

**Report of the Secretary
Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod
April 2019**

During my seventh year as Secretary, I faithfully recorded minutes for all meetings of the Synod Council and Executive Committee. Copies of all actions and meeting minutes of the Synod Council are on file in the Synod Office.

The Executive Committee of the Synod Council will have met two times since the 2018 Synod Assembly. The Synod Council subsequently ratified interim actions taken on their behalf at regularly called sessions. Minutes are on file and available for examination by anyone interested.

As a Synod Council, it is a privilege to work with a Team that constantly strives to improve the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod and Mission Area. We are Blessed to be called to serve in our capacities. It is a privilege to be among so many Courageous Faithful!

Mission Council Purpose and Guiding Principles

We are Jesus' disciples communicating God's vision to this Mission Area.

We will:

Pray and Worship
Study Scripture
Proclaim "Jesus Is Lord" Promote
justice and reconciliation Honor
one another
Celebrate our diversity

In addition to its regular business, the following actions have been taken since last Synod Assembly:

April 2018

VOTED SC 04.18.14 To approve the new location of Walnut Hill Lutheran Church.

VOTED SC 04.18.15 To approve the closing of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Shive, TX.

September 2018

Nothing out of the ordinary course of business items were recorded for this meeting.

February 2019

VOTED SC 02.19.02 To extend a Synod call to Pr. Robert Smith.

VOTED SC 02.19.10 To approve the recommendation to seek the Assembly approval of

the NTNL Constitutional amendment to S8.42 regarding the changing of the timing of audits for a second time.

Congregation Constitution Updates

Throughout this past year, we have received numerous constitutions for approval that reflect the changes of the new Model Constitution from ELCA Churchwide Assembly. This process has been streamlined by the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee and dramatically reduces the time in updating constitutions. Please submit your current constitution if you have not done so. The preferred method to submit the constitution for comparison to the Model Constitution is to send in Microsoft Word format. If you do not have this capability, an Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) is acceptable. If this is not possible, please send a copy of your current constitution and we will convert the document to the appropriate digital format. In this way, we may send back to you recommendations for updating your constitutions which will dramatically reduce the time necessary in this process. It also is a very good use of time which seems to be a barrier to maintaining these documents. In the future, with updated constitutions on file, it will be easier to receive the new changes to the Model Constitution and we can send out recommendations saving countless man hours to handle this process. And, we support you in your language. So, please, send us a copy of your congregation's constitution if you have not done so. **We are here to support you in this process and make this a painless endeavor in the future.**

Final Thoughts

Now in my seventh year, I have been continually blessed to have the guidance of the NTNL staff and Synod Council in the execution of my duties. With respect to our work with the **DFW Faith Health Collaborative**, NTNL is now moving with the mobilization of congregations in support of Collaborative goals. All NTNL congregations are members and thus have rights to access the resources of this ministry. We have been involved from the beginning with this ministry effort and are now supporting many congregations from various Christian denominations as well as some Synagogues in support of delivering wellness care to more communities. If you would like to know more, just ask me. Thanks to everyone for your help, prayers, support, and friendship throughout this past year!

Todd Weiss, Secretary of Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod