Saturday afternoon

The assembly gathered after lunch to hear a report on the Synod House by Arne Bergland. The Mission Builders will be helping to build the Synod House next summer and we are inviting congregations from all around the synod to spend a week in Great Falls next summer to help the Mission Builders build the Synod House. By using Mission Builders and providing workers (no experience necessary!) from around the synod, we will save a goodly sum in the cost of construction.

Next

Rev. Kevin Strickland addressed the assembly, talking about how to have a say in influencing the future of our wider church. **“How Will the ELCA Meet the Future Boldly?”**

Called Forward Together in Christ is a process of talking about the future of the ELCA. We are engaged in a time of discernment, looking to the future. How do we make the good news of the Gospel known? What are our priorities so we can be as effective as possible in bringing people the good news of Jesus Christ?

The cultural and religious landscape has changed in our country so we need to be clear and focused.

This process is an opportunity to pray and to be open to what God might be calling us to do. It’s the people of God together, all the people talking. You can be involved in the conversation and we need you to be involved. The more people praying, the more people talking and responding, the better. Go to ELCA.org/future to learn more.

The process should be one of spiritual discernment and an engaging conversation about the future of this church.

The assembly listened to and discussed Acts 2:42-27.

Then the group discussed the following 3 questions:

1. What kind of church do we believe God is calling us to become?
2. How do we become an inclusive, diverse church that is inspiring and relevant in different communities.
3. If we had to decide that some things were more important than others in the next 5-10 years, what are your top three things?

Each table discussed these questions and prayed over these questions. Then representatives from the tables shared from their conversations. Excellent conversations for the assembly and for congregations to consider.

At this point the assembly was dismissed to attend two sessions of workshops. Please see the assembly schedule online to see a list of workshops.

The group reconvened for a banquet at 6:30.