The Southeastern Iowa Synod is a network of congregations and ministry partners who are called to share God’s love in Jesus Christ. The Southeastern Iowa Synod is comprised of 136 congregations and 88,442 baptized members of which nearly 33% attend worship weekly. The territory of the synod is 38 counties in the southeastern quadrant of the state.

Together, we are:

Gathered
We are gathered by God’s Spirit around Word and Sacrament, the means of grace. This gathering in worship is central to everything we do, informing and shaping all of ministry.

Claimed
We are claimed in baptism, connected to Christ Jesus and through baptism into Christ, we are connected to one another. We need each other, and in Christ, we have each other.

Sent
We are sent into our local communities and beyond...sent to serve the neighbor, to share the Good News, and to invite others into a relationship with Jesus, who is hope for the whole world.

Anti-Hunger
An “anti-hunger” approach to ministry begins with the assumption that the world is hungering for a reason to hope. In the Good News of Jesus Christ, we have bread for the world, where hunger manifests itself in many forms. We are called to move persistently toward the most profound need, which is why we are committed to:

• Feeding hungry people and advocating for people living in poverty
• Raising up leaders of every age who are equipped to proclaim the same Good News with which we ourselves have been fed.

A Model of Accompaniment
Walking together in solidarity, practicing interdependence and mutuality. Gifts, resources, and experiences are shared with mutual advice and admonition to deepen and expand all efforts within God’s mission. “Accompaniment” describes the way God walks with us, and the way the church therefore walks and works together. Accompaniment is about supporting and holding one another accountable, to the goal of proclaiming and embodying the love of God in Christ Jesus.

The Office of the Bishop equips and supports leaders and congregations to be witnesses to the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Office of the Bishop exists to oversee the proclamation of the gospel and to serve with and among the many ministry partners of this synod.

The Office of the Bishop:
• Seeks to be present with and among the congregations and leaders of this synod,
• Works intentionally with congregations during times of transition and crisis,
• Convenes people for mutual support, fostering health and wholeness,
• Facilitates congregational renewal,
• Builds connections between local congregations, other ministry partners and the wider church.

The election of the new bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod will take place at the 2020 Synod Assembly which will be held May 1-3.

You can be a part of this process by praying for the synod and its congregations and for people who are discerning the call to be bishop. Learn more seiasynod.org/bishopelection
The process for calling a new bishop began when the synod council appointed the Synod Ministry Profile committee. That committee put a number of questions before the 2019 Synod Assembly and conducted a survey which was open to all members of the synod during the summer of 2019. There were 221 respondents which represented a variety of ages, roles in faith communities, contexts, and congregation sizes.

**SYNOD SURVEY RESULTS**

**Synod Priorities**
The top potential priorities respondents noted for the synod’s relationship to local congregations were (1) congregational vitality and leadership, (2) working with congregations that are struggling, (3) evangelism/discipleship training/faith sharing efforts in congregations. The top potential synod priorities respondents noted for the synod for the church and the larger world were; (1) addressing social justice issues and concerns, (2) anti-hunger efforts (3) support of LSI, seminaries, campus ministries.

**Attributes**
The bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod will need to be a confident communicator and listener, someone who is relational and has the ability to manage change and conflict, is thick-skinned, a strategic and discerning leader, and faith-filled theologian.

**Concerns**
Based on respondents’ answers, these are concerns the new bishop will need to address declining mission support, working with churches that are struggling, congregational pastoral needs and the short supply of pastors, being the bishop to the whole synod in polarizing and changing times, and appreciating the diversity of ministry contexts within the Southeastern Iowa Synod.

**Opportunities**
These are the positive aspects of ministry in the Southeastern Iowa Synod according to survey data; a strong foundation of positive communication that unites congregations and leaders, a high level of satisfaction in how things are within the synod and strong trust in synod leadership to provide support to communities in times of crisis or transition and a trust that pastors and deacons show concern about decisions that are made on behalf of the whole synod.