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- Synod Council met via zoom on Friday May 15 to share with one another and to update the Council regarding finances and the work of the Bishop's office.
  - The Rev. Heidi Wachowiak served as our chaplain and offered the opening and closing prayers.
  - The Rev. John Lentz and Councillor Shae Belanger served as our Code of Conduct – Complaints Handling Committee.
  - During a time of sharing many innovative and creative ideas were described by the Area Deans and Synod Councillors regarding ministries within their Area or congregation. There is a clear sense of being empowered to adapt to the everchanging situation in our congregations, communities, and world; along with a sense of loss and grief around isolation and the inability to gather face to face.
  - Financial Update:
    - Synod Council expresses their gratitude to the congregations and individuals for their continued financial/benevolence support.
    - Synod Treasurer, Paul Ellison provided an overview – at the end of April benevolence giving has decreased by 10% compared to April 2019. Paul is applying for funds offered through the federal government programs.
    - Paul has met, via Zoom, with congregational treasurers to provide guidance through these fiscal challenges. He also continues to meet regularly with the National Church treasurer and other ELCIC Synodical treasurers to share information and support.
  - Bishop Larry's Report:
    - Communication:
      - Much effort is going into updating the Synod website to keep it current with information related to COVID-19.
      - There has been intentional increased online presence through social media to share and keep information current.
      - Participation during weekly Zoom Meetings with Rostered Ministers across the Synod has been appreciated and valued, as a way for pray, support and providing updates and information. Most of the Areas are meeting weekly for Zoom Meetings for check-in, encouragement and support for Rostered Ministers.
      - Zoom Meeting with Campus Ministry Chaplains in our Synod provided opportunity for support, encouragement, listening and prayer.
      - Met with Healthcare Chaplains via zoom to support them as they provide spiritual support for those in their care.
    - Bp. Larry emphasised the difficulty in reopening Churches for regular practices; and the importance for conversation discussing the various facets before we may consider gathering again for Worship. Recognizing that the pandemic has upset the rhythm of our daily work, and will not go back to what it was before, he stressed that we need to listen, listen, listen to what God is calling us to and, that this is a time for conversation regarding, for example: how we will be different? what will we prioritize? what will we let go?

- There is a growing concern for self-care of Rostered Ministers through these continuously changing times as they stretch themselves to provide support and care, community connection, and worship leadership.
- Rostered Ministers have been invited to join a Tele-Townhall Meeting organized by the Provincial Government on May 21, 2020.
- Our National Bishop, Synodical Bishops and the Assistants to the Synodical Bishops are preparing sermons for congregations to use from mid June to mid September to enable pastors to have some rest and some vacation time.
- The fall Ponder Anew events are still being planned for the fall in hope that we will be able to gather. A decision regarding postponing the events will be made in conversation with the Council Executive Committee.
- This fall we will be forming a Synodical Learning Ministry Team to coordinate and plan for lay leadership training through the Seminary's Lay Academy Curriculum, LIFT program – Leading In Faith Today.