

## Assistant to the Bishop for Generosity, The Reverend David C. Shank

Over two years ago as we launched the **Annual Synod Ministry Fund**, in the Delaware-Maryland Synod, I quoted the scripture,

*“See I am making all things new”  
Revelation 21:5b*

Through gracious gifts given by individuals within the synod, that *“something new,”* blossomed and grew. **The Annual Synod Ministry Fund grew by 43% during 2021.** I am happy to share that **we met and exceeded our stated goal during the fiscal year of 2021.** Additional gifts and pledges were also given toward the Delaware-Maryland Synod COVID-19 Relief Fund during fiscal year 2020. To date, the **Annual Synod Ministry Fund has generated nearly \$850,000 to support the ministry of the Delaware-Maryland Synod in addition to 2021 Mission Support dollars that also increased by 3.48%.** This is an incredible testament to the generosity of the people in the Delaware-Maryland Synod.

Now we continue to make *“make things new”* working alongside the creativity of the Holy Spirit in this new partnership.

It is my hope that walking alongside each other here in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod that we will observe similar success in the coming years as generosity abounds.

As we reach out in a new way, individuals in our synod will have an opportunity to support our ministry together in a new way. Alongside the *“Gifts of Hope”* Program, my hope is to generate new interest in financially supporting but not limited to the following:

- **Strengthening our Youth Ministry Programs**
- **Building our Latiné Ministries**
- **Supporting and Growing our Campus Ministries**
- **Sustaining and Revitalizing our Existing Churches through Leadership Growth Opportunities**

Building these specific ministries in 2022 and beyond will truly made a difference in the lives of others, assist in making the next generation of disciples for Jesus Christ, and ensure our Lutheran tradition continues to be preached and shared.

You will soon be learning of new ways to generously give to our synod.

But before we ask of others to give, we wish to give. **On May 12<sup>th</sup> we launched our first of what we hope will be many generosity opportunities in our synod.** \$25,000 in new grant money is available to churches in our synod who wish to partner with local colleges, universities, HBCU's, technical schools or community colleges and explore new campus ministry opportunities. This application is active now and if you need more information, please contact me at [dshank@metrodcelca.org](mailto:dshank@metrodcelca.org) for more information.

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I wish to share with you that I see this work as my call, and I see it as holy work. I am here to walk alongside of you, and I am here to assist, I look forward to visiting our churches and worshipping communities, and I look forward to meeting you soon.

Best and Blessings,

The Reverend David C. Shank, CFRE  
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