

HOPE ALONE

2026 Metro D.C. Synod Assembly
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg
Saturday, June 6



METRO D.C. SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA

Resolution Number: 2026 – 007

Date Submitted: April 1, 2026

Title: Thanks

Primary Sponsor: Reference & Counsel Committee, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

Whereas, the 2026 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly Planning Committee, the Synod Council, Synod Staff and numerous others have worked many hours to plan, prepare and program this assembly; and

Whereas, completing the “work” of the Synod in a single-day meeting, along with providing edifying opportunities for workshops, worship, and building community requires the time and talents of many volunteers and the services of a host congregation in preparing for this assembly; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly expresses its gratitude for God’s bountiful blessings and its appreciation to all who have made this Synod Assembly a fruitful gathering of God’s people,

- Our guest presenters in plenary and workshops: ELCA Representative the Rev. Khader El Yateem, our Keynote presenter Dr. Hemchand Gossai, the Rev. Nahuma Ambole, workshop leaders the Rev. Sarah Jones, the Rev. Cristian Chavarria, Mr. Ryan Ebner, the Rev. Grace Casola, and the synod’s Middle East Peace Team;
- The synod assembly planning committee, led by Rev. Alex Stall, and with special thanks to the registration team, elections team, worship team and the communications team;
- The staff and people of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church here in Gaithersburg for hosting this assembly and providing gracious support and space for meeting and conversation;

- The Synod Staff for their tireless effort in preparing for and supporting this assembly;
- Faith Ellams and Jenny Mendez-Guerrero for providing necessary assembly childcare;
- All those persons who allowed themselves to be nominated for Synod offices and council or committee positions;
- The Assembly Chaplain, Deacon Deb Haines, for leading meaningful moments for prayer and quiet during our deliberations;
- The Assembly parliamentarian, Mr. Richard Ahlberg, for his wise and steady counsel;
- The Synod Vice President Patrick Anderson, Synod Treasurer Rev, Michael Gutzler, and Synod Secretary Barb Bilodeau, for their leadership of the synod and their commitment to the assembly's proceedings;
- Those completing their terms on the Synod Council: the Rev. Judith Van Osdoll, Anita Smallin, Edyn Wheeler, Breeze Lawless, and the Rev. Eric Randolph;
- Assistants to the Bishop: the Reverend Amy Sevimli, the Rev. Julie Jackson and the Reverend Dr. Moses Barrios; and
- Our Bishop, the Reverend Dr. Philip Hirsch for his wisdom and patience in chairing this, his first assembly as bishop, and his leadership of our synod in relying on "Hope Alone."