

**New and Renewing Mission Table
Report to the Synod, June 2019**

There is no road, we make the road by walking (Antonio Machado)

In this time of change and transition in the church and the world, there are no easy formulas for making a church ‘work’ or for growing disciples. Many of the things we used to do are less effective and, often, structures that once worked for us no longer seem to serve. But the gospel is still a treasure which is richest when shared. And God is still active in our world today. While we don’t know exactly what the church of our children or grandchildren will look like, we do know that many things about it will be different from the church of today. We also know that God’s Spirit is working with faithful disciples and leaders even now to call us to share the gospel in new ways that speak to a new generation. Rev. Mark Tidsworth of Pinnacle Consulting calls the time we are in a time of holy experimenting in the church. In large and small ways, communities of faith are listening to the Spirit’s voice and finding new and creative ways to grow disciples and share the gospel.

As your community of faith is working to discern new and vital ways to be in ministry, the New and Renewing Mission Table would like to be a partner with you. Tasked by the synod with developing new ministries and helping renew existing congregations, the Table supports leaders and churches who want to engage in holy experimenting in their context for the sake of the gospel. We would love to partner with you as you develop ideas and look for funding. We have grants available from a number of different sources as well as a diverse team of leaders who have experience with revitalizing ministry in their own locations and are more than happy to help you think about your context.

Below, you will see a report that shows the ministries and missions we have supported in 2018. We have been honored to walk with these communities of faith and we would be honored and excited to walk with you in the year ahead.

Peace,

Rev. Shannon K. Anderson (chair)
Rev. Julie Bringman
Rev. Brett Davis
Rev. Mike Gutzler
Rev. Carmelo Santos

Rev. Ken Taylor
Christy Hartigan, New Connections
Director
Gary Rhinesmith (Interim DEM)

New and Renewing Missions Grants 2018

- **Good Samaritan Lutheran Church, Lexington Park, MD**
\$9,000 through New Connections to fund a part time Director of Missions and Engagement who is leading the congregation to engage with their neighbors in new and creative ways.
- **Holy Trinity, Falls Church, VA**
\$14,600 through New Connections for staffing support as they explore an alternative worshipping community of young adults in the Mosaic District
- **King of Kings, Herndon, VA**
\$10,000 through New Connections and \$6,000 from the Metro DC Budget to support starting a second campus.
- **River of Grace, Manassas, VA**
\$5,000 through Metro DC budget to support stewardship consulting in this new congregation of largely previously unchurched members.
- **St. Michael's Truth, Our Saviours, Mitchelville and Temple Hills MD**
\$11,500 as part of a 3 year grant through Bethany Funds to support engaging the Temple Hills Community through youth programming and Afro-Centric Evangelism
- **Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church, Huntingtown MD**
\$250 through New Connections to help support an Oktoberfest Celebration for the local community
- **Swahili Lutheran Church, Rockville MD**
\$22,000 through New Connections to help support the founding of a new Swahili speaking Lutheran Church in the metro DC area.
- **Intentional Impact**
\$17,500 through New Connections to support a year-long leadership training process for pastors in the synod.
- **Mosaix (2019)**
In 2018, we began exploring a relationship with Mosaix, a non-denominational group dedicated to creating healthy multi-ethnic communities of faith. Beginning in 2019, we have a cohort of 6 congregations who will be spending a year together working with coaches experienced with multi-ethnic faith communities to implement best practices and develop strategic plans to help their congregations reach the increasingly diverse population of the Metro DC region. \$20,000 from New Connections has been designated for this work.