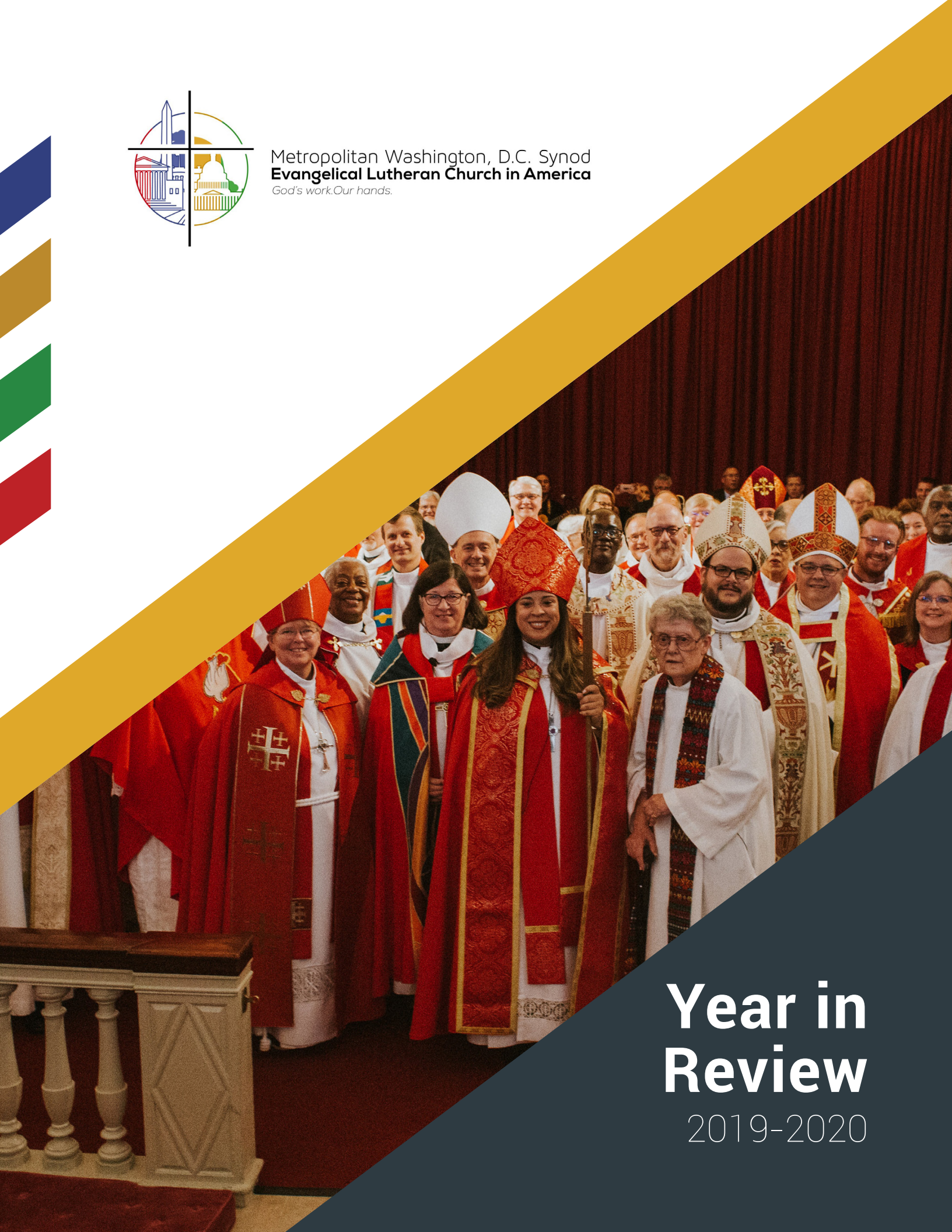
Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work.Our hands.



Year in Review

2019-2020

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By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we are called to cultivate a Bold and Boundless love for Jesus and for God's beloved creation.

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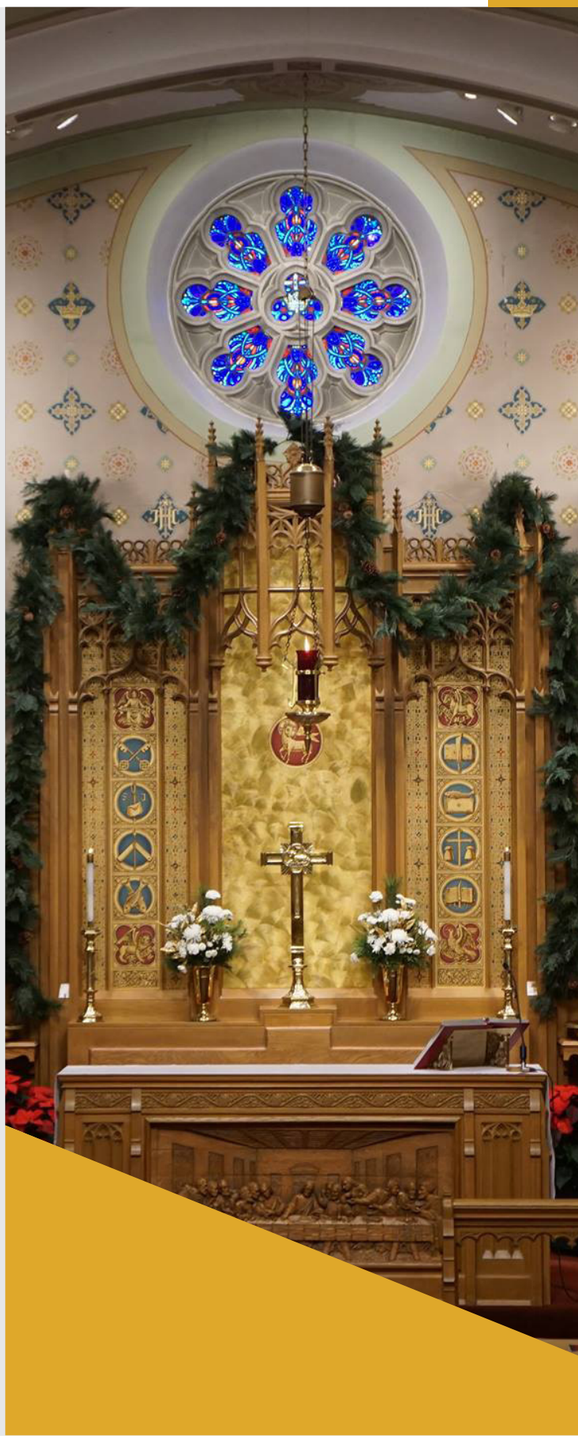

Bishop's Report

Rev. Leila M. Ortiz, Bishop
Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

> Even as we struggle and wrestle through this current season of our lives and ministry, we are anointed by the Holy Spirit to do things and live in ways we could not have imagined on our own.

I write this report as we suffer and endure a global pandemic and civil unrest. Over a hundred thousand people have lost their lives to COVID-19. One in four workers (that can) have filed for unemployment benefits during the pandemic. Many others have lost all employment possibilities and are now hungry and homeless. Add to this the global response to the sin of racism in this country, which ranges from disbelief to peaceful protests to riots and looting. And top it off with the threat of martial law and the use of a Bible in front of a church as a prop for an agenda that is antithetical to the Gospel teachings in the Holy Scriptures.

What we have carried as a people and as a church is beyond overwhelming, difficult, and exhausting. And yet, we are Easter and Pentecost people who have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever in our baptism. Even as we struggle and wrestle through this current season of our lives and ministry, we are anointed by the Holy Spirit to do things and live in ways we could not have imagined on our own; things and ways that bring about reformation, liberation, and transformation. That is who we are and what we get to do as followers of Jesus Christ in this time. Since our last assembly, we have made significant decisions and created a series of resources that might help us live into this holy work together.

On September 1, 2019, I became the bishop of the synod and called Rev. Dr. Erin Swenson-Reinhold as the Assistant to the Bishop for Mobility and Candidacy along with Rev. Lamar Bailey as the Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop. What they have each contributed to the work and ministry of the synod has been invaluable and I thank God for their faithful leadership and continued friendship on this journey.

Along with the Synod Council, we discerned and decided to change our mission statement to one that could be articulated in one sentence and implemented across the ministries of the synod:

By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we have been called to cultivate a bold and boundless love for Jesus and for God's beloved creation.

We also decided upon the three priorities of the synod for the next 6 years:

- **Equip and develop healthy leaders**
- **Empower and nurture vibrant ministries**
- **Encourage and model faithful accompaniment**

To live into our mission and priorities, we developed the Metro D.C. Synod Leadership Academy. The Leadership Academy is designed to provide tools and resources that equip and develop both rostered and lay leaders in our synod and beyond. To date, we have offered one in-person intensive course and nine webinars facilitated by skilled and faithful lay and rostered leaders:

- Learning Christ at the Three Holy Days: Rev. Dr. Gordon Lathrop, Dr. Gail Ramshaw, and Mark Mummert
- On-line Worship and Digital Ministry: Kelly Champagne and Katie Simbala
- Stewardship in Uncertain Times: Mike Ward
- Preaching in Crisis: Rev. Dr. Hank Langknecht
- Council Leadership 101; New attendance guidelines, online forms, and parish register: Katharyn Wheeler
- Council Leadership 102; Church Finance: Julie Hamre
- Council leadership 103; Congregational constitutions and council member responsibilities: Robert Tuttle, Kevin Anderson, and synod staff
- Grief and Self Care: Rev. Dr. Erin Swenson-Reinhold and Rev. Dr. Karis Graham
- Enneagram Workshop: Rev. Jaime Butcher

The next webinar is scheduled for June 25th, "Creation Care & Climate Justice," and will be facilitated by Rev. Sarah Scherschligt. Each of these webinars, with the exception of the Enneagram Workshop, are available on our synod website: **http://metrodcelca.org/academy2020/**

In the coming months, we will have a series of webinars and events that address the sin of racism and we will continue to develop and glean resources to help leaders and ministries lead during these uncertain times.

Much of my ministry this year has been dedicated to the work noted above. It has also been of time of consistent prayer, re-imagining, creating, making new connections, and making connections anew. I have had the honor of becoming part of the Conference of Bishops and collaborating with colleagues to discern, decide, and write significant documents. I've preached in several of our congregations, met with congregational councils, made some hard and faithful decisions, and have lead us through unprecedented times to the best of my ability.

While this has been one intense and difficult year, I remain convinced that we have each been called for such a time as THIS. Though I am convinced, I continue to pray and discern over what that might actually mean and what that actually looks like for me and for each of us a followers of Jesus. I can also say that while so much is yet unknown, I am ever intrigued and excited by what we might discover and co-create with God and each other.

I know that before the pandemic and civil unrest began, the mission of our synod was already established and inspired by the Holy Spirit. And so, I invite us to lean in and acknowledge that this is a time for bold and boundless love in all we say and do as human beings and as the church. It is a time to put our comforts aside and wrestle with discomfort until we experience transformation within ourselves and as a nation. It is a time to be church with and for each other in ways previously unexplored. It is time to enter unchartered waters as we reclaim our baptism each and every day.

> “It is a time to be church with and for each other in ways previously unexplored.”

Dear friends and colleagues in ministry, we are Easter and Pentecost people. We can do hard things and we will, with God's help and in Jesus' name. Amen.

En Cristo,

Rev. Leila M. Ortiz, Bishop
Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

Name	Change	Location
Rev. Martin Eldred	Called to Serve as Pastor	Holy Cross Lutheran Church - Herndon, VA
Rev. Karis Graham	Called to Serve as Pastor	Hope Lutheran Church - Clinton, MD
Rev. Jonathan Linman	Called to Serve as Pastor	Resurrection Ev. Lutheran Church - Arlington, VA
Rev. Rebecca Stelle	Called to Serve as Pastor	Grace Lutheran Church - Ft. Washington, MD
Rev. Andrea Walker	Called to Serve as Pastor	St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Washington, DC
Rev. David Yocis	Called to Serve as Pastor	Epiphany Lutheran Church - Mt. Vernon, VA
Rev. Allison Zbicz Michael	Called to Specialized Ministry, Adult Formation and Youth Ministry	St. Francis Episcopal Church - Potomac, Maryland
Rev. Lamar Bailey	Called to Specialized Ministry, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission	Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Rev. Erin Swenson-Reinhold	Called to Specialized Ministry, Assistant to the Bishop	Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Rev. Leila Ortiz	Called to Specialized Ministry, Bishop	Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Rev. Carmelo Santos	Called to Specialized Ministry, ELCA	Director for Theological Diversity & Ecumenical and Interreligious Engagement for the ELCA
Rev. Lisa Hufford	Called to Specialized Ministry, Interim Pastor	Hope Lutheran Church - Annandale, VA
Rev. Heidi Eickstadt	Called to Specialized Ministry, Interim Pastor	Christ Lutheran Church - Fairfax, VA
Rev. Michael Guy	Called to Specialized Ministry, Interim Pastor	Grace Episcopal Church - Alexandria, VA
Rev. Margrethe Kleiber	Called to Specialized Ministry, Interim Pastor	Augustana Lutheran Church - Washington, DC
Rev. Elijah Mwitanti	Called to Specialized Ministry, Interim Pastor	Good Samaritan Lutheran Church - Lexington Park, MD
Rev. George Handley	Deceased	

Name	Change	Location
Rev. Jeanne Lowe	Deceased	
Rev. Daniel Rhinehart	On Leave from Call	
Rev. Kendall Summers	On Leave from Call	
Rev. Mitch Watney	On Leave from Call	
Ms. Julia Boudrye	Ordained and Called to Serve as Pastor of Worship	Lord of Life Lutheran Church - Fairfax and Clifton, VA
Mr. Garrett Wolf	Ordained and Called to Serve as Mission Pastor	King of Kings Lutheran Church - Fairfax, VA
Rev. Bruce Burslie	Retired	
Rev. Paul-Collinson-Streng	Retired	
Rev. Richard Graham	Retired	
Rev. Yvette Schock	Transferred	Northwest Intermountain Synod

Bishop at Gracing Spaces, a Ministry of Lord of Life

Erin Swenson-Reinhold

Assistant to the Bishop

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

It's been almost a year since Bishop Ortiz invited me to prayerfully consider the call to serve as your Assistant to the Bishop for Mobility and Candidacy and Chief of Staff. Little did we know the challenges we would face in our first year as a new team, but we are blessed with amazing people who have a variety of gifts and abilities that have helped us adapt and pivot with each new situation. So, thank you, Bishop Ortiz, Synod Council, and all of you for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

Over the last year, we've spent time listening to you and your stories, participating in your faith communities, and watching you engage those around you. We've prayed with you and for you as we've listened for the Holy Spirit to direct our next steps and prepare our hearts so we can be bold and courageous in response to these holy invitations.

Through this process of sacred listening, we discerned a new synod mission statement and three ways we would embody it:

Mission Statement:

By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we are called to cultivate a bold and boundless love for Jesus and for God's beloved creation.

Priorities:
We strive to do this in three main ways:

- **equip and develop healthy leaders**
- **empower and nurture vibrant ministries**
- **encourage and model faithful accompaniment**

As the Assistant to the Bishop for Mobility and Candidacy and Chief of Staff, a lot of my time is spent empowering and equipping our leaders, faith communities, and ministries into a posture of discernment. In discernment, we experience the impact of sacred listening where we gain clarity about the gifts God bestows on us through the waters of baptism. As we begin to see the needs in our communities and gain clarity about our own gifts, we can respond boldly and courageously to the Holy Spirit's invitations that begin to arise.

Over the past year, I had the privilege of talking with people as they are in the beginning stages of discerning calls to become pastors or deacons and calls to other vocations. I had the privilege of listening to people discern calls to move to our synod so they can lead faith communities and ministries, and I sat with pastors and deacons as they discerned the end of their current calls. I also had the honor of walking with congregations discern their next steps

witnessing the fruit of new ministries and the sorrow of those coming to an end.

Even before the pandemic hit, we contemplated what it means to be church, but COVID-19 challenged all of us to think about church in new ways as we sought to share Christ's message of hope, peace, and love. While this time has been scary, unsettling, and daunting, it is a time filled with great opportunity.

Through the Holy Spirit, the work of forming leaders in our synod has grown stronger as we are blessed with a candidacy committee who feels called to accompany those in formation. They recognize the weight of this call and have dedicated themselves

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to praying for and walking with our candidates as they struggle to integrate the head and heart formation that accompanies the candidacy process. I'm thankful for their discerning hearts and openness to the Spirit as they've been leaders in this accompaniment and formation process. A special thanks to Pastor Ben Hogue for his willingness to lead this group as their Chairperson.

Since the last assembly, three candidates have been entranced, one has been endorsed, and four have been approved for rostered ministry. In addition, our synod currently has 12 candidates in formation for Word and Sacrament ministry, three in formation for Word and Service ministry, and five more candidates who will sit for their entrance interviews in the Fall of 2020.

With the support of Bishop Ortiz and the candidacy committee, we felt called to pilot an intentional discernment process for those feeling a holy nudge to pray about their next steps. My hope was to launch one group in January 2020, and the Holy Spirit said a loud 'Yes!' affirming this ministry. We created not one but three groups, holy spaces for people to be comfortably uncomfortable wrestling with what it means to be called through the waters of baptism into lives and vocations that reflect our identity as a beloved child of God. On June 3, we celebrate the journeys of these discernment groups and the 21 people who intentionally engaged this process, deepened their faith, developed relationships, and gained clarity about what is next.

Our fourth discernment group of thirteen people launched in April, and we launch a fifth one this fall. I'm overwhelmed and humbled to bear witness to the movement of the Holy Spirit in these groups and excited to catch a glimpse of future ministries being born. It's been an honor to witness people respond to Christ's invitations to live out their baptismal call in rostered ministry or in more intentional ways in their current vocations. If you are interested in learning more about the discernment process or feel the Holy Spirit may be nudging you to contemplate what's next, feel free to contact me to start the conversation.

Over the last year, I also had the privilege of walking with fourteen different congregations as they intentionally and prayerfully discern God's holy invitations. We had congregations move forward with calls to new pastors, pause the call process during the COVID-19 crisis, or make the hard decision to wind down their ministries. Since our last assembly, eight pastors have been called to local congregations and four pastors and one deacon have been called to specialized ministry for a total of 13 new ministry opportunities.

In addition to my work with candidacy and mobility, I had the privilege of working with our interim ministers as they journey with our congregations in transition. In this ministry, we help congregations and interim pastors co-create 6-9 month contracts with specific goals to help them move towards the next phase of ministry with intentionality and focus. Each month we gather to share insights, resources, and support in this specialized ministry.

I also had the privilege of working with the six deans of the conferences in our synod. Our monthly zoom calls offered us an opportunity to share the joys and challenges in our synod and offer support, resources, and prayerful accompaniment. My hope is that each interaction strengthened the relationships between the congregations and the synod office and created more opportunities for collaborative ministry.

Finally, with the support of Rev. Dr. Karis Graham, Alyssa Prinzivalli, and Rev. Heidi Eickstadt, we launched a mental health and self-care team in the synod. This group of talented leaders gathered resources for the rostered leaders in our synod to support mental health and self-care. We now have a referral list of spiritual directors, therapists, and coaches. In addition, we hosted a webinar on grief and loss in uncertain times, and they are planning trainings and gathering resources for the coming year.

It's been a blessing and a joy to spend time with you, getting to know you, and learning more about you and your ministries throughout the synod. I miss being with you in person, but I treasure all the ways we still gather for it blesses my heart and fills my soul to see your love for Jesus Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit in your midst. Paul spoke to the Romans about a similar desire to be with the people as he shared the Good News and witnessed the growth of the Holy Spirit. He wrote:

> *One of the things I always pray for is the opportunity, God willing, to come at last to see you. For I long to visit you so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord. When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours. - Romans 1:10-12*

I'm excited to see how we will continue to grow in our love for Jesus Christ and our openness to be comfortably uncomfortable as we engage the Holy Spirit's invitations.

Thank you for all you do to help us be church together.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Erin

Ordination of Rev. Garrett Wolf

Rev. Lamar S. Bailey

Director of Evangelical Mission

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." —Joshua 1:9

Dear Friends in Christ,

It has been an exciting season of transition, learning and discovery for me as I transition into my new call as Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission. I have been humbled and amazed to see the work of God throughout our Synod.

In this new call, I am blessed to serve with the Synod Council, Candidacy Committee, New and Renewing Mission Table, Stewardship and Mission Support Table, and to serve as a liaison between the Synod office, Gifts of Hope and Racial Equity teams.

I am blessed to serve with gifted members of the New and Renewing Mission Table (N&RMT). The Synod Council tasks the N&RMT with revitalizing existing congregations in the synod for the purpose of making and growing disciples of Jesus Christ. The table supports leaders and churches who seek to engage in creative ministry in their context for the sake of the gospel. I and the N&RMT have taken advantage of this time of transition and newness to review processes and decision making and to dream – all the while continuing to support new and existing ministries. Already this year, we have continued to support New Connections ministries, supported congregations as they hire staff dedicated to build new connections in the congregation and local communities, supported a congregation to expand a vital community garden in a neighborhood that needs fresh and nutritious vegetables, and so much more. In response to the bold leadership of the Synod Council, the N&RMT is partnering with the Synod Council to administer loans to congregations that have been impacted COVID-19. I look forward to our continued ministry together.

The Synod Council directs the Stewardship and Mission Support Table (S&MST) to accompany congregations in their ongoing stewardship ministries that make and grow disciples of Jesus Christ. This year the S&MST gave thanks for the excellent service of Rev. Jeanette Leisk who concluded her service as chair of the S&MST and welcomed Rev. Darcy Tillman who now serves as chair and is passionate about increasing people's love and spirituality of generosity and strengthening people's foundational understanding of generosity. I am very excited to partner with Rev. Tillman and the S&MST as we work together building relationship, planning, and continuing generosity responsibilities. This year, in partnership with the Synod Office, the S&MST hosted an online conversation with generosity expert Mike Ward. Future efforts will focus on lifting up stories of generosity and growing mission and individual support.

Sunday worship at Lutheran Church of the Reformation

Frequently, I am blessed to preach at congregations and to meet with congregations and pastors in support of congregational vitality. Prior to COVID-19, I along with the Bishop and other Synod leaders were ambitiously praying about and planning ministry ideas that are now paused but which will continue when God leads. Rest assured, praying, planning and research about supporting and starting ministries that align with current Synod mission statement and priorities still continue.

I give thanks for the New Connections Campaign created by former Bishop Richard Graham, Rev. Phil Hirsch and New Connections Campaign Director Christy Hartigan. I am exceedingly grateful for the many congregations and individuals who generously supported the campaign. Details of the campaign can be found in the New Connections report authored by Campaign Director Christy Hartigan. This year we say farewell to the New Connections Campaign even though we know that making new connections and guiding others into the way of Jesus Christ never ends. With deep sadness we say farewell to Christy Hartigan, my friend and co-worker for the gospel. Our Synod has been blessed by her many skills, gifts, leadership and talents. Great things are in store for her continued ministry, and we wish her Godspeed.

Thank you to my co workers in the Synod Office: Bishop Leila Ortiz, the Rev. Erin Swenson-Reinhold, Julie Hamre, Katharyn Wheeler, Christy Hartigan, Katie Simbala, and Kelly Champagne. Also, I would like to thank Rev. Gary Reinsmith, Rev. Shannon Anderson, Rev. Jeanette Leisk, Rev. Darcy Tillman, members of the S&MST and N&RMT, and members of the Synod Council.

In closing, in these troubling and divided times, congregations that boldly love Jesus, love all people, and follow the way of Jesus Christ are of paramount importance in our Synod, nation, and world. In spite of these troubling times, we go forward boldly knowing that God is with us and is abundantly gracious and merciful. I eagerly look forward to participating with you in God's work in our Synod.

God is good,
Rev. Lamar S. Bailey

Jackson Droney

Vice President of Council

Grace and peace be with you all in these socially distant days. Surely, these are days of loss and lament, anger and anxiety. And as a church we must continue to be awake to the present moment and to the prompting of the Holy in and among us. A global pandemic is killing thousands, forcing us to stay physically apart and search for new ways to grieve and be community. America's original sin of white supremacy persists, killing George Floyd, Tony McBrade, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery; and causing more police brutality, death, and destruction. And here in Washington, DC we witness deepening and seemingly intractable political divisions that prevent progress on so many fronts; a national election this November looms large in our consciousness.

Simply put, these are times for us to get real. The present conflagration points directly to Jesus' call to love our neighbors and to challenge injustice. There's no avoiding it, there's not hiding from it. Do we practice what we preach or not? People inside and outside our congregations won't forget how we respond in this time.

This is a "come to Jesus" moment. And not the watered-down white American Jesus. No, I'm talking about the Jesus who tells us that loving our families and friends is not sufficient (Matthew 5, Luke 10). The Jesus who says, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35). That's an unqualified "one another." Think honestly, are white Christians known in popular culture today by how much they love people, particularly people not like them (i.e. white and straight)? Are we known by how we inconvenience ourselves for the sake of loving our neighbor? Staying awake amid the present turbulence requires us to look in the mirror and ask these hard questions of ourselves. And I don't think we will like the answers.

As a predominantly white institution, we have so much to confess and repent. We contribute directly and indirectly to white supremacy in our society, and we have too often been silent in the face of racial injustice. We have avoided hard conversations. We've left our institutional systems and processes unexamined. We've been paralyzed by our fragility and guilt. Perhaps we're even worried about offending wealthy white people whose money we rely upon to support our institution. And while there may be any number of rational or logical explanations and excuses, they are all woefully insufficient. If we are to truly love one another – to be the Beloved Community – we have to do better and be better. The work toward racial equity is not easy, there are many pitfalls, and there are not many good examples to follow. Above all, there are no shortcuts.

Five years ago, in the wake of the shooting at Mother Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC, the synod assembly passed a resolution that urged congregations of this synod to intentionally engage the subject of racial equity within their respective contexts. In the years since, I've learned of some laudable work that has gone on in several congregations. Much of this work involves learning about how racism and white privilege operate in our self-dialogue, interpersonal interactions, and across systems and structures in our institutions and society at-large. The synod's racial equity team has provided resources and trainings to support congregations in such reflective and reforming work. Each congregation has its own unique context, and so ways in which self and group reflection and learning manifest in reformed systems and emphasized behaviors vary. This inward-looking work enables our congregations to authentically do the outward facing justice work that is also part of answering Jesus' commandment to love our neighbors.

Has your congregation engaged this work? If not, why not? Could this be the time to start?

If you have engaged this work, are you still? If not, why not? Could this be a moment to recommit?

If you continue to engage this work, what is next? Could this be a moment to go deeper, to be bolder?

Moreover, bold words and action are not sufficient. Meaningful racial equity work involves lasting commitments to behavioral and institutional changes, work that touches every aspect of our life together. This is not work that can be sustained only by bursts of urgency in response to another national tragedy. It is work that must be driven by the continuing urgency of the Gospel, the constant urgency of our lament for white supremacy, and the unceasing urgency of our love for our black and brown siblings in Christ.

As a leader, I have experienced the pressure to "have all the answers" and to perform as though I do when in fact I don't. This is a real dynamic in organizational life for clergy and lay people alike. When it comes to racial equity, admitting you don't know what to do – even to just yourself – can feel paralyzing and humiliating. I think this is especially true in a denomination that so values higher education and in a region with so many upper middle class, highly educated people. Perhaps it's easy for us to forget that we don't know everything about everything, that other people know more about certain things than we do, and up until our very last breath we remain works in progress.

Healthy congregations are those that discern and learn together – and learning together is central for any meaningful congregational effort on racial equity. To be clear, white leaders shouldn't expect, as they too often have, their black and brown colleagues to "teach" them what to do. No, use the resources intended for this purpose. Consider reaching out to the synod's racial equity team and/or engaging the organization RaceForward, which has worked with the ELCA.

I was at Lafayette Square during one night of the recent protests over the killing of George Floyd. I saw many people carrying signs that said, "White Silence = Violence." While no one leader should be expected to have all the answers, as followers of Jesus Christ and as a church, doing nothing can no longer be an option. The grace of God cleanses us of all our sins. Praise be to God. This grace is not an excuse for inaction, a shortcut through the hard work, a self-congratulatory cliché. It's the well from which we draw upon to do this work, to be a Beloved Community, to love as Christ loves and put it all on the line.

Jackson Droney was appointed Vice President of the synod by Bishop Leila Ortiz in April 2020. Previously, he had served as an at-large member of the synod council since 2016, and was part of the synod's Transition Task Force in 2019. Originally from Erie, PA, Jackson has lived in Washington, DC since 2009 and has been a member of Luther Place Memorial Church since 2012. He served as president of Luther Place from 2015 until 2018. Jackson works as Director of Operations at the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation, an ecumenical organization dedicated to teaching contemplative spiritual practices for life and leadership. Prior to working at Shalem, Jackson spent several years working in federal politics, as a staffer on Capitol Hill and as a lobbyist for not-for-profit electric utilities. He holds a B.A. from Syracuse University and a Masters' degree in Human Resources Management from Georgetown University.

Council Highlights

Here are some highlights of the synod council's activity over the past year.

The council:

- Conducted orientation for new members (July);
- Considered outcomes from the 2019 National Churchwide Assembly, including possible future changes to the size and composition to the synod council (September);
- Adopted a new mission statement for the synod (November);
- Hired a new accounting firm to conduct the 2020 financial audit (January);
- Cancelled the 2020 Synod Assembly, and discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ways the synod and congregations are responding (March);
- Established a disaster assistance loan fund to assist congregations affected by disasters, like the COVID-19 pandemic (April);
- Began engaging the book Quietly Courageous: Leading the Church in a Changing World by Gil Rendle (May); and
- Received reports regarding the ongoing New Connections Campaign, Leadership Academy, roster matters, mobility and candidacy, the synodical women's organization, and the synod youth organization (all meetings).

Summaries of synod council meetings are posted at **www.metrodcelca.org/synod-council/minutes/.**

Julie Hamre

Treasurer

2019 Financial Report

In 2019, the Synod received income totaling nearly $1.7m, of which $1.52m was from congregations through their mission support. Nearly 60% was spent on direct ministry support, including $532,000 to churchwide benevolence and the balance to new and renewing missions, global mission, camps and campus ministries, and the 2019 Synod Assembly. The reports of the synodical tables detail the work of these ministries. The balance went to pay the salaries of our wonderful synod staff and to support administrative operations. We ended the year with a small surplus. (See page 20.)

In addition to the annual budgeted money, the Synod received nearly half a million dollars to support designated purposes, primarily through the New Connections campaign, Building Puentes, and endowment income. Nearly all of this was immediately put to work in support of those and other designated purposes. (See page 22.)

2020 to Date Financial Update

The Synod's fiscal year began on February 1, just as COVID-19 was beginning to take effect. As of the end of May, mission support from congregations was down over 15% from the prior year. Like everyone, the Synod Council is faced with setting spending priorities and has determined that for the next several months the priorities will be as follows:

- Staff and supported pastoral salaries and benefits
- ELCA churchwide benevolence (at current rate of 35% of mission support)
- Fixed operating costs, such as rent and technology expense

At the end of each month, an evaluation will be made as to how much of these budgeted funds can be used for other ministry purposes.

It is important to understand that non-budgeted monies are available now to support on-going ministry.

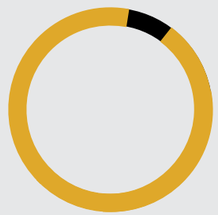
It is important to understand that non-budgeted monies are available now to support on-going ministry. For example, both the Bethany Fund and the Congregations Mission Fund hold several hundred thousand dollars that have been designated for new and renewing missions and New Connections income has been fully committed for this year. Rev. Bailey's report explains how these funds may be used within the Synod.

Planning for the Future

The Synod Council is not presenting a 2021 budget at this time. Given the current situation, the Council believes that it will be able to make better decisions about 2021 spending when more information is available, specifically, when more is known about how congregations are faring and the level at which they can continue to support Synod operations. Since the new fiscal year does not begin for seven months, there is ample time to evaluate the situation and present a plan for 2021 later this year.

February 2019 - January 2020 Income

	Actual	Budget	% to Budget
Congregational Support	1,522,427.65	1,645,000.00	92.55%
Other Support & Receipts	155,176.22	154,500.00	100.44%
Total Revenue	**1,677,603.87**	**1,799,500.00**	**93.23%**



91% Congregational Support

9% Other Support and Receipts

February 2019 - January 2020 Financials

Summary

		February 2019 - January 2020	2019 Budget	February 2018 - January 2019
Income				
40000 · Revenue				
	41000 · Congregational Support	1,522,427.65	1,645,000.00	1,502,645.93
	41040 · Other Support	9,626.06	2,000.00	6,515.91
	41100 · Other Receipts			
	41110 · Youth Ministry Receipts	15,555.00	40,000.00	31,685.00
	41120 · Synod Assembly Reg & Fees	119,580.49	104,000.00	29,830.38
	41130 · Candidacy Receipts	4,500.00	3,000.00	10,800.00
	41150 · Miscellaneous Receipts	1,880.20	1,500.00	4,159.55
	41160 · Interest Income	4,034.47	4,000.00	4,110.43
	Total 41100 · Other Receipts	145,550.16	152,500.00	80,585.36
Total Revenue		**1,677,603.87**	**1,799,500.00**	**1,594,290.31**
Expenses				
60000 · Ministry Efforts				
	60005 · ELCA Support (35%)	532,849.68	575,750.00	511,404.32
	60100 · New & Renewing Missions	103,758.38	145,000.00	97,558.66
	60300 · Stewardship & Mission Support	13,750.00	13,750.00	11,964.95
	60400 · Office of the Bishop	261,787.47	271,100.00	153,751.27
	60500 · Global Mission	2,080.48	2,000.00	-
	60600 · Camps & Campus Ministries	49,500.00	52,000.00	57,000.00
	Total 60000 · Ministry Efforts	963,726.01	1,059,600.00	831,679.20
65000 · Synodical Operations				
	65100 · Ordained Staff	392,698.12	427,000.00	414,993.35
	65200 · Office Staff	146,154.26	148,200.00	126,957.27
	65300 · Synod Operations	87,156.86	78,000.00	89,449.61
	65400 · Occupancy Expenses	74,688.00	71,160.00	90,888.00
	65500 · Region 8	4,794.00	5,500.00	6,994.00
	Total 65000 · Synodical Operations	705,491.24	729,860.00	729,282.23
Total Expenses		1,669,217.25	1,789,460.00	1,560,961.43
Net Income		**8,386.62**	**10,040.00**	**33,328.88**

January 2019 - February 2020 Expenses

	Actual	Budget	% to Budget
Ministry Efforts	963,726.01	1,059,600.00	91%
Synodical Operations	705,491.24	729,860.00	97%
Total Expenses	**1,669,217.25**	**1,789,460.00**	**93.28%**

42% Synodical Operations

58% Ministry Efforts

Synodical Operations

ELCA Support

35%

$ 532,849.68

Office of the Bishop

16%

$261,787.47

New & Renewing Missions

6%

$103,758.38

Camps & Campus Ministry

3%

$49,500.00

Stewardship & Mission Support

1%

$13,750.00

Global Mission

.2%

$2,080.48

January 2019 - February 2020 Financials

Restricted Fund Activity

Board Designated					
Account	**Name**	**1/31/2019**	**Income**	**Releases**	**1/31/2020**
31110	Synod Assembly Reserve	0.00	11,603.33	0.00	11,603.33
31120	Capital Reserve	7,579.23	0.00	849.99	6,729.24
31130	Youth Event	7,532.09	325.00	167.00	7,690.09
31200	Congregational Mission	502,953.34	94,155.16	40,283.97	556,824.53

Temporary in Nature					
Account	**Name**	**1/31/2019**	**Income**	**Releases**	**1/31/2020**
32020	Campus Ministry	28,305.15	404.97	0.00	28,710.12
32050	Faith Fund - Temp. Restricted				
32051	Faith Fund - Mission	90,428.00	20,288.00		110,716.00
32052	Faith Fund - Seminarians	18,971.00	10,144.00	5,089.80	24,025.20
32053	Faith Fund - Unallocated	160,647.68	121,565.32		282,213.00
32101	Emch Memorial	1,596.70	1,587.86	1,980.00	1,204.56
32200	Global Missions				
32201	Slovakia Companion	4,801.47			4,801.47
32202	Namibia Companion	12,899.39		223.44	12,675.95
32203	El Salvador Companion	13,555.16	3,345.00	4,581.52	12,318.64
32204	Global Mission - General	1,250.68			1,250.68
32300	Supporting Congregations				
32304	Bethany Fund	253,243.27	100,000.00	47,756.74	305,486.53
32305	Bethany/Shepherd Guan.	200,000.00		100,000.00	100,000.00
32306	Synodical Latino Ministry	7,811.69			7,811.69
32308	Young Adult Ministry	2,580.70			2,580.70
32400	Stewardship & Mission Support				
32403	Stewardship Education	5,341.91		890.00	4,451.91
32500	Synod Office				
32503	Bishop's Convo	443.82	30,845.72	31,289.54	0.00
32507	Bishop's Emergency Fund	125.05	2,803.00	676.50	2,251.55
32509	Building Puentes	76,533.16	26,151.75	25,270.82	77,414.09
32510	Comm. of Christ Escrow	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
32520	Synod Leadership Academy	0.00	15,336.93	15,233.36	103.57
32600	New Connections	425,150.65	141,698.78	306,554.56	260,294.87

Permanently Restricted					
Account	**Name**	**1/31/2019**	**Income**	**Releases**	**1/31/2020**
33040	Faith Fund	721,401.00	10,821.00	0.00	732,222.00

In these troubling and divided times, congregations that boldly love Jesus, love all people, and follow the way of Jesus Christ are of paramount importance in our Synod, nation, and world. In spite of these troubling times, we go forward boldly knowing that God is with us and is abundantly gracious and merciful.

Rev. Lamar Bailey

Building Puentes, Couples Retreat in Puerto Rico

January 2019 - February 2020 Financials

Balance Sheet

ASSETS				Jan 31, 2020
	Current Assets			
		Checking/Savings		
			10010 · Operating Accounts	952,135.42
			11000 · Restricted Distribution Accts	108,432.97
		Total Checking/Savings		1,060,568.39
		Accounts Receivable		
			13000 · Accounts Rec. - General	34,067.66
			13009 · Accounts Rec. - New Connections	100,502.71
			13015 · Accounts Rec. - CELC Loan	80,000.00
		Total Accounts Receivable		214,570.37
		Other Current Assets		
			11100 · Reserve Funds	1,128,246.70
			11115 · Congregation Mission (ELCA Trs)	620,591.23
			15000 · Prepaid Expenses	5,683.33
		Total Other Current Assets		1,754,521.26
	Total Current Assets			3,029,660.02
	Fixed Assets			
		18500 · Fixed Assets		11,392.04
	Total Fixed Assets			11,392.04
	Other Assets			6,500.00
TOTAL ASSETS				**3,047,552.06**

LIABILITIES & EQUITY				Jan 31, 2020
	Liabilities			
		Current Liabilities		
			Accounts Payable	161,037.63
			Other Current Liabilities	
				896.99
				14,363.99
				76,687.87
				91,051.86
			Total Other Current Liabilities	91,948.85
		Total Current Liabilities		252,986.48
	Total Liabilities			252,986.48
	Equity			
		30000 · Net Assets		
			31000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	231,187.02
			31100 · Board-Designated Net Assets	582,847.19
			32000 · Temporarily Restricted	1,248,310.53
			33000 · Permanently Restricted	732,222.00
		Total 30000 · Net Assets		2,794,566.74
	Total Equity			**2,794,566.74**
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY				**3,047,553.22**

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God's work.Our hands.

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