

2017 Grand Canyon Synod Assembly

I had the honor of being asked to attend the annual assembly held June 9-10 at the Love of Christ Lutheran church in Mesa this year. Thanks to those of you who supported this event. I say it was an honor because I saw a side of the ELCA Lutheran church I have never experienced first-hand. It was also an honor because it was the last session conducted by Bishop Talmage, who exudes exceptional amounts of love for Lutherans, the ministry, and Jesus Christ. He led the opening on Friday themed, "Called to Lead". What an exemplary man to talk about leadership. It was impressive to hear him discuss and call to us church members regarding finding our future leaders in the church. Bishop Talmage had five points to be alert and aware of when scouting for leaders. They are Self-awareness, Self-regulation, Motivation, Empathy, and Social Skill. Naturally he discussed them in detail at the assembly, and his message was inspirational and motivational. The bishop left us with the assurance that courage and faith will be our constant companions no matter where we are in the leadership rung, and that our future leaders will be examples of these as well. We heard from multiple younger and older people who are pursuing a career in ministry leadership, some after having a full career, some an early calling, and some who've been out in the world and are responding to the ministry calling.

I also attended the special dinner for Bishop Talmage and his wife, Barbara, celebrating their years as Bishop to the Grand Canyon Synod. There were lots of stories shared, well wishes given, and tears of joy for this amazing couple.

Saturday involved voting, with our very own Pastor Gary McCluskey being voted onto the Consultation Committee for the representative in the Fiesta district. This is a six-year term.

There were multiple vendor tables with much information available to the interested member such as a benefits table, our own LCM table, a table for offering a home for people with intellectual disabilities, et al. The food was amazing, the debates friendly and productive, and the people were delightful to meet and talk with. (There are very few people in this room of 250-300 that Pr. Gary doesn't know, is friends with, or recognizes!) There were opportunities volunteer in organizations, learn and participate in functions/events, and donate to and celebrate with all of those in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Zurcher