

Synod Secretary's Report 2020

The last twelve months have been anything but typical for me as the synod secretary. The year began with the passing of my mother-in-law the week of Synod Assembly. When all the travel plans and various unavoidable commitments were considered the funeral ended up being held on the first day of Synod Assembly, so I missed the opening sessions. The year has ended with our spring council meetings being held virtually, via Zoom, which presents some interesting challenges in taking minutes. And so I offer special thanks this year to Pastor Marilyn Hanson for taking the minutes for me at the opening sessions of the Assembly and to Deacon Karin Graddy and Ms. Julie Lewis for recording the Zoom meetings for me so I could review those moments when my internet connection became “unstable.” I am also grateful for the support of Pastor Pat Esker in reviewing the minutes and suggesting corrections before they are published for Synod Council meetings.

It is amazing, as I sit in council meetings, to hear of the wonderful and exciting ministries that are taking place through the congregations, committees, working groups, and staff of our synod. I continue to be honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve the people of God in the Northern Illinois Synod and be a part of those ministries. We truly are *“Walking together: loving Christ, loving all, for the sake of the world.”*

The Report of the Secretary continues within this bulletin of reports with the minutes of last year's Synod Assembly and the report of the Synod Council.

In Christ,

Pastor Donald L. Knowles
Secretary of the Synod