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Greetings in the name of the risen Christ!

I am pleased to introduce to you Rev. Dale Sollom-Brotherton, developer of the **Healthy Start** process—a great way for pastors and congregational leaders to begin a fruitful ministry together. Over the past two years seventeen congregations in the Sierra Pacific Synod have engaged in the Healthy Start process. They did so at the recommendation of the Bishop's office, but also because, in having the process explained to them, they saw its value. I am happy to report that those congregations remain healthy and the majority of them are growing.

A bit of background: Dale Sollom-Brotherton has been a pastor of this church for over thirty years. For the past ten years he has been a full time organizational consultant, often used by my office to deal with conflicted congregations. I can with confidence send Dale into troubled situations because I know that he will listen well and provide insight, recommendations, and follow through. Dale helps in other ways as well, bringing his organizational expertise to our life together as the Sierra Pacific Synod. For example, Dale also works with our intentional interim ministry network, and offers coaching for a limited number of leaders.

It was in Dale's work as my coach that Healthy Start first emerged. During the coaching sessions Dale often heard my sorrow and frustration over numerous conflicted situations between pastors and congregations. I noted that many of the conflicts surfaced within two years of the call. As we talked, the idea of Healthy Start presented itself, and just made sense! Dale then went to work fleshing out the program. Believe me, Healthy Start really works, saving the synod staff considerable stress and time, and helping congregations and their leaders be organizationally healthy and excited about ministry!

I commend Rev. Dale Sollom-Brotherton, and the Healthy Start process to you. It is a professional program, closely supervised and not subject to the vagaries of volunteer efforts. The program does cost money, but it is an investment in the future which will pay blessed dividends.

Sincerely,

David G. Mullen, + Bishop

"Rooted in the Gospel"