

Assistant to the Bishop
Report to Synod Assembly June 2019
Pastor Ken Tegtmeier

I began my service to the synod as a quarter time Assistant to the Bishop on July 1, 2018. Since that time, I have come to know the synod staff and have greatly enjoyed working alongside them.

In my quarter time position, I relate to the congregations of the Southern Conference (16) as well as the Metro-East St. Louis congregations of the West Central Conference (8): *St. Mark, Belleville, Calvary, Belleville, Peace, Belleville (now closed), Christ Community, Columbia, Our Lord, Maryville, St. Martin of Tours, Mascoutah, Faith, O'Fallon and St. Paul, Hillsboro.*

In my first 9 months, I visited and brought greetings from the synod to 12 congregations. On behalf of Bishop Roth, I presided over the closing of Peace, Belleville in August. It is my plan to visit the rest of my 23 congregations before the end of 2019. Congregational visitation is a special privilege for me. I greatly enjoy these visits with pastors and congregations. I also participate in the regular conference meetings of the Southern and West Central Conferences

I relate to three Committees of the Synod:

Adult Faith Formation

The Adult Faith Formation Committee has met quarterly throughout the year. A special word of thanks to Pr. Blake Duncan for his interim leadership of the committee and his excellent work in providing instructors for the various classes. I also thank Deb Rathert who served as secretary and kept the committee moving forward. Thank you both for your leadership.

Over the past year the committee's work dealt mainly with providing classes for Synodically Authorized Ministry and opening those classes up to others in the synod who are looking for more in-depth adult Christian education. After last year's assembly action, this Committee moved from being the Synodically Authorized Ministry subcommittee to the Adult Faith Formation Committee. The committee has considered how to proceed in this broader context as we seek to offer more opportunities throughout the synod for adult education and formation in the faith. This next year will be critical in getting these new opportunities off the ground.

This past fall we welcomed 11 individuals who are interested in serving in Synodically Authorized Ministry in the synod. They have begun their classes with the Lutheran Confessions, Old Testament survey and will conclude this first year with an Introduction to Worship.

Global Mission

This past September the Global Mission Committee welcomed a visitor from Madagascar who also took part in our Professional Leader's Conference. The leadership of this committee is in transition and I look forward to working with them over the next year.

Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy

This past year we had a transition in leadership of the committee. Pr. Amy Zietlow became the Dean of the East Central Conference and so resigned as chair of the committee. Pr. Priscilla Geerdes is the new chair of the committee. This past fall, the committee reviewed Hunger Grants provided through the ELCA. We reviewed five grant requests.

It has been a privilege to serve the synod as Assistant to the Bishop this past year. Our churches face many challenges in this time, but the Word is preached, and the sacraments are celebrated among us, and these 'means of grace' strengthen us for faithful service in the world.