

August 2020



Dear Friends in Christ,

I have just completed my second year as the Vice-President of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin. It has been an honor to serve in this role and to work with so many faithful and talented people. This year has been filled with many unexpected events and challenges that have forced us to adapt and change how we serve our congregations and carry out the ministry of the Synod and Churchwide.

The events of the past year - the loss of our Bishop, the Pandemic, the racial unrest - have taught us that it is essential to recognize the many skills and talents of all the Synod's rostered and lay leaders. And to involve those leaders to plan and carry out the work of the Synod. To work as one body to find new pathways and methods to bring us into a brighter future and the "new normal".

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them . . ." Romans 12:4-6

As we look to employ new methods and to create a healthier culture, we have started to look with a fresh perspective at how we select leaders, assess problems and determine solutions. Recognizing that our life experience often leads us to rely on learned secular processes for decision making, it is a goal of the Council to work with lay, rostered, and ministry partners to discern God's will for the South-Central Synod. To accomplish this, it will be important to let go of our personal biases and to open our hearts and minds to His will.

The Synod began this effort by listening to our rostered and lay leaders at a series of town hall, conference and Council meetings to hear the concerns and needs across the Synod. One of the points consistently raised is the need to build stronger working relationships between the Synod, congregations and rostered leaders. At these sessions, Leaders discussed the need for new ways for the Synod to: help congregations in transition; offer mentoring for new pastors; train congregational leaders; facilitate the sharing of resources and personnel; and develop ministry plans to meet the changing demographics of our population.

The changing needs of our members, local communities, region and the world has not minimized the need for our churches. What has changed is how our churches must address these evolving needs. This will require that we utilize the skills, expertise, and experience of all our leaders. To use their unique gifts and talents to form a single body to work cohesively to carry out the mission of the Church.

The Synod is about to embark on a journey with a newly elected bishop. It is my hope that you will all pledge to support her, to pray for her and to join with her to fulfill the Great Commission.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Cahill Wolfgram".

Jane Cahill Wolfgram,
Vice-President