



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

With great joy and an eager desire to serve, I have accepted God's call to be President/Bishop of the English District. I give thanks to our gracious Lord Jesus Christ who has been preparing me for this calling for many years. I pray that His Holy Spirit continues to give me all the gifts needed to care for His Church. I request your prayers for myself, my family, and my congregation.

My first goal is to make this transition as seamless as possible. I have recently visited the district office and had the pleasure of meeting with most of the district staff. They are all devoted servants of our Lord that have served our district faithfully for many years. They are all willing to stay and serve with me for which I give praise and thanks to God.

Bishop Hardy and I have discussed the transition, and our goals are in alignment with each other. He would like to complete the ordinations of the new pastors over the month of July. I respect that desire and it serves my plan to round up my full-time ministry at my home parish and transition to my full-time role for the district with an official start date of August 1st. President Matthew Harrison will perform my installation in late June at the Joint Pastoral Conference between LCC and LCMS in Niagara Falls. Another service will take place August 11th at Peace Lutheran Church in Windsor, Ontario which will include the Board of Directors as well as local pastors from both sides of the border.

President Matthew Harrison has reached out to me via email offering his congratulations, support, and encouragement. He and Rev. Peter Lange will be assisting me with DP orientation in the coming weeks. Bishop Hardy has been very generous with me in sharing the joys and challenges of the Bishop's calling. Both Bishops Stechholz and Ritt have also offered their wisdom for me to lean on in the coming months. I am very blessed to stand on the shoulders of these servants of God. I've spoken to our Regional Vice Presidents, and they also stand ready to help and serve.

I've met with our English District Board of Directors and have reported to them the details of the transition. God has blessed our English District with a board of lay people and pastors gifted with experience and wisdom. We are in good hands.

I intend to work out of the district office in Farmington, MI when the necessary immigration work has been completed by the staff and our lawyer. I'm blessed to own a cottage one hour from the district office and so I'm planning on using that as one of my home bases. My wife Sylvia works remotely, our kids are all married, so we are built for travel, and visiting will be a priority of my ministry.

Please keep my congregation, St. Mark Lutheran, in your prayers. They have been extremely supportive of my ministry for 24 years. St. Mark's is in a unique position in that they have both associate pastors and retired pastors that serve in ministry. The associate pastors will be shouldering the pastoral ministry at St. Mark's while I serve the district. Like other District Presidents, I find it important to remain called to a local congregation and so I will remain as Senior Pastor at St. Mark's.

Preparations have already begun for our 2025 District Convention next June. I will announce the theme in the coming weeks.

I plan to have an online meeting with every pastor in the district in the coming months. I look forward to getting to know you and your ministry so that I may pray for you and serve you where needed. Kathy Stanis will be in touch with you to set this up.

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Eph 3:20-21 ESV)

Your servant in Christ,

Rev. Jeffrey Miskus

