

Synod Assembly Report  
June 6-8, 2019

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Assistant to the Bishop

Friends,

As I write this report Notre Dame Cathedral is burning. How tragic. I have had the privilege of seeing this historic structure from the outside. We couldn't go inside because of construction.

However, the church of Jesus Christ is bigger than a building. The church is people who are followers of Jesus Christ. I have the privilege of working with committed members of 23 congregations in the NE Conference and 9 congregations in the N Conference. They are an inspiration to me.

I visit at least one congregation per month and attend the monthly rostered leader meetings in both conferences. We have a monthly staff meeting at the synod office.

Sorry to say in November we grieved the closing of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Bloomington. Many faithful members worked hard to carry out their mission.

Rostered Minister Profiles are completed by candidates who seek a call to a different parish. I read those who indicate an interest in the C/SIS and make recommendations to Bishop Roth and Pastor Ken Sandlin. When a congregation is seeking a pastor, I explain the Ministry Site Profile. Then we try to match the Rostered Minister Profiles and Ministry Site Profiles. Our biggest challenge is that we don't have enough pastors. Please encourage others to answer God's call to ministry.

The Lay and Professional Leaders Support Committee recommends compensation guidelines. For the past few years, we have recommended a 1% increase each year.

One of the most gratifying aspects of my work is relating to Geographical Parishes. Congregations can enhance their mission by doing together what they can't do alone. One example is Servants United which is the ELCA congregations in Dwight, Cornell, Chenoa, Anchor, Sibley and Gibson City. They are served by 3 pastors. Our combined worship services are very inspiring.

God's blessings as we seek to build up the body of Christ.