

## REGION 5

### EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Bishop Jeff Barrow, Chair – Region 5  
jeff@milwaukeeesynod.org

Greetings to you in the name of Christ.

The twelve synods of Region 5 stretch through Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin, and include the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Gathering when mutual ministry can happen, regional work demonstrates our partnership with other synods and with the churchwide expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Region 5 candidates are preparing for professional ministry in our church. Your synod Candidacy Committee nurtures your candidates and decides who will be approved for public ministry in the ELCA. Region 5 directs the assignment process, bringing new rostered leaders into your synod.

Campus ministers in Region 5 serve college and university communities, bringing a Christian and Lutheran presence to complement higher education. Campus Ministry continues to move more and more into the realm of synodical control in a restructured ELCA.

The 2013 regional mobility conference in February had to be cancelled due to the ice storm that swept through the region. Synods were still able to exchange information on the candidates who had planned to attend.

Nancy Carroll is our Region 5 archivist. Congregations deposit key records and closing parishes submit their historical documents for perpetual care (with a financial gift if possible) to the regional archive at Wartburg Seminary.

2012 and 2013 mark a year of transition for Region 5. At the end of 2012 our Regional Coordinator, Rev. Carl Richard Evenson, retired after 18 years in that position. We are grateful for his leadership and had a chance both at the fall Steering Committee meeting and at the fall Conference of Bishops to celebrate his ministry.

The regional office in Appleton was closed at the end of 2012. Office Assistant Darlene Bilstad also retired at that time. The records for Region 5 are being stored temporarily at the East Central Synod Office.

Currently we are in the process of searching for a new Regional Coordinator. While it is posted as a position at ELCA Churchwide, the national church has been very cooperative in allowing the synods of the region to have a major hand in shaping the position, calling a new coordinator, and in ultimate supervision. The Regional Coordinator position was posted in February and closed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March. A search committee including current chair Bishop Jeff Barrow, Secretary Bishop Jim Arends, Pastor Joy Mortensen-Wiebe from the East Central Synod, Pastor Cindy Hileman from Metro Chicago, and Pastor Greg Villalon from churchwide will begin the screening process soon after Easter.

2013 also marks four bishop's elections within our region including Metro Chicago, South Central Wisconsin, Northwest Wisconsin and Western Iowa. We thank Bishop Duane Peterson in Northwest Wisconsin and Bishop Michael Last in Western Iowa, who will not be up for re-election, for their service to the church.

Churchwide office support and income of seven cents per baptized member from each of our twelve synods comprises Region 5 funding. We are grateful for all twelve synods echoing the covenant we share to be fully supportive of Region 5. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

As a region we are blessed with good collegiality amid great diversity. We are thankful for the many congregations and people called to be disciples in Region 5.