

All Races One Church fund of the NC Synod ELCA

What does this mean?

The “All Races One Church Fund” of the NC Synod seeks to celebrate vital congregations, nurture whole and healthy leaders, encourage collaboration, and help our synod to use its prophetic voice by providing more than statements and words and by putting actions behind those words by providing funding for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) congregations and leaders in our synod to realize ministry goals and dreams that years of institutional racism have prevented or made harder to achieve.

The “All Races One Church Fund” of the NC Synod hopes to appreciate and celebrate our vital and vibrant ministry in our BIPOC congregational communities by dedicating additional funding in our budget specifically for those ministries as well as providing a place for those who want to support these communities to give directly to them. We hope that these funds will sustain these communities for generations to come. It is our aspirational goal that this fund will allow for reconciliation to occur on our part as the NC Synod, as we confess and acknowledge the sin of racism that has been present in our synod dating back to the formation of our synod, our failure to acknowledge the Alpha Synod, and our lack of support for candidates of color seeking calls in the call process.

This fund is a step towards having everyone in the room where it happens, at the heavenly banquet that Jesus invites us all to, celebrating the gift and vibrant ministry that all the congregations in our Synod are to the whole Church.

This fund has been established by Synod Council and \$150,000 of funds have been placed into the fund as seed money. Our proposed 2022 & 2023 budgets include an additional contribution of \$100,000 to the fund each year.

What are the Next Steps?

After the synod assembly, the Multicultural Committee will work to establish an AROC leadership team. This team will oversee the creation of disbursement strategies in conversation with our BIPOC communities and leaders. This team will be made up of all leaders of color. Additionally, synod council will appoint a team that will create materials and invitations for all congregations and persons throughout our synod to be invited to give to this ongoing work.

What Congregations will receive funds?

Although we will leave this decision to the AROC leadership team, we do currently have six communities of color. Communities of color are those within the ELCA that 35% people of color as members of their congregation. These communities in our synod are: Emmaus (West Charlotte), Living Waters (Cherokee), Christ Beloved’s Community (Winston-Salem), Arbol de Vida (North Durham), Prince of Peace (Greensboro), and Abiding Savior (Durham).