

**MCC Eastern Network Conference Call**  
**Thursday, 31 July 2014, 12 noon**

Seventeen people from 13 churches and ministries joined in the bimonthly MCC Eastern Network conference call on Thursday, July 31st at 12 noon, including Rev. Miller Hoffman and Lay Delegate Adam DeBaugh.

Represented were MCC of Northern Virginia (NoVa), Fairfax; MCC of Washington, DC; Shenandoah Valley MCC, Winchester, VA; Open Door MCC, Boyds, MD; MCC Baltimore, MD; New Life MCC, Hampton Roads, VA; MCC Richmond, VA; MCC of the Blue Ridge, Roanoke, VA; MCC Rehoboth Beach, DE; the People of African Descent Support Group; Chi Rho Press, and the Capitol Caring Hospice, Washington, DC. Two new churches were announced on the call, Empowerment Liberation Cathedral, which was represented on the call by Bishop Allison Abrams, and Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ. Missing were New Light MCC, Hagerstown, MD and Holy Redeemer MCC, College Park, MD.

The Rev. Cathy Alexander, chair of the Eastern Network Team, asked the Rev. Emma Chattin, MCC NoVa, to lead the group in an opening prayer. Then she asked each church and work represented to give a brief update on events at their work. Pastors and lay delegates reported on a wide range of ministries and programs in their churches.

Bishop Allison of Empowerment Liberation Cathedral told us something about her church and expressed her excitement about becoming part of MCC. Empowerment Liberation Cathedral is an Emerging Ministry of MCC and worships at 1 pm, Sundays, at 633 Sligo Ave., Silver Spring, MD.

We were also excited to hear about Covenant Baptist UCC/MCC joining with us and regretted that the Wileys were not able to join the call. Covenant is co-pastored by the Rev. Drs. Wiley and is a new Affiliated Church in Washington, DC. The Wileys are good friends of the LGBTQ community and have been involved in the equal marriage efforts in both Washington and Maryland.

Adam DeBaugh, as the lead person for the Communications Committee of the Eastern Network, reported that the MCC Eastern Network Joint Calendar had been begun and was sent around to identified pastors and lay delegates of the churches and works. The email addresses of all clergy, lay delegates, and local church leaders are being added to the growing email list for the Joint Calendar, to which all the churches and works are invited to add special events, anniversaries, and the like.

Bishop Allison asked for resources for inclusive language hymnals and MCC San Diego was mentioned as a resource as well as the old MCC Hymnal Project created years ago by MCC San Francisco.

The next in-person Network Gathering will be hosted by New Life MCC, Hampton Roads, VA on October 17-18, (beginning Friday evening and ending Saturday, late afternoon). Potential Agenda items were discussed, including a Pastoral Round Table discussion, other ministry Round Table discussion (chaplains, other ministry works), Lay Delegate and Lay Leaders training, and Music program workshop. Information about the Network Gathering and registration details will be sent soon and all members and friends of MCCs are invited to attend. The cost will again be minimal and a reasonable hotel room rate is being negotiated.

The Eastern Network calls are in odd months on the last Thursday of each month from 12 noon to 1 pm and the next calls will be September 25 and November 20 (moved up a week because of Thanksgiving).

The call ended in prayer by Cathy Alexander at 1 pm.