

2018 ASSEMBLY REPORT

Bishop Steven L. Ullestad

I invite you to review my written report on page 19 of the Assembly book.

Pastor Steve Brackett's devotion, "The Power of Community."

He believed in me when I could not believe in myself. That is what great teachers do. They change the world one student at a time.

- Ralph Quere -

I am from a generation that did not respect people in authority. "Never trust anyone over 30."

Then I became one, a Bishop at 39 with a new friend, a two star Admiral and Chief of Chaplains. He taught me respect for the Office of Bishop by respecting me, and more importantly, the office that I held.

- Al Koeneman -

It is difficult to describe the utter chaos that accompanied the new church in 1988. Our first bishop was very publicly opposed to the new church. Yet, here we were with the first secretary knowing the constitution. He firmly and quietly insisted that we have a new church and we have a new constitution. There was a time of taking a deep breath, then more chaos until Pastor Lynn Groe stepped forward.

Other than Ruth, Lynn Groe is the greatest friend that I have ever had in my life. Linda, please come forward.

- *Video* -

When we say we loved him and are grateful for him, that is not enough. This synod will never be able to adequately say thank you. Thank you. There is no more important figure in the history of this synod than Pastor Lynn Groe.