



Indiana-Kentucky Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

January 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Indiana-Kentucky Mission Territory,

Pursuant to S9.04.01.a, in my capacity as Synod Vice-President I have tabulated and hereby publish the results of the surveys returned as we proceed toward the election for the Office of Indiana-Kentucky Synod Bishop at the June 9-11 Synod Assembly in South Bend. Thanks to all who prayerfully participated in this process.

The survey form approved by the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council asked for a list of three to five “gifts deemed important” and “matters of priority” for the Office of Bishop during the six-year period from 2016-2022. Turning first to the “**gifts deemed important**,” several of the responses overlap but, among the 123 gifts listed on the 28 responses, the following 11 were listed on at least five responses:

- (1) **Effective Communicator**, including listening ability and transparency (18 responses)
- (2) **Leadership**, variously described also as shepherding, patient, discerning, experienced, inspiring, wise and humble (14 responses)
- (3) **Vision for our Mission**, especially in rapidly changing times (12 responses)
- (4) **People Skills**, variously described also as encouraging, equipping, team building, loving, kind and having a pastoral heart (9 responses)
- (5) **Passionate Faith**, loving the Lord and His people, serving with gladness and empathy (8 responses)
- (6) **Teacher/Bible Scholar/Preacher** (8 responses)
- (7) **Accessibility/Visibility/Approachability/Accountability** (6 responses)
- (8) **Strong, Disciplined, Prayerful Spiritual Life** (6 responses)
- (9) **Creativity and Flexibility** (6 responses)
- (10) **Spiritual Guide**, focusing on the grace and justice of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, especially in matching pastors and congregations (5 responses)
- (11) **Administrator/Manager**, including organization and ability to delegate (5 responses)

Empower, equip, and encourage the people of God to make Christ known

Some of the additionally listed gifts also overlap with others, but three responses each listed the following five gifts:

- Intelligence, including being wise and perceptive
- High Moral Character, being true to oneself
- Being a Pastor's Pastor
- Keeping in Close Contact with and speaking with congregations
- Being a Peacemaker, being able to deal with conflict in a healthy manner even if "herding cats"

Two responses listed being dignified. One response each listed the following nine gifts, some of which may fit into other categories: ability to share profound truths in a simple way, calming influence, charitable mindset, conveying ELCA emphases, outreach, prophet, relating well with youth and young adults, sense of humor and theological orthodoxy.

Turning to "**matters of priority**," the 28 responses listed 104 priorities. Although more challenging to quantify, with 38 different matters listed, the following 10 priorities were identified on at least 4 responses:

- (1) **Helping Smaller and/or Struggling Congregations** (10 responses)
- (2) **Addressing Current Societal and Cultural Contexts**, keeping the faith in a changing world and responding to matters such as marriage equality and medical advances regarding end of life (8 responses)
- (3) **Casting the Vision for Future Mission and Church Growth** (6 responses)
- (4) **Declining Church Attendance** (6 responses)
- (5) **Increasing Focus on Youth and Young Adults**, perhaps as part of the portfolio of an Assistant to the Bishop (6 responses)
- (6) **Strengthening Ecumenical Partnerships**, locally and globally (5 responses)
- (7) **Proclaiming Jesus in Outreach to Communities Outside the Church** (5 responses)
- (8) **Increasing and Celebrating Diversity**, including reaching out to immigrants (5 responses)
- (9) **Addressing Mission Support** (4 responses)
- (10) **Increasing Synodical Relationship with Congregations and Support for Individual Ministries** (4 responses)

The following five matters of priority were listed on three responses each:

- Strengthening the Call Process and Selection of Pastors
- Increasing Resources and Workshops for Congregations, especially for stewardship and outreach
- Increasing Public Awareness of Lutherans
- Improving Emotional Health of Congregations for Vital Spirituality and Growth
- Facilitating Cooperative Relationships among Congregations within the Synod

Two responses each listed the following 8 priorities: training lay ministers and lay leaders, facilitating and modeling vibrant discipleship, building enthusiasm and support for young people to enter ministry, continuing to support conflict resolution, lifting up the issue of self-care for congregational leaders, speaking to social justice and morality, promoting healing and unity in congregations and across the synod, and addressing the future and the structures of the ELCA. Finally, the following 14 priorities were listed on one response each: dealing with community violence, using technology such as social media to spread the Gospel message, promoting collegiality, increasing synod communications regarding synodical and congregational mission, improving communications between rostered persons and laity, holding a synodical gathering for adults, focusing on whole family and intergenerational ministries, celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, keeping campus ministry going, fostering connections with all expressions of the church, selecting wisely staff and other leaders, upholding the bound consciousness of each congregation, upholding scripturally based baptism and communion, and providing strong organizational management.

Pursuant to the pertinent part of S9.04.01.b, these survey results are published together with the provisions that the **“the vice-president shall solicit from each conference council and each conference ministerium names of individuals who are eligible for election to the Office of Bishop who shall be identified by such conference council or ministerium for consideration for nomination to the Office of Bishop on the first ballot. Such identification shall be completed no later than March 1.”** I hereby solicit the identification of such names, to be sent to me at 108 Beech Drive, Edgewood, KY 41017. Pursuant to S9.04.01.c, all clergy so named will be sent a biographical form for completion (if desired) by April 1st to permit distribution to voting members prior to the Synod Assembly pursuant to S9.04.01.d.

In His Service,



C. Theodore Miller, Vice-President