

Synod Visioning

SUMMARY: A process to explore the question, “what is God calling the Central/Southern Illinois Synod to be,” was begun at the 2022 Synod Assembly. Through the creation of a tree of life, data were collected about the participant’s visions and dreams for the synod. In raw form this information took up 42 pages. The Deans sorted this data and presented it to the Synod Council. From there eight major themes/threads were identified.

GOAL for 2023 Synod Assembly session 1: For voting members to have much to prayerfully consider as they prepare for the June 1-3 in-person sessions of Synod Assembly so that our sense of identity as a synod can help inform who we call as bishop.

At Session One of Synod Assembly – in breakout groups

- Pray
- Read all eight threads
- Discuss
 - What do you notice?
 - What do you wonder about?
 - What three or four valuable gifts in a new bishop might the Holy Spirit be lifting up to us?

Threads

Thread 1

The Triune God acts in our lives and in our church to give us hope as we...

Hear God’s song leading us into a new and Spirit-filled vision for our future;

Thread 2

The Triune God acts in our lives and in our church to give us hope as we...

Rediscover abundant joy and encouragement even as we name our fears and losses;

Thread 3

The Triune God acts in our lives and in our church to give us hope as we...

Listen deeply to God, to one another, and to the world around us;

Thread 4

The Triune God acts in our lives and in our church to give us hope as we...

Embody the wide diversity of all God’s people;

Thread 5

The Triune God acts in our lives and in our church to give us hope as we...

Follow Jesus through daily acts of love and service to others;

Thread 6

The Triune God acts in our lives and in our church to give us hope as we...

Work together through the building of relationships;

Thread 7

The Triune God acts in our lives and in our church to give us hope as we...

Extend God’s mission beyond the walls of our congregations; and,

Thread 8

The Triune God acts in our lives and in our church to give us hope as we...

Experiment with new models of leadership for ministry in the church.