

Our Synod in *Action...*



Southeastern Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

February 2011

LIFT: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA

Bishop Michael Burk

It sounds so scientific. I think it is the word "ecology", so often associated with biology, that can contribute to the confusion.

In the broadest sense, ecology has to do with relationships, particularly the relationship between an organism and the environment. In the "LIFT" case, the organism is the body, this church body (ELCA), and the environment is the world. And it all makes more sense when you understand that LIFT stands for Living Into the Future Together.

A diverse group of leaders (the LIFT task force*) has been working, in consultation with individuals and groups throughout the ELCA, to explore and make recommendations about how our life together might be shaped and reshaped (renewed) in order to enhance our shared mission. In other words, there are faithful people from many different backgrounds who are thinking about, and trying to get all of us to think about how we relate to one another and to the world for the sake of mission. Not just any mission, but

Christ's own mission. And they are not just thinking. They are working diligently to position this whole church to be more equipped for ministry in a future that is rapidly unfolding.

Bishops and Church Council members and leaders related to agencies and institutions throughout the ELCA have benefitted from engagement with the LIFT task force and the effort they are leading. There is a deep desire that even more people become engaged. After all, together we are the organism gathered and sent to bring Good News to the world.

I encourage you to visit the LIFT website (www.liftelca.org) to learn more and to participate. And as you dream about the church we are still becoming, take a careful look at the church God is already causing us to be by visiting the site, "Living Lutheran (www.livinglutheran.org).

At our best we remember that we are being drawn into God's future. We are **Living Into that Future Together**.

*Erik Ullestad, Windsor Heights Lutheran Church in Windsor Heights, IA is a member of the LIFT task force.

Synod Assembly 2011

Janelle Bidne

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In just four short months, the Southeastern Iowa Synod will gather for its annual Synod Assembly to celebrate ministries, uplift faith stories from across the synod, and address issues facing leaders, congregations, and agencies within the synod. This year the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly will be held May 20-21 at the Coralville Marriott Hotel & Conference Center in Coralville, IA. To prepare for this year's Synod Assembly, here's some general information to guide your congregation.

Voting Members

Has your congregation decided on who's going to represent your church at Synod Assembly? In accordance with S7.21 of the synod constitution, voting members to the Assembly are the following:

- 1) All rostered individuals in the synod.
- 2) The formula for congregational representation for the synod assembly is:
 - two voting members elected by each congregation (one male, one female)
 - plus an additional lay voting member for every 500 baptized members over 750 (i.e. 1250=1 additional, 2250=3 additional, etc.).

• Also note, assembly voting members must be voting members of their congregations.

- For broader representation, only one member per household is preferred.
 - The total lay delegation from any congregation must be, as nearly as possible, 50% male and 50% female.
- 3) Members of the Synod Council.

Assembly Visitors

Still want to attend though not a voting member? Any interested person may register as a visitor to the assembly. Visitors will be seated in a special section during business meetings.

Registration

Online registration for synod assembly will be posted on the synod's website mid-February.

Pre-Assembly Materials

On April 20, 2011; pre-assembly materials will be posted on the synod's website (www.seiasynod.org/2011assembly.html) Those attending assembly are expected to review the materials prior to assembly. The materials include schedule, synod reports, resolution, information on nominees for synod representation, and much more. The website will also note what pre-assembly materials will be printed and provided at registration during Synod Assembly.