

Title: Greetings

Primary Sponsor: Reference and Counsel Committee, Metro D.C. Synod

Whereas, other synods in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) are meeting in assembly on the same day as the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod assemblies; and,

Whereas, we are partners in the mission of the Gospel as part of this church; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly directs the Secretary of the Synod to extend to the other ELCA synods that are also meeting in assembly today our greetings in Christ and our prayers for their faithful deliberation as led by the Holy Spirit:

Eastern North Dakota Synod	June 1 - 2
Florida – Bahamas Synod	May 31 - June 2
Lower Susquehanna Synod	May 31 – June 1
Metropolitan Chicago Synod	June 1
Montana Synod	May 31 – June 1
Nebraska Synod	June 1 – 2
North Carolina Synod	May 30 – June 1
Northeastern Ohio Synod	June 1
Northwestern Ohio Synod	June 1
Oregon Synod	June 1
South Dakota Synod	May 31 - June 1
Southern Ohio Synod	May 31 - June 1
Southeastern Synod	May 31 - June 2
Southwest California Synod	May 31 – June 1
West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod	June 1
Western North Dakota Synod	May 31 - June 2

Title: Afghan Adjustment Act

Primary Sponsor: Patricia Richter, Augustana Lutheran Church, Washington, D.C.

- Whereas,** in the aftermath of the U.S. troop withdrawal and the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban in August 2021, over 80,000 vulnerable Afghans were evacuated who had assisted the U.S. efforts there, and 76,000 were transferred into the U. S. In addition, the U.S. continues evacuation and protection efforts for vulnerable Afghans left behind in Afghanistan; and,
- Whereas,** most evacuees were processed under “humanitarian parole” legal processes because other immigration processes were too slow, leaving them in a status which is a limited and temporary condition without a clear path to permanent status; and,
- Whereas,** both the U.S. House and Senate have introduced bipartisan bills to provide a path to permanent status for Afghan evacuees (S. 2327 and H.R. 4627 which have yet to be enacted) that seek to establish a special task force to give care to issues of eligibility, vetting, security and relocation; and
- Whereas,** the ELCA has a strong tradition of welcoming immigrants and assisting in their resettlement and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS, now Global Refuge) has played a major role in receiving and relocating these particular Afghan evacuees; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly expresses its support for all efforts in receiving and resettling these Afghan evacuees and their effort to achieve permanent status in the U.S.; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod in assembly directs its Bishop to communicate to our appropriate representatives in the U. S. House and Senate our endorsement of the Afghan Adjustment Act, stating our desire that legislation is enacted swiftly, and be it further
- RESOLVED** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly encourages congregations of the Synod to commit to informing their members of this issue and encourage their members to directly communicate this support and urgency to their federal representatives.

Title: Lay Voting Member Allocation

Primary Sponsor: Synod Council, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod ELCA

Whereas, Article S7.21.03 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod states:

“Congregations with a baptized membership which consists of at least 10 percent persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English will be entitled to one additional member. That member will be a person of color and/or person whose primary language is other than English.”; and

Whereas, no statistics are gathered by the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod or the ELCA that identify baptized membership by ethnicity or primary language; and,

Whereas, for several years the practice has been to address S7.21.03 using the ethnicity of *active participants* (as opposed to *baptized membership*) as provided by the ELCA; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly amend the text of Bylaw S7.21.03 of the Synod Constitution and Bylaws to read:

“Congregations with a ~~baptized membership~~ active participants which consists of which at least 10 percent are persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English will be entitled to one additional lay voting member. That lay voting member will be a person of color and/or person whose primary language is other than English, as well as being a voting member of a congregation of this synod.”

Title: Peace in Gaza and Israel

Primary Sponsor: Rev. Renata Eustis and Rev. Mark Brown

- Whereas,** the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)-adopted social statement *For Peace in God's World* recalls that “the basis of the Church’s peace-calling is in God’s final peace, the peace of God’s eternal reign. That calling is to proclaim the Gospel of God’s final peace and to work for earthly peace. This statement understands earthly peace to mean relationships among and within nations that are just, harmonious, and free from war. It offers direction as we act to keep and to build earthly peace . . . In recalling our identity in baptism, in gathering in peace around the Lord’s Table, in telling the biblical narrative, in teaching faith, hope, and love, the Church provides the basics of peacemaking for all of life. The Church is the school of the Holy Spirit, who molds and equips us to be peacemakers.”; and,
- Whereas,** *For Peace in God's World* reminds us that, "Through faithfulness in its life and activities as a community for peace, the Church in the power of the Holy Spirit becomes a presence for peace that disturbs, reconciles, serves, and deliberates."; and,
- Whereas,** the ELCA has addressed the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in numerous Churchwide actions over several decades, calling for a lasting peace based on justice, nonviolence, and the rule of law; and,
- Whereas,** the ELCA has strongly condemned the despicable terrorist attacks on October 7, 2023, by Hamas and has condemned the unprecedented and disproportionate death toll among Gazan civilians due to Israeli attacks;
- Whereas,** over 1,135 Israelis, over 30,000 Palestinians in Gaza (including over 12,000 children), and nearly 400 Palestinians in the West Bank have been killed since October 7, 2023; and,
- Whereas,** data from UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), World Health Organization (WHO), and the Palestinian government indicates that Israeli attacks have damaged more than half of Gaza’s homes - 360,000 residential units have been destroyed or damaged; 392 educational facilities; 11 out of 35 hospitals are partially functioning; 132 ground water wells damaged or destroyed; and 267 places of worship;

Whereas, 2.2 million people face "Crisis" or worse levels of food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Phase 3 or above); and,

Whereas, Israel is blocking work visas for international aid workers in West Bank and Gaza, at least 94 journalists have been killed in Gaza since October 7, 2023, and attacks on protesters have been rising in Israel; and,

Whereas, the ELCA has expressed its sorrow over the loss of innocent lives on both sides and the need for the violence to stop and negotiations for an overall political solution to resume; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly direct the synodical bishop to

1. send a letter to the President of the United States, Vice President, Secretary of State, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and all Members of Congress asking that they work with both the Israelis and Palestinians:
 - a. to secure an immediate and permanent ceasefire and the release of all hostages and unlawfully detained political prisoners,
 - b. to promote the resumption of efforts toward a political solution to the conflict,
 - c. to establish immediate and unhindered humanitarian access to all of Gaza,
 - d. to support the restoration of vital infrastructure in Gaza; and
 - e. to bring an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and a halt to all actions, by either party, that undermine Palestinian self-determination and a political solution to the conflict; and,
2. send a letter to all Members of Congress asking that they direct the US State Department to report to Congress on any arms shipments or assistance to Israel that may have been used in Gaza in violation of international humanitarian law (Foreign Assistance Act 502b(c) authorizing Congressional oversight); and,
3. send a letter to the President of the United States, Vice President, and Secretary of State:
 - a. urging U.S. recognition of the State of Palestine,
 - b. urging that diplomatic pressure be placed on Israel in order to secure access to Augusta Victoria Hospital and other East Jerusalem hospitals for Gaza cancer patients and others needing urgent medical attention,

- c. asking for continued funding for the East Jerusalem hospitals;
- d. asking for reinstatement of full funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and
- e. asking to hold accountable through the International Criminal Court and International Court of Justice those responsible for terrorist acts, taking hostages, and executing deliberate and disproportionate attacks on civilians; and, be it further

RESOLVED that members of synod congregations be encouraged to:

1. support through prayer those Palestinians and Israelis -- especially journalists, peace activists, medical personnel, and aid workers -- who work to create a future of justice, equality, reconciliation and peace for all Palestinians and Israelis;
2. support the ELCA Presiding Bishop's letters to the President and Congress with follow up letters and calls;
3. affirm the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, the Lutheran World Federation, and the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel in bringing comfort, support, and relief to those who are suffering in Palestine and Israel and
4. be informed about and engaged in the SUMUD (formerly Peace Not Walls) initiative of the ELCA.

Title: Non-Binary Exclusion

Primary Sponsor: Katharyn Wheeler

- Whereas,** in *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action* and its accompanying implementing resolutions the ELCA is “To call upon rostered and lay congregational leaders, synodical and CWO staff, social ministry organizations, and faculty and staff at ELCA colleges, seminaries, and universities to renew their efforts to welcome, care for, and support the lives and gifts of LGBTQIA+ persons and to oppose discrimination against these persons so that they may live into the promise of gender justice envisioned in this social statement”; and,
- Whereas,** the church representational principles of this church are:
- At least 60 percent of voting members shall be laypersons—as nearly as possible, at least 45% shall be women and, as nearly as possible, at least 45% shall be men. The percentage of laypersons not allocated to women or men may be allocated to persons who identify as gender non-binary, gender fluid, women, men, or other genders.
 - About 40 percent or fewer shall be rostered ministers and shall include both women and men. Note that this category includes deacons.
 - Ten percent of the voting members are to be persons of color or persons whose primary language is other than English; and,
- Whereas,** 24 of the 65 synods of the ELCA have less than 10 voting members allotted for Churchwide Assembly; and,
- Whereas,** a minimum of at least 10 members are necessary for a person who identifies as gender non-binary, gender fluid, women, men, or other non-cisgender to be considered for participation on assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units based on the current representative percentages; and,
- Whereas,** the ELCA has set a priority to “A Welcoming Church: Engaging new, young and diverse people”ⁱ with the goal to “engage 1 million new, young, diverse members by the end of the decade.”ⁱⁱ; and,
- Whereas,** according to a Pew research study 5% of young adults in the U.S. say their gender is different than their assigned sex at birth.ⁱⁱⁱ ; and,
- Whereas,** “75% of LGBTQ youth reported that they had experienced discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity at least once in their

lifetime. More than half of LGBTQ youth reported that they had experienced discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity in the past year.”^{iv}; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly memorializes the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to refine proportional representation to allow, as closely as possible, equal representation between male and female with space for gender non-conforming identities to serve as well.

ⁱ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. “Mission & Vision” <https://www.elca.org/about/mission-and-vision>

ⁱⁱ <https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/weekly-statement-bishop-eaton-101521.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/06/07/about-5-of-young-adults-in-the-u-s-say-their-gender-is-different-from-their-sex-assigned-at-birth/>

^{iv} The Trevor Project. (2021). 2021 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health. West Hollywood, California: The Trevor Project. <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2021>

Title: Lay Voting Member Elections

Primary Sponsor: Erik Long, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Springfield VA

Whereas, the 2022 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Model Constitution for Congregations (MCC), Article *C5.04, states:

“This congregation shall elect from among its voting members laypersons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member.”; and,

Whereas, Article 12.04.h of the MCC includes as a duty of the Congregation Council

“To emphasize support of the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.”; and,

Whereas, congregations who are only permitted the mechanism of a Congregation Meeting to elect Lay Voting Members face practical challenges of filling their allocation when the Congregation Meeting is many months before the Synod Assembly, and

Whereas, synods would benefit from higher participation by Lay Voting Members at synod assemblies; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly memorializes the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to amend *C5.04 of the Model Constitution for Congregations to read:

“This congregation shall elect from among its voting members laypersons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected by this congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by the *(insert name of synod)* of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Election of voting members may be accomplished by vote of the Congregation Council.”

Title: Regarding Seasonal Membership

Primary Sponsor: David Mower, Voting Member, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Springfield, VA

- Whereas,** the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Model Constitution for Congregations (MCC), Chapter 8, “Membership”, Section *C8.02.e, Seasonal, does not provide full privileged membership status for “Seasonal members”; and,
- Whereas,** in an era of generational change for both the ELCA and the population of the United States, the generations born in the 1940-1950s have become a highly mobile, dual-location retiree population; and
- Whereas,** many ELCA congregations are experiencing declining membership and are increasingly dependent on “shared” members to provide a necessary pool of eligible members and participants to meet governance, operational and functional requirements; and,
- Whereas,** section C8.02.e does recognize the existence of generational change, but otherwise fails to allow “Seasonal members” to share their talent, experience, and abilities in the crucial matter of congregational governance and for congregations to benefit from shared membership; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly memorializes the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to amend section *C8.02.e(1-6) of the Model Constitution for Congregations to read:
- “e. **Seasonal** members are voting members of other congregations of this church who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation, including exercising ~~limited~~ full voting rights in this congregation once acknowledgement is received from the home congregation. The Congregation Council may grant seasonal membership to such persons provided that this congregation is a member of a synod where the Synod Council has approved seasonal member voting on its territory. Seasonal members shall only be counted in the home congregation for ELCA membership statistics. ~~Such seasonal members shall have all the privileges and duties of voting members except that:~~

- ~~1) they shall not be eligible for elected office in, or for membership on the Congregation Council or on a call committee of, this congregation;~~
- ~~2) they shall not have the right to vote on any matter concerning or affecting the call or termination of call of any minister of this congregation;~~
- ~~3) they shall not have the right to vote on any matter concerning or affecting the affiliation of this congregation with this church;~~
- ~~4) they shall not be eligible to serve as voting members from this congregation of the Synod Assembly or the Churchwide Assembly;~~
- ~~5) they shall not, even if otherwise permitted by this congregation, vote by proxy or by absentee ballot; and~~
- ~~6) they shall not, within any two calendar month period, exercise voting rights in this congregation and in the congregation where they remain voting members."~~

Title: Synod Seal

Primary Sponsor: Synod Council, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

Whereas, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod states: “S1.21. The seal of this synod is a cross with three united flames emanating from the base of the cross and three entwined circles beside the cross. The name of this synod and the year of its constituting convention form the circular outer edge of the seal,”; and,

Whereas, only the text description of the seal is included in the Constitution; the interpretation of the text into a graphic is not included; and,

Whereas, while we recognize the flames in the description represent the flames of Pentecost and the Holy Spirit, the seal could be interpreted to be a burning cross. A burning cross is one of the most potent hate symbols in the United States, used for intimidation and terror; and,

Whereas, a symbol of hate is the opposite of the image of the love of God in Jesus Christ, and should not be associated with the Synod; and,

Whereas, the seal is a required clause in the Constitution, but the description is determined by the Synod; and,

Whereas, the seal should only be used for official church documents; it is currently included on letters of call; and,

Whereas, the seal that is currently used on official church documents is not as described in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, but is as shown; and,



Whereas, the synod seal is currently the same as described in the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA, with the exception of the text on the outer edge. The interpretation of the ELCA text as a graphic is as shown; therefore, be it



RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C Synod in assembly amend the Synod Constitution and Bylaws to align with current practice as follows:

“S1.21. The seal of this synod is ~~three united flames emanating from the base of the cross. The name of this synod and the year of its constituting convention form the circular outer edge of the seal.~~ a world with a cross segmenting the globe in the center of the seal with the words METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD ELCA circling the outer edge of the seal.”

Title: Thank You, Deacon Julie M. Stecker

Primary Sponsor: Synod Council, Metropolitan Washington, D.C Synod

Whereas, Deacon Julie Stecker has served faithfully as the Synod's Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator, providing faith formation and spirited engagement for our youth and adult mentors; and,

Whereas, Deacon Stecker has been an important part of restoring active Youth Ministry in our synod and the Delaware – Maryland synod following the Covid pandemic; and

Whereas, Deacon Stecker is completing her service to both synods in this capacity at the end of June 2024, taking on a new call as Director of Children and Youth Ministry at First Lutheran Church in Ellicott City, MD; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly expresses its heartfelt thanks to God for the dedicated and faithful service to our synod by Deacon Julie Stecker and offers its appreciation for her commitment to the gospel and the furtherance of our shared mission in Christ.

Title: Gratitude

Primary Sponsor: Reference & Counsel Committee, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

WHEREAS, the 2024 Metro DC Synod Assembly Planning Committee, the Synod Council, the Synod Staff and numerous others have worked many hours to plan, prepare and program this assembly; and

WHEREAS, completing the “work” of the Synod in a single-day meeting, along with providing edifying opportunities to learn about the church’s initiatives, activities, struggles, and plans, requires the time and talents of many volunteers and the services of the host congregation in preparing for this assembly; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly expresses its gratitude for God’s bountiful blessings and its appreciation to all who have made this Synod Assembly a fruitful gathering of God’s people,

- + Reverend xxxxx, representing the Presiding Bishop;
- + The Right Reverend Dr. Marianne Budde, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, for her keynote address and workshop contributions;
- + Synod Assembly Planning Committee, chaired by Reverend Alex Stall, for the detailed planning and coordination of this assembly:
 - Nominations Team, chaired by Reverend Tony Prinsen;
 - Elections Team, chaired by Reverend Kari Parsons;
 - Registrar, xxxxxx;
 - Social Media and Creative Director, xxxxxxxx;
 - The Lord of Life AV Team with xxxxx; and
 - Reference & Counsel Committee, led by Reverend Mark Edwards;
- + Assembly Staff Liaison, Katharyn Wheeler, for her tireless effort in planning and coordinating the logistics for this assembly;

- + Assembly interpreters: Kathy Ogle and Elizabeth McMeekin;
- + Beatriz Orellana for providing the necessary assembly childcare;
- + Staff of Lord of Life Lutheran Church of Fairfax for providing a welcoming and comfortable place for us to gather and deliberate;
- + All those persons nominated for Synod offices;
- + Assembly Worship Team, led by Reverend David Slagle Peck, and our Assembly Chaplain, Reverend xxxxxxx, for leading meaningful moments of prayer and quiet during our deliberations;
- + Assembly parliamentarian, Richard Ahlberg, for his counsel and the orientation session for first-time assembly voting members;
- + Synod Vice President Jennifer Slagle Peck, the Synod Treasurer Julie Hamre, and the Synod Secretary Barb Bilodeau, for their leadership of the synod and their commitment to the assembly's proceedings;
- + Those completing their terms on the Synod Council: xxxxxxxxx:
- + Assistants to the Bishop: Reverend Sarah Garrett Krey (Chief of Staff/Assistant for Mobility and Candidacy), Reverend Jason Shank (Director for Evangelical Mission), and Deacon Julie Stecker (Assistant for Youth and Family) for their service to the congregations of our synod; and
- + Our Bishop, Reverend Leila Ortiz, for her patience and wisdom in chairing this assembly and her "Inspired" servant leadership of our synod during a challenging time for our church and our faith.

Title: Thank You, Reverend Lamar Bailey

Primary Sponsor: Synod Council, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

- Whereas,** Reverend Lamar Bailey served faithfully as the Synod's Director of Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop for four years, providing guidance and encouragement to congregations and leaders in strengthening and growing the faith community; and,
- Whereas,** Reverend Bailey transitioned off the Synod staff in July 2023 and subsequently became the Director of the Institute Justice Team, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Inc. in Silver Spring, MD; and
- Whereas,** the 2023 Synod Assembly met prior to Reverend Bailey's departure being announced, and he is present with us today as a member of the ELCA Task Force for Studies on Civic Life and Faith; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly expresses its heartfelt thanks to God for the years of dedicated and faithful service to our synod by the Reverend Lamar Bailey and offers its gratitude for his commitment to the gospel and the furtherance of our shared mission in Christ.



EMPOWERED
2024 Synod Assembly

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 • LORD OF LIFE IN FAIRFAX, VA

2024 Synod Assembly Candidate Information Form

Candidate for the position of:

Synod Council - DC Conference Rostered

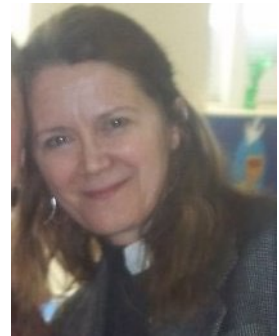
Candidate name: Rev. Judith VanOsdol

Congregation Membership:

First Trinity Lutheran Church - Washington, DC

Occupation History:

Rostered Minister of Word and Sacrament



Participation at Synod or Churchwide Level:

Served as Program Executive at the LWF (Lutheran World Federation in Geneva, Switzerland); served as DEM (Director for Ev. Mission) in Upstate NY and Rocky Mountain Synods; served as mission personnel in Latin America with ELCA Global Mission, including a

Participation at Congregation Level:

Served as Pastor with congregations in Washington, DC, Long Island, NY, Minneapolis, MN, Chicago, IL, and Upstate NY.

Community Involvement:

Community Organizing training, work with networks and adjacent ministries such as CFLS (Community Family Life Services), Lifeline Partnership, Washington Interfaith Network, Board member with Downtown DC Cluster of Congregations, among others.

Demographics:

Gender: Woman

Roster: Rostered - Word and Sacrament

Youth/Young Adult: Neither

Person of Color/Primary Language Other Than English: No



EMPOWERED

2024 Synod Assembly

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 • LORD OF LIFE IN FAIRFAX, VA

2024 Synod Assembly Candidate Information Form

Candidate for the position of: Synod Council - Maryland
Conference Lay

Candidate name:

Rachad Ya Ntima Esengo

Congregation Membership:

Saint Michael's Truth (Marlow Heights MD)

Occupation History:

Ophthalmic Care

Participation at Synod or Churchwide Level:

Synod Council (2023); Visual Communications Team (2024); prior member DCS/Hunger Grant team; Project Connect (Region 8); Young Adults gathered @ Churchwide Assembly

Participation at Congregation Level:

Church council & worship assistant (current); minister of music (former)

Community Involvement:

Food distribution; environmental care

Demographics:

Gender: Man

Roster: Neither - Lay

Youth/Young Adult: Neither

Person of Color/Primary Language Other Than English: Yes





Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

EMPOWERED

2024 Synod Assembly

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 • LORD OF LIFE IN FAIRFAX, VA

2024 Synod Assembly Candidate Information Form

Candidate for the position of:

Synod Council - Montgomery Conference Lay

Candidate name:

Ms. Anita K Smallin

Congregation Membership:

St. John Lutheran Church, Rockville, MD

Occupation History:

Assistant Director of Pimmit Hills Senior Center, Fairfax County Government

Participation at Synod or Churchwide Level:

I serve on the Disability Ministry Team at the Churchwide level. I am currently on the Metro DC Synod Council.

Participation at Congregation Level:

I serve as the Cantor at St. John's.

Community Involvement:

I am the social media manager for the Fairfax Choral Society. I also helped run a winter clothing drive for Cornerstones.

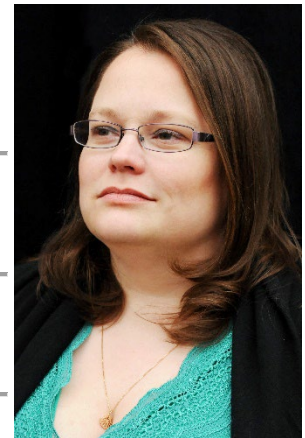
Demographics:

Gender: Woman

Roster: Neither - Lay

Youth/Young Adult: Neither

Person of Color/Primary Language Other Than English: No





EMPOWERED

2024 Synod Assembly

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 • LORD OF LIFE IN FAIRFAX, VA

2024 Synod Assembly Candidate Information Form

Candidate for the position of:

Synod Council - Potomac Conference Lay

Candidate name:

Mr. Patrick N. Anderson

Congregation Membership:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Alexandria, VA

Occupation History:

Attorney



Participation at Synod or Churchwide Level:

None

Participation at Congregation Level:

Congregational Council - several positions. Stewardship chair, youth group, choir

Community Involvement:

ACLU Board, Carthage College Board, housing authority, Pine lake Camp endowment committee, church rep to Virginia Interfaith, Lincoln Forum Board and many others

Demographics:

Gender: Man

Roster: Neither - Lay

Youth/Young Adult: Neither

Person of Color/Primary Language Other Than English: No



EMPOWERED

2024 Synod Assembly

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 • LORD OF LIFE IN FAIRFAX, VA

2024 Synod Assembly Candidate Information Form

Candidate for the position of:

Synod Council - Virginia Conference Rostered

Candidate name:

Rev. Dr. Henry J Langknecht

Congregation Membership:

Christ the King - Great Falls, VA



Occupation History:

Pastor, Christ the King, Great Falls VA (2017-present); Professor of Homiletics, Trinity Lutheran Seminary (2000-2017); Doctoral student and Interim Pastor, St. Ansgar Lutheran Church, Toronto, Ontario (1996-2000); Pastor, First English Lutheran Church, Marysville, OH (1986-1996).

Participation at Synod or Churchwide Level:

Indiana Kentucky Synod Candidacy Committee (2009-2017); Keynote presenter, workshop leader (multiple); Metro DC Synod Council (2021-present); Sacred Ground participant and convener; Racial Equity Task Group.

Participation at Congregation Level:

Pastor

Community Involvement:

Volunteer at Lamb Center; Board of Fellowship Square; Secretary of Academy of Homiletics (2014-2022)

Demographics:

Gender: Man

Roster: Rostered - Word and Sacrament

Youth/Young Adult: Neither

Person of Color/Primary Language Other Than English: No



EMPOWERED

2024 Synod Assembly

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 • LORD OF LIFE IN FAIRFAX, VA

2024 Synod Assembly Candidate Information Form

Candidate for the position of:

Synod Council - At-Large Youth (1 year)

Candidate name:

Nolan G.

Congregation Membership:

Zion Lutheran – Lovettsville, VA

Occupation History:

Student

Participation at Synod or Churchwide Level:

Pending

Participation at Congregation Level:

National Youth Gathering, Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Yearly Camper, Lector, Service Projects
First Communion, Confirmation, VBS

Community Involvement:

LINK food and toy distribution, Maranatha Youth Music Academy Choir member
Classical Conversations Homeschool Program, Compass Homeschool Enrichment
Fencing Academy

Demographics:

Gender: Man

Roster: Neither - Lay

Youth/Young Adult: Youth (under 18 years of age at the time of election)

Person of Color/Primary Language Other Than English: No



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

EMPOWERED

2024 Synod Assembly

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 • LORD OF LIFE IN FAIRFAX, VA

2024 Synod Assembly Candidate Information Form

Candidate for the position of:

Synod Council - At-Large Youth (1 year)

Candidate name:

Breeze L

Congregation Membership:

River of Grace – Manassas, VA

Occupation History:

none

Participation at Synod or Churchwide Level:

Youth rep., LYO, Leader of fellowship and hospitality

Participation at Congregation Level:

Youth group, youth band, church council, youth group council

Community Involvement:

Roller derby, Girl Scouts, Model Un, SCA, Speech and Debate, Fellowship of Christian athletes, Young democrats, Students against violence everywhere club, women's empowerment club,

Demographics:

Gender: Woman

Roster: Neither - Lay

Youth/Young Adult: Youth (under 18 years of age at the time of election)

Person of Color/Primary Language Other Than English: No



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

EMPOWERED

2024 Synod Assembly

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 • LORD OF LIFE IN FAIRFAX, VA

2024 Synod Assembly Candidate Information Form

Candidate for the position of:

Churchwide Assembly - Rostered (1 position, male)

Candidate name:

Rev. Michael Gutzler

Congregation Membership:

Holy Trinity, Falls Church VA

Occupation History:

Pastor of Holy Trinity, Falls Church, VA

Participation at Synod or Churchwide Level:

New and Renewing Missions Table, Synod Finance Committee, RIC (Reconciling in Christ), AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities)

Participation at Congregation Level:

Pastor

Community Involvement:

Faculty - George Mason University, Faculty - Northern Virginia Community College

Demographics:

Gender: Man

Roster: Rostered - Word and Sacrament

Youth/Young Adult: Neither





EMPOWERED
2024 Synod Assembly

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 • LORD OF LIFE IN FAIRFAX, VA

2024 Synod Assembly Candidate Information Form

Candidate for the position of:
Churchwide Assembly - Rostered (1 position, male)

Candidate name:
Rev. Dr. Elijah Mwitanti

Congregation Membership:
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Occupation History:
Pastor

Participation at Synod or Churchwide Level:
Synod Council

Participation at Congregation Level:
Pastor

Community Involvement:

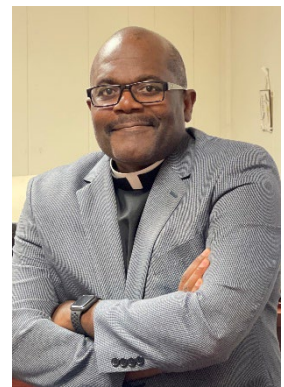
Demographics:

Gender: Man

Roster: Rostered - Word and Sacrament

Youth/Young Adult: Neither

Person of Color/Primary Language Other Than English: Yes





Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

EMPOWERED

2024 Synod Assembly

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 • LORD OF LIFE IN FAIRFAX, VA

2024 Synod Assembly Candidate Information Form

Candidate for the position of:

Churchwide Assembly - Rostered (1 position, male)

Candidate name:

Rev. Eric T. Randolph



Congregation Membership:

Peace Lutheran Church, St. Charles, MD

Occupation History:

Pastor (2022-Present)

Participation at Synod or Churchwide Level:

Synod Council

Participation at Congregation Level:

Pastor, Congregation President, Congregation Council Member

Community Involvement:

Member of the Maryland Governor's Council on Interfaith Outreach; Secretary, PFLAG Southern Maryland

Demographics:

Gender: Man

Roster: Rostered - Word and Sacrament

Youth/Young Adult: Neither

Person of Color/Primary Language Other Than English: No



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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2024 Synod Assembly

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 • LORD OF LIFE IN FAIRFAX, VA

2024 Synod Assembly Candidate Information Form

Candidate for the position of:

Churchwide Assembly - Lay (2 positions)

Candidate name:

Ms. Barbara A Bilodeau

Congregation Membership:

King of Kings, Fairfax, VA



Occupation History:

Software/Data Engineer. Tech and financial management consulting for Federal Government.

Participation at Synod or Churchwide Level:

Synod Secretary (MetroDC), Synod Council, Committee on Discipline

Participation at Congregation Level:

past Congregation President, Council member, retreat organizer, church musician, prayer chain member, call committee chair.

Community Involvement:

WFCM, Habitat for Humanity

Demographics:

Gender: Woman

Roster: Neither - Lay

Youth/Young Adult: Neither

Person of Color/Primary Language Other Than English: No



EMPOWERED
2024 Synod Assembly

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 • LORD OF LIFE IN FAIRFAX, VA

2024 Synod Assembly Candidate Information Form

Candidate for the position of:

Churchwide Assembly - Lay (2 positions, at least one male)

Candidate name:

Mx. Jaye D Summerlot

Congregation Membership:

All Saints Lutheran Church, Bowie MD



Occupation History:

Program Manager, Prince George's County Department of Social Services

Participation at Synod or Churchwide Level:

Synod Assembly Voting Member

Participation at Congregation Level:

Current Call Committee Chair and Production Team Member, Past Council Member and Officer, Team Member and Lead, Assisting Minister

Community Involvement:

County Election Judge, Chair of Board of Supervisors of Elections for Town of Upper Marlboro, Member of Health Department Community Care Coordination Team, Behavioral Health Advisory Group

Demographics:

Gender: Non-Binary

Roster: Neither - Lay

Youth/Young Adult: Neither

Person of Color/Primary Language Other Than English: No



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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2024 Synod Assembly

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 • LORD OF LIFE IN FAIRFAX, VA

2024 Synod Assembly Candidate Information Form

Candidate for the position of:

Churchwide Assembly - Lay (2 positions, at least one male)

Candidate name:

Mr. Michael B Philpy

Congregation Membership:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fairfax, Virginia

Occupation History:

Senior Analyst, USG (2004-Present)



Participation at Synod or Churchwide Level:

Synod Assembly Delegate, Metro DC Synod (2007-09, 2011-15, 2024), Candidate for Synod Council (2013), Candidate for Synod Treasurer (2011)

Project Connect, Metro DC Synod (2007-2010), Synod Assembly Delegate, Southeast Michigan Synod (2003-04)

Participation at Congregation Level:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fairfax, Virginia (2022-Present) Reader (various)

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, McLean, Virginia (2004-2015) Church Council (2007-12)

President, 2010; Vice President, 2011-12; Treasurer, 2008-09, 8th Grade Confirmant

Community Involvement:

Demographics:

Gender: Man

Roster: Neither - Lay

Youth/Young Adult: Neither

Person of Color/Primary Language Other Than English: No



EMPOWERED
2024 Synod Assembly

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 • LORD OF LIFE IN FAIRFAX, VA

2024 Synod Assembly Candidate Information Form

Candidate for the position of:
Churchwide Assembly - Lay (2 positions)

Candidate name:
Ms. Melody P Stachour

Congregation Membership:
St. Matthews, Woodbridge, VA



Occupation History:
Adult education instructor; DEI practitioner, behavior modeling, DoD consulting

Participation at Synod or Churchwide Level:
Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church, 2023-2025;
Metropolitan Washington DC Synod Council member, 2021-2024

Participation at Congregation Level:
Lay preacher; youth leader; Sunday school teacher (various years/durations). Prior member at First, Norfolk, VA and Trinity, Moorhead, MN.

Community Involvement:
Current: senior advisor, LGBTQ Employee Resource Group; Board advisor, Sparta Pride; prior: 22 years BSA leader (various roles within scouting)

Demographics:
Gender: Woman
Roster: Neither - Lay
Youth/Young Adult: Neither
Person of Color/Primary Language Other Than English: No



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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2024 Synod Assembly

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 • LORD OF LIFE IN FAIRFAX, VA

2024 Synod Assembly Candidate Information Form

Candidate for the position of:

Churchwide Assembly - Lay (Youth/Young Adult Under 30)

Candidate name:

Breeze L

Congregation Membership:

River of Grace – Manassas, VA

Occupation History:

none

Participation at Synod or Churchwide Level:

youth rep., LYO, leader of fellowship and hospitality

Participation at Congregation Level:

youth group, youth band, youth rep. to church council

Community Involvement:

Roller Derby, girl scouts, school clubs

Demographics:

Gender: Woman

Roster: Neither - Lay

Youth/Young Adult: Youth (under 18 years of age at the time of election)

Person of Color/Primary Language Other Than English: No



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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2024 Synod Assembly

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 • LORD OF LIFE IN FAIRFAX, VA

2024 Synod Assembly Candidate Information Form

Candidate for the position of:
Churchwide Assembly - Lay (2 positions)

Candidate name:
Ms. Melody S. Mobley

Congregation Membership:
Christ the King Lutheran Church – Great Falls, VA

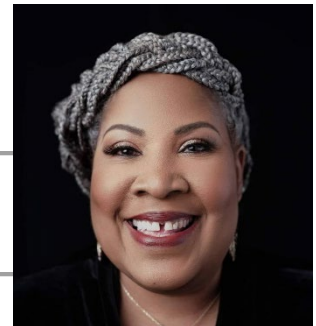
Occupation History:
Forester

Participation at Synod or Churchwide Level:

Participation at Congregation Level:
Witness and Outreach Committee, Service Committee

Community Involvement:
NAACP, EcoAction Arlington, DEI VA Native Plants Soc., Montessorri Public School of Arlington VA

Demographics:
Gender: Woman
Roster: Neither - Lay
Youth/Young Adult: Neither
Person of Color/Primary Language Other Than English: Yes





Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

EMPOWERED

2024 Synod Assembly

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 • LORD OF LIFE IN FAIRFAX, VA

2024 Synod Assembly Candidate Information Form

Candidate for the position of:

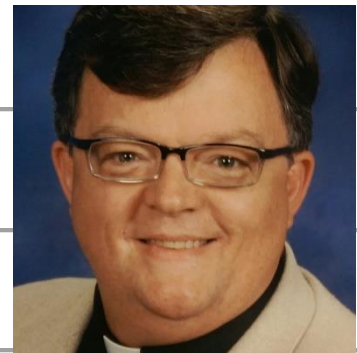
Consultation Committee - Rostered (1 position, 6 years)

Candidate name:

Rev. Mark D. Edwards

Congregation Membership:

Good Shepherd - Woodbridge VA



Occupation History:

Rostered Minister of Word and Sacrament in Metro DC Synod since 1999. Prior to that, served 15 years as Naval Officer, Submarines followed by four years of seminary.

Participation at Synod or Churchwide Level:

Synod Council, Synod Evangelism team, Reference & Counsel Committee, Dean of Fairfax Conference

Participation at Congregation Level:

Pastor

Community Involvement:

Fellowship Square Foundation Board, Community Apartments Building Corporation Board, Election Officer for Fairfax County

Demographics:

Gender: Man

Roster: Rostered - Word and Sacrament

Youth/Young Adult: Neither

Person of Color/Primary Language Other Than English: No



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

EMPOWERED

2024 Synod Assembly

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 • LORD OF LIFE IN FAIRFAX, VA

2024 Synod Assembly Candidate Information Form

Candidate for the position of:

Consultation Committee - Rostered (1 position, 6 years)

Candidate name:

Rev. Alexander P Stall, Jr.

Congregation Membership:

Advent Lutheran Church, Arlington, VA

Occupation History:

Ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament in August, 2022. Prior to that I spent 30+ years in the information technology and software engineering field.



Participation at Synod or Churchwide Level:

I regularly attend Synod Assembly, and am currently the chair of the Metro DC SA Planning Team

Participation at Congregation Level:

I have been pastor at Advent since my ordination. This is my first call.

Community Involvement:

Demographics:

Gender: Man

Roster: Rostered - Word and Sacrament

Youth/Young Adult: Neither

Person of Color/Primary Language Other Than English: No



EMPOWERED

2024 Synod Assembly

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 • LORD OF LIFE IN FAIRFAX, VA

2024 Synod Assembly Candidate Information Form

Candidate for the position of:

Consultation Committee - Lay (2 positions, 6 years)

Candidate name:

Ms. Melody S. Mobley

Congregation Membership:

Christ the King Lutheran Church – Great Falls, VA



Occupation History:

Forester

Participation at Synod or Churchwide Level:

Participation at Congregation Level:

Witness and Outreach Committee, Service Committee

Community Involvement:

NAACP, EcoAction Arlington, Montessorri Public School of Arlington, VA Native Plant Society

Demographics:

Gender: Woman

Roster: Neither - Lay

Youth/Young Adult: Neither

Person of Color/Primary Language Other Than English: Yes

10 Things to Know about 1517 Media

Spring 2024

1. **All Creation Sings** continues to expand and provide new resources for your congregation to connect with each other, your community, and our world through worship and prayer. With the use of new editions in your church; accompaniment options on piano, organ, and guitar; intergenerational activities and sessions with **Gather Together**; and **Kids Celebrate** booklets for the youngest in your church, you can help support the rhythms of the whole church year and give extra attention to themes of healing and wholeness, creation care, justice and peace, praise and lament. augsburgfortress.org/allcreationsings
2. The Spanish-language **Oye Mi Voz: Un Libro de Oraciones para la Prisión** joins the popular **Hear My Voice: A Prison Prayer Book** in supporting people in the criminal justice system and those who minister to them. This collaborative effort between the ELCA and Augsburg Fortress encourages all in the criminal justice system to spend time in prayer, trusting in God's never-failing love for them and the whole world. augsburgfortress.org/prison-ministry
3. Augsburg Fortress released the first two books in its new Mouth House series. Every synod staff and congregational call committee can benefit from reading **Call to Allyship: Preparing Your Congregation for Leaders of Color** edited by Rev. Angela T. !Khabeb and featuring authors of color from throughout the ELCA. **Ashes to Action: Finding Myself at the Intersection of the Minneapolis Uprising** by Shari Seifert makes an excellent group read. augsburgfortress.org/mouthhouse
4. 1517 Media was awarded \$1.25 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its Nurturing Children through Worship and Prayer initiative. Funding will support research and the development of new resources for children, families, church leaders, and congregational education. Look for more news about this new multi-year program, **Unbridled Presence**.
5. Augsburg Fortress continues to publish vibrant music to engage the worshiping assembly. Our new choral music features an exciting anthem by Nathan Zullinger, **"God You Spin the Whirling Planets."** **Living in Wonder** is the final collection of Susan Palo Cherwien's hymn texts, featuring 21 new assembly songs. Our free **Summer 2024 Music Clinics** feature musicians extraordinaire David Cherwien and Mark Sedio. augsburgfortress.org/music/summer-music-clinics
6. **Sparkhouse Digital** continues to support early childhood programming, Sunday school, confirmation, and youth ministry. New mini camps, leader supports, and other activities are added quarterly! Subscribers can access **Digital Activity Kits** that help congregations provide resources for use in the home or as a supplement to in-person faith formation activities. sparkhousedigital.com
7. Sparkhouse continues to release books supporting youth and young adults in their faith journeys. **Unscheduled Grace: 40 Reflections and Prayers for College Students** by campus pastors Katie Fick and Matt Marohl accompanies students through the changes, challenges, and joys of college living. **Unearthing Us**, the third collection of poetry by Joe Davis, will release in July along with a facilitator guide by Rev. Jia Starr Brown. wearesparkhouse.org
8. Fortress Press publishes scholarship that matters in the academy, the church, and the community. Recent releases include **Our Trespasses: White Churches and the Taking of American Neighborhoods**, a timely examination of how race, geography, policy, and religion have created haunted landscapes and uncomfortable truths. Also of interest to churches are **Luther for Everyone: Who He Was and Why He Still Matters** and **Bonhoeffer for the Church: An Introduction**. fortresspress.com
9. Our Broadleaf Books imprint expands the mind, nourishes the soul, and cultivates the common good. Recent releases include **Trash: A Poor White Journey**—a personal look at economic divides—**Psalms of My People: A Story of Black Liberation as Told through Hip-Hop**, and **A Faith of Many Rooms: Inhabiting a More Spacious Christianity**. broadleafbooks.com
10. Our Beaming Books imprint sparks the imagination and equips kids and families to live full and flourishing lives, together. Recent releases include **What If I Can't Explain God?**, **I Love You Mucho Mucho**, and **Everyday Brave**. beamingbooks.com

Want to learn more? Follow us on social media, sign up for our free e-newsletters, and connect with us at the Youth Gathering and Music Clinics this summer!

To learn more about the five imprints of 1517 Media, scan here to watch a video that we created for the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.



Created to Be . . . Free, Brave, Authentic, a Disciple, and Together

We thank you for your commitment to Caroline Furnace in 2023! Your financial support is much appreciated and was used to further the ministry and mission of the wider church. Here are some highlights from 2023:

Building in 2023 ~ We finished framing construction and enclosing the ceiling of our Solar Pavilion. We dedicated the Solar Pavilion at our Open House in May and began using it during summer camp for camper drop off and pick-up and for our closing worship. In 2024, we will finish the pavilion with the solar panels and catering kitchen.

Summer Camp in 2023 ~ We had 300+ campers and volunteers and 10 domestic and 4 international counselors! It was the first time in a while (due to pandemic travel restrictions) that we had international counselors. We are building our staff diversity and plan on more campers and international staff in 2024.

Retreats in 2023 ~ We had 95 events and retreat groups with people coming to experience the beauty and peace of our space. We had so many groups who came for their 2nd, 3d, 4th . . . or 47th visit (a private school has been coming for 47 years!) You're invited to join us for an event or retreat in 2024!

Faith in 2023 ~ We had too many faith moments to count! We had faith moments every day as we prayed for you and for each other. We had faith that you were there to pray for, visit, and support us as Your Outdoor Ministry and our faith was well-placed! Let's do it again in 2024!

Did you know 55 former summer camp staff from Caroline Furnace are serving as clergy in congregations or synod offices and five more are currently in seminary? Let us not forget the thousands of other adults who have hiked our trails over the last 67 years that are now involved in mission work and leading congregational teams.

Donors – over 300 individual donors, and 40 congregations and businesses in 2023

Volunteers - over 178 individual volunteers providing 2,498 volunteer hours.

Expenses: \$525,071 (44% staffing, 16% Operations, 20% programs, 7% Maintenance, 8% Utilities, 5% Insurance))

Revenue: \$571,664 (43% donations, 27% programs, 13% rental, 11% Grants and Logging, 6% Synod Support)

Total Inclusion: We continued our commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion by developing 14 action steps around becoming more welcoming for people in the LGBTQIA+ community, BIPOC community, and people living with diversabilities community..

These are just a few examples that provide a clear vision of the impact outdoor ministry has across the ages and well beyond our three synods. What a blessing it is to share this journey with you again this year. Wherever you are in your spiritual and earthly life, there is a place for you here at Caroline Furnace.

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ELCA Federal Credit Union



ELCA Foundation

Updates from the ELCA Foundation | Synod Assemblies 2024

The ELCA Foundation doesn't just envision a future; it's building one where intentional generosity and stewardship have allowed the mission and ministry of the ELCA to grow beyond our expectations. Our goal is to create a vibrant culture where intentional giving fuels the expansion of the ELCA's work in the US and around the world.

We're on a mission to grow ELCA ministries by empowering individuals, congregations, synods, and other entities with the tools they need to maximize their financial potential.

But what does that mean for you?

Imagine having a trusted partner who not only helps you navigate the complexities of gift planning and administration but also provides expert guidance on how to invest in the future of your ministry. That's where the ELCA Foundation steps in.

Whether you're considering leaving a legacy through an endowment, navigating estate planning, or exploring creative ways to support your congregation, we're here to make the process seamless and straightforward. Best of all, our gift planning services are completely free for you and your ministry.

Ready to take the next step in growing your congregation's culture of giving? Connect with your local ELCA Foundation representative today and discover how together we can make a lasting impact. Visit **Foundation.ELCA.org** to get started.

2023 AT A GLANCE

Our gift planning network walked alongside **203 donors/families** in developing their gift plans, which resulted in **\$62.5 million** in future planned-gift commitments. **More than \$17 million** of this will go to provide direct support to individual ELCA congregations.

The network generated **\$116.3 million** in total gifts and investment assets. This includes new planned-gift commitments, **\$8.8 million in current gifts**, including funded trusts, gift annuities and individual endowments, and **\$45 million in new assets** invested in the Ministry Growth Fund.

CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL GIFT PLANNER:

The Reverend David C. Shank, CFRE
David.Shank@elca.org
410-716-4204

ELCA REGION 8 STEERING COMMITTEE

The synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) are grouped in regions as a partnership between groups of synods and the churchwide organization for the purpose of exercising mutual responsibilities. According to the ELCA Constitution, the functions of regions is to be a means for coordinated responses by synods and the churchwide organization to mission and program opportunities within the region.

Region 8, of which we are part, includes the following synods: Northwestern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Allegheny, Lower Susquehanna, Upper Susquehanna, Delaware-Maryland, Metropolitan Washington DC, West Virginia-Western Maryland.

The Region 8 Steering Committee consists of the bishops and vice presidents of the eight synods. The committee meets annually and on occasion more often when need arises. The committee met in September 2023, at Sequanota Lutheran Conference Center and Camp in Allegheny Synod. The committee discussed business and strengthened ties as a region, considering our joint work and shared finances. The accounts for Region 8 are managed at the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod office. Jennifer Lau, vice president of Lower Susquehanna Synod, serves as chair of the Steering Committee.

Region 8 employs the Rev. Beth Martini in a part-time position of Region 8 Coordinator of Shared Ministries. Pastor Martini is the point person for the First Call Theological Education (FCTE) retreat held annually in November. This retreat welcomes all ministers for continuing education and support in the first three years following ordination. Additionally, Pastor Martini carries out the desires of the Steering Committee, such as encouraging communications and continuing education events, particularly through ULS Kindling Faith.

Recent initiatives of the region include a joint Lutheran Disaster Response training event, September 4-6, 2024, at Camp Kairos, Maryland, and a reinvigoration of the Appalachian Ministry Network, which held a meeting in West Virginia in March 2024.

The Region 8 Steering Committee plans to meet November 22-23, 2024, at ULS Gettysburg Campus.

The Rev. Beth Martini, *coordinator of Region 8 Shared Ministries*; and Ms. Jennifer Lau, *chair of Region 8 Steering Committee*

*Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.
1 Corinthians 12:4-6, NRSV*

Friends in Christ, grace to you and peace as you gather in assembly.

When I talk with folks, I am sometimes asked what I do for my job. When I was a parish pastor, it was relatively easy to describe. Every day in parish ministry is different, but most people, even folks who are not church folks or who actively practice a different faith, have some understanding of worshiping communities and the people who lead those communities. It is not quite as easy to describe this ministry to community members or new candidacy partners. I usually say something like, “I work with people who want to become pastors or deacons. And, I work with the people *who interview the people* who want to be pastors or deacons in our church.”

The follow-up question might be: How do people *actually become* a deacon or pastor in the ELCA?

We trust that the Holy Spirit nudges candidates and guides discernment. A candidate will engage in education, practical experiences, and the candidacy process in their home synod. A synod candidacy committee meets confidentially to engage with candidates to interview, have discernment conversation, accompany, and assess readiness for ordination. The committee works with partners throughout the church—seminaries, synod and churchwide staff, home congregations, and candidates to accomplish this task on behalf of the whole church.

Committees listen to a sense of internal call that the candidate brings; are attentive for signs of an external sense of call; vote to grant, postpone, or deny candidates at 3 main decision points; and wait to see if after a candidate is approved they will be extended a letter of call and the gift of ordination. You can read more about candidacy and this process at www.elca.org/Resources/Candidacy

Since my last report to you in 2023, Candidacy Committee partners were invited to participate in an online Candidacy Summit, “Called to Accompany and Called to Discern” across the ELCA. In 2024, there will be an opportunity for candidacy leaders from regions 7 & 8 to meet at United Lutheran Seminary for training and collaboration days.

Since 2022, the Candidacy Leadership Development Working Group (CLDWG) has been re-envisioning the entire candidacy process. The CLDWG has started to share possible candidacy changes with candidacy partners and is welcoming feedback. The hope is a new process will be voted on at the Churchwide Assembly in 2025. Please hold all partners in prayer as there becomes more clarity on the future of candidacy. You can learn more at: www.elca.org/Our-Work/Leadership/Candidacy-Leadership-Development

Thank you for your synod’s participation in this shared ministry and for the privilege to serve among you.

In Christ,
The Rev. A. Rebecca Resch (she/her)
Candidacy and Leadership Manager, Regions 7 & 8
becky.resch@elca.org

Region 7: ~ New Jersey Synod ~ New England Synod ~ Metropolitan New York Synod ~ Upstate New York Synod ~
~ Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod ~ Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod ~ Slovak Zion Synod ~

Region 8: ~ Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod ~ Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod ~ Allegheny Synod ~
~ Lower Susquehanna Synod ~ Upper Susquehanna Synod ~ Delaware-Maryland Synod ~
~ Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod ~ West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod ~

Lutheran Campus Ministry/The Humble Walk
University of Maryland, College Park
2023-2024 Report to the Synod Assembly



Weekly activities

- Sunday night dinner and worship with an average attendance of 25 students. Thanks to all the churches who provided a meal and worshiped with us!
- Three weekly children's tutoring and mentoring programs pairing UMD students with over 40 elementary school students - stART on Tuesdays, En Camino on Wednesdays, and CARing Kids on Thursdays
- Biblelogue and Bible 101 - two weekly Bible study options
- Huddles - student-led discipleship and discernment small groups
- Joyful Noise - our student Praise Band, weekly rehearsals and semimonthly worship leading in the synod
- Regular staff one-on-one meetings with each student leader

Other campus ministry activities

- Quarterly Stream clean-ups (students have officially adopted Guilford Run)
- Intramural sports teams (soccer, basketball, flag football and volleyball)
- Game nights,,paintball, bowling, and other fellowship activities

Trips and Retreats

- Summer 2023 trip to Baraga, Michigan to learn about Indigenous people
- Fall 2023 Ocean City Retreat at St. Peter's (with Baltimore and Delaware)
- Winter 2024 trip to the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago (LSTC)
- Spring Break 2024 trip to Atlanta and Alabama around the theme of Civil Rights and Race, then and now, with the Baltimore Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry
- Spring 2024 Unplugged Retreat to Mar-Lu-Ridge around the theme War & Peace
- Summer 2024 Trip to Taize, Slovakia, Geneva and Munich



Key Updates

- Alyssa Cobb is serving as our first Director of Stewardship and Advancement
- In the fall we hosted 10 German College Students, and we will do the return visit this summer
- This year we have had 17 students on our leadership team

“I just like who I am more after I come to Humble Walk” A., UMD student

Thank You to the DE/MD Synod, congregations, and individuals for your generous support!

For more information, www.lutheranterps.com

Bulletin of Reports Metropolitan DC Synod

Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp and Retreat Center

Our mission statement: Rooted in Christ, we welcome all to encounter God's love through sacred hospitality, deepening relationships, and care for creation.

Mar-Lu-Ridge continues to be a community where people find welcome, inclusion, and joy.

Of the many positive comments we received this past year, one that stood out was from a first-time camp family, who was afraid their camper would struggle away from home. At the end of the week, the camper went home joyfully declaring that while it was scary at first, pretty soon "they were all friends." This is why we remain committed to summer camp as a space where all youth and our young adult staff can fully be themselves and know that they are included, loved, and accepted.

God was very much present as we served all our campers, and provided safe space for our staff to explore their faith and grow in community. Our camper numbers grew by 17% for a total of 398, many of whom were first time attendees. Our retreat guest numbers saw a huge jump of 20%, for a total of 4,770 people served with sacred hospitality. There is great diversity among our retreat guests, and we enjoy meeting their needs and learning about their own faith journeys.

It was our joy to welcome Afghani families for the first respite retreat in partnership with LIRS, now called Global Refuge. We embarked on a capital campaign entitled "With Open Arms" which is focused on accessibility, and our fundraising efforts remain strong. It is exciting to think of the programming, community meals, Family retreats and camps, and faith exploration that await us in 2024 and beyond.

The gifts of the Metro DC Synod are much appreciated. Thank you for your continuing support and prayers.

Peace,
Sarah Lefler
Executive Director

Mission Investment Fund, ELCA

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P: 301-354-2710 F: 240-386-8623
www.nationallutheran.org

National Lutheran Communities & Services (NLCS) is a not-for-profit, faith-based ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) Delaware-Maryland, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. and Virginia synods, serving people of all beliefs. NLCS provides older adults with a variety of lifestyle, residential and health care options through retirement communities and services in Maryland and Virginia.

Our communities include The Village at Rockville (Rockville, Maryland), The Legacy at North Augusta (Staunton, Virginia), The Village at Orchard Ridge (Winchester, Virginia), The Village at Providence Point (Annapolis, Maryland), and services through myPotential at Home. We support residents at the Heritage at Augsburg (formerly The Village at Augsburg) in Baltimore, Maryland through a benevolent endowment as seen in our other communities.

As a not-for-profit with more than 130 years of serving older adults, NLCS offsets the cost of care for residents who have been good financial stewards yet have outlived their resources and can no longer afford the services or care they need, due to no fault of their own. NLCS has provided more than \$3 million in benevolent care yearly. Revenues are also invested back into its communities for better services, amenities and capital improvements that benefit both residents and team members.

NLCS visits congregations to share their direct impact and strengthen our vocational connection. Through temple talks, we provide updates on our shared ministry during services, then speak one-on-one after with congregation members who may have personal questions on adult care topics, volunteer opportunities, or stewardship.

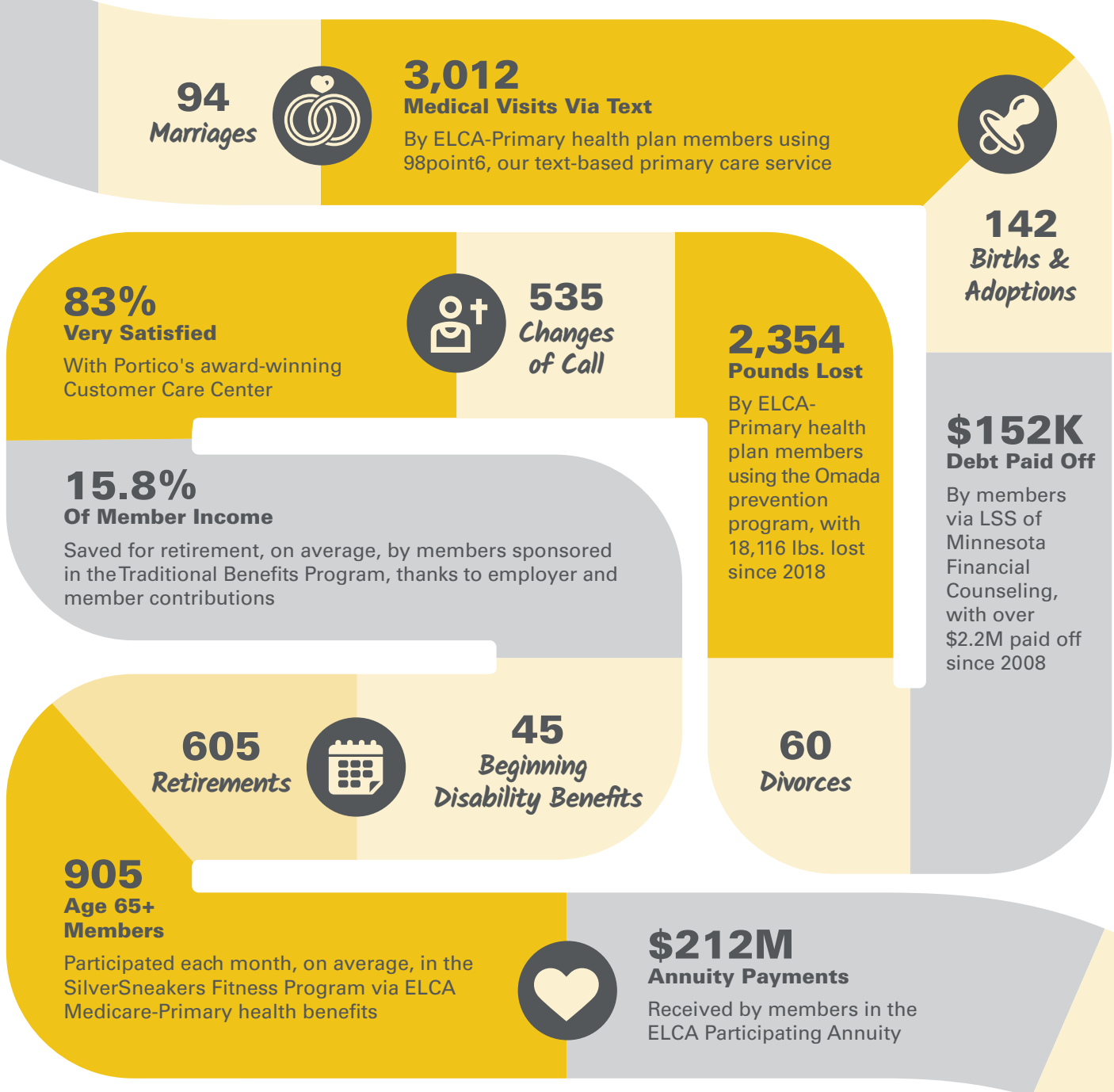
For more information regarding individual communities, benevolent care, or congregational connections, please contact Director of Mission Advancement Zachary Heeter at zheeter@nationallutheran.org or call 240-686-6002

National Lutheran Communities & Services (NLCS) is a faith-based, not-for-profit ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) Delaware-Maryland, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. and Virginia Synods, serving people of all beliefs. NLCS honors, inspires and supports choice and opportunity in partnership with older adults.

To view a full listing of our communities and service lines, visit www.nationallutheran.org.

Benefits Making a Difference

At Portico we strive to offer benefits that make our plan members' lives better, so that they can fulfill their mission of helping others live their best lives. Here is a visual recap of what our community of 45,000+ members experienced in 2023.



Our mission is to serve those who serve — financially, emotionally, and physically. We do this by securing quality, cost-effective, and useful benefits that make a difference for our members and sponsoring organizations. With each new year we continue to grow our pool and affirm the value and importance of church together.

Note: Unless a specific benefit program is mentioned, these numbers and percentages were drawn from across Portico's benefit programs.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS Seafarers International House

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Into the Faithful Future

Dear friends of Seafarers International House (SIH):

"Though your beginning was small, your latter days will be very great." Job 8:7

In 2023, Seafarers International House celebrated its 150th anniversary of uninterrupted service to well over two million people. Starting humbly with one pastor in 1873, we have been fulfilling our mission of being the *Lutheran response to the urgent needs of vulnerable seafarers and immigrants*, or more succinct: of welcoming in the stranger.

Reflecting on our past, of the evolution of our services, always adapting, often moving physically from one guest-house building to the next, we have reaffirmed that Seafarers International House is not a place but a service. In 2023, we welcomed fifty asylum seekers and provided them with free lodging and assistance from our new Social Worker, Michael Bradford, who collaborates with me tirelessly to make people who escaped violence and persecution feel at home, enabling many to become contributing members of their new homeland. We also offered 159 seafarers, often young mariners starting their careers or senior seafarers transitioning into retirement, affordable accommodations as they prepared for their next 3-6 months voyage or starting a new chapter of life, respectively.

During 2023, we strengthened our partnership with the Albany Maritime Ministry (AMM) with Pastors Kate Drefke and Lowell Chilton and hired Rev. Jonathan Westerlund to aid in the busy port of New Jersey & New York. In all ports, including Baltimore and New Haven, we visited 1,094 ships with

12,522 crew members, bringing on-board essentials and being present and transporting 2,061 of these seafarers to the mall or medical facilities.

Thanks to many individuals, youth and business groups, and congregations, a record 3,216 seafarers regardless of their faith felt some Holiday cheer when they opened their Christmas-at-Sea satchels filled with warm clothing and season's greetings, letting them know that we appreciate their sacrifices while they transport 90% of the things we use. Just look at the faces on the cover of this report and you can see the joy you have spread!

With our partners in the shipping industry, ship owners, and unions we celebrated our 150th anniversary at the Setting the Course Reception breaking an income record of over \$250,000 in crucial support of our Port Mission and subsidized lodging for mariners. We are grateful for the 2023 honorees John Atkins (Global Container Terminals), Mark W. Barker (Interlake Maritime Services), and Adam Vokac (Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association).

Yet, we also used the anniversary year to address future concerns. Through strategic planning involving all board members as well as members of the communities we serve, we determined that the current arrangement of renting our guesthouse to Breaking Ground furthers our mission by providing vital income to help us expand the port mission while continuing excellent lodging to asylum seekers and seafarers at the Markle Residence of the Salvation Army. This formula will allow us to save funds, complemented with donations from a comprehensive campaign, to eventually purchase

MISSION

Seafarers International House (SIH) is the Lutheran response to the urgent needs of vulnerable seafarers and immigrants.

SIH offers hospitality, social assistance, and advocacy to a multi-national and multi-faith community in maritime ports on the Eastern Seaboard, Albany and in New York City.

a new mission-based home with over eleven guest rooms by 2026, or earlier, if a cost-effective opportunity arises.

Please browse our web site (SIHNYC.org) for more details. I thank all of you who supported our essential services to "the stranger" through 2023, - from small beginnings to a faithful future sharing God's justice, welcome, and love.



Marsh Luther Drefke
Pastor and Executive Director



Members of Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lititz, PA, helped me (kneeling in black) assemble Christmas-at-Sea satchels in November 2023.

2023 Program Impact

18,005 immigrants and seafarers directly benefited from SIH services

2,297 lodging nights (up from 1,764) provided to 156 seafarers in Manhattan.

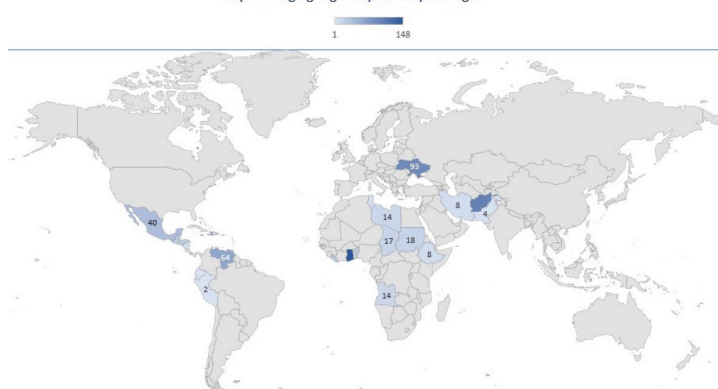
12,522 seafarers were visited and counseled on 1,094 ships, receiving essentials they requested.

2,061 seafarers were transported to a mall or medical facilities.

3,216 seafarers, regardless of faith, received Christmas-at-Sea satchels filled with warm clothing and holiday greetings prepared by volunteers to recognize these essential workers. This exceeds last year's record of 2,915!

50 asylum seekers received free lodging for a total of 766 nights. They hailed from Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Chad, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iran, Jamaica, Liberia, Libya, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Sudan, Tunisia, Ukraine, and Venezuela. (See highlighted countries with number of lodging nights on the map below).

Asylee Lodging Nights by Country of Origin

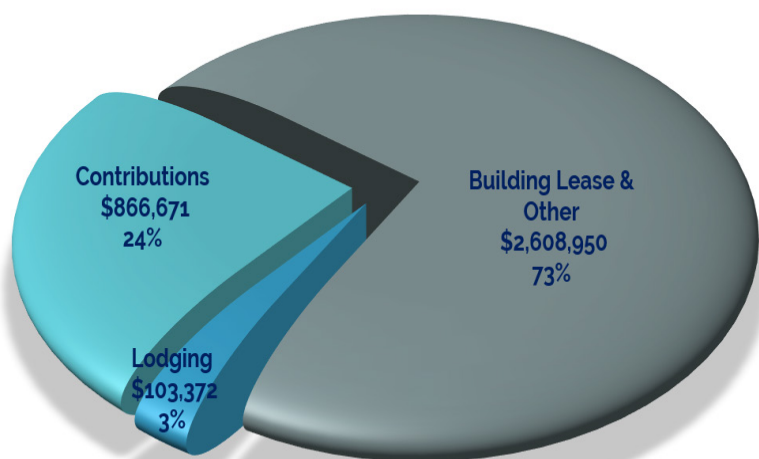


2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

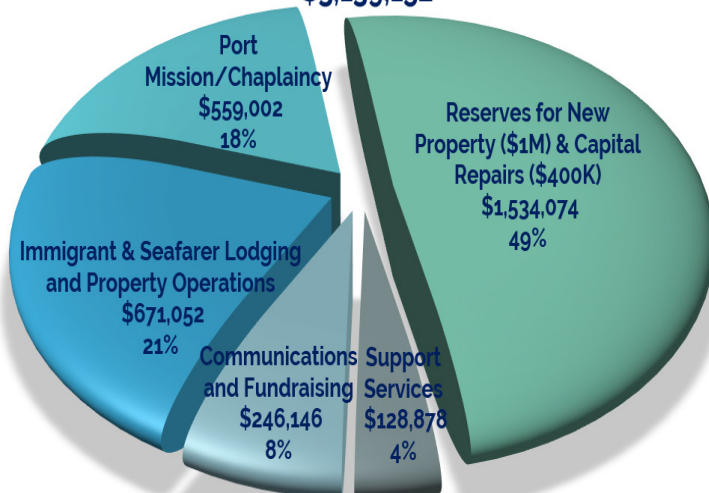
In accordance with our 2024 - 2028 strategic plan, operating gains help to build reserves for a new property (\$1M) with mission-based guest rooms and offices and to allow for capital repairs on the guesthouse (\$400,000), which is leased to Breaking Ground, which offers transitional housing to the community. That lease revenue supports our mission to seafarers and immigrants. Donations remain a vital pillar of income to support our services and future expansion.

Program services and reserves accounted for 88% percent of expenses with only 12% spent on support services and fundraising. Net Assets increased from \$8,258,768 in 2022 to about \$10 million. These figures reflect *unaudited revenue and expenses and are subject to change*. To request the audited 2023 financial statements send an email to henryk@sihnyc.org.

Operating Revenue 2023 (pre-audit) \$3,578,993



Operating Expenses & Reserves for New Property 2023 (pre-audit) \$3,139,152



Seafarers International House * Mailing Address: 123 East 15th Street,
New York, NY 10003 * 212-677-4800 * info@sihnyc.org * www.SIHNyc.org
An Affiliate of the ELCA

Follow us on





United Lutheran Seminary

Kindling Faith
Learning Never Ends

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Grace and Peace be with you in your synod assembly. I pray that your work bears fruit that will give praise to God and service to neighbor in the broad context of ministries that you share.

United Lutheran Seminary continues to walk with you in this journey, asking for your prayers and support as we focus on four areas of accompaniment:

- 1) Providing a relevant education for students studying to be deacons and pastors through our recently revamped curriculum, which increases emphasis on the practice of ministry.
- 2) Seeking ways to decrease the costs of a seminary education so that our graduates will not be burdened with debt loads, and at the same time trying to bring as many students as possible into our classrooms.
- 3) Increasing the quantity and quality of continuing education options through initiatives like the Kindling Faith program so as to offer a lifelong community of learning for rostered and lay people. We also hope to be out among you in the synods more often than we have been since the pandemic.
- 4) Seeking your support to strengthen and sustain our relationship with your synod and the whole ELCA that responds to the needs of the church now and in the future.

I am happy to share that our enrollment numbers continue to be strong with just over 350 students across our degree programs: 116 studying to become deacons or pastors, 89 in the Doctor of Ministry program, and the remainder in other master's level or certificate programs. This fall we will be enrolling a new cohort of PhD students for the first time since before the consolidation of our predecessor schools. In addition, the Asian Theological Institute, Kindling Faith, and the Urban Theological Institute have received \$3 million in grants, collectively, to benefit their continued work.

We also welcome Rev. Dr. Nelson Rivera and Dr. Andre Price to our faculty and the new CFO, Brandee Carrigan, to senior administration. We are grateful for those of you who serve on our Board of Trustees for the wisdom you bring to the table. Our Seminary Ridge Museum excels at sharing the complex narrative of the pivotal moment in the Civil War that continues to inform our theological discussion in these times of polarization and strife. Our Kindling Faith program is always expanding its programming and providing opportunities that are culturally relevant and spiritually fulfilling both online and in-person, and on both our physical campuses (type "Kindling Faith" in the search bar to learn more).

This being my fourth year as President of ULS, I can report with gratitude that the prospects for the seminary are very good as we approach the 200th anniversary of our founding. We hope you'll be able to celebrate with us at one of the many 2026 events we are planning to mark the occasion. Lastly, I wish you the peace that passes all understanding in the journey ahead—a journey we make together.

Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin

The following are the minutes of the 2023 Synod Assembly of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The 2023 Synod Assembly met on June 3, 2023, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - Gaithersburg, MD, in a hybrid format, with voting members having been given the option of participating in person or virtually.

Barbara A. Bilodeau
Secretary of the Synod

DRAFT

**Minutes of the 2023 Synod Assembly
The Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
Saturday, June 3, 2023
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - Gaithersburg, Md**

The Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Piscataway, Nacotchtank (Anacostan), Patuxent, Susqueahnnoch, Doeg, and Manahoac peoples. We give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

Introductory Activity

Prior to the day of Synod Assembly, Zoom meetings were held to introduce the Mission Spending Plan conducted by Treasurer Julie Hamre, and an orientation for new voting members was conducted by Parliamentarian Richard Ahlberg, Br. Ken Taylor, and Pr. Jeff Wilson.

On the morning of Synod Assembly, Worship Assistant Training was led by Pr. David Slagle Peck and a Synod Council meeting was held.

Opening worship was held immediately prior to the commencement of the Assembly. The sermon was shared by Rev. Dr. Bridget Piggue, Director for Spiritual Health, Emory University, Midtown Atlanta, on the topic “Believe What?”

Opening of Assembly

Bishop Leila Ortiz called the Assembly to order at 10:18 AM and made opening remarks.

PLENARY – SESSION 1

Introduction to Voting Process & ELCA Representative

Bishop Ortiz called upon Pr. Jeff Wilson, Synod Assembly Planning Team, to share announcements and Rev. Kari Parsons, Chair of the Elections Committee, to describe the process for voting processes.

Due to challenges with the WIFI and voting process, the agenda was shifted, inviting the message from the ELCA Representative, The Rev. Keith Fry with Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton on (via video) “Together we are called.” Rev. Fry extended thanks for the work and support of this Synod, noting:

- Our Mission Support enables 8900 congregations in 65 synods to serve in ways that no one congregation could do alone.
- Support of \$38.7M from was shared from congregations, to synods, to the Churchwide organization to do ministry in Jesus’ name.
- This synod shared \$460k to support this work.
- Beyond the Mission Support funds, the Lutheran Disaster Response raised more than \$23M in 2022. Last year this synod provided \$420k to support neighbors around the globe.
- Lutheran Disaster Response has been in Ukraine supporting refugees. Your giving helps people in crisis know the love of Jesus. LDR has received \$12.6m for eastern Europe crisis response.
- ELCA World Hunger raised more than \$19m in 2022. Givers from this Synod provided more than \$187k of that response.

Rev. Fry reiterated the thanks for our passion for the Good News and Justice in this world, willingness to support each other, and commitment to care for our neighbor. A video of greetings was shared from Presiding Bishop Eaton.

Keynote Address

The keynote address was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Bridget Piggue, Director for Spiritual Health, Emory University, Midtown Atlanta. The message and questions continued until 11:54 AM.

Lunch and Workshops

Bishop Ortiz called upon Pr. Jeff Wilson and Pr. Eric Randolph, who provided instructions for lunch and for attending breakout workshops during this period. The deadline for nominations or resolutions was announced to be 2 PM.

The Assembly stood in recess during the lunch period, when participants were given the opportunity to attend three breakout sessions, with the following choices:

Group A: 11:50AM - 12:50PM

- A. Lunch pick-up (no workshop)
- B. Putting Racial Equity into Practice. The Rev. David Yocis & Emily DeMarco, Strategic Planning Team
- C. Learn More About How YOU Can Extend A Generous Welcome. The Rev. Christine Dunn, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area
- D. Leaving A Legacy, Inspiring and Supporting Future Ministry. The Rev. David Shank, ELCA Foundation
- E. Truth and Healing: Understanding the Impact of Colonization on Indigenous Peoples Racial Equity Team

Group B: 12:55PM - 1:55PM

- A. Lunch pick-up (no workshop)
- B. 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering. Elizabeth Burnside
- C. Together: Partner more, work less, enjoy ministry. New and Renewing Missions Table
- D. Congregational Constitutions 101. The Rev. Keith Fry, ELCA Representative

Group C: 2:00PM - 3:00PM

- A. Putting Racial Equity into Practice. The Rev. David Yocis & Emily DeMarco, Strategic Planning Team
- B. Leaving A Legacy, Inspiring and Supporting Future Ministry. The Rev. David Shank, ELCA Foundation
- C. I Love to Tell the Story. Stewardship and Mission Support Table
- D. Truth and Healing: Understanding the Impact of Colonization on Indigenous Peoples Racial Equity Team

PLENARY – SESSION 2

Bishop Ortiz called Plenary Session 2 to order at 3:15 PM

Approval of Hybrid Assembly Format

Bishop Ortiz advised the Assembly that the under the Synod’s Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions, the Synod Assembly must be conducted in person, unless otherwise ordered by the Synod Assembly. Thus, the first order of business is to obtain the approval of voting members physically present to permit all voting members, whether physically present or participating virtually, to vote on all matters before the Assembly.

Motion: To permit all voting members of the 2023 Synod Assembly of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod to vote on all matters before the Assembly, whether participating in person or virtually.

VOTED: **SA23.06.01** To adopt the foregoing motion.

Bishop Ortiz declared the motion was adopted.

Report of the Registrar

Bishop Ortiz called upon Secretary Barbara Bilodeau to give the report of the registrar.

Present ¹ :	Lay Voting Members	132
	Rostered Voting Members	<u>89</u>
	Total Voting Members	221

Secretary Bilodeau noted that the quorum requirement for the 2023 Synod Assembly was 127, constituting one-third of the total voting members of the Synod Assembly. Bishop Ortiz declared that a quorum was present.

Seating of the Voting Members

Bishop Ortiz asked for a motion to approve the seating of voting members.

Moved & Seconded: To approve the seating of voting members, both on line and in person, of the 2023 Synod Assembly.

VOTED **SA23.06.02** To adopt the foregoing motion.

Bishop Ortiz declared the motion was adopted.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

Bishop Ortiz described the Consent Agenda, which consisted of the adoption of the agenda as set forth in the meeting materials for the Assembly, the adoption of rules of procedure, approval of absences from the Assembly, and approval of the minutes of the 2022 Synod Assembly as set forth in the meeting materials for the Assembly.

2023 Synod Assembly Rules of Procedure

01. To the extent consistent with the following rules of procedure, Robert’s Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern.
02. The Synod Assembly approves, upon the recommendation of the Synod Council, that a meeting of the Synod Assembly take place by means of a hybrid format in which some

¹ For purposes of any report of the registrar, the identification of voting members “present” shall be deemed to include those physically present and those participating virtually.

voting members are physically present while other voting members use an online meeting platform (such as Zoom webinar). This platform must allow that all participants who are entitled to voice and vote (whether physically present or using the online platform) can communicate with others in the meeting, in accordance with the Synod's governing documents and applicable Pennsylvania statutes.

Voice and Vote

03. All persons under call and retired on the roster of this Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, in attendance at this assembly, shall have voice and vote at the proceedings of this assembly. All interim pastors serving congregations of this synod, at the time of the assembly, shall have voice and vote.
04. Alternate lay members shall be seated if the regular lay members are unable to serve but only if any such alternate member is registered no later than the deadline established by the registrar.
05. Persons giving reports during this assembly's proceedings who are not members shall be given voice, no vote, during that portion of the assembly.
06. The parliamentarian appointed by the Synod Council shall be given voice, no vote (unless a member) during the proceedings of this assembly.
07. The Presiding Bishop, or his or her representative(s), and ecumenical representatives shall be given voice, no vote during the proceedings of this assembly.
08. Duly elected and serving members of the Synod Council shall have both voice and vote at the synod assembly, in accordance with S7.28 of the constitution of the synod.

Quorum

09. One-half (1/2) of the members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.

Proxy

10. Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of this synod.

Items of Business

11. With the consent of this assembly, the chair shall have the authority to call items of business before the assembly in whatever order is deemed by the chair most expedient for the conduct of assembly business. The chair shall limit discussions to items germane to the issues before the assembly.

Resolutions

12. Resolutions to be considered by the assembly shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Synod. In order to assure the resolution going to the floor of this assembly, such resolutions shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Synod prior to the promulgated deadline, which shall not be less than 30 days prior to the beginning of the assembly. The Secretary shall refer them to the Committee on Reference and Counsel. The Committee shall report to this assembly with its recommendations regarding the resolutions submitted, which shall constitute a motion to the floor of this assembly.
13. Any resolutions submitted after the deadline are not guaranteed a place on the agenda and must receive a two-thirds vote in order to be heard. Any resolution not receiving a two-thirds vote will be referred to the Synod Council for disposition.
14. Multimedia presentations will not be part of floor debate on resolutions.

Motions

15. All main motions, to be made, shall be in writing and presented to the Secretary of the Synod immediately (Constitution and Bylaw amendments require five (5) signatures of members).

16. A member who has spoken on the pending question(s) may not move the previous question(s).
17. A motion to end debate by moving the previous question shall apply only to the immediately preceding motion. A motion to end debate on all matters on the floor or more than the immediately pending question is not in order.
18. When a substitute motion is made, secondary amendments may be offered first to the original motion. After all secondary amendments to the original motion have been disposed of, secondary amendments to the substitute motion may be offered. When all amendments to the substitute motion have been disposed of, the vote shall be taken on whether the substitute motion is to be substituted as the original motion or be rejected.
19. Debate shall be limited to two (2) minutes per person, per speech.

Elections

20. Ballots shall be accepted only from those members who are seated within designated areas of the assembly hall and have been validated as voting members. In cases where electronic voting is used, access to voting software shall be granted only to, and may be used only by, such validated voting members.
21. Nominations from the floor shall be accompanied by the copy-ready vita and the consent of the person to be nominated, both to be submitted to the secretary at the time of the nomination.

Minutes

22. Minutes of this assembly shall be available for review by the Synod Council by the September 30 immediately following the assembly.

Applications for Displays

23. The Assembly Planning Committee shall determine the amount of space available for displays at each assembly site, year by year, and shall determine the fees charged for displays that are and are not directly related to the tables, teams, and committees of this synod in coordination with the Synod Council.

Applications will be reviewed by the planning committee for content of display and how it relates to the Synod Assembly theme. Permission or license for displays at each assembly shall be given in light of the following priorities:

First Priority: Synod divisions and offices.

Second Priority: Agencies and ministries directly affiliated with this synod, its congregations and/or the ELCA, including 1517 Media (f/k/a Augsburg Fortress).

Third Priority: Independent organizations, services, or ministries related or useful to the ministry of this church (e.g., church fund raising organizations, ecclesiastical arts agencies).

In principle, display authorization at this synod's assemblies shall always be considered a privilege and shall never be considered a right of any organization not officially affiliated with this synod and/or the ELCA.

In accord with available "third party space," the Assembly Planning Committee shall choose as many as seems appropriate from among the applicants.

Organizations whose prior behavior or whose styles of ministry are thought to be or have been demonstrated to be demeaning of persons of differing viewpoints as to their worth as individuals, or their worthiness to hear the Gospel or to live in community with other believers, shall not be permitted the privilege of display at assemblies of this synod. Decisions of the Assembly Planning Committee in this regard are considered final.

Excused Absences of Rostered Leaders

The Rev. Anna Anderson
The Rev. Mark Brown
The Rev. Bruce Burslie
The Rev. Mark Docken
The Rev. Heidi Eickstadt
The Rev. Kathy Garrison
The Rev. Philip Hirsch
The Rev. Charles Hodges
The Rev. Benjamin Hogue
The Rev. Scott Ickert
The Rev. Gerry Johnson
The Rev. Gene Kern
The Rev. Rebecca Kolowé
The Rev. Hank Langknecht
The Rev. Gordon Lathrop

The Rev. Jan Lookingbill
The Rev. Michael Magwire
The Rev. Kati Miller Holland
The Rev. Pam Mitcham
The Rev. Bill Perry
The Rev. Wayne Ralston
The Rev. Richard Reichard
The Rev. Gary Rhinesmith
The Rev. Harold Sargeant
The Rev. LeAnn Schray
The Rev. Glen A. Sea
The Rev. Tiffany Towberman
The Rev. Rebecca Vargas
The Rev. Joshua Wullenweber

Moved & Seconded: To approve the Consent Agenda, which consisted of the adoption of the agenda as set forth in the meeting materials for the Assembly, the adoption of rules of procedure, approval of absences from the Assembly, and approval of the minutes of the 2022 Synod Assembly as set forth in the meeting materials for the Assembly.

VOTED **SA23.06.03** To adopt the foregoing motion.

Bishop Ortiz declared the motion was adopted.

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Bishop Ortiz called for the report of the Reference and Counsel Committee (R&C). Pastor Mark Edwards, R&C Chair, reported to the Assembly.

Pr. Edwards brought the first four resolutions to the floor, in successive order.

Greetings

Resolution Number: 2023 – 001A

WHEREAS, other synods in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) are meeting in assembly on the same day as the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod assemblies; and,

WHEREAS, we are partners in the mission of the Gospel as part of this church; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly direct the Secretary of the Synod to extend to the other ELCA synods that are also meeting in assembly today our greetings in Christ and our prayers for their faithful deliberation as led by the Holy Spirit:

Central States Synod June 1-3

Central/Southern Illinois Synod June 1-3

Eastern North Dakota Synod June 3-4

Greater Milwaukee Synod June 3

Lower Susquehanna Synod June 2-3

Metropolitan Chicago Synod June 3

Montana Synod June 2-3

Nebraska Synod June 2-3

North Carolina Synod June 2-3

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod June 1-3

Northwestern Minnesota Synod June 3

South Dakota Synod June 3-4

Southeastern Synod June 2-4

Southern Ohio Synod June 3

Southwest California Synod June 2-3

Western North Dakota Synod June 3-5

Upstate New York Synod June 2-3

Moved: to adopt the resolution entitled “Greetings.”

VOTED SA23.06.04 To adopt the foregoing motion.

Bishop Ortiz declared the motion was adopted.

Thank You, Robert Tuttle

Resolution Number 2023 – 005

Whereas, Mr. Robert Tuttle has served faithfully as the Synod’s Legal Counsel for over twenty years, providing wise and insightful guidance to three synod bishops; and,

Whereas, Mr. Tuttle is completing his service to the synod in this capacity at the end of July 2023; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly expresses its heartfelt thanks to God for the years of dedicated and faithful service to our synod provided by Mr. Robert Tuttle as Legal Counsel and its appreciation for his commitment to the gospel and the furtherance of our shared mission in Christ.

Moved: to adopt the resolution entitled “Thank You, Robert Tuttle”

VOTED SA23.06.05 To adopt the foregoing motion.

Bishop Ortiz declared the motion was adopted.

Reconciling In Christ Welcome Statement

Resolution Number: 2023 – 002

WHEREAS, since at least 1983, the Reconciling in Christ (“RIC”) Program has been a public way for faith communities to see, name, celebrate, and advocate for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions in the Lutheran church; and

Whereas, the renewed purpose of the RIC Program is to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and

- gender expressions; work for racial equity and commit to anti-racist work and support the national program; and
- Whereas, the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod (“Metro DC Synod”) has been an RIC community since 1989; and
- Whereas, the current commitments that are required for a community to become RIC have evolved and expanded since the Metro DC Synod became RIC, and those commitments now include:
1. A Welcome Statement that clearly welcomes people of “all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions” or “LGBTQIA+” and states its commitment to "racial equity" or "anti-racism."
 2. Be open to calling an LGBTQIA+ and Black, Brown, Indigenous, Person of Color Rostered Leader.
 3. Allow sanctuary/community space to be used for LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings.
 4. Make a meaningful financial contribution annually to support the national RIC program; and
- Whereas, the Metro DC Synod Council and Racial Equity Strategic Planning Team support the synod’s affirmation of these commitments as applicable to a synodical community; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly:
1. adopts the following welcome statement be posted on the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. synod website and in any materials that describe who we are:
By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod affirms that all God’s children are called to cultivate a bold and boundless love for Jesus and God’s beloved creation. As such, you are beloved and welcome as you are, whatever your race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, disability status, mental health status, socioeconomic position, family status, or background, and you are welcome wherever you are in your faith journey. You are a unique child of God. You are accepted and affirmed not despite your differences but precisely because of all your differences and gifts. As a synod, we commit ourselves to embracing the work of racial equity, social and economic justice, and environmental care, and we are open to leadership by rostered and lay leaders who are members of the LGBTQIA+ community and leaders who are Black, Brown, Indigenous, or Persons of Color. Together, as through Jesus, we joyfully and inclusively love and serve our whole community, the Church, and the world.
 2. affirms an annual financial contribution by the Synod to Reconciling Works of at least \$6,000 to facilitate the national RIC program.
 3. encourages synod congregations who have not begun the RIC exploration process to begin the process in the coming year.

Moved: to adopt the resolution entitled “RECONCILING IN CHRIST WELCOME STATEMENT.”

Two amendments to the text were proposed; both accepted with no objection; amendments were adopted.

VOTED **SA23.06.06** To adopt the foregoing motion.

Bishop Ortiz declared the motion was adopted.

Synod Council Executive Committee

Resolution Number: 2023 – 004

- WHEREAS, currently, the Constitution of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod (Metro DC) specifies in Chapter S10.07.05 that *“There shall be an Executive Committee which shall consist of the bishop, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and four members of the Synod Council. Of the four members elected by the Synod Council, no more than one shall be from the same conference. The Executive Committee shall exercise such powers as delegated by the Synod Council.”*; and,
- WHEREAS, recent Metro DC Synod Assembly reduced the number of Synod Council members to 18 (from 22); and,
- WHEREAS, requiring four officers and four council members to be on the Executive Committee would entail 40% of the council be on this supervisory committee; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly adopt the following amendment to the Constitution of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, Chapter Ten, Section 07.05 to read:
- “S10.07.05 There shall be an Executive Committee which shall consist of the bishop, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and two members of the Synod Council. Of the two members elected by the Synod Council, no more than one shall be from the same conference. The Executive Committee shall exercise such powers as delegated by the Synod Council.”*

Moved: to adopt the resolution entitled “Synod Council Executive Committee”

VOTED **SA23.06.07** To adopt the foregoing motion.

Bishop Ortiz declared the motion was adopted.

Formation of a Synod Youth and Family Ministry Committee

Resolution Number: 2023 – 003

- WHEREAS, among the priorities of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod is to equip and develop healthy leaders, empower and nurture vibrant ministries, and encourage and model faithful accompaniment; and,
- WHEREAS, the Synod formally recognizes the gathering of various teams, committees and tables for the work of the Synod across congregations but there is no formal Synodical recognition or gathering of the work in the areas of Youth and Family Ministry done by both rostered and lay leadership within congregations; and,
- WHEREAS, the Synod’s Teams, Committees, and Tables are made up of active lay and rostered leaders in the synod; regularly meet with by Synod Staff; are consulted by the Synod staff concerning Synod policy, staffing, and allocation of funds; and,
- WHEREAS, there has been inadequate communication of Synod policy, plans, allocation of funds, and events for Youth and Family Ministry with congregations and their leaders; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod formally establish a Youth and Family Ministry Committee for the purpose of furthering faith formation and leadership

development for youth and families within the Synod. This committee shall be given appropriate staff and budgetary support to adequately accomplish its work.

Moved: to adopt the resolution entitled “FORMATION OF A SYNOD YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE”

VOTED **SA23.06.08** To adopt the foregoing motion.

Bishop Ortiz declared the motion was adopted.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Bishop Ortiz called upon Pr. Tony Prinsen, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to present the Committee’s report to the Assembly.

Pr. Prinsen first introduced and thanked the Nominating Committee members: the Conference Deans, Pr. Andrea Walker, Pr. Dan Roschke, Pr. Troy Jacobson, Pr. Jeannette Surita-Vazquetelles, Pr. Sarah Lewis, Pr. Betty Landis, Pr. Kari Parson, Pr. Mark Edwards; and three members of the Synod Council, Sheena Foster, Kirsten Nusum, and Melody Stachour.

Pr. Prinsen introduced each of the nominees and referred the Assembly to the Candidate Information Forms that had been included in the advance materials for the Assembly. These were:

Uncontested Nominees:

DC Conference: Lay (2-year position)
Ms. Sheena Foster
Fairfax Conference: Rostered (2-year position)
Rev. Elijah Mwitanti
Montgomery Conference: Rostered (2-year position)
Rev. Betty E. Landis
Potomac Conference: Rostered
Rev. Alexander P. Stall, Jr.
Potomac Conference: Lay
No nominee
Virginia Conference: Lay (2-year position)
Mr. Donald S. Wallace
At Large: Youth (2 year position)
Ms. Breeze
Committee on Discipline – One Lay Position
Mr. David A. Anderson
Committee on Discipline – Two Rostered Positions
Pr. Kristin Hoyer
Pr. Jeanette Surita-Vazquetelles

Contested Nominees:

Maryland Conference: Rostered (2-year position)
Rev. Eric T. Randolph
Rev. Frank Everand Smart
Maryland Conference: Lay (1-year position)
Mr. Andreas Dangin
Mr. Rachad al-Mustamreh D.I. Love

Nominations were open until the 2 PM deadline; there were no additional nominations. Bishop Ortiz declared that the nominations for all positions were closed.

Moved & Seconded: To elect the uncontested positions.

VOTED **SA23.06.09** To adopt the foregoing motion.

Bishop Ortiz declared the motion was adopted.

There were two contested positions: the Maryland Conference, Rostered (2-year position) and Maryland Conference, Lay (1-year position). Paper ballots were distributed and collected.

Report of the Synod Treasurer

Ms. Julie Hamre, Treasurer, reviewed the financial reports for the 2022 fiscal year ended January 31, 2023, which were contained in the materials provided to the Assembly. The budget had been conservative in regard to Mission Support, and fell short by 4%; though congregations still contributed \$1.3M. This year we established investments ladder CDs to generate some interest income. We provided support to all ministries that were budgeted. Staff continued to keep operating expenses below budget.

Ms. Hamre noted that we have had opportunities to review and discuss the 2024 Mission Spending Plan. Highlights of this plan are: 35% of Mission Support to be passed to the ELCA; Continuing partnership with MD-DEL Synod on supporting youth and family ministries.

Moved: To adopt the Mission Spending Plan as presented.

VOTED **SA23.06.10** To adopt the foregoing motion.

Bishop Ortiz declared the plan adopted.

Report of the Bishop

Bishop Ortiz relinquished the chair to Vice President Jennifer Slagle Peck. The vice president called upon Bishop Ortiz to present her report to the Assembly.

Noted that “you have my report”: The video was provided on-line with the Assembly materials. In addition, Bishop Ortiz shared the need for the refreshment of the soul, and announced the upcoming “Traveling Prayer Nights.” She encouraged the theme of Sabbath – to keep the Sabbath and make it holy - and to play more. Saying “We’re going to play for the sake of health and sanity and call” she announced the Block Party on July 15 at Peace Lutheran Church in Alexandria, VA and a Nationals Baseball game on September 2.

At the conclusion of the Report of the Bishop, Vice President Slagle Peck relinquished the chair back to Bishop Ortiz.

Report of Synod Vice President

Bishop Ortiz called upon Vice President Jennifer Slagle Peck for her report. VP Slagle Peck noted that this year the Synod Council focused on how to build community and seek justice. She noted that another cohort of discussion groups completed the Sacred Ground series on race and faith. The Synod Council has worked on how to make systemic changes within our institutions and how to bring people together to build community. This past year, the Council:

- Actively discussed how to make meaningful acknowledgements of the original occupants of the land we inhabit
- Worked through racial equity audit
- Launched a Reconciling in Christ team

VP Slagle Peck noted that this work is not yet not done, but we are also not defeated by difficult work.

2024 Compensation Guidelines

VP Slagle Peck presented the 2024 Compensation Guidelines for approval, which has a 6% increase to account for inflation.

Moved: To adopt the 2024 Compensation Guidelines as presented.

VOTED **SA23.06.11** To adopt the foregoing motion.

Bishop Ortiz declared the Guidelines adopted.

Report of the Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy and Mobility

Bishop Ortiz called upon Rev. Sarah Garrett Krey, Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy and Mobility for her annual report. Her report noted:

- The Metro D.C. and Virginia synods have engaged discernment cohorts together, with participants from both synods who are in discernment about their vocation
- Since last September, the Metro D.C. Candidacy Committee has entranced four new candidates, endorsed one, and approved one.
- Four additional entrance decisions, one endorsement decision, and two approval decisions are expected early this summer.
- There are around a dozen congregations in our synod that are in various stages of transition.

Report of the Director for Evangelical Mission

Bishop Ortiz introduced Pr. Lamar Bailey, Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop. Pr. Bailey reported the activities of the New and Renewing Mission Table (NRMT)

- NRMT supports new ministries and current congregations that are finding new and creative ways to revitalize their ministries.
- This year Pr. David Shank helped to support congregations with post-secondary grants to offer ministry opportunities to students in their contexts. We believe this will be a valuable opportunity to foster connections and promote outreach.
- NRMT supported Cohort 2 of the Holy Listening Project which includes seven congregations in our synod. The cohort project guided congregations through a process that centers on discernment, mission, and implementation.
- Sabbath Grants program that we implemented last year was a great success, supporting nearly 40 rostered leaders in our synod.
- NRMT granted and funded a wide range of ministries, including grants to support a congregation's effort to be more inclusive of individuals with disabilities, building repair, grants to help with the impact of COVID, funds for campus ministry at University of Maryland, Latine ministry, technology grants, outreach grants and much more.

Pr. Bailey reported on the Racial Equity Team (RET). The team, co-chaired by Rev. Karen Brau and Rev. Franklin Morales, has been working hard to promote racial equity and justice in our synod and beyond.

- One of our key initiatives this year has been the Sacred Ground training, which is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Early findings from the Synod's Diversity Equity Inclusion Audit show that the Sacred Ground training has been a transformative experience for participants. We will continue to offer this training throughout the year and expand it.
- The RET is also working on a targeted communication list to keep everyone in our synod aware of all the great racial equity resources and events offered in our synod.
- The team is becoming more concerned about Christian Nationalism and is exploring what steps the team can take to educate our synod about this growing concern.
- We have been working on is the RET Commemoration calendar and short videos. The Commemoration List is a resource the team developed to honor the beautiful, painful, awesome, and rich history we share as a Church and as a nation.

Pr. Bailey also reported on the work of the Stewardship and Mission Support Table (SMST).

- The SMST was invited to share its work at the Stewardship Kaleidoscope event in Savannah, GA, last September. Pr. Tillman, Yvonne Lembo, and I represented the table and synod at the national conference.
- We launched two cohorts of Cultivating the Art of the Ask, guided by Bonnie Marden of MYTE Ministries. This training helped our lay and rostered leaders increase their confidence to faithfully and “boldly ask” for financial gifts.
- Our Advent initiative, Celebrating God's Gifts, had a wonderful impact. The table compiled short stories from individuals in the synod into an Advent Devotional that was shared throughout the synod.
- Our Gratitude Film Series was a 6-week online series that invited participants to explore the subversive practice of giving thanks through film discussions and meaningful implementation in their lives. This was the most highly attended event the synod held over the past several years!
- We completed a Storytelling video that showcases the work of our synod and celebrates the joy of generosity.

Election Results

The Rev. Kari Parsons provided the results of the election via paper ballots for Synod Council positions:

VOTED **SA23.06.12** For Maryland Conference – Rostered: 187 ballots were cast;

Rev. Eric T. Randolph - 91

Rev. Frank Everand Smart – 58

Abstain - 38

VOTED **SA23.06.13** For Maryland Conference – Lay: 188 ballots were cast;

Mr. Andreas Dangin - 67

Mr. Rachad al-Mustamreh D.I. Love – 69

Abstain - 52

Bishop Ortiz declared that Rev. Eric T. Randolph and Mr. Rachad al-Mustamreh D.I. Love were elected.

Anniversaries and Recognitions

Bishop Ortiz introduced the rostered leaders who were observing milestone anniversaries of their ordination during 2023 and invited them to stand if present. The complete list of anniversaries for ministers of Word and Sacrament is as follows:

5 years of ministry

Benjamin A Hogue
Jeanette Surita-Vazquetelles

10 years of Ministry

Annabelle P Markey
Amanda Nesvold

15 Years of Ministry

Carmelo Santos Rolon
Gregory B Durig
Kathy A Garrison

20 Years of Ministry

Albert W Triolo

25 Years of Ministry

Kari L Parsons
Rebecca J Vargas
Ramona Navarro

30 Years of Ministry

Connie Thomson
Margrethe S C Kleiber

35 Years of Ministry

Martin W Eldred

40 Years of Ministry

Mark D Blice-Baum
Paul S Collinson-Streng
Susan L Tyykila

45 Years of Ministry

A Lee Fjordbotten
Brian S Taylor
James P Wind
Richard H Graham
Thomas A Prinz

50 Years of Ministry

Bruce L Burslie
Leonel A Cruz
Ray W Michener
Richard F Zawistoski

55 Years of Ministry

David M Bohannon
George W Schwantes
Lowell E Schuetze
Myron L Barbour, Jr

60 Years of Ministry

Richard D Reichard
Neal R Davidson

65 Years of Ministry

Barron B Maberry

Bishop Ortiz also announced that congregations that are observing milestone anniversaries during 2023:

25 Years	Good Samaritan Lutheran Church	Lexington Park, MD
50 Years	St Matthew Lutheran Church	Woodbridge, VA
50 Years	All Saints Lutheran Church	Bowie, MD
150 Years	Luther Place Memorial Church	Washington, DC
180 Years	St Pauls Lutheran Church	Washington, DC

Reference & Counsel – Gratitude

The Rev. Mark Edwards introduced the following resolution.

Resolution 2023-006

Whereas, the 2023 Metro DC Synod Assembly Planning Committee, the Synod Council, the Synod Staff and numerous others have worked many hours to plan, prepare and program this assembly; and

- Whereas, completing the “work” of the Synod in a single-day meeting, along with providing edifying opportunities to learn about the church’s initiatives, activities, struggles, and plans, requires the time and talents of many volunteers and the services of the host congregation in preparing for this assembly; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly expresses its gratitude for God’s bountiful blessings and its appreciation to all who have made this Synod Assembly a fruitful gathering of God’s people,
- Rev. Keith Fry, representing the Presiding Bishop;
 - Rev Dr. Bridget Piggue, for her keynote address and workshop contributions;
 - Synod Assembly Planning Committee, chaired by Rev. Jeff Wilson, for the detailed planning and coordination of this assembly:
 - Nominations Team, chaired by Rev. Kari Parsons;
 - Elections Team, chaired by Rev. Ken Taylor;
 - Registrar, Kim Wenk;
 - Social Media and Creative Director, Kelly Champagne;
 - Good Shepherd AV Team with David Carlson; and
 - Reference and Counsel Committee, led by Rev. Mark Edwards;
 - Assembly Staff Liaison, Katharyn Wheeler, for her tireless effort in planning and coordinating the logistics for this assembly;
 - Assembly interpreters: Kathy Ogle and Elizabeth McMeekin;
 - Beatriz Orellana for providing the necessary assembly childcare;
 - Staff of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Gaithersburg for providing a welcoming and comfortable place for us to gather and deliberate;
 - All those persons nominated for Synod offices;
 - Assembly Worship Team, led by Reverend David Slagle Peck, and our Assembly Chaplain, Reverend Eric Randolph, for leading meaningful moments of prayer and quiet during our deliberations;
 - Assembly parliamentarian, Richard Ahlberg, for his counsel and the orientation session for first-time assembly voting members;
 - Synod Vice President Jennifer Slagle Peck, the Synod Treasurer Julie Hamre, and the Synod Secretary Barbara Bilodeau, for their leadership of the synod and their commitment to the assembly’s proceedings;
 - Those completing their terms on the Synod Council: Rev. Eugene Kern and Rev. Angela Shannon
 - Assistants to the Bishop: Reverend Sarah Garrett Krey (Chief of Staff/Assistant for Mobility and Candidacy), Reverend Lamar Bailey (Director for Evangelical Mission), and Deacon Julie Stecker (Assistant for Youth and Family) for their service to the congregations of our synod; and
 - Our Bishop, Reverend Leila Ortiz, for her patience and wisdom in chairing this assembly and her “Inspired” servant leadership of our synod during a challenging time for our church and our faith.

Moved & seconded: to adopt the resolution entitled “Gratitude”

VOTED by acclamation (applause) **SA23.06.14** To adopt the foregoing motion.

Bishop Ortiz declared the motion was adopted.

Conclusion of Assembly

There being no further business to bring before the Assembly, Bishop Ortiz made brief closing remarks of thanks and the 2023 Synod Assembly was declared closed at 5:35 PM.

The Assembly then proceeded immediately to the closing worship and installation of those individuals newly elected to the positions the Synod Council and the Committee on Discipline.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara A. Bilodeau
Secretary

DRAFT