeli occupation is dismantled, violence in the Middle East ends, and all can celebrate a just and lasting negotiated resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict (<http://actpalestineforum.org>). Some of the emphases in 2015 were:

- January - Promotion and protection of human rights and the importance of non-violent means of pursuing justice in accordance with international law. We encourage our governments not to punish the Palestinian move to join the International Criminal Court (ICC) by withholding financial support.
- February - Prayer Petitions for Assistance for Gaza and for Justice in Accordance with International Law
- November - During the Advent Season, we are filled with hope for the coming of Christ's kingdom in the Holy Land and the world. This month, the ACT Palestine Forum prayer

vigil also coincides with the United Nations International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

### **METRO DC SYNOD MALARIA CAMPAIGN – Dorothy Sorrell, Chair**

The ELCA four year Malaria Campaign ended in December 2015, and we exceeded the \$15 million ELCA goal that was set. As of January 12, 2016, the total giving had reached \$15,255,474.98. Our Synod has contributed \$383,047.70, and about 80% of our congregations participated in that giving. Of the 65 synods in the ELCA, the Metro Washington, DC Synod ranked number six in total giving. In terms of giving per member, the Metro DC Synod ranked number two - \$12.50 per member.

The work of the Malaria Campaign will continue through the ELCA World Hunger program. This is a good fit as people who are malnourished are obviously more susceptible to illnesses of all kinds, and their recovery from these illnesses sometimes less certain.

During 2016, World Hunger will be the emphasis of “Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA”. The emphasis will start with the beginning of Lent in February, and the theme is “40 Days of Giving”. During Lent resources will be available to assist members to help spiritually, intellectually and financially in reaching an ELCA goal of \$2 million by Easter Sunday. Individuals and congregations are encouraged to register online to be part of the “40 Days of Giving”, and their giving will enable crucial work to begin. Many other World Hunger resources that can be used throughout the year are available online at [www.ELCA.org/resources](http://www.ELCA.org/resources)

### **IMMIGRATION TEAM - Gerry Johnson, Chair**

**Synod Immigration Team Objectives:** By working together as a team we may more effectively engage in education and awareness-building, form relationships with the immigrant communities, network with others to strengthen our efforts, and do public policy advocacy. We will:

1. organize ourselves among clergy and lay people to engage around the issue in a variety of ways;
2. formalize an “ad-hoc” Immigration Table with the Metro DC Synod
3. take actions on a number of fronts:
  - ☐ education and awareness-building
  - ☐ build alliances with other faith-based and community organizations
  - ☐ engage in public policy advocacy

### **Accomplishments:**

1. Established a working relationship with LIRS and LSS.
2. Established a working relationship with CASA de Virginia and The Young Group
3. Visited St. Luke’s, Augustana’s, and St Marks Latino ministries to talk about needs and support.

4. Arranged for CASA (and Synod) people (12 people) to be trained to take CAM (Central American Minor's Act applications so that children still living in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador join family members that are here.
5. Arranged a training (20 people) with The Young Group Accompaniment Program to have people visit children in detention centers in VA. Two people from Synod are in the program.
6. Investigating the possibility of providing court assistance by court watching for children that are facing deportation. (Guarding Angel Program).
7. Provided a Syrian Refugee Bible Study that was distributed to Synod contacts.
8. Working with Syrian Advocacy group in Northern Virginia to strengthen the understanding and welcome of Syrian Refugees.
9. We have had six meetings, two meetings in Virginia, DC, and Maryland each.

**Goals for 2016:** These are some suggested goals for next year.

- 1.) Assist the support and development of our three (or more) Latino Ministries
- 2.) Work with LIRS and LSS with their Immigration efforts especially in the education and assistance with Syrian refugees.
- 3.) Assist a congregation in Hosting three (One in Virginia, DC, and in Maryland) Lugar de Bienvenida (Place of Welcome) Program (LIRS).
- 4.) Be a voice for immigration through advocacy to our congregations and on Capitol Hill.
- 5.) Seek out and provide ways that we can enhance the life of immigrants in our area by providing unique services. For example: The Guarding Angel Program—insuring proper judicial treatment of detained youth; The Accompaniment Program—providing personal connections to detained youth; or the Support of the CAM program—providing opportunities for Central Americans families to be safely and legally re-united.

## **GLOBAL MINISTRIES AND MISSIONARY SUPPORT**

### **A. Congregation Covenants**

<b><u>Congregation</u></b>	<b><u>Missionary</u></b>	<b><u>Country of Service</u></b>	<b><u>Commitment</u></b>
St. Luke Lutheran Silver Spring, MD	Rev. Stephen Deal	Latin America & Caribbean	\$2,500.00
King of Kings Lutheran Fairfax, VA	Rev. Stephen Deal	Latin America & Caribbean	\$1,000.00
All Saints Lutheran Bowie, MD	Rev. Stephen Deal	Latin America & Caribbean	\$1,500.00
Good Shepherd Alexandria, VA	Rev. Stephen Deal	Latin America & Caribbean	\$2,000.00

Grace Lutheran Bowie, MD	Rev. Stephen Deal	Latin America & Caribbean	\$1,500.00
Holy Trinity Lutheran Falls Church, VA	Rev. Stephen Deal	Latin America & Caribbean	\$4,000.00
First Trinity Lutheran Washington, DC	Rev. Stephen Deal	Latin America & Caribbean	\$1,000.00
St. Nicholas Lutheran Huntingtown, MD	Rev. Philip Knutson	South Africa	\$1,500.00

**B. Congregation Gifts**

<b><u>Congregation</u></b>	<b><u>Missionary</u></b>	<b><u>Country of Service</u></b>	<b><u>Gifts</u></b>
Christ the Servant Gaithersburg, MD	Missionaries and YAGM	Where Needed Most	\$ 106.25
Community Lutheran Sterling, VA	YAGM	Where Needed Most	\$ 150.00
Good Shepherd Alexandria, VA	Missionaries and YAGM Rev. Stephen Deal	Where Needed Most Latin America & Caribbean	\$ 90.00 \$ 2,000.00
Grace Lutheran Bowie, MD	Rev. Stephen Deal	Latin America & Caribbean	\$1,500.00
Holy Cross Lutheran Herndon, VA	YAGM	Rwanda	\$1,090.00
Holy Trinity Lutheran Falls Church, VA	Rev. Stephen Deal Rev. Philip Knutson	Latin America & Caribbean South Africa	\$5,050.00 \$ 650.00
Hope Lutheran College Park, MD	Global Ministry Projects	Where Needed Most	\$ 165.22
King of Kings Lutheran Fairfax, VA	Rev. Stephen Deal	Latin America & Caribbean	\$1,000.00

St John's Evangelical Rockville, MD	Revs. Eric & Wendolyn Trozzo	Malaysia	\$2,000.00
St Luke Lutheran Silver Spring, MD	Rev. Stephen Deal	Latin America & Caribbean	\$2,500.00
St Matthew Lutheran Woodbridge, VA	Global Church Sponsorship YAGM Alyssa Kaplan	Where Needed Most Where Needed Most	\$ 75.00 \$ 75.00 \$ 2,000.00
St Nicholas Lutheran Huntingtown, MD	Missionaries and YAGM	Where Needed Most	\$ 206.25
Trinity Lutheran North Bethesda, MD	Global Ministry Projects	Where Needed Most	\$4,050.00

### **GIFTS OF HOPE**

#### **Nambia Companion Synod:**

Evangelical Church in Namibia (ELCIN)	
Fund for Retired Pastors	\$ 1,325.00
Evangelical Lutheran in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN)	
Children's Hostels Bathroom Repair	4,667.80
ELCIN & ELCRN	
Printer for Seminary Library	<u>993.00</u>
	\$ 6,985.80

#### **El Salvador Companion Synod:**

Lutheran Church in El Salvador (LCES)	
Salary Support for Pastors	\$ 2,495.30
Food for a Family	<u>2,915.00</u>
	\$ 5,410.30

#### **Slovakia Companion Synod:**

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia (ECACS)	
Church Repair	\$ 3,600.00

## **Metro DC Synod Global Mission Committee**

Pastor Bob Allard, Chair

Barbara O'Keefe, Secretary\*

Mark Victorson & Kathy Tobias, Namibia Companion Synod Force Co-Chairpersons

Kelly Baugh & Phil Loar, El Salvador Companion Synod Force Co-Chairpersons

Rosemary Burton, Slovakia Companion Synod Force Chairperson

Nathan rich, Middle East Working Group Chairperson

Dorothy Sorrell, ELCA Malaria Campaign Chairperson

Gerry Johnson, Immigration Team

Phil Anderson

Ann Foltz

Rhoda Klug

Ruth Manchester

Elijah Mwitanti

Ralph Neeper

Paul Wee

\*We hold Barbara O'Keefe in fondest remembrance. Barbara passed away in the fall of 2015. She served faithfully over many years as Secretary of the Global Mission Team. We are thankful to God for the gift which Barbara was to the church and all who knew her.



## REPORT OF THE EUCMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS TABLE

YEAR 2015-2016

CHAIR: THE REV. THOMAS PRINZ

In the synodical constitution the chief ecumenical officer of the synod is the synodical bishop. The ecumenical unit serves to support the bishop in fulfilling this arena of responsibility of the office of the synodical bishop. The ecumenical unit is constituted to enlarge, facilitate and manage the ecumenical relationships of the synod with other judicatories and organizations and to assist the bishop in the bishop's function as chief ecumenical officer. The unit is also charged with oversight of certain grants by the synod to local and regional ecumenical organizations. To this end the unit engages with our full communion partners at the local level and conducts activities to inform and encourage ecumenical contact and partnerships at the congregational and synodical level. We are committed to keeping informed on ecumenical texts and agreements, and maintain conversation with interested parties on these texts and topics. We are a full and active partner in the Lutheran Ecumenical and Interreligious Representative Network (LEIRN) ; the Lutheran Episcopal Coordinating Committee and other formal committees related to full communion partners and on-going dialogues and conversations with ecumenical and interreligious partners.

As a lead up to the 2017 500th year commemoration of the Reformation there has been a flurry of activity. Much of this activity quite naturally involves the Roman Catholic Church both internationally and nationally. Last year an international document From Conflict to Communion was published along with a Study Guide and an approved order for worship titled Common Prayer. Additional materials are being made available for congregational and synodical use. This year another significant document was released jointly by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the ELCA titled, Declaration of the Way. This is a product of a joint task force and highlights both a summary of thirty-two (32) dialogue agreements over the last 50 years and points the way to further convergence. We hope to work to promote the use of this material in our congregations in the coming two years. Round XII of the Lutheran-Catholic dialogue is taking up the topic "Faithful Teaching".

A major resource booklet has been prepared for inter-congregational conversation between United Methodist and ELCA communities titled Building a Relationship. There is continued and extensive cooperation between the Episcopal Church (TEC) both in the US and in Canada. This is reflected in our local Lutheran-Episcopal Coordinating Committee (LECC). In May the Coordinating Committee visited a joint parish in the Baltimore area, and we have just concluded a major clergy/AIM event at Shrine Mont in VA participated in by the three VA

diocese of the Episcopal Church and our VA and Metro DC Lutheran Synods. Over ninety persons gathered for the 3 day event which focused on our worship practices. Most of our bishops, including Bishop Graham attended and lead worship, as well as national ecumenical staff. This is the second such gather; the last being nine years ago.

Continued conversations and coordination with the Moravian Church and the Mennonite Church is moving to an international dialogue on baptism and engaging issues of peacemaking. While the Formula of Agreement partners: Presbyterian Church, USA (PCUSA), Reformed Church in America (RCA) and the United Church of Christ (UCC) has no national coordinating committee talks have coalesced around possible joint commemorations of the Reformation anniversary. The tragic event at Mother Emanuel AME church in Charleston has sharpened a renewed activity on the part of the ELCA in matters of racism. Bishop Easton has been a major participant in the memorial service following the shootings and ELCA has had an important role in the Black Methodist Coalition, Racial Reconciliation Summit in Louisville and the Conference of National Black Churches. There is an expectation that many AME bishops will be personally present at the ELCA Assembly this summer.

Churches Uniting is Christ (CUIC) has languished for some years but a plenary held this spring has brought new energy to this long standing multi-lateral conversation. Christian Churches Together (CCT) has Lutheran participation in its leadership and the National Council of Churches (NCC) which has struggled and downsized in recent years continues its work in Faith and Order matters.

Interreligious relationships maintained through consultative panels with Jewish and Muslim groups continue to face hard and tense issues. In December of 2015 Bp Easton issued an Open Letter to the American Muslim Community. The ELCA has promoted the Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign with the Muslim community, and more broadly, encourages our congregations to use the resource, [Engaging Others; Knowing Ourselves: A Lutheran Calling in a Multi-Religious World](#).

LWF and ELCA ecumenical involvements are almost overwhelming in number and seriousness. Here at the local level we try to help communicate this work done on our behalf and to work with willing partners to bring this witness into the lives of congregations and members of synod. As a local unit we maintain an on-going Lutheran-Roman Catholic conversation and a local regional Lutheran-Episcopal Coordinating Committee. Our unit has organized observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU); provided leadership within the Lutheran Ecumenical Representative Network (LEIRN); the National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU); the North American Academy of Ecumenists (NAAE) the Washington Theological Consortium (WTC) the annual conference of the Center for Catholic and Evangelical Theology (CCET).

As a synod we participate in the Virginia Council of Churches on the Executive Committee and the Faith and Order Unit and the recently revived Interfaith Conference of Greater Washington (IFC). One of our members was honored with a Faith in Action Award by the VCC.

Budget constraints continue to limited our operations but we have not diminished our commitment or focus. The unit meets about 5 times a year and through its members participates in over forty additional meetings and events. We hope to assist the synod in making our observance of the events of the Reformation anniversary an occasion of ecumenical significance which it has always been and remains so today.

Submitted by

Rev. Thomas Prinz, chair

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD ASSEMBLY**  
**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church   Gaithersburg, Maryland**  
**June 18, 2016**

**Reference & Counsel Number: 2016 - 01**

**Secretary's Number:**

**Title: Greetings to Other ELCA Synods Meeting In Assembly**

**Submitted: Reference and Counsel Committee, Metropolitan Washington, D. C. Synod**

**Received: April 8, 2015**

**Whereas,** other synods throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) are gathering in assembly at the same time as the Metropolitan Washington, D. C. Synod meets in assembly; and

**Whereas,** we are partners in the Mission of the Gospel with other synods of this church; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D. C. Synod Assembly direct the Secretary of the Synod to extend to the other synods of the ELCA who are gathering in assembly this weekend our greetings in Christ and prayers for their faithful deliberation:

Northern Illinois Synod  
 Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod  
 Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod  
 Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod  
 Upper Susquehanna Synod

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD ASSEMBLY**  
**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church   Gaithersburg, Maryland**  
**June 18, 2016**

**Reference & Counsel Number: 2016 - 02**

**Secretary's Number:**

**Title: -- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**

**Submitted by: Rev. Richard Hoehn and Rev. Michael Kuchinsky**

**Received: March 22, 2016**

**Whereas,** the *United Nations Millennium Development Goals 2015 Report* shows that due to global efforts, since the year 1990:

- “17,000 fewer children die each day,”
- “more than 1 billion people have been lifted out of extreme poverty,”
- “the global under-five mortality rate has declined by more than half,”
- “the maternal mortality ratio has declined by 45 per cent worldwide,”
- “2.6 billion people who have gained access to improved drinking water;

and since the year 2000:

- “the number of out-of-school children of primary school age has fallen by almost half,”
- “new HIV infections fell by approximately 40 per cent,”
- “3.3 million malaria deaths were prevented in 12 years,”

yet “despite many successes, the poorest and most vulnerable people are being left behind” and we continue to face serious environmental challenges;<sup>a</sup> and

**Whereas,** in September, 2015, 193 countries of the United Nations General Assembly agreed on a new set of goals to build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), where “sustainable development goals” now include hunger, poverty, health care, education, gender, reduced inequalities, productive work, peace, justice and other specific and measurable goals in the context of what we have traditionally called “sustainability” or “creation care;” and

**Whereas,** the life and witness of Jesus which embodies the core values of our faith call us to the spiritual task of promoting healing and reconciling ministries that support full and productive lives for all people at home and abroad; and

**Whereas,** the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has a history of social justice engagement as shown in many statements and study documents, such as *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice (1993)*; and

39 **Whereas,** congregations in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area have a unique  
40 opportunity to take a leadership educational role because they have, and can  
41 access, members who work full time on these concerns in government, think  
42 tanks, advocacy offices, university and other programs on public policy and  
43 service delivery; therefore, be it

44 **RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly encourage the  
45 congregations of the synod to engage in thoughtful and prayerful study of the  
46 United Nation's "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable  
47 Development," goals and consider activities in the light of that study and to inform  
48 the synod bishop annually on their progress in study and responses for the next  
49 five years; and be it further

50 **RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly direct the bishop of  
51 the synod to forward this resolution to other synodical bishops in the ELCA and  
52 encourage them to promote and engage in similar processes; and, be it further

53 **RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly direct the  
54 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Council to forward this resolution to the  
55 Church Council for consideration and possible action.

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<sup>a</sup> United Nations. *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015*. Foreword by Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General, 2015.

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD ASSEMBLY**  
**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church    Gaithersburg, Maryland**  
**June 18, 2016**

**Reference & Counsel Number: 2016 - 03**

**Secretary's Number:**

**Title: Gratitude and Support for Military Service Members and Veterans**

**Submitted by: Rev. Mark W. Olsen, Rev. Jeff Wilson, Rev. Tom Omholt, Rev. Tom Knoll,  
 Rev. Kate Davidson**

**Received: April 8, 2016**

**WHEREAS,** 1.2 million Americans are currently serving in the various branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, and about 21.2 million American women and men are veterans of military service, and,

**WHEREAS,** hundreds of thousands of military personnel have been injured over the years and returned home with wounded bodies, minds, and hearts, and,

**WHEREAS,** the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is highly committed to ministry among those in military uniform and those who have faithfully, and often sacrificially, served this nation, as exemplified by the service of the Rev. Karis Graham, the Rev. Charles Hodges, the Rev. Jeffrey Jacobson, the Rev. John Kallerson, the Rev. Alexis King, and the Rev. Terri King, military chaplains rostered in this synod; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod in Assembly memorialize the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans to encourage our Churchwide ministries, synods, and congregations to offer their gratitude and support for all military personnel, veterans, and their families and friends with tangible expressions of care and encouragement in one or more of the following ways:

- a. Express gratitude often and remain especially attentive to those serving in our Armed Forces, as well as veterans, including military and federal chaplains;
- b. Congregations provide to their members who serve in the military copies of the *Prayer Book for the Armed Services*, (Augsburg Fortress Publishing), a companion to *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* designed for those serving in uniform, veterans, and their families, to military personnel and their families, and collaborate with their synod and the ELCA Bureau of Federal Chaplains to donate additional copies of the prayer book to military chaplains for them to distribute to those in their care;

- c. Regularly lift up in prayer those who are serving and those who have served, and pray especially with and for members of the military who have been wounded or killed in the line of duty, as well as for their families;
- d. Regularly remember in Intercessory Prayer all of our Federal Chaplains, to include military chaplains, Veterans Administration hospital chaplains, and Federal Bureau of Prison chaplains, who bring the means of grace in the name of Christ Jesus on our behalf wherever they are called to serve;
- e. Lift up the vocation of those who serve in our Armed Forces, and encourage gifted women and men in our congregations to be open to the call of the Holy Spirit and the church for them to serve as ordained military and federal chaplains of our ELCA;
- f. The Presiding Bishop invite synods and congregations one Sunday each year (on the Sunday closest to Veterans Day) to especially remember in prayer those in military uniform, the veterans who have served, the wounded and their families in their recovery and in their coping, and the families of those who have lost their lives in military service who now live with pain and loss;
- g. Remembering that injuries of the mind, spirit, and relationships do not show as clearly as physical injuries, offer rituals of healing and reconciliation for active duty members and members of the Reserve and National Guard upon their return from deployment or special duty, and periodically thereafter;
- h. Conduct and/or participate in events in our congregations, conferences, and/or our synod that equip individuals and congregations to offer needed care and support for returning veterans. Such activities include the ELCA "Centurion Connection" and "Care for Returning Veterans" programs, support to wounded warriors, Partners in Care (a state National Guard initiative), and other efforts to receive those returning home with open hearts and arms;
- i. Realizing that not all honorably discharged veterans transition well, and some find themselves incarcerated, congregations which already have a prison ministry are encouraged to make a special effort to seek out incarcerated veterans to thank them for their service and to help them access their veterans' benefits so that they might have a more successful transition upon their release.



**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD ASSEMBLY**  
**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church    Gaithersburg, Maryland**  
**June 18, 2016**

4

**Reference & Counsel Number: 2016 - 04**

**Secretary's Number:**

**Title: African Descent Lutheran Lives Matter**

**Submitted by: Rev. Michael D. Wilker, the District of Columbia Conference**

**Received: May 6, 2016**

**WHEREAS,** African American, African Caribbean and African national communities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) are gifted and culturally diverse. Within the ELCA there are more than 46,100 members that identify as people of African Descent, or 1.9% of the ELCA's total population; and,

**WHEREAS,** the ELCA African Descent community is within a denomination that affirms "There is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; for all of you are one in Christ (Galatians 3:28)." We are called to be a church that embraces each person and confronts racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, age, gender, familial, sexual orientation, physical, personal and class barriers that often manifest themselves in unjust treatment, inequalities, exclusion and violence; and,

**WHEREAS,** the United Nations declared 2015-2024 the "International Decade for People of African Descent." Whether as descendants of the transatlantic slave trade or as more recent migrants, people of African Descent constitute some of the poorest and most marginalized groups with limited access to quality education, health services, housing, and social services; and,

**WHEREAS,** the 1993 ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted the social statement, "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity & Culture" as a confession of the sin of racism. Despite many advances by people of African Descent within the ELCA and society, racism and racial discrimination, both direct and indirect, *de facto* and *de jure*, continue to manifest themselves in inequality and disadvantage; and,

**WHEREAS,** African Descent theologians and scholars are often rejected and avoided within not all but many Lutheran academic institutions. African Descent rostered leaders acquire higher education debt, wait longer to receive calls, are less likely to receive full-time calls, and less likely to reach synod compensation guidelines; and,

**WHEREAS,** the majority of African Descent ELCA congregations were birthed out of "white flight," a divestment from urban areas, taking socio-economic resources and abandoning a connection, call and witness. What is left are deteriorating, debt-filled buildings with shrinking memberships, in part due to the systemic and structural issues of discrimination and lack of full inclusion of African Descent gifts of leadership and worship styles; therefore, be it

6/13/2016

**RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly memorialize the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to include as part of its observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation and the commemoration of the United Nation's International Decade of People of African Descent the following:

- Direct the ELCA Church Council to create a "Declaration of the ELCA to the African Descent Community" similar to the "Declaration of the ELCA to the Jewish Community (4/18/1994)" acknowledging the Lutheran church's complicity in the 400+ years of slavery and the oppression of other marginalized groups; that people of African descent were victims of slavery, the slave trade and colonialism and continue to be victims of its consequences; and, the ELCA has perpetuated racism and discrimination through attitudes, actions, policies and practices these communities still endure. The Council will bring this "Declaration" to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly for its consideration and action with a recommendation to include this Declaration in the governing documents of the ELCA;
- Direct the ELCA Church Council to require those who provide oversight and support for theological education in partnership with the Conference of International Black Lutherans (CIBL) to recognize and dismantle white hegemony by lifting up, encouraging and incorporating academic exploration of Black Liberation theology across ELCA educational expressions, to allocate funds for the development of resources and to accomplish this by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly; and,
- Direct the ELCA Church Council to require the Domestic Missions Unit of the ELCA to work in partnership with the African Descent Lutheran Association to increase by 10% the number of African Descent leaders, congregations and communities served, thereby renewing its commitment (see African Descent Strategy, CWA, 2005) to create, sustain, reinvest in and support this plan of action by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly and to encourage Synods and congregations to do likewise.

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD ASSEMBLY**  
**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church    Gaithersburg, Maryland**  
**June 18, 2016**

4

**Reference & Counsel Number: 2016 - 05**

**Secretary's Number:**

**Title: Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery**

**Submitted by: Rev. Michael D. Wilker, the District of Columbia Conference**

**Received: May 6, 2016**

**WHEREAS,** the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) confesses with our Native sisters and brothers that the whole of Creation is God's work, that God declares it all as good, and that God's Spirit dwells within it, and

**WHEREAS,** we confess that Jesus Christ became incarnate in human form to show God's love and mercy to all humanity, in all its variety, and to every race and people on every continent of the earth, and

**WHEREAS,** we acknowledge with pain and regret the damage done to the indigenous inhabitants of the Americas by the European conquest and migration to what Europeans called a "new world," but which was in reality already the homeland of many peoples, and

**WHEREAS,** we recognize that Christian churches were and remain complicit in that conquest, migration and dispossession, and that Christian churches helped develop conceptions of Native peoples that blamed them for their own ills and that continue to perpetuate prejudice and injustice against them and their descendants, and

**WHEREAS,** we deplore and reject the so-called "doctrine of discovery" originated with Pope Alexander VI in 1493 and entrenched in U.S. federal law in *Johnson v. McIntosh* (1823), that Native inhabitants have no property or any other rights which colonizing European nations and their sovereigns are bound to respect. This principle promotes the myth that the Americas were a largely empty land that European conquerors and migrants had a right to claim, occupy, and possess simply by virtue of their Christianity and their European civilization.

**WHEREAS,** the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and the ELCA's full communion partners--the Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church and the Moravian Church--have publicly repudiated the "doctrine of discovery;" therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly offers herewith a statement of repentance and reconciliation to Native nations in this country for damage done in the name of Christianity and "civilization," and memorialize the

6/13/2016

40 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to repudiate the “doctrine of discovery,”  
41 repent of the damage done in the name of the European Christian-derived  
42 “doctrine of discovery” and of complicity in the evils of colonialism in the  
43 Americas, seeking reconciliation with Native nations in this country by:

- 44 • directing the ELCA Office of the Presiding Bishop to plan an appropriate  
45 ELCA national ceremony of repentance and reconciliation with tribal leaders,  
46 and provide resources for similar synodical and congregational observances  
47 with local tribal leaders, at all such times and places as are appropriate; and
- 48 ▪ directing the ELCA Church Council, with the help of Native communities, to  
49 commit the ELCA to the development of resources, in the next triennium, to  
50 help its congregations and people understand and reduce the negative  
51 impact of the “doctrine of discovery” and its consequences for Native people  
52 in North America; and
- 53 ▪ directing the ELCA Domestic Mission Unit to bring forward to the 2019  
54 Churchwide Assembly a renewed strategy for ministry with Native people in  
55 the ELCA and accompaniment with North American Native communities in  
56 general, with a particular commitment to long-term, stable funding of ELCA  
57 American Indian and Alaskan Native ministries, increasing partnerships with  
58 congregations and synods in the ELCA, and promoting efforts with the Native  
59 communities within which our congregations and synods reside.

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD ASSEMBLY**  
**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church    Gaithersburg, Maryland**  
**June 18, 2016**

**Reference & Counsel Number: 2016 – 06**

**Secretary's Number:**

**Title:                    Current American Political Discourse**

**Submitted by:    Rev. Joe Vought, Rev. Annabelle Markey**

**Received:            May 25, 2016**

**WHEREAS,** during the current election cycle, a number of national candidates for high office have engaged in what many Americans would describe as hate-filled rhetoric, personal invective, bigotry, bullying and the politics of exclusion, and

**WHEREAS,** the Lutheran church worldwide strives at all times in in all ways to reflect the love of Jesus Christ for every man, woman and child, loving our neighbors as ourselves; and

**WHEREAS,** the life and witness of Jesus which embodies the core values of our faith call us to the spiritual task of promoting healing and reconciling ministries that support full and productive lives for all people at home and abroad, always honoring and nurturing the sanctity of the human spirit as a living manifestation of God's love; and

**WHEREAS,** Jesus showed us and history taught us, it is incumbent upon each of us to live the Word of God and stand against the forces of hatred, fear and bigotry when we see them, not just to hear but to do, not to condemn but to uplift, not to cast out but to include, not to defame but to honor, not to hurt but to embrace, not to hate but to love, and

**WHEREAS,** the Founding Fathers created America and its body of laws reflecting God's higher law, grounded forever in the belief that all people are equal in the eyes of God and man, united by how we are alike rather than how we are different; and

**WHEREAS,** America's leaders, as sacred stewards of the hopes and dreams of the Founding Fathers, as humble representatives of the American people and as responsible and compassionate citizens of the Earth, must strive at all times to embody, reflect and honor these beliefs; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly rejects the public expressions of hatred, fear and bigotry being made during current political campaigns and encourages national and local leaders to boldly, unequivocally and responsibly embrace the values of compassion, honor, respect, cooperation and compromise that are the heart and soul of America; and, be it further

5/31/2016

39   **RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly direct the  
40   Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Council to forward this resolution to the  
41   Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Church Council for  
42   consideration and possible action.