

Synodical Women's Organization 2019-2020 Report

Metro DC Synodical Women's Organization, a year in review:

2019-2020 brought change to the Synodical Women's Organization. Donna Nelson, who'd been serving as president, stepped down when she had to move. Laura Stall, who'd had the pleasure of attending the 2019 Annual Gathering and found herself drawn to the group, stepped into the position.

The 2019 Annual Convention was **Acting Boldly: Honoring the Past and Celebrating the Future**. Pastor Beth Platz gave the Plenary Speech and Bishop Ortiz gave the sermon. The workshops included "Living a Chocolate Life" Bible Study and "Discernment: Participating in God's Unfolding." For the service project, the women attached stickers to hotel-sized bars of soap that provided a phone number and information for victims of Human Trafficking.

We've had a very interesting year in SWO. Despite having to cancel our annual gathering, we did have a very exciting day planned. We had speakers from ReconcilingWorks, The Islamic Center of Maryland, and Lutheran Campus Ministry. Our goal was to have an event that would get the women of the synod thinking about how we could "be church" and "do church" outside of a church building's walls. We had plans to make hygiene bags to donate to an organization that helps those experiencing homelessness. Unfortunately, due to circumstances that we are all well aware of, we had to cancel the event.

Communication: Throughout the year, an effort was made to continue communicating with the women of our Synod, with brief updates and information about the virtual gatherings and meetups that various churches in our Synod were having.

The Future: The SWO Board met over Zoom to discuss the possibility of having a virtual Annual Gathering for 2021. A Survey was sent out to the women of the synod asking about preferences, and planning for a Fall Gathering will be underway shortly. We are hoping that, with the event being virtual, we can have exciting guests who may not have been able to come before due to travel restrictions.

I consider myself incredibly lucky that the board members whose positions would have ended in 2020 have decided to stay on board through to our next Gathering. I am immensely grateful to have these women on our board.

Current Officers:

President: Laura Stall,

Vice President: Fran Eck

Secretary: Sue Cottrol

Treasurer: Cheryl Dwyer

Board Members:

Marcia Ihnen

Cindy Hausch-Booth

Sheena Foster

It has truly been an honor to serve as President of the Metro DC Synodical Women's Organization, and I truly can't wait to see what we can accomplish in the coming months.

Peace and Love,
Laura Stall