

Pastor Enno's Weekly Message

Dear Friends,

What a whirlwind of a week, traveling down to Indianapolis to go to General Synod for three days and then coming back. I have been a delegate at three General Synods before, but this was my first time as a visitor where I could go and have the opportunity to just be an observer and be where I wanted. First of all, the worship on Friday for the opening, and Sunday in the afternoon, were spirit-filled and wondrous. I got to eat many meals with the delegation from Minnesota and get to know them on a deeper level, see friends from seminary, and from previous conferences. I marched in a prayer walk on Saturday as anti-trans legislation was going into effect. The capital building was only 2 blocks away so it wasn't a long walk, but there were lots of speeches and prayers and solidarity with those who are going to suffer.

The big news is the election of Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson as our General Minister and President. She is the first woman and foreign-born leader of our denomination. In her nomination speech on Friday night, she gave a practical, yet hopeful, vision of the future of our denomination and the church itself. She talked about mission here in our own backyards as the rise of 'nones' (religiously unaffiliated) continue to grow in our nation and the number of mixed marriages of those who have different backgrounds of faith rises too. Rev. Thompson also said it is up to everyone in our church to work on the white privilege that pervades our churches and our society through decolonizing our language, institutions, and hearts.

Rev. Nadia Bolz Webber was the keynote speaker on Saturday morning and talked about fear and anxiety, worry, and regrets in our day and age with all that is happening. She ended with hope: the hope of a God who saw people throughout the ages through difficult times, and the hope we have in Jesus and the stories of the Bible. These are the foundations of our faith, not the UCC, or government, or wealth.

Thank you to Tom Yuhasey (moderator extraordinaire) and the board for leading a wonderful worship in my absence.

Peace

Pastor Enno

P.S. left my alb (church robe) down at Peace Church on June 25th when I went to Nathan Holtz's ordination. If anyone is going down to Duluth, could you please pick it up and bring it home.