

**Report of the Secretary
Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod
April 2020**

During my eighth 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 2019 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!

Synod 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 2019

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

September 2019

VOTED SC 09.19.28 To approve Todd Weiss as the Liaison to the DFW Faith Health Collaborative.

VOTED SC 09.19.30 To authorize Todd Weiss to execute the sale of the property of Faith, Meridian in an amount no less than \$65,000.

February 2020

VOTED SC 02.20.09 To designate ½ of the funds received from the sale of the property of Faith, Meridian to Leadership Formation for Youth and ½ to New Missions.

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.**

Liaison to the DFW Faith Health Collaborative

As I leave my role as Secretary (I will not run for another term), I'm reminded that I'm not leaving NTNL, just shifting. Being Liaison to the DFW Faith Health Collaborative will require me to work with NTNL Congregations to expand support for wellness and health initiatives in our communities. This is a role not to be taken lightly as it is desperately needed by our most marginalized communities. The Collaborative's effort to create an umbrella around public health issues for the DFW Metroplex and beyond will need an incredible amount of attention.

The good news for NTNL is that we are able to access the resources of the Collaborative not only at the congregational level, but also at the Synodical level. We are signed into the Collaborative as a Synod. We are the only group to access the Collaborative's resources this way. If a person at an NTNL congregation can function as a Liaison, we can have full access to programming that does not exist anywhere else in the country.

This programming is unique because it is being developed by five (5) different hospital systems in conjunction with each other. Faith Health exists usually only from one local hospital system outward to faith communities. Due to the dynamic ways we must create access to multiple systems and handle referrals in a complex environment, our Collaborative approach can be transported to many other groups needing access to support the ministry. Please pray for the Collaborative and its ministry in conjunction with NTNL faith communities and beyond. We are able to make a dramatic difference in the lives of communities that need health and wellness support.

Final Thoughts

Now in my eighth year, I have been continually blessed to have the guidance of the NT-NL staff and Synod Council in the execution of my duties. As this is my final Secretary's Report, I am reminded that as a communicator for the Synod, it is my job to encourage you all to get active and stay active in the various ministries of this Synod. We are all the active pieces to ministry solutions that a desperate World needs to hear. And, as NTNL members, we are gifted in remarkable ways to respond to challenging needs in our communities. You are called to be solutions for your portion of the World! Embrace this calling! Thanks to everyone for your help, prayers, support, and friendship throughout this past year!

Todd Weiss, Secretary of Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod