

**Vice President's Report
to the Assembly
2016
Mrs. Jeanne Rapp**



SYNOD COUNCIL

The Synod Council meets 4 times a year. There are 22 members elected to the Synod Council which includes the four officers, the six Deans from each Conference, a youth in the age group of 18-21, a young adult in the age group of 18-30, ten others and one legal counsel. All members of Synod Council are elected at Synod or Conference Assemblies.

A few of the Council's constitution responsibilities are: 1) discern the vision and purpose of this synod; 2) exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of the synod; 3) issue letters of call to ordained ministers and letters of call to associates in ministry, deaconesses and diaconal ministers; 4) carry out Synod Assembly resolutions; 5) elect or ratify representatives to serve on governing boards of church affiliated health, social service, educational and other designated agencies or institutions to which this synod is related.

In addition to Council meetings, the Council members serve on other synod committees; such as, Executive, Finance, Mutual Ministry and as liaisons to the five program and covenant committees.

The Synod Council continues to discern the vision and purpose of this synod. We have identified basic guiding values, priorities and goals. The Council hopes to continue this conversation with the committees/organization as we expand our discussion in how we are called to fully live our lives in Christ.

The Synod Council minutes for the 2015-2016 are available online in the Assembly reports: www.csis-elca.org

I want to express deep appreciation and thanks to the Council members for their commitment to serving on Synod Council. Council members are:

Bishop John Roth, Synod Bishop
Pr. Pamela Mitcham, Secretary
Mr. Mathew Spencer
Mr. Terry Goff
Ms. Deanne Holshouser
Ms. Helen Pagel
Mr. Steve Rapp
Mr. Don Swan
Pr. Laura Kamprath
Pr. John Rothfus
Pr. Glen VanderKloot

Mr. Kenneth Finkle, Treasurer
Mr. Broden Wileman
Ms. Kim Alberts
Mr. Henry Harms
Ms. Tiana Montgomery
Ms. Debbie Peterson
Mr. Larry Saler
Pr. James Davis
Pr. Robert Rasmus
Pr. Michael Thomas
Mr. Daniel Simmons, Legal Counsel

COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

In support of the ongoing ministry of this synod, there are many individuals who have been appointed to committees; such as, Personnel, Audit and Nominating. There are task forces who have a specific assignment; such as, the task force for, "Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA." A sincere thanks to all of you for your faithful service.

SYNOD STAFF

Abundant thanks to the synod staff for their support and their faithful service:

Pr. Robert Dealey, Director for Evangelical Mission/Coordinator of Communications and Networking
Ms. Cindy Koonce, Office Manager
Pr. Wayland Middendorf, Assistant to the Bishop

Mrs. Barbara Purple, office volunteer
Pr. Jim Reents, Assistant to the Bishop
Pr. Ken Sandlin, Assistant to the Bishop
Ms. Glenna Senters, Bookkeeper
Pr. Maureen Stein, Assistant to the Bishop

BISHOP APPRECIATION

I have had the honor and privilege to serve with Bishop Roth for the past five years. Following his election, Bishop Roth named a small transition team where he proposed a new staffing structure for Assistants to the Bishop composed of part-time, retired positions, rather than one and half full-time positions. For me, this was another glimpse into Bishop Roth's gifts of critical thinking, perceptive decision-making, and steadfast courage to determine new ways that would best support our congregations, conferences, and synod.

His unwavering trust and faith in God, his extensive theological understanding, and his commitment to be a faithful shepherd is evident in how it undergirds his called ministry as Bishop. It's hard to put into words the boundless blessings I have experienced in my time of service with Bishop Roth. So I simply say, I am deeply appreciative to be a partner in ministry and a friend. Bishop Roth has been blessed by our loving God and he in turn is a blessing to others!! Heartfelt thanks Bishop Roth!!

I also want to express my thanks to Bishop Roth's wife, Kris for her support of and acceptance of the tireless hours in a Bishop's ministry. Thanks Kris!!