

STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION SUPPORT TABLE



This past year, the story of the Metro D.C. Synod has been about transition and change. Some transitions were planned with the election of a new Bishop and some unplanned and unprecedented with the impact of the coronavirus and the need to shelter in place. The Synod Stewardship and Mission Support table has also had a leadership transition. I give thanks to Pastor Jeanette Leisk and her leadership of this table for four years. I now give thanks for the opportunity to serve as the new chair of this Table.

At the same time, the story of the Metro D.C. Synod remains grounded in God's invitation and call to be a part of God's amazing love story that transforms us and transforms the world. As we celebrate the day of Pentecost and begin the season of Pentecost, we are reminded that the Holy Spirit is a-movin'. There is an energy, an excitement, and a hope for what God continues to do in our lives and in the world. What is even more exciting is that WE get to be a part of God's mission as the Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies, and sends us forth to share God's love with and for all.

While the church buildings have needed to close during this time of the pandemic, the Metro D.C. congregations have exemplified that the church is the people and we continue to BE the church in these challenging times. So, what is the role of Stewardship during these times? Let us go back to scripture as we read Acts 2:42-47 from The Message:

⁴¹⁻⁴² That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.

⁴³⁻⁴⁵ Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met.

⁴⁶⁻⁴⁷ They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

While part of Stewardship is financial, it is also about prayer, learning, praising God, and offering gratitude to God and also to each other. To support the Synod in these practices, the Table helped to offer the virtual opportunity to explore stewardship in uncertain times with GSB Partner, Rev. Mike Ward, CFRE. One take away from this event is the power and importance of story. To build on this, one priority of this Table in the upcoming year will be to invite and share stories about how God is active in our Synod and Congregations.

We encourage you in the coming year to practice the following:

Pray daily

Share a story about how you have seen God at work and email them to Pr. Lamar Bailey at lbailey@metrodcelca.org and me at stewardship@metrodcelca.org.

Give as you are able to support the God's Mission through the Metro D.C. Synod

Offer thanks to God for God's steadfast love and blessings

Write, phone, or text someone to say thank you

Today I offer gratitude for:

- Bob Sargeant, Carolyn Sowinski, Pastor Jeff Wilson, Pastor Scott Zimmerer, Yvonne Lembo, Pastor Lamar Bailey, and Katharyn Wheeler who currently share their time, gifts, and passions to support and to BE the church!
- Bishop Ortiz and her heart and commitment to helping the congregations of the Metro D.C. synod to thrive and not merely survive in ministry.
- The people, congregations, and ministries of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod who share a BOLD and BOUNDLESS love for Jesus and for God's Beloved Creation.

Respectively submitted,

Pastor Darcy A. Tillman, Chair
Stewardship and Mission Support Team