

New and Renewing Mission Table Report to the Synod, June 2020

The New and Renewing Mission Table (NRMT) of the synod exists to direct funding and support to new ministries and existing congregations that are finding new and creative ways to revitalize their ministries. We live in an age where the ‘tried and true’ formulas for church growth and revitalization that worked in the past no longer guarantee success. This is scary, but it is also exciting because it means that God’s Spirit is inviting us to listen and be curious so that She can guide us in new directions. As the chair of the NRMT, I am incredibly grateful to be able to do this listening and discerning work with some amazing colleagues. I would like to begin my report by thanking the following team members who have served over this last year. Each one has been a joy to work with and contributes insight, curiosity and passion for the gospel to our work. All members are continuing on for the current year except Rev. Carmelo Santos who left the table and the synod to take a call as Director of Theological Diversity for the ELCA:

Rev. Brett Davis
Rev. Mike Gutzler
Rev. Ken Taylor

Rev. Julie Bringman
Rev. Carmelo Santos
Ms. Christy Hartigan

I would also like to thank our synod staff for their leadership. **Bishop Leila Ortiz** met with us shortly after her election and energized us with her vision for ministry and **Director of Evangelical Mission, Rev. Lamar Bailey** has been a faithful and collaborative leader in this work. And synod treasurer, **Julie Hamre** has been a fantastic resource, providing timely, easy to read reports and keeping us on track financially.

In addition to funding several exciting new ministry projects this year, the team also spent time developing a new grant application that is now available on the synod website. Funding for grants from the New and Renewing Mission Table comes from a variety of sources: Synod Budget, New Connections Campaign, Faith/Outreach Fund, Bethany Fund, and Congregational Mission Fund.

Grants Funded in the Last 12 Months

Hope, College Park MD - \$4,250

Hope developed an outreach program for new mothers in the area centered around a breastfeeding support group led by a professional lactation consultant.

River of Grace, Manassas VA - \$5,000

River of Grace worked with a consultant to develop stewardship materials geared toward their congregation which has a large group of people new to church and new to faith.

Good Samaritan, Lexington Park MD - \$9,000

Good Samaritan did a New Connections Campaign to help fund a 3-year part-time mission outreach coordinator which works with congregation members to find ways to live out their faith in the community and in the world.

King of Kings, Fairfax, VA - \$40,000

King of Kings has hired a Mission Developer to develop a 2nd site in Loudoun County. The second site development is well underway and began weekly worship this fall.

Mosaix – \$20,000

Over the last year, 5 congregations have gone through an intentional coaching and training process with Mosaix, a non-denominational network of pastors and churches devoted to healthy multi-ethnic ministry. Pastors participated in monthly coaching sessions and pastors and lay leaders visited a thriving United Methodist multi-ethnic congregation in Cleveland, OH. In addition, pastors and lay leaders attended the triennial national gathering of Mosaix churches and had the opportunity to learn from and dialog with pastors and leaders from all over the country.

Advent, Arlington VA - \$1,000

With Amazon coming to the neighborhood, Advent is gearing up to welcome the influx of people relocating. The NRMT grant helped fund part of the research and study that Pastor Anna Anderson did in Boston, MA with Lutheran churches that have successful ministries with people who work in the tech industry.

St. Michael's Truth, Mitchellville, MD - \$5,000

St. Michael's Truth has been surveying the needs of their community and in partnership with other local organizations, developed a community garden in 2019 with the goal of providing plots of land for neighbors to grow fresh produce and providing fresh produce to the local food bank on site. The NRMT grant of \$5,000 will be to provide some infrastructure improvements to the garden site.

Peace, Alexandria VA – \$23,100

Peace Lutheran Church in Alexandria has been successfully reaching out into the community with the help of a part-time staff person who has served as a Youth and Family Minister and a Community Engagement Coordinator. With this grant (and a follow up funding in 2021), they will be able to create a full time position and expand on the relationships and connections that they are currently making in their multi-cultural community.

If your congregation or ministry has an idea that they want to try or a vision for expanding ministry, grant applications are available on the synod website. You can also reach out to our DEM, Lamar Bailey (lbailey@metrodcelca.org) or myself (Shannon@myplc.org)

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Shannon K. Anderson
Chair, New and Renewing Mission Team