



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Region 1
Rev. Mark Nelson
Coordinator for Missional Leadership

Spring, 2016

Dear Assembly voting members, observers, guests and staff,

I write to you at your assembly with a great sense of gratitude for your partnership in our common mission in Region 1, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. How many of you have looked at our ELCA Constitution to see what regions are intended to do? Here's a refresher from Chapter 18: **This church shall have regions as a partnership between groups of synods and the churchwide organization for the purpose of exercising mutual responsibilities.** And in 18.11.11: The regions shall be a means for coordinated responses by synods and the churchwide organization to mission and program opportunities within the region. Further in 18.11.12: The region shall be a forum where the synods and the churchwide organization may study, plan, and share together in developing common programs unique to the region. Responsibilities carried out together will vary from region to region depending on the decision of the synods and churchwide units.

For the last 28 years the six synods of Region 1 have chosen to do our financial work together through a Region 1 Financial Services Office. Our Accountant Alyce Bakker, has been with us all of that time and continues her excellent work!. New to our staff just in the last few months is Karen Dicken as bookkeeper. Some of you may know Karen in that she has served as treasurer in the Northwest Washington Synod. She decided not to make herself available for another term as treasurer and has made herself available to our Region. We are grateful!

The majority of my work in the Region is in candidacy and rostered leader development. After a three year process we have a newly approved and updated candidacy manual, <http://www.elca.org/Resources/Candidacy>, that takes into account the variety of ways that our members prepare for rostered service in our ELCA. At our churchwide assembly this August voting members will take action on a new roster (proposed name is "Deacon") that will also combine the current Associate in Ministry, Diaconal Ministry, and Deaconess rosters. All this to better accomplish God's mission in congregations and our other mission-oriented agencies.

Talk with your voting members to the Churchwide Assembly, and remember them in your prayers.

I am grateful to continue to serve you in Region 1. Thank you!

Together we share in God's mission.