



Report to Synod Assembly 2023

Synod Vice President

Ms. Carey Mayer

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This was another year of things continuing to return to normal, but also a year of different and novel opportunities.

Over the past year, the Synod Council has continued our normal business — welcoming new members, saying farewell to leaving members, celebrating ordinations, new pastoral calls and much deserved retirements, and celebrating the work of dedicated lay leaders. We received reports detailing the diverse expressions of our church throughout the Central/Southern Illinois Synod. This all occurred at our four regular business meetings that we had this past year.

The Synod VPs from all 65 synods continue to have monthly Zoom calls. Those meetings include agenda items on a wide variety of topics, but mostly deal with best practices and technical solutions to common issues and concerns. They also provide community, fellowship, and sometimes support.

The Synod Council continued its commitment regarding Anti-Racism. Especially impactful was our February joint meeting with the Anti-Racism Working Group. Our moderator was the Rev. Sunitha Mortha from the Metro Chicago Synod. We learned how it feels to not know the rules, how to tell our personal stories, among many other thought and feeling provoking modules.

On the different and novel side of the ledger...

Last August, I attended Churchwide Assembly in Columbus, Ohio, as part of a delegation from the C/SIS Synod. Pre-meetings, advance copies of Assembly material, and other resources lead to a productive assembly. The highlight of which was the election of Imran Siddiqui as Churchwide Vice President — one of my fellow Synod VPs. Gathering under the theme, Embody the Word, voting members participated in plenaries and worship while acting on key legislative business and hearing reports on the work of the church, including a memorial related to the restructuring of the governance of the church.

And lastly, we prepared to elect a new Bishop. We thought about practical matters as outlined in the Bishops election toolkit provided by Churchwide. We had thoughtful

discussion both at the Synod Council meetings and at Conference events. We reviewed, coded, and discovered what was in our beautiful art piece from last assembly and used those themes to focus our thoughts as we started the Bishop's Election process in March of this year. We will conclude that process here in East Peoria.

May God bless our work together and each of you!