

NT-NL Vice President Report
NT-NL Assembly
April 29 – 30, 2022

In Mission Together – In Transition

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming synod assembly. I'm coming up to the end of my term as vice president and appreciate that we are able to safely gather in person. The first half of my term the assemblies were online and the second half have been in person. While we were able to conduct the business of the synod during both types of gatherings, I appreciate last year's opportunity to visit and socialize with many attendees from all of the conferences across our synod. We shared struggles and challenges, new ideas and successes, and got to know each other a little better. We reinforced the knowledge that we have support systems available to us. I hope that those of you who attend this year's assembly have opportunities to make similar connections with your fellow attendees.

This past year the Synod Council took care of the business of the synod during our regular meetings. We received some changes to the synod constitution from the Churchwide Assembly last summer, and council will be bringing those updates to our synod assembly for consideration to approve. We also considered on-leave requests and synod calls for our worship leaders, synod authorized worship communities, requests from congregations to leave the synod, and notifications of congregations closing their doors, selling their facilities, and moving on to worship with neighboring congregations. In all these scenarios the synod was there to assist in those efforts through the generous synod support from our congregations.

I want to thank the Synod council members for their time and leadership taking care of council business efficiently this past year and throughout my term. I would also like to thank Ann Hafften, and Jeff Manthei for their input, dedication and leadership these past few years as their term on the Synod Council comes to an end.

I would also like to thank Bishop Gronberg and the staff in the synod offices, BA Rev Kris Totzke, DEM Rev Irma Banales, Jeanne Heggen, Jason O'Neill, and Anna Thompson for all of their hard work and dedication to keep the synod functioning. The amount of work this small staff gets accomplished and communicated to our vast synod is truly impressive and we are blessed to have them all. It's been a pleasure to work alongside with them over these past four years as vice president and witness their devotion to this ministry.

In closing I hope everyone can be optimistic about the coming year. I'm confident that the transition to a new vice president will be smooth with the continued support of our congregations and thank you all for the support you have given me.

Blessings,
Tom Blaney
NT-NL Vice President