

My climb up the Mount Learning Curve continues. I believed the summit is in sight. But alas, the pandemic has created a rockslide and now a detour for I hoped that this report would be read at my first Synod Assembly. I'll have to wait for 2021 to have gone through a full year and experience Assembly fully.

Other areas are closer to the summit. When Bp Lorna invited me to be on staff my major areas of responsibility include Candidacy/Call process, Lay School/Discipleship Academy (DA), Companion Synod Coordination and First Call. Each has its own unique view from the mountain. Candidacy/Call has the most switchbacks and winding roads as I work with the Candidacy committee, Call committees, and candidates.

Lay School/DA is in hibernation as we explore as a now full staff, what this looks like as we train SAMs (Synodically Authorized Ministers) and as we offer enrich and faith deepening learning. Companion Synod and the Companion Synod Network continue to walk, step by step, with our brothers and sisters in both Tanzania and Chile. Our ministries continue in both locals.

Thanks to all the wonderful people I have been able to meet and work with throughout the synod these past months. Thanks to Bp Lorna and the staff for their support, good humor, and graciousness as I have hiked up this mountain. I look forward to the view from the top.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Mike Kroona, Assistant to the Bishop