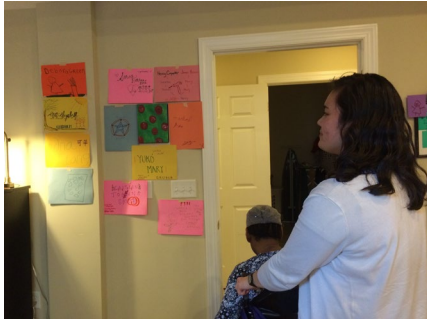




## Diversity Team

L'ARCHE®

### Updates from the team



### A Year in Review

In February, we spent time looking back on our first year. To begin, we listened to the song “Caminante no hay camino” (“Wayfarer, there is no path”) and walked around the room looking at visual representations of the road we had forged over the past year. Displays included artistic renderings of our names, drafts of our mission statement, and a diagram of where we hope to fit in to the structure of L’Arche GWDC.

We then introduced a systemic perspective on diversity by talking about systems we experience in all parts of our lives: organ systems, the solar system, being part of a church or education system. We learned that some systems create repeated, cumulative advantages for some people and disadvantages for others. We then talked about some privileges we experience and others that we may not experience.

Finally, we talked about our goals for the next year. We have been asked to submit a proposal to become a commission, and since February have re-written our primary goal to read: “Communicate internally our (refers to all people of L’Arche GWDC) vision for diversity at L’Arche GWDC” with further objectives and strategies.

### Current Work:

Since our last meeting, Caitlin and Yuko have spent time breaking down our primary goal into more specific objectives and strategies. We are very excited to share those with you and to begin working through the strategies! During our May meeting we will break into a new set of working groups and will continue discernment of a new co-leader. We are also looking forward to sending prayers to L’Arche USA’s new Diversity Team (led by Maria Guzman of L’Arche Atlanta and including members from L’Arche GWDC). Please bring questions and ideas to the meeting... and feel very welcome to invite new people to be with us.

### Upcoming Meetings: We meet quarterly as a large group.

Next meeting: Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm at Columbia Rd Office, dinner included  
(1840 Columbia Rd NW, Washington, DC 20009)

*“In a divided world, L’Arche wants to be a sign of hope. Its communities, founded on covenant relationships between people of differing intellectual capacity, social origin, religion and culture, seek to be signs of unity, faithfulness and reconciliation.”*

*- Charter of Communities of L’Arche*

### Purpose:

Our Diversity Team seeks to honor our mission of relationship by celebrating our diversity, further developing how L’Arche GWDC can be inclusive of our diverse cultures, and posing new challenges for L’Arche GWDC to create unity, faithfulness and reconciliation around diversity in our community.

Questions? Contact Yuko at [yukogruber@larche-gwdc.org](mailto:yukogruber@larche-gwdc.org), or Caitlin at [caitlinsmith@larche-gwdc.org](mailto:caitlinsmith@larche-gwdc.org)