



Southeastern Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Report for September 2018 Synod Council Meeting

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Wayne: The UNITED TM 2.0 Program continued with the second educational session for the five churches in the Atlanta Cluster and with the four churches in the Memphis Cluster. Both cohorts went very well. This is a two-year commitment, but it gives congregations hope of a path other than decline. It's about cultural change so it's demanding work. The MORC will discuss at their October meeting as to whether we expand to other geographic areas. This is needed but very difficult in light of our resources. In the last report, I advised you that I had developed a 3-hour seminar for Congregational Councils-Best Practices. I find virtually every church needs this. The intent was to do it in Deaneries with clusters of churches. The Deans were notified a few months ago. So far, no response. A Mission Developers Retreat was held August 7-9, 2018 at Lutheranch. It was to educate and create a support system for our great mission developers. Creating a new ministry is hard work and a network is needed to assist & encourage. It was a great success and we will be doing again in the future.

RON: The past few months have been very rewarding. In collaboration with the Synod Worship planning team the African Descent Lutheran Association (ADLA) held the first African American worship service at a Southeastern Synod Assembly. This was the result of the guidance of the Holy Spirit as developing a local ADLA chapter was part of my proposed Area Mission Strategy to get African American congregations to begin working together. The worship was widely and joyfully received. The next steps for ADLA is the continuation of the Liberation Theology book club, an interactive voter engagement project, and increased partnership with the Synod's Advocacy Team. I participated in the ELCA's Latin@ Ministry Intensive held in Austin, TX. This training will help establish the foundations, but can't guarantee the success, of building effective Latin@ ministries here in the synod.

I am continuing to work with two congregations that are seeking to become one. This process is coming along, and the congregations are making great progress. On September 6th the Bishop's Multicultural Table had their first meeting. This table raised questions, concerns and perspectives that will be foundational for building multicultural congregations. One comment that was pivotal was the understanding of the need for patience. Another perspective lifted regarding one of the reasons why our African Americans congregations struggle could be attributed to the lingering effects of racism and pay inequities during the peak income earning period of many of the members of these congregations. Our congregations simply reflect the wealth gap that is endemic in our society.

I am praising God because two of the Mission Developments that I work with have become funded and their Mission Developers installed Rev. Crispin Ilombe Wilondia and Rev. Karen Stephenson. Lastly, I have been asked to be part of a leadership team to plan a future DEM meeting regarding community organizing in January 2019 and to lead two anti-racism trainings one in October 2018 and one in Ohio in 2019.

New Starts

Resurrection Mission-Tucker, GA. was approved effective August 1, 2018. The leader, Rev. Mica Koli, was received on the roster and installed on August 15th, 2018. We are truly blessed with Mica joining our pastoral ranks.

Renewing Congregations

There are currently five formal Redevelopments. These include Holy Trinity-Daphne, AL., St. Paul-Decatur, GA., Holy Spirit-Savannah, GA., Christ-Prattville, AL., & Faith-Warner Robins, GA. Both Faith Lutheran and Holy Spirit Lutheran will conclude their formal Redevelopment Programs at the end of this fiscal year. The ELCA seems to be transitioning out of individual Redevelopments in their latest summary of priorities.

Multicultural, Ethnic, and Poverty Ministries

Finding true Mission Developers and Redevelopers is the number one problem. This is especially true of Latino pastors. Our congregation in Doraville, GA. has not had a pastor in years and there is no one in sight. Our Latino congregation in Oakwood, GA. no longer has a pastor so they now will be struggling. We continue to work with the Candidacy Committee to identify future developers.

Conclusion

The needs are many but the resources few.

Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities (SAWCs)

1. Die Deutsche Kirchengemeinde in Atlanta
2. St. Barnabas, Jefferson City, TN.
3. Lutheran/Episcopal Church of the Annunciation, Lumberton, MS.
4. Kiswahili Lutheran Mission, Nashville (2 locations)
5. Philippians Korean Mission, Johns Creek, GA.-Discontinued.
6. Hope International, Doraville, GA.
7. Atlanta Beer & Hymns and Bar Church, Atlanta, GA.
8. North Metro Atlanta Latino Mission
9. All Welcome, Tifton, GA.
10. Good Samaritan Ministries, Stone Mountain, GA.
11. Resurrection Mission, Tucker, GA.

Congregations under Development and Alternative Worshipping Communities

12. *Inglesia Luterana de Cristo, Oakwood, GA.*
13. *Inglesia Luterana Sagrada Familia, Doraville, GA.*
14. *Celebration of Grace, Canton, GA. (organized 5-15-2016)*
15. *Atlanta Telegu Lutheran Mission, Norcross, GA.*
16. *DongHang Korean Mission, Suwanee, GA.*
17. *Grovetown Episcopal-Lutheran Mission, Grovetown, GA.*
18. *Gathered by Grace-Montgomery, AL.*

Official Redevelopments Receiving ELCA Partnership Support

19. *Christ Lutheran Church, Prattville, AL. 2017 \$15,000, 2018 \$12,000 2019 \$8,000*
20. *Faith Lutheran Church, Warner Robins, GA. 2017 \$10,000 2018 \$5,000*
21. *Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Savannah, GA. 2017 \$18,000 2018 \$18,000*
22. *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Daphne, AL. 2017 \$22,500 2018 \$20,000*
23. *St. Paul Lutheran Church, Decatur, GA. 2018 \$22,500*