

**ELCA Southeastern Synod
Report of the Vice President
September 21, 2018**

I have had quite the busy summer since we were last together in Chattanooga debriefing the 2018 Southeastern Synod Assembly. After being installed as your next Synod Vice President, I immediately had to mentally transition into wedding planning as Kendall and I were wed at St. John's Lutheran Church in Atlanta on July 14, 2018. We actually had somewhat of a blended service, with the Lutheran Church service at St. John's followed by a Pakistani reception at Zyka Indian restaurant incorporating both of the cultures which have had an impact on our lives. After the wedding, I finally had a chance to relax as we went to Hawai'i for our Honeymoon. Thankfully, we were on the island of Oahu so the volcano on the Big Island did not impact our time.

And while I was on my honeymoon, I was actually able to conduct some Synod matters (with prior consent of my new wife, of course). The Southeastern Synod Executive Committee had to very quickly make decisions on housing allowances for two of our new Synod-called Mission Developers and the only time that would work for a conference call was during that week. So I chaired most likely the only meeting of the Southeastern Synod Executive Committee from the state of Hawai'i (and may have given my wife something to mock me for in the decades to come).

This summer I also had the privilege of attending the African Descent Lutheran Association of Atlanta annual picnic as well as the installation of Synod Mission Developer, the Rev. Mica Inge Koli. I also look forward to attending the September installations of Synod Mission Developers, the Rev. Crispin Ilombe Wilondja and the Rev. Karen Stephenson. I am excited for our Synod's future with all these missions.

This fall, I will also be attending 2018 Orientation of New Vice Presidents and the Vice Presidents Gathering at the Lutheran Center in Chicago, Illinois on October 18-21, 2018. I have never been to Chicago, so I look forward to going and getting to know my colleagues. I am always excited to see the wider ELCA Church in action, so that should be a great experience. I also look forward to whatever wisdom the other Vice Presidents can provide me.

In the past month, I have been reviewing "Building United Judgement: A Handbook for Concensus Decision Making", provided to me by Bishop Gordy, in order to be better able to chair our meetings. While I have been on Synod Council for the last 3 years, I do realize that I still have much to learn and want to do right by you. In that regard, I also ask for your patience and help as I navigate my first meeting chairing the Synod Council.

I am delighted and honored to be serving the Synod in this new capacity. Thank all of you for your work on behalf of the Southeastern Synod. I pray for safe travels and a productive meeting and I look forward to our time together.

Imran Siddiqui