

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:

+**The Swahili Lutheran Church** was approved as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community on May 20, 2017. They worship at Living Faith Lutheran Church in Rockville, MD. The Rev. John Mbatta, leader. \$15,000 from New Connections Campaign.

Two Congregations Starting a Second Site

+ **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Falls Church VA.** Began a second site in Merrifield VA that meets on Wednesday nights. The Rev. Mike Gutzler, Pastor. (Funds will come from New Connection)

+ **King of Kings Lutheran Church, Fairfax VA** is planning a second site in the Stonebridge area near Aldie VA. The Rev. Lynn Miller, Pastor.

Two New Congregations Continue to Grow

+ **The Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church** of Washington, DC. A congregation of Ethiopians who are ethnically and linguistically Oromo. 2017 Funds: \$7,500 Metro DC Synod Budget + Young Adult Ministry Grant TBD.

+ **River of Grace Lutheran Church, Dumfries VA** Our newest mission in Dumfries, VA. The Rev. Connie Thomson, Pastor Developer 2017 Funds: \$30,000 from Synod Budget and Bethany Funds

New Ministries Started Within Congregations

+ **Abiding Presence, Burke VA.** Called The Rev. Heidi Eickstadt as an Associate Pastor for Discipleship. This growing congregation is reaching young adults and young families. 2017 Funds: \$30,000 from New Connections, Synod Budget and Mission Endowment Funds.

+ **Luther Place, Washington DC.** Started a Sunday evening worship service for a diverse community of mostly young adults. 2017 Funds: 36,000 from New Connections, Synod Budget and Mission Endowment Funds.

Latino Ministries

+ **San Marcos / St. Mark’s**, Springfield, VA A thriving Latino community as a part of an established congregation. The Rev. Dr. Varinia Espinosa and The Rev. Albert Triolo, Pastors
2017 Funds: \$15,000 from Metro DC Synod Budget

+ **La Sagrada Familia**, Langley Park MD. A community of the poorest immigrants from Central America. 2017 Funds: \$45,000 from Metro DC Synod Budget. The Rev. Rosario Hernandez, Pastor

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 working, and increasing the music programs.

2017 Bethany Funds: \$33,000

Changes

+ Community Lutheran Church, Washington, DC. Closed in 2017.

+ Oromo Resurrection in Kensington MD. Transferred to the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

New Connections Campaign

Making disciples is what the New Connections Campaign is all about. We look for opportunities to learn together, give generously, mentor each other and renew our congregations by being a Synod "walking together" Developing Church Leadership, Growing Existing Congregation and Planting New Ministries as well as being partners with the ELCA in planting new congregations.

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: Rev. Steven Buechler, Rev. Mark Olsen, Rev. Gary Rhinesmith, Rev. Dr. Phil Hirsch (Director Evangelical Outreach and Stewardship), Pastor Shannon Anderson, Rev. Carmelo Santos.**

It has been my privilege to serve as Chair of the New and Renewing Mission Table

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