

Dear 2021 Leadership Convocation Participants,

We were very pleased that you participated in the 2021 NT-NL Leadership Convocation at Briarwood Leadership Center. Since the Covid-19 pandemic continues and we're all at different levels of comfort with gathering in person, the Convocation was designed as a "hybrid" event blending in-person and online participants and presenters.

It's our understanding that many of your congregations and other ministries are in very similar positions. We're all wondering how to do this in the best possible way. One element for doing this well is acquiring electronic equipment that makes sense for your plans. I'll include a list here of what we used at Briarwood for this event and offer some preliminary thoughts on how things went and how we could do better in the future.

### Equipment

The necessary equipment setup for "hybrid" events is relatively simple: webcam(s), microphone(s), and light ring(s). Notice the '(s)' at the end of each; you can go with one of each item, but can also enhance the overall experience with multiple pieces dedicated to different aspects of the hybrid event. Here's what we chose:

*Webcam: Razer Kiyō Pro Streaming Webcam* (<https://www.razer.com/streaming-cameras/Razer-Kiyō-X/RZ19-04170100-R3U1>)

- Not all webcams are created equal. Razer is a high-end company dedicated to computer gaming equipment.

- The 60 frames per second, 1080p quality of this camera is hard to beat for \$200.

*Microphone: Razer Seiren X USB Streaming Microphone* (<https://www.razer.com/streaming-microphones/Razer-Seiren-X/RZ19-02290100-R3M1>)

- Razer quality provided excellent sound for our in-person speaker

- Comparable to the very highly rated Blue Yeti microphone (<https://www.bluemic.com/en-us/products/yeti/>), but in a smaller size

- Sound-dampening base reduces podium and laptop noises

*Light Ring: Neewer APP Control 16-inch LED Ring Light, Support Manual Touch Control with LCD Screen* (<https://neewer.com/products/neewer-ring-light-10096299>)

- Light rings are easy to find. Look for a model with brightness and tone adjustments so you can fit details to your space.

- This model comes with app control, so you can adjust settings from your phone.

Other items to consider:

-You will need a computer with sufficient processing power to receive high-end inputs. Something with at least 8gb of RAM is recommended. Budget between \$400 and \$500.

-You might consider setting up an additional station or two so in-person participants can speak directly into the Zoom broadcast.

How you operate your “Zoom room” matters. We often have a dedicated person (with their own Zoom login) providing technical support and background operations (breakout rooms, etc.) for all online participants. It is too difficult to operate these technical aspects while also presenting content, particularly in a hybrid setting.

Make ample use of the “chat” function in Zoom. Invite participants to submit questions and observations in the chat or use the “reaction” buttons. Encourage in-person participants to connect to the Zoom broadcast so they can do the same. The goal is to ensure that everyone is on the same page, with equal contributions and experiences.

Thank you again for participating in this learning experience brought to you by the Briarwood Leadership Center and the NT-NL Synod.

#InMissionTogether:



Rev. Robert Smith, PhD

Director, Briarwood Leadership Center



Rev. Erik Gronberg, PhD

Bishop, NT-NL Synod