

Treasurer's Report			Schedule 1				
Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, ELCA							
Comparison of Receipts and Expenditures for Unrestricted Funds							
Period Ending January 2017							
			As of	As of	As of	As of	
			10/31/16	11/30/16	12/31/16	01/31/17	
Receipts							
	Congregational Benevolence		\$1,031,644	\$1,214,146	\$1,342,390	\$1,615,515	
	Misc. Congregational Gifts		609	659	659	717	
	Fees		54,504	54,504	85,054	59,607	
	Other		16,518	18,262	19,776	20,237	
	Interest		4,160	4,160	5,275	5,689	
			1,107,435	1,291,731	1,453,154	1,701,765	
	Designated Receipts		90,489	103,758	123,680	154,643	
Total Receipts			1,197,924	1,395,489	1,576,834	1,856,408	
Expenditures							
	Program Expenses		\$596,715	\$647,765	\$778,589	\$925,854	
	General & Administrative Expenses		545,325	610,106	667,872	729,031	
	Synod Assembly Costs		14,254	14,254	14,254	14,254	
			1,156,294	1,272,125	1,460,715	1,669,139	
	Designated Disbursements		\$84,398	\$87,359	\$98,737	\$120,425	
Total Expenditures			\$1,240,692	\$1,359,484	\$1,559,452	\$1,789,564	
Undesignated Surplus/Deficit			(\$48,859)	\$19,606	(\$7,561)	\$32,626	
Projections							
	Benevolence Needed to Make Budget		\$1,151,958	\$1,275,121	\$1,480,339	\$1,650,000	
	Projected Congregational Benevolence		\$1,477,669	\$1,571,098	\$1,496,241	\$1,615,515	
Comparisons							
	Benevolence Only - 2016 per month		\$50,321	\$182,502	\$128,244	\$273,125	
	Benevolence Only - 2015 per month		\$132,705	\$125,801	\$207,476	\$113,865	
	Benevolence Only - 2014 per month		\$229,011	\$99,739	\$237,577	\$191,207	
	Benevolence Only - 2013 per month		\$182,289	\$111,942	\$202,781	\$206,626	
	Benevolence Only - 2012 per month		\$133,654	\$178,029	\$231,784	\$183,163	
	Benevolence Only - 2011 per month		\$116,584	\$128,205	\$188,733	\$195,005	
	Benevolence Only - 2010 per month		\$166,492	\$111,562	\$215,321	\$227,426	
	Benevolence Only - 2009 per month		\$157,680	\$125,850	\$227,103	\$237,356	
	Benevolence Only - 2008 per month		\$116,611	\$141,005	\$236,479	\$232,090	
	Benevolence Only - 2007 per month		\$152,143	\$138,494	\$303,145	\$198,046	
	Benevolence Only - 2016 Annual		\$1,031,644	\$1,214,146	\$1,342,390	\$1,615,515	
	Benevolence Only - 2015 Annual		\$1,119,749	\$1,245,550	\$1,453,026	\$1,566,891	
	Benevolence Only - 2014 Annual		\$1,187,138	\$1,286,877	\$1,524,454	\$1,715,661	
	Benevolence Only - 2013 Annual		\$1,206,674	\$1,318,616	\$1,521,397	\$1,728,022	
	Benevolence Only - 2012 Annual		\$1,225,939	\$1,403,968	\$1,635,752	\$1,818,914	
	Benevolence Only - 2011 Annual		\$1,265,109	\$1,393,314	\$1,582,047	\$1,777,052	
	Benevolence Only - 2010 Annual		\$1,246,631	\$1,358,192	\$1,573,513	\$1,800,939	
	Benevolence Only - 2009 Annual		\$1,281,763	\$1,407,613	\$1,634,715	\$1,872,071	
	Benevolence Only - 2008 Annual		\$1,308,719	\$1,449,724	\$1,686,203	\$1,918,293	
	Benevolence Only - 2007 Annual		\$1,309,335	\$1,447,829	\$1,750,974	\$1,949,020	
	Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2016		(\$48,859)	\$19,606	(\$7,561)	\$32,626	
	Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2015		(\$72,719)	(\$93,748)	(\$53,115)	(\$63,852)	

	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 January 2017										
5					FY 16	Designated	Total		FY 16		% of
6					Budget	Income	Available		Expense		Approved
7											
8	Church wide Support				\$577,500		\$577,500		\$577,270		100%
9											
10	Synod Programs										
11	New & Renewing Mission Total				100,000		100,000		90,081		90%
12											
13	La Sagrada Familia				45,000		45,000		45,000		
14											
15	Gifts of Hope				6,500		6,500		6,500		100%
16	Other Stewardship and Mission Support				0		0		0		0%
17	Stewardship and Mission Support Total				6,500	0	6,500		6,500		100%
18											
19	Ecumenical Affairs				4,000		4,000		4,162		104%
20	Candidacy				5,000	2,975	7,975		3,280		41%
21	Gettysburg Seminary				82,000		82,000		82,000		100%
22	Seminary Student Financial Aid				10,000		10,000		10,000		100%
23	First Call Theological Education				1,000		1,000		1,800		180%
24	Youth Ministry				0	42,379	42,379		37,587		89%
25	Young Adult Initiative				2,000		2,000		0		0%
26	Office of the Bishop Total				104,000	45,354	149,354		138,829		93%
27											
28	Global Mission & Companion Synods				4,500		4,500		1,370		30%
29											
30	Synod Supported Camps				15,000		15,000		15,000		100%
31	Synod Supported Campus Ministries				60,000		60,000		49,500		83%
32	Camp and Campus Ministry Total				75,000	0	75,000		64,500		86%
33											
34	Total Synod Programs				335,000	45,354	380,354		346,280		91%
35											
36	Ordained Staff Comp. & Benefits				435,000		435,000		401,451		92%
37	Office Staff Comp. & Benefits				145,000		145,000		145,658		100%
38	Office Operations				70,000	3,065	73,065		77,364		106%
39	Occupancy Costs				90,000	18,172	108,172		96,774		89%
40	Region 8				8,000		8,000		7,785		97%
41	Synod Assembly				0	14,254	14,254		14,254		100%
42	Leadership & Administration Total				748,000	35,491	783,491		743,286		95%
43											
44	Total Synod Programs & Synod Office				1,083,000	80,845	1,163,845		1,089,566		94%
45											
46	Grand Total				\$1,660,500	\$80,845	\$1,741,345		\$1,666,836		96%

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1		Treasurer's Report					Schedule 3
2		Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, ELCA					
3		Temporary Restricted Funds Report					
4		As of January 2017					
5		Program	Balance		Balance		
6		Project	2/1/2016		1/31/2017		Change
7							
8		Congregational Life					
9		ELCA Grant - Book of Faith Advocate	\$0		\$0		\$0
10		Young Adult Ministry	\$2,581		\$2,581		\$0
11		Total Congregational Life	\$2,581		\$2,581		\$0
12							
13		Higher Education and Schools					
14		LCM - General	\$8,575		\$9,075		\$500
15		DC Campus Ministry	\$6,204		\$6,204		\$0
16		Total Higher Education and Schools	\$14,779		\$15,279		\$500
17							
18		Ministry					
19		Emch Memorial	\$1,526		\$899		(\$627)
20		Total Ministry	\$1,526		\$899		(\$627)
21							
22		Global Mission					
23		Slovakia Companion Synod	\$4,080		\$5,551		\$1,471
24		Namibia Companion Synod	\$6,701		\$9,222		\$2,521
25		El Salvador Companion Synod	\$21,512		\$23,227		\$1,715
26		Total Global Mission	\$32,293		\$38,000		\$5,708
27							
28		New Connections Campaign					
29		New Connections Campaign Income			\$108,857		\$108,857
30		New Connections Campaign Expenses			(\$61,390)		(\$61,390)
31		New Connections Stock Donations			\$22,695		\$22,695
32		Total New Connections Campaign			\$70,162		\$70,162
33							
34		New and Renewing Congregations					
35		River of Grace	\$0		(\$25,000)		(\$25,000)
36		Bethany Funds	\$680,038		\$610,928		(\$69,110)
37		Bethany Intentional Impact	(\$43,103)		(\$58,982)		(\$15,879)
38		Evangelism Workshops	\$1,249		\$1,249		\$0
39		Synodical Latino Ministry - General	\$8,172		\$6,812		(\$1,360)
40		African National Ministries	\$200		\$200		\$0
41		Total New & Renewing Congregations	\$646,556		\$535,207		(\$111,349)
43							
44		Stewardship & Mission Support					
45		Planned Giving	\$17,598		\$9,911		(\$7,688)
46		Macedonia Grant	\$4,880		\$3,880		(\$1,000)
47		Stewardship Education	\$7,060		\$6,860		(\$200)
48		Gifts of Hope - Dues/Expenses	\$32,855		\$29,835		(\$3,020)
49		Gifts of Hope	\$68,609		\$84,553		\$15,944
50		Total Stewardship & Mission Support	\$131,002		\$135,039		\$4,037
51							
52		Synod Office					
53		EOCM DEM Expense grant	(\$205)		(\$205)		\$0
54		Baker Trust	\$18,832		\$13,832		(\$5,000)
55		General Background Checks	(\$868)		(\$317)		\$551
56		Maryland Conference Expenses	\$48		\$48		\$0
57		Bishop's Emergency Fund	\$5,498		\$5,753		\$255
58		Total Synod Office	\$23,305		\$19,111		(\$4,194)
59							
60		Grand Total	\$884,334		\$854,279		(\$30,055)
61							

Treasurer's Report						Schedule 4
Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, ELCA						
Status of Board Designated Funds						
Period Ending January 2017						
Fund		Value	Value			
		2/1/2016	1/31/2017		Change	
	Capital Equipment Replacement Reserve	\$8,448	\$7,579		(\$869)	
	Youth Event Scholarship Fund	\$6,458	\$5,352		(\$1,106)	
Total - Board Designated Funds		<u>\$14,906</u>	<u>\$12,931</u>		<u>(\$1,975)</u>	
Treasurer's Report						
Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, ELCA						
Status of Permanent Restricted Funds						
Period Ending January 2017						
					Schedule 5	
Fund		Value	Value			
		2/1/2016	12/31/2016		Change	
Faith Fund						
	Corpus	\$ 940,659	\$ 623,329		(\$317,330)	
	Adjusted Corpus for 2015 = \$689,888					
	Distribution Accounts					
	Outreach	\$ 59,359	\$ 73,193		\$13,834	
	Ministry	\$ 13,117	\$ 16,626		\$3,509	
Mission Endowment Trust						
	Corpus	\$ 447,408	\$ 389,335		(\$58,073)	
	Distribution Account	\$ 18,940	\$ 45,633		\$26,693	
Mission Development Trust						
	Corpus	\$ 60,788	\$ 60,822		\$34	
	Distribution Account	\$ 2,064	\$ 2,466		\$402	
Campus Ministry Trust						
	Corpus	\$ 14,140	\$ 14,140		\$0	
	Distribution Account	\$ 13,373	\$ 13,674		\$301	
	Total Corpus Accounts	\$ 1,462,995	\$ 1,087,626			
	Total Distribution Accounts	\$ 106,853	\$ 151,592			

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1			Treasurer's Report			Schedule 1		
2			Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, ELCA					
3			Comparison of Receipts and Expenditures for Unrestricted Funds					
4			Period Ending April 30, 2017					
5								
6				As of		As of		As of
7				02/28/17		03/31/17		04/30/17
8			Receipts					
9			Congregational Benevolence	\$29,929		\$171,669		\$285,698
10			Misc. Congregational Gifts	0		63		63
11			Fees	0		10,640		32,491
12			Other	3,690		5,205		6,718
13			Interest	126		1,228		1,228
14			Total Undesignated Receipts	\$33,745		\$188,805		\$326,198
15								
16			Designated Receipts	\$13,710		\$30,846		\$39,777
17			Total Receipts	\$47,455		\$219,651		\$365,975
18								
19			Expenditures					
20			Program Expenses	\$10,432		\$133,076		\$150,997
21			General & Administrative Expenses	52,742		141,868		194,984
22			Synod Assembly Costs	0		0		0
23			Year-to-date Program Expense	\$63,174		\$274,944		\$345,981
24								
25			Designated Distributions	\$11,127		\$22,617		\$33,826
26			Total Expenditures	\$74,301		\$297,561		\$379,807
27								
28			Undesignated Surplus/Deficit	(\$29,429)		(\$86,139)		(\$19,783)
29								
30			Projections					
31			Benevolence Needed to Make Budget	\$87,901		\$230,762		\$346,260
32			Projected Congregational Benevolence	\$544,785		\$1,190,273		\$1,320,156
33								
34			Comparisons					
35			Current Period					
36			Benevolence Only - 2017 per month	\$29,929		\$141,740		\$114,029
37			Benevolence Only - 2016 per month	\$164,543		\$114,931		\$113,157
38			Benevolence Only - 2015 per month	\$88,970		\$144,950		\$131,235
39			Benevolence Only - 2014 per month	\$65,993		\$148,126		\$83,009
40			Benevolence Only - 2013 per month	\$74,325		\$171,744		\$146,707
47								
48			YTD vs. last year					
49			Benevolence Only - 2017	\$29,929		\$171,669		\$285,698
50			Benevolence Only - 2016	\$164,543		\$279,474		\$392,631
51			Benevolence Only - 2015	\$88,970		\$233,920		\$365,155
52			Benevolence Only - 2014	\$65,993		\$214,118		\$297,128
53			Benevolence Only - 2013	\$74,325		\$246,069		\$392,776
60								
61			Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2017	(\$29,429)		(\$86,139)		(\$19,783)
62			Undesignated Surplus/Deficit - 2016	\$38,591		\$111,453		\$114,948

[illegible]

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1		Treasurer's Report					Schedule 3
2		Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, ELCA					
3		Temporary Restricted Funds Report					
4		As of April 30 , 2017					
5		Responsible Party	Balance		Balance		
6		Project	2/1/2017		4/30/2017		Change
7							
8		Congregational Life					
9		ELCA Grant - Book of Faith Advocate	\$3,000		\$0		(\$3,000)
10		Young Adult Ministry	\$2,581		\$2,581		\$0
11		Total Congregational Life	\$5,581		\$2,581		(\$3,000)
12							
13		Higher Education and Schools					
14		LCM - General	\$9,275		\$9,275		\$0
15		DC Campus Ministry	\$6,204		\$6,204		\$0
16		Total Higher Education and Schools	\$15,479		\$15,479		\$0
17							
18		Ministry					
19		Emch Memorial	\$899		\$1,275		\$376
20		Total Ministry	\$899		\$1,275		\$376
21							
22		Global Mission					
23		Slovakia Companion Synod	\$5,551		\$5,551		\$0
24		Namibia Companion Synod	\$9,222		\$9,222		\$0
25		El Salvador Companion Synod	\$23,227		\$22,447		(\$780)
26		Total Global Mission	\$38,000		\$37,220		(\$780)
27							
28		New Connections Campaign					
29		New Connections Campaign Income			172,149		172,149
30		New Connections Campaign Expenses			-107,165		-107,165
31		New Connections New Ministry Starts			0		0
32		New Connections Leadership Expenses			0		0
33		New Connections Revive Congregations			0		0
34		New Connections Campaign Stock Gifts			22,695		22,695
35		Total New Connections Campaign			\$87,679		\$87,679
36							
37		Synodical Latino Ministry - General	\$6,812		\$6,812		\$0
38		African National Ministries	\$200		\$200		\$0
39		Total New & Renewing Congregations	\$7,012		\$10,221		\$3,209
40							
41							
42		Stewardship & Mission Support					
43		Planned Giving	\$9,910		\$7,348		(\$2,562)
44		Macedonia Grant	\$3,880		\$3,880		\$0
45		Stewardship Education	\$6,860		\$6,860		\$0
46		Gifts of Hope - Dues/Expenses	\$29,835		\$26,358		(\$3,477)
47		Gifts of Hope	\$77,683		\$12,230		(\$65,453)
48		Total Stewardship & Mission Support	\$128,168		\$56,676		(\$71,492)
49							
50		Synod Office					
51		EOCM DEM Expense grant	(\$205)		(\$205)		\$0
52		Baker Trust	\$13,832		\$740		(\$13,092)
53		General Background Checks	(\$316)		(\$239)		\$77
54		Maryland Conference Expenses	\$48		\$48		\$0
55		Bishop's Emergency Fund	\$5,753		\$4,853		(\$900)
56		Total Synod Office	\$19,112		\$5,197		(\$13,915)
57							
58		Grand Total	\$214,251		\$216,328		\$2,077
59							
60							
61							

Treasurer's Report				Schedule 4			
Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, ELCA							
Status of Board Designated Funds							
Period Ending April 30, 2017							
Fund			Value		Value		
			2/1/2017		4/30/2017		Change
	Capital Equipment Replacement Reserve		\$7,579		\$7,579		\$0
	Youth Event Scholarship Fund		\$5,352		\$5,352		\$0
Total - Board Designated Funds			\$12,931		\$12,931		\$0
Treasurer's Report				Schedule 5			
Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, ELCA							
Status of Permanent Restricted Funds							
Period Ending April 30, 2017							
Fund			Value		Value		
			2/1/2017		4/30/2017		Change
Faith Fund							
	Corpus		\$ 623,329		\$ 623,329		\$0
	Distribution Accounts						
	Outreach		\$ 73,193		\$ 48,193		(\$25,000)
	Ministry		\$ 16,626		\$ 2,126		(\$14,500)
Mission Endowment Trust							
	Corpus		\$ 389,335		\$ 372,079		(\$17,256)
	Distribution Account		\$ 45,632		\$ 57,889		\$12,257
Mission Development Trust							
	Corpus		\$ 60,821		\$ 60,821		\$0
	Distribution Account		\$ 2,466		\$ 2,594		\$128
Campus Ministry Trust							
	Corpus		\$ 14,140		\$ 14,140		\$0
	Distribution Account		\$ 13,624		\$ 13,684		\$60
	Total Corpus Accounts		\$ 1,087,625		\$ 1,070,369		(\$17,256)
	Total Distribution Accounts		\$ 151,541		\$ 124,486		(\$27,055)

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.**

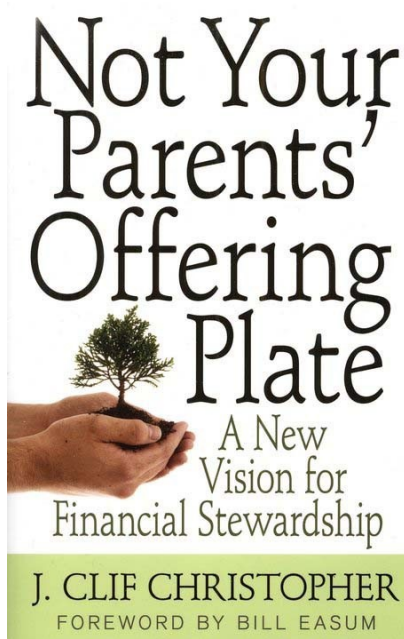
It has been my privilege to serve as Chair of the New and Renewing Mission Table

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

Stewardship and Mission Support Table

Each time our table meets we hear inspiring stories of congregations in our synod. These are your stories. Some congregations have discovered a passion to help resettle refugees, or support our companion synods, or begin a small group ministry, or engage in educational events for the 500th year of the Reformation, or work on issues of race and inequality. Thank you for your generosity as we continue to help grow financial support for your ministries as well as our shared ministries as a synod. Some of the work of the past year by the Stewardship and Mission Support Table is presented below.

1. A THANK YOU VIDEO FROM BISHOP GRAHAM



2. GUEST SPEAKER J. CLIF CHRISTOPHER

3. GIFT BOOK TO NEW • SYNOD • CLERGY

→ 4. ← WELCOME TO LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY TO GIFTS OF HOPE

5. THANK YOU TO CONGREGATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY

→ 6. ← SUPPORT OF NEW CONNECTIONS CAMPAIGN

Rev. Shannon Anderson, Mr. Marlynn Bauch, Ms. Alice Benson, Rev. Phil Hirsch, Rev. Jeanette Leisk (chair), Mr. Bob Sargeant, Ms. Carolyn Sowinski



REPORT OF THE ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS TABLE

YEAR 2016-2017

CHAIR: REV. THOMAS PRINZ

The purpose of this Synod Table is to assist the Synod Bishop in the Bishop's function as chief ecumenical officer of the Synod.

The task of the unit is to monitor ecumenical relationships in this country and internationally; to manage local and regional relationships and activities; to help plan programs that explain ELCA growing ecumenical relationships and encourage congregations to engage their ecumenical and interreligious partners in witness to common concerns of justice and peace, witness and study, cooperation and prayer where these activities are possible.

This means the Table participants must study significant and related ecumenical and interreligious texts and resources with our local partners whenever possible and plan feasible events for joint learning and co-operation within the limits of our funding.

The year 2017 is dominated by the international and national observances of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Most attention has been given to the documents: **From Conflict to Communion**; its **Study Guide** and **Common Prayer**, a mutually agreed upon liturgy for use in congregations and assemblies of the church. This service order was used in the historic joint Lutheran and Roman Catholic worship service in Lund, Sweden lead by Pope Francis and Bishop Younan of the Lutheran World Federation. Other important resources include the document **Declaration on the Way**, a product of the United States conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the ELCA. Augsburg Fortress has also published an invaluable **Resource** book for use by parish planners.

What began as a trickle of material has now matured into a flood of books, essays and articles drawing attention to our roots in the past history of the church, our present realities and challenges, and the future promise of a Lutheran movement that has become an ethnically diverse, worldwide pluriform presence among an even larger Christian family of traditions.

An international conference in Washington D.C., has just drawn major thinkers from around the world on the topic: **Luther and the Shaping of the Catholic Tradition**. In October the members of the Synod will have an opportunity to attend several events co-sponsored by the Metro Synod and the German Embassy including the premier of a liturgical work title, "Mass of the Holy Spirit". Several of our congregations are making use of the rich resources in scholarship

and talent in our region to offer their own observances of the Quincentenary of the Reformation.

Other activities continue apace. In 2017 the Joint VA Clergy Planning Team of Episcopalians and Lutherans is sponsoring days of reflection and prayer in four locations around the Commonwealth. On Dec 1 and 2 the VA Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic-United Methodist planning group (LARCUM) is planning its annual meeting in the Richmond area with Dr. Susan Wood, principal Roman Catholic drafter, along with ELCA Kathryn Johnson, of **Declaration on the Way**. Last fall Dr. Joseph Small of the Presbyterian Church, USA made a significant contribution to understanding the contribution and challenge of the Reformation event to our current witness.

Other events include several observances of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU). At the Northern Virginia event in which our regional bishops' often take a part we welcomed Bishop Michael Burbidge to the Diocese of Arlington and Bishop Sharma Lewis to the United Methodist Conference headquartered in Richmond.

Our jurisdictional leadership continues to change as we have now expressed our gratitude to Bishops Cho (UMC), Loverde (RC) and Mauney (ELCA), who have retired. Their contributions have been vital to their own churches and to the larger ecumenical and interreligious community.

We continue to maintain relationships with the VA Council of Churches; Interfaith Conference of Washington, Washington Theological Consortium (which has welcomed two new institutional members as it prepares to work with our new United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg). Regular gatherings of the regional Lutheran Episcopal Coordinating Committee (LECC) and the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Conversation (L/RC) whose beginnings go back to the end of Vat. II! This results in a catalogue of over 40 face to face meetings and 24 conference calls over the last year. Members of the Table provide not only a presence but leadership in all these venues. Members of the Table have attended the National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU); the North American Academy of Ecumenists (NAAE); annual conference of Center for Catholic and Evangelical Theology, as well as a Lutheran-Roman Catholic Conference in W. VA.

In these ways the Table seeks to serve the ecumenical and interreligious participation of the Synod in accordance with our Synod Constitution which commits us to the task of unity in our place and in our time.

Submitted by,

Rev. Thomas Prinz, chair

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 throughout 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, Chairpersons

Visit of Bishop Ernst //Gamxamub and Finance Minister Leonard de Vries to Metropolitan Washington, DC, Synod, May 1-5, 2016.

Following visits to Chicago and to companion synods in Southwestern Washington and Northeastern Iowa, Bishop Ernst and Mr. de Vries visited the DC Metro Synod before traveling to the final synod, New Jersey, on May 5. After arriving on Sunday evening, May 1, at the home of Lutheran Church of the Reformation Pastor Michael Wilker, they shared a small dinner with his family, Kathryn Tobias, and Pastor Al and Nancy Swingle. On Monday morning they visited Lutheran Social Services, hosted by Kati Miller Holland, Dara Yahya and other staff and learned about the Youth Haven Camp, which addresses the needs of children and youth in families affected by HIV/AIDS and the alienation that often surrounds them. They were then hosted at the Folger Shakespeare Library by Dan DeSimone and staff, who showed them books by Luther from as early as 1518. After a German lunch, they visited Patricia Kisare at the ELCA Washington Office and discussed issues before Congress and in the U.S. government related to international relationships. In the evening, Bishop Ernst preached an Ascension Day sermon, reminding us that as Jesus goes to prepare a place for us, we are each known by name.

On Tuesday morning, Ambassador Martin Andjaba and staff welcomed the visitors to the Namibian Embassy in Northwest Washington, DC. The Ambassador affirmed his support for and interest in the Namibian-North American companionship of Lutherans and said he would welcome being a part of future celebrations. In the afternoon, Bishop Ernst and Mr. de Vries traveled to the home of Pastor Bob Allard in Woodbridge for a two-day stay. Over dinner, they met with the Namibia Companion Synod team (Mark Victorson, Kathryn Tobias, and Pastor Elijah Mwitanti) and representatives of the independent nonprofit, Friends of Namibian Children (FNC). The group hashed out some concerns and FNC agreed to work together with the Bishop's office on a Memorandum of Understanding to improve transparency in the relationship.

On Wednesday, the visitors participated in the Fairfax Conference meeting at St. Mark's Lutheran Church where Bishop Ernst and Bishop Richard Graham met for the first time. In the afternoon, hosted by tour guides Bob Allard and Mark Victorson, they visited several outstanding nonprofits: Good Shepherd

Housing, the Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center and Action in Community Through Service (ACTS). Bishop Ernst led an evening gathering of confirmands and participated in a hymn sing at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Woodbridge. On Thursday morning, the Woodbridge Rotary Club, which has been supportive of the hostels in Namibia, welcomed the visitors for lunch. And at 3 pm, they were returned to Washington for a wrapup meeting with Bishop Graham at the Metro DC Synod office. They shared a simple supper at a "Glocal" meeting at Church of the Reformation and boarded the train for New Jersey, and ultimately the flight home.

Companion Synod Sunday, 31 January 2016. Metro DC Synod Namibia Team put together a packet of materials about Namibia for Companion Synod Sunday, which included a Companion Synod Sunday flyer, a Friends of Namibian Children flyer, and Sunday Church School lesson plans for pre-school and kindergarten through middle school classes, a Namibia fact sheet, photos, and a flyer for the Friends of Namibian Children's Summer Sundae fundraiser, which was held on the same day. Churches throughout the Metro DC Synod used elements of the packet during their celebration of Companion Synod Sunday.

Mission Trip to Namibia. On 19 July 2016, a mission team of 15 parishioners from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Washington, DC embarked on a two-week mission trip to Namibia. The mission trip involved visiting and working at two hostels, one in Karibib, where the team spent most of its time, and the other in Otjimbingwe. The team also worked at a Children's Education Center in Usakos. The team worked hard with the guidance of Hope for Kids to repair, build, paint, and do plumbing. The team also built a gated hallway, so the children could have access to the bathrooms at night. Playgrounds were rebuilt and painted, and the team involved the hostel children in the work. The children helped paint a beautiful mural of the world on the side of one of the buildings. The night before it departed Namibia the team had dinner with Bishop //Gamxamub. The team members considered this a trip of a lifetime and a true blessing to them, as well as to the children of the hostels.

Friends of Namibian Children

Namibian Summer Sundae Fete, 31 January 2016. The eastern FNC Board of Directors Team held its first fundraiser, a Namibian Sundae Fete and silent auction at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Arlington on Sunday, 31 January 2016. It seemed appropriate to have an ice cream social in February, because it was summer in Namibia. The Fete was very successful and included addresses by Bishop Graham and Ambassador Andjaba and remarks by FNC Chair, Rachel Schmidt; CEO of Hope 4 Kids International, Ken Eggum; and Bob Allard, who thanked donors, to include major donors, the Woodbridge Rotary Club, which donated \$1400; and Thrivent Bull Run Chapter, which donated \$1000. There was a good turnout, informed a number of interested people about Namibia, and raised over \$5000 for the various projects FNC is carrying out in support of the school hostels run by the ELCRN in southern Namibia.

FNC and LCRN MOU.. At Bishop //Gamxamub's request, made during his visit last year, FNC has written a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) detailing how the relationship between FNC and the ELRCN Synod will work in support of the hostels. The draft MOU has been submitted to ELRCN and FNC is waiting for a reply. The ELRCN's Director of Hostels has developed health issues, and there is some question concerning the future leadership of the hostel program.

B. El Salvador – Kelly Baugh & Phil Loar, Chairpersons

Phil Anderson shared that gang violence is on the rise in El Salvador from drug trafficking to extortion. Travel is dangerous. Prayers are asked for the country in dealing not only with gang violence, but also refugees. Bishop Gomez visited DC the end of February. Lutheran Churches are trying to help with the gang problems as part of a Nationally Covenanted Presidential Committee to deal with these problems.

Synod Immigration Team and AMMPARO. Kelly Baugh reported that the Synod Immigration Team is looking at reaching out to congregations about AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities). According to ELCA, “amparo” in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. ELCA’s AMPARRO strategy “was envisioned after witnessing the plight of children who are forced to flee their communities in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.” The welcoming congregations initiative is broader than just El Salvador. Phil Lohr says the synod will expand welcoming beyond the level of the ‘reconciling in Christ’ initiative of years past. Meetings will be held in the synod to make a plan. As reported previously, through AMMPARO, congregations agree to welcome migrant children and families, listen to their stories and receive the divine blessings that they bring, pray for and share the gospel, provide emotional and spiritual support, accompany migrants to access institutional services as needed, and advocate for justice for and with migrant families and children. “Guardian Angels” are present in courtrooms and legal hearings, where migrants, including many mothers, are not always afforded their legal rights.

Two groups are planning trips to El Salvador—Marion and Phil and a group from Holy Trinity; and Kelly and Bishop Graham and Pastor Lynn. Kelly noted that their group is going to learn more about the ministry there and to support people here as well.

Stephen Deal, ELCA Regional Director for Central America, was in Washington on a home visit for two weeks. He visited with three conferences of the synod—Virginia, Fairfax, and DC (Christ Lutheran), with a lot of his work having to do with ELCA’s AMMPARO initiative. He has preached and led adult forums related to these issues. The number of unaccompanied minors has gone up to the same level as in 2014 and the number of families went higher. Now the

population of undocumented has gotten larger since 2014 and the challenge has gotten bigger. Bishop Gomez has spoken on why people are emigrating from El Salvador. Steve discussed various situations and abuses and mentioned an article for *The Lutheran Magazine* in 2014 which talked about families having to get children out because of bad situations in their home countries—he drew a comparison with Moses being left in a basket. Situations might be overwhelming, as in Guatemala, where a gang comes in demanding bus drivers pay--so extortion may result in no transportation available for rural families even to get to larger towns to buy groceries. When families have to get their children out, the “coyote” may take the titles of their houses as a bond. If kids get a job and pay the price, the family may get the title back—or they may lose their home. Churches have done followup of kids and families in situations and found youth severely traumatized—if the cycle is not broken through reconnection with education, vocational training, microenterprise, it will occur again.

Funding is an issue—e.g., El Salvador may receive \$55,000 annually from ELCA, but that is a drop in the bucket to address the issues. If something doesn’t happen at the congregational level, it goes nowhere—question is what are we doing?

“Catch and Release”—when a minor comes across the border and turns self in—which is the legal thing to do—Customs and Border Patrol has to handle it differently—move the child to a child-appropriate facility and in the next 10 days work to identify someone in the United States who will assure legal responsibility. It is better if they have a parent or someone authorized by the parent to make sure the kids show up at hearings—UP TO NOW. Border Patrol, “tired of being day care centers,” just put them all in detention facilities. For smaller children, since there were not adequate facilities, reactivated private for-profit detention facilities. Leads to trauma—seems to be where it’s going.

The response to the wave of immigration, churches have said, needs to be on the basis of Biblical principles—welcoming the stranger. Mary Campbell, the full-time director for AMMPARO, encourages good lawyers in ELCA congregations to step forward and help as “Guardian Angels.” It was suggested that congregations be contacted to put together a network of lawyers in the synod. Having a lawyer in these cases increases the chance of a case being decided in the client’s favor from 15 percent to 70 percent.

Now with the election, the ground is shifting underneath. It wasn’t planned this way—what is happening at a church level is on a collision course with what’s coming out of the new administration. The US election represents a shift in the context of dealing with this migration. The churches knew that an executive order was coming and now need to build alliances to respond. Some churches are considering the option of becoming sanctuary churches; others are not comfortable with that but are looking for neutral places where discussions can take place. A congregation in North Carolina with a Mexican pastor and significant Latino membership worries about how the E.O.s will affect them. One area of focus is the lawyers’ network. The advocacy area is also critically important. AMMPARO was initially passed as a strategy at the synod level, but in

practice it is a movement across ELCA. Other denominations are now looking at it. Mary Campbell has received expressions of interest from 25-30 synods.

C. Slovakia – Rosemary Burton, Chairperson

An e-mail was received concerning how the refugee crisis in Europe is affecting Slovakia. Churches there took a special offering to help refugees seeking asylum.

A video was shared on the Christian Education Center in Martine. They have a new building and progress is good in reaching students from preschool on up.

Also shared were pictures of a number of churches in Slovakia. Churches there are hundreds of years old and in dire need of modernization, i.e., roofing, electricity, heating, sanitation, etc.

MIDDLE EAST WORKING GROUP – Nathan Rich, Chairperson

Bright Stars of Bethlehem produced its annual “Room for Hope Festival”, a Palestinian Arts Celebration, in the DC area in September. Dr. Mitri Raheb at Faith Lutheran Church Arlington, VA. Other events took place at The Jerusalem Fund, Georgetown University, and Busboys & Poets - Brookland. See <http://roomforhope2016.eventbrite.com> or brightstarsbethlehem.org. MEWG contributed \$250 from its budget to support these events.

Bishop Graham participated in the 10th Annual Bethlehem Prayer Service, a simulcast between Washington National Cathedral and Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Palestine, on Saturday, December 17, at 10:00 AM in DC and 5:00 PM in Bethlehem. Prayers, readings, and hymns alternated between Washington, DC and Bethlehem via live simulcast, bringing together people of different lands, languages, and ethnic backgrounds in celebration of Jesus' birth. Those unable to join in person were invited and encouraged to join on-line at www.cathedral.org. This service is also coordinated by Bright Stars of Bethlehem.

In 2016 the ELCA Churchwide Assembly passed two important memorials on Israel/Palestine: The first calls on Congress to make aid to Israel contingent on cessation of support for settlements in the Occupied Palestine Territories (West Bank and East Jerusalem). The second calls for development of a human rights social criteria investment screen. The ELCA news story is at <http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7855>. The ELCA Peace Not Walls team and ELCA Synod Middle East Network works to implement these resolutions (www.elca.org/peacenotwalls).

The MEWG mourns the passing of one of its most dedicated members: On August 15 Pastor Phil Anderson died of cancer at age 69. A memorial service was held Thursday October 13 at First Trinity Lutheran Church in DC.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER – Dorothy Sorrell, Chairperson

The year 2016 marked the beginning of an effort to make ELCA World Hunger information more widely distributed, and the ministry of this program better understood. Looking forward to 2017, it is hoped that more congregations will participate in World Hunger giving as individuals step forward to serve in this effort.

A World Hunger display was prominent during the Metro DC Synod Women's Organization meeting in April 2016, and resources shared with individuals at that time. Because displays were not possible at the Metro DC Synod Assembly in June, ELCA World Hunger note cards were provided to all Assembly members along with contact information for the Synod World Hunger Coordinator. Some synod members attended the ELCA Region 8 Meeting in October, where World Hunger staff provided information about future initiatives. It should be noted that ELCA World Hunger Education Unit participated in and helped with the financial support of "The Forgotten Luther" Symposium that was held in the Metro DC Synod, and led to the publication of the booklet, "The Forgotten Luther: Reclaiming the Social-Economic Dimension of the Reformation".

GLOBAL MINISTRIES AND MISSIONARY SUPPORT

GIFTS OF HOPE

Namibia

ELCRN – Repair Children's Hostels	\$ 4,668
ELCIN – Fund for Retired Pastors	1,363
ELCRN/ELCIN – Computer for Seminary Library	1,095

El Salvador

Salary Support for Pastors	\$ 1,799
Food for a Family	3,171

Slovakia

Rebuild and Repair Church Walls	\$ 1,498
Church Roof Repair	2,597

UNSDG PROJECT

Michael Kuchinsky reported on the project that he and Dick Hoehn are working on to tie congregations in to the United Nations sustainable Development Goals, which

were voted in September. This is a new set of international goals for 2015-2020. The Synod Assembly voted nearly unanimously to encourage congregations of the synod to do a study of the goals and report back to the Bishop. Dick and Mike have PowerPoints on the Sustainable Development goals and are offering to share them with congregations as a holy calling. Mike encouraged the Global Mission Committee to add the UNSDG project as a component of its oversight and possibly include it in the GMC budget. Phil Lohr encouraged the duo to have congregations think about what would be the most important goals for their focus – e.g., one congregation might look at hunger while another focuses on energy issues.

METRO DC SYNOD GLOBAL MISSION TEAM

Pastor Bob Allard, Chair

Kathryn Tobias, 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

We hold Phil Anderson and Ralph Neeper in fond remembrance. They served faithfully our Lord Jesus Christ as members of the Global Mission Team. We are thankful to God for the gifts which both Phil and Ralph gave to the church and all who knew them.

**2016-2017 REPORT TO THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION**

Women of the ELCA Purpose Statement

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

THE METRO DC SWO MINISTRY APRIL 2016 THROUGH MAY 2017

2017 SWO Convention: The Annual Spring Convention of the Synodical Women of the ELCA celebrated the theme of “All Anew,” which was based on Isaiah 43:19, “I am about to do a new thing ...” It was held at Peace Lutheran Church, Alexandria, VA, on Saturday, May 6, 2017 and by all reports it was a success! The women of Peace were wonderful hosts and treated us to a Continental breakfast and a delicious sandwich lunch along with their warm hospitality.

At our business meeting, the voting members approved our standard reports and passed our current year's budget and a draft budget for 2018-2019. They also elected a new Vice President and re-elected our Treasurer and one Board Member for two-year terms as well as one Nominating Committee member (Ann Nuss, Saint Luke, Silver Spring) for a one-year term. We are still seeking to add two additional Nominating Committee members for next year's convention. You will find a list of current Executive Board members included at the end of this report.

The Reverend Sarah Scherschligt from Peace Lutheran led our communion worship based on the Holden Evening Prayer Service and Bishop Richard H. Graham gave the homily. After the service, Patti Austin, president of churchwide Women of the ELCA, installed our SWO officers and board members for the upcoming 2017-2018 year.

Our Plenary Session, “All Anew—The Women of the ELCA,” was led by Patty Austin, who was also our special guest and representative from churchwide WELCA. Using PowerPoint slides with many photos she took over her three-year tenure as churchwide Women of the ELCA president, she gave us an interesting first-hand look through her travels to Tanzania and Guatemala at what is happening internationally with the Women of the ELCA as well as what is going on within the US. She held an interesting Q&A session at the end of her talk.

Our workshops were well received and included “Gifts for You” by Patty Austin; a session on “Women in Agriculture around the World” presented by Kristin Vought, Philanthropic Associate, Lutheran World Relief; a study of Post-Modern Christianity entitled “A Vision of the Future Church” led by the Rev. Mike Gutzler (Holy Trinity and Mosaic District); and an interactive “Introduction to Tai Chi” session led by Alan “Rob” Robertson, Catalyst Personal Fitness.

Our community booths and vendors included Beading for Haiti (Chris Jensen, Peace Women of the ELCA), ELCA World Hunger (Dorothy Sorrell), Fair Trade Winds (Paul Culler), Gifts of Hope (Carolyn Sowinski), Lifeline Partnership (Suzanne Blume), Lutheran Social Services/National Capitol Area (Lisa Johnson), Lutheran World Relief (Kristin Vought), Thrivent (Sheri Swackhamer), La Sagrada Familia (The Rev. Rosario Hernandez), SWO Human Trafficking Awareness (Wilma Dublin), and SWO/Women of the ELCA/Tenth Triennial Gathering (Karen Evans, Bonnie Priebe).

From the 60 convention attendees, we collected 348 “Personal Care Kits” for Lutheran World Relief as in-kind gift donations (which were transported the following Tuesday to the LWR warehouse in New Windsor, MD). Our convention offering was divided equally between churchwide Women of the ELCA and a local charity, Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA).

At the end of May, we are wrapping up our two-year project to raise money for *La Sagrada Familia*, affiliated with Saint Luke Lutheran Church in Silver Spring, MD.

Human Trafficking Awareness Initiative: Acting on a memorial from the 2014 Triennial Convention and as a follow-on to our 2015 SWO Annual Spring Convention focus, our SWO Human Trafficking Awareness committee continued its work to raise awareness of the human trafficking in our area and to also report what is being done to combat it.

SWO Vice President and our committee chair Wilma Dublin has been a strong leader and catalyst for this committee, and as she has now completed her tenure, we are seeking a new committee chair. Here are some of her accomplishments with the committee:

- Last summer, she served as a mentor to a group of victims at a trial in Alexandria after which the trafficker was found guilty and is now awaiting sentencing.
- She advised us that the June issues of *Gather* and *Living Lutheran* featured articles addressing this issue.
- She conducted seminars to encourage awareness of this problem to several of our churches within the synod and to some other groups who requested information, showing the short DVD “Chosen” to some of them.
- Her articles in our newsletter, *The Joyful News* and on our website along with the committee’s poster campaign against Human Trafficking in early 2017 helped to spread the word that Human Trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery—it involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit human beings for some type of labor or commercial sex purpose.
- The committee and their poster campaign highlighted the multi-lingual National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) number 1-888-373-8888.
- Their poster campaign involved mailing and hand-delivering packets of posters, flyers, and other handouts to every church in our synod and encouraging them to place the posters in their church buildings and to seek permission to post them in their communities in grocery stores, libraries, and other places with pedestrian traffic.

Spearheaded by the diligence of committee chair Wilma Dublin and board member Karen Evans, their committee efforts on Human Trafficking Awareness even made the churchwide Women of the ELCA news! Terry Lackey, Director for Communication of churchwide Women of the ELCA, wrote the story of their poster campaign for churchwide Women of the ELCA "News & Events" section and also published it in the April 1, 2017 issue of the monthly "Bold Connections" e-newsletter. You can read it at <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/march-2017--hitting-the-streets-news-522.php?category-id=6>.

Communication: The website and Facebook page continue to be active with links to and the promotion of SWO events, messages of interest to the units, WELCA information, and blogs. In addition, we now post the minutes of our SWO Executive Board meetings on our website.

Our newsletter, *The Joyful News* was published in August, December, and March, informing units about current events within the SWO, resources available, happenings around the Synod, and promoting our fundraiser for the last two years, *La Sagrada Familia*. A special edition was also sent in June that reported on the April SWO convention and highlighted the upcoming *Grace Gathering* in August in New Orleans and the 10th Triennial Gathering coming up in July 2017 in Minneapolis. The email distribution project for *The Joyful News* continues to be successful, saving the organization a considerable amount in postage and paper. A paper copy is sent to those units and some individuals not wishing to receive the digital version. ***If your church office or WELCA/SWO contact is not receiving The Joyful News, please advise us.***

Our SWO 2015-2017 Giving Project: The *La Sagrada Familia* campaign has been our focus for the past two years and was active through the end of May 2017. *La Sagrada Familia* is a mission project of the ELCA (Metro DC Synod) and works closely with Saint Luke Lutheran Church. It has over ten years of experience in accompanying the Latino and other immigrant populations in defending housing rights of apartment dwellers, creating jobs, and especially improving educational opportunities for children. Pastor Rosario Cruz and her volunteers from Saint Luke and a group of students from the Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Maryland provide food, clothing, school supplies, and help with homework, crafts, and games during an after school program. Psychological help is also available as is an ESOL program geared to adults. We will be gifting them our collection in June after the campaign has ended.

2017 Tenth Triennial Convention and Gathering: Registration continues for the 2017 Tenth Triennial Gathering, themed “All Anew,” to be held July 13-16, 2017, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This year they are encouraging registration for young women ages 6-18, with special programming for our younger guests. At last count, we have 23 women planning to attend from our Metro DC Synod.

The Tenth Triennial Convention precedes the gathering and is to be held July 11-13, 2017, in Minneapolis. Our three voting representatives this year are included at the end of this report.

Growing the SWO: This is an ongoing mission to expand our active units in the Synodical Women’s Organization. We are able together to do more than we could do as an individual church. We have been talking to you, trying to understand your needs and desires. We know we are a diverse group across a large age span. But that does not mean we should continue doing everything we have always done, the same way we have always done it. There is something for everyone—a prayer group, a Bible study group, a circle, a monthly meeting, service projects, a Prayer Shawl group, a *Café* group for mothers and/or younger members—or perhaps you have an idea you would like to try. All of these things are possible through Women of the ELCA. Let us come to your congregation, explore with you the opportunities with the WELCA of today.

If your church does not have an active membership with SWO, please consider joining with us in making a difference. Contact me at DwyerCL2@verizon.net and together we can do great things!

Cheryl Dwyer
President
Metropolitan Washington, DC Synodical Women’s Organization
Women of the ELCA

METROPOLITAN DC SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS
April 2016 – May 2017¹

OFFICERS:

President – Cheryl Dwyer (St. Mark's, Springfield)
²Vice President – Wilma Dublin (Faith, Arlington)
Secretary – Fran Eck (St. Mark's, Springfield)
³Treasurer – Karen Ager (Peace Lutheran, Alexandria)

BOARD MEMBERS:

Board Member – Sue Cottrol (Good Shepherd, Alexandria)
⁴Board Member – Sheena Foster (Luther Place, Washington, DC)
Board Member – Marcia Ihnen (Holy Trinity, Falls Church)
Board Member – Karen Evans (Saint Luke, Silver Spring)
Board Member – Bonnie Priebe (First Trinity, Washington, DC)

2017 TRIENNIAL CONVENTION VOTING MEMBERS:

Cheryl Dwyer (St. Mark's, Springfield)
Laura Hamke (New Jerusalem, Lovettsville)
Marcia Ihnen (Holy Trinity, Falls Church)

¹ Unless otherwise noted here, these Officers and Board Members will continue to serve for the next year from May 2017 through Spring 2018.

² Paulette Sandene (Faith, Arlington) was elected VP at our May 6, 2017 convention for the term of May 2017 through Spring 2019, as Wilma Dublin has completed her term of office.

³ Karen Ager was re-elected as Treasurer at our May 6, 2017 convention after her appointment to serve as acting Treasurer; her new term will run February 1, 2018 through January 31, 2020.

⁴ Sheena Foster was re-elected as a Board Member at our May 6, 2017 convention after her appointment to serve as an acting Board Member; her new term will run from May 2017 through Spring 2019.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD ASSEMBLY
National Conference Center Leesburg, Virginia
June 16-17, 2017

Reference & Counsel Number: 2017-01

Secretary's Number: 6.1

Title: Greetings to Other ELCA Synods Meeting In Assembly

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

Received: May 15, 2017

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:

Northwestern Pennsylvania

Southwestern Pennsylvania

Southwestern Washington

Northern Illinois

Upper Susquehanna

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD ASSEMBLY
National Conference Center Leesburg, Virginia
June 16-17, 2017

Reference & Counsel Number: 2017-02

Secretary's Number: 6.2

Title: Twenty Fifth Anniversary of the Gifts of Hope Program

Submitted by: Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Council

Received: May 14, 2017

WHEREAS, the Gifts of Hope program was established in 1992 in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod by Sue Clark to provide meaningful alternate Christmas gift-giving opportunities for congregations and members of the synod; and

WHEREAS, over the past twenty-five years, Gifts of Hope has raised over 3.3 million dollars to support local and global ministries providing help to children, youth, adults, and elderly seeking assistance with nutritional and health needs, housing, literacy and mentoring support, transportation, emergency services, advocacy, life-affirming activities, and self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, Gifts of Hope has relied on dedicated program volunteers to create, publicize and collect these gifts each year, as well as many congregational coordinators to bring the opportunities to give each Advent season; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly expresses its gratitude for the Gifts of Hope program, its director Carolyn Sowinski, volunteer leaders and congregation coordinators for the great generosity afforded by members of the synod's congregations to support the various local and global ministries over the last twenty-five years and expresses its encouragement in continuing these good works for the next twenty-five years.



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

2017 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly

CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

Candidate for the position of:

*Candidate's name:
(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

Home Phone: Work Phone:

Cell Phone: Email:

Congregational Membership:
Name

City, ST

Occupational History:

- 2007-present: BDO USA, LLP, National Tax Office, Washington, DC
- ~~1999-2006: Partner, Deloitte Tax LLP, Washington National Tax Office, Washington, DC~~
- ~~1998-1999: Partner, Foley & Lardner LLP, Chicago, IL~~
- 1995-1998: Associate Tax Legislative Counsel, Office of Tax Policy, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC
- 1981-1995: Partner, Foley & Lardner, Milwaukee, WI

Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

- January 2014 – present: Secretary, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
- 2015-present: Member, Churchwide Committee on Appeals
- ~~2009-2015: Trustee, Portico Benefit Services (f/k/a ELCA Board of Pensions)~~
- 2007-2013: Member, Churchwide Committee of Hearing Officers
- 2007 and 2009: Voting Member, Churchwide Assembly
- ~~2003-2008: Synod Council Member~~
- 2006-2007: Synod Ministry Review Task Force Chair
- 2004-2008: Liaison to United Lutheran Appeal Board
- ~~2004-2006: Member, Executive Committee (Synod Council)~~
- 2005-2012: Member, Synod Committee on Reference and Counsel
- 2002-2008 and 2013-present: Lay Voting Member, Synod Assembly

Participation at Congregational level:

- 2002-2007: Member, Congregation Council
- 2002-2004: President, Congregation Council and Congregation
- 2005: Vice President, Congregation Council and Congregation
- 2002-2007: Member, Executive Committee
- 2005-2007: Member, Personnel Committee
- 1995-present: Member, Chancel Choir
- 1986-1995: President, Vice President, Council Member, and other roles, Memorial Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI

Community Involvement:

- 2003-2010: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance participant
- 1988-present: American Bar Association Section of Taxation (member of Council, 2009-2012, various committee chair and vice chair positions)
- 2009-present: American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (member and Chair of S Corporations Technical Resource Panel)

Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

- ☒ Male ☐ Female
- ☐ Rostered ☒ Lay
- ☐ African-American/Black ☐ Asian/Pacific Islander
- ☐ Arab/Middle Eastern ☒ White/Caucasian
- ☐ Latino ☐ American Indian/Alaska Native
- ☐ Person with a primary language other than English

Digital photo attached*? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Send to the Rev. Albert Triolo, Nominations Committee Chair, at atriolo@stmarks-elca.org.

Form is due by May 15, 2017.

*Candidates should **send a photo digitally** with this form. Photos will be used to introduce the candidates to Voting Members of the 2017 Synod Assembly.

If elected, your first Synod Council meeting will take place in July 2017.

THANK YOU.



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

God's work. Our hands.

2017 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly

CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

Candidate for the position of:

*Candidate's name:

(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

Home Phone: Work Phone:

Cell Phone: Email:

Congregational Membership:

Name

City, ST

Occupational History:

2004-Present, Armed Forces Benefit Association AFBA - Security Supervisor

2003-2004, Archdiocese Parish House, Chef

1974-2003, USAF, CMSgt Retired, JobTitles: while active duty, Services, Personnel,

Club Manager, Sr Aide to CSAF

Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

Synod Assemblies (2) _____

Participation at Congregational level:
Current -Outreach Chairperson, Past Fellowship Chairperson

Church Council

Lector, Assisting Minister, Acolyte

Youth Chairperson Luther League, Sunday School

Community Involvement:

So Others May Eat (SOME)

Race for the Cure, AIDS Walk, Walk for the Homeless, Warm Nights, One Warm Coat Drive

Adopt-a-Road

Oxon Hill Food Pantry (ICAC) Interfaith Community Action Committee

Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

☐ Male ☒ Female

☐ Rostered ☒ Lay

☒ African-American/Black

☐ Asian/Pacific Islander

☐ Arab/Middle Eastern

☐ White/Caucasian

☐ Latino

☐ American Indian/Alaska Native

☐ Person with a primary language other than English

Digital photo attached*? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Send to the Rev. Albert Triolo, Nominations Committee Chair, at atriolo@stmarks-elca.org.

Form is due by May 15, 2017.

*Candidates should **send a photo digitally** with this form. Photos will be used to introduce the candidates to Voting Members of the 2017 Synod Assembly.

If elected, your first Synod Council meeting will take place in July 2017.

THANK YOU.



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

2017 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly

CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

Candidate for the position of:

*Candidate's name:
(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

Home Phone: Work Phone:

Cell Phone: Email:

Congregational Membership:
Name

City, ST

Occupational History:

Mathematician Naval Research Laboratory (1969-2009)

Retired from US Government (2009-present)

Independent Software Consultant parttime (2009-present)

Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

Metro DC Synod Council 4 years

Treasurer - University of Maryland Lutheran Campus Ministry

Synod Finance Committee

New and Renewing Mission Table

Participation at Congregational level:

Financial Secretary ,Treasurer,Council President - Grace Lutheran , Fort Washington
~~Treasurer,Capital Appeal Chair - Peace Lutheran Church Waldorf, Md~~
Building Committee Chair - Advent Lutheran Arlington, Va
Usher and Teller

Community Involvement:

Treasurer Arlington County Chapter of Thrivent
~~President Indian Queen Elementary PTA~~

Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

☒ Male ☐ Female

☐ Rostered ☒ Lay

☐ African-American/Black

☐ Asian/Pacific Islander

☐ Arab/Middle Eastern

☒ White/Caucasian

☐ Latino

☐ American Indian/Alaska Native

☐ Person with a primary language other than English

Digital photo attached*? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Send to the Rev. Albert Triolo, Nominations Committee Chair, at atriolo@stmarks-elca.org.

Form is due by May 15, 2017.

*Candidates should **send a photo digitally** with this form. Photos will be used to introduce the candidates to
Voting Members of the 2017 Synod Assembly.

If elected, your first Synod Council meeting will take place in July 2017.

THANK YOU.



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

2017 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly

CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

Candidate for the position of:

*Candidate's name:
(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

Home Phone: Work Phone:

Cell Phone: Email:

Congregational Membership:
Name

City, ST

Occupational History:

2001-present Staff Accountant, The Music Center at Strathmore; 2001-present

Controller and 1989-2001 Deputy Director, Nat'l Ass'n for Law Placement; 1973-1989

Legal Assistant Manager, Wald, Harkrader & Ross

Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

none

Participation at Congregational level:

2008 Chair, Call Committee; 1984 President; 1985-present Treasurer/Controller;

1972-date service on various committees and chair of Finance and Worship committees

Community Involvement:

2008-present: Board of Trustees, Muhlenberg College; 2001-04 Defense Advisory
Comm. on Women in the Services; 1999-2010 Treasurer, N Street Village Board of
Directors; accountant for a dozen small nonprofit organizations including social service
agencies and performing arts groups

Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

☐ Male ☒ Female

☐ Rostered ☒ Lay

☐ African-American/Black

☐ Asian/Pacific Islander

☐ Arab/Middle Eastern

☒ White/Caucasian

☐ Latino

☐ American Indian/Alaska Native

☐ Person with a primary language other than English

Digital photo attached*? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Send to the Rev. Albert Triolo, Nominations Committee Chair, at atriolo@stmarks-elca.org.

Form is due by May 15, 2017.

*Candidates should **send a photo digitally** with this form. Photos will be used to introduce the candidates to
Voting Members of the 2017 Synod Assembly.

If elected, your first Synod Council meeting will take place in July 2017.

THANK YOU.



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

2017 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly

CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

Candidate for the position of:

*Candidate's name:

(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

Cell Phone:

Email:

Congregational Membership:

Name

City, ST

Occupational History:

Youth Director at North Community Lutheran Church (Columbus, OH) 2009-2011

Administrative Assistant at Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. 2012-2017

Assistant Director of Research Services and Associate Consultant at Academic Search, Inc. 2017-present

Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

IK Synod Assembly Volunteer 2000-2004

ELCA Youth Gathering Community Life Team Leader (2006 San Antonio, 2009 New Orleans, 2012 New Orleans, 2015 Detroit)

Participation at Congregational level:

St. Mark's (Auburn, IN) Altar Guild Chair 2000-2004, Worship & Music Committee 2000-2004

Capital University Campus Ministry: Congregation Council 2002-2004, Lutheran Student Movement 2004-2008 (President 2007-2008), Friends in Serving Christ 2004-2008

North Community Lutheran Church(Columbus, OH) Youth Director 2009-2011

Luther Place Memorial Church (Washington DC) Friends of the Feast (altar guild) Coordinator 2014-present, Embrace! LGBTQA Ministry Coordinator 2014-present, Hospitality Team 2013-2015

Community Involvement:

Food & Friends food prep and food delivery 2012-present

St. Martin's Healthcare Inc. 2008-2009

Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

☒ Male ☐ Female

☐ Rostered ☒ Lay

☐ African-American/Black

☐ Asian/Pacific Islander

☐ Arab/Middle Eastern

☒ White/Caucasian

☐ Latino

☐ American Indian/Alaska Native

☐ Person with a primary language other than English

Digital photo attached*? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Send to the Rev. Albert Triolo, Nominations Committee Chair, at atriolo@stmarks-elca.org.

Form is due by May 15, 2017.

*Candidates should **send a photo digitally** with this form. Photos will be used to introduce the candidates to Voting Members of the 2017 Synod Assembly.

If elected, your first Synod Council meeting will take place in July 2017.

THANK YOU.



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

2017 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly

CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

Candidate for the position of:

*Candidate's name:
(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

Home Phone: Work Phone:

Cell Phone: Email:

Congregational Membership:
Name

City, ST

Occupational History:

Pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church in Alexandria, VA

Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

Pastor Robert Lewis has served on the Synod Council 2015 – 2017.

Pastor Robert Lewis has worked with youth and young adults at the synod level since 1998 beginning with the Virginia Synod and later the New England Synod. He worked with youth at the synod level in the Metro D.C. Synod since 2005. Robert's thoroughly enjoyed being the has chaplain for the Metro D. C. Synod's high school retreat, Chrysalis in 2005 and the chaplain for the synod youth work camp, Chi Rho, for several years. He has also served as the Pastor-of-the-Week at Mar-Lu-Ridge and Calumet during summer camp. Robert has also been a workshop leader at the ELCA Youth Ministry Network national meeting several times.

Participation at Congregational level:

Robert has worked for ELCA congregations since 1997 beginning as the Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries at St. Stephen in Williamsburg, VA. While at St. Stephen he was also involved with the college ministry at William and Mary. While working on his Master of Sacred Theology and doctorate at Boston University School of Theology, Robert was a member at Zion Lutheran Church in Plymouth, MA and help establish a neighborhood ministry program working with the local businesses. He was also work with Zion to move a historical building to the church's property in order to create a community center.

Pastor Lewis worked as the Director of Youth and Family Ministry at Emmanuel in Bethesda, MD for 8 years before being called as the Senior Pastor at Messiah in Alexandria, VA.

Community Involvement:

Pastor Lewis is involved with local area ministries in Alexandria, VA such as United Community Ministries and Offender Aid and Restoration. He has recently reached the end of his term on the board of the National Institute of Business and Industrial Chaplains, where he also previously serviced as president of the board. In addition, Robert has been a voting representative on the Commission of Ministries in Specialized Settings (now known as COMISS Network) since 1999. He has served as a member of a hospital ethics committee and President of a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) advisory committee. Robert is currently in the process of becoming a member of the Fairfax County Community Chaplain Corps.

Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

X Male ☐ Female

X Rostered ☐ Lay

☐ African-American/Black ☐ Asian/Pacific Islander

☐ Arab/Middle Eastern X White/Caucasian ☐ Latino

☐ American Indian/Alaska Native

☐ Person with a primary language other than English

Digital photo attached*? (x) Yes () No

Send to the Rev. Albert Triolo, Nominations Committee Chair, at atriolo@stmarks-elca.org.

*Candidates should **send a photo digitally** with this form. Photos will be used to introduce the candidates to Voting Members of the 2017 Synod Assembly.



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

2017 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly

CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

Candidate for the position of:

*Candidate's name:
(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

Home Phone: Work Phone:

Cell Phone: Email:

Congregational Membership:
Name

City, ST

Occupational History:

Software Engineer. Technology and Financial Management consulting to
Federal Govt agencies

Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:
delegate to Synod Assembly 2015

Participation at Congregational level:

At KofK: Church Council President (2015/2016), vice president (2014/2015),
~~Council member (2013/2014). Church musician (adult choir and various instruments).~~
Prayer chain member. Web site developer/maintenance. Sound booth help.
~~Participant in Rebuilding Together, Habitat for Humanity, and other outreach events.~~

In previous congregations: Recording Secretary. Education committee chair.
Stewardship committee chair. Evangelism visits. Young Adult Fellowship coordinator.

Community Involvement:

Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

- ☐ Male ☒ Female
☐ Rostered ☒ Lay
☐ African-American/Black ☐ Asian/Pacific Islander
☐ Arab/Middle Eastern ☒ White/Caucasian
☐ Latino ☐ American Indian/Alaska Native
☐ Person with a primary language other than English

Digital photo attached*? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Send to the Rev. Albert Triolo, Nominations Committee Chair, at atriolo@stmarks-elca.org.

Form is due by May 15, 2017.

*Candidates should **send a photo digitally** with this form. Photos will be used to introduce the candidates to
Voting Members of the 2017 Synod Assembly.

If elected, your first Synod Council meeting will take place in July 2017.

THANK YOU.



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

2017 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly

CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

Candidate for the position of:

*Candidate's name:

(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

Cell Phone:

Email:

Congregational Membership:

Name

City, ST

Occupational History:

Culler Witman Financial Advisors, Inc. – Certified Financial Planner – 1984-present

Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

Current At-Large Lay Representative to Synod Council

Recently participated in TIM event – January 2015

Participation at Congregational level:

Congregational Council President – 1991-1992

Served as Council member several times since becoming member in 1985

Currently serving on Finance Committee

Have served on numerous other church committees over the years

Taught Sunday School when children were growing up at the church in the 1990's-2000's.

Past Board Member at Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp & Retreat Center
Chaperoned Youth Group to Youth Gathering in New Orleans - 2009

Community Involvement:

Our family owns and operates 7 retail fair trade stores located around the country. We regularly hold "benefit nights" at our stores, partnering with a local charitable organization to help build awareness for their mission as well as for fair trade. We donate 10% of that days sales back to that organization.

Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

☒ Male ☐ Female

☐ Rostered ☒ Lay

☐ African-American/Black ☐ Asian/Pacific Islander

☐ Arab/Middle Eastern ☒ White/Caucasian ☐ Latino

☐ American Indian/Alaska Native

☐ Person with a primary language other than English

Digital photo attached*? (x) Yes () No

Send to the Rev. Albert Triolo, Nominations Committee Chair, at atriolo@stmarks-elca.org.

Form is due by April 30, 2015.

*Candidates should **send a photo digitally** with this form. Photos will be used to introduce the candidates to Voting Members of the 2015 Synod Assembly.

If elected, your first Synod Council meeting will take place in July 2017.

THANK YOU.



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

2017 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly

CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

Candidate for the position of:

*Candidate's name:
(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

Home Phone: Work Phone:

Cell Phone: Email:

Congregational Membership:
Name

City, ST

Occupational History:

Employee of the Jewish Community Center's BASE (Before-and-After School Enrichment) programs from February of 2016 through present. Also worked summer camp with the JCC in the summer of 2016. Childcare for families in the community. Attended Trinity Lutheran Seminary's Summer Sampler Program in July of 2016 for two weeks. Metro-DC representative at the National Youth Leadership Summit in November of 2016. Student leader at Lord of Life Lutheran at present. Full-time student at W.T. Woodson High School.

Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

Youth representative for St. Stephen Lutheran Church in 2016 at the Florida-Bahama Synod Assembly; Metro-DC Synod Youth Representative 2016-present. Member of the Churchwide Nominating Committee 2016-present.

Participation at Congregational level:

Student leader in St. Stephen Lutheran Church's youth leadership core and helped lead the Mission Trip summer of 2015. Active participant in Lord of Life Youth as both a student and leader. Lectors in worship and regularly runs AV tech at both campuses; serves communion in worship as well. Volunteer with Music/drama camps, VBS, Hypothermia Shelter, etc.

Community Involvement:

An Eagle Scout as of May 2015, active in community through Boy Scouts and through the National Honors Society and Tri-M Music Honors Society at W.T. Woodson High School. Volunteer teacher's assistant for history programs at Woodson High School. Childcare for local families/groups. Active participant in the W.T. Woodson Band (outreach and concerts through the program); member of the Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra (perform for community and at nursing homes) in the 2016-2017 school year. Assistant coach for middle school Ultimate Frisbee teams in Fairfax. Have completed over 200 service hours since the beginning of high school through the present.

Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

☒ Male

☐ Female

☐ Rostered

☒ Lay

☐ African-American/Black

☐ Asian/Pacific Islander

☐ Arab/Middle Eastern

☒ White/Caucasian

☐ Latino

☐ American Indian/Alaska Native

☐ Person with a primary language other than English

Digital photo attached*? () Yes () No

Send to the Rev. Albert Triolo, Nominations Committee Chair, at atriolo@stmarks-elca.org.

Form is due by May 15, 2017.

*Candidates should **send a photo digitally** with this form. Photos will be used to introduce the candidates to
Voting Members of the 2015 Synod Assembly.

If elected, your first Synod Council meeting will take place in July 2017.

THANK YOU.

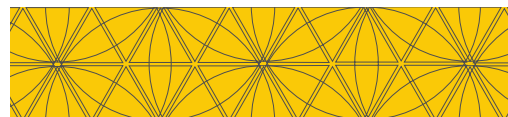


AUGSBURG FORTRESS



Ten Things You Might Not Know About Augsburg Fortress Spring 2017

1. You may have heard that a few months ago, we changed our organization's name to 1517 Media. You can read about this new "DBA" (doing business as) name and our three publishing units, Augsburg Fortress, Fortress Press, and Sparkhouse at 1517.media. You'll probably most often connect with us through our Lutheran-focused publishing unit Augsburg Fortress and its website augsburgfortress.org, which features innovative and useful resources for Lutherans from all of our publishing units.
2. For this 500th anniversary year of the Protestant Reformation, we have developed a wide range of resources for children, youth and adults. You can find information at augsburgfortress.org/reformation500
3. In summer 2017, we're publishing By Heart: Conversations with Luther's Small Catechism, a new curriculum to assist congregations both as we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and as a standard course in many congregations for years to come.
4. Whirl Sunday School provides scripture-based lessons with engaging animated videos that help kids relate the Bible to their lives! Whirl is available in two models: one is organized around the Revised Common Lectionary and the other is in a more traditional classroom-based format. Both encourage lively interaction with scripture! wearesparkhouse.org/kids/whirl/
5. Your church can stay connected to families with children ages birth to 3 through our Frolic resources including a monthly enewsletter that features faith development content for young children. Frolic also includes a nursery guide, parent classes, board & picture books, the lovely Frolic First Bible and music CD wearesparkhouse.org/kids/frolic/
6. Colaborate Lutheran Confirmation invites students to ask their toughest questions and work together to find answers. We are hearing wonderful success stories from pastors, youth directors, and confirmation students about this engaging curriculum. wearesparkhouse.org/teens/colaborate/lutheran
7. Fit faith into every day life at home or on the go with Sparkhouse Family books and videos that introduce the right information at the right time, in ways that interest children. From story bibles to board books and picture books exploring God's presence in our daily lives, these resources help spark a child's spiritual wonder and curiosity. Learn more at sparkhouse.org
8. The story of Martin Luther and his role in sparking the Protestant Reformation is given an interactive retelling in our beautiful and sturdy pop-up book, The Life of Martin Luther. Full of hidden and surprising details, this book will have kids coming back again and again to learn about this fascinating chapter in the history of the Christian faith. sparkhouse.org
9. Augsburg Fortress and Fortress Press will offer churches the chance to participate in the Reformation 500 Bookstore in fall 2017. Churches that sign up will receive a curated selection of over fifteen free resources on the Reformation, and church members will receive up to 50% off and free shipping on their orders.
10. Want to learn more? Follow us on social media. Sign up for our free eNewsletters at augsburgfortress.org | wearesparkhouse.org | fortresspress.com



Spring 2017

Dear Partners in Ministry,

As the ELCA commemorates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we are reminded that *the church should always be reforming* — adapting to a changing landscape even as it stands firm in its mission. In 2016, Portico's ministry epitomized this combination of innovation rooted in mission, as we expanded our service and stewardship in new ways while continuing to provide cost-effective, high-quality health and retirement benefits for more than 46,000 active and retired ELCA rostered ministers, lay employees, and their families in partnership with the almost 6,600 ELCA churches and employers we serve.

We championed a wellness reformation in the ELCA, inviting a recommitment to healthier lifestyles and a healthier church. For the first time, we formally extended our annual wellness challenge to congregations. Also a first: We surveyed those already living a healthy lifestyle, and more than 1,800 members and spouses shared inspiring testimonies of the life-changing power of prioritizing one's physical and emotional health.

We offered a new approach to providing health care. In response to the growing prevalence of chronic disease and rising claim costs, we introduced Portico Care Coordinators by Quantum Health to help members navigate today's complex health care system and get the best possible care at the right price. The anticipated savings from this industry-leading approach was one of several cost-containment measures that helped us hold 2017 health contribution rates to the lowest increase in four years.

We answered the church's call for socially-informed investing. We strive to live out the church's mission and make an impact in God's kingdom as we manage the assets in the ELCA Retirement Plan. Memorials at Churchwide Assembly in August affirmed the three powerful ways we impact corporate behavior through shareholder advocacy, screening, and positive investing. The Assembly also called for even broader work on the environment and human rights; in the coming months, we look forward to partnering with the ELCA to develop screens that will guide future investment opportunities.

We developed new support for financial decision-making. For two decades, Portico has been a leading voice in the ELCA connecting the importance of physical, emotional, and financial health to ministry. In response to members' desire for an easier way to manage their retirement savings, we developed new benefits that will help our members better assess their readiness for retirement, and will provide personal assistance to help them reach their financial goals.

These efforts — and many more — come thanks to a dedicated, creative staff constantly seeking to improve our internal operating processes, maximize efficiency, and be good stewards of the resources entrusted to our care. Their efforts helped ensure that for the third straight year, Portico's capital and operating expenses were under budget, and we maintained ELCA Health Plan and Retirement Plan expense ratios lower than our benchmarks. As the church adapts to today's changing landscape, Portico is well positioned to continue to provide the best possible care for our members, so they can serve the world with confidence, resilience, and faithfulness.

In Christ,

The Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann
President and CEO



Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Maryland is known on campus as The Humble Walk, a place where students from all backgrounds and denominations come to engage in the gospel through worship, community engagement, after school programs for at-risk youth, small groups, and service and cultural immersions.

Yearly Update:

- This semester we have seven students leading discipleship small groups of 4-5 using the 3DM Huddle model. These groups focus on scripture study and taking a closer look at how God is moving in their lives.
- In the past year we have gone on two service learning trips. In June we took 15 students to Haiti to walk with the local church, and local LWR and LWF organizations. In March we took 16 students on joint alternative spring break to Lumberton and Pembroke NC with the Baltimore Area Campus Ministries to aid in flood rebuilding and engage with the local Lumbee Tribe.
- In January we went to Philadelphia for a leadership development and vocational discernment retreat. We spent time with the faculty at LTSP, learned from community members who are living out their faith in their work and explored the city.
- Our after school tutoring and mentoring programs, CARing and En Camino continue to connect our ministry with university and elementary students in an joint effort to help those children succeed. Joyful Noise, our praise band, visits congregations throughout the area to share our students' musical gifts.
- Our Sunday night dinner and worship has grown to an average of 30 students up from 25 last semester! We regularly have local congregations that provide a meal and sometimes bring their youth to show them what campus ministry looks like. After dinner we worship together on couches and comfy chairs, sing, pray, hear student testimonies, and celebrate the Eucharist. We are very intentional about being welcoming to new people and explain each part of the service as we do it.
- In addition to the things mentioned above we also play intramural sports, host game nights, head to the movies together, pick up basketball and soccer, play paint ball, and more!

How can I/we support Campus Ministry: You make this ministry possible! In addition to monetary gifts including special offerings or individual pledges, many churches provide a Sunday night meal, host Joyful Noise (our student praise band), sponsor a student for a service trip, or come for a visit! Please pray for us!



@thehumblewalk

www.thehumblewalk.com

lutheran@umd.edu



The Humble Walk: LCM @ UMD



CAROLINE FURNACE

Lutheran Camp & Retreat Center

"Provide unforgettable faith, education, and renewal experiences in God's Creation for all God's People."

The year 2016 was another great year at Caroline Furnace. The full and part time staff continue to provide the **warm and welcoming hospitality that emulates Christ** in our midst. Retreat guests, campers, parents, and volunteer workers continue to rave about the wonderful quality of food provided by Chef Aaron Adams.

All of our properties continue to look **well groomed, clean, and maintained** thanks to the hard work of our part-time staff, volunteers, and wonderful donations of equipment and supplies. Much of the camp overgrowth around the field has been cleared and deadfall trees removed. New bridges and other trail improvements have been made. The Retreat House kitchen renovation is complete with new cabinets, windows and more cold and dry storage for our guests. Buttonwood Lodge Retreat Center at Signal Knob Farm has all new linens and bedding along with a new catering and cleaning service.

This Memorial Day weekend **Caroline Furnace celebrates its 60th Anniversary** of outdoor ministry in God's creation along Passage Creek in Fort Valley. We continue to improve the quality of programs and have grown our summer confirmation camp program into its own dedicated week. We also have some newer camp activities for the summer and new adult retreat programs to offer year round. We encourage everyone to come and see the unique power of God's love, opened hearts, and joyful culture celebrated here on a daily basis. All are welcome.

We give thanks for **record volunteer attendance at work weekends** and other service events. We lift up the amazing staff and volunteers who care for our guests, work with our campers, and share their faith. We are buoyed by the stories shared by retreat groups of how their time at Caroline Furnace has enriched and impacted their lives for the better. The **enthusiasm of our campers is contagious** as we watch them grow in their relationship with Jesus and experience our intentional Christian community. We give glory to God that Caroline Furnace has developed and nurtured thousands of Christians in our society amidst an ever-changing world.

As we continue to reach out, seeking others in our community we may serve, we are blessed by each opportunity that not only comes our way but that we create in order to share this unique ministry with others. All of us at Caroline Furnace give thanks for the partnerships with each of our partner Synods and ask for your continued blessing and support for this important and relevant mission; ***"To provide unforgettable faith, education, and renewal experiences in God's creation for all God's people."*** We hope you will visit us at CarolineFurnace.org and learn more. There is a place for you at Caroline Furnace! Join us!

2017 REPORT FROM MAR-LU-RIDGE

Ecclesiastes 3:1 – “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:”

We experienced many seasons at Mar-Lu-Ridge in 2016, and we grew stronger as a community as we traveled the trails together. Our year began with an epic snowstorm that brought 4 feet of snow to The Ridge. As the snow melted, we quickly returned to the work at hand. Cabin 6 underwent an extensive renovation project which involved replacing the fuel oil tank and modernizing the bathrooms.

February was “I Love Camp” month, and many people shared reasons #whycamp is so special by posting photos to our social media sites. One former camper and staff member noted that in a busy world, MLR is “a place and a people to go to for deep breaths, warm hugs, and genuine conversations.” Another member of our community shared that MLR “taught me about radical community, love, and acceptance.” Jesus is present here!

As we prepared for the season of summer camp, we were pleased to receive gifts and grants that helped us in very important ways. The Lutheran Home and Hospital Foundation provided funding for medical supplies, lifeguard training, AED/CPR training, and an additional AED. Divinity Lutheran Church, Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, and The Loats Foundation provided Scholarship money so that all children could experience an amazing week of camp regardless of their family’s ability to pay.

A generous matching gift encouraged a record number of donors to participate in our Spring Appeal for the benefit of Summer Camp. These gifts were used to support programming and staffing needs, helping us field a successful and memorable camp season. Our review by the American Camp Association was a success – we passed with flying colors for all standards, and we are proud to continue providing safe programming and facilities for our campers and retreat guests.

Our work would not be possible without the support of countless volunteers, donors, alumni, camp families, congregations, and community members who believe as we do, that summer camp changes lives. Experiences such as conquering the rock climbing course or swimming the length of the pool, meeting new friends and saying a prayer out loud during worship, are all part of faith formation.

Mar-Lu-Ridge has been working in the lives of young people for over 57 years and we remain committed to serving the diverse and exciting population of guests and campers.

In every season, Christ is at the center of all we do. Thank you for the privilege of leading this ministry. It is a joy to walk alongside all of you.

Peace. Sarah Lefler, Executive Director

Gettysburg Seminary Report 2017

Imagine a Stronger Seminary & Unprecedented Seminarian Support

Imagine one Lutheran seminary in Pennsylvania that is stronger than its combined separate predecessors in Gettysburg and Philadelphia. Imagine an unprecedented level of student support. Imagine a seminary educating across two campuses, in hybrid and online formats as well, with a faculty filled with unparalleled expert pedagogues. Imagine a state of the art school that provides a leading edge curriculum with the deepest, classical roots on the continent. Imagine United Lutheran Seminary, opening July 1st 2017!

Full Scholarships Signal Students First

For more than a decade there has been growing concern about the financial burdens incurred by seminarians in this era when “church support” has continued to decline as a percentage of budget. But in a bold and dramatic move, both PA seminaries announced full tuition scholarships for all full-time ELCA students. The budget for United Lutheran Seminary gives priority to what we’ve called a “Students First” approach to planning. This can be sustained only with continuing strong support from synods, congregations and individual donors. To all who are making possible this bold and unique offer, we say a hearty word of thanks!

New Curriculum Integrates Classroom and Context

Perhaps the newest feature of ULS is an emerging curriculum fully designed for the 21st century. Rather than simply passing courses, students will be expected to demonstrate having mastered a high level of competence in all critical ministry leadership areas. Virtually every course will include professors from more than one discipline working collegially to bring to bear insights from their fields of expertise.

Continuity Assured

In the midst of newness is a reminder of the richness of the two seminaries’ distinctive and complementary heritages. Even as we bid farewell to faculty and staff members who are retiring or moving to new callings, we celebrate that almost the entire initial United Lutheran faculty will be comprised of current members of the Philadelphia and Gettysburg teaching theologians. Certificate study and Lifelong Learning opportunities continue on both campuses. Both Town and Country Church Institute and the Urban Theological Institute carry forward, as well as beloved traditional annual events like Advent Vespers and Music Gettysburg! concerts. Also to be sustained are recent new initiatives that better equip students to integrate faith and science, ministry with those in prison, and ecological “greening” endeavors to enhance environmental care.

Faculty Tapped

In addition to their classroom teaching, speaking in multiple church settings and other arenas, faculty members fulfill responsibilities as scholars with increasing national and international recognition. This past year, several faculty members have been asked to teach courses in other institutions, including Lancaster and Pittsburgh Seminaries. In recognition of his expertise in rural ministry, ethnographic studies and multiple point ministries, Dr. Gil Waldkoenig has accepted a half-time position as ELCA Director of Evangelical Mission for the West Virginia/Western Maryland Synod. And beginning this summer, Dean Kristin Lergen will serve half-time as Gettysburg College’s Chaplain and Associate Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life.

New Leadership

A presidential search is underway in light of the consolidation of the two seminaries. As of print deadlines for assemblies, the search is on track for the election of a new president before synod assemblies begin. Watch for an update at the assembly. And receive our profound gratitude for the synod’s unwavering support!

Michael L. Cooper-White, President

J. Elise Brown, Chair of the Board

2017 Report of the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries to the Synods of Regions 7, 8 and 9

In the rapidly changing landscape of theological education, “status quo” has less and less meaning. Instead, we might talk about a “fluxus quo,” as change and flux seem to be the “new normal.” The Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries is no exception.

For those less familiar with the Eastern Cluster, this was the separately incorporated entity created by Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia to create efficiencies by inviting shared use of resources and greater interaction between the faculty and staff of our institutions. Since its founding in 1995, the Eastern Cluster has fostered strong collaboration between the three eastern schools and other partners, enhancing our common task of theological education for a broad spectrum of students and lifelong learners.

Across its history, the Cluster has successfully received grants from a number of foundations – Lilly Endowment, Luce Foundation, Teagle Foundation, Thrivent – as well as ELCA research and development grants made available by the Division for Ministry. Over the course of its life, in excess of \$6 million has been garnered for Clusterwide projects. Among other projects, the creation of One Library Under Three Roofs (linking the three campus libraries into a unified system), Project Connect (a vocational discernment and recruitment effort), and various attempts to build a robust coordinated Cluster program of continuing education received the largest grants, and probably had the greatest impact. Most recently, the Cluster has received a renewal and extension of the Lilly-Endowment funded Abundant Life grant to help reduce student debt, teach greater financial acumen among our students, and promote holistic stewardship in the personal lives and congregations of our graduates.

Other major emphases and programs include Cluster sponsorship of the annual Diaconal Ministry Formation Event (with faculty from the three schools contributing), significant Cluster budgetary support for the Atlanta program (an Afro-centric studies project in collaboration with the Interdenominational Theological Center), and a collaborative Doctor of Ministry program centered at Philadelphia. Most recently, the schools have worked with colleagues from the ELCA on carrying out a consultation on the Cluster archives, and an upcoming LWF trip to Namibia supported in part through funds designated for use in the Cluster (the Marple Fund).

In recent years, there have been a number of changes to the Cluster. In 2009, the Cluster was “downsized” to reduce administrative costs. In 2012, it adapted to the incorporation of Lutheran Southern Seminary into Lenoir-Rhyne University. And today it is responding to the unification of LTSG and LTSP into United Lutheran Seminary. Despite these changes, the goals of the Cluster – to foster shared resources and encourage collaboration in order to enhance and broaden theological education – remain the same, even as the form of that cooperation continues to evolve. Currently, the governing board is considering whether the administrative structure of the Cluster is a help or hindrance to continue our shared library system, support our faculty fellows, facilitate the opportunity to seek impactful grants, and increase the potential to create cooperative systems of education for the larger church. As we explore various possibilities for faithful and efficient sharing of resources, we are grateful for the encouragement, prayers, and support of our synods and larger church. Theological education for the whole church has never been more important, and the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries has been privileged to support that endeavor.

David J. Lose, Executive Director

William B. Trexler, Board Chair

NATIONAL LUTHERAN COMMUNITIES & SERVICES 2016 SYNOD REPORT

Serving seniors since 1890, National Lutheran Communities & Services (NLCS) continues to write the chapters that will prepare the organization for another 126 years. While seniors' needs will continue to change, one thing remains constant—our unchanging values.

National Lutheran Communities & Services: In 2016, the National Lutheran family served more than 1700 seniors and employed 600 individuals. The Community Impact Grant program continued to grow, awarding \$221,250 to 21 social ministry organizations serving seniors. A partnership with American Public University allows employees to take advantage of National Lutheran's tuition reimbursement program. Staff also collected 454 pounds of food to donate to Manna Food. For more updates and information about the National Lutheran family, visit www.nationallutheran.org

The Village at Rockville: Approximately \$269,999 in charitable care was provided to residents who could no longer afford the cost of services, and over \$7.3 million was provided in contractually discounted care. Plans are underway for an expansion project that will offer 130 independent living apartments. Residents lent 2080 hours to provide preemie blankets, scarves and hats for needy women and Afghans for children. Residents and staff raised \$2,849 for the Alzheimer's walk, with 64 participants. Monthly support groups offered comfort and resources, while 75 coats were donated to area homeless shelters. www.thevillageatrockville.org

The Village at Orchard Ridge: The community had numerous openings and celebrations in 2016, including its Engage Center that features an indoor pool along with therapy, art and multipurpose rooms. The 150-seat dining addition and patio kitchen also opened. The Phase 2 expansion was completely pre-sold, with move-ins starting in December. Phase 2 will add 150 new residents to the campus. Monthly public concerts heralded the new Letourneau pipe organ, averaging 200 attendees. Residents donated 75 blankets to the local animal shelter, along with 240 sets of hats and scarves to needy children. Furthermore, \$127,194 in charitable care was provided to residents who could no longer afford the cost of services and \$323,294 in contractually discounted care. www.thevillageatorchardridge.org

The Legacy at North Augusta: Transforming from purely independent living to now offering primarily assisted living, The Legacy at North Augusta further adapted to meet the needs of its residents in 2016. Staff and residents raised \$2,677 for the annual Alzheimer's Walk, with 30 attendees. Approximately 110 pairs of new shoes were collected for the Well of Hope program in Kenya. In 2016, \$189,598 in charitable care was provided to residents who could no longer afford the cost of services. www.thelegacyatnorthaugusta.org

myPotential at Home: myPotential at Home provided approximately 30,000 hours of personal care to seniors in Virginia last year. From assisting with bathing, preparing nutritious meals, transporting seniors to important medical appointments or even walking some four-legged friends, the team kept over 110 people safe and happy in their homes in Frederick, Shenandoah and Warren Counties. myPotential at Home further expanded in Virginia in 2016 to offer home health services, and also created a presence in Maryland with offering home care services. www.mypotentialathome.com