

Exhibit A.2
September 2021

ELCA Southeastern Synod
Report of the Vice President
September 18, 2021

Blessing and Peace to all of you. I hope everyone has been well since we last met at our Synod Council and Assembly in June of this year. To those who were voted as members of Synod Council at that meeting or since then, welcome! This year we are going to do a separate Synod Council zoom for you to understand your role on Synod Council (as we referred to it in years' past "Synod Council 101"). We hope that having this extra session will allow for any questions you have to be fully answers. Especially without the feeling of being rushed in order to get to other business.

I hope everyone has been well since we last met. At that time, we were hopeful that we could meet together for this meeting in person. Some of us who had been vaccinated had gathered in person during the June meeting. Unfortunately, since then Covid numbers have risen substantially due to the Delta variant. Many of our congregations have gone back to Stage 1 of the reopening plan. We are once again moving back to virtual meetings and social distancing. I know this is incredibly distressing. In the midst of this, I am incredibly thankful of the leadership that you all have shown during this difficult time. I pray and hope that you and your congregations have been safe during this time.

Our Synod's COVID 19 taskforce has re-convened again to meet virtually and share information over email and Zoom over the past few months to try to make sense of the new data and formulate recommendations for our Synod. We are in the process of planning new videos encouraging vaccinations, new Congregational Leader Zooms, and we continue to watch the numbers.

I have also continued to participate in the monthly Synod Vice President Zoom call. This monthly meeting continues to be highly beneficial in terms of fellowship and coming up with new strategies on how to lead our respective Synods during the pandemic. I am also on the Planning Committee for the Vice President's Gathering for 2021. We initially planned to be in Chicago during the weekend of October 9 and 10th. However, in the interest of safety of all participants, we too have decided to go virtual that same weekend.

In addition, starting this fall, I will take on the reigns of become the Chair of the Region 9 Council. Our Region 9 Council consists of the Bishops and Synod Vice Presidents of our Synod as well as the Florida-Bahamas Synod, Caribbean Synod, North Carolina Synod, South Carolina Synod, and Virginia Synod. I am excited to take on this new responsibility to help guide our Region forward in its work.

On a personal note, Asher (my son) continues to be a joy in our lives. He is now 15 months old, walking, and babbling. We hope that at some point soon he can see (and be held by) some of you in person!

Thank all of you for your work on behalf of the Southeastern Synod. I pray for a productive meeting and I look forward to our time together.

Imran Siddiqui
Vice President, ELCA Southeastern Synod