

Draft Plan for Realignment of Atlantic Mission Region

Name: Atlantic Mission Region

Make-up: Current Congregations, Ministries and Rostered Leaders of the Atlantic and Virginia Mission Districts combined.

Initial Structure: Four (4) Mission Districts populated as follows:

Southern Mission District (14)

Annapolis ELC, Edgewater, MD
Emmanuel of Stoney Creek ELC, Pasadena, MD
First ELC, Baltimore, MD
Mount Union ELC, Taneytown, MD (*consult Congregation re: link to Western MD?*)
River's Edge Ministries, Mount Airy, MD (*consult Congregation re: link to West MD?*)
Saint Matthew ELC, Baltimore, MD
Trinity, Joppa, MD (*consult Congregation re: link to Western MD?*)
Bethel Ethiopian Evangelical Fellowship, Washington, DC
Advent ELC, Winchester, VA
Lebanon ELC, Lebanon Church, VA
Living Word ELC, Fredericksburg, VA
Reformation ELC, Culpeper, VA
Saint John ELC, Roanoke, VA
Trinity ELC, Warrenton, VA

Western Mission District (8)

Bethany ELC, Montoursville, PA
Emmanuel ELC, State College, PA
Lutheran Church of the Cross, Mansfield, PA
Saint Jacob ELC, Glen Rock, PA
Saint Paul's ELC, Millersburg, PA
Saint Paul ELC, Seven Valleys, PA
Saint Timothy ELC, Camp Hill, PA
Salem ELC, Elizabethville, PA

Central Mission District (9)

Christ ELC, Annville, PA
Messiah LC, Lebanon, PA
Reformation ELC, Lancaster, PA
Saint John's, Birdsboro, PA
Saint John's, Fredericksburg, PA
Vinemont ELC, Reinholds, PA
Zoar ELC, Lebanon, PA
Zion's-St. John's (Reed's), Stouchsburg, PA
Holy Trinity ELC, Abington, PA

Northeast Mission District (9)

Emanuel ELC, Elmer, NJ
Saint Andrew by the Sea ELC, Atlantic City, NJ
Holy Cross ELC, Nazareth, PA
Eltingville ELC, Staten Island, NY (*in voting process & in Court appealing decision*)
Evangelical, Gallupville, NY
Immanuel ELC, New York, NY
Saint Mark's, Middleburgh, NY
Transfiguration ELC, Staten Island, NY
Trinity ELC, New Rochelle, NY

Leadership: Mission Region overseen by a Dean (elected by the Atlantic Mission Region in Convocation) with four (4) Assistant Deans each responsible for a Mission District.

An Atlantic Mission Region Council made up of:

- Dean
- Assistant Deans
- One elected Lay Leader from each Mission District

Finances:

A single Mid-Atlantic Mission Region Treasurer and financial accounts for congregational benevolent support to be received, and fund disbursement for mission, events/meetings, Dean expenses, potential Assistant Dean expenses, and Grants to individuals and congregations.

Note the issue of expense reimbursement for not only a Dean but potentially four (4) Assistant Deans to be fleshed out in a final draft of this plan approved at Atlantic Mission Region Convocation.

Resources and Outreach:

Renewal and Discipleship Team (RDT) in process of re-visioning and reorganization with a broader membership.

Shared or individual Mission District PCAT Team(s) based on need and ability to recruit and train sufficient volunteers.

Continued development of the Mission Training & Support Center (MTSC) as a shared \ outreach of the Atlantic Mission Region for our Mission Districts, and planned as partnership with Mid-Northeast Mission District as well. Later expanding to serve the NALC as a whole.

Fellowship, Equipping the Saints, and “Business” Function

An annual overnight Atlantic Mission Region Convocation (October).

Annual half-day/one-day Mission District Convocations prior to Annual Atlantic Mission Region Convocation.

A single Annual Atlantic Mission Region Women’s Conference or multiple. Note this is beginning in the AMD this October (2018) attached to the overnight Annual AMR Convocation as a Friday morning event prior to the Friday lunch opening of the full Convocation but is envisioned to become an independent and potentially one day event.

A one day Atlantic Mission Region Theological Conference. Also planned to begin in the AMD Spring/Fall 2019.

Function and Duties of Dean and Assistant Deans:

This is a broad and a very, very “sketchy” list – hardly comprehensive or exhaustive and will require additional time for work.

Dean (Elected by AMR Convocation to three year terms from among the Mission Region ordained and certified Clergy. Part-time, no compensation but expenses reimbursed. Responsible to the Bishop and locally the AMR Council.)

- be the ongoing presence of and provide local support of the Office of Bishop in the Atlantic Mission Region (AMR) as well as preach the Word & administer Sacraments in the AMR
- oversee, shepherd and guide the congregations, pastoral and lay leaders in Gospel proclamation and ministry
- see to and provide pastoral care for Pastors, Lay Leaders and families
- oversee the ministry of the Assistant Deans, the AMR Council including preside at Council Meetings
- plan and preside at the Annual AMR Annual Convocation
- attend any AMR Mission District Convocations
- interview new rostered leaders for the AMR & assist new Congregations transitioning into NALC and AMR
- conduct installations and, on occasion, ordinations of Pastors for AMR at the direction of the Bishop
- oversee and guide development of new Mission starts in AMR in partnership with NALC Director of Domestic Mission & individual Mission District Assistant Deans
- provide administrative counsel and, where appropriate, direction to the AMR
- intervene when needed with the assistance of Assistant Dean and PCAT Teams in serious congregational conflict with pastoral care and practical guidance
- assist congregations in transition with the overall Call Process representing and partnering with NALC staff
- seek to visit each congregation of the AMR regularly but at least once every two years and preach and teach personally in the congregation at least once every three years
- participate in Dean’s Meetings with the Bishop
- pray for the Congregations, Pastors and Lay Disciples of the AMR regularly

Assistant Deans (Elected by individual MD Convocation to three year terms from among the Mission Region ordained and certified Clergy. Part-time, no compensation but expenses reimbursed. Responsible to the AMR Dean and through the AMR Dean to the AMR Council.)

- assist the AMR Dean to bring the ministry and support of the Office of Bishop more directly and personally in their respective Mission District (MD)
- provide for regular MD cluster gatherings for both Rostered and Lay Leaders
- provide for and preside at a half-day/one-day MD Convocation annually
- cooperate with Dean & NALC Director of Domestic Mission in new Mission starts
- be in touch with the professional, personal, and family needs of their MD leadership especially Pastors
- maintain an active roll of potential supply Pastors and Interim Pastors
- assist congregations in transition with Supply Pastors and Interim Pastors
- provide with the PCAT Teams for the one-day transition workshop for congregations in pastoral transition
- visit each congregation as regularly as possible but at least once a year seeking to preach in each congregation at least once every two years
- serve on the AMR Council
- assist AMR wide ministries and outreach with discernment and recruitment of members
- assist with discernment and recruitment of members for service on the AMR Council
- reinforce NALC Core Values and be the local resource for Doctrine & Practice
- participate in Dean’s Meetings with the Bishop (??)
- pray for the Congregations, Pastors and Lay Disciples of their MD regularly

(Last revised 01-31-2019)