

## **Reflections of Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly - June 1, 2024**

It was a full day of music, conversations, connections, learning, and of course, business. It began with songs of praise accompanied by guitar and with morning prayer. Following introductions and celebrations of rostered anniversaries, we were blessed to have, artist, Tonika Lewis Johnson as our keynote speaker. What an eye-opening lesson about the inequality of economics across our city as she “unfolded” the process and learning from her Folded Map Project. You can learn more about her work at [www.foldedmapproject.com](http://www.foldedmapproject.com).” I commend it to everyone and then how St. Luke’s might partner in reducing the vast divide.

We voted for persons to serve as our Synod’s voting members to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly to be held in Phoenix. At that assembly, they take part in electing a new Presiding Bishop and a new Secretary of our denomination. The new electronic voting process was a learning experience for both sides of the technology ... a good test for next year when our Synod will hold elections for our Synod Bishop, Vice President, and Secretary.

After lunch, we split up to attend workshops. I participated in one called “Technology and Social Media.” It was an interesting mix of who does what and I picked up a number of helpful tips about live streaming and social media engagement.

The rest of the afternoon was filled with resolutions and a memorial including “reinvesting mission support into synod ministries; recommended Middle East actions, and a third, “Affirming the Synod’s Reconciling in Christ status,” that was referred back to our Synod Council because we ran out of time.

Finally we gathered at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (just south of the Q Center) to worship, giving thanks for all that God has done. The service was uplifting and the gluten-free bread served to all, was the most amazing that I have ever tried!

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve at this assembly.

*BethAnn Lynch*