

**2008 Bulletin of Reports
Delaware-Maryland Synod**

OFFICE OF BISHOP

Assistant to the Bishop

“In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...”

I want to begin by thanking God for the opportunity to serve among you this past year. It has been a joy to serve with you in ministry. As I have ‘grown into’ this new form of service, I have deeply appreciated your support, your guidance & your prayers.

The continual challenge of a year end report is summarizing all that has taken place in the span of a year – an impossible task. Let me share some highlights.

In this past year we have formed a new partnership in ministry as the Anti-Racism team. In the year or so that we have gathered, we have begun the journey of discerning where & how God is calling us to address the issue of racism within the synod.

As individuals and as congregations, we are starting this journey in different places. Some of us have lived, worked and worshipped with people of a different culture than our own. Others have never had a significant conversation with a person from another culture. Some of our congregations are located in a diverse environment, others are not. Regardless, we are all called to love our neighbor. In the church we have the opportunity to be truthful about the reality of systemic racism within our culture, because we live in grace & forgiveness. We have the awesome challenge of seeking reconciliation between peoples.

Our goals include education, making people aware of the issues in and outside the church. To this end we hope to continue the process of training pastors in the reality of racism through our work with the Lutheran Human Relations Association. Our plans include ‘teams’ that can work with congregations to present the topic during an educational hour through Bible study. Finally, we will be seeking systems that change the “way we always do things,” to ensure that we practice what we preach as a synod. To this end we have contracted with Paso Consulting of Baltimore to hold us accountable and guide us in our efforts. May God continue to bless our work.

There have also been teams working in the past year in other areas. Opening Windows, Opening Doors is a church council training event taking place this year in several locations. This has been spearheaded by a task force from the synod council.

Rich Toward God, A Passion for Relationship is a series of stewardship seminars that have begun this year and will continue through next year. These three hour seminars

present a “hands-on” stewardship resource sharing, asset mapping, and provide grounding in a theology of stewardship.

Come to the Table was a mini Global Mission Event held in Camp Hill, PA, that was sponsored by Region 8 Global Mission Teams. The eight synods of the region joined forces to present an experience of the larger church for our region.

There were many other exciting ministries under the Mission Through Congregation Team taking place throughout the synod this past year. I refer you to the other reports for more information.

My prayer, as we journey together as the people of God, is that we may “with the eyes of our heart enlightened, know what is the hope to which Christ has called us...” Christ’s peace be with you!

The Rev. Virginia Price