



Assistant to the Bishop

2020 Report to the Assembly

Pastor Ken Tegtmeier

In my quarter time position, I relate to the congregations of the Southern Conference (17) as well as the Metro-East St. Louis congregations of the West Central Conference (7): **St. Mark, Belleville, Calvary, Belleville, Christ Community, Columbia, Our Lord, Maryville, St. Martin of Tours, Mascoutah, Faith, O'Fallon and St. Paul, Hillsboro.**

During my first 14 months as Assistant to the Bishop, I visited all 24 congregations assigned to me. Because there had been a vacancy in my position for a couple of years, I thought it was good to see all the congregations as soon as possible and I received the bishop's encouragement for such a plan. Not only have I enjoyed these congregational visits, but it was also personally uplifting to see such faithful ministry and worship across our synod. That is something I, as a congregational pastor, did not really get to see. Thank you. I also participate in the regular conference meetings of both 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 and has most recently decided to meet 6 times a year to help foster the work of the committee.

I offer a word of thanks to Pastor Rita Augsburg for her leadership of the committee and to Pr. Blake Duncan for his service to the committee as Coordinator of classes for the Synodically Authorized Ministry (SAM) Program and the faith formation of adults across our synod.

The committee continues to proceed in the broader context of providing faith formation opportunities for all adults across our synod.

We currently have 14 individuals registered as SAM students.

Global Mission

This past year we welcomed our new chair, Pastor Mauricio Viera. Pastor Mauricio brings great enthusiasm to his work with the committee.

This past year we have done a survey of the various international relationships and partnerships which our congregations may have with other congregations around the globe. The committee hopes to be mutually supportive of these relationships and perhaps, if desired, find connections with other congregations and synods who may be doing ministry in these same areas around the globe.

Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy

This past year, the Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy Committee welcomed a new chair, Pastor Stefan Munker, pastor at St. Paul, Hillsboro. The Committee is just beginning to regroup and take hold of its mission within the synod.

In April, I worked with Bishop Roth on behalf of this Committee in receiving congregational information for application to the Hunger Grant – COVID-19 from the ELCA. We had 19 congregations participate. At the time of this writing, we are waiting for the next group of grants to be made available.

It has been a privilege to serve the synod as one of the Assistants to the Bishop this past year. Currently our churches face many challenges in this time of COVID-19 and as we look forward to its aftermath. We do not know what the future holds, but as Christ's Church in every age we walk by faith and not by sight as we work through these days of fear and uncertainty. Christ is with us and so we are always people of hope as we look forward with anticipation to see what God is doing among us.