

MCC Eastern USA Network Conference Call

Thursday, 26 March 2015, 12 Noon

Twelve people from 13 churches and ministries joined in the bimonthly MCC Eastern Network conference call on Thursday, March 26th at 12 noon.

Participating were Co-Leader-Rev. Cathy Alexander of MCC of Washington, DC; Co-Leader-Rev. Emma Chattin of MCC of Northern Virginia (NoVa), Fairfax; Rev. Gail Minnick of Shenandoah Valley MCC, Winchester, VA; Adam DeBaugh of Open Door MCC, Boyds, MD; Rev. Victoria Burrison of MCC Baltimore, MD; Rev. Lori McPherson of Holy Redeemer MCC, College Park, MD; Bruce Brooks of New Light MCC, Hagerstown, MD; Rev. Carolyn Mobley, Rev. Adrain Bowie, Co-Leader-David Wilson, Clinton Gibbs of MCC Richmond, VA; Rev. Joe Cobb of MCC of the Blue Ridge, Roanoke, VA; and Adam DeBaugh also representing Chi Rho Press. Missing were New Life MCC, Hampton Roads, VA; MCC Rehoboth Beach, DE; the People of African Descent Support Group; Capitol Caring Hospice, Washington, DC; Empowerment Liberation Cathedral, Silver Spring, MD; and Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ, Washington, DC.

The Rev. Cathy Alexander, Co-Leader of the Eastern Network Team, asked David Wilson, Co-Leader of the Eastern Network Team, to lead the group in an opening prayer and the meeting. Next, he 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. There are many exciting programs and events happening around the Network.

David Wilson reminded the group that the 'Promo Rate' for registration for General Conference in Victoria, BC, Canada would end on 31 March 2015, then the Early Bird Rate would begin.

Much of the hour was devoted to the upcoming Eastern Network Gathering at MCC of the Blue Ridge, Roanoke, Virginia, on Saturday, April 25. The theme of the Gathering will be "Be the Change Together: (Diversity by God, Inclusivity is up to Us)," and the inclusive nature of MCC. The Rev. Vicky Gibbs, staff member of the Office of Emerging Ministry will be joining us to discuss resourcing our ministries on a corporate and personal basis. Also the Rev. Rachelle Brown will present on Hispanic ministry in our churches.

Throughout the Gathering, our own Rev. Jim Whalen will be displaying his art and for those who are coming in on Friday, there is a play by Eugene O'Neill being performed in the church auditorium. We will also have the opportunity to visit the studio spaces for artists in the church building.

Registration for the MCC Eastern Network Gathering can be found on the MCC Eastern Network, the Network Leaders' (Cathy Alexander, David R Wilson, Emma Chattin), as well as most Network Pastor's Facebook pages.

Adam DeBaugh, as the lead person for the Communications Committee of the Eastern Network, reminded call participants that the MCC Eastern Network Joint Calendar had been begun and 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.

The Eastern Network calls are in odd months on the last Thursday of each month from 12 noon to 1 pm and the other scheduled calls this year will be: May 28, July 30, September 24 and November 19 (moved up a week because of Thanksgiving).

The call ended in community prayer beginning with Cathy Alexander with each congregation and work adding something to the prayer, ending with Joe Cobb.