

SE Iowa Synod Assembly Report 2022

The synod assembly was held on May 20-21 in Coralville. The theme was 'Go Tell the World.' Attendees from LCR were Bob Wolter, Pastor Jeff, and Pastor Nate. Unforeseen circumstances kept Julie Gilmore from attending.

Each day the assembly agenda included a worship service and plenary sessions for synod business. There were no controversial discussions and most synod business, including the budget, was passed by acclamation. The election of synod officials also was by acclamation.

Some key findings:

* The synod is strongly considering Synodically Authorized Leaders. These would be people approved by the bishop who have not been through seminary to fill in for a pastor. Training is available for these leaders. I believe they would be able to administer the sacraments.

There are 35 calls outstanding out of 156 congregations. In addition, there is a shortage of interim pastors. The synod is also exploring staffing area ministries with shared pastors.

I think Synod is doing everything it can to solve the shortage problem and give it maximum attention.

* There were two seminars given. One was entitled "Growing Young" which was based on how you get young people (age 19 to 25) active in church life. It is based on a process developed by Fuller Youth Institute which offers a six-part process to "Growing Young." The second seminar was "Braver Angels." It is an interesting discussion on how to address the political polarization that exists today. It is a national program that has some interesting thoughts on the subject. If anyone wants to pursue either of these topics let me know and I will share the information I collected on the seminars.

* I found Bishop Amy Current to be positive in everything she presented. While there are many issues, as I stated above, she seemed ready to take them on.

In general, I found the assembly interesting and well-organized.
Bob Wolter