

April 22, 2018

Dear Member Congregation Pastors and Delegates,

Greetings from Martha & Mary and the newly formed Church and Community Service Committee.

In 2016, I joined the Board of Trustees of Martha & Mary Lutheran Services, and last year, I agreed to serve as chair of this new committee, which was formed to involve the Martha & Mary Board more in the stewardship of our member congregations. As you know, Poulsbo First Lutheran Church's relationship with Martha & Mary reaches back to the founding of this important organization. Thanks to generous community support, it has met the care needs of children, seniors, and their families in the greater Kitsap region for more than 127 years. Through my involvement with Martha & Mary, I have learned a tremendous amount about the impact the organization's services have on our community. The partnership between Martha & Mary and local Lutheran congregations offers meaningful opportunities to support our members and ensure that M&M's mission of caring is available to all who need it.

As you know, each Member Congregation selects Delegates who attend Martha & Mary's annual meeting and elect its Board of Trustees. This is an important responsibility, and we believe that both Martha & Mary and our Delegates would benefit from increased communication and better definition of Delegate roles.

In recent years, the Board of Trustees has sought to address this issue. As a first step, Martha & Mary designed a new "Covenant" with each congregation, pledging to strengthen the ties for mutual benefit; our CEO and other officers personally presented a written "Covenant" to each member church. It also invited members to attend educational programs that help in navigating the nation's complex healthcare system, offer advice on best home health practices, and publicize our Aging Your Way program.

In 2017 Martha & Mary took two further steps: we hired a Lutheran pastor, Rev. Laurie Stumme-Diers as our Chaplain, and created a Church and Community Service Committee with the express purpose of improving ties with member congregations and the wider West Sound community. Part of Pastor Laurie's duties include making our member congregations aware of things that are happening at Martha & Mary, particularly new programs aimed at the spiritual lives of our residents. As an example, she recently served as the featured speaker at First Lutheran Church of Poulsbo's Advent Breakfast, sponsored by its WELCA chapter.

The Church and Community Service Committee has prepared a new Delegate Handbook. This informative resource is designed to assist Delegates in understanding their constitutional role and to encourage them as active partners with Martha & Mary in pursuing its mission to provide the highest quality care for seniors and children in the West Sound region. We appreciate the time many delegates took in mid-March, when they attended an orientation meeting for Delegates as a prelude to our annual meeting. We look forward to seeing our Delegates again on Thursday, April 26, 2018, 6:00 pm for Martha & Mary's Annual Meeting.

In addition to the Annual Meeting, there are two other events in the offing. As a reminder to our member congregations, Martha & Mary's annual GALA fundraiser will be held on Friday, May 4, 2018 at the Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort. We encourage everyone to support this important event. Then, on Saturday, October 6, 2018, Delegates and Pastors will be invited to a special program on the way in-home care services are helping greater Kitsap seniors remain independent in their own homes—please mark your calendar, and more information will be sent closer to the date.

On behalf of the Martha & Mary Board, thank you for your congregation's generous support. Together, we bring loving care and compassion into the lives children and seniors and their families. We look forward to deepening the connections between our churches and Martha & Mary as we love and serve our neighbors.

Sincerely,

Martha & Mary Church and Community Service Committee

Pastor Kent Shane

Trustee and Chair, Church and Community Service Committee

Julie Lightfoot, former Martha & Mary Delegate and Trustee

Bobbie Moore, Trustee

Helen Stoll, President, Board of Trustees

Pastor Laurie Stumme-Diers, Chaplain

Diane Wasson, Administrator, Martha & Mary AT HOME

Jennifer Bailey, Marketing and Communications Manager

Paula Rimmer, Director of Development