

# 2019 Assembly Highlights



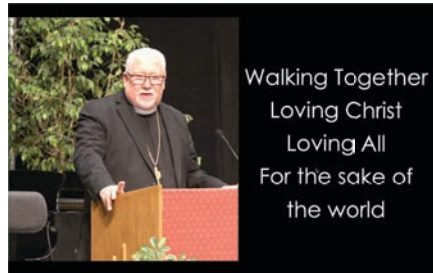
The thirty-second annual Synod Assembly was held June 14-15, 2019 at Augustana College, Rock Island, under our new mission statement theme **“Walking Together. Loving Christ. Loving All. For the Sake of the World.”** Nearly 500 registered assembly voting members and visitors from across the synod worshipped, learned, laughed, celebrated, and deliberated together as the highest legislative body of the Northern Illinois Synod.

During Bishop Clements’ report to the assembly, he shared our synod’s new mission statement, vision statement, and core values. “I remain committed to walking with you on this road we travel, because we will travel so much further if we travel together.” See the video of his report at [assembly.nisynod.org](http://assembly.nisynod.org).



## Special Guests

**The Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen**, freelance theologian from the



OMG Center for Theological Conversation gave three thoughtful keynote presentations based on our new mission statement. ELCA Churchwide Representative, **Bishop-elect Kevin Strickland**, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop and Executive for Worship, gave the churchwide report, and brought video greetings from Presiding Bishop Eaton. He also led a forum conversation. **Bishop James Dunlop** from our domestic partner synod, the Lower Susquehanna Synod, preached at worship on Saturday.

## Resolutions

The assembly passed the 2020 budget, 2020 salary guidelines, and two resolutions: **R-1 Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women** and **R-2 Concerning Gender Equality for Rostered Leadership Positions in the Northern Illinois Synod.**

Read the text of the full resolutions at [assembly.nisynod.org/resolutions](http://assembly.nisynod.org/resolutions).

## Friday Afternoon Forums

Forums included Budget / Synod Council, Candidacy Subcommittee, Congregational Life Committee, Conversation with Kevin Strickland, Global Mission Committee, Light (Synod Youth Team), Ministry Support Committee, Outreach Committee, and Social Ministry Committee.



## Worship and Ordination

A festive service of Holy Communion with the Rite of Ordination closed the assembly on Saturday. **Paul Gebo** was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament. He has been called to serve as pastor of Christ Lutheran, Stockton.

## Bishop’s Challenge

The assembly offering for “Making All Things New: The Campaign for the ELCA” surpassed Bishop’s goal of \$10,000. As of 6/19/2019, we have received \$22,642.07 and more pledges have come in. Thank you!

**Find photos, videos, and more at [assembly.nisynod.org](http://assembly.nisynod.org).**

## Friday Night Event

Trinity Lutheran Church in Moline, hosted a special event on Friday evening with introductions of rostered ministers and seminarians new to synod; recognitions of synod council members, synod staff, anniversaries of rostered ministers and congregations, and rostered ministers who have retired in the last year; and special celebration of 50 years of ordination for the Rev. Dennis Heaney and the Rev. Arlyn Tolzmann. The event ended with Holden Evening Prayer and lighting candles in remembrance of our departed saints.

## General Election Results

**Synod Council:** Minnette Scott - VP, Tammie Farley - Treasurer, Carla Vanatta, George Sanchez, Janet Wold, Robert Franek, Monique Castillo, Grace Hoening

**Congregational Life Committee:** Melinda Alekna, Elizabeth Mascall, Zachary Baer

**Global Mission Committee:** Jessica Bakken, Reed Pedersen

**Ministry Support Committee:** Deanna Swanson, Karyn Kost

**Outreach Committee:** Amanda Schanze, Roger Haefner, Nathan Knowles, Frank Langhoff, Lisa Burbank

**Social Ministry Committee:** Joan Soltwisch, Chuck Olson

**Consultation Committee:** Lyn Tubbesing, Randy Mullin, Elizabeth Martin, Preston Fields

**Discipline Committee:** Karen Dolan, Michael “Mic” Brooks, Henrietta Milner, Jacob Gawlik