

**Central/Southern Illinois Synod
2019 Synod Assembly Summary
June 6-8, 2019 in Springfield, Illinois**
www.csis-elca.org/2019synodassembly



Why do we gather for Synod Assembly?

Bishop Roth's remarks opened the assembly:

"Welcome! For some of you, this is your first Synod Assembly. For others, it's like "old home week," we've been to so many of these. Let me tell you why you are here, and why it is good that you are here. There are lots of things that we do here. But an activity is not a purpose. And we need to be clear about our purpose.

- You are going to hear reports, but you are not here for the sake of reports.
- You are going to receive greeting from ecumenical partners and from shared ministries, but you are not here for the sake of greetings.
- You are going to adopt a Synod budget, but you are not here for the sake of passing a budget.

You are here – we are here – in this moment, in this time, to tend to Christ's Church – that is, to tend to the gift that God has given us to be God's own and to come together to steward the grace entrusted to us."



Assembly Theme: Psalm 121 "We lift our eyes to the hills."

Our 2019 theme provided grounding for our conversation and work throughout the assembly.

Bishop Katherine Finegan, Northern Great Lakes Synod, led us in Bible study based on Psalm 121. From her own experience on the hill-surrounded road



to Jericho, to our own experience of what it means to be followers of Jesus, the Church, in the 21st century, Bishop Finegan provided thoughtful consideration about God's presence and guidance and gave us opportunity to talk with one another about these things! Bishop John Roth preached at our festival worship, widening the scope of Psalm 121 in conversation with Isaiah 43:8-21, Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, and Matthew 14:22-33.

Assembly Forums and Bishop Roth's Sabbatical Report

Friday morning forum participants met with others in each of the six conferences as the deans (and Eden Blair from the Northern Conference) invited discussion of the major points in Bishop Roth's sabbatical report.

Friday afternoon, the synod staff led focused sessions on Our Vocabulary for Ministry (Bishop John Roth), Adult Faith Formation (Pr. Jim Reents and Pr. Ken Tegtmeier), Metrics for Congregation Vitality (Pr. Ken Sandlin and Pr. Maureen Stein), and Providing Word and Sacrament Ministry in Our Changing Context (Pr. Elise Rothfus). The thoughtful discussions, comments and questions will help us move into the future to which God is calling us. As a follow up to these forums, conference deans will summarize these discussions for the synod council, who will take up further conversation about ministry within the Central/Southern Illinois Synod.

A New Kind of Budget Presentation

The 2020 C/SIS Budget was proposed with a new format this year. Supported by work of the Mission Support and Stewardship Education Committee, synod treasurer Ken Finkle introduced the 2020 Budget, and Pastor Amy Zietlow of the Finance Committee and Pastor Elise Rothfusz, Director for Evangelical Mission, presented a narrative budget, telling the story of the ministry we do together as the Central/Southern Illinois Synod.



Other Business and Statistics

Our ELCA representative was the Rev. Ron Gluskamp, Director for the Campaign for the ELCA. A link to the ELCA video and a message from Presiding Bishop Eaton can be found on our synod website. Pastor Kirsten Laderach, missionary in Madagascar brought greetings and news of her work with Young Adults in Global Mission.

Other business included elections to synod council and the discipline committee, and resolutions for our companion synod financial partnership plan, constitution, and courtesies. Recognition of congregational anniversaries and anniversaries of ordination and consecration were celebrated, and time was allowed for lay people to have open conversation with Bishop Roth.

Attendance

Lay voting members	155
Ministers of Word & Service	4
Ministers of Word & Sacrament	88
Visitors	45
Total attendance	292

Festival Worship Offering

The festival worship offering is designated for the ministry of our companion synods of the Malagasy Lutheran Church: the Ft. Dauphin Synod and the Ambovombe-Androy Synod. This year's offering totaled \$4666.91!



For a second year the assembly gathered for an ice cream social and hymn sing on Friday night.



Thank you!

Thank you to the congregations of the West Central Conference who were hosts and volunteers for the 2019 Synod Assembly and to all those who provided ministry information in the display room!



For photos, links, and documents, including the narrative budget, go to www.csis-elca.org/2019synodassembly



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God's work. Our hands.