

May 1, 2017

Dear Bishop Wells, Bishop Call Committee, Synod Council, Voting Members and Brothers and Sisters in the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod,

It is with a mix of sadness and anticipation that I write this letter. I love this synod and the congregations, ministry sites, and individuals here. I grew up in this synod and have a deep abiding passion for the work that is done here. You are a special, gifted synod. I anticipate great things coming from you.

Because of my love for this synod, I agreed to be a candidate for Bishop. I thought judiciously and carefully about what it would mean to be Bishop in the EWAID Synod. I believed my gifts and this synod matched up well for the future. I did the paperwork, had many conversations, and prayed as the EWAID Bishop selection process moved forward. I trusted what I was hearing from others. However, I now believe the Holy Spirit is calling me out of the Bishop selection process and into a different position within the ELCA.

In the last several weeks – as I have discerned a different call through prayer, conversation, sleepless nights, and consideration – I have come to believe and trust that God is calling me to be Assistant to the Bishop in the Northwest Washington Synod. Therefore, with trepidation and excitement, I am accepting this call. Because of this decision, I request that you choose one of the other candidates standing for Bishop when you vote.

As this synod moves forward, know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. I truly will miss you and will hold you in my heart and in my prayers, especially during this time of transition.

I am so grateful to have grown up in this synod and for the welcome I received when I returned to this synod in 1997. I will miss all of you. Know that you are in my prayers.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Shelley Bryan Wee".

Pastor Shelley Bryan Wee