

# REGION 5

## EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

**Rev. Carl Richard Evenson**  
COORDINATOR FOR MINISTRY LEADERSHIP—REGION 5

675 Deerwood Ave.  
carl.evenson@elca.org

Neenah, Wisconsin 54956

Phone: 920-720-9880  
Fax: 920-720-9881

### Synod Assembly Report Spring, 2008

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus.

Your synod is one of twelve synods in Region 5 of the ELCA. Our territory stretches from Iowa and Illinois through Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Gathering when mutual ministry can happen, the region demonstrates synod partnership with one another and with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America churchwide expression in Chicago.

In the past year rostered synod leaders were able to seek mobility among the twelve Region 5 synods through our mobility conference.

The region also oversees the assignment process, where graduating seminarians are assigned to a region and then to a synod for their first call to ministry.

This year mission support consultations are being held in all synods of Region 5, bringing dialogue to the table regarding synod support for our churchwide offices in Chicago, and widening the conversation about stewardship across the ELCA.

In another move of network sharing, Region 5 now gathers synod World Hunger leadership with the chairpersons of synod Global Mission committees in order to share ideas and receive the latest information and directions of our churchwide Global Mission Unit.

Candidates for our rostered ministries move through the churchwide candidacy process in each synod. Your synod Candidacy Committee includes a seminary faculty representative as well as a regional

deployed staff person from the Vocation and Education unit of our churchwide office. This partnership group supports your synod candidates and brings them to approval for rostered service through ordination, consecration, or commissioning.

Bishop Duane Pederson has been installed this year in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, Bishop Wayne Miller in the Metro Chicago Synod, and Bishop Bruce Burnside in the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin. Congratulations to Bishop Michael Last who was reelected to office in Western Iowa. Region 5 bishops take part in the annual *Bishops' Visit* at each of the seminaries of the ELCA.

The Region 5 Steering Committee directs the region and Bishop Gary Wollersheim of Northern Illinois Synod is the current chair. Bishop Michael Last is the vice chair, and Bishop Paul Stumme-Diers is the secretary.

Region 5 is financed by grant from the churchwide office, and also from the covenant support of seven cents per baptized member from each of our twelve synods. Thank you for supporting this ministry through your synod budget.

My thanks to our Region 5 office secretary, Kim Rivenburg, who keeps regional communications and bookkeeping so faithfully in our Neenah, Wisconsin office. Rev. Robert Wiederaenders is our archivist in the regional archive at Wartburg Theological Seminary

--Rev. Carl Richard Evenson  
Coordinator for Ministry Leadership—Region 5