

*The following resolution was adopted by the 2017 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly which met on June 16-17, 2017 at the National Conference Center in Leesburg, Virginia. "Whereas" clauses are listed as background for Voting Members. The Assembly votes on "Resolved" clauses only.*

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## **EXPRESSION OF THANKS AND GRATITUDE**

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 2017 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 fruitful gathering of God's people, including:

- the Reverend Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop, for an enlightening ELCA report, an informative session of questions and answers, and inspired proclamation during our Eucharist worship;
- Dr. Reggie Williams, for his stimulating keynote address and for engaging in a period of answering our questions in addressing these challenges;
- our ecumenical guests: The Reverend Charles Cortinovis, Executive Director of the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Archdiocese of Washington; Rabbi Gerry Serotta, director of the InterFaith Conference of Washington DC; and the Reverend Olaf Wassmuth, Pastor of the German Lutheran Church of Washington, D.C.;
- for our workshop leaders in broadening our vision of the world and the role of the church: the Reverend Philip Hirsch and Ms. Christy Hartigan on the New Connections Campaign; the Reverend Kevin Jacobson of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) and Ms. Kiersten Nassar of Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS/NCA); members of the synod Racial Equity Team, and the Reverend Richard Hoehn and the Reverend Michael Kuchinsky on Sustainable Development;
- Ms. Katharyn Wheeler, 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; Makoura Kone and Lee Shields for pre-Assembly Office assistance; and Registration and Assembly administrative volunteers Chris Schaefer, Sarah Wright, Eric Randolph, Esther Samuelson, Gretchen Bonnano;
- the staff of the National Conference Center for their hospitality and flexibility in providing support for our assembly;
- Mr. Dana White of Qwizdom, Inc. for providing invaluable and patient guidance in using the voting devices;
- the ELCA Mission Investment Fund and Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area for providing refreshments as part of our breaks;

- the Synod Assembly Planning Committee, under the leadership of the Reverend Margrethe Kleiber, in tirelessly addressing the myriad details and decisions necessary in planning and supporting the program and agenda for this assembly: Mr. Kevin Anderson, Mr. David Carlson, the Reverend Mark Edwards, Mr. Larry Evans, the Reverend Richard Graham, Ms. Christy Hartigan, Ms. Karen Krueger, Mr. Philip Meuschke, the Reverend David Slaigle-Peck, the Reverend Albert Triolo, the Reverend Mitch Watney, Ms. Katharyn Wheeler and Ms. Margretta Williams;
- the Assembly parliamentarian, Mr. Richard Ahlberg, for his wise counsel and the orientation session for those first-time synod assembly voting members;
- Deacon Erin Swenson-Reinhold for serving this assembly as our chaplain, leading our prayers and providing spiritual care for us all;
- the Assembly Worship Planning Team, led by the Reverend David Slaigle-Peck; Mr. Jeremy Grenhart, Mr. Philip Meuschke, and Dr. Jeffery Pannebaker;
- Mr. Allen Jones, Mr. Matthew Robinson, and Ms. Marissa Zeccinato for their musical leadership in our assembly worship;
- the Reverend Leila Ortiz for presiding at the Eucharist service and all who assisted in our worship and prayers: Ms. Virginia Atwell, the Reverend Lamar Bailey, Ms. Alice Benson, the Reverend Julie Bringaman, the Reverend Kate Costa, Deacon Deb Haynes, Deacon Kati Miller-Holland, Deacon Dave Larrabee, the Reverend Jeanette Leisk, the Reverend Cathy Ellen Rosenholtz, Ms. Kathy Russell, Vicar Chris Schaefer, Mr. Drew Sonnenberg, the Reverend Nathan Swenson-Reinhold, Mr. Mike Tervo and Deacon Jeff Tsai;
- the Synod's Communications Director, Ms. Karen Krueger, Media Coordinators Mr. David Carlson and Mr. Philip Meuschke, our guest Blogger Ms. Esther Samuelson, and Photographer Mr. David Owusu for the communications and social media support invaluable to this assembly;
- 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 Travis Kern, the Reverend Lynn Miller, the Reverend Mitch Watney and the Reverend Michael Wilker;
- the Elections Committee: the Reverend Kate Davidson and the Reverend Mitch Watney;
- the Reference and Counsel Committee: the Reverend Mark Edwards, the Reverend Darcy Tillman, and Ms. Amanda Wahlig;
- the Reverend Leila Ortiz, Assistant to the Bishop; the Reverend Philip C. Hirsch; Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission; Ms. Christy Hartigan, New Connections Campaign director, Ms. Katharyn Wheeler, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop; and Ms. Makoura Kone, Ms. Karen Krueger, and Mr. Siyada Kiriti of the synod office for their year-round work on behalf of the synod and our congregations;
- Dr. John White, Vice President of the Synod and Mr. Kevin Anderson, Secretary of the Synod for their wisdom and encouragement in planning and executing this assembly;
- The Reverend Tom Knoll for his dedicated and faithful service as Treasurer of the synod;
- those who are completing their terms on the Synod Council: Mr. Paul Culler, the Reverend Varinia Espinosa, Mr. Larry Evans, the Reverend Robert Lewis, the Reverend Sarah Lewis, Mr. Stanley Medikonda, the Reverend Elijah Mwitanti, the Reverend Gary Rhinesmith, and youth representative Samuel S-R.;
- all those who permitted their names to be placed before the assembly for consideration in elections for Synod Vice President and Treasurer, and the Synod Council;

- our special thanks to Bishop Richard Graham for his steady and faithful leadership of this assembly and this synod and to his wife Nancyann for her patient and faithful support of her husband's work in the vineyard that is the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod.