

Synod Assembly 2014 Report

Worship, song, prayer, bible study, forums, nominations, elections, reports, displays, budgets, constitutional revisions, resolutions, more reports, and minimum compensation guidelines. These are all the business of a synod assembly. Pastor Chad, Eulyn and I had the privilege of being your representatives to the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly that was held May 30th to June 1st at the Coralville Marriot Hotel and Conference Center.

The most prominent business of the assembly was to call a new bishop. Michael Burk has served six years as our bishop and now it was time to call a person for a new six year term. I have been to a number of synod assemblies over the years but I have never been in on the selection of a bishop. The rather strange system did involve nominations, printed biographies, candidate talks, and a question and answer session. After the fourth ballot, Michael Burk was called for another six year term. We also selected synod council members and committee members. Pastor Chad was elected to the Discipline Committee. You can ask him what that committee does. No, he was not the only one running (there were four).

I find the experience of worshipping with almost 500 fellow members of the ELCA from across our synod a very inspiring and fulfilling experience. It is also a time to meet old friends and make new ones. We had the privilege of having Elizabeth Eaton, the presiding bishop of the ELCA with us. She led the election process, gave a Bible study, and the Sunday worship sermon. We are fortunate to have such a person in that position. It is also a time to experience what the ELCA and your synod is doing. It gives one a larger vision of what is the church. It gives an answer to the question of "What does the synod do with our money that we send each month." The answer is a lot. The synod contributes to many including seminaries and Lutheran Services in Iowa. Over 53% is sent on to the ELCA where programs range from dealing with Hunger, Malaria eradication, and supporting starting new congregations. Feel free to ask any of us about specific parts of the assembly. Think about whether you can be our representative to the 2015 synod assembly which will be held May 30 and 31st.

Frank Frostestad