

Northwest Conference

Dean's Report to Synod Assembly 2019

Pastor Scott C. Egbers, Dean
First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Beardstown, IL

Congregations

St. Peter, Arenzville: Pastor John Ashcraft (Interim)
Faith, Augusta: Pastor Rick Hertenstein (contractual agreement)
First, Beardstown: Pastor Scott Egbers
St. John, Bluffs: Pastor John Ashcraft (Interim)
St. John, Bluff Springs: Pastor Scott Egbers (Interim)
Immanuel, rural Carthage: Pastor Rick Hertenstein (contractual agreement)
Trinity, Carthage: Pastor Rick Hertenstein (Interim) (David Poland Leading weekly worship as a SAM)
St. Peter, Coatsburg: Pastor Patricia Reep
Immanuel, Golden: Pastor Patricia Reep (Interim)
Trinity, Golden: Vacant
Zion, Liberty: Dan Wilson (interim, serving as a SAM)
Trinity, Macomb: Pastor Youngshim Pitcher
Salem, Mendon: Dan Wilson (interim, serving as a SAM)
Christ, Nauvoo: Pastor Pete Hagglund (also serves St. Paul, Fort Madison)
Christ, Quincy: Pastor Gayle Pope
Luther Memorial, Quincy: Pastor Tony Metz,
Grace, Virginia: Pastor Adam Dichsen (Interim)

Northwest Conference Officers

Dean	Rev. Scott Egbers
Clergy Vice President	Rev. Richard Hertenstein
Lay Vice President	Debra Alwort
Secretary	Gayle Pope
Treasurer	David Poland
Lay Synod Council Rep.	Dennis Wallin

The Northwest Conference had several pastoral transitions in the past year. The list above shows several congregations who have neighboring pastors serving as part time interims. Last summer two pastors were called out of the synod: Pastor Colleen Winkler was called to serve St. Matthew by the Lake Lutheran Church in Benton Kentucky. Pastor Corey Lange was called to serve Dilworth Lutheran Church in Dilworth, MN. In December Pastor Brad Eidson was called to serve First Lutheran Church in Portland Maine. We pray that they may continue to minister to God's people in their new setting and we pray for all the congregations in pastoral transitions.

Clergy/SAM meetings were held in nine of the past twelve months, including a discussion of the book *Embracing Exile* by T. Scott Daniels, a care of souls meeting, a presentation by DEM Elise Rothfusz, and a discussion of the proposed social statement on Women and Justice. There was also an Epiphany Party in January at the home of Scott and Mallorie Egbers.

The conference had its annual assembly on March 24th, 2019. Pastor Tony Metz was elected to the New and Renewing Congregations Committee. No one was nominated to serve on the Mission Support and Stewardship Education Committee, the Global Ministry Committee, or the Leadership Support Committee. The assembly decided to use money from the conference account to cover the cost of food for conference assemblies from now into the future.

The Conference Assembly worship included choirs from several conference congregations (including a handbell choir and a handchime choir). Bishop Roth was preacher and presider and the offering was designated to Lutheran Disaster response. It was a festive celebration of the church and a witness to our connection as congregations.

The six congregations in Morgan, Scott, and Cass counties continue to move forward with the Seeds of Hope Cooperative. The hope is that lay people from among the congregations can be trained and then serve as SAM's in the congregations who are without a regular pastor.