

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD ASSEMBLY
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Gaithersburg, Maryland
June 18, 2016

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Reference & Counsel Number: 2016 - 07

Secretary's Number:

Title: Expression of Thanks and Gratitude

Submitted: Reference and Counsel Committee, Metropolitan Washington, D. C. Synod

Received: April 8, 2016

WHEREAS the task of providing facilities and support for a synod assembly imposes burdens and responsibilities physically, financially, and spiritually on the host organization outside of the normal parameters of the mission; and,

WHEREAS the 2016 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 2016 Synod Assembly a fruitful gathering of God's people, including:

- the Reverend Leila Ortiz and the staff and members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, Maryland who served as our gracious and accommodating hosts, provided parking assistance, communion elements and who served as ushers;
- the Reverend Cherlyne V. Beck, representing the ELCA Presiding Bishop and who provided for informative question and answer sessions during lunch;
- members of the synod Racial Equity Team for sharing thoughtful and challenging video segments and for writing the opening liturgy and intercessory prayers: the Reverend Shannon Anderson, the Reverend Karen Brau, the Reverend Gloria Cline-Smythe, the Reverend Renata Eustis, the Reverend Richard Graham, Ms. Deb Haynes; the Reverend Phil Hirsch, the Reverend James Phillips, the Reverend Leila Ortiz, the Reverend Jeff Jacobson, Ms. Wanda Rosado, the Reverend Carmelo Santos, the Reverend Amy Sevimli, Ms. Bianca Vazquez, and the Reverend Mitch Watney;
- our ecumenical guests: the Most Reverend Barry Knestout, the Archdiocese of Washington and the Reverend Olaf Wassmuth, German Lutheran Church of Washington, D.C.; the Rev. David Bennett, Eastern District Mennonite Church; the Rev. Robin Dodge, Ecumenical Officer, Episcopal Diocese of Washington;
- Mr. Jacob Wood of Qwizdom, Inc. for providing invaluable and patient guidance in using the voting devices;
- the Reverend Amy Thompson Sevimli, Assistant to the Bishop; the Reverend Philip C. Hirsch, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission;

- 41 Dr. John White, Vice President of the Synod; Mr. Kevin Anderson, Secretary
42 of the Synod and the Reverend Tom Knoll, Treasurer of the Synod, for their
43 wisdom and encouragement in planning and executing this assembly;
- 44 • Ms. Katharyn Wheeler, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop and Assembly
45 Coordinator, for her tireless effort in arranging, organizing, and tracking
46 preparations for the assembly, for supervising the registration process and
47 on-site administrative support, and for tirelessly cutting out 400 paper hands
48 for the “Healing of the Nations...” and the other tasks to keep worship planning
49 on track; and the team of administrative volunteers for the “behind the scenes”
50 work essential to a successful assembly: Maddie Tallman, Lee Shields,
51 Katherine Chatelaine-Samsen, Jennifer DeValue, Wasihun Gutema, the
52 Reverend Rich Zawistoski and members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.;
- 53 • the Synod Assembly Planning Committee, under the leadership of the
54 Reverend Margrethe Kleiber, in tirelessly addressing the myriad details and
55 decisions necessary in planning and supporting the program and agenda for
56 this assembly: Ms. Katharyn Wheeler, the Reverend Richard Graham, the
57 Reverend Heidi Moore, the Reverend Albert Triolo, the Reverend Mitch
58 Watney, the Reverend Mark Edwards, Ms. Margretta Williams, Mr. Kevin
59 Anderson, Mr. Larry Evans, Ms. Karen Krueger, Mr. David Carlson, and Mr.
60 Philip Meuschke;
- 61 • the Synod’s Communications Director, Ms. Karen Krueger; Guest blogger,
62 Margretta Williams; and Media Coordinators Mr. David Carlson and Mr. Philip
63 Meuschke whose expertise and wisdom in designing and operating the
64 presentation and communications equipment and content was invaluable to
65 this assembly;
- 66 • the ELCA Mission Investment Fund for providing our lunch today;
- 67 • the Nominating Committee, consisting of the conference deans of the synod
68 under the leadership of the Reverend Albert Triolo: the Reverend Anna
69 Anderson, the Reverend Travis Kern, the Reverend Beth Neubauer, the
70 Reverend Mitch Watney and the Reverend Michael Wilker;
- 71 • the Elections Committee under the leadership of the Reverend Mitch Watney;
- 72 • the Assembly parliamentarian, Mr. Richard Ahlberg, for his wise counsel and
73 the orientation session for those first time synod assembly voting members;
- 74 • the Reverend Richard H. Graham, bishop of the synod, for his proclamation of
75 the Gospel and his presidency of the Festive Eucharist;
- 76 • the Reverend Leila Ortiz for serving this assembly as our chaplain and as
77 assisting minister for the Festive Eucharist;
- 78 • the Reverend Heidi Moore and Mr. Phillip Meushchke for leading our closing
79 worship;
- 80 • the Assembly Worship Planning Team, led by the Reverend Heidi Moore, for
81 the inspirational Festive Eucharist and the closing worship and all who took a

82 role in leading our worship as lectors, petitioners and communion assistants:
83 the Reverend Carmelo Santos, Ms. Margretta Williams, the Reverend Terry
84 Hannon, Mr. Leon LaCross, the Reverend Anna Anderson, Ms. Annette Njie,
85 Ms. Jennifer DeValue, the Reverend Craig Endicott, Ms. Shannon Steene, the
86 Reverend Tony Carpenter, Mr. Nels Hendricksen, the Reverend Eva Steege,
87 Mr. Tim Murphy, Deacon Katie Miller-Holland, Ms. Heather Lutz, Mr. Kevin
88 Anderson, Mr. Wasihun Gatema, the Reverend Janice Mynchenberg, the
89 Reverend David Slagle Peck, Ms. Rebecca Kolowe, Ms. Jan Perry and Mr.
90 Jerry Fuller;

- 91 • Mr. Jeremy Grenhart, creative music director, Luther Place, Washington DC,
92 musician, and Mr. Antonio Phillips, soloist for our Festive Eucharis;

- 93 • Mr. Peter Schmidt, director of music, Good Shepherd, Gaithersburg for closing
94 worship musician

- 95 • the Reference and Counsel Committee, under the leadership of the Reverend
96 Mark Edwards;

- 97 • all those who permitted their names to be placed before the assembly for
98 consideration in elections for the Synod Council and the Consultation
99 Committee;

- 100 • those who are completing their terms of service on the Synod Council: Ms.
101 Karen Consiglio; the Reverend Mark Edwards; the Reverend Renata Eustis;
102 Ms. Kathy Garrison, Diaconal Minister; Ms. Desiree Jessimy; Mr. Thomas
103 Kern; Ms. Kathleen Meier; and Ms. Emily Moran;

- 104 • and our special thanks to the Reverend Richard H. Graham, Bishop of the
105 Synod, for his leadership of this assembly.