



# Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

July 25, 2018

Over the last several years it has been my privilege to know several leaders in my synod who are members of the Via de Cristo community. Devoted Christians, fine pastors and lay leaders, they have shared with me the benefits they experience through the Lutheran expression of this movement and ministry. Via de Cristo has deepened their faith, renewed their passion for their local congregations, and enabled them to make personal connections and friendships in a rich, ecumenical environment.

In conversations with members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Conference of Bishops, I have heard other leaders of our church speak about their own positive experiences with Via de Cristo. And these bishops report that the movement's members in their synods are among the synods' strongest supporters. Via de Cristo seems eager to be a way in which many people experience deep, soul-changing conversations about Jesus Christ and about what it means to follow him in the everyday world around us.

The ability of Via de Cristo to reach men and women in our church, to inspire them for lives of faith in family, church, and world is particularly striking.

Among the leaders of Via de Cristo in our synod are Pastor Ron Qualley and Mr. Dave Lambert. I would be glad to introduce either one of them to anyone seeking more information. And I would be grateful for the chance to speak about the movement myself with anyone who is interested.

I commend Via de Cristo for its commitment to serving in the name of Jesus, and for its desire to make Jesus more and more real to more and more people. I'm grateful to be able to share this letter of support and to add a prayer of blessing for all who read it.

In Jesus,

The Rev. Richard H. Graham, Bishop

*In Partnership with:*

*The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Slovakia, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia, the Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche in Namibia, and The Lutheran Church in El Salvador*