

## Synod Assembly Actions

The Central States Synod meet in assembly June 7-9, 2018 at Bethany College, Lindsborg, KS. At that assembly, we adopted the following **resolutions**:

1. To encourage congregations of the synod to become “green congregations” by forming a Green Team that will take steps to reduce the congregation’s negative impact on the environment and foster “green discipleship” among their members;
2. To designate the Epiphany Season as a “Season for Global Awareness;” October 7, 2018 as a Sunday in solidarity with our companion synod in Russia, and May 5, 2019 as Sunday in solidarity with our companion synod in Papua New Guinea;
3. To designate May 11 & 12, 2019 to learn about Lutheran Family & Children Services of Missouri and pray for children and families;
4. To transmit a memorial to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA regarding the celebration and recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ordination of women;
5. To designate September 15 & 16, 2019 to learn about Lutheran Senior Services and pray for God’s ministry through seniors.

We also recognized and prayed for three congregations that have left the ELCA last year, two congregations that closed, twelve rostered ministers who retired, and five rostered ministers who died.

The assembly adopted an **amended synod constitution** which included by-laws reducing the size of the synod council to four officers and 10 to 12 additional members (the previous size was 21 members) and continuing resolutions which combined the ten area ministries into five conferences. These conferences will be used to determine representation on the synod council, resolution committee, etc. This new configuration does not preclude congregations and rostered ministers from meeting together in geographical clusters of their own choosing for the purpose of collaboration and support.

The assembly also elected members to the synod council as well as churchwide voting members. Since the adopted amended synod constitution reduced the size of the synod council, the exact membership of the synod council will be determined by the executive committee and announced as well as posted on the synod website.

A **budget of \$1,755,222** was adopted following an amendment to increase the budget by \$40,000 with an increase of \$10,000 to campus ministry, \$10,000 to seminaries, and \$20,000 to churchwide (since the synod shares 50% of all mission support from congregations with the churchwide organization.)

The **Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers** (Pastors and Deacons) was adopted. The guidelines include a 3.4% increase in suggested salaries as well as an increase in pulpit supply (\$150 for one service, plus \$50 for each additional service.)

**Next year's assembly will be held on June 6-8, 2019 in Overland Park, KS.** The agenda will include the election of the bishop.