



Dear partners in ministry,

I am delighted to provide this brief report of our shared ministry in Region 5. As regional coordinator, I support the work of synods to address mission and leadership needs in your synod and throughout the region. Most of my time is spent working with synod candidacy committees. "Candidacy" is the term used to describe our process of forming and preparing people to serve as a rostered leader in the ELCA—either as a pastor, diaconal minister, associate in ministry or deaconess. Like the many faithful volunteers that serve on your synod candidacy committee, I am honored to accompany students, help them develop as leaders, and explore with them how God is calling them to service in the world. In my role as coordinator, I also provide training for synod staff and committees on the candidacy process, work in partnership with Wartburg Theological Seminary and Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (our ELCA seminaries located in region 5) and act as a liaison for the region in the area of candidacy to the ELCA Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit.

This past year, the ELCA CSM unit has been working on revising our candidacy manual. This is a document for candidacy committees that describes the process and standards expected of those seeking to become an ELCA rostered leader. As part of the revision team, I have worked to listen well to the various partners in the region, and communicate our good ideas and input. At this time, the new proposed manual is being considered by both the ELCA Church Council and the Conference of Bishops. It is expected that our new candidacy manual will be available the end of 2015.

I am also a representative of the region in the ELCA assignment process. I work with your bishop and other synod staff to request seminary graduates for the region and into your synod for their first call. This work takes into consideration the needs of the whole church, the preferences of seminarians, and the particular needs identified within the region. Region 5 also convenes an annual mobility conference, and works with synods in region 5 to facilitate call possibilities beyond synod boundaries.

Region 5 gathers leaders for shared ministry efforts from time to time, including Global Mission network meetings, world hunger networking, churchwide consultations, bishops and bishop assistants meetings. It's been my pleasure to provide avenues for connecting your people-resources to one another for the sake of mission.

Another resource we share in Region 5 are the regional archives, housed on the campus of Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque. Our archivist, Nancy Carroll, receives records from disbanded congregations in the region, maintains a database of congregational records and provides research assistance on requests for information such as copies of genealogical records or other historical materials. Information on records retention can be found at <http://www.elca.org/Resources/Archives>, by contacting your synod staff or the region 5 archivist.

Thank you for your synod's participation in this shared ministry and for the privilege to serve among you.

In Christ,

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