

# 2018 Mission Spending Plan Narrative

## Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

In 2018, congregations will likely give **\$1,691,330** in support of our collective work of the Gospel. **Your generous financial support** will focus on:

### New Leaders - \$321,350 (19%)

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 21<sup>st</sup> century. Specifically we will:

- Mentor Candidates for rostered ministry
- Support the new United Seminary (\$75,000)
- Provide First Call Theological Education
- Provide continuing education events for pastors such as the annual Bishop's Convocation.
- Provide Anti-Racism training and resources to all congregations. (\$10,000)

### Vibrant Congregations - \$338,240 (20%)

Local congregations are the place where faith is nurtured and discipleship is practiced. In 2018 we will:

- Walk more than a dozen congregations through times of pastoral transition
- Preach and celebrate with congregations for anniversaries, ordinations, dedications and other special events
- 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



Metro D.C. Synod Assembly • June 16-17, 2017

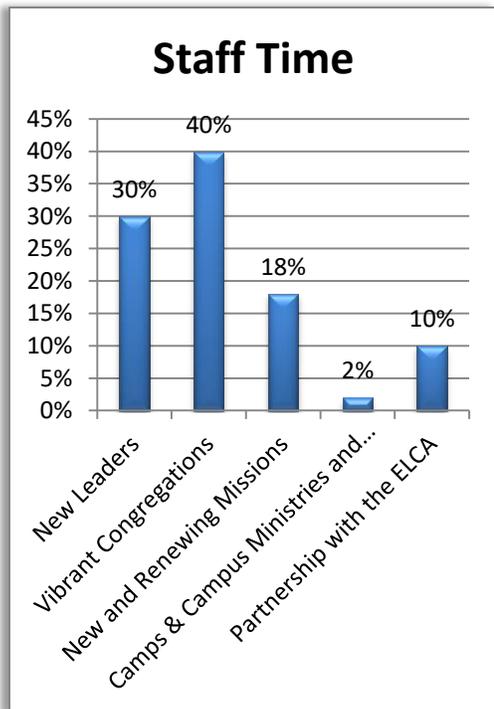
### The Gospel

One way to understand the Reformation is as an effort to recover the true meaning of Gospel message. Now more than ever, we need to follow in the way of Martin Luther by reclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ for a society that is increasingly bitter and divided.

In Christ we find our identity as people worthy of love, acceptance, belonging and the fullness of life. This kind of love is good news for people who are alienated by others and it is also good news for those who think that their way is the only right way. Unconditional Godly love, not the way the world teaches about love, is what can calm fear, unite people who once saw themselves as enemies and help bring about the kind of community that God has always had in mind.

**This year, our Synod begins a new emphasis to make new connections with 3,000 people all over our area and to raise funds that will help every congregation.** Together, we will find new ways to communicate this good news to others.

We believe this is the cry of the Reformation for our time. This is our great calling and it has the power to change everything.



### New and Renewing Missions \$287,530 (17%)

Every congregation in our Synod needs to consider how to better communicate the Gospel to a hurting world (See Insert on Page 1). Our goals are for every congregation to grow in active participants, and to help start 3 to 5 new ministries over the next five years. These are such large and vital goals that the Synod has established The New Connections Campaign to help provide extra emphasis and resource for these purposes in the years to come. In 2018 we will:

- Host and travel to evangelism, youth/young adult and multicultural workshops and events.
- Support new and renewing ministries such as Oromo Evangelical in Washington, DC and La Sagrada Familia in Langley Park, MD.
- Support the rapid growth of Shepherd of the Hills in Haymarket, VA.

### Camps and Campus Ministries and Beyond \$101,500 (6%)

Youth and Young adults are a priority for our Synod. We plan to support the development of youth and young adults through:

- 5 campus ministries (\$50,000)
- Camp Caroline Furnace (VA) and Camp Mar-Lu-Ridge (MD)
- Young Adult Initiative (\$1,000)

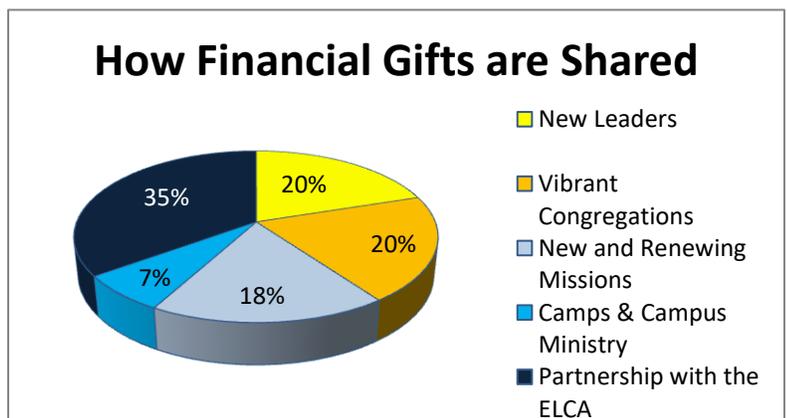
Beyond this, we work with:

- Ecumenical partners as advocates for justice in Washington DC, Richmond and Annapolis (\$5,500)
- Gifts of Hope and Lutheran Development Alliance which raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for service in the name of Christ (\$16,500)
- We support our formal relationships with Lutheran churches in Slovakia, Namibia and El Salvador

### Partnership with the ELCA \$642,710 (35% + 3% Staff)

35% of our income and 10% of staff time is shared with the ELCA churchwide ministry to further the work of the Gospel around the country and throughout the world. These contributions to the ELCA:

- Provide a national church structure that sets and maintains standards for leaders and congregations.
- Commission missionaries and enable companion church ministries in over 90 countries
- Advocate for those things that ease hunger and poverty and provide relief and renewal when disaster strikes
- Build global and ecumenical relationships in the 500<sup>th</sup> year of the Reformation



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

God's work. Our hands.