



*Virginia Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

## **2017 Virginia Synod Assembly Update**

### **Forwarding Faith**

Synod Assembly is our annual opportunity for the 150 congregations of the Virginia Synod to come together and be reminded what it means to be a part of the wider church. Our theme during our June 9-11, 2017 gathering was “Ambassadors for Christ: Forwarding Faith”.

During the weekend, **The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla**, the Executive Director of the Global Mission program, represented the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, bringing good news from the wider church.

The Rev. Malpica Padilla, also served as election representative for the Virginia Synod Bishop Election. **The Rev. Robert Humphrey** pastor of Muhlenberg in Harrisonburg was elected on June 11<sup>th</sup> to serve a six-year term as bishop. Humphrey was elected on the fifth ballot with 217 votes to 167 votes for **The Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick**, associate pastor of St. Philip Lutheran Church of Roanoke.

Testimonials from campaign leadership, **Stephanie Hamlett** of Epiphany Richmond, **The Rev. Jean Bozeman** of First Lutheran in Norfolk, **Jonathan Hornbaker** of Grace in Winchester, and Bishop James F. Mauney were given in support of the Forwarding Faith campaign and the many ministries this endowment aims to support. The campaign has raised over \$2.2 million thus far. The congregational phase is when we welcome and provide the opportunity for our congregations to come together and support faith formation in the Virginia Synod.

One resolution was passed with a standing ovation, recognizing the great work in the life of our synod by Bishop Mauney, naming him Bishop Emeritus at his retirement on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Elections for Synod Council also took place over the weekend. We welcome newly elected lay member **Judy Castele** of Good Shepherd in Lexington. **The Rev. Paul Pingel** pastor of Grace Waynesboro was elected to continue his appointment to serve. **The Rev. Meredith Williams**, pastor of Ascension Lutheran in Danville, **The Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick**, **The Rev. Chris Carr** pastor of Christ the King in Richmond were all reelected to serve as

Ministers of Word and Sacrament on Synod Council.

**The Committee of Discipline** and the **Consultation Committee** were also elected over the weekend. Both were elected by acclamation.

**The Rev. Alex Zuber** was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA during Saturday evening liturgy at St. Andrew's in Roanoke. He will serve as pastor in the **Stony Man Lutheran Parish** made up of **Beth Eden** and **Grace Lutheran** in Luray, Virginia.

One young woman was commissioned for Young Adults in Global Mission. **Samantha DiBiaso** of First Lutheran in Norfolk has accepted a one-year appointment as a YAGM to Southern Africa.

**Michaela Loving** of Mt. Zion in New Market, president of the Lutheran Youth Organization, presented the Youth Assembly report, centered on the Youth Assembly theme of "To Faith and Beyond". She spoke to the immeasurable value of youth events, and also expressed the gathered youths' vision for the new bishop of the Virginia Synod. The next LYO Board president will be **Isaac Wilson** of Christ Lutheran in Fredericksburg.