



Update from the Amazon Synod Assembly (IECLB)

"For we are the aroma of Christ to God." (2 Corinthians 2:15)

There is a fragrance that reveals the presence of Christ. It is found not only in the words we proclaim, but also in the ways we welcome, care, serve, and walk together. It is the "fragrance of Christ" that we are called to share wherever God places us.

With this inspiring image, the **31st Synod Assembly of the Amazon Synod (IECLB)** gathered September 25-27, 2026, in **Cacoal, Rondônia, Brazil**, under the theme **"Living in Community – Proclamation of the Gospel."** Assembly participants reflected on the life of their communities, their shared history, and God's ongoing mission in the world.

Drawing on 2 Corinthians 2:15, **Synod Pastor Vera Lucia Engelhardt** reminded the assembly that God's mercy calls us to faith and sends us into the world as witnesses to the fragrance of Christ. **IECLB Presiding Pastor Silvia Beatrice Genz** reflected on the early Christian communities, particularly through Paul's Letter to the Philippians, emphasizing that while we come with different stories, gifts, and experiences, we are one body in Christ.

Reports from congregations, ministry sites, and synodical programs highlighted vibrant ministries of faith, service, and witness throughout the Amazon region. A particularly moving presentation came from the Synod's **Hospital Chaplaincy Ministry**, which offers presence, prayer, listening, comfort, and hope in healthcare settings

The Assembly also marked an important leadership transition. After eight years of faithful service, **Pastor Vera Lucia Engelhardt** concluded her term as Synod Pastor. With deep gratitude, the Assembly celebrated her leadership and entrusted the future of the Synod to God's grace.

Elected to lead the Amazon Synod for the coming term were **Pastor Lauri Roberto Becker** as Synod Pastor and **Pastor Robson Hasse** as Vice-Synod Pastor. Their Installation Service will take place on **November 26, 2026**, at **Comunidade da Paz in Espigão D'Oeste, Rondônia**. Additional officers and leaders were also elected to serve in various synodical roles.

We invite the congregations of the New Jersey Synod to keep the newly elected leaders, the people of the Amazon Synod, and the ministries of the IECLB in your prayers, that they may continue to be the fragrance of Christ in their service and witness.

Pictured (left to right): Pastor-elect **Robson Hasse** (Vice-Synod Pastor), **Silvia Beatrice Genz** (Presiding Pastor of the IECLB), **Vera Lucia Engelhardt** (outgoing Synod Pastor), and Pastor-elect **Lauri Roberto Becker** (Synod Pastor).

- **IECLB** stands for **Igreja Evangélica de Confissão Luterana no Brasil**, which in English is the **Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil**.