

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

Conferences

Baltimore North Conference

In my third year as conference dean, I continue to find it difficult to report for the Baltimore North Conference. I think that difficulty for me is caused by our very stability. Stability can mean strength - stability can mean stagnation. We would certainly claim the first...

We have been gathering weekly as pastors for pericope study for decades. The very stability of that group has made it difficult to gather more inclusive conference meetings. Nonetheless, we have gathered as a conference (lay and clergy) to hold elections, to wonder about our ministries together, and to prepare for Synod Assembly actions. We re-elected as dean Pr. Carl Myers, Grace, Lutherville, and, as secretary, Pr. Sandra Carlson Alexis, St Andrew and Reformation. We have been invited and have gathered, with the leadership of Pr. Danny Hammons, St. John, Parkville, to begin responding to the challenge of the 2008 Synod Assembly to carry the process of diverse and inclusive ministry into our churches while facing the hard issues of racism in our culture.

For all of our stability, we have bid farewell to two pastors. Pastor Bob Lowden left his part-time interim work with St. Andrew to become, with his wife, Pr. JMe Lowden, ELCA Regional Representatives in Rwanda and Tanzania, including Mara, our companion diocese. At the end '08, Pr. Mark Crispell left St Peter, Fullerton, to become the pastor-developer to re-develop Bethel, North East, Md. We were also able to celebrate the election of Pr. Sandra Carlson Alexis as pastor of St. Andrew.

The Rev. R. Carl Myers, dean