

Synod Council Report – 2019 Assembly

Brothers & sisters in Christ, we would like to thank you for allowing us to serve in Christ's mission for our church. You are all members of multiple communities –

- The community of your family;
- The community of your congregation;
- The community of your Synod, all 185 established and 3 developing congregations with 59,471 members, 353 rostered ministers;
- The community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, all 65 Synods, 9,163 congregations, 3.5 million members and 6,000 rostered leaders; and,
- The community of the Lutheran World Federation with 148 member churches.

We all work together toward two common goals, living our lives in fellowship and bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to all. We live by example, following the teachings of Jesus and helping those in need to make the world a better place. As council members, we would like to thank all of you for your dedication and service to the Lord's work.

This past year has been business as usual with a few exceptions. In addition to our regular duties as the interim legislative authority of the Synod, the council:

- Worked with Southern Ohio Synod committees as they created the Devotional and Discernment materials for the Bishop election. Special thanks to the Call Process Task Force for the Office of Bishop who spearheaded the efforts.
- Promoted, encouraged and contributed to the Southern Ohio Synod Thrive campaign. You will learn more about the campaign and the programs that can benefit your congregation during this Assembly.

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- Utilized the Wholeness Wheel for a spiritual well-being check and the ELCA Stories of Faith in Action (SOFIA) for meeting devotionals. Both are available for your councils or congregations on the ELCA website.
- Supports our Synod staff wherever and whenever we can.

In 2019, we hope to continue our work –

- Through Synod Ambassador meetings at churches around the Synod, and
- Encouraging congregations to participate in the Southern Ohio Synod Thrive campaign

We thank God every day for his many blessings and welcome you to join us as we strive to be “***stronger and better together, joining Jesus in the restoration of the world***”.

2018 - 2019 Southern Ohio Synod Council

Pr. Rob Bork	Dave Drumm	Marjorie Ellis
Steve Fogle	Richard Freudenberger	Steve Goff
Jeni Gray	Roy Hart	Brandon Huston
Mike Johnsen	Pr. Steve Kimm	Pr. Laura Leach-Shreffler
Mary Maguire	Pr. Steve Mahaffey	Christine Miller
Kevin Pyle	Pr. Roger Quay	Michelle Riesbeck
Steven Schnittke	Cindy Schrader	Kathie Skamfer
Carol Swank	Pr. Ralph Wolfe	Susan Wyckoff