

February 16, 2008

Greetings in the name of Christ:

Thanks to the fine work of the Synod Profile team, and to the many members of the Sierra Pacific Synod who shared their reflections on our life together in this Synod, we now have for our consideration the completed Sierra Pacific Synod Profile.

Here are some suggestions for its use:

- This will be a helpful tool on our way toward the election of a bishop at our April 25-27 assembly. I ask that pastors, congregations, and conferences find ways to address the Profile materials, and especially to consider the priorities it identifies. The profile materials will assist in our listening to the nominees at the Assembly as a part of the discernment during the election process.
- Studying and discussing this profile could also shine a helpful light on your congregation or ministry. Consideration of the priorities identified by the Profile Team should help clarify your congregation's own priorities and its connections with the Synod and ELCA.
- Because Conferences are intended to have primary responsibility for mission in their areas, I've requested that Conference Deans take steps to use the Profile at Conference gatherings. This may also help in the discerning process for the election of a bishop. But beyond that, there is the future of this synod. Conferences conversant with the profile can use it to evaluate their priorities, and seek ways to work in concert with the Synod in a shared mission for the sake of all our ministries in Northern California and Northern Nevada.

I commend this profile to the whole synod, and expect that it will be well received and widely used.

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Sincerely,

+ David G. Mullen, Bishop