

The following resolution was adopted by the 2015 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly which met on June 19-20, 2015 at the National Conference Center in Leesburg, Virginia. "Whereas" clauses are listed as background for Voting Members. The Assembly votes on "Resolved" clauses only.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS AND GRATITUDE

WHEREAS, the staff of the National Conference Center in Lansdowne, Virginia have served as gracious hosts for the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly, providing facilities and support for this 2015 Synod Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Synod Assembly Planning Committee and numerous others have worked many hours to prepare for this assembly; 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 joyful gathering of God's people, including:

- the staff of the National Conference Center in Lansdowne, Virginia;
- Ms. Jean Knight, Qwizdom, Inc. Marketing Coordinator for providing invaluable and patient guidance in using the voting devices;
- the Reverend Dr. Sarah Hinlicky Wilson, for providing our Keynote address and for leading Bible Study and as a panelist for our workshop on Claimed, Gathered, Sent – A Guide For Conversation;
- Mr. Carlos Peña, Vice President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, who served as churchwide representative and as a panelist for our workshop on Claimed, Gathered Sent – A Guide For Conversation;
- the Reverend Amy Thompson Sevimli, Assistant to the Bishop; the Reverend Philip C. Hirsch, Director of Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop for the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod; Dr. John White, Vice President of the Synod; and Mr. John Handley, Treasurer of the Synod for their guidance and encouragement in seeing this enterprise to fruition;
- Ms. Katharyn Wheeler, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop of our Synod and 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 Synod's team of volunteers for the "behind the scenes" work that was essential in accomplishing this assembly: Mr. Patrick Ballard, Ms. Julie Bringman, Ms. Beth Clementson, Ms. Heidi Eickstadt, and Ms. Ellen Lundie;
- the Synod Assembly Planning Committee, under the leadership of the Reverend Margrethe Kleiber, in tirelessly addressing the myriad small and decisions necessary in planning and supporting the program and agenda for this assembly: Ms. Katharyn

Wheeler, the Reverend Richard Graham, the Reverend Heidi Moore, the Reverend Albert Triolo, the Reverend Mitch Watney, the Reverend Sandra Shaw, the Reverend Mark Edwards, Mr. Kevin Anderson, Mr. Larry Evans, Ms. Karen Krueger, Mr. David Carlson, and Mr. Philip Meuschke;

- the Synod's Communications Director, Ms. Karen Krueger and Media Coordinators Mr. David Carlson and Mr. Philip Meuschke who offered their expertise and wisdom in designing and operating the presentation and communications equipment and content so important to this assembly, and Mr. Patrick Ballard for diligently serving as our assembly blogger;
- those organizations that sponsored our refreshments during our breaks and at Friday evening's concert: The Village at Rockville, National Lutheran Communities and Services; Thrivent Financial or Lutherans; and the ELCA Mission Investment Fund;
- the Nominating Committee, consisting of the conference deans of the synod under the leadership of the Reverend Albert Triolo: the Reverend Anna Anderson, the Reverend Wendy Deeben, the Reverend Beth Neubauer, the Reverend David Sonnenberg and the Reverend Michael Wilker;
- the Reverend Mitch Watney for directing our elections;
- the Assembly parliamentarian, Mr. Richard Ahlberg and the Reverend Jane Halpern, for their wise counsel and for providing the orientation session for those attending their first assembly in this synod;
- the Assembly Worship Planning Team, led by the Reverend Heidi Moore;
- the Reverend Philip Hirsch for preaching at the Opening Worship, the Reverend Richard Graham for preaching and presiding at the Eucharist, the Reverend Wendy Deeben, Mr. Larry Evans, and Ms. Gretta Williams for assisting in the Thanksgiving for Baptism, and all who served as lectors, ushers, and communion assistants;
- Mr. Rod Harbin for his musical leadership for the Eucharist service;
- the immensely talented Lost and Found, Mr. George Baum and Mr. Michael Bridges, for leading our songs during Opening Worship and for their inspiring entertainment Friday evening;
- the Committee for Reference and Counsel, under the leadership of the Reverend Mark Edwards, the Reverend Darcy Tillman, and Mr. Harry Yee;
- all those who permitted their names to be placed before the assembly for consideration for election to Synod Treasurer, the Synod Council, the Committee for Discipline, and as voting members to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly;

- those who are completing their terms of service on the Synod Council: Mr. John Handley, the Reverend Christine Dunn, the Reverend Emmanuel Grantson, the Reverend Gerry Johnson, the Reverend Margrethe Kleiber, and the Reverend Charles Oberkehr;
- our ecumenical guests: the Reverend Dr. Christopher Agnew, Episcopal Diocese of Virginia; the Reverend Tammie Rinker, Eastern District Executive Board, Moravian Church, Northern Province; the Reverend Tom Andrews, Episcopal Diocese of Washington, D.C.; Mr. Alan Ronkin, The American Jewish Committee; the Reverend Donald Rooney, Ecumenical Officer of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arlington, and Deacon Joseph Rampino; and Counselor Lana Gray of the Embassy of Namibia;
- our guest representatives who addressed our assembly: Ambassador Daniel Speckard, President, Lutheran World Relief; the Reverend Jeff Thiemann, President of Portico Benefit Services; and the Reverend Dr. Angela Zimmann, Advancement and Communication Executive and Visiting Professor of Preaching, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg;
- and our special thanks to the Reverend Richard H. Graham, Bishop of the Synod, for his leadership of this assembly, and to his wife, Nancy Ann, for her patient understanding and faithful support of our bishop and this church.