

*The following resolution was adopted by the 2018 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly which met on June 16, 2018 at the Lord of Life Lutheran Church Fairfax (Virg.) Campus. "Whereas" clauses are listed as background for Voting Members. The Assembly votes on "Resolved" clauses only.*

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## **EXPRESSION OF THANKS AND GRATITUDE**

**WHEREAS** the 2018 Synod Assembly Planning Committee and numerous others have worked many hours to prepare for this assembly; and

**WHEREAS** the task of providing facilities and support for a synod assembly imposes burdens and responsibilities physically, financially, and spiritually on the host organization outside of the normal parameters of the mission; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly express its heartfelt thanks to God and to all whose support and effort have made this Synod Assembly a fruitful gathering of God's people, including:

- + Ms. Christina Jackson Skelton, Executive Director, ELCA Mission Advancement, for representing the ELCA with an enlightening report and informative question and answer sessions;
- + for our workshop leaders in broadening our vision of the world and the role of the church:
  - o the Rev. Suzanne Blume, Metro D.C. Synod Finance Committee;
  - o the Reverend Philip Hirsch and Ms. Christy Hartigan of the *New Connections* Campaign;
  - o Ms. Cheryl Dwyer and Ms. Donna Nelson of the Synodical Women's Organization;
  - o the Rev. Karen Brau and the synod's Racial Equity Team;
  - o the Rev. Wendy Moen and the Rev. Jeanette Leisk;
  
  - o the Rev. Leila Ortiz and the Rev. Carmelo Santos;
  - o the Rev. Thomas Prinz, Synod Ecumenical Officer;
  - o Lt. Michael Berg, City of Herndon Police Department; and

- Ms. Yvonne Jones Lembo, Regional Gift Planner, ELCA Foundation;
- + Ms. Katharyn Wheeler, Assembly Coordinator, for her tireless effort in arranging, organizing, and tracking preparations for the assembly, for supervising the registration process and on-site administrative support and the assembly staff and volunteers;
- + the pastors, staff and members of Lord of Life Lutheran Church, especially Ms. Lynne Saltzman for their hospitality and generous spirit in hosting our assembly;
- + Ms. Jean Knight of Qwizdom, Inc. for providing invaluable and patient guidance in using the voting devices;
- + the ELCA Mission Investment Fund for sponsoring our delicious lunch;
- + the Synod Assembly Planning Committee, under the leadership of the Reverend Margrethe Kleiber, in tirelessly addressing the myriad details and decisions necessary in planning and supporting the program and agenda for this assembly;
- + the Assembly parliamentarian, Mr. Richard Ahlberg, for his wise counsel and the orientation session for those first-time synod assembly voting members;
- + the Reverend Kyle Warfield for serving this assembly as our chaplain, leading our prayers and providing for our spiritual care and nurture;
- + the Assembly Worship Planning Team, led by the Reverend David Slaigle-Peck; and Deacon Jeff Pannebaker and Mr. Julio Cuellar and his band for their musical leadership in worship;
- + the Synod's Communications Director, Ms. Karen Krueger, Media Coordinators Mr. David Carlson and Mr. Philip Meuschke, our guest bloggers Vicar Ben Hogue and Vicar Franklin Morales; our Guidebook Guide Mr. Alex Stall; our interpreters Ms. Sandra Rico and Ms. Kathy Ogle; and our photographer Ms. Katie Simbala for the communications, IT and social media support invaluable to this assembly;
- + the Nominating Committee, consisting of the conference deans of the synod under the leadership of the Reverend Travis Kern: the Reverend Anna Anderson, the Reverend Lynn Miller, the Reverend Darcy Tillman, the Reverend Mitch Watney and the Reverend Michael Wilker;
- + the Elections Committee, chaired by the Reverend Mitch Watney: Pastor Gary Rhinesmith, Pastor Greg Durig, Ms. Annette Nija, and Ms. Anita Goehringer;

- + Ms. Evelyn Crenshaw, Vice President of the Synod and Mr. Kevin Anderson, Secretary of the Synod for their wisdom and encouragement in planning and carrying out this assembly;
- + Ms Julie Hamre for her dedicated service as Treasurer of the synod;
- + the Reverend Leila Ortiz, Assistant to the Bishop; the Reverend Philip C. Hirsch; Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission; Ms. Katharyn Wheeler, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop; Ms. Karen Krueger, Communications Coordinator; and Ms. Katie Simbala, Administrative Assistant for Mobility & Candidacy for their year-round work for our synod and our congregations;
- + those who are completing their terms on the Synod Council: Ms. Cheryl Dwyer, the Reverend Renata Eustis, Mr. Nels Hendrickson, the Reverend Sandra Kessinger; the Reverend Sarah Lewis, Ms. Cassandra Smith, Mr. Cleophas Tsokodayi; Ms. Kim Watson, and youth representative Samuel S.;
- + all those who permitted their names to be placed before the assembly for consideration in elections for Synod Secretary, Synod Council, Consultation Committee and 2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members;
- + and Bishop Richard Graham for his enthralling sermon on welcome and inclusion as well as his wisdom and dedication in leading this assembly and this synod and to his wife Nancy Ann for her support and faithfulness for the work of our synod.