

Northern Conference Dean's Report to the 2019 Synod Assembly

submitted by Pastor Ryan H. Anderson, Dean

Congregations	24
Vacancies	5
Rostered Ministers under Call	19
(in Specialized Ministry)	3

Churches with a Contractual Agreement

- Wiley, Ellisville – Gary Schmidt
- St. John, Mt. Pulaski – Pastor Glen VanderKloot
- First, Varna – Richard Joyce (SAM)

Churches with a Vacant Call

- Advent, Morton Rev. David Russell, Interim Pastor
- St. Paul, Benson [supply]
- St. John's, Toluca [supply]
- St. Mark's, Washington [Associate Position vacant]
- St. Peter's, Glasford [supply]

Transitions in the Last Year

- Farewell & Godspeed
 - Pr. Dennis O'Brien (retired from Advent, Morton)
 - Pr. Elise Rothfusz (to Synod Office & Director of Evangelical Mission)
 - Pr. Harlan Kaden (to Good Shepherd, Lake Wilson, MN)
 - Pr. Ruth Kaden
 - Pr. Steven Tibbetts (to Resurrection, Godfrey)
 - Pr. Karen Norman-Rees (to Hill Correctional Facility)
- Welcome
 - Pr. David Russell (Interim at Advent, Morton)
 - Pr. Craig Swenson (Called to Salem, Peoria)
 - Pr. Mary Beenken (Called to Grace and Peace, Peoria)
 - Candidate Nathan Johnson (in Call Process)

Other Noteworthy Occurrences (May 2018—March 2019):

God's Work Our Hands Sunday September 10th, 2018—more than 70 members of at least 9 Northern Conference congregations joined together for five mission projects. We rolled 437 bandages for LWR, cleaned up a park in Bartonville, packed 212 Birthday Bags which were then distributed to 6 different food pantries, packed 158 personal care kits and 187 school kits for LWR, and did lawn work at 6 subsidized housing properties in Peoria's East Bluff Neighborhood. Other mission projects were held by St. Mark's (Washington), St. John's (Toluca), The Three Saint's Parish (Chillicothe, Lacon, Wyoming), Bethany (Wenona), Immanuel (Minonk), and Immanuel (Lincoln).

8 Days Campus Ministry—In April 2018, the 8 Days Campus Ministry Board voted to dissolve the group. We give thanks for the hard work done by the members of that board Mrs. Amy Hester, Pr. Bill Dohle, Pr. Elise Rothfusz, Pr. Heather McIver-Arnold, Pr. Wayne Shelksohn. In May 2018, the remaining funds in the 8 Days account were split evenly between Lutheran Campus Ministry of Illinois and the Northern Conference.

Mission on Peoria’s South Side—On August 15th, a meeting was held to discuss the situation at Zion, Peoria and what form a continued ELCA presence on the South Side of Peoria might take. A Task Force was set up to search out what God was already doing in the neighborhood, and find ways the Peoria/Bartonville congregations might come together in mission. On February 7th, representatives from four out of the six congregations in Peoria/Bartonville met to discuss an ELCA presence on Peoria’s South Side. Building on the work of the previously appointed Task Force, the group decided to pursue partnership with the Proctor Center, and is creating a committee made up of a representative from each of the six area congregations. We look forward to this shared ministry.

We rejoice with St. John’s, Mt. Pulaski at their 150th Anniversary on October 28th, 2018.

We say farewell and godspeed to Zion Lutheran Church at Penn Ridge in Trivoli, IL, has dissolved their affiliation with the ELCA.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Peoria held a final worship service on 1/27/19. The sanctuary was filled with people who were touched by Jesus Christ through Zion’s ministry over the years. Stewards have been appointed to dispose of the congregation’s assets.

Conference Election Results [elections held at Conference Assembly on March 31st, 2019]

Lay Vice-President	Term 2019-2022 (1)	Bob Mueller, St. Timothy, Wyoming
Secretary	Term 2019-2022 (1)	Pr. Michael Jones, St. John’s, Bartonville
Treasurer	finish Term 2019-2020	Eden Blair, First English, Peoria
Candidacy	Term 2019-2022 (1)	Pr. John Rothfusz, Faith, Washington
Leadership Support	Term 2019-2022 (1)	Emily Fredricksen, St. John, Lacon

Conference Finances [approved at Conference Assembly on March 31st, 2019]

For Immediate Disbursement

- \$2000—to Salem Lutheran for Seminary Internship Support
- \$2000—split between LSSI, Lutheran Disaster Response, and ELCA World Hunger
- \$2000—to C/SIS, for Synod Office Roof Fund

Total Immediate Disbursements: \$6,000

2019-2020 ‘Budget’ Proposal:

- \$2000 for Seminary Intern Support [Year 2020]
- \$1000 for Conference Youth Board [See NCYB Report]
- \$300 for hosting (lunch for Synod Council, Conference events, etc.)
- \$300 for Conference Meeting Programs
- \$1000 for Northern Conference Outreach Ministry Projects

Total 2019-2020 Budget: \$4,600