

## **New and Renewing Mission Table Report to the Synod June 2021**

The New and Renewing Mission Table (NRMT) of the synod exists to direct funding and support to new ministries and existing congregations that are finding new and creative ways to revitalize their ministries. While 2020 was a challenging year, it was also a year of creativity. Despite the fact that churches had to close our physical doors for most of 2020, many churches found new and innovative ways of doing ministry. Livestreaming, drive-by communion, worship at home kits and so many other things that we had never done before became almost commonplace. Most churches discovered that it actually didn't take a huge amount of money to figure out how to do ministry in completely new ways. However, the New and Renewing Ministry Table was able to offer technology grants to some congregations that just needed a little extra help to get started. In addition, we were also able to support some of our congregations who were most hurt by the pandemic with the newly created Disaster Accompaniment Relief Fund set up by the synod council and funded through donations from members of the synod.

In addition to supporting churches through the particular challenges of 2020, the NRMT was also able to continue to support several of our churches that were already in the midst of multi-year grant cycles as they found new ways to keep reaching out and growing their ministries.

As 2020 came to a close, we worked with the bishop and other synod teams to make plans to shape our work for the coming year around the 3 synod priorities: Sabbath, Cultural Competence, and Transformational Leadership. We have developed a grant that will allow rostered leaders to take a mini-sabbath in 2021. We are also in the process of working with the coaching team to develop opportunities for congregations to apply for grants to work with coaches around Transformational Leadership and Cultural Competence.

We continue to welcome all congregations to contact us regarding innovative ideas for ministry. We'd love to talk about how we can help.

Respectfully Submitted

Rev. Shannon K. Anderson ([mission@metrodcelca.org](mailto:mission@metrodcelca.org))  
Chair, NRMT

## **New and Renewing Missions Grants 2020**

- **Good Samaritan Lutheran Church, Lexington Park, MD**  
Final \$9,000 through New Connections to fund a part time Director of Missions and Engagement who is leading the congregation to engage with their neighbors in new and creative ways.
- **King of Kings, Herndon, VA**  
In 2019, King of Kings opened a second campus, Dulles South. There is now a regular worshipping community there that meets both online and in person. \$40,000 from New Connections helped support this growing ministry.
- **St. Michael's Truth, Our Saviours, Mitchelville and Temple Hills MD**  
\$5,000 from the synod budget to support a community garden project on their campus.
- **Swahili Lutheran Church, Rockville MD**  
Swahili Lutheran is one of the new mission starts that came out of the New Connections program. This year they received \$35,000 from New Connections. Their community was heavily affected by the pandemic and so they also received \$15,000 in emergency financial support (from the synod budget, congregational mission budget and the new Disaster Relief Accompaniment Fund)
- **Peace, Alexandria VA**  
Peace Lutheran Church in Alexandria received \$23,100 from New Connections as part of a 3 year grant that has allowed them to expand their outreach with youth and families.
- **Good Samaritan, Lanham MD**  
Good Samaritan received \$5,000 from the Disaster Accompaniment Relief Fund (DALF) to help make up for loss of income due to the economic toll the pandemic had on its members.
- **Technology Grants**  
3 congregations received small technology grants to allow them to purchase the equipment they needed to have an online presence during the pandemic.
  - Hope, Annandale - \$500
  - Grace, DC - \$500
  - Christ, Fairfax - \$500