

Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod
Assistant to the Bishop Report, Phil Misner
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But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

~ Ephesians 4:15-16

In my work as Assistant to the Bishop I see myself as one of the many ligaments that holds us together as people and ministries happening across the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod. Through the first eight months in this position, I have acted as that ligament in three general categories: call process, event planning, and facilitation.

Call Process:

As Rostered Leaders and congregations go through the call process there is both the breaking of ligaments and the creation of new ones. The goal throughout is the same that is expressed in Ephesians 4:16 – it's all about "promoting the body's growth in building itself up in love." It is an honor and a joy to walk with folks through this process and watch those new connections being made.

Event Planning:

Throughout my time as Assistant to the Bishop I have been working with synod staff, deans of clusters, Synod Council members, and rostered leaders to help plan different events ranging from cluster meetings to Synod Assembly to the three Regional Gatherings that will happen during the spring of 2020 in place of Synod Assembly. At these events connections are made, ministry highs and lows are shared, and people begin to glimpse the different ways the Spirit is blowing throughout eastern Washington, Idaho, and parts of Wyoming and Oregon. People, congregations, and ministries leave these events knitted and joined more robustly to one another.

The three regional gatherings will be:

- April 25, 2020 – Pullman, WA
- May 2, 2020 – Twin Falls, ID
- May 16, 2020 – Moses Lake, WA

2021 Synod Assembly:

- April 23-25, 2021 – Red Lion, Pasco, WA

Facilitation:

It's difficult to summarize this part of the work, but this facilitation work is about helping congregations/ministries and rostered leaders function better together. A majority of the time this has been having conversation and pointing leaders to resources that can help them review their ministry and plan for the future. This has led to the development of a reviewing and visioning process that councils & boards can undertake together to help set goals. Another part of this facilitation part of the work is revising our compensation guidelines in conversation with lay and rostered leaders. The final part of this work has been to work with leaders as they navigate conflict, giving them resources when called for, and facilitating conversations at other times. Whether its around visioning, compensation, or conflict all this work of facilitation has the goal of ensuring that each part of our body as the church is "working properly [promoting] the body's growth in building itself up in love." (Ephesians 4:16)