

February 1, 2021

Dear Rostered Ministers and Congregation Presidents,

A core value of the North Carolina Synod is relationship, explained as, we belong to one body in Christ, we belong to each other, inspired by the Gospel, we will choose to live and work together for the sake of the world. The call of being in relationship has inspired the synod to place an emphasis on connecting with those persons of our synod whose voices, talents, and presence are often missed. The song of God includes all voices and we want to connect with and hear yours.

During the month of February, the NC Synod is conducting a census of congregations to connect with its members of color. Gathering this census data is a partnership between the Multicultural Committees' African Descent Strategy (ADST) and the synod office. The ADST will use the information from the survey to build a database and help the synod to be in relationship with persons of color. The relationship will include connecting and offering fellowship and inclusivity, communicating and sharing important ministry information and offering opportunities for greater participation. The information will be collected during the entire month of February using the included survey link. All surveys should be completed by the end of February,

SURVEY LINK: <https://forms.gle/xV53mcbnGyJuMgfD9>

As rostered ministers and congregation leaders your help is needed to begin building relationships and making connections with persons in your congregations. We are not asking you to share their information with us but to pass on the link so they may opt-in to any further communication with the ADST, multi-cultural ministries and the synod. Please share the survey link with your members of color and those whose primary language is other than English.

Our primary goal is creating relationships and building community with the nearly 1000 people of color across our synod. Your help and assistance are appreciated. Thank you so much.

Praise and Honor to the Great I Am,

Diana Haywood & Hunter Haith, ADST Leaders