

2021 Synod Assembly Recap



The Indiana-Kentucky Synod held its first ever online Assembly June 11-12, 2021. We met under the theme “We Are Called.”

The Assembly began with worship on Friday evening, June 11, with Service of the Word from *All Creation Sings*. It was led live by people from across the synod. Bishop William O. Gafkjen presided and preached at the service. During the worship service, Bishop Bill declared Roots of Life

Lutheran Community a duly organized and constituted congregation of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The offering from the service was designated for the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Future Church Fund. More than \$3500 was given at the Assembly and immediately after through electronic means and by mailing contributions to the Synod Office. Donations continue to be received. The worship was followed by a time of fellowship that more than 60 people joined.

Bishop Gafkjen called the Assembly to Order on Saturday morning, June 12, 2021. We received a video greeting from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Bishop Eaton spoke of how the church has been resilient even in the midst of the pain, loss, injustice, and uncertainty of the last year. She also shared her desire to building the future with each of us. “There’s never been a better moment to share the way of Jesus and introduce more people to community, justice, and love,” she said. The Rev. Dr. Javier Goitia, ELCA Director, Formation for Leadership, joined us from Chicago to present the ELCA Churchwide Report.

Bishop Gafkjen’s Report to the Assembly included an expression of his thankfulness to the congregations and people of the synod for their willingness to trust Jesus and for taking risks to be the people who proclaim the mighty and gracious acts of God in word and deed. He thanked everyone for the ways in which they’ve remained faithful to God during what have been difficult times. He noted the creativity and innovation he’s seen across the synod. He gave thanks for the life of Judy Bush, our Synod Secretary who passed away in 2020. He added, “It is a joy and honor to serve as your Bishop.” The Bishop concluded his report by sharing a song on the ukulele.

New Compensation Standards for Ministers of Word and Service and for Ministers of Word and Sacrament were adopted by the Assembly for 2021-2022 and those can be found on the synod’s website.

Synod Vice President Ted Miller gave his report to the Assembly. Vice President Miller focused on expressing his thanks to all those who contribute their God-given gifts in serving together in the Indiana-Kentucky Mission

Territory. He especially thanked Synod Council members, Synod Staff, the other Synod Vice Presidents across the ELCA.

The Assembly adopted the Synod Budget for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. Proposed changes to the Synod Constitution, which were mailed to every rostered minister and congregation six months prior to the Assembly, were also adopted. The changes incorporated actions taken at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly and clarified some synod committees.

The Assembly included video greetings and presentations from a number of ministry partners, including AAMPARO, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, E-Connect, and Building a Culture of Generosity.

The Reference and Counsel Committee presented its traditional Final Resolution thanking those who participated in the Assembly and it was adopted by an outpouring of “Whoo Hoos!” in Slack.

Because we did not have an Assembly in 2020 due to the pandemic and because the Churchwide Assembly will be held August 8-12, 2022, in Columbus, Ohio, we had an unusually large number of people to elect at this Assembly. Bishop Gafkjen installed those newly elected with thanks for their willingness to serve the synod.

Synod Council

Rev. Evangeline Anderson-Rajkumar (2022)

Rev. Joshua Burkholder (2023)

Rev. Vicki Garber (2023)

Rev. Ladona Webb (2023)

Rev. Timothy Graham (2024)

Rev. Jane Rothman (2024)

Deacon Jody Winter (2024)

Dylan Kissling -youth representative (2024)

Ted Miller – Synod Vice President (2025)

Patricia McIntyre – Synod Secretary (2023)

Dee Ann Daniels – Lafayette (2024)

Elizabeth Kirk -Southeast Indiana (2024)

David Zehr – Evansville (2023)

Vicky Caron – Indianapolis (2023)

Shawn Hall – South Central (2023)

Joshua Ferrier – North Central (2022)

Discipline Committee

Rev. Cody Blust (2026)

Rev. Liesebet Gravley (2026)

Kaitlyn Miller (2026)

Joey Meece (2026)

LOMIK Board

Erik Johnson (2023)

Julie Walda (2024)

Consultation Committee

Rev. Bimen Limbong (2026)

Julie Slavens (2026)

Mark Maassel (2026)

Dean DeVoe (2027)

Ragna Urberg (2027)

Rev. Karen Husby (2027)

Rev. Todd Lotridge (2027)

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member

Rev. Liesebet Gravley (Eastern Kentucky)

Rev. Colleen Winkler (Evansville)

Deacon Jody Winter (Indianapolis)

Reeve Lambert (Lafayette)

Rev. Jessica King (North Central)

Vivian Sarver (Northeast Indiana)

Charolette Hawkins (Northwest Indiana)

Hannah Limbong (South Central)

Susan Leigh Gray (Southeast Indiana)