

## Report of the “New and Renewing Congregational Mission Table”

### **The Mission of the New and Renewing Mission Table is:**

To encourage all the baptized of the Metro DC Synod to see themselves as disciples and missionaries for the renewal of the church and to live into Jesus’ Great Commission, “Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them....” (Matthew 28:19-20), and,

To work with Mission Planners, Full Communion, ecumenical partners, pastors, lay leaders, all people of faith and good will to envision and plan for new missions in our Synod, and to work with existing congregations and ministries to make disciples in the places where we live and serve. By the grace of God and through your mission support we celebrate the following:

### **A New Ministry Is Taking Root:**

Resurrection Lutheran Church in Arlington is started a new worshipping community in the Amharic Language (Ethiopian) in September 2015. (Financially Self-sustaining with Resurrection).

### **Two worshipping communities are supported as a part of existing congregations**

+ **San Marcos / St. Mark’s**, Springfield, VA A thriving Latino community as a part of an established congregation. Pastor in transition.

2016 Funds: \$15,000 from Metro DC Synod Budget

+ **Santa Maria / Augustana**, Washington, DC. A Latino ministry that is a part of an established congregation and serves people near and further away from the Church. The Rev. John Kidd

2016 Funds: \$5,000 from Metro DC Synod Budget

### **Three New Congregations Continue to Grow!**

+ **Oromo Resurrection** Evangelical Church of Kensington, MD

The Rev. Teka Fogi, Pastor. 2016 \$0 (Financially self-sustaining this year)

+ **The Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church** of Washington, DC. A congregation of Ethiopians who are ethnically and linguistically Oromo. 2016 Funds: \$23,000 Metro DC Synod Budget.

+ **River of Grace Lutheran Church**, Dumfries VA Our newest mission in Dumfries, VA. The Rev. Connie Thomson, Pastor Developer

2016 Funds: \$50,000 from the Bethany Funds

### **Pastors of Congregations Considering Starting a Second Site or New Worshipping Community**

The Synod created a new learning community for pastors of 13 of our largest congregations whose churches have potential to help start a new congregation (or worshipping community) Led by Pastor Brian Zehr of Intentional Impact on models of replication for leaders and churches.

Up to \$40,000 from the Bethany Funds.

### **A Congregation is Renewing It’s Mission and Outreach.**

**St. Michael's Truth is stepping up Outreach at their Campus in Temple Hills, MD (Our Saviour's)**

Efforts include hiring a Youth Outreach worker, and increasing the music programs.

2016 Bethany Funds: \$42,405

**Go Grants are like Venture Capital for Congregations to Try New Things!**

The Synod offers grants to congregations that want to try something new in reaching out to their neighbors. In 2016 the Table awarded \$3,225 to

+ **St. John's Aspen Hill, MD** To start a ministry among parents with young children.

**Changes**

+ **In Christ Fellowship** of Washington, DC is a Tamil (Indian) Congregation that meets at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bethesda. They celebrated three years as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community. While they have delayed their decision to become a full congregation of the ELCA, they have also declined further financial assistance and are self-supporting.

The Rev. Chandran Lite, Pastor. 2016 Funds: \$0

+ **Hope, College Park and University of Maryland Campus Ministry** have joined together in mission to call Rev. Ray Ranker as Campus chaplain and Senior Pastor of Hope Lutheran and Rev. Julie Bringman as part time pastor.

2016 \$10,000 Metro DC Budget to support the transition.

When we realize that the call of the Gospel compels us to respond to Jesus' Great Commission the New and Renewing Mission Table is ready to be a partner in the dialogue. **Members of the Mission Table: Mr. Stanley Rufus, Rev. Steven Buechler, Rev. Mark Olsen, Rev. Gary Rhinesmith, Rev. Dr. Phil Hirsch (Director Evangelical Outreach and Stewardship), Pastor Shannon Anderson, Rev. Carmelo Santos.**

**Respectfully submitted: Rev. Dr. Joseph M. Vought, Chair**