

Congregational Life Committee Report

The Congregational Life Committee is one of the five standing committees of our synod. Its mission and purpose are to support and equip congregations to carry out their ministries at the local level. Much of the committee's work is carried out through four vital subcommittees: Safe Church, Stewardship, Worship, and Youth. Each year, the committee plans and implements the annual Congregational Resourcing Event (CRE), helps support the synod's stewardship efforts, and offers grants to be used as seed money for local congregational projects.

Our committee consists of 60% laity and 40% clergy. Current members of the committee include Ms. Melinda Anekla, Pr. Zach Baer, Pr. Scott Benolkin, Mr. Larry Cording, Mr. Walt Farley, Pr. Nathan Feig, Ms. Georgiana Grossman, Ms. Kim Halper, Pr. Jana Howson, Ms. Kay Johnson, Pr. Elizabeth Mascal, and Mr. Mike Parmele. Synod staff liaisons for our committee include Nancy Corey, Assistant to the Bishop Deacon Cheryl Erdmann, and Assistant to the Bishop for Communication Deacon Karin Graddy. In addition, Mr. Jeff Schneider serves as a non-voting member of the committee.

Since the 2019 Synod Assembly, the committee's primary focus has been the planning of the 2020 CRE. We also offered grants to congregations for 2019; supported offering several "Safeguarding God's Children" (Safe Church) workshops and worked on budgets for 2019 and 2020. Although we are not directly involved with the work of the Worship, Stewardship, and Youth Subcommittees, we affirm their good work!

Due to the pandemic, the 2020 CRE was canceled. We have continued to focus on how to connect congregations through electronic means. We are participating in a Synod wide zoom forum, highlighting methods of broadcasting worship services and equipping churches to engage their congregations in a meaningful way through media.

We as a committee also encourage congregations to offer to host a "Safeguarding God's Children" workshop. A trained presenter will be glad to lead the workshop at no charge to the congregation. Please contact Deacon Cheryl Erdmann at the Rockford Northern Illinois Synod office to arrange for such workshop.

In closing, I thank all the members of the committee for their hard work and dedication. I thank the congregations of our synod for making this committee possible through your mission support (benevolence) giving!

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Mike Parmele

Chairperson, Congregational Life Committee