

Vice President ~ Maria Lokensgard

Synod Council Report

One Body in Christ

As I reflect on the theme for this year's Synod Assembly, I am thankful for the members of the Synod Council and Executive Committee. It is a group of people with different backgrounds, diverse strengths, and an appreciation for each other's gifts and talents. We are faithful in our decision making, reflective when needed, and focused on the work of our Synod.

Over the past year the Synod Council has been working closely with the Office the Bishop staff as they carried out the ministry of loving and serving our neighbors in remarkable ways. We all celebrated the life of Pastor Naomi Mahler, whose energy and joyfulness are missed. God's strength was ever-present through the hard journey.

We were pleased to bring back the Equipping Congregations Day, coming together in Willmar to listen to Rolf Jacobson's keynote address focusing on "The Spirit of God is Loose in the World." I encourage you to watch for details on the next event coming this winter.

The Policies and Procedures Committee continues to review church constitutions and is working on updating the Synod Constitution. Management and Mission Support has been dealing with declining offerings and diminishing returns. Servant Leadership is active searching to fill vacancies around the area, where the need is great. Many opportunities are being handled by the many hands of synod members and staff. It is appreciated!

A Facility Task Force has been created to survey the existing office building and look toward the future in terms of maintenance, sustainability, and cost. The Council has also acknowledged growing concerns regarding insurance options for churches in rural settings.

As you can see, it has been a busy year, and the Council will continue to focus on the challenges and joys of our Synod.

Thank you for being an essential part of the One Body in Christ.

Maria Lokensgard, Vice President, Southwestern Minnesota Synod



“one body in Christ”