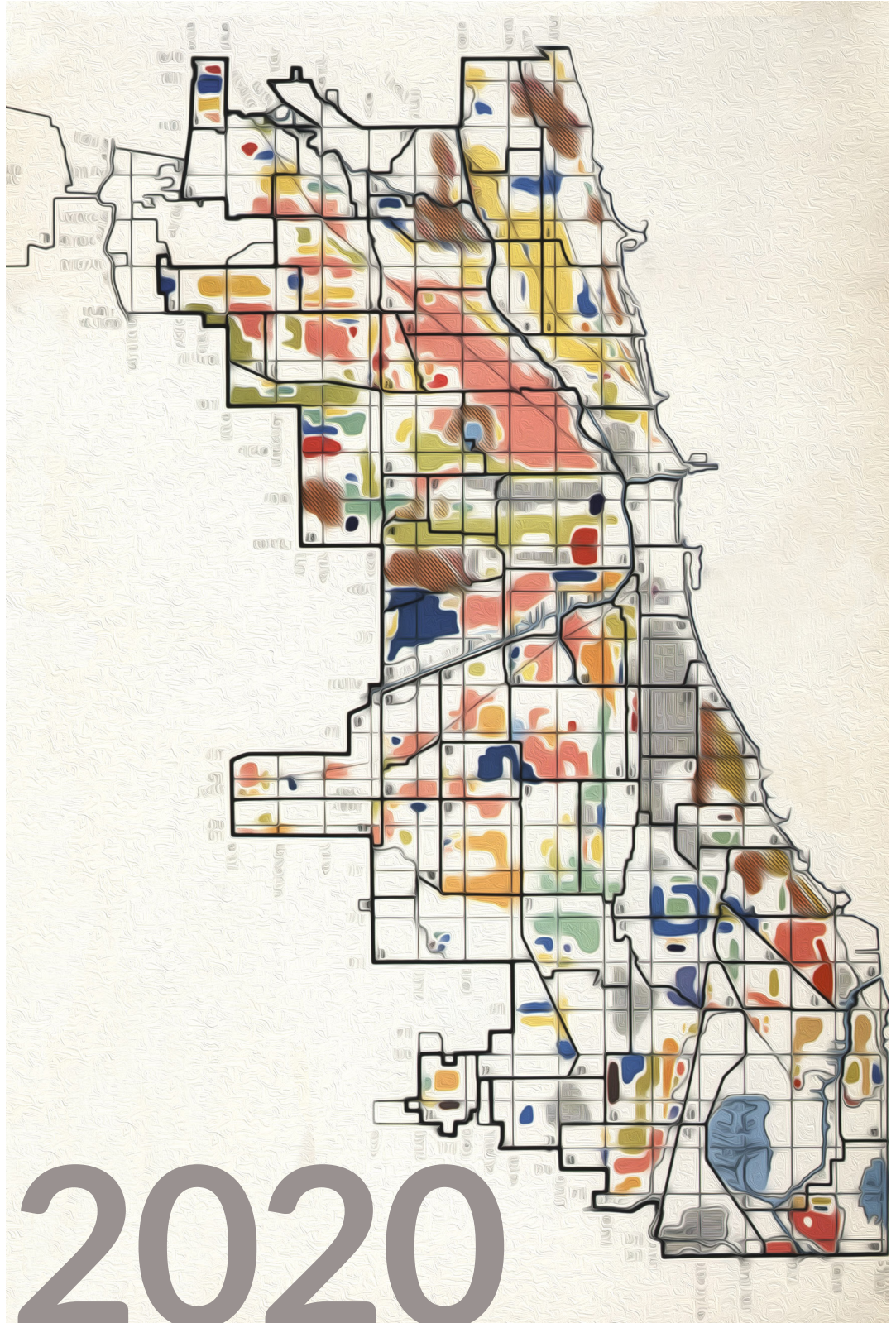




**Metropolitan Chicago Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

"In Jesus' Name. Proclaim the Gospel Make Disciples Do Justice."

# BOOK of REPORTS



# 2020

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[www.hello.mcselca.org](http://www.hello.mcselca.org)

1420 W Dickens Ave,  
Chicago, IL 60614



# Welcome

## METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD

*In Jesus' name: proclaim the gospel, make disciples, do justice.*


*Greetings in the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of us all!*

Thank you for your patience as this year – and this report – looks quite different from past years. Because the 2020 Synod Assembly was postponed to June, 2021, this report attempts to capture the vast array of ministries that continue in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. While the Synod Assembly has been postponed, God's work throughout the synod continues. We invite you to peruse this report and get in touch with those whose ministries capture your imagination. This year has taught us that the people of God in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod are resilient and creative as we seek to proclaim the gospel, make disciples, and do justice.

Therefore, with gratefulness to God for each of you and the ministry of Jesus you extend throughout the synod, we present the 2020 Book of Reports for the Metropolitan Chicago Synod.

  
Bishop Yehiel Curry

Bishop, Metropolitan Chicago Synod

  
Rev. Erin Clausen

Secretary, Metropolitan Chicago Synod

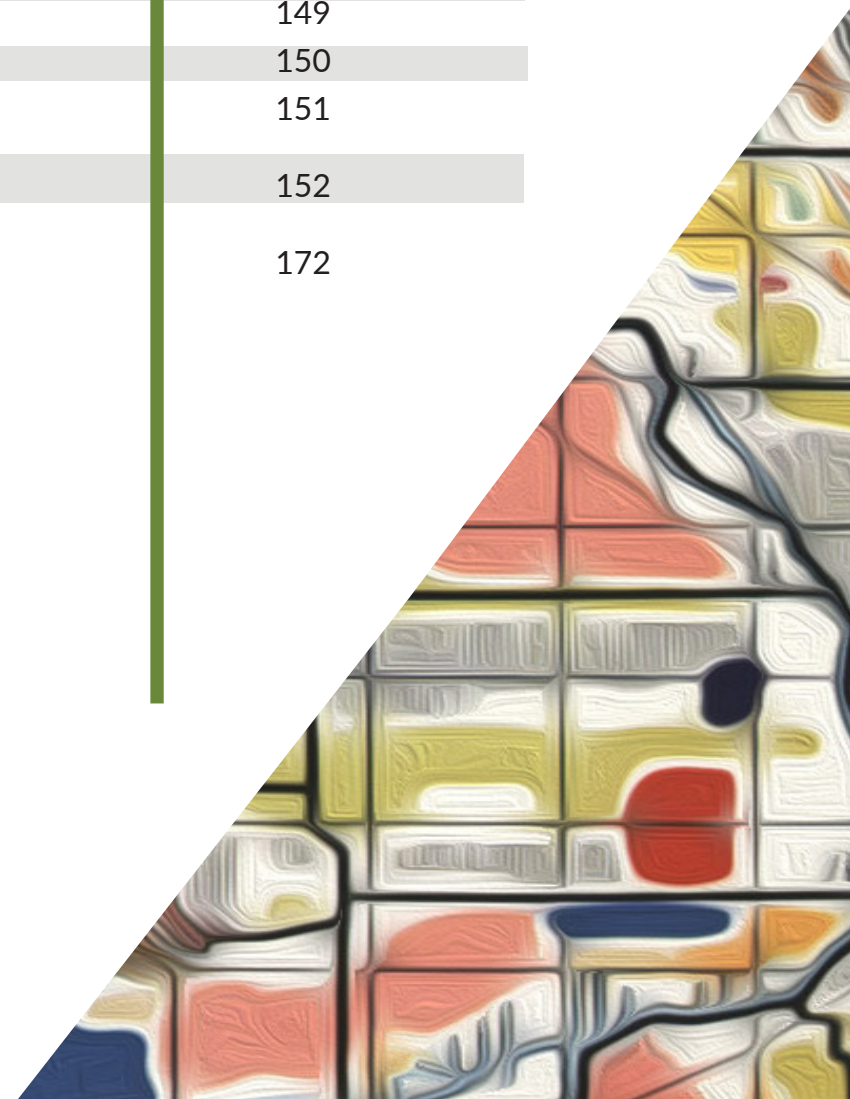




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## *Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton*

A thriving church | ELCA Synod Assembly 2020

[Click here to activate video](#)



A thriving church is one so convinced of the resurrection that we're free to give our lives in service to others. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton shares how the ELCA continues to thrive in country churches, cityscapes and places with no walls in this message for 2020 Synod Assemblies.

\* Will function only when viewed online

VIDEO REPORT



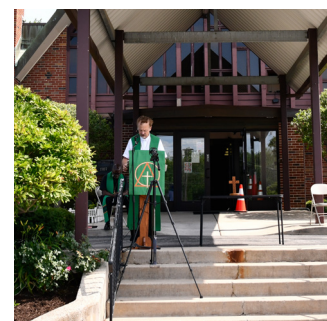
## BISHOP VICE PRESIDENT SECRETARY

- *Actions by the Synod Council*
- *Report of the Necrologist*
- *Changes in the Clergy and Lay Rosters*

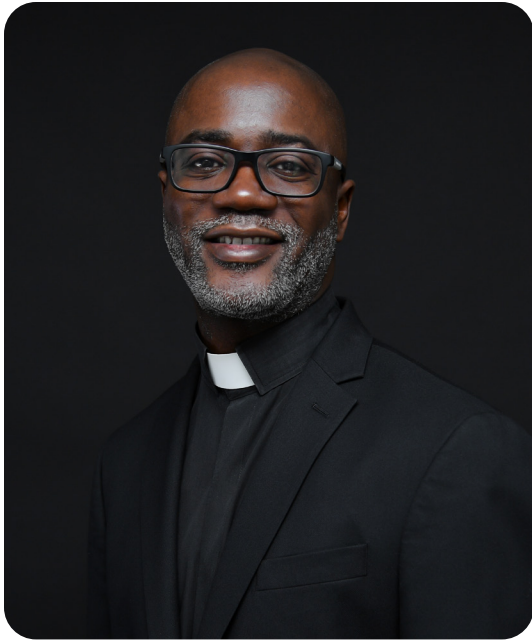
## TREASURER

- *Audit of Financial Statements*
- *Proposed Budget For Fiscal Year*

In Jesus' name:  
proclaim the gospel, make disciples, do justice.







*Bishop Yehiel Curry*

“If you would have asked me a year ago what being a bishop in 2020 might entail, it’s likely that I would not have predicted anything about the current moment.”



THE BISHOP’S  
REPORT

**Grace to you and peace through God our creator** and our savior Jesus Christ. If you would have asked me a year ago what being a bishop in 2020 might entail, it’s likely that I would not have predicted anything about the current moment.

Today, I greet you in the midst of a pandemic. Ravaging our cities and towns, the coronavirus has taken more than 8,900 lives in the state of Illinois alone, not to mention the over 295,000 in our state who face uncertain futures, having been infected, and not yet knowing the complications that may yet present as a result.

In varied and diverse ways, we are all mourning. We are mourning the loss of our family members, of our neighbors, of our church members, and of our friends, some of whom we have had to say “good-bye” to virtually, unable to send them off with a graveside blessing or a bedside prayer.

Beyond human life, we are mourning economic instability. Many of us have lost jobs, and many of us wonder how long we will be employed. Many of us were already lacking in resources, and in this season the sting of poverty has been felt more deeply and widely by us, our families, and our communities. Some of us have become desperate, pushed to the edge. Some of us were already there. And yet, hope is not lost.

Healthcare workers step up to care for patients. Scientists work overtime to find a vaccine. People in our communities sacrifice for one another, masking up or staying apart, even when it’d be more comfortable not to. Why? Because we care about each other, and we want one another to stay healthy and alive.



As we face the pandemic together, we (at the same time) have been witnesses to a new uprising, a cacophony of voices speaking up and speaking out, committed to warding off and finding a cure for the disease of racism.

Indeed, communities and individuals who have never spoken up before seem to have come to a moment of increased clarity: “Abuses of power must be curbed, and racist systems must be dismantled.” Cries for justice seem to be louder and more widespread than they have ever been before.

In this time of tension and turning, the church has been neither exempt nor absent. Indeed, we—indeed, you!—have stepped up into this season with healing balm and prophetic love.

Though for safety many of us still refrain from in-person, in-proximity worship, you nonetheless found ways to connect and to pray. You participated in book clubs and Bible studies, food drives and pot-luck meals. You started new feeding ministries or revived those that have been running for decades. You worshipped on Zoom or Facebook or YouTube, gathering around God’s word of hope and life. You created amazing choruses and simple, contemplative songs. You called one another on the phone! Some of our pastors delivered sermons by mail to be sure that the word was received by those who don’t use the internet week after week after week.

Some of you took to the streets, praying with your feet, or started courageous and curious conversations in your community and in your context that (if I may venture to say) have never been had in quite this way before.

As time progressed, some of you began to gather again in parking lots and church lawns, and some in your worship spaces, joyfully, and yet with some anxiety about what winter may yet bring.

All of this, and so, so, so much more. Indeed, I have seen but a fraction of the inspiring, faithful work taking place in and through your communities. Yet, let me say this: what I have witnessed gives me hope. It gives me hope for the world, and it gives me hope for the church.

Indeed, as the world experiences pain, again and again, you, my friends, are a clear and present source of healing and sustenance in your communities. In this season of uncertainty, you have brought to the surface, once again, what it means for Christians to heed Jesus’ call to love our neighbors as ourselves.

So, before I say anything else, I simply want to say “thank you,” and to celebrate God’s work in you.

Thank you. Thank you for being vessels of God’s love. And thank you for being communities of life-giving hope in this world and as the Metropolitan Chicago Synod.

The world is better because you are in it.

Below you will find my brief report for this season. I trust that you’ll find this information useful, and I’d trust that you’ll reach out if you have any questions or requests for clarifications about the work of the synod office, and of the work we are up to, together, for the sake of God’s mission in these times.



## COVID-Response

### MCS COVID Relief Fund

As the COVID-19 pandemic began, the MCS Congregational Support Fund was initiated by the MCS council in order to offer relief to congregations in the synod who were struggling because of the pandemic. I have heard from many of you that this fund has, indeed, been a relief and help, and I am grateful that so many of you applied. As of September 24, 2020, we shared approximately \$350,000 with 60 congregations. We pray that this funding will ensure that the mission and ministry of our church communities will continue in every corner of the synod, despite our income disparities.

\$25,000 has also been raised by congregations and individuals, in order to support the fund, in addition to grants and gifts that congregations have decided to share independently with other congregations throughout the MCS.

Thank you, MCS, for realizing that we as the church are interdependent, that we share a mission and that we can share resources. Thank you, council for taking leadership on this, and to all who have contributed and applied for the sake of God’s mission in this church.

## Lutheran Disaster Response Grant

Responding to the additional demand placed on the limited capacity of feeding and sheltering ministries of MCS congregations due to COVID-19 has also been a challenge. In April, MCS was awarded a \$25,000 Lutheran Disaster Response Grant. Twenty-two MCS feeding, sheltering and/or clothing ministries were awarded \$1,000 grants. As a result, more than 10,000 people have been served.

## Restoring MCS Guidelines

Restoring MCS is a joint project, shared between MCS council and staff. A living document, it was updated as the pandemic progressed with guidelines and planning tools for use by congregational leaders and councils throughout the pandemic.

Endless thanks are owed to this team for dedicating so much time and energy ensuring that our congregations had good, reliable resources that were in-synch with state guidelines and grounded in Christian love for our neighbors and for each other. Your work was indispensable at the start, and it continues to be, as the pandemic continues.



# Latinx Strategy COVID-19 Memorial

I'd like to also extend a very special thanks to the Latinx strategy team who hosted a bilingual memorial service, available to all who have lost loved ones to COVID-19. As many of us have not had spaces to mourn, this event was holy for many, as it provided us with such a space, to mourn, to heal, to feel, and to pray.

# Leadership & Leadership Paths

## Candidacy

Even in the face of instability and uncertainty, God is faithfully calling new leaders to pursue public ministry and to lead the church in this church. We have more inquirers and candidates for rostered ministry than ever, and we are being intentional about the ways we accompany their varying routes to ordination. We have increased the size of the committee to allow for more representation of the diversity of the church and we've been intentional in conversations around implicit bias.

## Mobility & Calls

During the pandemic, we have been able to seamlessly transition from an in-person to virtual call processes. To date, we successfully placed 14 rostered leaders in congregations. Besides this, we piloted implicit bias training in 4 call processes to interrupt bias in interview processes. We are

thankful for the work and commitment of call committees, councils, and congregations. Right now, there are no calls going unanswered.

## SAMs

An early priority for me, in addition to making sure that churches had the ordained leadership that they need, was to create a robust training program for Synodically Authorized Ministers (SAMs). Our MCS "Touch Point" training sessions provide instruction in the Bible, Lutheran theology, the Lutheran Confessions, and the polity of the ELCA, as well as worship, spiritual discernment and faith development. They also include conversations about leadership expectations, identity, and contextual understanding, as well as preaching, catechetics, worship leadership, visitation, pastoral care, and outreach. Since the start of my time as bishop, we have been walking through this program and have officially recognized five SAMs as leaders in this synod.

## DREAM Team

After undergoing a 3-month discernment process, with the affirmation of the MCS Synod Council, what was formerly called the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Outreach Team has been renamed the Developing Revolutionary Engaging & Accompanying Missions (or DREAM) Team. The renaming reflects the strategically informed outward focus of this team's work as well as the partnership with the Latinx and African Descent Strategy Teams. The work of this team has included hosting SAM Touch Point training (mentioned above). It has also included work with two Latinx SAWCs, Unidad in Berwyn, and a new ministry in Elgin. These

SAWCs are being resourced in a unique way. ELCA Domestic Mission, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, the Latinx Strategy Team, and local congregations are collaborating to support these ministries. Unidad is a partnership with Unity Lutheran Church in Berwyn. The emerging Latinx worshipping community in Elgin is a partnership with Bethlehem Lutheran. Unidad and the Elgin ministry are being led by Mission Developers Maria Rojas and Jose Rodriguez Paez, respectively. Maria is a candidate for TEEM certification and Jose is a member of the LSTC class of 2020.



## Congregational Leaders

Of course, it has especially been congregational members and leaders who have been stepping up at this time. Many of you have taken on leadership in new ways, editing videos, bringing communion to someone's front door, leading socially distant art projects for youth, facilitating workshops and recovery groups, and so on. Thank you for stepping up and being the church in a new way, as we are called to this vocation as the priesthood of all believers.

Thank you to councils and COVID teams and custodial staff. Thank you for being flexible with staff and clergy who (like all of us) have had to discern

what it looks like to tend both to the vocation of the church and the vocation of parenting (and now, in many cases, teaching as well).

# Antiracist Responses

## Breathe

In May of this year, the nation held its collective breath as uprisings occurred across the nation in response to the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Led by the African Descent Lutheran Association (Chicago chapter), with the support of the African Descent and Latinx Strategy Teams and Another Pebble, MCS sponsored two online Breathe events. These events fostered space for processing our collective pain, as well as raising awareness regarding health disparities and creating a model for shaping future conversations around challenging subjects.

## Affinity Groups

Out of the Breathe events and ensuing conversations, we found it important to keep the conversation going, and to foster more spaces that would meet the varied and diverse needs of those who gathered. As a result, we have begun to pilot conversation sessions for folks to gather in an intentionally courageous yet safe space as they address racial injustice and white supremacy in their own lives and in their ministry. Thank you to the leaders who have worked hard to create such spaces.



# Ministry Modules

In addition to the Breathe Events, synod staff and leaders have been hosting virtual Ministry Modules. The idea for these modules arose from a survey of MCS leaders, in which many responded that this was as good of a time as any to gather resources and tools for doing ministry and mission.

Modules have included titles such as:

- Stewardship and Generosity in Uncertain Times
- Physically Returning to Church: A Webinar on the Restoring MCS Document
- A Public Hearing on Government and Civic Engagement
- Communion and COVID: Eucharistic Practices and Perspectives
- Home Care & Hospice in the Season of COVID
- The Power of Narrative: Evoking Empathy to Engage Diversity
- Developing a Missional Budget: Matching Money with Ministry
- We also hosted synodwide services for Juneteenth and the Commemoration of the Emanuel 9

# Communications

## Mission and Upgrades

Since my time as bishop, the communications team has introduced a clear mission for itself: “To connect people with people, to connect people with the church, and to connect the church with itself.” In addition to upgrades to the phone and computer systems here at the Synod office, the rebuilding of

the MCS website, and switching over to a new emailing platform, our communications team has been working hard to share your stories, to highlight God’s ministry in your community, and listen to your community members share why they came and why they stayed. We have done this through written articles and through images, many of which were taken by our syond photographer (a new role here at MCS).

It has been wonderful to see your communities lifted up. It is my hope that over the arc of six years, we will be able to highlight every congregation in the synod in some way.

## Surveys

Early in the pandemic, Synod Pastoral Staff sent a survey to rostered leaders, the results of which have shaped and guided our work in a number of important ways. In order to deepen this feedback, we are planning to augment the rostered leaders survey with an additional survey. This new survey will soon be sent to church councils and church council presidents. Information and perspectives gathered will help Synod Staff to continue this work of honing our support and accompaniment of congregation and leaders. Giving

## Mission Support

Despite challenges faced by everyone across the synod, mission support from congregations has remained on par with previous years. This generosity has enabled the synod to continue its work, and in many ways, increase our support to congregations.

## Congregational Support Fund

Over \$350,000 has been distributed from our Congregational Support Fund to supplement congregations experiencing financial stress. This was possible through donations of individuals and congregations, as well as utilization of accumulated endowment earnings.

## New Missions

The synod’s regular support of new missions has also continued with funding exceeding \$100,000. At present, we are funding 13 sites across the synod. This is in addition to the COVID relief funding mentioned earlier.

## The Fund for Mission

Since 1997, the synod has worked to energize the reach of our congregations through Fund for Mission grants. In our ongoing commitment to congregational vitality, congregational sustainability, and our collective ministry, the synod has updated the application process to maximize impact and mission. The fund’s committee is committed to funding innovative ministry through grants to congregations in our synod. These partnership grants focus on the intersecting principles of the synod’s mission to “proclaim the gospel,” “make disciples,” and “do justice.” Funding up to \$20,000

for innovative projects, including support for technology, publicity, building and grounds improvements, consulting, community organizing, stewardship, and more. You may learn more by visiting the synod website. The deadline for applications has been extended to October 15.

# Companion Synod

As always, I would like to lift up, and express my gratitude, for our relationship with the Central Diocese of the Lutheran Church in South Africa. In these challenging times, we are able to pray for one another, meet virtually, and continue to cast visions about how we will connect our congregations and parishes to one another, for the mutual edification of our communities, and for the sake of God’s mission all over the world.

# Conclusion

If you would have asked me a year ago what being a bishop in 2020 might entail, it’s likely that I would not have predicted anything about the current moment.

Indeed, I greet you in the midst of a pandemic.

And I greet you, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, as a living, thriving, church, living into God’s ministry, one body with many members, stepping up to this moment and bearing witness to God’s works of grace, love, and justice in this world.

We are Metropolitan Chicago Synod. For this, I am grateful.

In Christ,  
*Rev. Yehiel Curry Bishop*  
Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA





## *Vice President Terry Henderson*

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

Micah 6:8 ESV

# THE VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

“We will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. Acts 6:4.”

Dear family in Christ. It is with great gratitude that I present this Vice President’s report. These are challenging times, to say the least. The past year and a half has presented us with challenges that we never thought we would have to face. June of 2019, we had our Annual Synod Assembly, in Tinley Park, Illinois. During this this time, Bishop Wayne Miller did not seek re-election. The synod elected a new bishop, Rev. Yehiel Curry. With change, come new challenges and adjustments. A new synod staff was selected. There are many new faces on the Synod Council. On September 1, 2019, Bishop Curry, officially, started his term.

Our Churchwide Assembly was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. At this point, it seems so long ago. I do know that it was one of the most meaningful assemblies that I have attended. Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, was elected to a second term. Her leadership and dedication is, greatly, appreciated. The assembly occurred during a time when the immigration issue was forefront in the news. A march was arranged to go the immigration office. I decided to participate. I was overwhelmed in the participation. We were several hundred strong, walking the mile, or so, to the immigration office. There selected speakers spoke and a letter was posted on the door.

On a personal note, 2019 presented my family with a great personal loss. My mother, Margie Ann Henderson, passed away on October 23, at the age of 96. My mother was a woman of great faith. She put her trust in God, continually. She often reminded us, “God is in control.” She didn’t let the trouble of the world worry her. My last memory of my mother was her lying in bed reading her Bible, with a smile on her face. During this time, someone said, “I’ll be glad when 2019 is over. I said, “Careful what you ask for.”

During these times of Covid-19, Black Lives Matter, All Lives Matter, Blues Lives Matter and Systemic Racism, Black on Black crime, etc., there are varied, very emotional opinions on all of these topics. As Christian individuals and as a Christian body, we know, in our heart of hearts, what is right and what is wrong, and what God calls us to do. Micah 6:8 ESV “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

Respectively Submitted,  
*Terry Henderson, Vice President*  
Metropolitan Chicago Synod



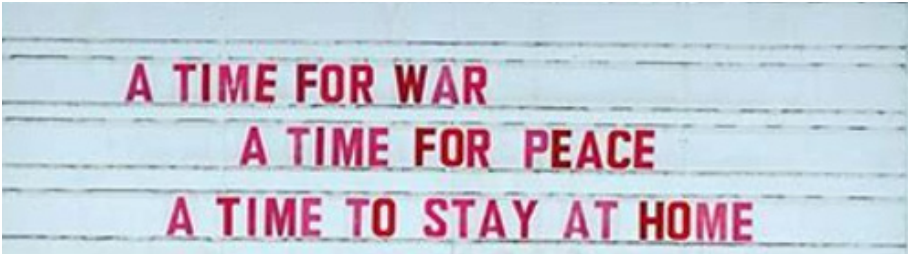


*Secretary Rev. Erin Clausen*

“Even though we are not gathering for assembly this year, the mission of each of our congregations and the synod continues.”

# THE SECRETARY’S REPORT

The Metropolitan Chicago Synod is located on land that is steeped in rich Indigenous history and home to many First Nations. As a synod, we have a responsibility for the stewardship of the land on which we live, work, and minister. **I respectfully acknowledge the Peoria, Potawatomi, and Miami First Nations on whose traditional territory we are located.**



Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 assembly – originally scheduled to be held in June, 2020 – has now been postponed to June, 2021. This assembly will be held directly prior to the June, 2021 assembly.

Even though we are not gathering for assembly this year, the mission of each of our congregations – and the synod – continues. The word ‘synod’ is created from two Greek words meaning “journey together.” This is the word we use to indicate all of the ELCA congregations in this area which are journeying together. The Metropolitan Chicago Synod, of which your congregation is a part, is one of 65 synods throughout the country. Just as your congregation likely has a mission statement that helps to inform your ministry, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod’s mission statement informs the ministry that we do together:

**In Jesus’ name:  
proclaim the gospel, make disciples, do justice.**





## In Jesus' name: proclaim the gospel

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is organized as one body with three expressions: congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. Our governing documents are covenants – sacred promises – between each of the expressions of the ELCA. Your congregation's governing documents are also covenants between your members. The parts of the constitution called “required provisions” (marked with an asterisk \* in your constitution) are those parts that keep our unique and diverse congregations connected to one another in one confession of faith, polity, and commitment to the gospel.

Together, as congregations and synods in the ELCA, God calls us to proclaim the gospel. The three expressions of church have a long legacy of sharing the good news of Jesus in many ways. With the arrival of COVID-19, the landscape of what church looks like changed literally overnight. The Metropolitan Chicago Synod has helped congregations continue to proclaim the gospel in a variety of ways, including providing COVID-19 and reopening resources, offering online ministry modules, and creating

COVID-19 specific grant support for congregations. Additionally, I have worked with synod staff to provide training materials and explanations for how congregations can continue their ministry – including council and congregational meetings – while meeting all of the requirements of the congregation's governing documents, the laws of the State of Illinois, and the governor's executive order. As your synodical secretary, one of my roles is to help your congregation with the details of your congregation's governing documents and how the current situation informs your current ministry and congregational operation. Please contact me any time you have questions.

## In Jesus' name: make disciples

Our understanding of theology – who God is and how God works – has been one of the more challenging aspects to the church landscape changing so quickly. The Metropolitan Chicago Synod has sought to resource congregations to make decisions that match their theology. With the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, the synod presented a panel of theologians discussing the implications of online communion so that congregations and leaders could make informed decisions. The reopening guidance provided by the synod also encourages congregations to ground their decisions in Biblical and theological understandings. As congregations make decisions consistent with their theology, they continue to make and grow disciples within and outside of the church. Here again, wherever I might be able to resource or serve your congregation through the interpretation of documents or management of meetings, please contact me.

## In Jesus' name: do justice

The pandemic has exposed layers of injustice in the church and the world. The synod council, bishop and staff seek to meet this injustice with honesty, clarity, and repentance. In establishing grant funding, the synod council sought to streamline the process and prioritize those congregations most in need. Under Bishop Curry, the synod staff has become more diverse in a number of ways. Implicit bias training has become a part of staff, candidacy committee, and congregational call committee training. Additionally, the bishop and synod staff have been intentional about facilitating conversations regarding race with leaders across the synod. The synod council, bishop, and staff also continue to ask each other ‘who is at the table?’ and more importantly ‘who isn't at the table – or what voices aren't we hearing?’ We remain committed to widening the circle as we seek to do justice in Jesus' name.

Although the synod's ministry has looked different over the last year, our mission has remained the same. I continue to be honored to serve you as your synod secretary. I appreciate the opportunity to work with congregations, ministries, and leaders across the synod who seek to live into their own mission statements. I deeply appreciate Bishop Yehiel Curry and his unique perspective in church leadership. I am also thankful for the work of Vice-President Terry Henderson, who continues to lead through reflective honesty. Treasurer Yvette NewberryWhite remains deeply committed to both the financial stability and transparency of the synod. I also thank the dedicated volunteers on the Synod Council and Executive Committee, as well as the synod's Pastoral and Professional staff. Finally, I thank you and your congregations for your ministry as together we journey to:

**In Jesus' name: proclaim the gospel, make disciples, do justice.**

Respectfully,

*Rev. Erin Clausen*

Secretary of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod – ELCA



# ACTIONS BY THE SYNOD COUNCIL

## METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING 2019 SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

S.C.19.01.01	Voted to approve the Synod Council Consent Agenda as presented.
S.C.19.01.02	Voted to remove the On Leave From Call application for Rev. Peter Clark from the table for consideration.
S.C.19.01.03	Voted to a Non-Stipendiary Synod Call for Rev. Brooke Petersen to serve at the Spiritual Life Center in Chicago.
S.C.19.01.04	Voted to extend a Synod Council call for Rev. Jenna Pulkowski to serve as Director of Pastoral Services at St. Paul’s House in Chicago.
S.C.19.01.05	Voted to approve the Interim Ministry application for Rev. Paul Kopka to serve as interim pastor at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Burbank.
S.C.19.01.06	Voted to continue the synod pastoral staff housing allowances from 2018 into 2019.
S.C.19.01.07	Voted to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2018 Synod Council meeting as presented.
S.C.19.04.08	Voted to approve the January 29, 2019 Synod Council meeting minutes as presented.
S.C.19.04.09	<b>FAILED</b>  Voted to approve the expenditure of up to \$5,000 for the purposes of livestreaming one pre-election forum as presented.
S.C.19.04.10	Voted to approve the expenditure of up to \$5,000 for the purposes of livestreaming and recording two pre-election forums with the guidance of some central uniformity in some of the questions and removal of recordings from the hosting website by June 5, 2019 as presented.

S.C.19.04.11	Voted to approve the Synod Council consent agenda as presented.
S.C.19.04.12	Voted to extend a synod council call for the special ministry application for Pastor Mark Chen to serve as pastor at the Taiwanese Community Church in Greater Chicago in Lombard, IL. as presented.
S.C.19.04.13	Voted to extend a synod council call for the special ministry application for Pastor Lynette Schroder to AMITA Health Adventist Hospital Hinsdale as chaplain as presented.
S.C.19.04.14	Voted to designate St. Paul Thai Lutheran Church, Forest Park as a Synodically Authorized Ministry in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod as presented.
S.C.19.04.15	Voted to designate Mr. Tom Anderson as Corporation registered agent of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod for the purpose of filing the State of Illinois corporate report as presented.
S.C.19.04.16	Voted to grant voice and vote to those persons on our retired roster who are planning to attend the 2019 Synod Assembly.
S.C.19.04.17	Voted to grant voice and vote to those persons listed on the List of Voice and Vote requests (Other Leaders), non-ELCA pastors who are serving our ELCA churches by letter of invitation as presented.
S.C.19.04.18	Voted to present the proposed budget to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly for approval as presented.
S.C.19.04.19	Voted to appoint Ms. Yvette NewberryWhite as treasurer for a 4-year term beginning September 1, 2019 as presented.



<b>S.C.19.04.20</b>	Voted to extend the Sunergos Award to Ms. Nan Dahlke in 2019 for her many years for exceptional service and leadership as presented.
<b>S.C.19.04.21</b>	Voted to approve the Outreach Team’s request for \$75,000 for each of 2019, 2020, and 2021 for Redeemer, North Ave. as presented.
<b>S.C.19.04.22</b>	Voted to approve the Outreach Team’s request for \$2500 for 2019 for House of Prayer, All Nations (West Humboldt Park) as presented.
<b>S.C.19.04.23</b>	Voted to approve the “Resolutions Adopted by Synodical Assemblies 1988-2018” document for publication as presented.
<b>S.C.19.04.23</b>	<p>Voted to grant voice and vote at synod assemblies to Retired Roster members, to include those on the On Leave From Call rosters; consistent with provision S7.22 of the synod constitution. The following ministers of word and sacrament or ministers of word and service will be granted voice and vote at the 2019 synod assembly as presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rev. Allen Belanger</li> <li>• Rev. Justin Baxter</li> <li>• Rev. Thomas Gaulke</li> <li>• Rev. Jessica Harren</li> <li>• Rev. David Heim</li> <li>• Deacon Tracy Ann Katschke</li> <li>• Rev. Jane Kunzie-Brunner</li> <li>• Rev. Kaari Reiersen</li> <li>• Rev. Timothy Seitz</li> <li>• Rev. Rebecca Thomas Templeton</li> <li>• Rev. Lester White</li> <li>• Deacon Pam Voves</li> </ul>

<b>S.C.19.06.25</b>	Voted to approve the Consent agenda as presented.
<b>S.C.19.06.26</b>	Voted to approve the April 27, 2019 minutes as presented.
<b>S.C.19.06.27</b>	Voted to extend a synod council call for the specialized ministry application for Pastor Deanna Langle to serve as Campus Pastor at the Northwestern University in Evanston, IL
<b>S.C.19.06.28</b>	Voted to extend a synod council call for the specialized ministry application for Pastor Timothy Manwell to serve as Hospice Chaplain at the Apex Hospice and Palliative Care facility in Westmont, IL
<b>S.C.19.06.29</b>	Voted to grant voice and vote at the 2019 Synod Assembly to Rev. Laura Hall-Schordje (OLFC) and Rev. Janet Frystak (Retired)
<b>S.C.19.06.30</b>	Voted to transfer ownership and title of the Bishop’s vehicle to Bishop Miller.
<b>S.C.19.06.31</b>	Voted to approve and affirm the resolution presented to grant the title of Bishop Emeritus to Bishop Miller, after he retires.
<b>S.C.19.06.32</b>	Voted to approve the resolution to reimburse the Bishop-elect during their transition into the Bishop’s office. The pay would equal \$35/hour, paid to the Bishop-elect’s congregation and shall not exceed \$10,000. This payment will come out of the Synod Bishop’s Discretionary fund.

<b>S.C.19.07.33</b>	Voted to approve the April 27, 2019 minutes with corrections, to state: Synod Assembly not Churchwide Assembly.
<b>S.C.19.07.34</b>	Voted to approve the May 25, 2019 Teleconference meeting minutes as presented.
<b>S.C.19.07.35</b>	Voted to approve the Synod Council consent agenda as presented.
<b>S.C.19.07.36</b>	Voted to approve the Synod 2020 budget as presented.
<b>S.C.19.07.37</b>	Voted to extend the term call of Rev. Raymond Legania to end on December 31, 2019 as requested.
<b>S.C.19.07.38</b>	Voted to extend the term call of Rev. Sarah Stumme to end on December 31, 2019 as requested.
<b>S.C.19.07.39</b>	<p><b>FAILED:</b></p> <p>Voted to, at the recommendation of its Synod Outreach Team, approve a \$30,000 grant to Sagrado Corazon Lutheran Church in Waukegan.</p>
<b>S.C.19.07.40</b>	Voted to, at the recommendation of its Synod Outreach Team, approve a grant to Sagrado Corazon Lutheran Church, Waukegan, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000, to employ Concordia Ministries as a consultant to assist them in planning a new community outreach mission proposal. This grant would be paid to Sagrado Corazon, incrementally, upon receipt of invoices from Concordia Ministries to Sagrado Corazon for the consulting services described herein. Funding for this grant would come from the Synod Latino Strategy Fund.
<b>S.C.19.07.41</b>	Voted to approve the reallocation of LSSI-Congregational Partnership Fund for the purpose of funding Policy C.1.2.1.
<b>S.C.19.07.42</b>	Voted to approve Policy B.3.1.2.: Reusing and Maintaining Building Assets as revised by Synod Attorney, Andrew Tecson.

<b>S.C.19.07.46</b>	Voted to approve the Synod Council October 26 consent agenda as presented.
<b>S.C.19.07.47</b>	Voted to direct Mr. Tom Anderson to produce a report for the Metropolitan Chicago Synod council that gives a brief breakdown of the purposes of the temporarily restricted and designated accounts by January 31, 2020.
<b>S.C.19.07.48</b>	Voted to approve the June 6, 2019 minutes as amended.
<b>S.C.19.07.49</b>	Voted to approve the July 20, 2019 minutes as presented.
<b>S.C.19.07.50</b>	Voted to appoint to the executive committee the following ‘at large’ persons, as well as the officers: Rev. Christina Klein, Ms. Jen DeLeon, Mr. Iván Perez, Rev. Eric Worringer, and Deacon Tracey Katschke.
<b>S.C.19.07.51</b>	Voted to appoint to the Constitution Review Committee the following persons: Rev. Erin Clausen, Rev. Jane Kunzie-Brunner, Rev. Steve Srock, and Mr. John Nicholas.
<b>S.C.19.07.52</b>	Voted to approve the required constitutional updates as listed and present them to the synod for adoption at the 2020 Metropolitan Chicago Assembly.
<b>S.C.19.07.53</b>	Voted to approve the recommended constitutional updates as listed and present them to the synod for adoption at the 2020 Metropolitan Chicago Assembly.
<b>S.C.19.07.54</b>	Voted to approve the recommended constitutional updates as listed, with the exception of S.14.17 and S.14.42 and present them to the synod for adoption at the 2020 Metropolitan Chicago Assembly.



- S.C.19.07.55

Voted to table discussion of action on Resolution 01-19 until the next regular synod council meeting.
- S.C.19.07.56

Voted to authorize Synod Business Manager Mr. Tom Anderson to coordinate the update of signatories on our financial accounts with JP Morgan Chase, MIF, Thrivent, ELCA Credit Union and the ELCA Foundation. Authorized signers to include: Bishop Yehiel Curry, Ms. Yvette NewberryWhite, Mr. Tom Anderson, Mr. Jeff Drake, Ms. Sandra Schlauch.
- S.C.19.07.57

NO VOTE TAKEN

Approve funding for Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights – AMC as recommended by the Outreach Team, FY2019 \$35,000; FY2020 \$35,000; FY2021 \$30,000.
- S.C.19.07.58

Voted to postpone this motion until the December regular council meeting, to provide the Outreach Team the ability to be present and provide supporting documentation for this recommendation.
- S.C.19.07.59

Voted to designate Redeemer Lutheran Church, North Ave, Chicago, Illinois as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community.
- S.C.19.07.60

Voted to designate St. Paul Lutheran Church, Evanston, Illinois as a Synodically Authorized Ministry.
- S.C.19.07.61

Voted to designate St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, Waukegan, Illinois as a Synodically Authorized Ministry.
- S.C.19.07.62

Voted to adopt Policy C.1.2.1: Governance Policy for Congregational Financial Restructuring as amended.

- S.C.19.07.63

Voted to appoint to the Constitution Review Committee the following persons: Rev. Erin Clausen, Rev. Jane Kunzie-Brunner, Rev. Steve Srock, Rev. Jason Glombicki and Mr. John Nicholas.







# THE NECROLOGIST’S REPORT

*July 1, 2019 through September 1, 2020*

**The Rev. Arnold E. Lack** died on Tuesday, July 9, 2019. Pastor Lack was ordained on June 17, 1956. He received a BA from Augustana in Rock Island, Illinois, in 1952, and a BD from Augustana Seminary, Rock Island, Illinois, in 1956. From 1963 to 1964, Pastor Lack pursued graduate studies at Northwestern Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, and received an MA from Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan. From 1956 to 1963, he served at Salem Lutheran Church in Duluth, Minnesota, and from 1963 to 1971, he served at Reformation Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Pastor Lack served as vice president of Suomi College (now Finlandia) in Hancock, Michigan, from 1971 to 1978, and as vice president at Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Nebraska, from 1978 to 1988. From 1988 until his retirement in 1996, he served as vice president of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. He continued to serve the Church as a board member and part-time staff person for the ELCA Fund for Leaders in Mission, and on various committees at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

**The Rev. Anton P. “Bud” Weber, Jr.** died on Thursday, July 25, 2019. Pastor Weber was ordained on June 19, 1966. He received a BA in history and psychology from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, in 1962, and an MDiv from Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1966. In addition, Pastor Weber took graduate courses at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago; Conflict Management at the Alban Institute, Durham, North Carolina; and the Pastor as a Professional Leader at the Yokefellow Institute, Richmond, Indiana. From 1966 until 1971, he served at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Pekin, Illinois, and from 1971 to 1980, as senior pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Prospect Heights, Illinois. From 1980 until 1988, Pastor Weber served as Assistant to the Bishop, Illinois Synod, Lutheran Church in America (LCA). From 1988 until his retirement in 2000, he served as pastor at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Northbrook, Illinois. In addition to his pastoral service, Pastor Weber served as a colleague mentor with the ELCA Ministry Program, and as shared staff with the Division for Mission in North America, ELCA. He was a member of various civic organizations including the Northbrook Clergy Association, Northbrook Chamber of Commerce, and the Community Health Initiative Committee.



**The Rev. David E. Miller** died on Thursday, December 12, 2019. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2020, at Luther Memorial Church, 2500 W. Wilson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625, starting at 11:00 a.m. There will be a luncheon directly following, downstairs at the church. All are requested to attend free of perfume or scented products due to family members' health. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Pr. Miller's memory to Luther Memorial Church. For more information, call the congregation at 773-539-3018. Pr. Miller graduated from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, in 1953. He received an MDiv from the Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary in Maywood in 1956 and was ordained in 1957. He served as pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church in Chicago, from 1957 to 1969. In 1972, he received a Master of Sacred Theology degree from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He served as pastor of Luther Memorial Church, Chicago, from 1972 until he retired on January 1, 1997.

**The Rev. Phillip L. Ramsey,** of Villa Park, Illinois, died on Wednesday, May 27, 2020. Phil graduated from high school in 1954 and then entered Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa. He sang in the college choir and toured the Midwest with them. He also sang with the men's quartet and toured in the area. After two years at Waldorf, Phil entered Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

Phil began working as a youth director in a church in Red Wing, Minnesota. Phil graduated from Luther Seminary in May 1962. He was ordained in his home church of Beaver Creek that summer.

Phil was assistant pastor at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Mt. Prospect, Illinois and then pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Minonk, Illinois. Phil returned

to the Chicago area as the pastor of Immanuel in Midlothian. During Phil's time in Midlothian, the congregation merged with a Missouri Synod congregation after careful planning and became St. Stephen Lutheran Church. A private service was recently held, with a larger celebration of life service to be scheduled at a later date.

**The Rev. Todd Charles Napoli** died on Friday, June 26, 2020. He was loved by many and led many to worship Jesus Christ over the last 20 years. Todd was born in Waterloo, Iowa. He also lived in Columbus, Ohio and then in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. He earned a scholarship to Marquette University and proceeded his education at UW-Milwaukee obtaining a Bachelor's degree. He then went on to seminary at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

Todd was head pastor at congregations in Joliet and Tinley Park. In 2008, he became head pastor at Lord of Life Church in Darien, Illinois, where he continued to serve until, he passed away. Visitation will be Tuesday, June 30, 2020, from 3:00 to 7:00 PM at Modell Funeral Home, 7710 S. Cass Avenue, Darien, where a 6:30 PM chapel service will be held. The interment will be private. A larger public gathering is being planned for the fall. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 725 75th Street, Darien, IL 60561.

The Rev. David L. Alderfer died on Tuesday, June 30, 2020, in Wheaton, Illinois. He was born in Lock Haven PA; he was the son of the late Rev. Dr. Ralph L. Alderfer and Marion (Moyer) Alderfer. He was a graduate of Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA, and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and pursued further studies in the

Ancient Near East at the University of Pennsylvania. He was ordained as a pastor in 1971 in what is now the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He served parishes in Pennsylvania and Illinois, and as Chaplain to the Deaconess Community in Gladwyne PA. He held positions on the staff of the national offices of the ELCA in both Philadelphia and Chicago. He was a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Downers Grove. Special thanks go to David's friend, Marlin Schilling, for his Christ-centered ministry with David these past years. The funeral will be Tuesday, July 7th. Visitation at 10 AM until the time of the funeral service at 11:00 AM, at Adams-Winterfield & Sullivan Funeral Home, 4343 Main Street, (1 block south of Ogden) in Downers Grove, IL 60515. CDC precautions will be followed, and masks must be worn. The service may also be viewed at: [www.adamswinterfieldsullivan.com](http://www.adamswinterfieldsullivan.com) via live stream. Interment will be next to his wife in Clarendon Hills Cemetery. Contributions may be made to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 4501 Main St., Downers Grove IL 60515.

**The Rev. Paul Landahl** died on August 31, 2020. Paul was a graduate of Valparaiso University and Concordia Seminary. His lifetime of ministry took a remarkable range of forms: mission developer, a parish minister, an Associate to the Bishop, Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, and finally the Director of Candidacy for the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Paul's youthful spirit matched well with his passion for working with younger people whether it was leading trips in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area for twenty years to supporting seminary students navigating the candidacy process.

While he was Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod from 2001-2007, he advocated for the rights

of LGBTQ parishioners and ministers in the ELCA and led the efforts to become a Reconciling in Christ synod. Through his leadership as Bishop, he was a tireless advocate for the rights of marginalized groups including people who live in poverty, persons of color, and the LGBTQ community. Paul also served his community as a long-time member and chair of the Mental Health Board of Riverside Township, volunteer and board member at BEDS Plus, and as a board member of Riverside-Brookfield High School District 208. The family is planning a memorial service for when it is safe to do so.

Memorial donations are welcome and appreciated: Ascension Lutheran Church, 400 Nuttall Road, Riverside, IL 60546 or BEDS Plus, <https://beds-plus.org>



# CHANGES *in the* SYNOD ROSTER and CONGREGATIONS

*January 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020*

## ADDITIONS TO THE CLERGY ROSTER BY ORDINATION

*Holmes, Matthew J.*  
March 15, 2020, United Lutheran Church, Oak Park, IL  
**Ordaining Bishop:** The Rev. Yehiel Curry  
**Called to:** Mount Zion Lutheran Church, Oak Lawn, IL

*Kline, Laura L.*  
March 15, 2020, United Lutheran Church, Oak Park, IL  
**Ordaining Bishop:** The Rev. Yehiel Curry  
**Called to:** Joy! Lutheran Church, Gurnee, IL

*Nelson, Anders E.*  
March 15, 2020, United Lutheran Church, Oak Park, IL  
**Ordaining Bishop:** The Rev. Yehiel Curry  
**Called to:** Saint Paul Lutheran Church, Wheaton, IL

*Szydlowski, Michael C.*  
August 23, 2020, Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Elk Grove, IL  
**Ordaining Bishop:** The Rev. Yehiel Curry  
**Called to:** Saint Luke’s Lutheran Church, Elmhurst, IL



ADDITIONS TO THE ROSTER BY CONSECRATION

None

ADDITIONS TO THE ROSTER BY RITE OF REINSTATEMENT

None

ADDITIONS TO THE CLERGY ROSTER BY RITE OF RECEPTION

None

ROSTERED LEADERS CALLED TO THE CHURCHWIDE OFFICE

Reierson, Kaari M.  
Corporate Social Responsibility Associate  
Metropolitan Chicago Synod/ELCA Domestic  
Missions Unit, Evangelical Lutheran Church In  
America, Chicago, Ill., effective February 1, 2020

ADDITIONS TO THE CLERGY ROSTER BY RITE OF RECEPTION

None.

ROSTERED LEADERS CALLED TO SPECIALIZED MINISTRY

None.

RESIGNATIONS

Anderson-Hurdle, Suzanne  
From Barnes Jewish Hospital, St. Louis, MO,  
effective September 1, 2020 to On Leave from Call

Arthur, Ellen J.  
From Shepherd of the Lakes, Grayslake, IL,  
effective March 1, 2020 to Retirement

Gordon, Rebecca I.J.  
From St. Stephen, Antioch, IL,  
effective September 1, 2020 to On Leave from Call

Johnson, Diane C.  
From Gethsemane, Cicero, IL,  
effective March 1, 2020 to Retirement

Kelly, Dennis H.  
From St. Mark’s, Waukegan, IL,  
effective July 1, 2020 to Retirement

Landis, Betty E.  
From Grace, LaGrange, IL,  
effective June 1, 2020 to On Leave from Call

Legania, Raymond  
From Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Chicago, IL,  
effective January 1, 2020, to Retirement

Otte, Joanne  
From We Raise Foundation (Wheatridge Ministries),  
Itasca, IL, effective July 1, 2020

Nitza Rosario-Rodríguez  
From Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care, Chicago,  
IL, effective April 1, 2020

Stumme, Sarah J.  
From Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Chicago, IL,  
effective January 1, 2020, to On Leave from Call

Zemanick, Matthew G.  
From Lebanon, Chicago, IL,  
effective August 30, 2020, to On Leave from Call

ROSTERED LEADERS CALLED TO SPECIALIZED MINISTRY

None.

TRANSFERS INTO THE SYNOD

Anderson, Jason  
Transferred from Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
Canada, effective January 21, 2020.

Evans, Joshua W.  
Transferred from Greater Milwaukee Synod,  
effective June 28, 2020

Torgerson, Heidi, L.  
Transferred from Eastern North Dakota Synod,  
effective May 31, 2020

TRANSFERS OUT OF THE SYNOD

Breimeier, Carol  
Transferred to Grand Canyon Synod,  
effective January 1, 2020

Nelson, Fred  
Transferred to Grand Canyon Synod,  
effective January 1, 2020

Sensmeier, Randall  
Transferred to Greater Milwaukee Synod,  
effective June 15, 2020

REMOVED FROM THE ROSTER BY DEATH

Alderfer, David L.	June 30, 2020
Belanger, Allen W.	July 13, 2020
Landahl, Paul	August 31, 2020
Napoli, Todd	June 26, 2020

REMOVED FROM THE ROSTER BY RESIGNATION

None.

REMOVED FROM THE ROSTER

Mass (Moser), Dawn M. February 13, 2020

CHANGES in the ROSTER of CONGREGATIONS

January 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020

CONGREGATIONS ORGANIZED

None

CONGREGATIONS CLOSED

None

CONGREGATIONS REMOVED FROM THE ELCA ROSTER

None

# THE TREASURER’S REPORT



*Treasurer Yvette M. Newberry White*

“We are developing new ways to worship and be community, and we are thankful that together, we continue to be strengthened by God’s word and work in us.”

For the fiscal year ended January 31, 2020, the Synod received benevolence in the amount of \$2,773,773 equaling 99% of the anticipated budgeted amount. This represents an increase of \$24,240 in unrestricted benevolence from the prior year. We give thanks for your stewardship and our partnership together -- congregations, individuals, and our partners -- in ministry in this great Synod.

The Synod Council this year distributed \$1,617,095 – 58% of unrestricted congregational benevolence received-- to program ministry support of our partner institutions. 15 percent of this sum went to organizations and agencies in budgeted grants. The remainder of partner institutional support represents our tithe of 51 percent of received benevolence to the ministry of the larger Church in the amount of \$1,380,188 to the Churchwide Organization. This is shown in the supplemental schedules of the annual report. All designated funds received are forwarded to the designee in a timely fashion. The administrative operating expenses of the Synod were \$1,433,364.

During the past several years, ownership interest in real estate properties reverted to the Synod through congregational dissolution. The Synod has recorded the value of these properties based on real estate appraised values, sale prices or current offer prices. The accumulated value of some of these properties were set aside in the Fund for Mission, which, along with contributions from individuals and our congregations, totaled \$9.3 million by fiscal year end. These funds are invested in the ELCA Endowment Fund and Thrivent Investment Management with earnings available for future mission development.

Included in the audited financial statements for the past year is a gain on investments of approximately \$600,672. This is due solely to the accounting standard requiring that we record the Fund investments at market value and show the unrealized gains & losses in the income statement. We have NOT sold these investments and the market values fluctuate daily.



For the 2021-year budget, to be presented to the Synod Council for approval in absence of this year’s Synod Assembly, the partnership sharing through Churchwide is 50% of unrestricted benevolence received. This support, along with our ministry through Synod partners, totals 59% of the budget.

As I write this report, I again recognize the faithfulness of our members, who place their trust in God and lean into the work that we are called to do—In Jesus’ name: proclaim the gospel, make disciples, do justice-- even during this time of pandemic. We are developing new ways to worship and be community, and we are thankful that together, we continue to be strengthened by God’s word and work in us. We celebrate the resilience that is shown throughout the challenges we are faced with. As the Church, we are many members but one body, serving Christ together. The Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America sends a heartfelt prayer of gratitude for your continued partnership in God’s mission.



# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT



**Certified Public Accountants**  
4320 WINFIELD ROAD, SUITE 450  
WARRENVILLE, IL 60555  
630 665 4440

To the Synod Council Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (the “Synod”), which comprise the statement of financial position as of January 31, 2020 and 2019, and the related statements of activities, cash flows and functional expenses for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

## Management’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

## Auditor’s Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s

preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as of January 31, 2020 and 2019, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matter

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental information on Schedules 1 through 2 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such

information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole

Dugan + Lopatka  
DUGAN & LOPATKA

MEMBER  
IMPACT  
INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF  
Warrenville, Illinois May 21, 2020

METROPOLITAN CHICAGO  
SYNOD STATEMENT  
OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED  
01.31,2020 & 2019



Exhibit 1

	2020	2019
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,030,347	\$ 907,185
Cash held for others	64,117	106,158
Short-term investments	2,494,485	2,575,884
Benevolence receivable	53,891	32,325
Other receivables	9,682	9,682
Notes receivable - Current	93,023	132,663
Deposits and prepaid expenses	-	8,977
Total current assets	3,745,545	3,772,874
LONG-TERM ASSETS:		
Notes receivable	58,730	24,230
Investments for mission programs	9,327,238	8,384,648
Property and equipment, net	1,793,757	1,819,117
Total non-current assets	11,179,725	10,227,995
Total assets	\$ 14,925,270	\$ 14,000,869
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 91,877	\$ 50,805
Beneficiary grants payable	162,244	165,986
Custodial and transmittal funds	64,117	106,158
Total current liabilities	318,238	322,949



# SYNOD STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

NET ASSETS

NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS:

Designated	10,263,594	9,683,290
Undesignated	2,503,296	2,562,800

NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

	1,840,142	1,431,830
Total net assets	14,607,032	13,677,920
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 14,925,270	\$ 14,000,869

Exhibit 1 Continued

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.



Ash Wednesday, Christ the Mediator 2/26/2020

Exhibit 2



Ash Wednesday, Christ the Mediator  
2/26/2020 Photos by: Nancy Valladolid

REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT:

Benevolences from member congregations	\$ 2,773,773	\$ -	\$ 2,773,773
Contributions	149,640	856,355	1,005,995
Interest and dividends	386,119	-	386,119
Other	5,527	-	5,527

Net assets released from restrictions

	3,763,102	408,312	4,171,414
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments and unbudgeted revenues, gains and other support	600,672	-	600,672

Total revenues, gains and other support

EXPENSES:

Program	3,156,629	-	3,156,629
Management and general	686,345	-	686,345

Total expenses

Change in net assets

NET ASSETS, Beginning of year

NET ASSETS, End of year

	2020			2019		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Benevolences from member congregations	\$ 2,773,773	\$ -	\$ 2,773,773	\$ 2,706,045	\$ -	\$ 2,706,045
Contributions	149,640	856,355	1,005,995	723,568	429,132	1,152,700
Interest and dividends	386,119	-	386,119	400,150	6,407	406,557
Other	5,527	-	5,527	2,732	-	2,732
Net assets released from restrictions	448,043	(448,043)	-	86,172	(86,172)	-
	3,763,102	408,312	4,171,414	3,918,667	349,367	4,268,034
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments and unbudgeted revenues, gains and other support	600,672	-	600,672	(751,785)	-	(751,785)
Total revenues, gains and other support	4,363,774	408,312	4,772,086	3,166,882	349,367	3,516,249
EXPENSES:						
Program	3,156,629	-	3,156,629	2,751,270	-	2,751,270
Management and general	686,345	-	686,345	600,407	-	600,407
Total expenses	3,842,974	-	3,842,974	3,351,677	-	3,351,677
Change in net assets	520,800	408,312	929,112	(184,795)	349,367	164,572
NET ASSETS, Beginning of year	12,246,090	1,431,830	13,677,920	12,430,885	1,082,463	13,513,348
NET ASSETS, End of year	\$ 12,766,890	\$ 1,840,142	\$ 14,607,032	\$ 12,246,090	\$ 1,431,830	\$ 13,677,920

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

# SYNOD STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

## Exhibit 3

	2020	2019
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Benevolences, grants and contributions received	\$ 3,725,629	\$ 3,861,347
Investment income received	382,178	406,557
Grants paid	(2,413,352)	(2,145,146)
Cash paid to vendors and employees	(1,317,955)	(1,132,663)
Net cash provided by operating activities	376,500	990,095
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of property and equipment	(40,000)	-
Purchase of investments	(341,918)	(378,337)
Purchases of short term investments	(1,211,329)	(355,296)
Proceeds from sale of short term investments	1,292,728	350,978
Receipts from notes receivable	49,748	82,152
Issuance of notes receivable	(44,608)	(47,706)
Net cash (used in) investing activities	(295,379)	(348,209)
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	81,121	641,886
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, Beginning of year	1,013,343	371,457
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, End of year	\$ 1,094,464	\$ 1,013,343
RECONCILIATION OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in net assets	\$ 929,112	\$ 164,572
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	65,360	65,020
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments	(600,672)	751,785
(Increase) decrease in assets -		
Benevolence receivable	(21,566)	4,104
Other receivables	-	2,205
Deposits and prepaid expenses	8,977	234
Increase (decrease) in liabilities -		
Accounts payable	41,072	35,051
Custodial and transmittal funds	(42,041)	(6,439)
Beneficiary grants payable	(3,742)	(26,437)
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 376,500	\$ 990,095
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted	\$ 1,030,347	\$ 907,185
- held for others	64,117	106,158
Total Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,094,464	\$ 1,013,343

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

1 Peter 4:10



Windsor Park 5/9/2020  
Photos by: Nancy Valladolid



# SYNOD STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

## Exhibit 4

	2020			2019		
	Program	Management and General	Total Expenses	Program	Management and General	Total Expenses
Salaries and housing allowances	\$ 386,916	\$ 402,708	789,624	\$ 307,189	\$ 319,728	626,917
Employee benefits and payroll taxes	139,925	145,636	285,561	130,278	135,595	265,873
Staff development	14,074	14,648	28,722	24,893	25,909	50,802
Grants	2,409,610	-	2,409,610	2,118,709	-	2,118,709
Meetings and conferences	46,618	-	46,618	34,525	-	34,525
Repairs and maintenance	13,525	14,077	27,602	15,962	16,613	32,575
Technology	16,047	16,701	32,748	4,874	5,073	9,947
Scholarships	20,000	-	20,000	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	32,026	33,334	65,360	31,860	33,160	65,020
Insurance	10,836	11,279	22,115	10,401	10,826	21,227
Professional fees	15,728	16,369	32,097	22,863	23,796	46,659
Utilities	7,673	7,986	15,659	8,004	8,331	16,335
Telephone	5,037	5,243	10,280	4,979	5,182	10,161
Printing and postage	7,660	7,973	15,633	7,204	7,498	14,702
Supplies	3,124	3,251	6,375	4,427	4,608	9,035
Youth events	4,358	-	4,358	3,694	-	3,694
Miscellaneous	6,860	7,140	14,000	3,928	4,088	8,016
Workshops	16,147	-	16,147	16,305	-	16,305
Stewardship	465	-	465	1,175	-	1,175
	<u>\$ 3,156,629</u>	<u>\$ 686,345</u>	<u>\$ 3,842,974</u>	<u>\$ 2,751,270</u>	<u>\$ 600,407</u>	<u>\$ 3,351,677</u>

METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD OF THE  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
JANUARY 31, 2020 AND 2019

(1) NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

This summary of significant accounting policies of Metropolitan Chicago Synod (the “Synod”) is presented to assist in understanding the Synod’s financial statements. The financial statements and notes are representations of the Synod’s management who is responsible for their integrity and objectivity. These accounting policies conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and have been consistently applied in the preparation of the financial statements.

The financial statements were available to be issued on May 21, 2020, with subsequent events being evaluated through this date.

Nature of Activities -

The Synod was established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (“ELCA”). The Synod is responsible for oversight of the life and mission of the ELCA in the assigned territory of metropolitan Chicago (the counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane and Lake) in the State of Illinois. The Synod is supported primarily through congregational donor benevolences. The Synod makes significant grants to ELCA.

Financial Statement Presentation -

The financial statements of the Synod have been prepared in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Under GAAP, the Synod is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to two classes of net assets: without donor restrictions and with donor restrictions.

Without donor restrictions - Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the Synod.

With donor restrictions - Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of the Synod or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, whereby the donor has stipulated that the funds be maintained in perpetuity.

Use of Estimates -

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and Cash Equivalents -

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Synod considers all highly liquid debt instruments purchased with an initial maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. Cash and cash equivalents exclude cash held in investment funds.

(1) NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:  
(Continued)

Credit Risk -

Financial instruments which potentially subject the Synod to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of cash. The Synod places its cash and deposits with high credit quality financial institutions; however, deposits may exceed the federally insured limits.

Short-term Investments -

Short-term investments are held in the ELCA Mission Plus Fund, a money market fund.

Investments for Missions Programs -

The funds held by the ELCA Foundation and mutual funds from Thrivent Investment Management are designated by the Synod o assist congregations in enhancing their Mission Outreach. Approved grants from the funds will be used as seed money for congregational initiatives. A significant portion of the funds’ assets were raised through disposition of properties of dissolved congregations that reverted to the Synod.

Investments -

The Synod invests in the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust and mutual funds from Thrivent Investment Management. These investments consist of various marketable securities, corporate bonds and U.S. government securities. Investment securities, in general, are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, credit and overall market volatility. Due to the level of market risk associated with certain investment securities, it is possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the statement of financial position.

Investments in marketable securities are carried at fair value determined based on quoted market prices for those investments. Donated investments are recorded at fair value when received.

Property and Equipment -

Property and equipment are stated at cost or market value at the donation date. Acquisitions of property and equipment with a useful life greater than one year are capitalized. Assets are depreciated or amortized over the estimated useful lives of the assets which range from 3 to 40 years, using the straight-line method. Generally, maintenance and repairs are expensed as incurred. When assets are retired or otherwise disposed of, the cost and related accumulated depreciation and amortization are removed from the accounts and the resulting gain or loss is included in the statement of activities.

The church properties are currently being used by the Synod and the ELCA Domestic Mission Unit to seed new churches in their particular areas. The properties are being used rent free. The properties are being depreciated on a straight-line basis over 40 years. The Synod has made conditional promises to give the properties to these new churches once they meet all the requirements to become organized congregations.



(1) NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:  
(Continued)

Donated Property and Equipment -

Donations of property and equipment are recorded as contributions at fair value at the date of donation. Such donations are reported as increases in net assets without donor restrictions unless the donor has restricted the donated asset to a specific purpose. Assets donated with explicit restrictions regarding their use and contributions of cash that must be used to acquire property and equipment are reported as restricted contributions. Absent donor stipulations regarding how long those donated assets must be maintained, the Synod reports expirations of donor restrictions when the donated or acquired assets are placed in service as instructed by the donor. The Synod reclassifies net assets with donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions.

Income Taxes -

The Synod is exempt from United States federal and state income taxes under the provision of Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).

The Synod does not file income tax returns in either the U.S. federal jurisdiction or Illinois as the Synod meets the requirements to be exempt from filing returns unless they incur unrelated business income. The Synod does not expect a material net change in unrecognized tax benefits in the next twelve months.

Revenue Recognition for Contributions and Grants -

The Synod recognizes contributions when cash, securities or other assets; an unconditional promise to give; or a notification of a beneficial interest is received. Conditional promises to give – that is, those with a measurable performance or other barrier and a right of return – are not recognized until the conditions on which they depend have been met. The Synod reports gifts of cash and other assets as restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the assets, or if they are designated as support for future periods. When a donor restriction expires; that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions. Donor-imposed contributions whose restrictions are met in the same reporting period are reported as net assets without donor restrictions.

Transmittal Funds -

The Synod receives funds designated for transmittal to various church-related organizations from member congregations and individuals. These funds are accumulated and periodically remitted to the designated organizations and are included as a current asset, cash held for others, and as a liability in the statement of financial position and not included in the statement of activities.

(1) NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:  
(Continued)

Custodial Funds -

Custodial funds consist of grants received from third parties to be used for a designated purpose and disbursed by the Synod. These funds are included as a current asset, cash held for others, and as a liability in the statement of financial position and are not included in the statement of activities.

Functional Allocation of Expenses -

The financial statements report certain categories of expenses that attributed a program or supporting function. Therefore, expenses require allocation on a reasonable basis that is consistently applied. The expenses that are allocated include salaries and related expenses, depreciation, professional fees and other expenses which are allocated on the basis of estimates of time and effort.

Reclassification -

Prior year amounts have been reclassified to be consist with current year presentation.

New Accounting Pronouncements -

Effective January 1, 2019, The Synod adopted ASU 2018-08, *Clarifying the Scope and the Accounting Guidance for Contributions Received and Contributions Made*. This update provided guidance to assist in evaluating whether transactions should be accounted for as contributions (nonreciprocal transactions) or as exchange (reciprocal transactions) and determining whether a contribution is conditional. The ASU has been retroactively applied to all periods presented.

(2) TRANSMITTAL AND CUSTODIAL ACTIVITIES:

As discussed in Note 1, the Synod serves as a conduit for the transmittal of funds from member congregations and as a custodian for other organizations' funds. The transmittal and custodial activity for the year ended January 31, 2020 was as follows:

	Balance January 31, 2019	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance January 31, 2020
Transmittal funds -				
World Hunger	\$ 31,690	\$ 224,477	\$ 235,937	\$ 20,230
Disaster Relief	22,689	44,307	71,059	(4,063)
LSSI and other MCS	900	4,272	707	4,465
ELCA Missionaries	2,712	56,711	56,584	2,839
Other miscellaneous ELCA	885	3,697	4,527	55
Total transmittal funds	58,876	333,464	368,814	23,526

(2) TRANSMITTAL AND CUSTODIAL ACTIVITIES: (Continued)

	Balance January 31, 2019	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance January 31, 2020
Custodial funds -				
Let's Talk	\$ 1,733	\$ 2,576	\$ -	\$ 4,309
Mission Partners	493	-	-	493
Augustana / Henze	26,831	758	12,000	15,589
Black Clergy Retreat	425	-	425	-
Medill Ave RE Taxes	17,800	2,400	-	20,200
Total custodial funds	47,282	5,734	12,425	40,591
Total	\$ 106,158	\$ 339,198	\$ 381,239	\$ 64,117

(3) NOTES RECEIVABLE:

The Environmental Concerns Loan Fund is used to make non-interest bearing loans to congregations for energy efficiency studies and related repair projects.

Notes receivable consisted of the following:

	January 31,	
	2020	2019
Environmental Concerns Loan Fund:		
Non-interest bearing loans with monthly payments of \$55 to \$400 and due from 2020 to 2023.	\$ 43,217	\$ 33,089
Bethel (West) Lutheran note:		
Non-interest bearing loan with monthly payments of \$500 through June 15, 2020.	1,000	2,500
Reformation Lutheran note:		
Promissory installment note, bearing interest at 3%, with monthly interest and principal payments of \$760. The note is past due and payment is expected when the building is sold.	42,278	42,278
Orihuela, West Medill Ave, Chicago note:		
Promissory installment note, bearing interest at 6%, with monthly interest and principal payments of \$591 through July 31, 2020.	37,650	43,099

(3) NOTES RECEIVABLE:

	January 31,	
	2020	2019
Mission of Christ, Chicago note:		
Non-interest bearing loan due upon sale of the Church's building.	\$ 24,608	\$ -
Norwood Park Note:		
Non-interest bearing loan due upon sale of the Church's building. Loan was paid off during 2020	-	32,927
Individual note:		
Non-interest bearing loan with monthly payments of \$250 starting upon receiving full-time call.	3,000	3,000
	151,753	156,893
Less - Current portion	(93,023)	(132,663)
	\$ 58,730	\$ 24,230

(4) INVESTMENT:

The funds' market values are as follows:

	January 31,	
	2020	2019
Pooled investment account	\$ 6,419,716	\$ 5,740,544
Mutual funds	2,907,522	2,644,104
Money market	2,494,485	2,575,884
	\$ 11,821,723	\$ 10,960,532

(5) FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS:

The Accounting Standards Codification for Fair Value Measurements established a framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurement) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under this codification are described as follows:



(5) FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS: (Continued)

Level 1:

Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.

Level 2:

Inputs to the valuation methodology include:

- quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
- quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
- inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability;
- inputs that are derived principally from, or corroborated by, observable market data by correlation or other means.

If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3:

Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The asset or liability’s fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at January 31, 2020 and 2019.

Mutual Funds: Valued at the net asset value (NAV) of shares held by the Synod at year end.

Pooled Investment Account: Valued at an unquoted value of an investment pool as determined at a prorated portion of a larger investment group.

Money Market: Valued at cost as of the year end, which approximates market.

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Synod believes their valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

(5) FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS: (Continued)

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Synod’s assets at fair value:

Description	Assets at Fair Value as of January 31, 2020			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Investments -				
Equity funds -				
U.S. large cap	\$ 296,727	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 296,727
U.S. mid/small cap	287,493	-	-	287,493
International	378,835	-	-	378,835
	963,055	-	-	963,055
Fixed income funds -				
Balanced stocks and bonds	670,570	-	-	670,570
High yield bonds	770,720	-	-	770,720
Intermediate long-term bonds	320,703	-	-	320,703
Intermediate short-term bonds	182,474	-	-	182,474
	1,944,467	-	-	1,944,467
Total mutual funds	2,907,522	-	-	2,907,522
Pooled investment account	-	-	6,419,716	6,419,716
Money market funds	2,494,485	-	-	2,494,485
Total investments	\$ 5,402,007	\$ -	\$ 6,419,716	\$ 11,821,723

Description	Assets at Fair Value as of January 31, 2019			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Investments -				
Equity funds -				
U.S. large cap	\$ 402,414	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 402,414
U.S. mid/small cap	260,628	-	-	260,628
International	190,933	-	-	190,933
	853,975	-	-	853,975
Fixed income funds -				
Balanced stocks and bonds	610,821	-	-	610,821
High yield bonds	704,891	-	-	704,891
Intermediate long-term bonds	306,629	-	-	306,629
Intermediate short-term bonds	167,788	-	-	167,788
	1,790,129	-	-	1,790,129

# SYNOD STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES *Fair Value Measurements continued | Property Equipment | Net Assets Designated*

## (5) FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS: (Continued)

Description	Assets at Fair Value as of January 31, 2019			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Total mutual funds	2,644,104	-	-	2,644,104
Pooled investment account	-	-	5,740,544	5,740,544
Money market funds	2,575,884	-	-	2,575,884
Total investments	\$ 5,219,988	\$ -	\$ 5,740,544	\$ 10,960,532

Certain assets and liabilities are measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis, and, therefore, are not included in the preceding table.

Financial instruments classified as level 3 in the fair value hierarchy represent the Synod's investments in financial instruments in which the Synod has used one significant unobservable input in the valuation model. The following table presents a reconciliation of activity for the level 3 financial instruments for the years ended January 31, 2020 and 2019:

	2020	2019
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 5,740,544	\$ 6,063,614
Realized gains on investments	-	-
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	451,050	(545,149)
Investment income reinvested	228,122	222,079
Purchase of investment securities	-	-
Sale of investment securities	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 6,419,716	\$ 5,740,544

## (6) PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:

Property and equipment consisted of the following:

	January 31,	
	2020	2019
Church properties:		
Land	\$ 278,000	\$ 278,000
Buildings	952,000	952,000
Land	105,964	105,964
Building and improvements	1,297,030	1,297,030
Office equipment and furnishings	147,197	147,197

## (6) PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT: (Continued)

	January 31,	
	2020	2019
Automobile	\$ 40,000	\$ 25,246
Computer equipment and software	107,809	107,809
	2,928,000	2,913,246
Less - Accumulated depreciation	(1,134,243)	(1,094,129)
	\$ 1,793,757	\$ 1,819,117

Depreciation and amortization expense for the years ended January 31, 2020 and 2019 amounted to \$65,360 and \$65,020, respectively.

## (7) LEASE COMMITMENTS:

The Synod leases various office and security equipment under operating leases which are in effect through April, 2025. Rent expense was \$12,944 for the years ended January 31, 2020 and 2019.

The future minimum noncancelable lease commitment as of January 31, 2020 is as follows:

2021	\$ 18,226
2022	8,916
2023	5,724
2024	5,724
2025	5,724
2026	1,431

## (8) NET ASSETS - DESIGNATED:

The Synod Council passed resolutions to establish designated funds to be used for mission work, pay costs associated with the management of church properties received by the Synod through congregational dissolution and sponsor a leadership conference. Certain congregational dissolutions resulted in property transfers of a non-cash nature, thus requiring the Synod to expend its own unbudgeted funds to maintain the properties.



(8) NET ASSETS - DESIGNATED: (Continued)

Designated funds consisted of the following:

	January 31,	
	2020	2019
Fund for Mission of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod	\$ 6,063,376	\$ 5,612,585
Deaf Ministry	8,400	8,400
Property management	22,719	25,717
Bishop’s Discretionary	15,032	21,005
Missional Leaders	-	6,861
Synod Mission on the Margins	2,592,085	2,318,246
Turn-Around Synod Initiative	20,381	13,520
Latino Diakonia	-	867
North Avenue Property	49,815	49,815
Stewardship Initiative	76,909	76,909
Concordia	44,667	44,667
Jefferson Park	80,000	140,000
Awake	2,000	2,000
HT Loop	10,000	10,000
Lutheran Church Planters Network	21,166	21,166
Community United	12,500	12,500
LSSI Community Redevelopment Grant Fund	119,303	137,303
New missions	452,796	579,684
Campus ministry	669,601	598,841
AGCS	3,204	3,204
Total designated net assets	\$ 10,263,954	\$ 9,683,290

(9) NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS:

The Synod receives contributions and grants that are restricted for specific purposes or time periods. The net assets with donor restrictions consisted of the following:

	January 31,	
	2020	2019
Environmental Concerns Loan Fund	\$ 32,172	\$ 52,172
Deaf ministry	4,092	1,671
Church improvements	412,906	344,814
Asian Ministry	152,559	152,559
Latino Ministry	343,831	401,312
Grants Program - Carlmark	9,845	9,845
Older Adult Ministries	500	500

(9) NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS: (Continued)

The Synod receives contributions and grants that are restricted for specific purposes or time periods. The net assets with donor restrictions consisted of the following:

	January 31,	
	2020	2019
Grace Chinese	\$ 4,918	\$ 4,918
Book of Faith	-	2,576
Faith Homewood Fund	-	62,589
Light of Christ Algonquin Fund	73,100	73,100
Youth Ministry	3,832	157
Companion Synod	677	677
African American Strategy	121,880	96,413
Scholarships	224,505	228,527
TSI Grant Fund	25,797	-
Grace Lutheran Seminary	102,114	-
Campus Ministries	90,182	-
Anti Racism	1,050	-
Churchwide	118,091	-
Portico Retirement Fund	118,091	-
Total net assets with donor restriction	\$ 1,840,142	\$ 1,431,830

(10) PENSION PLAN:

Substantially all employees scheduled to work 20 or more hours per week for six months or more per year are covered by the ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program. The pension plan is a defined contribution plan and is funded based on a percentage of defined compensation.

The pension expense for the ELCA Pension Fund for years ended January 31, 2020 and 2019 approximated \$66,792 and \$78,670, respectively.

(11) LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY:

	January 31,	
	2020	2019
Financial Assets -		
Cash	\$ 1,030,347	\$ 907,185
Short-term investments	2,494,485	2,575,884
Notes receivable – current	93,023	132,663
Benevolence receivables	53,891	32,325
Investments	9,327,238	8,384,648
Total financial assets	12,998,984	12,032,705

METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD OF THE  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
SCHEDULE OF SYNODICAL TREASURY EXPENDITURES  
FOR GRANTS TO BENEFICIARIES AS COMPARED TO BUDGET  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2020 AND 2019

(11) LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY: (Continued)

	January 31,	
	2020	2019
Less: Donor imposed restrictions	\$ 1,840,592	\$ 1,431,830
Internal designations - Board advised funds for long-term purposes	10,263,854	9,683,290
Financial assets available to meet cash needs for general expenditures that is without donor or other restrictions limiting their use within one year	\$ 894,538	\$ 917,585

The Synod’s goal is to generally maintain enough financial assets to meet 3 months of operating expenses (approximately \$967,000).

The Synod manages its liquidity and reserves adhering to the following principles:

- operating within a prudent range of financial soundness and stability.
- incurring unbudgeted costs only when such costs are funded.
- maintaining adequate liquid assets to fund near-term operating needs.

(12) SUBSEQUENT EVENT:

In March 2020 the World Health Organization declared the novel strain of coronavirus (COVID-19) a global pandemic and recommended containment and mitigation measures worldwide. We cannot reasonably estimate the length of severity of this pandemic, or the extent to which the disruption from this pandemic may impact the operations and financial statements.

	2020		2019	
	Actual	Budget (unaudited)	Actual	Budget (unaudited)
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	\$ 1,380,188	\$ 1,428,000	\$ 1,405,706	\$ 1,498,416
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois	53,730	56,000	53,031	58,900
Lutheran Campus Ministries	80,596	84,000	80,045	90,559
Companion Synod	-	-	-	7,363
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago	26,866	28,000	26,515	29,450
Wartburg Seminary	26,866	28,000	26,515	29,450
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center	12,815	14,000	13,257	14,725
Bethel New Life	6,716	7,000	6,629	7,363
Holy Family Ministries	6,716	7,000	6,629	7,363
Lutheran Volunteer Corps	6,716	7,000	6,629	7,363
Concordia Place	7,334	7,000	6,629	7,363
Regional Center for Mission	5,771	5,750	5,838	5,838
Illinois Conference of Churches	1,954	1,950	2,000	2,000
Outdoor Ministries	827	834	834	834
Total gifts and grants	\$ 1,617,095	\$ 1,674,534	\$ 1,640,257	\$ 1,766,987

The 2020 budgeted figures presented are as approved in the minutes of the Synod Assembly held on July 20, 2019.

The 2019 budgeted figures presented are as approved in the minutes of the Synod Assembly held on April 28, 2018.



Schedule 2

METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD OF THE  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
SCHEDULE OF SYNODICAL TREASURY STANDING COMMITTEE EXPENSES  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2020 AND 2019

Committees:

- Ministry
- Synodical Mission
- Worship
- Youth and Young Adult Ministry
- Justice Team
- Stewardship
- Evangelism
- Global Mission
- Outreach Team

	2020	2019
Ministry	\$ 28,722	\$ 50,802
Synodical Mission	248,974	292,091
Worship	3,528	510
Youth and Young Adult Ministry	4,358	3,351
Justice Team	175	375
Stewardship	465	1,175
Evangelism	-	299
Global Mission	175	350
Outreach Team	150	2,390
	<u>\$ 286,547</u>	<u>\$ 351,343</u>



Confirmation at  
Prince of Peace in Addison, Illinois  
8/8/2020  
Photos by: Nancy Valladolid



Krista Lane at the piano.



Pr. Antonio Cabello preaching.

# OPERATING BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2021

## REVENUE

Congregational Benevolence	\$2,900,000
Interest	\$40,000
Operating Revenue	<u>\$2,940,000</u>
Authorized Management Fees	\$138,205
Total Revenue	<u>\$3,078,205</u>

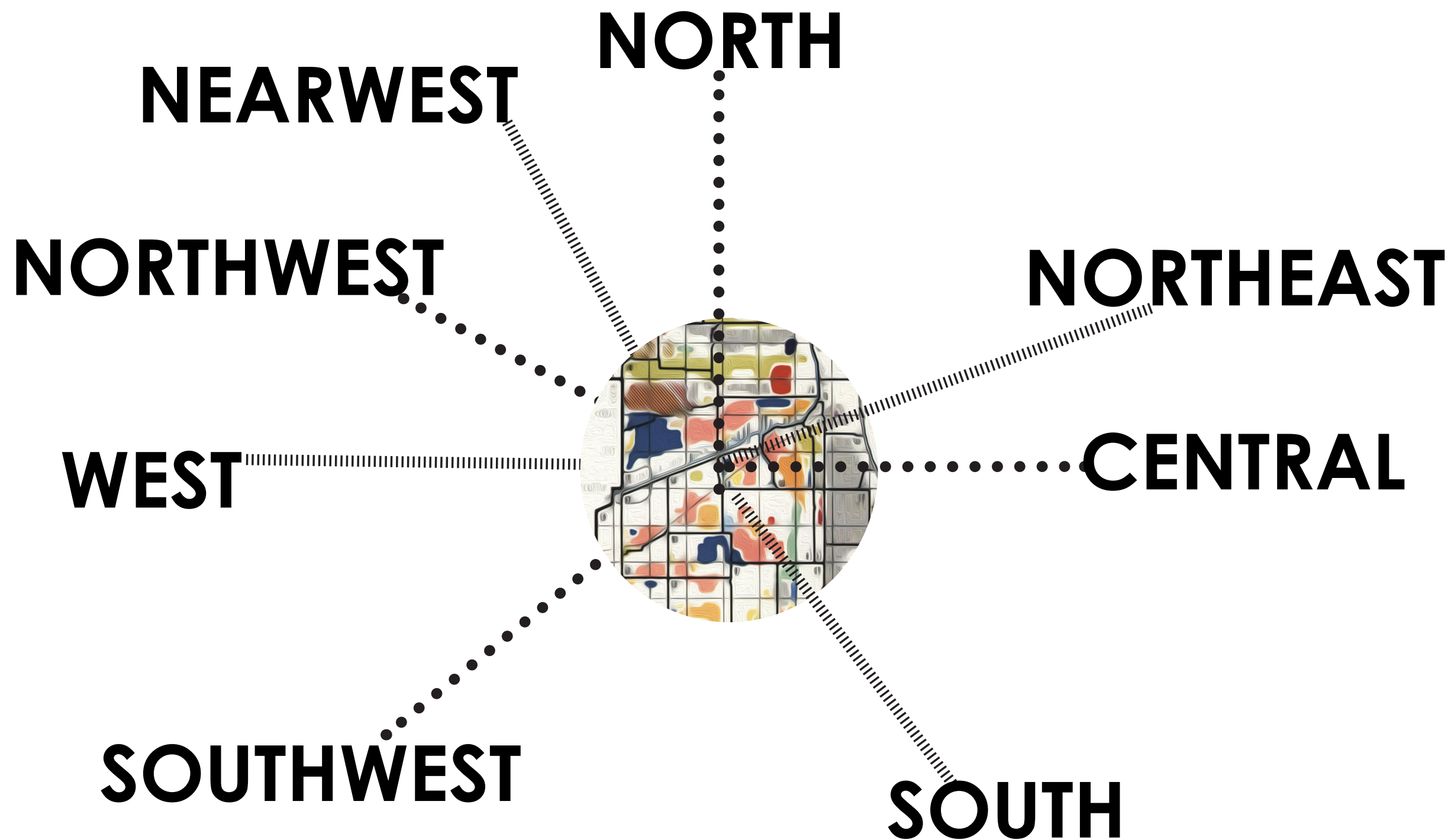
## EXPENSES

Mission Support to ELCA	\$1,450,000
Partner Ministries	\$255,025
Campus Ministry	87000
Seminaries	58000
Lutheran Social Services	58000
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries	14500
Lutheran Volunteer Corps	7250
Bethel New Life	7250
Concordia Place	7250
Holy Family Ministries	7250
Region 5 Assessment	5750
Region 5 Outdoor Camps	825
Illinois Conference of Churches	1950
Global Mission	\$4,475
Companion Synod	4000
Middle East Working Group	475
Justice Team	\$600
Environmental Concerns	\$400
Hunger Action	\$200
Stewardship	\$5,000
Outreach	\$1,200
Worship	\$4,000
Metro Chicago Youth	\$11,000
Candidacy	\$24,000
Education & Support	\$24,000
Professional Leadership	\$3,000
First Call Theological Education	\$8,000
Continuing Education	\$8,000
Anniversary Luncheon	\$3,000
Interim Ministry	\$2,000
Hearing Impaired Ministry	\$9,400
Diakonia Ministry	\$1,200
Ecumenical Relations	\$2,500

## EXPENSES CONTINUED OPERATING BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2021

Synod Communication	\$2,500
Communication Expense	\$2,000
Let's Talk	\$500
African Descent Team	\$10,000
Latinx Team	\$10,000
Anti-Racism Team	\$15,000
Synod Personnel	\$994,555
Bishop & Associates	\$521,540
Support Staff	\$473,015
Occupancy	\$37,750
Electric	11000
Alarm	4000
Water/Sewer	350
Gas	4200
Mainenance and Repair	18200
Office Operations	\$84,900
Telephone	\$10,000
Postage	\$4,500
Equip Leasing	\$24,000
Office Supplies	\$7,000
Computer Exp	\$10,000
Printing	\$1,200
Books/Subs	\$2,200
Cafeteria Supp	\$4,000
Misc Exp	\$1,000
Equip Maint Rep	\$3,000
Plant Maint	\$18,000
Insurance, Audit, & Legal	\$78,500
Insurance Exp	\$26,000
Bank Fees	\$5,000
Audit Exp	\$25,500
Legal Exp	\$20,000
Acctg/Payroll Exp	\$2,000
Staff Expenses	\$29,100
Auto	\$4,500
Mileage	\$12,000
Staff Travel	\$8,000
Food	\$6,000
Seminars-Continuing Education	\$5,000
Phone reimbursement	\$3,600
DEM Expense Grant	-\$10,000
Synod Council	\$8,500
Synod Assembly	\$15,000
Total Expenses	<u>\$3,078,205</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$0</u>





# CENTRAL CONFERENCE

At the 2019 Central Conference meeting during the Synod Assembly, Carla Thompson Powell was elected as a co-dean, serving with Meagan Sherman-Sporrong. We have tried to reach out to a wide variety of leaders within the Central Conference (including lay, rostered ministers, deacons, interns, etc). Since the 2019 assembly, the Central Conference has met several times in person.

Once the Illinois Stay at Home order was enacted in March 2020, we've met via ZOOM monthly (or so) to touch base on congregational concerns and share ideas of how to maintain ministry while staying safe.

At one of our meetings, two Greater Chicago Food Depository supported food pantries connected to Central Conference congregations were identified as needing ongoing volunteers and donations: St. Cyprian's (at United in Faith – in the Dunning neighborhood) and New Hope Food Pantry (at New Hope Methodist, a partner of Diverse United ecumenical congregation – in the Norwood Park area).

In between Central Conference meetings, we have remained in contact through email – sharing information from the metro Chicago synod and/or other community organizations. We have tried to share congregational events through our Central Conference Facebook group, as a way of supporting and encouraging each other's ministries.

Many of our congregations are served by part-time pastors or supply pastors with lay professionals, so we are continually seeking new ways to expand ministry with minimal funding and staff time. Our partnerships together through the Central Conference certainly assist us in creative ministry ideas.

The congregations who have affiliated with the Central Conference are:

- Acacia Park, Norridge
- Bethel (Keeler), Chicago
- Diverse United (Norwood Park), Chicago
- Edgebrook, Chicago
- Edison Park, Chicago
- First Lutheran (Fullerton), Chicago
- Iglesia Luterana de la Trinidad, Chicago
- Martin Luther, Chicago
- Mosaic (formerly Redeemer-North Ave), Chicago
- Purna Jiwan (First Lutheran), Chicago
- St. James (Foster), Chicago
- St. Luke (Logan Square), Chicago
- St. Timothy (Kildare), Chicago
- United in Faith, Chicago
- Wicker Park, Chicago.

Submitted by Pastor Carla Thompson Powell  
(one of the co-deans of the Central Conference,  
serving alongside Pastor Meagan Sherman-Sporrong)

# NEAR WEST CONFERENCE

The Near West Conference includes congregations in the suburbs of DuPage County. It extends from the Chicago City limits on the east to I 355 on the west, the northern boarder of DuPage Country extended east forms the northern boundary, and I 55 forms the southern boundary.

At our annual conference business meeting at the Metro Chicago Synod Assembly in June we were joined by Michael Johnson of Lutheran World Relief (LWR). He discussed LWR's merger with IMA World Health and told us more about how our individual congregations can partner with LWR. At the retirement of long time conference treasurer, Pr. Diane Johnson, instead of moving unused conference funds to another congregation's bank account, the conference voted to donate the entirety of the fund (\$1,295) to LWR. We also elected Pr. Zak Wagner of St. Paul's Villa Park to join Pr. Katie Hines-Shah of Redeemer Lutheran Church Hinsdale as Co-Dean of the conference. Pr. Wagner's term will be from June 2020 to June of 2022 and, according to our bylaws, may be renewed once. Pr. Katie Hines-Shah's second term as Co-Dean ends in June of 2021.

Since Synod Assembly 2019 we have met three times in person.

On October 17th we met at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hinsdale and toured their newly renovated facility. After worship, led by Pr. Katie Hines-Shah, we had time to socialize and talk about how we wanted to meet as a conference.

On November 14th we met at Grace Lutheran Church in La Grange. After Morning Prayer, led by Interim Pastor Betty Landis, we talked about Global Mission efforts within our churches. Grace's community-wide work with Peace in Palestine.

On January 16th we met at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Addison. Pr. JT Miller led us in worship and introduced us to Prince of Peace's outreach work with the LatinX community. We also welcomed Bishop's Associate Pr. Kyle Severson as our MCS liaison.

We had intended to next meet on March 19th at Faith Lutheran in Brookfield where Pr. Will Fisher LPC would be leading us in a discussion of pastoral counseling and healthy boundaries. We were also looking forward to touring the Share Food Love Pantry (one of the most active pantries in the Greater Chicago Food Depository Network). With the onset of COVID-19 and the governor's Safer at Home order, the Near West Conference moved into an online gathering format.

During the beginning days of COVID the Near West Synod started meeting weekly on line to share strategies, learn new information, and pray for one another.

The first of these meetings was March 19th. We were joined by Parish Nurse Ann Gornik who gave us some good physical and mental health tips. Pr. Ben Schloss gave us a crash course in technology for providing online worship. Both are on staff at Grace Lutheran Church La Grange.



# NEAR WEST CONFERENCE REPORT *Continued.*

On March 26th we were joined by synod attorney and Redeemer Hinsdale member Andy Tecson who answered our questions about the Governor's Safer at Home Order. Pr. Dennis Bushkofsky of United Lutheran in Oak Park led us in some early thoughts about celebrating Holy Week in the context of quarantine.

On April 2nd Pr. Tim Johnson from Kairos Christian Resource Development joined us to talk about church finances during uncertain times.

On April 9th we met with MCS representatives. Bishop Curry led our devotions and gave us an opportunity to provide information to Synod Council about our needs during the pandemic. Tom Anderson, Metro Chicago Business Manager, walked us through the CARES ACT and the Paycheck Protection Program. All but one of the congregations represented on the call applied for funds. Bishop's Associate Kyle Severson walked us through the results of the Synod COVID-19 Survey.

On April 16th we just gathered without a formal program simply to check in and pray.

On April 23rd we talked with leaders about serving the neediest during the crisis. We were joined by Du Page PADS leadership where we learned more about how Du Page County is caring for people experiencing homelessness. We were also joined by Stan Cook, Executive Director of HCS Family Services in Hinsdale who filled us in on what food pantries are experiencing and how we can help.

On April 30th Dr. Kimberly Wagner of LTSC joined us to talk about preaching during pandemic and in other crisis moments.

On May 7th Dr. Kurt Hendel of LSTC joined us to teach us about Luther during the time of Pandemic. This was one of our best-attended sessions.

On May 14th we talked about ministry to children and youth. Dawn Rundman of Sparkhouse Publishing joined us to talk about their online offerings. Molly Beck Dean of the ELCA Youth Gathering joined us to talk about youth ministry and to give updates on the 2021 Youth Gathering planned for Minneapolis. We extended our meeting invitation to include all synod youth leaders and had over 25 people on the call.

On May 21st Bishop's Associate Kyle Severson joined us to walk us through MCS Reopening Recommendations and to tell us more about MCS COVID-19 Congregational support. We also learned about the Zoom meeting to talk about the ELCA draft social statement of Government and Civic Engagement and learned from Jeff Nichols about the Synod Working Group on the Middle East.

On May 28th we focused on Global Mission. Pr. Franklin Ishida, Program Director of Asia Pacific with ELCA Global Mission, led us in devotions. We were joined by Pr. Phillip Knutson from South Africa, the ELCA Regional Representative from Southern Africa and also Pr. Carrie Ballenger in Jerusalem, Pastor of the English Speaking Congregation at the Church of the Redeemer.

As summer set in we stopped meeting weekly.

On June 11th we were joined by Jennifer Prinz, Regional Representative for Portico in Region 5, who gave us a presentation entitled "What to pack when you're not going anywhere." We learned about a wide array of Portico benefits available to group members.

On June 25th we were joined by Pr. Rosanne Swenson, formerly of LSTC, who led us in conversation about pastoral care during COVID. We had conversation around funeral practices and our own sense of loss as caregivers.

We have ended up taking an unintentional break during July while our deans, Pr. Katie Hines-Shah and Pr. Zak Wagner, have dealt with needs in their own parishes. We hope to resume meeting on line in August. We have met online thirteen times since COVID began.

Overall we found that meeting online was successful. With the challenge of commuting removed, we found more rostered leaders were able to find time to meet. We also discovered that Zoom meant we were able to get speakers from beyond normal geographic limits. We were also able to share documents and news. These meetings fostered deeper connections between rostered leaders. Emails were shared more frequently and synod connections were strengthened. Even after COVID we think it likely we will continue to use Zoom for regular meetings, meeting in person only occasionally.

We give thanks to God for the many good works accomplished within our conference in this last year and look forward to more opportunities for fellowship and service in 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Pastor Katie Hines-Shah*  
Co-Dean Near West Conference

2019-2020 has been a year of norms and then changes for the North Conference. I was elected to a first term at our gathering last June and have served during the transition to our new Bishop and now into a time of pandemic. Prior to the pandemic we met every 2 months at a local church in Lake county for worship, fellowship, and learning together. We were kindly hosted by our colleagues and found joy in those visits. The Bishop visited our November meeting at St. marks Waukegan and our liaison Pastor Kyle Severson has been a wonderful partner to our group and each of our congregations individually.

As the stay-at-home orders of COVID-19 took shape Pastor Severson gathered our group via zoom in late April and I convened our group in late June via Google Meets. This remote gathering will likely be the norm in the coming months as we will not meet in person to keep each other safe.

Recognizing the greater needs of our neighbors in this time, congregations of our conference have reached out to send extra funds to COOOL Food Pantry (A Lutheran Ministry in lake County) so that more may have enough food to eat in our communities. So too, we are keeping an eye out for ministries that may need a boost as offerings in some places have declined. We're also following the synods guideline for reopening as we deem appropriate in our local contexts. Our lay members are of various minds on the rapidity of reopening.

Since I am in year one of my first term this will not be an election year for our conference. In 2021 there will certainly be a vote for a dean and I pray that this meeting may happen face to face in June instead of remotely in October as our synod will have to gather in this manner on October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020.

I have appreciated your consistent attendance and participation in our gatherings where we regularly have about 15 people who gather. I pray this this level of involvement continues as I believe it adds to our effectiveness as the body of Christ and helps to support our various ministries throughout the county.

Respectfully submitted on 7/6/2020 by  
*Pastor Matthew Smith-Laubenstein,*  
Grace - Libertyville

The Northeast Conference includes 29 congregations located from downtown Chicago to Northbrook, from Lake Michigan to I-294.

At the 2019 Synod Assembly, Northeast Conference voting members gathered for our annual luncheon and meeting. Rev. Craig Mueller, Holy Trinity, Chicago, facilitated small group discussions about the election of our new bishop, giving attention to the responsibilities of the office of bishop, the challenges our synod faces, and the attributes most desirable in our next bishop.

At our meeting, the conference re-elected Nicholas Zook (urban male clergy) to a two-year term as co-dean of the Northeast Conference.

Congregations were invited to sign up as conference hosts and/or suggest presentation topics for the upcoming year.

In this past year, Northeast Conference rostered leaders (clergy, associates in ministry, diaconal ministers, and deaconesses) continued to meet the last Wednesday of the month with a new schedule: 10-10:30am gathering/refreshments by host congregation; 10:30am-11am worship led by host congregation; and 11-noon program.

In September, we met at St. Luke Ministries, Chicago (program: collegial conversation; Rev. Steve Bouman presented on St. Luke Ministries); in October, we met at Resurrection Lutheran, Chicago (program: JoAnn Otte, We Raise Foundation; introduction of Rev. Sunitha Mortha, Associate to the Bishop); in December, we met at Holy Trinity,

Glenview (program: a conversation with Bishop Yehiel Curry ); in January, we met at First Immanuel Lutheran, Chicago (program: Rev. Harry Therwanger presented on First Immanuel; introduction of Rev. Robert Biekman, Director of Evangelical Mission); in February, we did not meet because of Ash Wednesday; because of the pandemic, there were no meetings in March through May. On June 24th, there was a conference Zoom call facilitated by Rev. Nicholas Zook to discuss how congregations were considering resuming in-person worship and other events.

The Northeast Conference does not meet over the summer months.

During our rescheduled Synod Assembly on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, we hope to have our annual conference meeting where both rostered leaders and lay voting members meet to conduct conference business. This year, the conference will elect new co-deans. Rev. Deanna Langle completed her second term in June 2020, and Rev. Nicholas Zook is resigning one year early from his fourth term. The practice for elections in this conference has been to have one male and one female in each role but that limits the pool of candidates for suburban or urban, dependent on who serves in the non-election position. We want to reopen this practice for discussion by the conference and reset the options with both positions open. (Please review Section 12 of the Synod Constitution regarding conferences/deans.)

Report submitted by  
*Deanna Langle and Nicholas Zook (Co-Deans)*



# NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

The Northwest Conference consists of a wide variety of suburban communities and congregations represented throughout the conference, as well as a variety of types of rostered leaders – both deacons and pastors, those serving congregations as well as other settings, retired leaders and those on leave from call.

The conference did not meet regularly this year. We did, however, have a well-attended Zoom meeting with Bishop Curry in April to discuss our congregational responses to the pandemic.

Prior to the pandemic, the congregations around Mount Prospect (St. Mark, Grace, and Martha and Mary in MP, Trinity in Des Plaines, Trinity in Rolling Meadows, and Lutheran Church of the Cross in Arlington Heights) began some lay-led conversation about ways that they can cooperate and work together. A progressive dinner for members of these Northwest Roundtable congregations was held in November and hosted by Church of the Cross, St. Mark, and Martha and Mary.

We have seen a number of changes in the Conference. Living Christ in Hanover Park did close in May 2019. Rev. Linda Thurston left Christus Victor in August and began a ¾ time call at Trinity in Des Plaines in October. Rev. Jessica Harren was called ½ time by Martha and Mary and began serving in February. Rev. Jeff Mikyska left his call at Holy Trinity, Elgin at the end of April and began a new call outside the conference at Bethany in Batavia in May.

Trinity in Rolling Meadows continues to be in transition. Interim Pastor Carole Willer left in October and was replaced by Rev. John Hildner who served as Interim from October 2019- June 2020. Rev. David Beese began serving as Interim at Good Shepherd in Prospect Heights in September 2109. Lutheran Church of the Cross also remains without a called pastor.

It has been a privilege to serve as Dean of the Northwest Conference, getting to know the congregations and the leaders of the Northwest Conference as well as the other deans and synod staff.

Peace,

*Rev. Linda Thurston, Pastor*  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Des Plaines  
Dean, Northwest Conference,  
Metro Chicago Synod

# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE

The Southwest Conference of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod has continued to meet regularly over the past year. We continue to have ordained clergy and lay leadership involved in our meetings. Given the current pandemic’s physical distancing requirements, we have moved to a virtual format. We held weekly check-ins during the first two months of the stay-at-home orders to support one another in adjusting to worship-at-home formats, too.

We have begun to imagine a new mission community in our conference territory. We are collectively dismayed by the mainline Protestant Christian trend of decline in the southwest suburbs of Chicago and are seeking to remedy this. We think the area is ripe for a new community plant. We have invited the synod’s DEM, Rev. Robert Biekman, to provide guidance. At this point, we are in the early stages of vision casting.

## We welcomed

- Rev. Jason Anderson (Trinity Oak Lawn)
- Rev. Matt Holmes (Mount Zion Oak Lawn)
- Rev. Llewellyn Dixon (Jubilee)
- Ministers Lashonda Curry (Shekinah Chapel)
- Jason Williams (Shekinah Chapel)

We have been blessed by Rev. Kathy Nolte’s leadership as our synodical relator.



# WEST CONFERENCE

The past year has seen numerous transitions in the West Conference. Some long-term pastorates ended as our colleagues retired and new calls have been extended. Some congregations have moved to part time calls- other colleagues moved into new roles at the same congregation.

BOTH the deans for the conference have ended their terms of faithful service; Rev. Josh Ebener to join Synod staff and Rev. Lisa Watson Hill due to changes in her call.

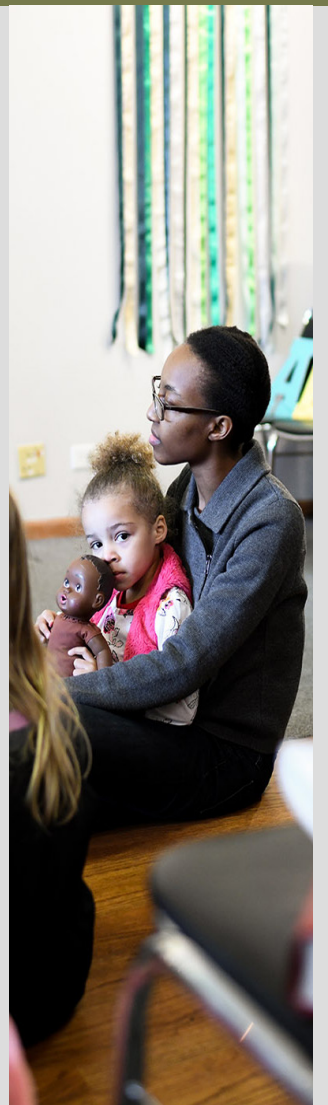
ALL of us are trying to figure out how to faithfully adapt to the changes required by a pandemic and by our growing awareness of the depth of injustice for people of color in our communities and country.

The Gospel doesn't change, but it speaks clearly in changing times; reminding us of our unique and essential call to proclaim this Good News, even and especially when we don't immediately receive it as such.

Through it all, we met monthly in person for several months before switching to ZOOM and then, consumed with Zoom-fatigue, we are taking a break.

With gratitude and grace,

In Christ,  
*Rev. Trudy A Stoffel , pastor, Geneva Lutheran*



*St. Luke's Lutheran  
1.19.2020  
Photo By Nancy Villadolid*





# AFRICAN DESCENT LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION

## METRO CHICAGO SYNOD CHAPTER REPORT - 2019-20

### Who We Are?

The Metro Chicago - African Descent Lutheran Association (ADLA) is a local chapter of the national African Descent Lutheran Association which is an ethnic specific ministry within the ELCA.

ADLA is a network of African descent people within the ELCA, spanning across the United States, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands.

The term "African descent" refers to people who self-identify as Black, African Caribbean, African American, African Nationals and others of African ancestry from numerous countries who now live in the United States.

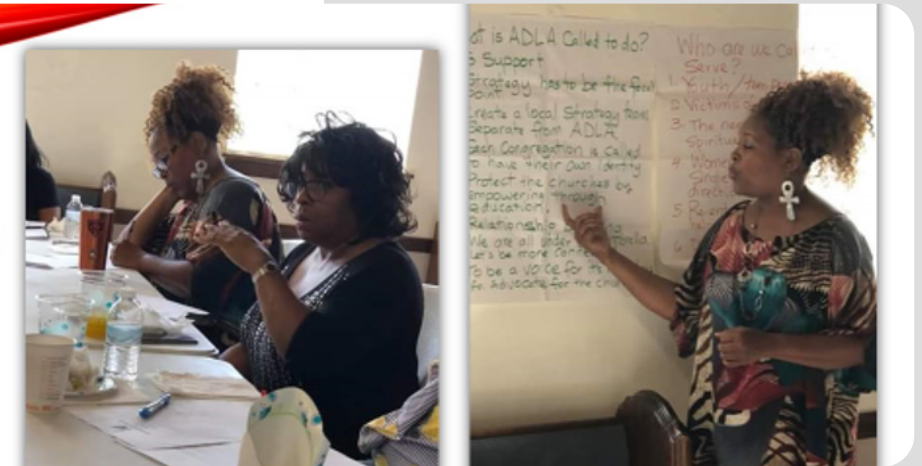
### Current Executive Board

**LaShonda Curry (President), Sharie Green (Vice President), Natasha Gaines (Recording Secretary), Nicolette Faison (Corresponding Secretary), Fred Gittens (Treasurer).**

### ADLA Meetings

Meetings are held every other month on the first Saturday at one of the local congregations. Agendas are usually business and priority driven, however in the past ADLA has opened the agenda to include presenters, such as community organizers and we are seeking to create space on future agendas for the voices of youth, advocacy, seminarians, etc.

ADLA MEETINGS IN  
COMMUNITY  
Who Are We &  
Who Are We  
Called To Serve?



ADLA Monthly Meeting

### Priorities

Issues such as church decline, community outreach, candidacy and call, youth representation and participation all effect congregations of African Descent within the Metro Chicago Synod.

The African Descent Lutheran Association – Chicago Chapter has been working diligently to identify problems and solutions that impact the churches of African Descent within the Metro Chicago Synod. As a result, we have identified 3 priorities for the 2019-20 year.

#### The priorities are as follows:

##### 1.Vitality

Coordinate and collaborate with congregations to engage in evangelism-outreach within local context.

##### 2.Advocacy

Creating a safe space for healing among and within congregations of African Descent and communities of color.

### 3.Awareness

Sharing our faith and space with ALL to listen, learn and affirm marginalized communities.

### Past & Current Engagement

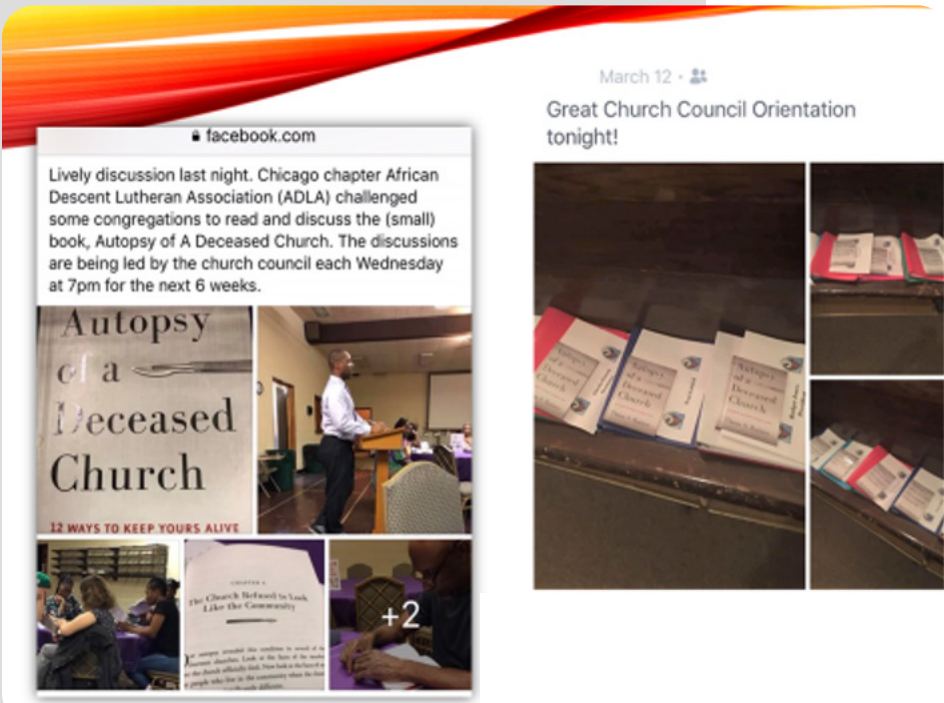
#### Healing Series 2020

ADLA in collaboration with Metro-Chicago Synod, Another Pebble and the Latinx and African American strategy teams hosted Breathe I: A Space to Reflect, Restore and Respond to the killing of George Floyd. In July, Breathe II: Checking Vital Signs was hosted in response to the health care disparities in the African American community amid the COVID-19 crisis. ADLA looks forward to continuing the Breathe series with the intent of providing a shared space for healing, learning, and discussing issues that impact communities of African Descent.



**LSTC Black History Month 2020**

ADLA supported the efforts of LSTC seminarians organizing activities in honor of Black History and Culture with a \$680.00 donation to help offset some the expenses associated with events (see flyer below). ADLA hopes to continue the work of building a relationship with LSTC and its seminarians of African Descent.



**LAY LEADERS FACILITATE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT CHURCH DECLINE & VITALITY USING THE TEXT, AUTOPSY OF A DECREASED CHURCH.**

**Evangelism-Outreach Initiative 2018-20**

In 2018, ADLA Chicago Chapter secured a grant through the Metro Chicago Synod to support its efforts to address church decline and community outreach. As a result, ADLA was able to identify facilitators and a consultant to assist congregations of African Descent who opted to evaluate their ministry outreach and evangelism strategies. Pastor Jeff Linman introduced ADLA congregations to the text, Autopsy of a Deceased Church. Through this text, church councils and leaders were able to examine

their church’s state of vitality. (See photos of Bible Study and Council Meetings)

ADLA membership voted to extend our efforts beyond our individual church walls to engage in a collective work that assesses and evaluates our church practices around community outreach and evangelism. One of the intended outcomes of this engagement is to strengthen the relationship between congregations and community thereby meeting the needs of our neighbors (community) and increasing church membership. In addition, we hope to address issues that indirectly impact community engagement and membership such as church organizational structure and leadership.

Five congregations originally opted to engage in the work toward assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of community outreach and evangelism. However, only 3 of the 5 advanced to Phase 2 of the project. Our intended goal was to complete the process by September of 2020. Congregations were scheduled to advance to the final phase of the initiative when COVID-19 struck America. Since the mandated shelter in place order, all work with the initiative has paused. We hope to resume this great work post the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Holy week 2019-20**

ADLA Chicago Chapter collaborated with congregations to organize and execute holy week services including Revival, Seder Meal, and Last Seven Words. Attendance was great and the week’s events help unite us in body and spirit. Congregations were able to worship and fellowship in community with one another. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, all ADLA sponsored 2020 Holy Week services were cancelled.





**Metro Chicago Synod Assembly 2019**

ADLA participated in the Mission Moment segment of the Synod Assembly to create awareness of the organization’s mission and vision, as well local priorities. In addition to the Mission Moment, ADLA sponsored a workshop series. The workshop, Mon-Advocacy, was facilitated by Creator and Corresponding Secretary, Nicolette Faison. Mon-Advocacy, not to be confused with Monopoly, is a multilayer simulation game used to acknowledge the intersections of racial injustice and systematic oppression commonly found in urban settings. ADLA looks forward to supporting the work of Mon-Advocacy through awareness and opportunity.

**Future Engagement**

As the ADLA - Metro Chicago Synod Chapter forges forward, we will strive to be more intentional about addressing issues that impact AD congregations. Issues like, candidacy and call, church vitality, and advocacy for those marginalized.

As we move forward, we envision creating a space where all people and voices are welcome. Where membership is young and older, clergy and lay, heterosexual and homosexual, metro Chicago and neighboring suburban communities.

**Outreach Day**

ADLA will collaborate with congregations to organize and host a day of outreach aimed at engaging our neighbors, community, and youth. Congregations will utilize this opportunity of community engagement to evangelize (share Christ) with our brothers and sisters.

**Advocacy**

As we address issues around candidacy and call, it’s imperative that ADLA supports and advocates for seminarians of African Descent. Our intent is to collaborate with LSTC and the Metro Chicago Synod to identify viable ways to engage, support and be in community with our seminarians.

**Membership 2019-20**

We have brainstormed methods for increasing awareness and membership throughout the Metro Chicago Synod. This is an area of continuous improvement. Our membership goal is 30+ dues paid members. We will achieve this goal through strategic communication of the organization’s goals and local priorities to seminarians and congregations of African Descent throughout the synod, not just within Chicago.

*Persons seeking membership can send an email requesting a membership application to:*

**adlametrochicago@gmail.com**



*ADLA Retreat Winter 2018*



**ADLA sponsors MonAdvocacy workshop at Synod Assembly 2019**

*Metro Chicago Synod Assembly 2019*



**ADLA RETREAT**

**TABLE DISCUSSION**  
**The State of Your Congregation**  
Describe your church:  
Growing / Plateaued / Declining?  
If declining, what is the cause?  
What do you think will turn things around?  
Do you have a strategy for dealing with it?





## ANOTHER PEBBLE?

Established in 2001, Another Pebble is the antiracism team of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. The Team is engaged in an intentional, ongoing effort to provide tools that will assist the Church to fulfill its vision of becoming antiracist.

Our primary focus is on shaping awareness of how racism manifests itself in our Church and society; to assist individuals as they begin to understand and accept a common analysis of institutional racism and its destructive effects in our lives.

This common understanding enables us to identify and confront the systems and structures that continue to perpetuate, support and enable the racial construct in our country.

“All of our work is conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect, caring and safety, and is not based on confrontation, guilt or judgment.”

## Our Mission

Called and compelled by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA publicly commits to intentionally transforming into a synod actively engaged in dismantling racism in its institutions, governing documents, congregations and wider community through shared antiracist power and accountability, transparency in all decision making and delight in all traditions, languages and cultures as we carry on a faith of welcome, justice, hope and joy.

## Our Work

Another Pebble supports Metropolitan Chicago Synod congregations and institutions to move beyond thinking about personal prejudice towards identification and eradication of the specific barriers that inhibit more equitable practices, policies, programs, procedures and distribution of resources.

This important and transformative work, part of the national and global movement for racial justice, manifests through multiple expressions.

## Analysis & Advocacy

We work with Synod staff and lay leadership from across our synod on ways to advocate for a more anti-racist Church and community. We begin with analysis:

- What are the roots that perpetuate structural racism within our Synod? Within our Community?
- Who are the key stakeholders in this mission field?
- How do we develop commitment to dismantle institutional racism and to establish an antiracist purpose within our synod’s mission statements and governing documents? At all levels.

## Learning

Our ministry team offers multiple learning opportunities to our Synod throughout the year enabling systemic analysis of racism and its many manifestations. We seek to engender a “conversation” regarding the state of race and racism in our Church and society.



- This year we have added Zoom events to our portfolio of offerings. This has enabled participation from people who are otherwise unable to participate in the work.
- In collaboration with Chicago Regional Organizing for Antiracism (CROAR}, we provide workshops as one of our tools for gaining a common understanding of systemic racism and a shared language so that we can intentionally dis- mantle the structures of privilege and replace them with just and equitable practices. This partnership allows Synod members to attend these trainings at significantly reduced rates.
- To date, hundreds of people, representing congregations from across the Syn- od have participated in a workshop or event.
- Finally, our team pursues continuing education opportunities throughout the year to learn new approaches to this work and to refine our existing skillset & toolkit.

## Congregations

Another Pebble is in a multi-year covenantal relationship with several local congre- gations (Good Shepherd, Oak Park; Holy Trinity, Chicago; Wicker Park, Chicago and St Luke's of Logan Square, Chicago}. These partnerships, along with periodic consul- tations with other congregations, assist us as we jointly work to live into an antiracist identity.



*Skipping Stones An Antiracism Encounter  
2/08/2020 Photos by: Nancy Valladolid*

Together we are:

- determining what type of community each congregation is trying to create; and why?
- deciding on the best approach to antiracism work in their particular setting
- working to understand racism in Church and community
- sharing stories, testimony and resources
- working with other congregations and ecumenical partners on the same journey

## Partnerships

Another Pebble maintains several partnerships that enable us to do this work.

- We are partnering with the ELCA Office of Racial Justice to facilitate train the trainer events on the use of the Transforming White Privilege curriculum. Several of our team members have already been trained on this material.
- We continue our long-term partnership with the Antiracism Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. We frequently collaborate on train-the-trainer events as well as sharing resources, learnings and tools discovered on our mutual journeys towards an antiracist future.

- Our team is working with CROAR and the Antiracism Commission of the Epis- copal Diocese of Chicago on approaches to doing antiracism work in congre- gational settings.



Do the best you can  
until you know better.  
Then when you know  
better, do better.

- Maya Angelou

## CANDIDACY COMMITTEE REPORT

*Deacon Pam Shearman, Chair*

The Metropolitan Chicago Candidacy Committee is committed to the process of mutual discernment of call for our Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service. We are so appreciative of all those who raise up and spiritually form the future rostered leaders of our church: pastors, congregations; seminaries; Clinical Pastor Education (CPE) sites; and contextual ministry sites. These are leaders of whom it's written, "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Is. 6:8).

We are a broadly based Committee made up of 21 lay and rostered members of this synod in collaboration with Bishop Curry and Pastor Kyle Severson, Associate to the Bishop, Pastor Ramie Bakken, Candidacy and Leadership Manager for Region 5, and our ELCA seminaries. This sacred work builds on those who have gone before us, so we give thanks in profound gratitude to those whose term of service has ended: Pastor Sarah Stumme, Pastor Dave Kylo, Ruth Reko, and Scott Shippy.

As the Body of Christ, we must follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in working justly and in a spirit of Christian liberty. We have added eight new leaders to the committee, intentionally seeking out ever broader and more inclusive participation in this holy work. We have improved our welcome and application process, de-mystifying our practices and processes for new candidates and applicants. The 2020 revision of the candidacy manual, including use of *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*, was adopted to advance our commitment to treat all candidates and applicants equitably (see resources at <https://elca.org/Resources/Candidacy>).

Along with all other ministries of the ELCA, we were challenged to respond quickly and innovatively with migration to remote platforms in response to the coronavirus pandemic. We thank all involved for their patience and willingness to continue to advance the work of Christ's church during this unprecedented time.

Looking forward we humbly recognize the need for our own ongoing formation so that as a Committee we are intentional about respecting the dignity and calling of each candidate in this synod. We are committed to providing the Committee with ongoing learning opportunities and being mutually accountable for raising up called, Spirit-filled, and sustainable leaders for our ministries. In these changing times we are continually asking how we can better accompany our future leaders and strengthen relationships between the Committee, relators, and the candidates.

We are eternally grateful for the support of all our congregations in the discernment and formation of our future rostered leaders. We currently have 7 applicants who will sit for entrance in fall 2020, 25 entranced candidates, and 24 endorsed candidates at the midpoint of their programs. In the past year, 9 candidates were approved as rostered leaders in our synod. Among those numbers, we have 8 candidates being formed for ministry through the TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) process. We give thanks to God for all those who have chosen to follow this path of service for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please pray for all of our applicants and candidates. Please pray that we will all receive the gift of holy imagination to co-create the spaces and ministries where these called leaders can serve. As we continue to discern our baptismal calls, please remember the resources "Called to Lead" and "Llamado a Ser Líder" available at [elca.org/resources/candidacy](https://elca.org/resources/candidacy) to use with all those for whom you think might be gifted to serve this church.

Respectfully submitted,

*Deacon Pam Shearman, Chair*



## LUTHERAN DEAF MINISTRY REPORT

*Co-Chairs  
Robert Radtke and Bonnie Osborne*

**Once again, 2019 brought new challenges to continuing MCS's Lutheran Deaf Ministry (LDM).** After trying unsuccessfully to find another pastor near enough to us to continue ASL Worship, and thanks to the continued generosity of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Downers Grove, who have provided weekly interpreted worship services for 20+ years for their Deaf/hard-of-hearing members, we moved to one monthly interpreted worship service at Gloria Dei followed by a lay-led worship/Bible Study in their Chapel.

Prince of Peace, Schaumburg, interprets worship twice monthly, so we now alternate interpreted worship with their hearing congregation followed by worship/Bible Study there once every other month. One of our Deaf members first signs the Gospel story in ASL and then a hard-of-hearing member, who signs, follows with a Bible Study based on the Gospel. These Bible Studies have been well received, and we have some great discussions. We also have one Deaf member at St. Stephen's, Midlothian. Her pastor provides her with a printed copy of his sermon along with the printed bulletin to assist her with worship.

Beginning in December 2018, we flew Deacon Dorothy Sparks from Bread of Life Deaf Church in Minneapolis, MN, to do an ASL Christmas worship, which was GREAT! Everyone loved her. Bishop Wayne Miller gave her permission to give us Communion so finally, we were able to provide an entire worship service in ASL again. We planned to have her join us for an Easter service in March; however, she got snowed in at the airport, and we had to scramble to cancel all the arrangements we had made. She was finally able to join us in April and once again, we had a wonderful experience. She returned in June, September, and December and each time the Deaf come from a variety of locations to worship with her. ASL is very much a visual experience and watching our hymns done in ASL with no musical accompaniment is truly amazing.

Pastor Dayton also continues with us in a limited capacity by providing monthly Communion to our shut-ins and also will provide any emergency services, hospital calls, funerals, etc.

Our biggest challenge is the fact that Deaf and hard-of-hearing are scattered all across the Metro Chicago Synod and finding one site to accommodate them is virtually impossible. Their financial resources also may require public transportation to get to our worship sites. PACE service is almost non-existent on a Sunday and going across different suburbs entails transferring to a different PACE bus. Trains have limited service out to the suburbs on Sundays also.

Thanks to a new Deaf member who works in IT, we now have a LDM Facebook page, which is linked to both Gloria Dei and Prince of Peace. We try to keep our worship services posted there along with other Deaf events and are hoping to draw new members to one of these two sites.

In spite of these challenges, the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community is exceptionally resilient and will follow a Deaf Pastor anywhere he or she is called to hear the Word of God in their own language. So we remain grateful that Metro Chicago Synod continues to support this ministry.

We tried to connect ecumenically with our partners in ministry to establish an ecumenical Deaf ministry; however, we have learned that they are having the same problems as we have

had in connecting with Deaf and hard-of-hearing members as well as finding a centrally-located site. We still hope that we will be able to have a joint worship experience with our partners, even if it is only once a year.

We also participate in the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association, the national organization of the ELCA that works with Deaf and hard-of-hearing congregations across the U.S. A portion of our budget goes to help them with their work. This past year a contingency of Deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing traveled to Africa to work with a Deaf congregation there and had a wonderful experience. We also sent an offering to Africa to assist a young Deaf boy so that he could go to school with an interpreter.

## Can you or your congregation help?

If your congregation has a Deaf or hard-of-hearing member and no interpreted worship, please contact one of the Co-Chairs below.

*If you know a Deaf or hard-of-hearing person, let them know about our services, or get their email and contact us.*

You might also work with your Worship Committee and consider providing assisted listening devices for your congregation. With today’s smart technology and advances in hearing aids, this community finally has opportunities to connect with the hearing community that were never before possible. Gloria Dei also uses huge screens to project their services to make it easier for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing to follow worship. We can offer suggestions to work with your members so their worship experience is enhanced.

Prince of Peace has recently installed a “loop” system in their sanctuary, which taps right into a person’s hearing aid so there is no need for an assisted listening device. The quality of worship for those of us with hearing problems is just amazing. If you are interested, contact Bonnie Osborne and she will connect you with people who can give you more information.

If you provide interpreted worship services, please let us know as we are trying to establish a list of interpreted worship sites to share with others.

If you are looking for financial opportunities to assist outside ministries, please consider a donation to the MCS designated for Lutheran Deaf Ministry.

And, please, continue to pray for this community and LDM as we continue to provide an opportunity to “hear” God’s Word through American Sign Language.

With Thanksgiving,

*Robert Radtke*

*Bonnie Osborne*

Co-Chairs – Lutheran Deaf Ministry



## REPORT OF THE ECUMENICAL OFFICER

*Rev. Brian Wise*

“As is all of the ELCA, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod is committed to fostering unity between the children of God for the sake of the world.

We encourage the activity of ecumenical life in our congregations and communities, and work to enhance the public commitments of this church in Lutheran, ecumenical, and interfaith discussions.”

- Synod website

**I am very thankful for the opportunity** to continue to serve on behalf of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod as the Ecumenical Officer. Many thanks also to Bishop Yehiel Curry who is the Chief Ecumenical Officer of the Synod and who provides a respected presence among Christian, Jewish, Muslim and other Religious Leaders of the Greater Chicago area.

My primary contacts with our Ecumenical partners come through participation in the following groups:

### **Ecumenism Metro Chicago**

Seeks to engage all the baptized, their communions and extended ministries in Chi-cagoland in living together with prayer, action and a coordinated voice that respects distinctions among traditions and extends God’s love through Christ and the Holy Spirit, for all the world. I am currently serving as Chair for Ecumenism Metro Chicago and working with local leaders to plan future gatherings in the Chicagoland area.

Since its creation in 1998 Ecumenism Metro Chicago (EMC), a representative group drawn from our respective Christian judicatories and organizations, has gathered regularly to pray, study, worship, and share fellowship – all with the goal of promoting Christian unity in our dynamic city and its suburbs. Christ’s prayer at the last supper was that we all might be one: That has been our focus and our mission.

In our interactions with one another and our various parishes and congregations in Chicagoland, the topic of creation care has been lifted up frequently as something EMC should pray about together and we have. EMC has now formed a Subgroup called “Chicagoland Christians United for the Care of Creation” (4C), and originally we had plans to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, which was canceled due COVID-19. At this time, we are planning an online celebration of the Season of Crea-tion in September and October of 2020.

We believe Christians cannot ignore that poor stewardship of God’s Creation contrib-utes to harming the common good. Our coming together to care for our common home is a sacred expression of our ecumenical communion and of our responsibility for protecting those most impacted by climate degradation. This has become a topic of unity for our group and I hope to share more opportunities for your congregation to pray, offer educational opportunities, and become involved in this movement in the coming year.

Illinois Conference of Churches

Seeks to be an inclusive community of churches that celebrates and makes visible our sacred bonds of unity in Christ. We will do this by:

- Promoting an honest sharing and understanding of both our common and divergent theological convictions; and
- Making public, prophetic witness to Christ’s love for all people, particularly by addressing poverty and racism.

Lutheran Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Representatives Network (LEIRN)

LEIRN is a network of volunteers who represent the 65 synods of the ELCA. Each volunteer in the network is appointed by their local Bishop and serves at the Bishop’s request. LEIRN representatives serve as a model for ecumenical and inter-religious endeavors of the life of the synod, as well as an agent for their respective Bishop on behalf of the quest for Christian unity and inter-religious awareness in the life of the ELCA.

This Year’s LEIRN Gathering was supposed to be held in Houston TX, but was canceled due to COVID-19. This was my final year serving on the Executive Board for LEIRN, after serving for 6 years, and I look forward to continuing to represent our Synod at future gatherings.

Join the Ecumenical and Interfaith Dialogue!

Dialogue between other Christians and people of other religions matter more now than ever. The Metro Chicago Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are committed to standing Shoulder to Shoulder with all people, even if they worship differently than we do. I would love to attend and support any local conversations that you are hosting and provide any dialogue materials from Metro Chicago and the ELCA, if possible.

The Most important thing that we can be doing is share our stories of cooperation with other Christians and people from other faith communities in your neighborhood.

This last year, I had the honor of being a guest speaker at a board meeting for the American Jewish Committee’s Chicago office. Bishop Curry has also continued dialogue with many friends of other faith, and I look forward to serving and representing Lutheran voices wherever needed.



Thank you to Bishop Curry

On behalf of our Ecumenical and Inter-religious friends in the Chicagoland area, we have been happy to welcome and work with Bishop Curry during his first year as a newly elected Bishop. I was so moved during Bishop Curry’s installation, to see so many ecumenical and interfaith friends present, and have the honor to share greetings. It’s a sign that so many around us are committed to building relationships and continuing friendships with ELCA Lutherans.

*The Metro Chicago Synod has such a rich history of partnerships with our Ecumenical and Interfaith friends and I look forward to continuing this work.*

*We are constantly looking for more people to get involved, so please feel free to contact me at:*

**[pastorbrian@oursaviours.com](mailto:pastorbrian@oursaviours.com)**  
*if you are interested in connecting.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Rev. Brian Wise*  
Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, Naperville IL





## CHICAGO YMNET REPORT



**Youth Ministry in the Chicago synod** is an exciting thing, and we have spent time in conversation about our direction and our growth. We are excited to work with Bishop Curry in broadening the reach of this group. This year has brought many new things - from a new synod staff support person - Rev. Sunitha Mortha, to discussion of growth, change, and imagining.

This year we hosted two retreats at Lutherdale and our annual lock-in at Enchanted Castle. We met regularly to support one another and share resources. We continually look for opportunities to reach more youth ministers in the synod. If your congregation has a youth leader who is not connected with our network, please consider connecting them with us. We can be reached through the synod office or by emailing [elcachicagoyynet@gmail.com](mailto:elcachicagoyynet@gmail.com).

The 8th annual Chicago Confirmation Retreat was in fact two separate weekends of retreat. With an increasing number of participants, we've been looking for more options that would accommodate all of our youth in one weekend retreat. Leading up to our stay at home order in the spring, we had begun making plans for 2021. As we move into this new world, we pray that we can continue to serve the youth of the Metro Chicago Synod in safe and spirit led ways.

Bishop Curry has shared with us his plans of a synod youth gathering, and we look forward to hearing more about his plans and vision.

Also, in the midst of the pandemic, news that the ELCA Youth Gathering, originally scheduled to be held next summer has been rescheduled to July 2022. We are grateful for our Gathering Synod Coordinator, Tracy Katschke, and hold all

of the Gathering staff and volunteers in prayers as they make decisions about the future. For more information, or for questions about the Gathering, check out the website: [www.elca.org/youthgathering](http://www.elca.org/youthgathering).

We pray that the youth and ministers or our synod stay healthy and safe in the uncharted territory. As we begin to imagine new ways of ministering and being church, we look forward to continuing to serve those who minister to youth in our synod.

As always, the network is looking for leaders. If you are interested in meeting and resource sharing with youthdirectors, or are interested in helping to lead an event, please email Lauren Busey at [elcachicagoyynet@gmail.com](mailto:elcachicagoyynet@gmail.com)

The Chicago YMNet – Adult Leaders Facebook page is the encouraged place to advertise for others to join in local youth worker get-togethers, and will continue to be the primary forum for MCS adults to share and expand on ideas for youth ministry in the synod. Thank you for your ongoing support of youth ministry in the Metro Chicago Synod!

Respectfully submitted,  
*The Chicago YMNet Leadership Team*



## MISSION INTERPRETER COORDINATOR REPORT

*Ken Olson, Ph.D., PAS*

## WE DECLARE GOD'S WORK

Mission Interpreters (MI's) are storytellers for the Church in all its expressions. We have the pleasure of telling the great stories and sharing the good news with others of how we are doing "God's Work. Our Hands." in our communities, our Synod, the nation and the world. Our church, through its three expressions and in conjunction with our many partners around the world, does so many wonderful things that we have a wealth of inspiring stories to share. While COVID19, the economic downturn, racism and other societal issues have presented challenges, Metro Chicago Synod Mission Interpreters are passionate about sharing the good news and will continue to seek new ways to do so, in our congregations and to wider audiences where possible.

One of the important tasks of a MI is to say "Thank You" to those in our faith communities for what they do as a part of the church, so I would be remiss if I did not extend a big "Thank You" to all of our MI's in the Metro Chicago Synod for the great job that they do of "Declaring God's Work".

COVID19 and prior to that a personal loss has impacted outreach efforts relative to Mission Interpretation during the year. My wife Barb was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in September and passed away in December. She was my partner in life as well as in Mission Interpretation so I give thanks for all we shared as I adjust to a new reality. Through the challenges we have shared information about the MI's, who we are and what we do in a variety of ways. In addition to the Mission Moments and display at last year's Synod Assembly we made congregational presentations, had a display at the 2019 Synodical Women's Organization annual meeting and will be present virtually at this year's meeting. Also, please remember that I am available to meet with your congregation virtually or in person when that option returns, so please contact me if interested.

Our "Mission Memo" continues to serve as a resource for MI's, many others in the synod and an expanding network of MI's in other synods. By the time of the Virtual Assembly we will have distributed about 500 issues of the "Memo". We continue to use our presence on the web as another outreach tool. We appreciate the great work that Rev. Tom Gaulke now does with the MI area on [www.mcselca.org](http://www.mcselca.org). This provides us with a strong presence on the web that we complement with a social media presence through our Facebook page "Mission Interpreters – MCS". You can reach us through the link from our web area or just by searching for us on Facebook. We invite you to "Like" us and become active users of the page.

Again a special "Thank You" to all MI's in the synod. We appreciate the work you do in sharing the good news with others. We have over 50 MI's in over 30 congregations across the Synod. While circumstances this year did not allow new MI orientation we look forward to finding ways to do this and resume work toward a goal of having at least one MI in each congregation...two or three is even better. This means there are opportunities for many more "storytellers" to join in this exciting work. We invite you to check us out on the web, check us out on Facebook, or invite us in for a conversation on how to be part of the team. All are welcome, no experience required.

*Ken Olson, Ph.D., PAS,*

Mission Interpreter Coordinator- [MIC@mcselca.org](mailto:MIC@mcselca.org)





# WORKING GROUP

*on the* **MIDDLE EAST**

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
‘May those who love you be secure.  
May there be peace within your walls  
and security within your citadels.’  
For the sake of my family and friends,  
I will say, ‘Peace be within you.’  
For the sake of the house of the Lord our  
God, I will seek your prosperity.”

—Psalm 122:6-9 NIV

**The Working Group has had an active year** in its mission for the synod. Information table at the 2019 Metropolitan Chicago Assembly featuring educational materials for assembly participants.

February 29 a Palestinian Fair was held at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights. Speakers included Bishop Yehiel Curry, Imam Hafez Shahin, Carol and Kate Jacklin, and Dr. John Kahler of MedGlobal. Films were screened. A Middle Eastern lunch from Falafelji, Lyons, was served and booths featuring olive oil, olive wood sculptures, and Palestinian needlework were featured and clothing sewn by Palestnian women. The Chicago Ramallah Club Palestinian dance group performed. Resource tables from the American Friends Service Committee, Jewish Voice for Peace and Bright Stars of Bethlehem were featured. The day ended with Bishop Curry leading prayers for peace and justice in the Middle East.

May 28, we hosted a hearing via Zoom on the ELCA draft Social Message on Government and Civic Engagement. Rev. Dr. Roger Willer, PhD, the Director for Theological Ethics, of the Churchwide office moderated the hearing. Bishop Yehiel Curry lead the opening prayer and introduction. The revised social message has been adopted by the ELCA Church Council and is commended to the church. Assistant to the Bishop Sunitha Mortha helped to organize this hearing.

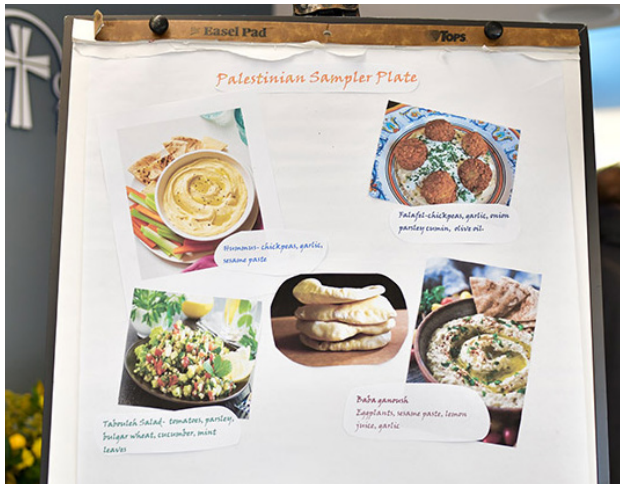
We encourage members of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod to oppose the annexation of Palestinian lands which is counter to the Oslo Accords.

Faithful to our task of informing the synod, we have had monthly meetings to discuss react to events in Israel Palestine and plan events. At our October 2019 meeting we had an extensive meeting with Bishop Curry, getting direction from him.

**Active members of the Working Group on the Middle East:**

- Kholoud Khoury
- Cat Knarr
- Jeff Nichols
- Dieter Schulte
- Don and Laura Shueman
- Pastor Lester Weber
- Pastor Carole Willer
- Pastor Sunitha Mortha (Assistant to the Bishop)
- Pastor Joanne Fitzgerald, Convener





Our Saviours -Arlington Heights  
Palestinian Fair 2/29/2020  
Photos by: Nancy Valladolid





**CONCORDIA** *Place*

**DIAKONIA** *Program*

**SOUTH LOOP**

*Lutheran Campus Ministry*

**LUTHERAN** *Campus Ministry*  
*of Chicago*

**LUTHERAN** *Campus Ministry*  
*of Northwestern University*

**Refugeeone**

**LUTHERAN** *Outdoor*  
*Ministries Center*

**LUTHERAN**

*Social Services of Illinois*

**LUTHERDALE**

*Ministries*

**MISSION**

*Investment Fund*

**PORTICO** *Benefits*

**SYNODICAL**

*Women's Organization*

**WE** *Raise*

## President/CEO Concordia Place REPORT *Brenda Swartz*

### Dear ELCA Mission Partners,

To say it has been a strange year is the ultimate understatement. However, in the midst of extreme uncertainty, a pandemic shutdown, and unrest in the city, the Concordia Place mission continues. We offer some highlights of 2019-2020 in this report.

During this past year, Concordia Place teachers, instructors, and staff demonstrated courage, compassion, and commitment to the more than 800 young children, youth, teens, and their families that we serve. We have continued to rise to every challenge, as we know their needs not only continue, but intensify.

## A Place of Yes

A Concordia Place guiding principle is “a Place of Yes.” In the midst of the pandemic shutdown, Concordia Place worked hard to ensure our mission stayed online. Concordia opened two of our centers to provide Emergency Childcare for first responders and essential workers. Lutheran Services in America even featured Concordia Place as a “Front Line Hero.”

In June, Concordia re-opened all four centers to serve all families as soon as was allowed by the Restore Illinois Plan. Almost half of our families returned the day our doors re-opened.

Today, all of our centers are open and Early Childhood and School-Age 365 programs are in-person. Although we have reduced class sizes and cannot serve everyone, we are delighted to be back

serving working families and their children.

With added health and safety protocols, there have not been any cases of COVID-19 in our classrooms. Parents are not allowed in the buildings; drop off and pick up is outside (rain, snow, or heat!); children change into “school” shoes; everyone gets their temperature taken multiple times a day; etc. Our team remains diligent.

## A Place for All

Concordia Place serves the rich diversity of Chicago: ethnically, linguistically, and economically.

**We serve this diversity in a unique way. We feel quality education and equity go hand in hand.**

As a Place for All, Concordia has created a model that uniquely serves children and families of all economic levels. With a belief that children of all economic levels should be educated in the same classroom with the same quality teachers, we seek to overcome the conventional systems that segment children by their families’ income. We submitted our sliding scale tuition model as a demonstration model to the U.S. Department of Human Services Child Care Bureau, not only as a sustainable way to serve low-income children, but as a way to benefit the whole community.

An outcome of our sliding tuition model is that our classrooms have a multi-faceted diversity: culturally, linguistically, socio-economically, and ethnically. Of the families we served last year:





- Almost 50% of the children <5 years old are in homes earning less than \$26,000 annually
- Two-thirds of those we serve are Latino, African-American/Black, Asian, or multi-racial
- There are 28 languages spoken in the homes we serve
- More than 40% of children are in single-parent households

# A Place of Excellence

Concordia Place believes everyone deserves the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Our focus is on proactive solutions to key social needs through quality education and learning.

## Early Childhood (6 weeks – 5 years old)

- Early learning and preschool create the foundation for a child’s learning for 475 children
- Almost 90% of Concordia children completing preschool assessments are prepared for kindergarten (compared to 26% of children in Illinois)
- Concordia supports the holistic development of children through socialized learning, play spaces, and educational materials that change as children grow
- Through purposeful play, experienced teachers direct curiosity, provide individualized support, and track and

- monitor children’s progress
- Structured to meet the needs of working parents; operates 11 hours a day, year round
- For the children and families at home during the shutdown, Concordia teachers were innovative—imagine virtual circle time with Toddlers. Teachers created age-appropriate ways to deliver engaging and educational content remotely and posted weekly curriculum ideas on our website to keep the children engaged and learning. “Concordia at Home” on the Parent Resource webpage was launched with ideas and resources for parents and their children to do at home.

## School-Age 365 (6–12 years old)

- Served 98 children in and out of school time (after school and summer camp) with interesting and educational activities, and homework assistance
- Open for in-person learning with fun and educational themes, including geography and STEAM learning
- Concordia Place is restructuring its out-of-school-time program to align with the hybrid learning many schools are adopting so parents can be fully at work without worrying about the safety of their children or that their children’s learning is falling behind.

## Teen Leadership (13–18 years old)

- Served 228 teens in four teen leadership programs with 1,652 instruction hours in nutrition, cooking, and product making

- Teens sold more than \$10,000 in Ruckus body care products
- [concordiaministries.org](http://concordiaministries.org) and [concordiaplace.org](http://concordiaplace.org)
- The teen programs went virtual this summer and include cooking activities, art projects, discussions on food justice, current events, and peace circles

## Home Visiting (pregnant mothers and families with children infants – 36 months)

- Launched Home Visiting to offer child development and parenting support to foster resilience, improve family functioning and self-sufficiency, promote protective factors, and help families thrive

## Adult Learning and Enrichment

- Adult students learn English as a Second Language in partnership with Truman College

# Faith in Action

Concordia Church has been instrumental in providing spiritual care, emotional support, health and wellness resources and support for Concordia Place families and staff. And as we navigate these unprecedented times together, we are buoyed by the faith and spirit of our larger community.

We are deeply grateful for those who have supported us financially and for those who hold our mission in prayer—prayers for the courage to face these challenges not with fear, but with hope and compassion, and with the knowledge

that we are not in this alone.  
  
Yours in Christ,  
*Brenda Swartz,*  
President/CEO Concordia Place

*If you would like to learn more about Concordia Place, you can visit our web at [concordiaplace.org](http://concordiaplace.org) or contact me at:*

*[bswartz@concordiaplace.org](mailto:bswartz@concordiaplace.org) or 773-463-1600 x412*

## DIAKONIA STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

*Mary Ann Smith, Chair*

### Purpose and Structure of Diakonia Program

The purpose of the diakonia program is to strengthen the faith of the participants and help them to ascertain their gifts in preparation for service to the church. Upon completion, the graduate should be able and willing to serve his/her congregation or the larger church in a manner acceptable to the graduate and to his/her pastor.

The diakonia program is structured in a two year, six courses per year format. Courses meet for five weeks in three hour sessions.

### Highlights of the Past Year and a Look to 2021:

During 2019-2020, the diakonia program held classes at two sites, Grace L.C., Evanston with four students and Gloria Dei L.C., Downers Grove with ten students. The program started with in person attendance and ended the year in May 2020 via the Zoom format.

The 2019 MCS diakonia graduation was held in conjunction with Northern Illinois Synod at Salem Lutheran Church in Sycamore, IL on July 14, 2019. Among the 27 graduates, six were from Metro-Chicago Synod. The graduates were Christine Graves, Cheryl Juris, Melissa Lickteig, George Miler, Janet Stoller, John S. Taylor. They represented congregations from throughout the MCS.

On September 7, 2019, a diakonia retreat was held at Gloria Dei L.C., Downers Grove for graduates, students and prospective students. 40 individuals participated in a program offered by Rev. David Miller on the topic of 'Building an Intimate Relationship with God.' Rev. Stephen Bouman, founder of diakonia, gave preached the sermon at the worship service. Because of the Covid 19 restrictions, a 2020 diakonia retreat has not been planned.

If the state's guidelines permit, the 2020 diakonia graduation will be held on September 12th at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. It will be a joint graduation with the Northern Illinois Synod. It is expected that there will be 18 graduates, 9 from Metro Chicago and 9 from NIS. Bishop Curry has agreed to preach the sermon for the day.

Plans for the 2020-2021 program year are being finalized. The diakonia site at Grace L.C., Evanston will close. The site at Gloria Dei will continue, offering Series A, starting Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>. The first three classes in the program will be offered via Zoom. A decision to resume in person meetings will be made in January 2021.

### Further information about Diakonia

Additional information is available at [mcselca.org](https://mcselca.org) under the tab congregational support, leadership development or at [diakoniausa.org](https://diakoniausa.org).

For answers to specific questions about the program or to request printed materials and applications, please contact:

*Mary Ann Smith, Chair,*  
MCS diakonia Steering Committee at:  
[carlmaryannsmith@aol.com](mailto:carlmaryannsmith@aol.com)









## Lutheran Campus Ministry of Metro-Chicago Synod

Metro-Chicago Synod is home to three Lutheran Campus Ministries: Northwestern University, Evanston; South Loop Campus Ministry (ELCA/Episcopal), Chicago; and University of Chicago (at Augustana Lutheran Church). These ministries are this church's presence at the intersection of faith and life in academic settings, and their purpose is to invite people to engage more deeply with the teachings of Jesus Christ and the community that bears his name, so that they can discover and fulfill their vocation as disciples. We are grateful for your prayerful and financial support, and we ask for your ongoing prayers in the uncertainties of the upcoming academic year.

If you know someone starting college this fall, please connect them to Lutheran Campus Ministry by going to this link to complete a referral form: <https://lumin-networkreferral.org/student-referrals/>

## Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern University (LCMNU)

*Pastor Deanna Langle*

This has been an academic year unlike any other as we all learned how quickly our lives, our plans, and our expectations can change in ways we never thought possible and in ways that are so far-reaching into every aspect of our personal, familial, communal, and academic lives. It is in these unsettling times that our faith is most questioned, most needed, and most relevant, and LCMNU has been a steady partner with students during this journey of uncertainty. When all on-campus activity was suspended in mid-March, many students returned home, if possible, and LCMNU moved to all online programming for the spring quarter. The good news is that by spring quarter, the new campus ministry community that forms every year with the addition of new students was already strong, so we could begin this new experience of physical distancing and figuring out online worship, education, outreach, and fellowship from a position of strength. Together, we continued to ask every week, "What's essential now—for us and for our world?" In the Easter season with the lens of resurrection, we went back and slowly read the gospel of John, chapters 13-17, listening to both the simultaneous suffering and hope evident in Jesus' last words of teaching to his disciples. He reminds them in their experience of uncertainty, fear, and anticipatory grief of "what's essential": love God; love one another; and let this love form us into "one." At the end of each Bible study, we asked ourselves: "what is the hope we heard in Jesus' words, and what of this hope do we want to bring to our lives, our campus,

and our communities right now and into shaping a different future story for our world?" Asking these questions in community and by studying scripture that helps students discern what it is we as people who follow Jesus are to be about right now in our world are what Lutheran Campus Ministry does well! Such learning together increases students' knowledge and agency to utilize their faith and to live out their vocation to love and serve God and their neighbors. This agency and this love are so evident in these young adults who are now not only figuring out ways for this community to support others in a pandemic but also are committing themselves to on-going learning and action in the work of racial justice. Their willingness to learn and their expansive vision of love and justice are two of the greatest gifts they offer the church at this critical time.

## South Loop Campus Ministry

*Pastor Ben Adams*

What started out as our most ambitious year with multiple retreats and an international trip to Germany planned, didn't end how we would have hoped. But, despite the pandemic changing our plans, we have a lot to look back on and be proud of. Two moments in particular come to mind as I reflect. The first is our Donor Dinner that we hosted in November. This dinner was historic as we honored our faithful supporters, but we also had Bishop Yehiel Curry and Bishop Jeff Lee in attendance to renew our Lutheran/Episcopal ecumenical covenant for another five years. Anyone who was at the dinner can attest, the energy was on



another level and the love for our mission was truly embodied. The other moment that sticks out for me was our Body Positive Fat Tuesday event where our students handed out pączki donuts and stickers that read “SHAME- Fearfully and wonderfully made Psalm 139” In turn, recipients of a donut and a sticker told us what they love about their body. Through our sticker evangelism, 100 students were invited to reject shame and claim their divine createdness. Beyond these two examples, there are so many other Holy Spirit moments that happened during our Faith + Small Group discussions or while serving our neighbors at a South Loop Community Table Meal.

After the pandemic hit, we managed to make the switch to Zoom for our small group discussions, and we served our Sunday night meals to-go from the parking lot of Second Presbyterian Church. It definitely felt second best to our normal in-person gatherings where more depth of sharing and relationship building can happen, but Zoom small groups and to-go meals served the purpose of keeping us connected and fed through a really difficult time.

Recognizing how difficult it has been for our students, we set up a COVID-19 Mutual Aid fund and through our efforts were able to help one of our students with a \$700 rent payment. I know that until a cure to this virus is found, we will be operating in a mostly virtual realm and I anticipate that is how the Fall Semester of 2020 will begin. We will continue to think creatively with our students as to how we can best meet their needs for community rooted in faith as well as their material needs. I give thanks for a faithful board of directors and all of our donors who support this vital ministry of our Synod and I look forward to the ways God will continue to work through us, especially in a pandemic.

# University of Chicago

*Pastor Matthew Stuhlmuller*

The 2019-20 academic year has provided a fresh start for Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Chicago, even amidst a global pandemic. When I came on board as the Campus Pastor on August 25, 2019, the Campus Ministry Committee recognized that this was going to be year of rebuilding. Upon my arrival, there were zero university students participating in the program. From the outset, I indicated to the congregation that we needed to adopt a relational focus as opposed to a programmatic focus. Programming is certainly important, but in our current time and place, we cannot expect that students will show up simply because we have excellent programming; rather, we have to be intentional about cultivating relationships individually and collectively, so that students feel a sense of responsibility to show up for another.

With this in mind, I have poured my time into meeting with students individually and utilizing our weekly gathering as an opportunity to deepen the connections between our participants. This approach has proven effective. At the end of the 2019-20 school year, we have upwards of nine people participating in our weekly gatherings. This is a strong critical mass that places us on a sustainable path. Our financial picture is healthy as well. My salary is fully covered by generous grants from Lutheran Campus Ministry of Illinois (LCMI) and the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. Over the last year, my call has been structured at 15 hours per week, and in the coming year, the congregation intends to expand my hours to 20 hours per week to reflect the growing needs of the ministry.

In the coming academic year, we are excited to welcome a field education student from the University of Chicago Divinity School. Connor Freeman is a rising second-year MDIV student and is also in the ELCA candidacy process. As part of his education at the Divinity School, he needs to have a yearlong ministry experience in which he participates for 20 hours per week. We are excited to welcome him aboard and look forward to the ways in which he will enrich our ministry.

I am pleased to be able to share this positive report with you, and I am excited for where we are heading. I am thankful for the leadership at Augustana and throughout the Synod that makes campus ministry possible. I feel honored and privileged to serve in this role.



Thank You  
for making Chicago  
the #1 most welcoming city  
in the U.S. for refugees  
and immigrants!



CREATING OPPORTUNITY FOR REFUGEES FLEEING WAR,  
TERROR, AND PERSECUTION TO BUILD NEW LIVES  
OF SAFETY, DIGNITY, AND SELF-RELIANCE.

Dear Friends,

**This year, Chicago was named the most welcoming city in the U.S.\***

This wouldn't be possible without people like you, dedicated to helping our new neighbors succeed. And your gifts to RefugeeOne do more than just welcome refugees—you're creating opportunities for years to come.

This year, we expanded our services and widened the circle of clients we serve. That means we're able to help asylees like Marguerite, who entered the country in search of asylum, while continuing to help refugees like Michael take advantage of opportunities now available to them.

Of course, the past year was not one without challenges. Early in 2019, when the lease on our office of 34 years was not renewed, we started the search for a new home. Much like always, we're using this opportunity to improve our operations and strengthen our long-term financial stability. Stay tuned for more information in the year to come.

**Thank you for standing with refugees.** Together, we can ensure Chicago lives up to its reputation of being a place where refugees are truly welcome.

With thanks,

  
**Melineh Kano,**  
Executive Director  
Resettled by  
RefugeeOne in 1984



LOOK WHAT WE'VE DONE TOGETHER!

arrivals

**301** REFUGEES & ASYLEES  
WELCOMED FROM

**57** COUNTRIES,  
INCLUDING THESE TOP 5:

- DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
- BURMA
- AFGHANISTAN
- CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
- UKRAINE

employment

**225** ATTENDED ENGLISH  
CLASSES & PREPARED TO  
ENTER THE WORKFORCE

**260** JOBS SECURED  
AT LOCAL  
BUSINESSES

youth

**468** CHILDREN SUPPORTED  
WITH ACADEMICS,  
EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY,  
& EXTRACURRICULARS

wellness

**247** **73%**  
ADULTS & CHILDREN  
RECEIVED THERAPY  
EXPERIENCED IMPROVED  
MENTAL HEALTH

immigration

**579** PEOPLE BECAME  
CITIZENS OR RECEIVED  
IMMIGRATION SUPPORT

volunteers

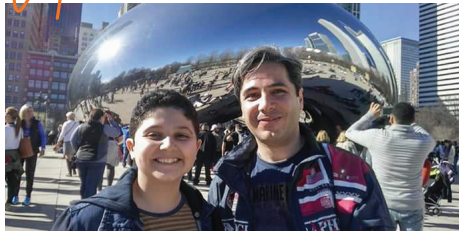
**920** VOLUNTEERED AS  
CO-SPONSORS, MENTORS,  
TUTORS, & MORE



\*USA Today 11/13/2019.



## Michael



Michael and his teenage son are Iranian refugees who RefugeeOne welcomed in 2016. Michael soon started working at a downtown hotel, where he focused on improving his English skills. After only 8 months, Michael saved enough to purchase a car and began driving for Uber for the next 2 years. Meanwhile, he volunteered at RefugeeOne as an interpreter, helping welcome other newcomers to Chicago.

During our regular check-in with clients, Michael told us he was thinking about leaving Chicago for a more affordable place to live. We met with Michael and talked through the advantages of staying in Chicago, especially for his son's education. With our help, Michael revamped his resume and began applying for higher-paying jobs with benefits.

In time, his persistence paid off. He was hired at Staples' production facility making \$16 an hour with health insurance, sick leave and paid vacation time. Michael attributes our conversation as the encouragement he needed to obtain a better job and motivation to resume his job search.

## Marguerite



Marguerite<sup>†</sup> and her four children were victims of gang violence in Latin America before coming to Chicago. After she and her two youngest children were granted asylum in the U.S., Marguerite's two teenage sons soon joined them. As a result of the violence they witnessed, one of her sons suffered from severe PTSD, making it impossible for Marguerite to maintain full-time work.

Thanks to the generosity of friends like you, we've helped Marguerite's family find low-cost legal assistance to process her older children's asylum claims and secure green cards for the whole family. We're providing them with therapeutic and psychiatric care and we matched Marguerite with a wonderful mentor who visits her weekly. We also helped secure monthly public benefits, food stamps, and short-term help with utility bills.

Now, Marguerite doesn't have to worry about rent for the next few months or how she'll come up with money to pay the immigration fees. With her son receiving the care he needs, we can help Marguerite pursue her own dream of becoming a social worker.

## GET INVOLVED!



VISIT [REFUGEEONE.ORG](https://refugeeone.org) TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP REFUGEES FEEL AT HOME!

**DONATE | VOLUNTEER | CO-SPONSOR  
HIRE A REFUGEE | ADVOCATE**

<sup>†</sup>Name and photo changed.

## refugeeONE

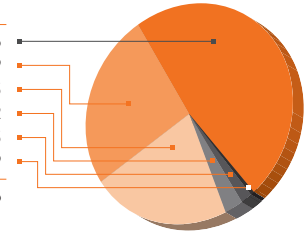
### BOARD OF DIRECTORS As of June 2019

Bob Dunn  
President  
Nathan Brown  
Vice President  
Allan Allweiss  
Treasurer  
Ol S. Eng-Grandus  
Secretary  
Laura Price Coplan  
Rebecca Carlins  
Steven Dyme  
Jay Gratz  
Catherine Guthrie  
Elias Kasongo  
Debbie Kobak-Nielsen  
Clare Kralovec  
Douglas Meyer  
Maureen (Mo) Meyer  
Thomas Mitchell  
Bob Nichol  
Steven Pairolero  
Scott D. Pollock  
Bradley S. Schmarak  
Felice Weinberg Nelson

### AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES: JULY 1, 2018 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019

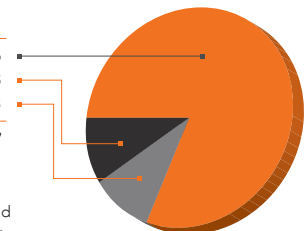
#### SOURCE OF FUNDS

47%	Government	\$1,607,556
26%	Foundations and Corporations	895,009
22%	Individuals	757,055
3%	Religious Organizations	112,082
1.5%	Client Fees	47,075
.5%	Other Income	14,699
TOTAL		\$3,433,476



#### USE OF FUNDS

80%	Program Services	\$2,362,116
10%	Management and General	308,488
10%	Fundraising	282,473
TOTAL		\$2,953,077



The Board of Directors allocated \$500,000 of unrestricted surplus toward the purchase and renovation of our future home. Full financials are available upon request by contacting our office.

### WE WARMLY THANK ALL OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS.

A COMPLETE LIST OF DONORS CAN BE FOUND AT [REFUGEEONE.ORG/ANNUAL-REPORTS](https://refugeeone.org/annual-reports).

#### DONORS

\*Gift given at least in part through charitable foundation, trust, etc.

##### \$50,000 and Above

Chicago Community Trust  
(Illinois Immigration Funder  
Collaborative) (Unity Fund)  
John W. Parmelee Trust  
Paul M. Angell Family  
Foundation  
The Polk Bros. Foundation  
VNA Foundation

##### \$30,000 to \$49,999

Baskin Family Foundation  
Bright Promises Foundation  
David & Rebecca Carlins  
McCormick Foundation  
Communities Matching  
Fund, a McCormick  
Foundation fund  
Elizabeth Morse Genius  
Charitable Trust  
Full Circle Family Foundation  
(Terrance & Virginia Holt)

##### \$30,000 to \$49,999 (cont.)

Maurice R. and Meta G. Gross  
Foundation, John D.  
Marshall and Bank of  
America, N.A., Co-Trustees

##### \$20,000 to \$29,999

Anonymous  
The Albert Pick, Jr. Fund  
Colonel Stanley R. McNeil  
Foundation, Bank of  
America, N.A., Trustee  
Conant Family Foundation  
The Eunice and Joshua J.  
Stone Foundation  
(Carol & Drew DePaul)  
First Congregational Church,  
Western Springs  
Higher Path Foundation  
(Thomas Holmberg, Jr.)  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
Lutheran Immigration and  
Refugee Service

##### \$20,000 to \$29,999 (cont.)

Murray and Diana Johnson  
Charitable Fund  
Steve and Maureen Meyer  
Charitable Fund  
Anonymous\*  
Abreu Shepard Family Fund  
(Luke Shepard & Nicole  
Abreu Shepard)  
The Albert and Anne  
Mansfield Foundation  
Barry Alberts  
The Benevity Community  
Impact Fund  
The Blowitz-Ridgeway  
Foundation  
Jake Braun &  
Jena Sloboda Braun  
Nathan & Barb Brown  
Chicago Foundation for  
Women (General Fund)  
Robert & Kelley Dunn

##### \$10,000 – \$19,999 (cont.)

John & Barbara Dunn  
Sean Germaine  
Goose Island Beer Co.  
Justin Hammond &  
Sarah Vogel  
Jerome H. Stone Family  
Foundation (Cynthia Stone  
Raskin)  
Kenilworth Union Church  
Ron Kok-Alblas & Kim Morton  
Perry McKay  
North Shore Congregation  
Israel, Glencoe  
Northern Trust Charitable  
Program at the Chicago  
Community Foundation  
Reed Smith LLP  
Alex Reeve  
John & Jeanne Rowe  
The William and Laurie  
Conroy Fund  
Wind Point Partners\*  
Winston & Strawn

#### TOP FIVE EMPLOYER PARTNERS



4753 North Broadway, Suite 401 | Chicago, IL 60640 | 773-989-5647 | [info@refugeeone.org](mailto:info@refugeeone.org) | [refugeeone.org](https://refugeeone.org) [f](#) [t](#) [i](#)

[Click here to activate video\\*](#)



“Camp lives on in our hearts and our minds.  
In our life long relationships and in those who are called to lead.”

\* Will function only when viewed online





2019  
REPORT  
45 YEARS OF MINISTRY



**We are the church in outdoor setting, nurturing  
Christian faith and providing experiences connecting the  
Word of God with the World of God.**





# BLESSINGS

God calls us to love.  
 God calls us to love God.  
 God calls us to love everyone.

At LOMC we have had a tremendous year of providing a unique place to ponder God's creation, grow in faith, explore relationships and be set apart from regular life to listen to where God wants to plant us.

Whether through quilting groups, youth ministries, church small groups, adult retreats, Muslim youth and young adults, Russian Baptists, LOMC Board, church picnics, summer campers, families, friends and neighbors...

We minister TOGETHER.  
 We love TOGETHER.

We greatly thank Jerry and Carolyn Fritsch for serving as interim executive directors from January to May. Your love, support and guidance was precious! Thanks also to Adriana Plocinski who served wonderfully for 4 years as our development director. We especially thank the hundreds and hundreds of friends of LOMC who helped make this year an incredible journey of faith!

We are blessed to have LOMC be a church in an outdoor setting that allows us the time, place and space to serve and grow. 45 years is only the beginning for LOMC.

-Rob



"Mr. Rob"  
 Rob Gieraltowski  
 Executive Director

# FINANCIALS

## INCOME

**BUDGETED**

**\$770,750.00**

**ACTUAL**

**\$699,823.62**

Due to the passion of our donors, retreat guests and summer campers, we were blessed with the income to provide a quality outdoor ministry in a unique place. Note: the above total does not include funds given to our capital, memorial or scholarship funds.

## EXPENSES

**BUDGETED**

**\$770,750.00**

**ACTUAL**

**\$686,741.06**

Although we did not reach our income goal, our LOMC staff were diligent in reducing costs and LOMC was able to spend much less than we anticipated.

## NET ORDINARY INCOME

**\$13,082.56**

# HIGHLIGHTS

## SUMMER CAMP

Summer staff created two new opportunities for campers to grow in faith. A Faith Hike (inspired by the Stations of the Cross) and a Wednesday Night Worship were created with great affirmation. New family camps were also added!



## EXEC. DIRECTORS

Leaders were in abundance in 2019 with co-interim executive directors Carolyn & Jerry Fritsch leading the way before Rob Gieraltowski joined LOMC as the permanent executive director starting in May 2019.



## AUTUMNFEST

The annual fall event was changed to a Saturday (October 12) to allow more congregational and clergy involvement. All the great fall activities PLUS a new Quilt Auction to help raise funds for LOMC.



## IMPROVEMENTS

- Installed new showerheads and dehumidifiers in all Retreat Cabin bathrooms.
- Through generous donations, new picnic tables were built.
- Improved the Health Center in numerous ways thanks to the Leimberer Memorial Fund.
- New deck at Timbers Village!

## YOUTH RETREATS

A new high school retreat took place in the fall and attracted over 50 youth. The Jr. High Retreats continued its success with great crowds and was led by LOMC staff.

## BYG RETREATS

The BYG (Building Youth Groups) Retreats expanded to two per year with the new addition taking place on Autumn Fest weekend. This unique retreat invites 3rd-6th graders for an overnight experience.

## AMAZON WISH LIST

A new wish list of items ranging from nature resources, shower heads and markers to TVs and more was purchased for LOMC. In 2019 over \$2,500 in in-kind donations came from this charity wish list. Visit lomc.org for more info.

## CANCELTATION

We sadly said goodbye to our beloved Swing Choir Tour. After praying and discussing, the lack of campers required us to close the door but open a new opportunity for Thrive! Worship Camp in 2020.

## GIVING DAYS

Two Giving Days in 2019 were hugely successful due to social media help. In December we were over the moon to receive matching funds from Thrivent allowing us to raise over \$40,000 in one day!

## AED DEVICES

Thanks to S.C.A.R.F., we added 3 additional automated external defibrillators bringing our devices to five and located in buildings around LOMC. We can more safely treat sudden cardiac arrest with quicker ability. Thank you scarfnow.org!!!

## IN MEMORIAL

We were devastated to lose a long-term employee, Jo D (Mary Jo Dusing) who kept Freedom Tree Village clean and comfortable. We also lost a kind soul in Devon Jensen (food service) earlier in the year.

Other friends we learned passed away included: Virgil Rocke (retired property manager), Sue Leimberer (camp nurse over many years) and Phil Fager (hard-working saint of many Memorial Day Work Week-ends).

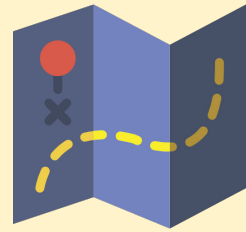
## SUSTAINABILITY

With a difficult financial year in 2018, the LOMC Board created a new committee to look at sustainability. A new fee structure for reservations was just one of the improvements to help LOMC continue to minister.



**562**

**SUMMER CAMPERS** came to LOMC individually, with their congregation or came with another group.

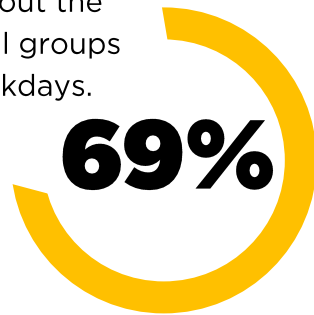


**127**

**RETREAT GROUPS** came to LOMC over the year for everything from LOMC-led retreats, school day-trips, scrapbookers, quilters, adult retreats, church retreats and more.

**WEEKEND GROUPS** made up the majority of those visiting LOMC throughout the year. Around 30% of all groups came to LOMC on weekdays.

**69%**



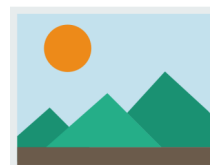
**4,104**

**INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE** came to LOMC for a day, a weekend or even a week to play and pray in God's creation.



**309**

**INDIVIDUALS ATTENDED** a program led by LOMC staff (not counting summer camp).



**641.24**

**ACRES** of land that LOMC enjoys. Visit us to enjoy ponds, trails, prairie, hills, St. Peter sandstone, flora, fauna, a creek and springs!

Every effort was made to ensure this report is accurate. If you find there was an error please contact the LOMC office so we can correct our records.

[www.LOMC.org](http://www.LOMC.org)  
P.O. BOX 239  
Oregon IL 61061  
815-732-2220

## PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT

*Mark A. Stutrud*

### **Dear Valued Partners in Ministry:**

It is with gratitude that I share annual accomplishments and updates from Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) with members of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. Like congregations, businesses, and organizations across Illinois, recent months have found LSSI dealing with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite these challenges, LSSI's staff has risen to the occasion to provide vital services to children, adults, and seniors throughout our state. We've made great strides in providing new services prior to the pandemic. Last year, we served more than 50,000 children, adults, and seniors—one out of every 250 people in the state!

During this time of pandemic, it's important to remember that LSSI was formed in 1867 to help children orphaned by a cholera epidemic in western Illinois. In response to their need, Lutherans in the area worked together to establish an orphanage. From that single act of generosity was born 153 years of ministry to our Illinois neighbors. What an example our ancestors left us! They did more than survive. In the midst of their own fear and apprehension, they reached out to others whose lives had been devastated by cholera.

To this day, LSSI continues to be a vital resource for our communities, thanks in large part to similar acts of generosity, including the ongoing support of congregations and individual members of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. You continue to be crucial advocates of our services and mission.

Foster care and child welfare programs, mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment, affordable senior housing, residential programs for people with developmental disabilities, and programs that help individuals impacted by incarceration—all of these ongoing efforts build and enhance lives in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod and throughout Illinois.

To strengthen our ministry, LSSI embarked on a new three-year strategic plan in July 2019





with a continued emphasis on Whole Person Care. We will strive to listen with empathy and compassion, promote people’s dignity, value the diversity of human life, and help people realize their full potential. As an organization, LSSI is accountable to excellence—effectively problem-solving, finding solutions in flexible and agile ways, and being good stewards of the resources provided to us. We look forward to sharing our progress in the future.

Over LSSI’s 153-year history, we have learned that we are far more successful when we provide our services proactively. In this context, we’re pleased to highlight some of those programs here:

- In late April, LSSI was one of 18 nonprofit organizations to receive round 2 funding from the Illinois COVID Response Fund (ICRF). LSSI received \$350,000 and the grant money provided basic needs support to our clients in communities throughout northern, central, and southern Illinois.
- Beginning July 1, LSSI will be expanding its Therapeutic Foster Care program by adding a second team to its Chicago office. This evidence-based treatment program supports children who have experienced severe trauma, and whose behavioral issues prevent them from being placed in traditional foster homes. With initial locations in Aurora, Chicago, and Rockford, the program is proving successful in equipping these children with skills to succeed. LSSI was chosen

as a pilot organization for the program by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services in 2017.

- Project IMPACT (Immediate Multidisciplinary Pre-Screening Assessment Crisis Team) grew to include a fifth hospital emergency department site at Weiss Hospital, Chicago. Project IMPACT is a creative wrap-around behavioral health model using trained counselors to assist adults and children who are experiencing a behavioral, psychiatric, or addiction crisis. LSSI is embedded in these hospitals’ emergency departments 24/7, serving 13,043 people last year.
- In March, LSSI opened its Healthy Start Recovery Home West at its Addiction Treatment Center-Elgin for adults receiving treatment for opioid addiction. The recovery home is part of the state’s Opioid Action Plan, providing housing for up to a year for 22 residents while they receive medication-assisted treatment, peer support, case management, on-site outpatient treatment, and gain employment. Case managers help create individual plans for each resident’s next steps, ultimately preparing them for sober living in the community.

We express our gratitude to Bishop Yehiel Curry for his leadership of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, as well as his service on the LSSI Board of Directors. We extend our thanks to the following individuals from the Metropolitan Chicago Synod who served on the LSSI Board of Directors this past fiscal year:

Lee Selander, Chairperson; The Rev. Dr. Richard J. Perry, Jr., Treasurer; The Rev. Dr. Robert A. Davis, Donald B. Erickson; Ann R. Gillespie, and John T. Rudy, Emeritus Chairperson.

We are grateful to the trustees of LSSI’s Cornerstone Foundation representing the Metropolitan Chicago Synod this past fiscal year: Stephen Bishop, Thomas Cunniff, Bill Fleck, Pr. John Freidheim, William Knudson, Ron Kok-Alblas, Nancy Nagel, Carol Poplawski, Charles Price, Mary Ann Smith, Jon Theeke, Jr., Chris Tompsett, and Bonalynn Wallach.

As I reflect on the support of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, I am reminded of Paul’s words to the Thessalonians, “Encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”

As we work together to build up the lives of children, adults, and seniors, LSSI remains grateful for your ongoing involvement and support of our mission.



Mark A. Stutrud  
President and Chief Executive Officer



*1001 E. Touhy Avenue, Suite 50  
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018  
847.635.4600  
847.635.6764  
LSSI.org*

## 2019 was a significant year in the history of Lutherdale.

It was a year of action to fulfill the vision for expanding the ministry. It is clear that Lutherdale provides a vital ministry for youth, adults, families, congregations, and it is embarking on an exciting expansion of ministry.

## ELCA Mission Builders Move New Conference Center Forward

Trying to build anything these days, requires more complicated planning than you can imagine. Navigating the local building codes and zoning issues is a major task. When finally approved, the physical work of making dreams come true begins. We were ready for the ELCA Mission Builders to arrive in May 2019 and lend the muscle to get the new Conference Center under construction. Their dedication, skill, and knowledge are amazing. Not only did they build the Conference Center, but they also built relationships with staff, volunteers, and local congregations. They worked hard all summer to build the center section of the Conference Center and prepare the foundation for the 20 modular built guest rooms to arrive. An amazing accomplishment by folks who are retired and still live out their faith by building up ministries around the country.

*The Conference Center opens the summer of 2020.*



## Share the Adventure Successfully Reaches Goal

THANK YOU! We have successfully reached the goal of \$2.9 million dollars for the Opening Phase of Share the Adventure. We are so grateful to the generous outpouring of individuals and a few key congregations for making this campaign a huge success. We celebrate with you in the joy of giving that has made the Conference Center a reality.

## 50Forward Adult Ministry Expanding

With the addition of the new Conference Center, Lutherdale is ready to provide new programs for adults who can now come and enjoy a comfortable hotel style room on our campus.

Go to [www.lutherdale.org](http://www.lutherdale.org) and click on the 50Forward tab to learn more.

## Summer Camp Busier Than Ever. Several Weeks Are Already Full.

“Youth Who Attend Camp Are 3 Times More Likely To Remain Religious 5 Years Later Than Those Who Do Not Attend.”

*Jacob Sorenson,*  
Journal of Youth Ministry

All children benefit from time away at a quality camp. It is hard to think of summer when we are still dealing with winter, but many children are already registered for a program this summer. There are program options for everyone. Choose between a half-week, full week, or weekend programs.

*For details on all our exciting summer programs visit:*

<https://www.lutherdale.org/programs/summer-camps/>.

## One of the best things about Lutherdale is that we do ministry together with you.

The growth and direction of Lutherdale is the result of an active Board of Directors who guide the vision of the ministry, a dedicated staff who faithfully carry out the mission, volunteers who give of their time and talents to help serve the ministry, and congregations who provide mission support and/or participate in the life of Lutherdale's ministry. Thank you for your partnership. See you at Lutherdale.



## REGIONAL MANAGER'S REPORT

*The Rev. Richard Wehrs*

**The Mission Investment Fund (MIF)** is the lending ministry of the ELCA. MIF makes low-interest loans to ELCA congregations and ELCA-related ministries for building and renovation projects. With MIF loans, congregations and ministries can purchase property, construct new buildings, and expand or renovate existing facilities.

MIF loans expand the capacity for ministry. MIF loans help create expanded worship spaces, updated space for education and youth ministry, new kitchens for community meals, affordable housing units and much more.

At year-end 2019, MIF had 898 loans outstanding, totaling \$575.1 million.

To fund these loans, MIF offers a portfolio of investments for congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries to purchase. At year-end 2019, MIF investment obligations totaled \$493.4 million.

MIF is a financially strong and stable organization, with a record of steady, controlled growth. With total assets of \$712.3 million and net assets of \$211.9 million at year-end 2019, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 29.75 percent—positioning MIF in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds. For more information, visit [mif.elca.org](http://mif.elca.org).

### **MIF loans and investments in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod (as of December 31, 2019):**

- 52 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of \$56,823,599
- \$29,345,906 in Mission Investment Fund investment obligations

**MIF representative:** The Rev. Richard Wehrs

Regional Manager

Tel: 708-475-2169

email: [richard.wehrs@elca.org](mailto:richard.wehrs@elca.org)

Mission Investment Fund | 8765 West Higgins Road | Chicago, Illinois 60631 | Tel: 877-886-3522 | Web: [mif.elca.org](http://mif.elca.org)



## PRESIDENT & CEO'S REPORT

*The Rev. Jeff Theimann*

“Portico Benefit Services offers health, flexible spending, retirement, disability, and life insurance plans to enhance the well-being of rostered ministers and lay employees throughout their lives.”

## So You Can Embrace Every Day

**PORTICO®**  
Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA



**The Rev. Jeff Theimann**  
President & CEO

We are a church that takes care of each other. Portico Benefit Services is proud to continue a 200+ year Lutheran legacy of caring for those who serve, from pastors and their families to staff at social ministry organizations. As the ELCA's benefit ministry, seeing the diverse needs of our national church community drives us to innovate: to control health care costs and increase total well-being, to help plan members retire with confidence, to advocate on behalf of church organizations, and to serve more people well.

At Portico, we're inspired daily by those who commit to a life of service, and we're grateful to walk alongside our plan members — providing benefits designed to help you embrace every day.

### Church Benefits Making a Difference

**65%**

#### Members Preparing for the Future\*

by making their own pretax retirement contributions during 2019 in addition to the contributions from their sponsoring organization.

**10,648**

#### Pounds Lost\*

by ELCA-Primary health plan members since 2018, when we added a chronic condition management program by Omada® to help reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

**1,728**

#### New Members Welcomed

to Portico's benefit plans in 2019 when we added three ELCA social ministry organizations.

**3**

#### Pro-Church Bills

enacted into federal law in 2019 thanks to Portico working alongside other denominations to advocate for legislation favorable to church benefit plans.

**605**

#### Members Made the Leap

into retirement in 2019. Over 80% of ELCA retirees report feeling financially prepared for this next chapter of their lives. Well done!

**65%**

#### Members Being Proactive

with their health by using ELCA-Primary preventive services in 2019.

**70%**

#### Members With Diabetes See Improvement

in their ability to manage their condition due to participation in our Livongo® Diabetes Management program.

**1,297**

#### Additional Students

attending schools in low-income Midwestern communities thanks in part to a social purpose fund investment.

**96%**

#### Users Satisfied\*

or very satisfied with their experience on Portico's member and employer websites.



## PRESIDENT's REPORT

*Linda Miranda*

### SWO Officers and Board members

*President – Linda Miranda*

*Secretary – Bonnie Lopez*

*Cheryl Dickinsen*

*Stephnie Valdes*

*Vice President – Gloria Green*

*Treasurer – Sandra Schlauch*

*Carol Ika President*

*Kathleen West*

**Our annual convention** was held on Saturday, October 12, 2019, and was hosted by the women of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Libertyville, IL. Our theme was “*Women Supporting Women*”. There were 23 members eligible to vote with a total attendance for the day of 72. Eleven of the attendees were first time attendees! Our keynote speaker for the day was Brenda Myers-Powell, Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Dreamcatcher Foundation. Breakout sessions were presented by Dreamcatcher Foundation, RefuSHE, and Desiree Cole. During the business meeting we elected three new board members and re-elected our president and treasurer. We also elected two women to represent our synod at the churchwide Triennial Convention scheduled to be held in July of 2020. Our president will also be a delegate and we elected one alternate delegate. This convention has now been postponed until August of 2021 due to Covid 19. At the close of our worship service our churchwide representative, Freddie Jordan, installed our board members.

At our November meeting we chose “Women: Finding Our Voices” as the theme for our 2020 Convention. In January we confirmed the location of the convention as being Zion Lutheran Church in Tinley Park. The convention was scheduled to take place on September 26, 2020. It will still happen on September 26<sup>th</sup> but it will be a virtual experience due to Covid 19.

In April we gathered face masks for Trinidad Lutheran in Humboldt Park to distribute with their monthly community meal that helps feed the homeless and others in need of food in this area. We were able to collect 52 masks. At the end of May we received a request from Social Impact relayed through Jennifer DeLeon, that there was an urgent need for diapers and formula on the south side. The word went out and we had commitments of \$1000 for this need. The Women's Network of LSSI contributed to this amount. A portion of this amount was sent to “Share our Spare” to support their diaper and baby formula disbursement.

Our 31<sup>st</sup> annual Lutheran/Catholic Morning of Dialogue and Prayer was held on March 7, 2020, at St. Luke Church in Chicago. Our theme was “Bold Women, Then and Now”. Jennifer DeLeon, Director for Justice for Women of the ELCA gave the keynote address and facilitated dialogue. The homily was given by Rev. John Kartje from the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary. The morning concluded with lunch. This appears to be the last in-person event that our organization will participate in this program year as the shelter in place order went into effect shortly after this event.

In Christ,

*Linda Miranda, President*

Metro Chicago Synodical Women's Organization



Motivated by the belief that freedom is grace in action (Galatians 5:1a), We Raise provides grants and assistance with resource development to Christian nonprofit organizations and emerging leaders that work at the intersection of poverty, violence, and inequality. We employ a unique approach to our investing by coupling program funding with a variety of robust value-added services that empower our grantees to grow their solutions to tackle social problems on the scale at which they exist.

### Our three priority granting areas are:



#### EDUCATION

Academic achievement is a foundation for lifelong success.

One of the most valuable resources in overcoming poverty is receiving an education.



#### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

When we focus on people and workforce development, we bring stability to our communities.

By providing training and investing in our workforce, we can end income and job inequality.



#### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

By promoting equality for those impacted by the criminal justice system, we initiate a cycle of hopefulness.

Half of released American prisoners end up going back to jail within three years. We're making sure that changes.

## GRANTS AVAILABLE FROM WE RAISE FOUNDATION

We Raise provides grants and assistance with resource development to organizations that work at the intersection of poverty, violence, and inequality. We have a preference for solutions within the areas of education, workforce development, and criminal justice—funding non-profit, Christian organizations that predominantly serve communities of color.

We Raise's grant programs are about much more than money. Long-term successful programs and leaders also benefit from expert advice, connections with other inspired leaders, and additional funding opportunities. These grants aim to provide both financial support and expert resources to strengthen the program for sustainable impact.

We offer two grant programs. Explore which one is the best fit for your program!

#### GrantsPlus Grants

GrantsPlus grants are available up to \$100,000 over three years. In addition to the financial award, We Raise also provides a resource development assessment that includes an analysis of the grantee's current fundraising plan, identification of opportunities for additional revenue streams, as well as an evaluation of operational efficiency.

#### Emerging Leader Grants

Emerging Leader grants are an investment in the development of leaders between the ages of 20-35, at Christian organizations who are leading new programs at the intersection of poverty, violence and inequality. Grant recipients receive \$15,000 over two years with \$10,000 designated for startup expenses for the new program and \$5,000 designated exclusively for leadership development.



To learn more about We Raise Foundation and our resources, please review the back of this page and visit our website at [weraise.org](http://weraise.org).



We Raise Foundation • One Pierce Place, Suite 250E • Itasca, IL 60143 • 800.762.6748





## COVENANT CLUSTERS SEMINARIES

*Carthage  
Gustavus Adolphus  
Luther*

### **Dear Friends in Christ,**

Greetings from Carthage College. As I write to you, we are just beginning the spring semester. Campus is once again filled with the energy that comes from learning in a residential community.

I have talked to students who are recently returned from China, Costa Rica, Japan, Namibia, Nicaragua, Sweden, and Tanzania. They had life-changing and eye-opening experiences as they encountered cultures different from their own. They also grew in how they see themselves in the world and how they can use their gifts and talents. Hearing their stories is a wonderful reminder of what we are about here at Carthage. As a school rooted in our Lutheran heritage, we are passionate about helping our students to find their vocations.

One way we focus our energy on vocation is through The Aspire Program, our comprehensive new career development initiative. Under the leadership of AVP Lisa Hinkley, career specialists help our students to think not only about what they want their jobs to be, but about what kind of full lives they want to create. The Aspire Center hosts programs to help our students think about life after Carthage, find mentors, and make connections in the communities around us.

There are two other new ways we incorporate vocation into our work. The Network of Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) provides grants and faculty training; we are thrilled that one of our nursing faculty members will attend a seminar this summer titled “Teaching Vocational Exploration.” In addition, the Vocation Learning Community on campus hosts conversations about equipping our students for lifelong discernment. Excitement is growing over our ability to guide Carthaginians to find their way and make a positive impact on the world.

Carthage has several other highlights from the past year to share:

*The Center for Faith and Spirituality (CFS) created Luther’s Lunchbox, a supplemental food program for students.*

The CFS partnered with Trinity Lutheran Church in Kenosha to support a seminary intern from The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Starting in fall 2020, Carthage will lower tuition by 30 percent. After graduating our first class of nursing students in 2019, Carthage is launching an RN-to-BSN program for those looking to further their careers in nursing. U.S. News & World Report ranked us No. 1 in our category among Best Colleges for Veterans, along with top-15 placements in teaching, innovation, and value. God’s blessing on your work in your synod this year. May you work together to find your synodical vocations, to do God’s Work with Your Hands, together.

Peace,

*Pastor Kara Baylor*



• **ANNUAL REPORT FROM GUSTAVUS CHURCH RELATIONS — DECEMBER 2019** •

Greetings to you from your partners in ministry at Gustavus Adolphus College! The definition of community at Gustavus has always included the wider ELCA community. The network of institutions and relationships which holds our Lutheran congregations, synods, camps, colleges, seminaries, and social agencies together plays a vital role in nourishing and advancing our collective and important contribution to the world. We all make a greater impact because of this diverse network to which we belong.

The Gustavus Association of Congregations, a collection of more than 500 ELCA congregations from across the country provides another relational layer at the grassroots level through which we can work together with member congregations to strengthen the presence of the church in the life of the college and presence of the college in the life of the church.

As you gather for congregation annual meetings and synod assemblies, we hope you are inspired by the reminder of the many others who walk along side you in mission. We are blessed to be able to share numerous resources with your congregation. Thank you to the many of you who have made good use of our church and college ministry partnership.

**MARK YOUR 2020 CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:**

- **STEP UP — MARCH 12 and 19, 2020**, a leadership development resource for high school youth. Students will be introduced to college level concepts of leadership that will help them develop a stronger personal plan for continuing to grow as a leader. For more information: [gustavus.edu/churchrelations/stepup](http://gustavus.edu/churchrelations/stepup)
- **Annual Gustavus Association of Congregations Business Meeting Luncheon — APRIL 25, 2020**  
The Annual Business Meeting of the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations is a luncheon meeting that features updates from the Gustavus President and Chair of the Board of Trustees as well as inspiration from Gustavus students. For more information: [gustavus.edu/businessmeeting](http://gustavus.edu/businessmeeting)
- **MAYDAY! Peace Conference—APRIL 29, 2020** *“Voices of Change: Our Generation of Student Activism.”*  
For more information: [gustavus.edu/events/mayday](http://gustavus.edu/events/mayday)
- **The Gustavus Academy for Faith, Science, and Ethics — JUNE 20-26, 2020**, an exciting resource for high school youth interested in exploring creative alliances between faith and science. The theme for the 2020 Academy is *“Why? The Ethics of Cancer and Its Treatment.”* For more information and to nominate a high school student: [gustavus.edu/chaplain/academy](http://gustavus.edu/chaplain/academy)
- **Annual Nobel Conference®—OCTOBER 6-7, 2020** *“Cancer in the Age of Biotechnology.”*
- **Christmas in Christ Chapel—DECEMBER 3-6, 2020**

For more information about these events and the many resources we offer congregations, please contact the Office of Church Relations or visit us on-line at: [www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations](http://www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations). Thank you for your partnership and prayers!

Rev. Grady St. Dennis  
College Chaplain/Director of Church Relations

**MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT**

Office of Church Relations | DIRECT 507-933-7001 | FAX 507-933-6337 | [church-relations@gustavus.edu](mailto:church-relations@gustavus.edu)  
800 West College Avenue | St. Peter, Minnesota 56082-1498 | 507-933-8000 | [gustavus.edu](http://gustavus.edu)

Jenifer K. Ward, Ph.D., President

Greetings from Luther College!

The theme of my presidential inauguration this past November, *Always Becoming*, was drawn from a quote by Martin Luther:

*This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming....*

We are always becoming, even at Luther College. It has been a year of transition at Luther, from the presidency to College Ministries. After 30 years in campus ministry, Pastor Michael Blair accepted a call to serve as chaplain at Bartels Lutheran Retirement Community in Waverly, IA. Pastor Blair's process of discernment provided all of us here at Luther an instructive reminder that we don't script our own call stories; instead, we listen and answer. While Pastor Blair's departure represents a loss in many ways, it also represents an opportunity for Luther to reimagine and re-envision College Ministries for a new time and for a student body that comes to us from a wider spectrum of faith traditions and commitments. This is a time of looking outward rather than inward for College Ministries at Luther, and, as we plan for the following years, we are exploring new partnerships and collaborations that connect campus with community and the wider world, as well as opportunities for students to learn skills for dialogue across differences.

Some tangible examples of the opportunities mentioned above include a collaborative learning partnership that we recently established with Wartburg Seminary and the creation of Multifaith House. The collaborative learning partnership will bring a seminarian from Wartburg Seminary to serve in ministry at Luther College and Good Shepherd Lutheran church in Decorah for four years, deepening connections for our students between the campus and a local congregation. Multifaith House, a collaboration between leaders of the Luther College Student Congregation, Pastor Anne Edison-Albright, Director of College Ministries and College Pastor, and Kris Franzen, Assistant Dean for Student Life and Director of Residence Life, will provide a campus house for students who are intentionally seeking to connect across differences, who are curious about the faith and core convictions that shape their peers, and who are eager to find ways to live out diverse faith and spiritual practices in intentional community and in service to the wider world.

Since 1861, Luther College has evolved and adapted and grown out of what has come before. Like a tree flourishes in the place that holds and feeds it, nourished through its enduring roots and from the ephemeral leaves that fall each season, Luther College both acknowledges its legacy and nods toward the future. The Lutheran intellectual and educational tradition, as well as the connections with our partner synods, are the roots and legacy of Luther College. These roots shape our mission to equip graduates who are called and empowered to serve the neighbor so that all may flourish. And these roots define our community as one that welcomes all so that we may learn from all, a community that encourages each other to learn actively, live purposefully, and lead courageously for a lifetime of impact -- from the Oneota Valley into the wider world, and ever growing to meet the challenges and gifts that come our way.

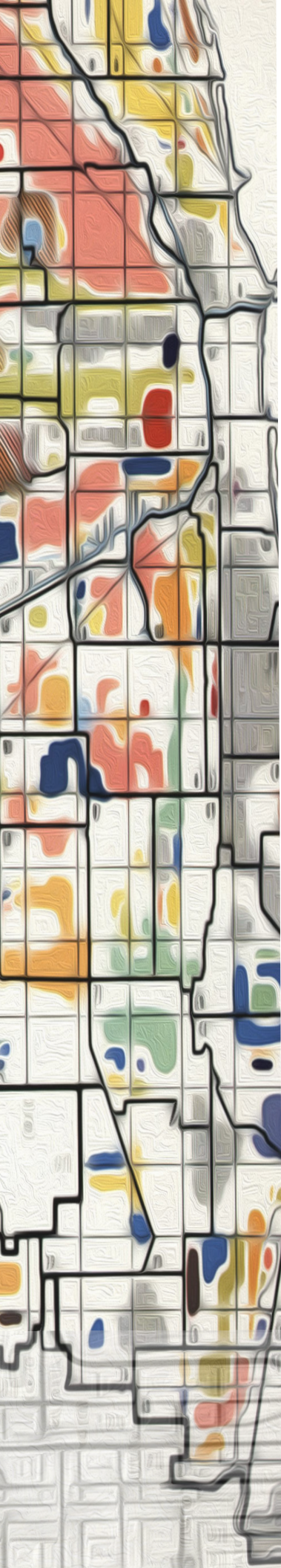
Soli Deo Gloria!

  
Dr. Jenifer K. Ward  
President

563.387.1001 • [president@luther.edu](mailto:president@luther.edu)

Luther College 700 College Drive Decorah, Iowa 52101-1045 [www.luther.edu](http://www.luther.edu)





MINUTES OF THE  
31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL SYNOD ASSEMBLY *of the*  
METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD  
*of the* EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

*Friday, June 7, 2019 & Saturday, June 8, 2019*  
**Tinley Park Convention Center**  
*Tinley Park, Illinois*

Plenary Session One

**Orientation of New Voting Members**

At 8:00AM Secretary Clausen gave a presentation to the voting members of the 2018 Assembly who were new to serving as an assembly voting member. The presentation included an explanation of their roles and responsibilities as voting members, the relationship of the synod to the congregations and to the churchwide expression, how the assembly functioned, a brief overview of the agenda, and procedures for parliamentary action during the various assembly gatherings.

**Welcome**

At 8:30AM Bishop Miller welcomed the voting members, visitors, and guests to the Thirty-Second Annual Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**Opening Devotions**

He then led the 2019 Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod in the devotions, followed by the Order for the Opening of the Assembly. At 8:41AM Bishop Miller declared the assembly to be in session.

**Appointment of Parliamentarian**

As the first order of business at 8:48AM, in consultation with the Synod Council, Bishop Miller appointed Ms. Joan Bundley as parliamentarian for this assembly. Ms. Bundley is a Registered Professional Parliamentarian with the National Association of Parliamentarians. Bishop Miller welcomed Ms. Bundley back to our assembly, as she has served our synod in this capacity in years past.

**Introduction of the Assembly Planning Team and Chaplain**

Bishop Miller then introduced the members of the 2018 Assembly Planning Team and had them

stand as their names were read. He thanked them for their hard work in preparing for this year’s assembly.

**Assembly Planning Team:**

- Mr. Tom Anderson, staff  
Ms. Joan Church
- Mr. Ken Church  
Rev. Erin Clausen
- Mr. Jeff Drake, staff  
Mr. Terry Henderson
- Ms. Vicki Hill  
Rev. Christina Klein
- Rev. Ray Legania, staff  
Bishop Wayne Miller, staff
- Ms. Yvette NewberryWhite  
Rev. Darryl Thompson Powell
- Ms. Mary Richardson, staff  
Ms. Gloria Rowland
- Ms. Sandra Schlauch, staff  
Rev. Sarah Stumme, staff
- Ms. Patti Tregoning  
Ms. Kathleen West
- Ms. Beth Lawniczak, chair  
Dcn. Jim Valentine

Bishop Miller then introduced and thanked our emcee for this year’s assembly, Rev. Darryl Thompson Powell.

**Introduction of the Assembly Committees**

At 8:52AM Bishop Miller called upon our Vice President, Mr. Terry Henderson, who in consultation with the Synod Council, made the following appointments to the Assembly Committees.

Credentials and Courtesies Committee

Rev. Ray Legania, staff  
Rev. Ellen Arthur, Chair

Elections Committee

Mr. Tom Anderson  
Ms. Cynthia Bemis Abrams

Ms. Stephanie Collins  
Rev. Jason Glombicki

Rev. John Hildner  
Rev. Paul Kopka

Mr. Tyrone McGowan  
Ms. Elizabeth Meadows

Ms. Shirley Moore  
Rev. Carole Willer

Ms. Carol Wilson  
Rev. Robert Klonowski, chair

Minutes Committee

Ms. Lynn Dreymler  
Ms. Patti Tregoning

Rev. Erin Clausen, chair

Nominations Committee

Ms. Jennifer DeLeon  
Rev. Ben Dueholm

Ms. Elaine Farmer  
Ms. Dorothy Gunter

Rev. Emily Heitzman  
Ms. Jeanne Herring

Ms. Loretta Northcutt  
Rev. Sarah Stumme, staff

Mr. David Walters  
Rev. Darryl Thompson Powell, chair

Reference and Counsel Committee

Rev. Lawrence Clark  
Dcn. Heather Feltman

Mr. David Foster  
Rev. Rayford Grady

Rev. Richard Perry  
Rev. Marguerite Rourke

Ms. Cheryl Sanders  
Rev. Kyle Severson

Rev. Steven Srock, chair

Sergeants at Arms

Rev. Mary Appelt-Graves  
Rev. Ellen Arthur

Ms. Myrtis Brown  
Ms. Alyssa Dahlke

Rev. Joanne Fitzgerald  
Dcn. Patricia Gerber Bornholt

Rev. Cynthia Hileman  
Rev. David Hulse

Mr. Rodger Jones  
Rev. Rhonda Kral

Rev. Raymond Legania, staff  
Mr. Fernando Mercado

Rev. Jeffrey Mikyska  
Ms. Lisa Neubert

Ms. Bonnie Osborne  
Rev. Rhonda Pruitt

Rev. Wende West  
Mr. Charles Willet, Jr.

Rev. Paul Pfeffer, chair

Report of the Credentials and  
Courtesies Committee

At 8:53AM Bishop Miller thanked Vice President Henderson. He thanked the pre-assembly canvass committee members, who were responsible for helping the synod discern and lift up qualified

individuals for the office of bishop. Bishop Miller then called upon the Rev.

Ellen Arthur for the report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee. She reported to the assembly that the total number of voting members registered as of 8:15AM was 305 with the number of voting members necessary for a quorum being 153. Bishop Miller declared a quorum to be present at 8:53AM.

Approval of the Agenda

Bishop Miller instructed the assembly to turn to the agenda for the assembly which was printed in the supplement to the Book of Reports located in the packets that the voting members had received at the time of registration. It was moved, seconded, and adopted.

Bar of the Assembly and the Rules  
of the Assembly

At 8:58AM, Bishop Miller called upon Secretary Clausen to explain the bar of the assembly. Secretary Clausen instructed the assembly that the bar of the assembly was the area where voting members must be seated in order for their votes to be counted. Guest and visitors are asked to sit outside the bar during all plenary sessions. The bar of the assembly included all tables and chairs within the stanchions and ropes across the back of the room. Only those voting members seated within the bar and wearing the proper credentials would be allowed to vote.

Regarding elections at this year’s assembly. Secretary Clausen explained that the Elections Committee shall oversee the conduct of elections. In the packets that the voting members received when they registered was everything needed for the various elections that will take place during this assembly. Voting members were instructed to please check their packets and make certain that they had all of the materials required. She announced to the assembly that the Elections

Committee would report the results of balloting in the elections by announcing the name of the person elected or by announcing the names of nominees qualified to appear on the next ballot. The results of all of the elections would be reported in the written reports of this year’s assembly.

Secretary Clausen then instructed the assembly regarding the procedures for addressing the assembly. She explained that there are three microphones: *green* for those speaking in favor of an action; *red* for those speaking in opposition; and *white* for points of order, information, personal privilege, or clarification. Voting members were asked to address their comments to the chair and to face the assembly while speaking. The order for speaking would be under the direction of the chair (Bishop Miller) and would alternate between those speaking in favor and those in opposition. Only those voting members seated within the bar and wearing the proper credentials would be allowed to address the assembly.

She also asked the assembly to refrain from applause or other displays of support or any displays of disapproval of the comments made at the microphones. We are a highly diverse synod with wide and varied opinions on a variety of matters that we have and will continue to have come before us to consider. We ask that respect be shown to everyone, especially those who may have an opinion and position very different from yours. Also we ask that displays of partisanship, e.g. badges, buttons, articles of clothing, etc. not be worn while within the bar of the assembly, for the same reason.

Regarding the resolutions, this year’s chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, the Rev. Steve Srock, will present how we will handle the Resolutions and Memorials, the debate on those matters, along with their respective hearings, when it is time for those matters to be brought before the assembly.



All of these matters, along with many others concerning how we will interact over the next two days, are described in detail in the document entitled, *Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2018 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly*. Secretary Clausen stated that this document has been reviewed and approved by the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council and on their behalf she was presenting it to this assembly for adoption and implementation. It appears in the Book or Reports immediately following the agenda. Since this comes to the assembly as a recommendation from the Synod Council it does not need to be moved or seconded. Bishop Miller acknowledged that the matter was properly before the assembly for consideration exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that already are in force. The motion was adopted at 9:00AM.

**Introduction of ELCA Representative**

At 9:01AM Bishop Miller called upon Vice President Terry Henderson to introduce the ELCA Representative to the assembly, Bishop-elect Kevin Strickland. Vice President Henderson explained that Bishop-elect Kevin Strickland serves as the Assistant to the Presiding Bishop, Executive for Worship of the ELCA. He began his call with the churchwide office in August, 2014. He has just been elected to serve as bishop of the Southeastern Synod, ELCA. Prior to his call to the churchwide organization, Bishop-elect Strickland served as pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Nashville, Tennessee. He has served on various local non-profit boards and has a heart for justice and advocacy ministry. Bishop-elect Strickland has written for a number of publications and has spoken around the ELCA in the areas of worship and preaching. Vice president Henderson explained that as we move through the process to elect a bishop, Bishop-elect Strickland will serve as the official chair for that process.

**Explanation of Ecclesiastical Ballot**

Bishop Miller thanked Vice President Henderson, and then relinquished the chair of the Assembly to Bishop-elect Strickland for the explanation of the ecclesiastical ballot. Bishop Elect Strickland briefly outlined the process for using an ecclesiastical ballot.

**Report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee**

At 9:03AM Bishop-elect Strickland called on Rev. Ellen Arthur for an updated report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee. She reported to the assembly that the total number of voting members registered as of 9:03AM was 432.

**Ecclesiastical Ballot**

Bishop-elect Strickland called on Rev. Richard Perry to pray before balloting was opened. He then declared balloting open. After all ballots had been cast, Bishop-elect Strickland then returned the chair to Bishop Miller.

**Report of the Nominations Committee**

Bishop Miller called on the Rev. Darryl Thompson Powell, Chair of the Nominations Committee, to give a report on the work of the Nominating Committee. Rev. Thompson Powell presented the report of the committee. This was an opportunity for Bishop Miller then to offer a special word of thanks to the committee for continuing to lift up fine leaders for our synod who also reflect our commitment to racial and cultural diversity. Following the report Bishop Miller declared that the Nominations Center would close at 12:00PM today.

**Instructions on Resolutions**

At 9:21AM Bishop Miller called upon the Rev. Steve Srock, chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, to offer the assembly instructions on the resolutions that are to come before the assembly. Rev. Srock informed the assembly

that we had received three resolutions and one memorial for consideration. However, upon review by the committee, it was determined that one of the resolutions was no longer pertinent and it was withdrawn by the movers. He explained that there would be three hearings on the resolutions and memorial that the assembly would be considering prior to their consideration. He gave the times and locations of those hearings to the assembly. Bishop Miller thanked him and the members of the committee for their willingness to serve.

**Introduction of Special Guests**

At 9:35AM Bishop Miller invited Vice President Henderson to welcome our assembly guests that represented our wide range of partnerships in mission and ministry.

- Rev. Kathie Bender Schwich, Senior Vice President, Mission and Spiritual Care, Advocate Health Care System
- Bishop Jeffrey Clements, Northern Illinois Synod
- Bishop Paul Erickson, Greater Milwaukee Synod
- The Rev. Dr. James Nieman, President, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
- Mr. Daniel Olsen, Director of the Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, Archdiocese of Chicago
- Our Churchwide Representative, Bishop-elect Kevin Strickland, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop, Executive for Worship of the ELCA
- Bishop Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
- Bishop Ann Svenningsen, Minneapolis Area Synod

Bishop Miller thanked Vice President Henderson and then invited the assembly to welcome our guests and the assembly did so with applause.

**Introduction of Rostered Leaders**

**New to the Synod**

Bishop Miller then asked Vice President Henderson to introduce and welcome rostered leaders who are new to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. Vice President Henderson introduced the following rostered leaders:

- Rev. Klaus-Peter Adam, Associate Professor of Old Testament, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
- Rev. Suzanne Anderson-Hurdle, Pastor, Ashburn Lutheran Church, Chicago
- Rev. Brittany Baurle Kooi, Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Blue Island
- Rev. Allison Bengfort, Pastor, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Wilmette
- Rev. Antonio Cabello, Associate Pastor, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Addison
- Rev. Mark Chen, Pastor, Taiwanese Community Church in Greater Chicago, Lombard
- Rev. Erin Coleman Branchaud, Pastor, St. Luke’s Lutheran Church of Logan Square, Chicago
- Rev. Robert Leshner, Retired Pastor
- Rev. Richard Perry, Retired Pastor
- Rev. Jenna Pulkowski, Director of Pastoral Services, St. Paul’s House, a Lutheran Life Community
- Rev. Mark Rollenhagen, Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Waukegan
- Rev. Shelly Satran, Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church, Glen Ellyn
- Rev. Eric Schaefer, Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Libertyville
- Rev. Lisa Watson-Hill, Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Warrenville

○ Rev. Eric Worringer, Pastor, Holy Family Lutheran Church, Chicago

Bishop Miller thanked Vice President Henderson and then invited the assembly to welcome our guests and the assembly did so with applause.

**Report of the Bishop**

At 9:30AM, Bishop Miller relinquished the chair of the assembly to Vice President Terry Henderson in order to give his report. At 10:15AM, Vice President Terry Henderson returned the chair to Bishop Miller. *(A copy of Bishop Miller’s Power Point Report was made available online at the Metropolitan Chicago Synod website: [www.mcselca.org/assembly](http://www.mcselca.org/assembly))*

**A Refreshment Break**

Bishop Miller then invited the assembly to take a fifteen-minute break for refreshment.

**Reconvening of the Assembly and Mission Moment**

At 10:30AM, Bishop Miller called the assembly back to order and invited invite Pastor Elaina Salmon, a member of the companion synod group, to the center microphone for a Mission Moment. Rev. Elaina Salmon shared a video greeting from Bishop Rakuba of the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa, with whom we are in a companion relationship.

**Report of the Synodical Treasurer and the Introduction of 2020 Budget**

At 10:32 AM Bishop Miller invited Ms. Yvette NewberryWhite to the stage. Treasurer NewberryWhite offered the Treasurer’s Report and then introduced next year’s budget. She moved the adoption of the 2020 budget as presented, and it was seconded. Treasurer NewberryWhite announced that there would be a hearing to discuss the budget at 3:45PM in the Sam Tinley Room. Bishop Miller stated that if there were no objections, consideration of the budget would be tabled until Saturday morning after the hearing. There were no objections and the motion was tabled.

**Recognition of Anniversaries**

Bishop Miller then invited Vice President Terry Henderson to recognize the rostered leaders and congregations of our synod who are celebrating significant anniversaries this year, and to make a presentation of the Sunergos Award. Vice President Henderson mentioned that these rostered leadrs had been honored at a luncheon on May 22, 2019, at Colletti’s Restaurant in Chicago, at which time they were presented with a certificate. He introduced those leaders and asked that they stand and be recognized.

<u>Rostered Leader</u>	<u>Anniversary</u>
Rev. Donald Danielson	65 years
Rev. Clyde Friedman	65 years
Rev. Dean Lueking	65 years
Rev. Al Bergh	60 years
Rev. Hansruedi Peplinski	60 years
Rev. Carl Anderson	50 years
Rev. Timothy Chao	50 years
Rev. Lloyd Kittlaus	50 years
Rev. Charles Merkner	50 years
Rev. Robert Navarro	50 years
Rev. Roger Nelson	50 years
Dcn. Robert Pope	50 years
Rev. Frank Senn	50 years
Rev. Timothy Brown	25 years
Rev. Antonio Cabello	25 years
Rev. Robert Douglas	25 years
Rev. Dawn Hansen-Roucka	25 years
Rev. Sally Meyer	25 years
Rev. Michelle Sevig	25 years
Rev. Mark Sundberg	25 years
Rev. Rosanne Swanson	25 years

Vice President Henderson then recognized those congregations in the synod which are celebrating significant anniversaries this year. He asked that members of those congregations stand to be recognized.

**Congregation Anniversary**

- Grace Lutheran Church of Lily Lake, St. Charles 125 years
- Resurrection Lutheran Church, Franklin Park 75 years
- St. James Lutheran Church, Chicago 75 years
- Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Darien 50 years
- Rejoice Lutheran Church, Geneva 25 years

Vice President Henderson followed this with a presentation of the Sunergos Award for Synodical Service. He explained that Sunergos is a Greek word that means “a companion in work” or “fellow worker.” The award was established by the synod council in May 2000 to “celebrate the gift of lay servants of our synod who give so much to the life of the church.” This year’s recipient is Ms. Nannette Dahlke, and she is the tenth person to receive this award.

The award reads: “The Metropolitan Chicago Synod expresses its deep appreciation for your many years of faithful service as a congregational leader, a leader in synodical work, and as synod vice president. We give thanks to God for your life and witness.”

Vice President Henderson continued with the following introduction of Nan Dahlke: Nan Dahlke has been part of the life of this synod from day one. She served on the first synod council way back in 1987 and has been involved in the life of this church ever since. Among other things, she has served on the synod Executive Committee, the Outreach Team, the Synod

Assembly Planning Team, and has been a voting member at numerous Churchwide Assemblies. And in 2000 she was elected vice president of the synod.

Much has changed in the life of the church since she first started in lay leadership, but one thing has remained constant, and that is her faith and dedication to the roles to which she has been elected. We are honoring her today for volunteer work with the Sunergos Award. This work, this ministry, she fulfils with humor, grace, and concern for what is best for the many different congregations, parishioners and partner ministries that come together to form the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. Her work has helped make sure that all of these different voices have been heard, and then her work has brought those voices together to share the Good News of the gospel.

You may know her from a visit to one of your congregations where perhaps she helped when you were facing a challenge, or perhaps you met her when you were celebrating an important event in your life together. Maybe you met her in a committee meeting either in our synod or assisting with the churchwide office and the ways that they help build up the body of Christ. Possibly you have heard one of her reports to a synod assembly, reports that are hard to forget both because of their message and because Nan has a way of making difficult ideas and concepts more understandable and more concrete.

However you know her, I am sure you will agree that her steadying presence in our synod has made a vast difference in our life together. Nan is not one to trumpet her own horn. She can be quiet and unassuming as she goes about her task, (and sometimes not so quiet and unassuming) but make no mistake, she has a genuine and caring heart, she lives out her faith day-by-day, and I am profoundly grateful that the synod has been part of that lived-out faith for the past 30 years that she has been involved in synod leadership.



Part of her role has involved sacrifice, though you will never hear Nan call it that, and you will never hear her complain. Evening events, Saturday meetings, time spent away from her family and other interests, all without pay?—yes, that is something, and we have all benefited.

So, on behalf of the synod, Nan, I thank you for all that you have done. In closing, I am reminded of words from Matthew’s Gospel, chapter 20, verses 25-26: But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant” ... Nan is great among us. Thank you.

Ms. Dahlke accepted the award with thanks.

**ELCA Churchwide Report**

At 11:16AM Bishop Miller thanked Vice President Henderson for his report. He then welcomed the Churchwide Representative, Bishop-elect Kevin Strickland, who serves as the Assistant to the Presiding Bishop, Executive for Worship of the ELCA. Bishop-elect Strickland brought the assembly the ELCA Churchwide Report.

**Announcements and Adjournment**

At 11:48AM Bishop Miller then invited Rev. Darryl Thompson Powell to the stage to make announcements. Pastor Thompson Powell mentioned that evaluations of the assembly would be e-mailed to participants. He then gave instruction regarding the box lunches and the transition to the Conference Meetings and led the assembly in a meal prayer. Bishop Miller then adjourned the assembly at 11:57AM and asked that the assembly reconvene at 1:15PM.

**Lunch and Conference Meetings**

During lunch, the eight synod conferences met in separate areas to conduct business.

**PLENARY SESSION 2**

**Report of the Ecclesiastical Ballot**

At 1:15PM Bishop Miller called the Assembly back to order. He relinquished the chair of the Assembly to Bishop-elect Strickland for the report on the ecclesiastical ballot for the Office of Bishop. Bishop-elect Strickland called the Rev. Robert Klonowski, Chair of the Elections Committee, to give the report of the ecclesiastical ballot for the Office of Bishop.

Rev. Klonowski reported the results: there were 419 total, of which 1 was illegal, making 418 legal votes. This ballot therefore required 314 (75%) votes for an election. There was not an election.

**Report of the Nominations Committee**

Bishop-elect Strickland relinquished the chair to Bishop Miller, who invited the Rev. Darrel Thompson Powell, Chair of the Nominations Committee, to the stage for the Nominations Committee report. Rev. Thompson Powell presented the report of the committee. There were elections for Synod Council, Discipline Committee, and Consultation Committee. In no case were there more than one nomination for any position. Thus, Bishop Miller asked if there was any objection to an election by acclamation. Hearing no objection, the assembly proceeded to elect all positions by acclamation.

**Presentation by Portico**

At 1:30PM Bishop Miller invited Mr. Jeff Thiemann, Chief Executive Officer of Portico Benefit Services, to bring greetings from Portico, following a short video from Portico.

**Mission Moment**

At 1:37PM, Bishop Miller invited Ngbarezere Frezar, a junior at North Park University, who is a member at Unity Lutheran Church, Chicago, and a former member of the Edgewater Congregations Together youth group, and Maggie Peyton (May-gee Pay-ton), a junior at Lincoln Park High School, who is a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Chicago, and one of two synod representatives to the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit in 2019, to come to the center microphone for this assembly’s next Mission Moment. They shared a few highlights of their experiences in their church youth groups and the Metro-Chicago Youth Ministry Network events.

**Announcements and Adjournment**

At 1:41PM, Bishop Miller adjourned the assembly so that it could transition to the first session of Hearings and Workshops set to begin at 1:30PM. He announced that the assembly would reconvene at 3:00PM.

**PLENARY SESSION 2 - continued**

At 3:00PM Bishop Miller called the Assembly back to order. He relinquished the chair of the Assembly to Bishop-elect Strickland, to lead the second ballot for the Office of Bishop.

**Report of the Credentials**

**and Courtesies Committee**

Bishop-elect Strickland briefly explained second ballot voting. He then called on Rev. Ellen Arthur for an updated report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee. She reported to the assembly that the total number of voting members registered as of 2:30PM was 516. Bishop-elect Strickland asked that Pastor Mark Chen come to the white microphone and offer a prayer before voting. Following the prayer, balloting for the second vote was complete. Bishop-elect Strickland then returned the chair to Bishop Miller.

**LSSI Presentation**

At 3:38, Bishop Miller introduced Mr. Mark Stutrud, president and chief executive officer of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois since 2014, to bring an update on LSSI.

**Mission Moment**

At 3:44PM, Bishop Miller invited Pastor Deanna Langle, Pastor of University Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministries at Northwestern University in Evanston, to come to the center microphone for this assembly’s third Mission Moment. In the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, there are three campus ministries: South Loop, University of Chicago, and Northwestern University. Bearing witness to God’s amazing grace within the context of higher education, these campus ministries are one particular way the synod is intentionally reaching out to young adults, inviting them to experience the joys and challenges of following Jesus.

**Announcements and Adjournment**

At 1:41PM Bishop Miller invited Rev. Darryl Thompson-Powell to the stage for announcements. He then adjourned the assembly so that it could transition to the second session of Hearings and Workshops and rehearsal for the Assembly Choir, all set to begin at 3:45PM. He announced that the assembly would reconvene at 5:15PM.

**PLENARY SESSION 3**

**Report of Second Ballot and Third Ballot Vote**

At 5:24PM Bishop Miller called the Assembly back to order. He then relinquished the chair of the Assembly to Bishop-elect Strickland, to lead the third ballot for the Office of Bishop. Bishop-elect Strickland called on the Rev. Robert Klonowski, Chair of the Elections Committee, to give the report of the second ballot for the Office of Bishop.

Rev. Klonowski reported that there were 516 votes cast of which 7 votes were illegal. There were therefore 509 legal votes cast. An election requires 75% of the votes cast, or 382 votes. The top 7 nominees were listed: Rev. Sarah Stumme (96 votes), Rev. Heidi Torgerson (86 votes), Rev. Yehiel Curry (80 votes), Rev. Andrea Walker (67 votes), Rev. Trudy Stoffel (57 votes), Rev. Larry Clark (48 votes). Rev. Robert Davis (26 votes). There was no election.

A voting member of the Assembly moved that the Assembly take a 15 minute recess for the purpose of caucusing with the remaining nominees for the office of bishop. The motion was seconded. The vote was taken by blue card. He declared the motion defeated.

A voting member of the Assembly called for division of the house. The Sergeants at Arms counted the blue cards as the vote was taken. The motion was defeated.

Bishop-elect Strickland briefly explained third ballot voting.

A member of the Assembly moved to suspend the rules of the Assembly, to allow the remaining nominees for the office of bishop to give a brief introduction. This motion was seconded. The vote was taken by blue card. The motion was defeated.

A member of the Assembly moved that the Assembly recess for 5 minutes, to allow for caucusing with the remaining nominees for the office of bishop. The motion was seconded. The vote was taken by blue card. The motion was defeated.

Bishop-elect Strickland then called upon Rev. Ellen Arthur for an updated report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee. She reported to the assembly that the total number of voting members registered as of 4:30PM was 516. Bishop-elect Strickland asked that Pastor Allison Bengfort come to the white microphone and offer

a prayer before voting. Following the prayer, balloting for the third vote was complete. Bishop-elect Strickland then returned the chair to Bishop Miller.

**Presentation by the ELCA Credit Union**

At 6:00PM Bishop Miller introduced a video about the ELCA Federal Credit Union. He explained that the ELCA Federal Credit Union was created by the ELCA to provide additional financial services to ELCA members, employees of synods, congregations or any other ELCA-related ministry. Family members of current ELCA FCU members are also eligible to join.

**Mission Moment**

Bishop Miller then invited Ms. Madelynn Skvarla, President of the Women’s Network of LSSI, to come to the center microphone for another Mission Moment. She shared how LSSI supporters use toy showers for their program Bringing Churches Together: Toys that Heal.

**Announcements**

Bishop Miller invited Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell to share announcements. Pastor Thompson Powell explained that assembly evaluations will be e-mailed to all voting members and visitors. A reception for Bishop Miller will be held in Exhibit North following this plenary session. The assembly will reconvene on Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m.

**Evening Worship**

At 6:12PM Bishop Miller asked the Assembly to join in evening worship, led by members of the Metropolitan Chicago Worship Team.

**Report of the Third Ballot for the Office of the Bishop**

At 6:58PM Bishop Miller relinquished the chair of the Assembly to Bishop-elect Strickland, who invied the Rev. Robert Klonowski to present

the report of the third ballot for the Office of the Bishop. Rev. Klonowski reported that there were 494 votes cast, of which there was 1 illegal vote. Out of 493 legal votes, an election requires 2/3, or 330 votes. Those moving to the next vote were: Rev. Sarah Stumme (122 votes), Rev. Yehiel Curry (99 votes), Rev. Heidi Torgerson (96 votes). Not moving to the next ballot were: Rev. Andrea Walker (67 votes), Rev. Trudy Stoeffel (46 votes), Rev. Larry Clark (39 votes), and Rev. Bob Klonowski (24 votes). There was no election. Bishop-elect Strickland then returned the chair to Bishop Miller, who declared the third plenary session of the assembly concluded.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 8 – PLENARY SESSION 4**

**Opening Worship**

The assembly reconvened at 8:30AM for morning devotions led by the synodical Worship Team. When worship ended, Bishop Miller called the Fourth Plenary Session of the assembly to order at 8:53AM.

**Comments from Three Final Nominees for the Office of the Bishop**

Bishop Miller then relinquished the chair of the Assembly to Vice President Terry Henderson and Bishop-elect Strickland to introduce the three final nominees for the Office of the Bishop. The three nominees each had the opportunity to give a 10 minute address to the assembly, followed by answering the same 5 questions that had been prepared by the Elections Committee. After each Rev. Sarah Stumme, Rev. Heidi Torgerson, and Rev. Yehiel Curry had the opportunity to address the assembly, Bishop-elect Strickland and Vice President Henderson returned the chair to Bishop Miller, who announced a break for refreshments.

**Report of Credentials and Courtesies**

At 10:35AM Bishop Miller called the assembly back to order. He called on The Reverend Ellen Arthur to present the report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee. Bishop Miller then relinquished the chair of the Assembly to Bishop-elect Strickland, to lead the fourth ballot for the

Office of Bishop.

**Fourth Ballot for the Office of Bishop**

Bishop-elect Strickland briefly explained the process for voting on the fourth ballot and then asked that Pastor Eric Worringer come to the white microphone and offer a prayer before voting. Following the prayer, the votes were cast by written ballot. Bishop-elect Strickland then returned the chair to Bishop Miller.

**Mission Moment**

Bishop Miller then invited the Rev. Paul Pfeffer to the center microphone for a Mission Moment. Pastor Pfeffer provided a brief overview of the Federal Chaplains of the ELCA program showing how on our behalf these Chaplains are making all things new. Retired US Army Chaplain Pfeffer has been part of the US Army Chaplain Corps Regiment since 1974 and serves as Metropolitan Chicago’s Centurion representative serving as an advisor to Synod parishes doing and who are interested in ministry to military members.

**Campus Ministry Presentation**

Following the mission moment, Bishop Miller introduced a video about the ELCA Campus Ministry Program. He explained that the ELCA campus ministry is a Lutheran ministry for students, faculty, staff, and others “on campus” and provides an ELCA presence at more than 180 state and private colleges and universities, with cooperating congregations in campus ministry at an additional 400 campuses nationwide. This video produced by LuMin, the ELCA network for campus ministry, offered a glimpse from students themselves of the impact that Lutheran Campus Ministry makes in their lives and the lives of young adults on campuses across the United States.



Debate on Resolutions

At 10:55AM Bishop Miller invited Pastor Brittany Baurle-Kooi to the white microphone to offer a prayer. He then invited the Rev. Steve Srock, chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee to the stage to introduce resolutions for debate by the assembly. At 10:58AM Rev. Srock read the resolved portions of **Resolution 02-19 RESOLUTION ON DEALING WITH DEPRESSION AND INTENTIONAL DEATH (OR SUICIDE) IN OUR CHURCHES** and moved and recommended its adoption.

RESOLUTION ON DEALING WITH DEPRESSION AND INTENTIONAL DEATH (OR SUICIDE) IN OUR CHURCHES

WHEREAS, life expectancy in the United States is decreasing (partially resulting from intentional death) and intentional death in the United States is increasing;

WHEREAS, studies suggest that over 75% of railroad trespass deaths are intentional;

WHEREAS, in Northeastern Illinois, approximately 5% of all intentional deaths occur on railroad property;

WHEREAS, Jesus commands us in John 13:34-35 to love one another;

WHEREAS, Jesus requires us to care for our neighbor in Luke 10:36-37;

WHEREAS, depression that has lasted over two weeks has become a clinical problem (clinical depression) which almost always requires medical intervention; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that each congregation have resources available to guide individuals with clinical depression to help in combatting their depression before thoughts of suicide occur; and that the framers of this motion assemble a packet of appropriate resources to be assembled and sent to each congregation;

RESOLVED, that each congregation be made aware of the ELCA’s commitment to suicide prevention;

RESOLVED, that each congregation have the “National Suicide Prevention Lifeline” contact information (1-800-273-8255) posted in conspicuous places;

RESOLVED, that each congregation will, in some way, address the issue of recognizing depression and loneliness amongst their members; and

RESOLVED, that each congregation will in some way develop resources for family and community members who have experienced the loss of a loved one through suicide.

Following discussion, Bishop Miller called for a vote on Resolution 02-19. The vote on the motion to approve was taken by blue cards. The motion passed.

Rev. Srock then introduced **Memorial 01-19 MEMORIAL TO SUPPORT THE ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDED PROPOSED SOCIAL STATEMENT: Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action** and moved and recommended its adoption.

MEMORIAL TO SUPPORT THE ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDED PROPOSED SOCIAL STATEMENT: Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action

WHEREAS, social statements are social teaching documents that “equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12) by bringing into “dialogue the convictions of faith with the realities of the world and the experience of Christians living out their baptismal vocation”—and Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action is a comprehensive, creatively-organized teaching document that will equip members and build up the church by clarifying biblical texts, utilizing scientific knowledge and human reason, and articulating Lutheran theology that speaks truth with charity; and

WHEREAS, social statements are intended to help members “discern God’s will for today,” offer moral direction on how to view an issue, foster moral conversation, and act justly as followers of Christ\* —and Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action sets forth ethical thinking and evaluation by: analyzing the complex effects of patriarchy and sexism on church and society, including on women and girls of color, the LGBTQ community, and gender non-conforming people; introducing the concept of neighbor justice, intersecting forms of discrimination, and principles for creating and supporting justice; and calling the church to redress the wrongs of the past and present; and

WHEREAS, social statements are the result of extensive, participatory discussion throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and are shaped by

careful listening to all quarters of this church, to society, as well as to other church bodies and ecumenical organizations\* —and Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action has been a decade in the making that has consisted of: listening events in 2013, 2014, and 2015; the publication of study materials in 2014 and 2015; the production of the Church Council-approved social message “Gender-based Violence” (2015); the publishing of the study “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: Conversations Toward a Social Statement” (2016) with responses to it throughout 2017; the writing of the draft women and justice statement (2017) with responses to it as well as synodical hearings on it in 2018, including at last year’s Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly; interaction with other denominations and with the Lutheran World Federation; and review by the ELCA Conference of Bishops and Church Council; and

WHEREAS, social statements, as the ELCA’s primary social teaching documents, govern this church’s institutional life, its policies and practices, setting forth expectations for the church’s agencies and institutions, its advocacy to government and the private sector, and its ecumenical and interfaith relations\*—and Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action, in response to theological convictions and social analysis, calls the ELCA to commitments within its institutional life to honor and support women and girls “in ways more consistent with life-giving theology and faith practices,” and to commitments in society to “seek justice in earthly relationships, structures, and systems”;\*\* therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod in assembly memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to adopt the recommended proposed social statement

Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action and all implementing resolutions.

*\*Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns, 2019.*

*\*\*Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action, Short Statement, Articles 24 and 31, respectively.*

Following discussion, Bishop Miller called for a vote on Memorial 01-19. The vote on the motion to approve was taken by blue cards. The motion passed. Rev. Srock then presented Resolution 01-19

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDED PROPOSED SOCIAL STATEMENT: Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action** and moved and recommended its adoption.

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDED PROPOSED SOCIAL STATEMENT:** *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action*

WHEREAS, social statements are social teaching documents that “equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12) by bringing into “dialogue the convictions of faith with the realities of the world and the experience of Christians living out their baptismal vocation”\*—and Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action is a comprehensive, creatively-organized teaching document that will equip members and build up the church by clarifying biblical texts, utilizing scientific knowledge and human reason, and articulating Lutheran theology that speaks truth with charity; and

WHEREAS, social statements are intended to help members “discern God’s will for today,” offer moral direction on how to view an issue, foster moral conversation, and act justly as followers of Christ\* —and Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action sets forth ethical thinking and evaluation by: analyzing the complex effects of patriarchy and sexism on church and society, including on women and girls of color, the LGBTQ community, and gender non-conforming people; introducing the concept of neighbor justice, intersecting forms of discrimination, and principles for creating and supporting justice; and calling the church to redress the wrongs of the past and present; and

WHEREAS, social statements are the result of extensive, participatory discussion throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and are shaped by careful listening to all quarters of this church, to society, as well as to other church bodies and ecumenical organizations\* —and Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action has been a decade in the making that has consisted of: listening events in 2013, 2014, and 2015; the publication of study materials in 2014 and 2015; the production of the Church Council-approved social message “Gender-based Violence” (2015); the publishing of the study “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: Conversations Toward a Social Statement” (2016) with responses to it throughout 2017; the writing of the draft women and justice statement (2017) with responses to it as well as synodical hearings on it in 2018, including at last year’s Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly; interaction with other denominations and with the Lutheran World Federation; and review by the ELCA Conference of Bishops and Church Council; and

WHEREAS, social statements, as the ELCA’s primary social teaching documents, govern this church’s institutional life, its policies and practices, setting forth expectations for the church’s agencies and institutions, its advocacy to government and the private sector, and its ecumenical and interfaith relations\*—and Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action, in response to theological convictions and social analysis, calls the ELCA to commitments within its institutional life to honor and support women and girls “in ways more consistent with life-giving theology and faith practices,” and to commitments in society to “seek justice in earthly relationships, structures, and systems”;\*\* therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the congregations, conferences, and agencies and institutions on the territory of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod engage in study of Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action, be guided by its convictions and commitments, and review its implementing resolutions to determine what specifically they may do to take action.

*\*Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns, 2019.*

*\*\*Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action, Short Statement, Articles 24 and 31, respectively.*

Following discussion, Bishop Miller called for a vote on Resolution 01-19. The vote on the motion to approve was taken by blue cards. The motion passed.

**Presentation by LIRS**  
Bishop Miller then welcomed Ms. Marta Erling-Spanger, Gifts officer at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service to give an overview of LIRS’s work with refugee resettlement and immigration.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service welcomes refugees and immigrants, serving children and families who have faced incredibly challenging journeys to reach safety here in the United States. During challenging times for migrants and refugees, LIRS lives out the call that we have as people of faith, to welcome the stranger.

**Fourth ballot results and Fifth ballot vote**  
At 11:40AM, Bishop Miller ceded the chair to Bishop-elect Strickland, who invited Bob Klonowski to share the results of the fourth ballot for the office of bishop. Out of 492 total ballots cast, 4 were illegal. Therefore, there were 488 legal ballots. The 60% required for an election would be 293 ballots. The totals were: Rev. Curry 216; Rev. Torgerson 177; Rev. Stumme 95. No election was declared.

Rev. Strickland invited Ellen Arthur, chair of Credentials and Courtesies Committee, to provide an updated report. The total number of voting members registered as of 11:00 a.m. was 525. He then invited Pastor Mark Rollenhagen to offer a prayer before voting. At 11:46AM, voting for the fifth ballot for the office of bishop was declared open. At 11:50, voting was declared closed and Bishop-elect Strickland returned the chair to Bishop Miller.

**Announcements and Meal Prayer**  
Bishop Miller then invited Rev. Daryl Thompson-Powell to the stage for announcements and meal prayer. The assembly was released for lunch at 12:00, with the instruction that Plenary Session 5 would begin at 12:45.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 8 – PLENARY SESSION 5**  
**Mission Moment**  
At 12:49PM Bishop Miller called the assembly back to order. He invited Ms. Pamela Gonzalez, a member at Edgebrook Lutheran Church in Chicago to share another Mission Moment.



She shared about how Edgebrook Lutheran Church brings Christ to a Home for People with Disabilities.

**Debate on Budget**

Bishop Miller then invited Treasurer Yvette Newberry White to the stage to present the budget. Having no questions or comments from the floor, the assembly voted on the budget by blue cards. The budget was adopted.

**Report of the Fifth Ballot for the Office of Bishop**

At 12:56PM Bishop Miller again relinquished the chair to Bishop-elect Strickland for the report of the fifth ballot for the office of bishop. Bishop-elect Strickland invited Rev. Klonowski to return to the stage to present the report. Out of 484 total votes cast, 0 were illegal. This ballot required a simple majority, or 243 votes to win. Rev. Curry received 258 votes; Rev. Torgerson received 226 votes. Bishop-elect Strickland declared that Rev. Curry had been elected as the next bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod.

**Greetings from Bishop-Elect**

At 1:00PM, Bishop-elect Curry was invited to the stage to greet the assembly.

**Mission Moment #8**

Following the greeting from Bishop-elect Curry, Bishop Miller invited Ms. LaShanda Curry, a member at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, to share a mission moment. Ms. Curry shared information about the Metropolitan Chicago African Descent Lutheran Association, commonly referred to as ADLA. As part of the ELCA’s Ethnic-Specific and Multicultural Ministries Team, ADLA seeks to answer the call to build a multicultural church that is inclusive of all God’s children.

**Report of the Vice President**

At 1:08PM Bishop Miller invited Vice President Henderson to give a report. Vice President Henderson shared the importance of the church’s action in recognizing discrimination and profiling.

**Report of the Secretary**

Bishop Miller then invited Secretary Clausen to give the report of the secretary. Secretary Clausen focused on the importance of governing documents to the mission of congregations and the church at large.

**Mission Moment**

Bishop Miller then invited Mr. Jims Porter, Policy and Communications Coordinator for RefugeeOne, to give the final Mission Moment of this assembly. Today, we are faced with the worst refugee crisis in recorded history, with more than 68 million people displaced around the world by violence and persecution. Refugee ministry is a critical component of practicing the biblical mandate to “welcome the stranger.” RefugeeOne is our synod’s partner in mission working with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and Church World Service to resettle and advocate on behalf of the most at risk and vulnerable.

**Resolution of Thanks**

At 1:36PM Bishop Miller invited Reverend Ellen Arthur of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee back to the stage for the Resolution of Thanks.

**Authorization of Approval of the Minutes**

At 1:38PM Bishop Miller invited Vice President Terry Henderson to the stage to move the Authorization of Approval of the Minutes.

Vice President Henderson moved, and a member of the assembly seconded: That the synodical secretary be authorized to correct punctuation, references to

resolutions and other positions, and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the assembly in connection with positions adopted, and that the synod council’s executive committee be given authority to approve the minutes of this assembly.

The motion passed.

**Announcements**

At 1:40PM Bishop Miller called Rev. Thompson Powell to the stage for final announcements.

**Order for the Closing of the Assembly**

At 1:45PM Bishop Miller led the assembly in the Order of the Closing of the Assembly.

At 1:50PM, the assembly was declared closed and was invited to transition to worship.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Erin Clausen  
Secretary, Metropolitan Chicago Synod.





St. Andrew Lutheran Church 5/04/2020  
Photos by: Nancy Valladolid







## CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS OF THE METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
June 10, 2017

*Redeemer Lutheran Church Hinsdale*  
01/26/2020 Photos by: Nancy Valladolid



## Introduction to the Constitution of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**October 25, 2019**

The *Constitution of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, like the other governing documents of this church, is an ecclesial, legal, and missional document that reflects the underlying theology and doctrines of this church as well as its polity and governance structures. As the guiding document of one of the three expressions of this church, it reflects that this synod, while fully the church, is not the whole church; and exists in an interdependent relationship with congregations and the churchwide organization and is part of the one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. As such, the *Constitution of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod* is deeply rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Lutheran Confessions, and the history of this church.

- Required provisions: Sections of this *Constitution for Synods* that are marked by a dagger [†] are required provisions. These sections, including constitutional provisions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions, are used without alteration or amendment of the text in any manner (i.e., neither additions nor deletions are permissible) and reflect the interdependent relationship that exists between this synod, the ELCA churchwide expression and the various congregations and institutions of this synod.





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Chapter 1.

NAME AND INCORPORATION

- †S1.01. The name of this synod, as determined by the Churchwide Assembly, shall be the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †S1.02. For the purposes of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is hereafter designated as “this synod” or “the synod.”
- †S1.11. This synod shall be incorporated. Amendments to the articles of incorporation of this synod shall be submitted to the Church Council for ratification before filing.
- S1.11.01. Place of incorporation location of office. This synod shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois; its office shall be at Chicago, Illinois, or elsewhere in the territory as the Assembly may from time to time determine.
- †S1.21. The seal of this synod is a circular device with the words “METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA” on the margin, and the words “CORPORATE SEAL ILLINOIS” in the central portion.

Chapter 2.

STATUS

- †S2.01. This synod possesses the powers conferred upon it, and accepts the duties and responsibilities assigned to it, in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, which are recognized as having governing force in the life of this synod.
- †S2.02. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA or “this church”) as used herein refers in general references to this whole church, including its three expressions: congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is also the name of the corporation of the churchwide organization to which specific references may be made herein.
- †S2.03. No provision of this constitution shall be inconsistent with the constitution and bylaws of this church.

Chapter 3.

TERRITORY

- †S3.01. The territory of this synod, as determined by the Churchwide Assembly, shall be the Counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, and Lake in the State of Illinois.
- †S3.02. “Determined by the Churchwide Assembly,” as stipulated by †S3.01., is understood to include the reported changes in synod relationship made by any congregation in a border area agreed under ELCA bylaws 10.01.01. and 10.02.02.

Chapter 4.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

- †S4.01. This synod confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- †S4.02. This synod confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.
  - a. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.
  - b. The proclamation of God’s message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in the history of Israel, and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
  - c. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by God’s Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God’s revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God’s Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.
- †S4.03. This synod accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life.
- †S4.04. This synod accepts the Apostles’, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of this synod.



- †S4.05.

This synod accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a true witness to the Gospel, acknowledging as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.
- †S4.06.

This synod accepts the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord, namely, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles and the Treatise, the Small Catechism, the Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord, as further valid interpretations of the faith of the Church.
- †S4.07.

This synod confesses the Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scripture and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the Church for God’s mission in the world.

Chapter 5.

NATURE OF THE CHURCH

- †S5.01.

All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this synod are to be carried out under his rule and authority.
- †S5.02.

This church confesses the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church and is resolved to serve Christian unity throughout the world.
- †S5.03.

The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations. This church, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day.
- †S5.04.

This church, inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, participates in The Lutheran World Federation as a global communion of churches, engaging in faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and in service for the sake of God’s mission in the world.

- Chapter 6.
- STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
- †S6.03.

This synod, in cooperation with the churchwide organization, shall bear primary responsibility for the oversight of the life and mission of this church in its territory. In fulfillment of this role and consistent with policies and procedures of this church, the synod shall:

a.

Provide for pastoral care of congregations and rostered ministers in the synod;

b.

Plan for, facilitate, and nurture the mission of this church through congregations;

c.

Strengthen interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and foster relationships with agencies and institutions affiliated with or related to this church as well as ecumenical partners.

d.

Interpret the work of this church to congregations and to the public on the territory of the synod.

- †S6.03.01.

The responsibilities of the synod include the following:

a.

providing for pastoral care of congregations, ministers of Word and Sacrament, and ministers of Word and Service in the synod, including:

1)

approving candidates for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in cooperation with the appropriate seminaries of this church, which may be done through multi-synod committees;

2)

authorizing ordinations and ordaining ministers of Word and Sacrament on behalf of this church;

3)

approving ministers of Word and Service, which may be done through multi-synod committees;

4)

authorizing ordinations and ordaining ministers of Word and Service on behalf of this church; and

5)

consulting in the call process for rostered ministers.

b.

providing for leadership recruitment, preparation, and support in accordance with churchwide standards and policies, including:

1)

nurturing and supporting congregations and lay leaders;
- 2)

seeking and recruiting qualified candidates for the rostered ministries of this church;

3)

making provision for pastoral care, call review, and guidance;

4)

encouraging and supporting persons on the rosters of this church in stewardship of their abilities, care of self, and pursuit of continuing education to undergird their effectiveness of service; and

5)

supporting recruitment of leaders for this church’s colleges, universities, seminaries, and social ministry organizations.

c.

providing for discipline of congregations, ministers of Word and Sacrament, and ministers of Word and Service; as well as for termination of call, appointment, adjudication, and appeals consistent with Chapter 20 of this church’s constitution.

d.

providing for archives in conjunction with other synods.
- †S6.03.02.

In planning for, facilitating, and nurturing the mission of this church through congregations, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:

a.

developing of new ministries, redevelopment of existing ministries, and support and assistance in the conclusion, if necessary, of a particular ministry;

b.

leading and encouraging of congregations in their evangelism efforts;

c.

assisting members of its congregations in carrying out their ministries in the world;

d.

encouraging congregations to respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and the suffering, and participate responsibly in society;

e.

providing resources for congregational life;

f.

grouping congregations in conferences, clusters, coalitions, or other area subdivisions for mission purposes.
- †S6.03.03.

In strengthening interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and in fostering relationships with agencies and institutions affiliated with or related to this church as well as with ecumenical partners, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:
- a.

promoting interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and entering into relationships with other synods in the region;

b.

fostering organizations for youth, women, and men, and organizations for language or ethnic communities;

c.

developing relationships with social ministry organizations and ministries, participating in their mission planning, and providing supportive funding;

d.

supporting relationships with and providing supportive funding on behalf of colleges, universities, and campus ministries;

e.

maintaining relationships with and providing supportive funding on behalf of seminaries and continuing education centers;

f.

fostering supporting relationships with camps and other outdoor ministries;

g.

fostering supporting relationships with preschools, elementary schools, and secondary schools operated by congregations of the synod;

h.

fostering relationships with ecumenical and global companions;

i.

cooperating with other synods and the churchwide organization in creating, using, and supporting regions to carry out those functions of the synod which can best be done cooperatively with other synods and the churchwide organization.
- †S6.03.04.

In interpreting the work of this church on the territory of the synod, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:

a.

encouraging financial support for the work of this church by individuals and congregations;

b.

participating in churchwide programs;

c.

interpreting social statements in a manner consistent with the interpretation given by the churchwide unit or office which assisted in the development of the statement, and suggestion of social study issues;

d.

providing ecumenical guidance and encouragement.

†S6.04.

Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, the Synod Council shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of the synod assemblies,

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councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; and that at least 45 percent of the lay members of assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be women and at least 45 percent shall be men; and that, where possible, the representation of ministers of Word and Sacrament shall include both men and women. This synod shall establish processes that will enable it to reach a minimum goal that 10 percent of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.

†S6.04.01. It is the goal of this synod that 10 percent of the membership of synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards and/or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.

†S6.04.02. It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term “young adult” means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.

†S6.05. Each assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body of this synod or any synod units shall be conclusively presumed to have been properly constituted, and neither the method of selection nor the composition of any such assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body may be challenged in a court of law by any person or be used as the basis of a challenge in a court of law to the validity or effect of any action taken or authorized by any such assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body.

†S6.06. References herein to the nature of the relationship between the three expressions of this church—congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization—as being interdependent or as being in a partnership relationship describe the mutual responsibility of these expressions in God’s mission and the fulfillment of the purposes of this church as described in this chapter, and do not imply or describe the creation of partnerships, co-ventures, agencies, or other legal relationships recognized in civil law.

Chapter 7.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

†S7.01. This synod shall have a Synod Assembly, which shall be its highest legislative authority. The powers of the Synod Assembly are limited only by the provisions in the Articles of Incorporation, this constitution and bylaws, the assembly’s own resolutions, and the constitutions and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

S7.01.01. Assembly report. For all regular meetings of the Assembly, the secretary of this synod shall prepare an Assembly report. At least 20 days prior to each such meeting, the secretary shall distribute the Assembly report to all Congregations and voting members elect, and file a copy thereof in the public file. The Assembly report shall include a proposed agenda for the meeting; minutes of the preceding regular meeting of the Assembly and of each special meeting since the preceding regular meeting; reports of the bishop, the Council, related and affiliated organizations, Standing committees, and deans; and, the proposed budget. For meetings at which elections are held, the Assembly report shall also include information concerning such elections.

S7.01.02. Arrangements for Assembly meetings. The arrangements for agenda, program, and worship at meetings of the Assembly shall be under the supervision of the bishop. This synod shall be responsible for the costs of the Assembly; such costs shall not include voting members’ expenses.

S7.01.03. Other members of Assembly. Unless elected as voting members, members of the Council who are not officers shall serve as advisory members of the Assembly, with voice but not vote. Other categories of non-voting members of the Assembly may be established by the Assembly.

S7.01.05. Assembly committees and officials. The Assembly shall have committees and officials as provided in this bylaw. Generally, eligibility for appointment to a committee of the Assembly is as provided in the first sentence of S11.01.02. Unless the bishop so requires, an Assembly committee or official need not make a formal report covering its or her/his activities.

- a. The Council shall appoint a Committee on Reference and Counsel consisting of ten members. The functions and responsibilities of the committee are to review and advise the Assembly and the bishop (or other person presiding at a meeting of the Assembly) with respect to proposed changes or additions to the constitution and the bylaws and other items submitted to the Assembly which are not germane to items in the agenda of the meeting.
- b. Officials and committees of the Assembly, in addition to the Committee on Reference

and Counsel (such as Planning Committee, Credentials Committee, Memorials Committee, Resolutions Committee, convention manager, sergeant-at-arms, tellers, parliamentarian), as deemed necessary by the bishop or the Council, may be appointed by the bishop with the advice of the Council. The specific functions and responsibilities of each such official and committee shall be described in writing before appointment is made.

- c. For special meetings of the Assembly the committees and officials may be the same as for the preceding regular meeting.
- d. Committees and officials of the Assembly are accountable to the bishop and the Assembly for due performance of their functions and responsibilities.

S7.01.A92.

- a. Definitions. In this resolution --
  - “this Assembly” means the next or current meeting of the Assembly.
  - “the Committee” means the Committee on Reference and Counsel.
  - “Council resolution” means a form of resolution which is presented to this Assembly on behalf of the Council and with the Council’s recommendation for adoption.
  - “reported resolution” means a form of resolution, other than a council resolution, which the Council deems worthy of consideration by this Assembly.
  - “prospective voting member” means a person who is likely to be a voting member to this Assembly and, as to a lay person, has been selected by her/his Congregation to be but is not yet registered as a voting member.
  - “additional resolution” means a form of resolution, other than a council resolution or reported resolution, which a voting member intends to propose to this Assembly, and
    - 1) seeks to amend the constitution or the bylaws, or
    - 2) seeks to add an item of new business to the agenda of this Assembly, or
    - 3) is not germane to the proposed agenda, the agenda, or the pending question or report before the Assembly.
  - “pre-amendment” means a form of amendment which relates to a reported resolution or additional resolution, is endorsed by five voting members and, if the reported resolution or additional resolution were to be the pending question before the Assembly, may be expected to be pertinent thereto.
  - “prospective movant” means the voting member who proposes an additional resolution or is responsible for presenting a reported resolution to the Assembly.
- b. Council resolutions and reported resolutions

- Council resolutions and reported resolutions shall be set forth in the Assembly Report. Also, as in the Council’s view circumstances warrant, the Council may present revised and additional council resolutions, and shall furnish each such revised council resolution and additional council resolution, if any, to this Assembly in written form and at the earliest practicable time.

c. Form and initial processing of additional resolutions.

- An additional resolution shall be in written form and identified as such, be addressed to the bishop, include the signature of the voting member or prospective voting member proposing it, and, if the proposer is a prospective voting member, the name of the proposer’s Congregation and his/her phone number.
- A prospective voting member may pre-submit an additional resolution prior to this Assembly. If a prospective voting member does not register as a voting member on the first day of this Assembly, an additional resolution which was pre-submitted by her/him will be discarded.
- The bishop shall resolve under the definition provided any question as to the status of a matter as an additional resolution, and refer each additional resolution to the Committee or, in case of a pre-submitted additional resolution, for the Committee’s attention when it convenes.

d. Further processing and status of additional resolutions

- The Committee will endeavor to consider pre-submitted additional resolutions prior to this Assembly and shall provide a written preliminary report with reference thereto for the bishop and for voting members at the time of registration. Each pre-submitted additional resolution shall be set forth in the preliminary report, but the Committee need not then advise as to any additional resolution. No additional resolution shall afford grounds for delay in presentation to or adoption of any matter (including the proposed agenda) by this Assembly.

e. Form and delivery of pre-amendments.

- A pre-amendment shall be in written form and identified as such, specify the additional resolution or reported resolution to which it relates, set forth the proposed form of amendment, and include the signatures of five voting members as endorers. An endorser of a pre-amendment shall deliver it to the Committee, but no pre-amendment shall be delivered to the Committee prior to the first business session of this Assembly.

f. Processing and status of pre-amendments.



- The Committee will endeavor to consider pre-amendments with the matters to which they respectively relate. If the endorsers of a pre-amendment and the prospective movant of the additional resolution or reported resolution to which the pre-amendment relates so concur in writing, the Committee may deal with the matter as modified by the pre-amendment. No endorser of a pre-amendment may withdraw or revoke endorsement. No pre-amendment shall afford grounds for delay in presentation to or adoption of any matter (including the proposed agenda, any additional resolution and any reported resolution) by this Assembly.
- g. Limitations.
  - No member of the Committee may propose an additional resolution or endorse a pre-amendment, but this limitation shall not foreclose the Committee from consultation or concurrence with prospective movants and endorsers as to formal revision of additional resolutions, reported resolutions and pre-amendments.
  - The Council may prescribe reasonable limitations with reference to additional resolutions, reported resolutions and pre-amendments, including limitations as to --
    - 1) the number and priority of pre-submitted additional resolutions;
    - 2) the time for pre-submission of an additional resolution;
    - 3) the number of additional resolutions a voting member may submit;
    - 4) the time for submission of an additional resolution;
    - 5) the number and priority of pre-amendments;
    - 6) the latest time for delivery of a pre-amendment;
    - 7) the number of words comprising an additional resolution or pre-amendment. The Council shall seek advice from the Committee as to limitations which are to be operative during this Assembly. Limitations as to pre-submitted additional resolutions shall be publicized in pre-Assembly materials provided to Congregations and prospective voting members, and other limitations shall be announced to this Assembly not later than the first business session.
- h. Advice by the Committee.
  - The Committee, upon reasonable opportunity to consider the additional resolutions, reported resolutions and pre-amendments, shall advise the bishop and

this Assembly concerning disposition of those matters, but shall not advise as to disposition of an reported resolution for which there is no pre-amendment. The Committee shall accord priority to the advised disposition of matters which seek to amend the constitution or the bylaws.

- The Committee may advise also as to the order and time for consideration of an reported resolution for which there is a pre-amendment and items of new business arising from additional resolutions. If the Committee advises that an additional resolution not be placed on the agenda, a majority vote of this Assembly is required to add it to the agenda as an item of new business. If the Committee advises unfavorably as to a pre-amendment, the advice is not subject to review but shall not affect an effort to amend an additional resolution or reported resolution which is the pending question before this Assembly.
- The Committee shall have the services of the parliamentarian, synod legal counsel or similar resources in aid of the Committee's work.

- †S7.11. A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held at least triennially.
  - S7.11.01. Frequency, time-of-year and place of Assembly meetings. Regular meetings of the Assembly shall be held annually, normally during the month of May or the month of June, each at a convenient place selected by the Executive Committee.
- S7.12. Special meetings of the Synod Assembly may be called by the bishop with the consent of the Synod Council, and shall be called by the bishop at the request of one-fifth of the voting members of the Synod Assembly.
  - a. The notice of each special meeting shall define the purpose for which it is to be held. The scope of actions to be taken at such a special meeting shall be limited to the subject matter(s) described in the notice.
  - b. If the special meeting of the Synod Assembly is required for the purpose of electing a successor bishop because of death, resignation, or inability to serve, the special meeting shall be called by the Synod Council after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- S7.13. Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be given by the

secretary of this synod.

- S7.14. One-half of the members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.
- †S7.21. The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60 percent of the voting membership shall be composed of laypersons, shall be constituted as follows:
  - a. All ministers of Word and Sacrament under call on the roster of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.
  - b. All ministers of Word and Service, under call, on the roster of this synod shall be voting members in the Synod Assembly.
  - c. A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with 175 or more baptized members related to this synod, typically one of whom shall be a man and one of whom shall be a woman, shall be voting members. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of the number of baptized members in the congregation. The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that at least 45 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be women and at least 45 percent shall be men.
  - d. Voting membership shall include the officers of this synod.
- †S7.21.01. Voting members shall begin serving with the opening of a regular Synod Assembly and shall continue serving until voting members are seated at the next regular Synod Assembly.
- †S7.21.02. If a special Synod Assembly is called and voting members at the previous assembly are unable to serve as voting members, where permitted by state law, the congregation through the Congregation Council may elect new members who shall continue to serve until the next Synod Assembly.
- S7.21.03. The †S7.21.c. formula. Preparatory to regular meetings of the Assembly, the Council shall provide the †S7.21.c. formula, with revisions as from time to time necessary. Prior to each such meeting the Council shall file a written description of the formula's current version and application in the public file.
- S7.21.A88 *The membership of the Assembly, in addition to the members indicated in †S7.21., shall include the retired minister of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service whose names appear on the rosters of this synod and who are*

*elected by the Council to such membership.*

- S7.21.B04 *The membership of the Assembly, in addition to the members indicated in †S7.21., shall include ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service whose names appear on the roster of this synod and who are serving as interim minister under contract in a congregation of this synod at the time of the assembly.*
- S7.22. This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those designated as disabled, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- †S7.23. The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of the churchwide organization, as may be designated by the presiding bishop, shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.
- S7.24. Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the rosters of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until replaced by the election of new members or until they have been disqualified by termination of membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- †S7.25. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution or in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, each voting member of the Synod Assembly shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.
- S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of congregations under development and authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.
- S7.27. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant a minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which



a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister's service in a congregation of this church.

**S7.28.** Duly elected voting members of the Synod Council who are not otherwise voting members of the Synod Assembly under †S7.21. shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote as members of the Synod Assembly.

†S7.31. Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of the Synod Assembly.

**S7.32.** *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly, unless otherwise ordered by the assembly.

### S7.32A98 Applying Continuing Positions

1. Definition. In this continuing resolution, “continuing position” means the position of this synod with reference to particular subject matter, as set forth in a position resolution during the resolution’s period of effectiveness, or as derived from such a resolution; see continuing resolution S10.02.A98.
2. Purpose. The purpose of this continuing resolution is to enable voting members of the Assembly to propose that the Assembly apply already-established positions of the synod in respect of new or additional situations, and so to avoid Assembly action that would be merely duplicative of an established position.
3. Provisions in aid of applying a continuing position. Each regular meeting of the Assembly, by an appropriate official or committee, shall provide to its voting members (a) a list or catalogue of continuing positions of the synod, including specific identification of each continuing position: and, (b) a reasonable period of time, but not more than thirty minutes, for voting members to propose and to deliberate Assembly actions so to apply continuing positions.
4. Procedure. For a voting member who seeks Assembly action so to apply a continuing position, the suggested procedure is to present a motion for that purpose to the Assembly. For example, a suitable form of motion is:

“I move that this Assembly apply the continuing position of this synod, as set forth in (-identify the continuing position-) in respect of (-indicate the new or additional situation-) by (-describe the specific course of action, if any, that movant proposes so to apply the continuing position-).”

Each such motion (a) is to be presented during the period of time provided and when the member presenting it is entitled to the floor, (b) may not change the substance of a continuing position, and (c) otherwise, is to be governed by all pertinent rules of parliamentary procedure.

5. Records. Synod records of a continuing position shall reflect and include each instance in which the Assembly has acted so to apply the continuing position.

**S7.33.** “*Ex officio*” as used herein means membership with full rights of voice and vote unless otherwise expressly limited.

## Chapter 8.

## OFFICERS

**†S8.01.** The officers of this synod shall be a bishop, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.

### S8.10. Bishop

†S8.11. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The bishop shall be a minister of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

†S8.12. As this synod's pastor, the bishop shall:

- a. Preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church.
- b. Have primary responsibility for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this synod and its congregations, providing pastoral care and leadership for this synod, its congregations, its ministers of Word and Sacrament, and its ministers of Word and Service.
- c. Exercise solely this church's power to ordain (or provide for the ordination by another synodical bishop of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for the office of ministry of Word and Sacrament (and as provided in the bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).

- d. Ordain (or provide for the ordination of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as ministers of Word and Service of this church.
- e. Attest letters of call for persons called to serve congregations in the synod, letters of call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons on the rosters of this synod called by the Church Council.
- f. Install (or provide for the installation of) rostered ministers whose calls the bishop has attested.
- g. Exercise leadership in the mission of this church and in so doing:
  - 1) Interpret and advocate the mission and theology of the whole church;
  - 2) Lead in fostering support for and commitment to the mission of this church within this synod;
  - 3) Coordinate the use of the resources available to this synod as it seeks to promote the health of this church's life and witness in the areas served by this synod;
  - 4) Submit a report to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly concerning the synod's life and work; and
  - 5) Advise and counsel this synod's related institutions and organizations.
- h. Practice leadership in strengthening the unity of the Church and in so doing:
  - 1) Exercise oversight of the preaching, teaching, and administration of the sacraments within this synod in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church;
  - 2) Be responsible for administering the constitutionally established processes for the resolution of controversies and for the discipline of rostered ministers and congregations of this synod;
  - 3) Be the chief ecumenical officer of this synod;
  - 4) Be a member of the Conference of Bishops and consult regularly with other synod bishops;
  - 5) Foster awareness of other churches throughout the Lutheran world

communion and, where appropriate, engage in contact with leaders of those churches;

- 6) Cultivate communion in faith and mission with appropriate Christian judicatory leaders functioning within the territory of this synod; and
- 7) Be *ex officio* a member of the Churchwide Assembly.
  - i. Oversee and administer the work of this synod and in so doing:
    - 1) Serve as the president of the synod corporation and be the chief executive and administrative officer of this synod, who is authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to sign deeds or other instruments and to affix the seal of this synod;
    - 2) Preside at all meetings of the Synod Assembly and provide for the preparation of the agenda for the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, and the council's Executive Committee;
    - 3) Ensure that the constitution and bylaws of the synod and of the churchwide organization are duly observed within this synod, and that the actions of the synod in conformity therewith are carried into effect;
    - 4) Exercise supervision over the work of the other officers;
    - 5) Coordinate the work of all synod staff members;
    - 6) Appoint all committees for which provision is not otherwise made;
    - 7) Be a member of all committees and any other organizational units of the synod, except as otherwise provided in this constitution;
    - 8) Provide for preparation and maintenance of synod rosters containing the names and addresses of all rostered ministers of this synod and a record of the calls under which they are serving or the date on which their retired or disability status took effect;
    - 9) Annually bring to the attention of the Synod Council the names of all rostered ministers on leave from call or engaged in approved graduate study in conformity with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church and



<p>pursuant to prior action of this synod through the Synod Council;</p> <p>10) Provide for prompt reporting to the secretary of this church of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) additions to and subtractions from the rosters of this synod;</li> <li>b) the issuance of certificates of transfer for rostered ministers in good standing who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested, regular letter of call under the jurisdiction of another synod; and</li> <li>c) the entrance of the names of such persons for whom proper certificates of transfer have been received;</li> </ul> <p>11) Provide for preparation and maintenance of a roster of the congregations of this synod and the names of the laypersons who have been elected to represent them; and</p> <p>12) Appoint a statistician of the synod, who shall secure the parochial reports of the congregations and make the reports available to the secretary of this church for collation, analysis, and distribution of the statistical summaries to this synod and the other synods of this church.</p> <p><b>S8.12.A87.</b> <i>Office of ecumenical relations.</i> Upon recommendation of the bishop, the Council may establish a synodic office of ecumenical relations to assist the bishop with her/ his responsibilities under †S8.12.h.3. and provide for the staffing of such office by employees of this synod. The bishop may appoint a board of six persons to advise him/ her concerning the office; generally, terms and other incidents of service on the board are the same as for members named by the bishop to the Mutual Ministry Committee.</p> <p><b>†S8.13.</b> The synod bishop may appoint an attorney, admitted to the bar within the territory of the synod or the state where the synod is located, to be Synod Attorney. The appointment must be approved by the Synod Council and reported to the Synod Assembly and to the secretary of this church. The appointment continues until resignation or until a successor is appointed. The Synod Attorney provides legal advice and counsel to the synod officers and the Synod Council. The Synod Attorney is expected to be familiar with the governing documents and policies of the synod and, as necessary, to attend meetings of the Synod Council. The Synod Attorney serves without salary but may be retained and compensated for specific legal</p>	<p>services requested by the synod.</p> <p><b>S8.14.</b> The synodical bishop may have such assistants as this synod shall from time to time authorize.</p> <p><b>S8.14.01.</b> <u>Assistants to the bishop.</u> After consultation with and upon the recommendation of the bishop, the Council may call or engage one or more persons to serve as assistants to the bishop in the work and conduct of the bishop's office and of this synod. Such assistants may be ministers of Word and Sacrament, ministers of Word and Service, or lay persons, and shall be employees of the synod and perform such work assignments as may be designated by the bishop. Each assistant who is a minister of Word and Sacrament shall be on the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament of the synod, and serve an initial term call of not less than one year and not more than six years. Each assistant who is a minister of Word and Service shall be on the roster of ministers of Word and Service of the synod, and serve an initial term call of not less than one year and not more than six years. Each assistant who is a lay person shall reside on the territory and shall be employed for an initial period of not more than six years. After the Council receives the bishop's recommendations, the term of each minister of Word and Sacrament, each minister of Word and Service assistant's call, or period of each lay assistant's employment, and the salary, emoluments and other remuneration to be received by each assistant shall be determined by the Council and incorporated into the provisions of the call or letter of engagement. If the bishop so recommends, any assistant may serve successive calls or periods of employment as determined by the Council, but the term of any successive call or length of any successive period of employment shall be not less than one year and not more than six years.</p> <p><b>S8.14.02.</b> <u>Support staff.</u> Upon recommendation of the bishop, the Council may authorize employment by this synod of support staff, in an appropriate number, for the bishop and the bishop's assistants in the work of the synod.</p> <p><b>S8.14.A87.</b> <u>Number of assistants.</u> The number of assistants to the bishop under S8.14.01., at any one time, shall not exceed five.</p> <p><b>†S8.15.</b> The presiding bishop of this church, or the appointee of the presiding bishop, shall install into office, in accord with the policy and approved rite of this church, each newly elected synod bishop.</p> <p><b>†S8.16.</b> <b>Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p><b>†S8.16.01.</b> The following procedures shall govern matters of potential conflicts of interest for synod bishops:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Whenever a synod bishop determines that a matter of the kind described in †S8.16.01.b. may require his or her determination or action with respect to a related individual as defined in †S8.16.01.c., the synod bishop shall withdraw from personal involvement in such matter and shall so notify the presiding bishop. The presiding bishop shall then appoint another synod bishop from the same region to handle the matter to conclusion. In dealing with such matter, the appointed bishop shall exercise all of the functions and authority to the same extent as if the appointed bishop were the elected bishop of the withdrawing bishop's synod.</li> <li>b. Matters include any proceedings under Chapter 20, proceedings under provision 7.46. of the <i>Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</i> (†S14.13.), candidacy, reinstatement, and similar matters where determinations or actions by the synod bishop could change, limit, restrict, approve, authorize, or deny the related individual's ministry on one of the official rosters of this church.</li> <li>c. A related individual is one who, with respect to the synod bishop, is a spouse, parent, son, daughter, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, including corresponding members of blended families and in-laws (parent, son, daughter, or sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a sibling).</li> </ul> <p><b>S8.20.</b> <b>Vice President</b></p> <p><b>†S8.21.</b> The vice president shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The vice president shall be a layperson. The vice president shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The vice president shall not receive a salary for the performance of the duties of the office.</p> <p><b>S8.22.</b> The vice president shall chair the Synod Council.</p> <p><b>†S8.23.</b> In the event of the death, resignation, or disability of the bishop, the vice president, after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall convene the Synod Council to arrange for the conduct of the duties of the bishop until a new bishop shall be elected or, in the case of temporary disability, until the bishop resumes full performance of the duties of the office.</p> <p><b>S8.24.</b> The vice president shall be ex-officio a member of the Churchwide Assembly.</p> <p><b>S8.30.</b> <b>Secretary</b></p>	<p><b>†S8.31.</b> The secretary shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The secretary shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The secretary may be either a layperson or a rostered minister.</p> <p><b>†S8.32.</b> The secretary shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Keep the minutes of all meetings of the Synod Assembly and Synod Council, be responsible for the printing and distribution of such minutes, and perform such other duties as this synod may from time to time direct.</li> <li>b. Be authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to attest all instruments which require the same, and which are signed and sealed by the bishop.</li> <li>c. In consultation with the bishop, classify and arrange all important papers and documents and deposit them in the archives of this synod.</li> <li>d. Submit to the secretary of this church at least nine months before each regular Churchwide Assembly a certified list of the voting members elected by the Synod Assembly.</li> </ul> <p><b>S8.32.01.</b> <u>The public file.</u> This synod shall have a public file as the place of filing, as required by the bylaws, and reference for certain documentary materials. The secretary of this synod shall have charge of the public file and maintain it at the synod office.</p> <p><b>S8.32.02.</b> <u>Responsibilities for filing.</u> Where a bylaw or a continuing resolution of this synod requires material to be filed in the public file (a) by an officer of the synod, she/he shall be responsible to make the filing, or (b) by the Council or a committee of the synod, the vice-president of this synod or the committee chairperson, as the case may be, shall be responsible to make the filing.</p> <p><b>S8.32.03.</b> <u>Access to public file.</u> The public file is open to the people of the synod. The secretary may make regulations for orderly access such as the requirement for prior appointments and reasonable limitations on time allowed. No document currently required to be in the file may be removed, but, upon request and subject to a reasonable charge, the synod office will provide a copy of any such document to any interested person.</p> <p><b>S8.40.</b> <b>Treasurer</b></p> <p><b>†S8.41.</b> The treasurer may be elected by the Synod Assembly or may be appointed by the Synod</p>
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**S8.42.** The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:

- a. Management of the monies and accounts of this synod, its deeds, mortgages, contracts, evidences of claims and revenues, and trust funds, holding the same at all times subject to the order of this synod.
- b. Investment of funds upon the authorization of the Synod Council.
- c. Receipt and acknowledgment of offerings, contributions, and bequests made to this synod, collecting interest and income from its invested funds, and paying regular appropriations and orders on the several accounts as approved and directed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall transmit each month to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the funds received by this synod for the general work of this church.
- d. Maintenance of a regular account with each congregation of this synod and informing the congregation, at least quarterly, of the status of this account.
- e. Rendering at each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly a full, detailed, and duly audited report of receipts and disbursements in the several accounts of this synod for the preceding fiscal year, together with the tabulation, for record and publication in the minutes, of the contributions from the congregations.
- f. Obtaining a fidelity bond in the amount determined by the Synod Council for persons handling synod funds, which bond shall be in the custody of the secretary. The premium for the bond shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.

1. *This resolution sets forth the funds-keeping and investment policy of this synod. In this resolution—*
  - *“its purposes” means a purpose indicated in the Statement of Purpose of this synod (Chapter 6 of the constitution).*
  - *“current funds” means, at any time, the funds held by this synod for its purposes*

- “other financial resources” means the funds and other assets of money-equivalent or ready market value, including reserves, held by this synod for its purposes which would, if invested, yield a return in aid of its purposes, but not current funds.
2. This synod shall keep current funds, until disbursement, in one or several accounts of one or several banking institutions or in other financial obligor in accordance with this policy. Each account in a banking institution shall be covered by FDIC insurance to the extent consistent with sound financial practices. Such an account may be, for example, a checking account or a certificate of deposit, and may but need not be interest-earning.
3. Normally, this synod shall hold at least the greater portion of other financial resources in deposit or debt obligations that afford the highest safety in preservation of value, suitable liquidity and reasonable return. Such obligations may be, for example, interest-earning accounts, including certificates of deposit, of one or several banking institutions, with each account covered in full by FDIC insurance, and shorter-term U. S. Treasury obligations.
4. This synod may have a portion of current funds and other financial resources in obligations of worthy obligor related to this church. Such obligations may be, for example, Mission Investments as described in the current ELCA Mission Investment Fund’s Offering Circular.
5. Normally, this synod shall have other financial resources only in a form described in paragraphs 3 or 4 of this resolution; however, seeking prudently to minimize or avoid loss in the value of an asset of other financial resources, this synod may hold the asset for a reasonable time in some other form. Such an asset might be, for example, a gift or bequest received in kind.

**†S8.51.** The terms of office of the officers of this synod shall be as follows:

- The bishop of this synod shall be elected to a term of six years and may be re-elected.
- The vice president and secretary of this synod

c. The treasurer of this synod shall be [elected] [appointed] to a four-year term and may be re-elected or reappointed. The treasurer shall serve until his or her successor takes office.

†S8.53. Each officer shall be a voting member in a congregation of this synod, except that the bishop need not be a member of a congregation of this synod at the time of election.

**S8.55.** Should the vice president, secretary, or treasurer die, resign, or be unable to serve, the bishop, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, shall arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the officer until an election of a new officer can be held or, in the case of temporary disability, until the officer is able to serve again. The term of the successor officer, elected by the next Synod Assembly, shall be for the remainder of the unfulfilled term of that officer. If the treasurer is appointed by the Synod Council, the Synod Council shall appoint a new treasurer to a the remainder of the unfulfilled term of that officer.

hearing before the Synod Council. A meeting to determine the ability of an officer to serve shall be called upon the request of at least three members of the Executive Committee and prior written notice of the meeting shall be given to the officer in question at least 10 calendar days prior to the meeting.

- a. Proceedings for the recall or dismissal of a synod bishop shall be instituted by written petition by:
  - 1) the Synod Council on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its elected members present and voting;
  - 2) the Synod Assembly on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its members present and voting;
  - 3) at least 10 synod bishops; or
  - 4) the presiding bishop of this church.
- b. Proceedings for the recall or dismissal of an officer of a synod, other than the synod bishop, shall be instituted by written petition by:
  - 1) the Synod Council on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its elected members present and voting;
  - 2) the Synod Assembly on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its members present and voting; or
  - 3) the synod bishop.
- c. The petition shall be filed with the chair of the Committee on Appeals (in care of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois 60631) and shall set forth the specific charge or charges.
- d. Upon the filing of a written petition, the Executive Committee of the Synod Council may temporarily suspend the officer from service in the synod without prejudice, but with continuation of compensation, including benefits, if the officer is a salaried employee of the synod.



e. In the case of alleged physical or mental incapacity of an officer of the synod, the procedures outlined in †S8.56. shall be followed, and such officer shall comply with the decision of the Synod Council. If such officer fails or refuses to comply, the Synod Council may proceed to petition for recall or dismissal as follows:

- 1) the Synod Council will submit a written report of their findings and the basis of their decision to the Committee on Appeals.
- 2) the Committee on Appeals, other than those who are disqualified, shall review the findings and decision of the Synod Council and by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting may adopt the findings and grant the petition.

f. If the synod officer is a minister of Word and Sacrament, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.22.01. and as defined under the process described in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.21. and 20.22. as grounds for discipline. If the officer is a minister of Word and Service, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.23.01. and as defined under the process described in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.21. and 20.22. as grounds for discipline.

g. If the officer is a layperson, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.41.01. as grounds for discipline.

h. If the case of alleged willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions or of alleged conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action, the following procedures shall apply:

- 1) the petition shall be referred to the Committee on Appeals, which shall function as the discipline hearing committee that shall conduct a hearing in accordance with the rules provided for in ELCA bylaw 20.22.14. except to the extent that those rules are in conflict with the provisions of this bylaw; and
- 2) the members of the Committee on Appeals, other than those who are disqualified, may grant the petition by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting.

i. Written notice of a decision by the Committee on Appeals that the charges have been sustained shall be given to the affected

officer and to the Synod Council, and the office shall be vacated.

†S8.58. If the bishop is to be temporarily absent from the synod for an extended period, the bishop, with the consent of the Synod Council, may appoint as acting bishop for such period a minister of Word and Sacrament of this church. Except as limited by action of the Synod Council, an acting bishop shall possess all of the powers and authority of a regularly elected bishop other than authority to ordain or to authorize the ordination of properly approved candidates for ordination.

Chapter 9.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

†S9.01. The Synod Assembly shall elect such officers of this synod and such other persons as the constitution and bylaws may require, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws. The Synod Assembly shall elect members of the Churchwide Assembly in accordance with bylaw 12.41.11. of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

S9.01.01 Elections by the Assembly. In addition to elections prescribed in the constitution to be made by the Assembly, the Assembly shall elect

- a) voting members of the Churchwide Assembly allocated to this synod.
- b) the other council members (OCMs) and the youth who is a member of the Council.
- c) the members of the Consultation Committee and the synodical component of the Committee on Discipline.

In each election for a position described in this bylaw, the Nominating Committee shall slate one nominee for the position. With the exception of the situations noted below, the Assembly shall permit nominations from the floor for the position provided that any person nominated from the floor must be eligible for election, have affirmed willingness to serve if elected, and meet each specification pertaining to the position, including that, for an elective position within the purview of paragraph (a) of S9.03.02. Nominations from the floor for positions in which nominees have been chosen by conferences must be of people who are voting members of a congregation of the same conference as the conference of the slated nominee. If there are slots that are not filled by a nominee from a conference, or through other constitutional

provisions, nominees from the floor may come from any conference, provided the provisions of †S6.04 and S6.04.C88 are fulfilled. Such positions having a term of service of four years or longer shall be arranged so equal or approximately equal numbers of the positions are elected biennially.

S9.01.02. Elections at regular Assembly meetings. The elections described in S9.01.01. shall be held at regular meetings of the Assembly.

S9.01.03. Elections for Churchwide Assembly. At least one-third of the ministers of Word and Sacrament or ministers of Word and Service and at least one-third of the lay persons elected by this synod as voting members of each Churchwide Assembly shall be persons who have not been elected by this synod to be voting members of a previous Churchwide Assembly.

S9.01.04. Reelection of Other Council Members (OCMs). Normally, OCMs may be reelected once; however, if an expiration of the term of an incumbent OCM, the incumbent does not meet a specification for the position according to S9.03.04. or otherwise, she/he is ineligible to reelection. If an OCM was first appointed to fill an interim vacancy and serves for more than half of the current term of the position reckoned from date of appointment, then, for the purpose of determining eligibility for reelection, he/she shall be deemed to have served the full term.

S9.01.06. Interim elections and appointments. In the context of this bylaw “interim vacancy” means a position that is vacant because the incumbent died, resigned, or became unable to serve. Should an interim vacancy occur, the vacancy is to be promptly filled in accordance with these provisions:

- a. An interim vacancy in a position appointed by the bishop shall be filled by a successor appointment by the bishop, under the same conditions, if any, as applied to the original appointment.
- b. An interim vacancy in an elective position or a Council-appointed position shall be filled by interim appointment by the Council. The Council may have the Nominating Committee’s recommendation, but need not consider more than one candidate for an appointment. Current specifications for the position under S9.03.04. apply and the term of service shall be for the remainder of the term during which the interim vacancy occurred.

S9.01.A88. *The Council, having regard to the provisions*

*of †S7.21. and S7.21.A88., shall elect to the membership of the Assembly, with voice and vote, the ones of the retired ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service whose names appear on the rosters of this synod and who make timely written application for such election. Each such application shall indicate the applicant’s intention to attend the Assembly, bear his/her signature, and be deemed timely if received in the synod office during the month of November or the month of December of the year next preceding the year during which the Assembly is to be held; each such election shall be only for such Assembly. For purpose of †S7.21., retired ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service elected under this Resolution shall be counted as ministers of Word and Sacrament or ministers of Word and Service.*

†S9.02. In all elections by the Synod Assembly, other than for the bishop, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.

S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of eleven members who shall be appointed by the Synod Council to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee.

S9.03.01 Nominating Committee  
a. Generally, eligibility for appointment to the Nominating Committee is as provided in the first sentence of S11.01.02., and positions on the Committee may be subject to a specification under S9.03.04. Members of the Consultation Committee, the Committee on Discipline, or a committee convened under S14.13.b would be ineligible for appointment. Council members, other than those eligible to reelection at the next regular meeting of the Assembly, may be appointed. A member of the Committee may be consecutively reappointed twice.

b. The Council is to complete appointments to the Nominating Committee for the meeting of the Assembly for which the Committee is to serve by January 1 of the year of the meeting.

S9.03.02 Participation of Conferences in electoral processes.  
a) Each Conference is to select, for each meeting of the Assembly at which the Nominating Committee is to slate nominees, one person for appointment to a respective one of positions on the Nominating Committee; and, for each such meeting which is to elect voting members of the Churchwide Assembly, one person for



	<p>nomination to a respective one of those voting member positions.</p> <p>b) A Conference may not select the same person for more than one position of those to be selected for a meeting of the Assembly described in paragraph (a) of this bylaw, and should endeavor to avoid concentration of the selections with reference to a limited number of Congregations.</p> <p>c) A Conference may not elect the same person to more than one position of those to be elected at an electoral meeting described in paragraph (c) of this bylaw, and should endeavor to avoid undue concentration of the elections with reference to a limited number of Congregations.</p> <p>d) Each person selected pursuant to paragraph (a) or elected pursuant to paragraph (c) of this bylaw shall be a voting member of a Congregation of the Conference which selects or elects her/him, otherwise be eligible for the position for which he/she is selected or to which she/he is elected, have affirmed willingness to serve in the position, and meet each specification under S9.03.04, if any, pertaining to the position.</p> <p>e) If a selection under paragraph (a) or an election under paragraph (c) of this bylaw fails for any reason -- for example, if a person becomes unable to accept appointment, nomination, or election -- or is in default, then, as the case may be, the Council shall appoint an affected position on the Nominating Committee and shall elect an affected position on a team board; and, the Nominating Committee shall slate a nomination for an affected position of voting member of the Churchwide Assembly or of OCM.</p>	<p><b>S9.03.05</b> <u>Previously-selected or-elected incumbents.</u> A Conference may, but need not, select for reappointment or nomination for reelection, or reelect, an incumbent of a position who was previously selected for or elected to the position by the Conference under S9.03.02 and, otherwise, is eligible to reappointment or reelection, and meets each specification, if any, pertaining to the position.</p> <p><b>S9.04.</b> The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot.</p>	<p>3) to obtain, on a uniform basis, and to mail to each voting member of the Assembly at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the Assembly, biographical information about the six (6) persons (plus ties) who receive the highest numbers of identifications, and are willing to be nominated for the office of bishop, together with a full report concerning the canvass.</p> <p>c) The Committee on Pre-election Canvass, on behalf of the Council, may arrange and conduct a pre-assembly forum where those of the six (6) persons identified in clause 3, paragraph b, of this bylaw, who desire so to participate, may -- all on a uniform basis -- be introduced to, address, and respond to questions from voting members of the Assembly and others in attendance. The forum, if and when arranged and conducted, is to be suitably publicized and held at a convenient place on the territory approximately two (2) weeks prior to the Assembly.</p> <p>d) The report concerning the canvass and the forum are to be information resources about the election, and shall have no other purpose, status and effect.</p>	<p><i>presiding at the election shall likewise preside during the introductions.</i></p> <p>3) <i>Each such person, in any aspect of her/his introduction to the Assembly, shall not utilize or authorize any kind of ancillary material or special effects. The assembly, including members and all others in attendance, shall refrain from any kind of demonstration of support or opposition with reference to such a person during her/his introduction and otherwise in connection with the election.</i></p> <p>4) <i>The address of each introduction is expected to deal with the person's candidacy for the office of bishop; otherwise, content of the address is wholly a matter for the person's discretion. The time provided for an address shall be an undivided period of ten minutes, but the address need not consume the full period.</i></p> <p>5) <i>The propounded questions of the introductions shall normally comprise a series of five questions pertaining to the work the Synod and the office of bishop, and shall be prepared by the Elections Committee of the Assembly. The Elections Committee shall consult with the official presiding and other appropriate resources, and shall endeavor to formulate questions that are succinct, suitable for answer in the time provided, and widely representative of interests and responsibilities of voting members of the Assembly, as, for example, by soliciting exemplary questions or topics from voting members and otherwise. The official presiding shall propound the questions to each such person in the same manner and order. An answer to a propounded question is expected to be responsive. The time provided for answering a question shall be an undivided period of two minutes, but an answer need not consume the full period.</i></p>
<b>S9.03.03</b>	<u>Adoption of selections under S9.03.02.</u> Normally, the Council, in making appointments to the Nominating Committee, is to adopt the selections of Conferences under sentence (1) of paragraph (a) of S9.03.02; and, the Nominating Committee, in slating nominees for positions of voting member of the Churchwide Assembly and of OCM, is to adopt the selections of Conferences under paragraph (a) of S9.03.02.	<b>S9.04.01.</b> <u>Election of the Bishop.</u> In addition to the provision of S9.04., procedures for election of the bishop include—	<b>S9.04.A99.</b>	
		<p>a) Prior to a meeting of the Assembly at which an election for the office of bishop is to be held, the Council shall appoint a Committee on Pre-election Canvass consisting of five members. Each member of the committee shall meet the same general qualifications as in S11.01.02., shall not be eligible for nomination or election to the office of bishop, and may, but need not be a voting member of the Assembly.</p> <p>b) The duties of the Committee on Pre-election Canvass shall be</p>	<p>1) <i>In each meeting of the Assembly at which an election for the office of bishop is held, and the election is to include a fourth ballot, and as an order of business following the report of the results of the third ballot, the Assembly shall conduct Assembly-wide introductions of persons who are to be on the fourth ballot, in accordance with the provisions of this continuing resolution.</i></p> <p>2) <i>Generally, introductions of persons who are to be on the fourth ballot shall be on a uniform and impartial basis, and the introduction of each such person is to include aspects of (i) an address by the person to the Assembly and (ii) spoken answers by the person to propounded questions, provided that if the person is not in attendance or otherwise so desires, he/she may designate a spokesperson to participate in his/her stead. During introduction of one such person, the other such persons shall not be present. If such a person opts not to participate in an introduction, that circumstance shall not affect the person's position or status on the fourth or any later ballot. When such a person participates in one aspect of an introduction, he/she is expected also to participate in the other aspect. The official</i></p>	
<b>S9.03.04</b>	<u>Specifications for Nominating Committee and OCM positions.</u> So the Council and the Nominating Committee, as nearly as practicable and in terms of their full complements, meet inclusivity criteria and/or have members residing in areas throughout the territory, the Council may establish specifications for at least some Nominating Committee and OCM positions, and, for that purpose may have the advice of the Nominating Committee. If such a specification applies to any position for which a Conference is to select a person under paragraph (a) of S9.03.02, the Council shall notify the Conference well in advance of the affected electoral meeting.			<b>S9.05.01.</b> Election of the Vice President shall proceed without oral nominations. The first ballot of the election, unless resulting in election, shall be the nominating ballot. On the first ballot, two-thirds of votes shall elect. On the second ballot, only votes for persons who received votes on the first ballot shall be valid, and a majority of votes shall elect. On the third ballot, voting shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who received the highest number of votes on the second ballot, and a majority of votes shall elect. A person may withdraw from the election prior to the voting on any ballot, and upon such withdrawal, votes for the person on a preceding ballot shall be deemed invalid as to a subsequent ballot. An invalid vote shall not be



counted for any purpose.

**S9.05.A99** *In each meeting of the Assembly at which an election for the office of vice president is held and the election is to include a third ballot, and as an order of business following the report of the results of the second ballot, the Assembly shall conduct introductions of persons who are to be on the third ballot. These introductions shall be on a uniform and impartial basis, and the introduction of each such person is to include an address by the person to the Assembly. Such an address is expected to deal with person's candidacy for the office of vice president; otherwise, the content of the address is wholly a matter for the person's discretion. The time for an address is an undivided period of three minutes, but the address need not consume the full period.*

**S9.06.01.** Election of the Secretary shall proceed without oral nominations. The first ballot of the election, unless resulting in election, shall be the nominating ballot. On the first ballot, two-thirds of votes shall elect. On the second ballot, only votes for persons who received votes on the first ballot shall be valid, and a majority of votes shall elect. On the third ballot, voting shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who received the highest number of votes on the second ballot, and a majority of votes shall elect. A person may withdraw from the election prior to the voting on any ballot, and upon such withdrawal, votes for the person on a preceding ballot shall be deemed invalid as to a subsequent ballot. An invalid vote shall not be counted for any purpose.

**S9.06.A99** *In each meeting of the Assembly at which an election for the office of secretary is held and the election is to include a third ballot, and as an order of business following the report of the results of the second ballot, the Assembly shall conduct introductions of persons who are to be on the third ballot. These introductions shall be on a uniform and impartial basis, and the introduction of each such person is to include an address by the person to the Assembly. Such an address is expected to deal with person's candidacy for the office of secretary; otherwise, the content of the address is wholly a matter for the person's discretion. The time for an address is an undivided period of three minutes, but the address need not consume the full period.*

**S9.07.** If the treasurer is elected, the Synod Council shall nominate at least one person for treasurer; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

**S9.08.** In all elections, except for the bishop, the names of the persons receiving the highest number of legal votes, but not elected by a majority of the

legal votes cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot to the number of two for each vacancy unfilled. On any ballot when only two names appear, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.

**S9.08.A99** *A person who is nominated for election by the Assembly (a) for an OCM position, or (b) to the position of voting member of the Churchwide Assembly, is to provide, prior to the election in which she/he is a nominee, a written statement with regard to his/her candidacy for the position. The Nominating Committee or the Elections Committee of the Assembly, as appropriate, may receive the statement from the person. The statement is for distribution to voting members of the Assembly as an information resource; it is not to exceed forty (40) words in length; and, otherwise, its content is wholly a matter for the person's discretion.*

**S9.09.** The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced in detail to the assembly.

**†S9.10.** When notified by the secretary of this church, on behalf of the Nominating Committee of the Churchwide Assembly, the Synod Assembly shall nominate two persons in the specified categories for possible election by the Churchwide Assembly to the Church Council.

**S9.11.** The Synod Council shall elect or appoint representatives to the steering committee of its region.

**†S9.12.** Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated as synod officers prior to their election, if possible, or as soon as practical after their election. The specific procedures and timing of background checks and screening shall be determined by the Synod Council.

**Chapter 10.**  
**SYNOD COUNCIL**

**†S10.01.** The Synod Council, consisting of the four officers of the synod, 10 to 24 other members, and at least one youth and at least one young adult, shall be elected by the Synod Assembly.

a. Each person elected to the Synod Council shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, with the exception of ministers on a roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod. The process for election and the term of office when not otherwise provided shall be specified in the bylaws. A member of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, unless

otherwise elected as a voting member of the Synod Council, may serve as an advisory member of the Synod Council with voice but not vote.

b. The term of office of members of the Synod Council, with the exception of the officers and the youth member, shall be four years.

**S10.01.01.** The terms of service of members of the Synod Council shall begin on the first day of the second month following their election.

**S10.01.02.**Youth member. The term of service of the youth shall be two years and shall begin on the first day of the second month following election. The youth shall be at least 16 years of age when her/his term begins and not more than 21 years of age when the term ends, and is not eligible to reelection.

**S10.01.03.**Young adult member. The term of service of the young adult member shall be two years and shall begin on the first day of the second month following election. The young adult shall be at least 21 years of age when her/his term begins and not more than 30 years of age when the term ends, and is not eligible to reelection.

**S10.01.04.**Council meetings. The Council shall hold regular meetings at least four times a year and, normally, once in each calendar quarter. The place of meetings of the Council shall be determined by the Executive Committee. Special meetings of the Council may be called by the Executive Committee as provided in S10.01.07., and shall be called by the bishop upon the written request of ten Council members. The secretary of this synod shall give written notice of each meeting of the Council to Council members.

**S10.01.05.** Committee liaison. The Council shall maintain liaison with Synod Program committees, Advisory committees, and any Task Forces and Temporary committees of this synod. For this purpose (apart from the bishop ex officio) members of the Council may attend and have voice at meetings of such committees.

**S10.01.06.** Council committees--generally. The council shall have an Executive Committee and such other committees as it may from time to time determine. The Council shall appoint the members of its committees. No one other than a member of the Council may serve on a Council committee. Subject to the Council's directions concerning purpose, procedure, and record-keeping, a Council committee develops its own agenda and sets its own procedure. Unless the Council so requires, a Council committee need not make a report to the Assembly covering its activities.

**S10.01.07.** Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall comprise the officers and five other council members (OCMs); at least one of the OCMs shall be serving a term with an expiration date different than the expiration date of the terms of the other OCMs. Normally, the period of appointment for OCMs on the committee is two years, with no limitation on reappointment to an available position. The committee shall perform those functions of the Council assigned to it by the Council, and, subject to other or additional directions from the Council, the committee shall oversee preparation of the agenda for Council meetings, and shall set the salary of the bishop. The committee -- by the action or with the common approval of a majority of its members, and, normally, with at least five days' notice -- may call special meetings of the Council. In appropriate circumstances, so recognized by a majority of its members, and provided that all committee members have a reasonable opportunity to participate, the committee may deliberate and do committee work by telephone conferences.

**S10.01.09.** Accountability of Council and Council-appointed committees. Council committees and the Nominating Committee are accountable to the Council for due performance of their functions and responsibilities.

**†S10.02.** The Synod Council shall be the board of directors of this synod and shall serve as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. It may make decisions that are not in conflict with actions taken by the Synod Assembly or that are not precluded by provisions of this constitution or the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**S10.02.A98Positions Process**

1. *Definition. In this continuing resolution, "position resolution" means an action of the Assembly which expresses the synod's position as to indicated subject matter, but is not and is not connected with another action of the Assembly such as an amendment of the constitution, adoption or amendment of a bylaw, a continuing resolution or an annual budget of the synod, an election conducted pursuant to the constitution or the bylaws, or, approval of a report.*
2. *Applicability. This continuing resolution applies in respect of each position resolution and without regard to the date of the resolution.*
3. *Period of effectiveness. The period during which a position resolution may be deemed effective, having regard for the purpose and subject matter of the resolution, and for other pertinent circumstances, should be of reasonable length and not continue after the purpose has been accomplished or the subject matter has substantially changed. In any*



<p>case, but subject to Paragraph 4 of this continuing resolution, the period of effectiveness of a position resolution is to expire at the end of a specific period set forth in the resolution, or, absent such specific period, three years from the date of the resolution.</p> <p>4. Subsequent status.</p> <p>(a) Normally, after the period of effectiveness of a position resolution has expired, as provided in Paragraph 3 of this continuing resolution, the status of the resolution is as an historical record. Nevertheless, if the Council considers the subject matter or purpose of an expiring position resolution to be of continuing interest to the synod, the Council may adopt the substance of the resolution as a continuing position or an operational policy of the synod.</p> <p>(b) The period of effectiveness of a position resolution with a date prior to this continuing resolution shall not be deemed to have expired until the Council has taken action concerning subsequent status of the resolution or unless the resolution provides for its own expiration.</p> <p>5. Resolutions and Positions Review Committee. The Executive Committee in consultation with the bishop may appoint a Resolutions and Positions Review Committee of not more than five members, including Council members and others. The duties and responsibilities of the committee are to include annual review of (a) expiring position resolutions and (b) continuing positions and operational policies which derive from position resolutions, and making recommendations to the Council concerning subsequent status of such position resolutions, continuing positions and operational policies. The committee is to accord priority to review of any recommendations as to position resolutions with dates prior to this continuing resolution.</p> <p><b>S10.03.</b> The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:</p> <p>a. Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of this synod.</p> <p>b. Recommend program goals and budgets to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly.</p> <p>c. Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.</p> <p>d. Provide for an annual review of the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and the roster of Ministers of Word and Service, receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's</p>	<p>actions in this regard.</p> <p>e. Issue letters of call to rostered ministers as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.</p> <p>f. Fill vacancies until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly, except as may otherwise be provided in the constitution or bylaws of this synod, and determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of this synod.</p> <p>g. Report its actions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.</p> <p>h. Perform such other functions as are set forth in the bylaws of this synod, or as may be delegated to it by the Synod Assembly.</p> <p><b>S10.04.</b> Any proposal to appropriate funds, whether by amendment to the budget or otherwise, which is presented to a meeting of the Synod Assembly without the approval of the Synod Council, shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption.</p> <p><b>S10.05.</b> No elected member of the Synod Council shall receive compensation for such service.</p> <p><b>S10.06.</b> If a member of the Synod Council ceases to meet the requirements of the position to which she or he was elected, the office filled by such member shall at once become vacant.</p> <p><b>S10.07.</b> The composition of the Synod Council, the number of its members, and the manner of their selection, as well as the organization of the Synod Council, its additional duties and responsibilities, and the number of meetings to be held each year shall be as set forth in the bylaws.</p> <p><b>S10.07.01.</b> To the extent permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees may be held electronically or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.</p> <p><b>Chapter 11.</b></p> <p><b>COMMITTEES</b></p> <p><b>(names of other organizational units)</b></p> <p>†<b>S11.01.</b> There shall be an Executive Committee, a Consultation Committee, a Committee on Discipline, a Mutual Ministry Committee, an Audit Committee, and such other committees as this synod may from time to time determine. The duties and functions of such committees, or any other organizational units created</p>	<p>by this synod, and the composition and organizational structure of such units, shall be as set forth in this constitution or in the bylaws or continuing resolutions, and shall be subject to any applicable provisions or requirements of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.</p> <p><b>S11.01.01.</b> <u>Committees of this synod.</u> Committees relating to the office of the bishop are the Ministry Committee and the Constitution Review Committee, and their functions and responsibilities are as from time to time provided in the bylaws and continuing resolutions of the synod. The bishop appoints members of these committees, with the approval of the Council, and, generally, for terms of service of four years arranged, with reference to an election cycle, in the same manner as terms of OCM positions. Members of these committees are eligible to reappointment.</p> <p><b>S11.01.02.</b> <u>Eligibility/qualifications for committee service.</u> Other than the bishop ex officio, and subject to the provisions of S11.02.01 (Consultation Committee), and S11.03.01 (Committee on Discipline), no person shall concurrently be a member of more than one of the Standing Committees. An OCM is ineligible to be a member of a Standing Committee.</p> <p><b>S11.01.03.</b> <u>General provisions pertaining to committees.</u> Except as the bylaws may otherwise provide or require with reference to committees of the Assembly, the Nominating Committee, Council committees, the Consultation Committee, the Committee on Discipline, and a Task Force or Temporary committee, the provisions of this bylaw apply to the committees of this synod.</p> <p>1) A committee develops its own agenda with reference to its function and responsibilities, determines its own procedures, and establishes appropriate sub-committees and working groups.</p> <p>2) A committee shall elect and have a chairperson and a secretary. The chairperson presides at committee meetings. The committee secretary is responsible to keep minutes and give notice of meetings.</p> <p>3) The synod shall fund the work and activities of a committee through the synodic budgetary process and the committee shall participate in that process.</p> <p><b>S11.01.04.</b> <u>Expenses.</u> Members serving on the committees of this synod or of any other committee or similar body established pursuant to the constitution or the bylaws of this synod shall</p>	<p>not receive compensation for such service, but the synod may reimburse them for necessary travel and out-of-pocket expenses while serving.</p> <p><b>S11.01.05.</b> <u>Assembly committees.</u> Committees of the Assembly have status, composition, appointment process, and functions and responsibilities as described and provided in S7.01.05.</p> <p><b>S11.01.06.</b> <u>Council committees.</u> Council committees include the Executive Committee, and any other committee established pursuant to S10.01.06. Such committees have status, composition, appointment process, functions and responsibilities as provided in the constitution and the bylaws and continuing resolutions pertaining to them.</p> <p><b>S11.01.07.</b> <u>Mutual Ministry Committee.</u> The Mutual Ministry Committee has the status, composition, appointment processes, and functions and responsibilities as described and provided in S11.04.01.</p> <p><b>S11.01.08.</b> <u>Nominating Committee.</u> The Nominating Committee has the status, composition, appointment processes, and functions and responsibilities as described and provided in Chapter 9.</p> <p><b>S11.01.09.</b> <u>Executive Committee.</u> The Executive Committee shall comprise the officers and five other council members (OCMs); at least one of the OCMs shall be serving a term with an expiration date different than the expiration date of the terms of the other OCMs. Normally, the period of appointment for OCMs on the committee is two years, with no limitation on reappointment to an available position. The committee shall perform those functions of the Council assigned to it by the Council, and, subject to other or additional directions from the Council, the committee shall oversee preparation of the agenda for Council meetings, and shall set the salary of the bishop. The committee -- by the action or with the common approval of a majority of its members, and, normally, with at least five days' notice -- may call special meetings of the Council. In appropriate circumstances, so recognized by a majority of its members, and provided that all committee members have a reasonable opportunity to participate, the committee may deliberate and do committee work by telephone conferences or by other electronic means.</p> <p><b>S11.01.11</b> <u>Standing Committees.</u> The Standing Committees are the Consultation Committee, the Committee on Discipline, and committees relating to the office of the bishop.</p>
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S11.01.16 Committees relating to the office of the bishop.

Committees relating to the office of the bishop are the Ministry Committee and the Constitution Review Committee, and their functions and responsibilities are as from time to time provided in the bylaws and continuing resolutions of the synod. The bishop appoints members of these committees, with the approval of the Council, and, generally, for terms of service of four years arranged, with reference to an election cycle, in the same manner as terms of OCM positions. Members of these committees are eligible to reappointment.

S11.01.30. Reports by Standing committees. The Standing committees shall make annual written reports to the Assembly. Each report shall cover the committee’s activities since the preceding report. Such reports by the Consultation Committee and the Committee on Discipline shall not provide indemnificatory particulars with respect to any matter or case pending on the date of any such report.

S11.01.35. Task Forces and Temporary committees. The Council shall, as directed by the Assembly, and may, by its own action as it from time to time finds necessary, establish task forces and temporary committees of this synod. Normally, a task force or temporary committee shall have a specific assignment not duplicative of a function or responsibility of another committee established pursuant to the constitution, and the Council shall describe the assignment in reasonable detail. The Council shall appoint the members of a task force or temporary committee and may appoint the chairperson or convener. Generally, eligibility for appointment is as provided in the first sentence of S11.01.02. Members of the Council may be appointed, but no member of the Consultation Committee, the Committee on Discipline or a committee convened under †S14.13.b. or pursuant to S14.13.08. is eligible to serve on a task force or temporary committee. A task force or temporary committee may have up to twenty members, and shall complete its assignment and submit any required report within a period of not more than 18 months.

S11.01.45. Accountability. The Standing committees and Task Forces and Temporary committees of this synod -- together with their members -- are accountable to the Council and the Assembly for due performance of their respective functions and responsibilities. Normally, the oversight of such performance -- which may encompass a committee’s policies, programs, activities and work-product--shall be by the Council.

S11.01.E95. Ministry Committee. The functions and responsibilities of the Ministry Committee pertain to pastoral care of Congregations and to ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service. The committee, as appropriate for this synod, develops, guides, supports and oversees programs of ministry in daily life; programs and activities for development of professional leaders (including recruitment, encouragement and evaluation, and subsequent certification of candidates); policies and standards for compensation and benefits for professional leaders; and, programs for the care of and the continuing education for professional leaders. Members of the committee, selected by it, may participate in multi-synodic committees for certification of candidates for ordination and in the certification or accreditation processes for other professional leaders. The committee shall have 20 members.

S11.01.F99. Constitution Review Committee. The functions and responsibilities of the Constitution Review Committee are to review the constitutions of Congregations and organizational documents of Conferences of this synod to determine whether the documents conform with apposite provisions of the constitution, the bylaws and the continuing resolutions of the ELCA (including the Constitution for Congregations); to report to the bishop and the Council concerning such determinations; and, where a document appears deficient, to indicate necessary revision to the Congregation or the Conference. The committee may also advise the bishop and the Council with regard to constitutional matters. The committee shall have six members including, normally, the secretary of the synod.

†S11.02. The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of at least six persons and not more than 12 persons, of whom half shall be ministers of Word and Sacrament and half shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive re-election. The functions of the Consultation Committee are set forth in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and in Chapter 17 of this constitution. The size of the Consultation Committee, in accord with this provision, shall be defined in this synod’s bylaws.

S11.02.01. The Bishop shall be a member of the Consultation Committee ex officio except in instances when the Bishop brings charges against an ordained minister.

S11.02.02. The terms of service of members of the Consultation Committee begin on the first day

of the third calendar month following election.

†S11.03. The Committee on Discipline of this synod shall consist of 12 persons, of whom six shall be ministers of Word and Sacrament and six shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive re-election.

a. The functions of the Committee on Discipline of this synod are set forth in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

b. The Synod Council shall fill vacancies on the Committee on Discipline for any unexpired term.

S11.03.01. The Bishop shall not be a member of the Committee on Discipline.

S11.03.02. The terms of service of members of the Committee on Discipline begin on the first day of the third calendar month following election.

†S11.04. The Mutual Ministry Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Synod Council to provide support and counsel to the bishop.

S11.04.01. Mutual Ministry Committee. The Mutual Ministry Committee consists of seven members, and its function is to provide support and counsel to the bishop. Two members are named by the bishop and serve for the period the bishop may determine, and five members are appointed by the Council and serve for the period the Council may determine; in any case, the period of service of each member shall expire not later than the expiration of the bishop’s current term of office. The bishop may seek the counsel and support of any member of the committee at the bishop’s pleasure, and may convene meetings of the committee, or of any of its members, to seek their counsel and support on any matter which she/he deems necessary or desirable. Meetings of the committee or consultation between the bishop and any member shall be informal, and votes, minutes or other written memorials or reports not required unless requested by the bishop.

†S11.05. The Audit Committee of this synod shall consist of three to six persons, none of whom is a member of the synod staff. Up to half of the committee members may be Synod Council members. The Audit Committee members shall be elected by the Synod Council for a term of three years and be eligible for re-election to a second consecutive three-year term. The terms of the Audit Committee members shall be staggered. The Audit Committee shall be

responsible for assisting the Synod Council in fulfilling its general oversight of the synod’s accounting, financial reporting, internal control systems, and external audit processes as provided in †S15.31.

S11.10. General Provisions

S11.11. This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to ensure that the members of its committees and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of †S6.04. With the exception of ministers on the rosters of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a committee of this synod, or any other organizational unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.

Chapter 12.

CONFERENCES, CLUSTERS, COALITIONS,

AREA SUBDIVISIONS, AND NETWORKS

†S12.01. This synod may establish conferences, clusters, coalitions, area subdivisions, and networks as appropriate within its territory and in collaboration with other synods and entities, as specified in the bylaws and continuing resolutions. The purpose of such groupings shall be to foster interdependent relationships for missional purposes among congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and other affiliates.

S12.01.01. Conferences. Groupings of Congregations of this synod, under Chapter 12 of the constitution, are “Conferences.”

S12.01.A99. Number/names/description of Conferences.

a. This synod and its Congregations shall comprise eight Conferences, to be known as the “Central,” “Near West,” “North,” “Northeast,” “Northwest,” “South,” “Southwest,” and “West” Conferences. Normally, a Congregation belongs to the Conference within whose boundaries its place of worship is located. The Council may change or adjust such boundaries.

b. The current rosters of Congregations in each Conference are as follows:



CENTRAL (All in the City of Chicago)

Bethel (West) , Chicago  
Edgebrook, Chicago  
Edison Park, Chicago  
First Evangelical, Chicago

Iglesia Luterana De La Trinidad, Chicago  
Martin Luther, Chicago  
Mission of Christ, Chicago  
Norwegian Memorial, Chicago  
Norwood Park, Chicago

Purna Jiwan, Chicago  
St. James, Chicago  
St. Luke’s Lutheran Church of Logan Square, Chicago  
St. Timothy, Chicago  
United in Faith, Chicago  
Wicker Park, Chicago

NEAR WEST

Acacia Park, Norridge  
Ascension, Riverside  
Christ, Clarendon Hills  
Community United, Berwyn  
Epiphany, Elmhurst  
Faith, Brookfield  
Gethsemane, Cicero  
Gloria Dei, Downers Grove  
Good Shepherd, Oak Park  
Grace, Elmwood Park  
Grace, La Grange  
Grace, Villa Park  
Grace Westchester  
Holy Trinity, Lombard  
Lord of Life, Darien  
Prince of Peace, Addison  
Redeemer, Hinsdale  
Resurrection, Franklin Park  
St. James, Western Springs  
St. Luke’s, Elmhurst  
St. Michael’s, La Grange Park  
St. Paul, Villa Park  
St. Paul Thai, Forest Park  
St. Peter, Forest Park  
United, Oak Park  
Unity, Berwyn

NORTH

Christ, Vernon Hills  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of All Saints, Fox Lake  
Grace, Libertyville  
Holy Cross, Libertyville  
Holy Spirit, Lincolnshire  
Hope, Long Grove  
Joy! Gurnee  
Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Barrington  
Messiah, Wauconda  
Parroquia Lutherana Sagrado Corazon, Waukegan  
Peace, Lake Zurich

Shepherd of the Lakes, Grayslake  
St. Andrew, Mundelein  
St. James, Lake Forest  
St. Mark’s, Waukegan  
St. Paul, Waukegan  
St. Stephen, Antioch  
Trinity Evangelical, Ingelside  
Trinity United, Waukegan  
Zion, Deerfield

NORTHEAST

Christ, Chicago  
Concordia, Chicago  
Ebenezer, Chicago  
Evangelical Church of St. Luke, Chicago  
Friends Fellowship, Northbrook  
Gloria Dei, Northbrook  
Grace, Evanston  
Holy Family, Chicago  
Holy Trinity, Chicago  
Holy Trinity, Glenview  
Immanuel, Chicago  
Immanuel, Evanston  
Irving Park, Chicago  
Lake View, Chicago  
Luther Memorial, Chicago  
Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Northfield  
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Niles  
Messiah, Park Ridge  
Pilgrim, Chicago  
Redeemer, Park Ridge  
Resurrection, Chicago  
St. John’s Lincolnwood  
St. Luke’s, Park Ridge  
St. Paul’s, Evanston  
St. Philip, Glenview  
St. Timothy’s, Skokie  
Trinity, Evanston  
Unity, Chicago  
University, Evanston

NORTHWEST

All Saints, Palatine  
Bethlehem, Elgin  
Christ, Palatine  
Christ the Lord, Elgin  
Christus Victor, Elk Grove Village  
Grace, Mount Prospect  
Holy Trinity, Elgin  
Living Christ, Hanover Park  
Lord of Life, Schaumburg  
Lutheran Church of Martha & Mary, Mount Prospect  
Lutheran Church of the Cross, Arlington Heights  
Lutheran Church of Good Shepherd, Prospect Heights  
New Light Chinese, Palatine  
Our Saviour, Arlington Heights  
Prince of Peace, Schaumburg  
St. Mark, Mount Prospect  
St. Matthew, Itasca  
Trinity, Rolling Meadows

Trinity, Des Plaines  
True Light, Streamwood  
Zion, Elgin

SOUTH

Ashburn, Chicago  
Augustana, Chicago  
Bethany, Chicago  
Bethel-Imani, Chicago  
Bethlehem Evangelical, Chicago  
Calvary (Kenneth), Chicago  
Calvary (Spaulding), Chicago  
Christ the Mediator, Chicago  
First Trinity, Chicago  
Iglesia de la Santa Cruz, Chicago  
Lebanon, Chicago  
Love, Faith, and Hope, Chicago  
Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Chicago  
Reformation, Chicago  
Salem, Chicago  
St. James Evangelical, Chicago  
St. Mark, Chicago  
St. Stephen, Chicago  
St. Thomas, Chicago  
Tumaini Swahili Chapel, Elk Grove Village  
Windsor Park, Chicago  
Zion Lutheran Church of Avalon Park, Chicago

SOUTHWEST

Bethany, Lemont  
Evangelical LC of the Good Shepherd, Palos Heights  
Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Palos Heights  
Faith, Homewood  
First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Harvey  
First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Blue Island  
Good Shepherd, Robbins  
Jubilee Faith Community, Country Club Hills  
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Oak Forest  
Mount Zion, Oak Lawn  
Our Savior, Burbank  
Our Saviour Evangelical, Lansing  
Redeemer, South Holland  
Redeemer’s, Oak Forest  
Savior Divine, Palos Hills  
Shekinah Chapel, Riverdale  
St. Andrew’s, Glenwood  
St. Mark, Worth  
St. Philip, Blue Island  
St. Stephen, Midlothian  
Trinity Evangelical, Oak Lawn  
Trinity, Park Forest  
United by Faith, Evergreen Park  
Zion, Tinley Park

WEST

Bethany, Batavia  
Bethlehem, St. Charles  
Faith, Glen Ellyn  
Faith, Aurora  
Geneva, Geneva

Good Shepherd, Naperville  
Grace Lutheran Church of Lily Lake, St. Charles  
Grace, Glen Ellyn  
Holy Cross, Wheaton  
Living Lord, Bartlett  
Lutheran Church of the Master, Carol Stream  
Naperville Yuhlin, Naperville  
New Hope, Aurora  
Our Savior, Aurora  
Our Saviour’s, Naperville  
Prince of Peace, Woodridge  
Rejoice, Geneva  
St. Andrew, West Chicago  
St. Luke, Glen Ellyn  
St. Mark’s, Aurora  
St. Paul, Wheaton  
St. Timothy, Naperville  
Trinity, Warrenville  
Truth, Naperville

c. The Council may transfer a congregation from one Conference to another. Normally, such a transfer shall be based upon an application by a congregation proposing to be transferred. The application shall be in writing, addressed to the Council, and include rationale in support of the proposed transfer.

- 12.01.02

Purposes of the Conferences. The purposes of the Conferences are --

a. to foster clustering of Congregations within one Conference and with those of other Conferences; to encourage gatherings among Congregations for worship; programming, nurture and support; and, to provide monthly meetings of ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service of a conference for education, nurturing and fellowship.

b. to participate in this synod’s electoral processes -- that is, processes for nominations and elections -- in accordance with the bylaws and continuing resolutions of the synod.
- 12.01.03.

Organizational principles. Various organizational forms are available to Conferences. A Conference shall define its own organization by means of an appropriate organizational document. The initial organization and any re-organization of a Conference shall reflect principles in this bylaw and be subject to approval by the Council. Individual leadership of a Conference shall be the dean. The dean shall be elected according to a Conference’s process for such election and for a term of service of not more than four years; there may, but need not, be a limitation on reelection of the dean. After the organizational meeting, and apart from the process for electing the dean, the voting constituency of a Conference shall include the ministers of Word and



Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service of the Congregations of the Conference and at least one lay person from each Congregation. A Conference shall hold an annual meeting including its voting constituency, and have a planning council elected by the voting constituency. The planning council shall have at least five members, including the dean, who are voting members of different Congregations of the Conference. The terms of service of planning council members shall not exceed four years, and should be staggered to different expiration dates; there may, but need not, be limitations on reelection of planning council members. A Conference may have funds in reasonable amount for which its planning council shall be accountable.

12.01.04

- Electoral meetings.
- a) Each Conference shall hold electoral meetings of its voting constituency in order, pursuant to S9.03.02, to select persons for appointment or nomination for meetings of the Assembly.
  - b) Each electoral meeting is subject to these requirements: An electoral meeting shall be at the meeting of the conference at the synod assembly or at a meeting held before December, upon due notice to members of the voting constituency, for the purpose of selecting persons for appointment or nomination. Each selection and election of a person shall be by majority vote of the voting constituency and with a quorum of at least one member of the voting constituency from each of Congregations comprising 30% of Congregations of the Conference, and shall be the subject of a written record. Proxy or absentee voting shall not be permitted.
  - c) A Conference, by its Dean, is promptly to report each selection and election by an electoral meeting to the Council. The Council is promptly to advise the Nominating Committee of each such selection and election.

S12.01.05.

- Dean The dean of a Conference shall --
- a) aid the Conference and its planning council in setting and achieving Conference objectives,
  - b) arrange the monthly meetings of ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service,
  - c) maintain personal contacts with the ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service of the Conference,
  - d) serve as a communications link between the synod office and the ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service of the Conference,
  - e) make an annual written report to the bishop -- including a summary of Conference activities and advising with respect to the conditions and needs of this church within her/his Conference -- to be part of the reports to the Assembly, and
  - f) perform such other duties as the bishop may from time to time assign.

The deans may attend meetings of the Council as spokespersons and observers for their Conferences, with voice but not vote at such meetings.

Chapter 13.

CONGREGATIONS

- †S13.01. Each congregation, except those certified as congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the uniting churches, prior to being listed in the roster of congregations of this synod, shall adopt the *Model Constitution for Congregations* or one acceptable to this synod that is not in contradiction to the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- a. **New congregations.** A congregation newly formed by this church and any congregation seeking recognition and reception by this church shall:
    - 1) Accept the criteria for recognition and reception as a congregation of this church, fulfill the functions of the congregation, and accept the governance provisions as provided in Chapter 9 of the constitution and bylaws of this church.
    - 2) Adopt governing documents that include fully and without alterations the Preamble, Chapter 1, where applicable, and all required provisions of Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 in the *Model Constitution for Congregations* consistent with requirements of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church. Bylaws and continuing resolutions, appropriate for inclusion in these chapters and not in conflict with these required provisions in the *Model Constitution for Congregations*, the constitution of this synod, or the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, may be adopted as described in Chapters 16 and 18 of the *Model Constitution for Congregations*.
    - 3) Accept the commitments expected of all congregations of this church as stated in \*C6.01., \*C6.02., and \*C6.03. of the *Model Constitution for Congregations*.
  - b. **Congregations from another church body.** If a congregation is a member of another church body, the leadership of the congregation first should consult with the appropriate authorities of that church body before taking action to leave its current church body. After such consultation, leaders

of the congregation should contact the ELCA synod bishop or staff where the congregation is located. The synod bishop or synod staff where the transferring or independent congregation is located shall confer with the congregation to assure its understanding and acceptance of commitment to and affiliation with this church.

- c. **Recognition and reception.** Recognition and reception into this church of transferring or independent congregations by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is based on the judgment of the synod and action by the synod through the Synod Council and Synod Assembly. The synod bishop shall provide for prompt reporting of such additions to the secretary of this church for addition to the roster of congregations.

†S13.02.

It shall be the responsibility of each congregation of this synod to choose from among its voting members laypersons to serve as members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected by each congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by this synod.

S13.11.

When a rostered minister resigns, the Congregation Council shall receive the letter of resignation, report it to the congregation, and at once notify the bishop of this synod.

S13.12.

A congregation under financial obligation to its former rostered minister shall make satisfactory settlement of the obligation before calling a successor.

†S13.20.

A congregation considering a relocation shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected.

†S13.20.

A congregation considering development of an additional site to be used regularly for worship shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.

†S13.21.

A congregation considering development of an additional site to be used regularly for worship shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization

before any steps are taken leading to such action.

†S13.22.

Each congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America within the territory of this synod, except those which are in partnership with the Slovak Zion Synod, shall establish and maintain a relationship with this synod.

†S13.23.

Provision 9.71. of the constitution of this church shall govern the relationship of this synod and a congregation of this synod regarding the property of the congregation. This synod may transfer or convey property to a congregation of the synod, subject to restrictions accepted by the congregation, including provision that if the Synod Council, in its sole and exclusive discretion, determines (1) that the property is not being used to serve the mission and ministry needs of this church, or (2) that the congregation has transferred, encumbered, mortgaged, or in any way burdened or impaired any right, title, or interest in the property without the prior approval of the Synod Council, then title to the property shall revert to the synod, and the congregation, upon written demand, shall reconvey the property to the synod.

**S13.23.01.** Property of congregation terminating relationship with this church. This bylaw is subject to provision 9.52. of the ELCA constitution concerning the governing documents of Congregations recognized at the establishment of this church, and does not provide for action inconsistent with the said provision 9.52. Whenever a Congregation has initiated action to terminate its relationship with this church under provision 9.62. of the ELCA constitution and requested to become independent or to relate to a non-Lutheran church body, the synodical process set forth in steps a. through e. of this bylaw is established for the consultation concerning title to property of the Congregation, under provision 9.71.e. of the ELCA constitution, by the Council with the Congregation prior to the Council's decision on whether to approve the Congregation's request.

- a. The Congregation shall, after having submitted the certified copy of the resolution to terminate to the bishop and, in the case of congregations which had been members of the Lutheran Church in America (as constituted prior to January 1, 1988), after the termination is approved by this synod (as required for such congregations by provision 9.62. of the ELCA constitution), deliver to the bishop a written request stating whether the Congregation desires to become independent or to relate to a non-Lutheran



church body and, if the latter, such request shall identify the non-Lutheran church body and describe any and all action the Congregation has taken or which it intends to take in order to accomplish such relationship.

- b. Within 30 days from receipt of such written request from a Congregation, the bishop shall present the request to the Council.
- c. After the Council receives the request, the bishop shall be afforded opportunity by the Congregation for a meeting with it, at a mutually-agreed time and place, for the purpose of discussing the request. Such meeting shall be informal, and any member of the Congregation and any member of the Council may attend and be given voice. However, no such meeting shall be held unless the pastor or pastors of the Congregation and at least a majority of members of the Congregation Council (or, if such body is identified by a different designation, to the equivalent congregational authority) are also present.
- d. Within 10 days after the said informal meeting, the Congregation shall deliver to the bishop true, complete and correct copies of all documents, papers, letters and records in the possession of the Congregation, as may be requested by the bishop or by any member of the Council who attended the meeting, which pertain to the requested termination.
- e. Within 45 days after the informal meeting, the bishop shall convene a meeting of the Council for the purpose of making the final determination concerning the Congregation's request. Any member of the Congregation may attend such meeting and be afforded reasonable time and opportunity to address the Council on matters pertaining to the requested termination. The Council need not announce the determination at such Council meeting, but as soon as practicable after the meeting, the Council will give written notification to the Congregation by sending copies of the determination to the pastor or pastors, to each member of

the Congregation Council (or equivalent authority), and to the secretary of the Congregation. The Council in its sole discretion, may decide whether it would be appropriate or desirable for the notification to set forth the basis or reason for the determination.

- f. †**S13.24.** The Synod Council, itself or through trustees appointed by it, may take charge and control of the property of a congregation of this synod to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of this synod, if any of the following apply:
  - g. The congregation has disbanded, ceased to worship, or otherwise ceased to exist as a congregation.
  - h. The congregation has abandoned its property.
  - i. The remaining members of the congregation decide that it is no longer possible to function as a congregation or that they are unable to provide required governance.
  - j. The Synod Council determines that the membership of a congregation has become so scattered or so diminished in numbers that it cannot provide required governance or that it has become impractical for the congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized.
  - k. The Synod Council determines that it is necessary for this synod to protect and preserve the congregation's property from waste and deterioration.
  - l. The congregation shall have the right to appeal any such decision to the next Synod Assembly.
- S13.25.** This synod may temporarily assume administration of a congregation upon its request or with its concurrence.
- S13.30. Discipline**
- †**S13.31.** Congregations and members of congregations are subject to discipline in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 20 of the *Constitution*,

*Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.* The synod's involvement in and responsibility for such disciplinary processes shall be as set forth in that chapter.

- S13.40.** Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities
- S13.41.** Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.

**Chapter 14.**  
**ROSTERED MINISTERS**

- †**S14.10. Ministers of Word and Sacrament**
- †**S14.11.** The time and place of the ordination of those persons properly called to ministry in this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.
- †**S14.12.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
  - a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:
    - 1) preach the Word;
    - 2) administer the sacraments;
    - 3) conduct public worship;
    - 4) provide pastoral care;
    - 5) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;
    - 6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through available channels of effective communication;
    - 7) witness to the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation and abroad; and
    - 8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.
  - b. Each pastor with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:
    - 1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the

sick and distressed, and bury the dead;

- 2) relate to all schools and organizations of the congregation;
- 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council;
- 4) with the council, administer discipline;
- 5) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the churchwide organization and of this synod; and
- 6) encourage adherence to covenantal relationship with this church as expressed in the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*
- S14.13.** The pastor (a) shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, (b) shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod, and (c) shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- S14.14.** Whenever members of a congregation move to such a distance that regular attendance at its services becomes impractical, it shall be the duty of the pastor to commend them, upon their consent, to the pastoral care of a Lutheran congregation nearer to their place of residence.
- S14.15.** Each minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- †**S14.16.** When a congregation of this church desires to call a pastor or a candidate for the ministry of Word and Sacrament of this church:
  - a. Each congregation of this synod shall consult the bishop of this synod before taking any steps leading to the extending of a call to a prospective pastor.
  - b. For issuance of a letter of call to a pastor or candidate by a congregation of this synod in accord with ELCA constitutional provision 7.41., a two-thirds vote shall be required of voting members of the congregation present and voting at a meeting regularly called for the purpose of issuing such a call.



	<p>c. When the congregation has voted to issue a call to a prospective pastor, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.</p>	bishop of this synod,	recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.	synod that the parochial records, for the period for which the interim pastor was responsible, are in order.
<b>S14.17.</b>	No minister of Word and Sacrament shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Sacrament shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.	<p>1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or</p> <p>2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.</p>	<p>f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.</p>	<p><b>†S14.24.</b> With the approval of the synod bishop expressed in writing, which sets forth a clear statement of the purpose to be served by such a departure from the normal rule of permanency of the call as expressed in †S14.18., a congregation may call a pastor for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop of this synod or a representative of the bishop shall meet with the pastor and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of †S14.18.</p>
<b>†S14.18.</b>	<p>The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Sacrament and a congregation shall be as follows:</p> <p>a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by the pastor's death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for the following reasons:</p> <p>1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;</p> <p>2) resignation of the pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;</p> <p>3) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in that congregation in view of local conditions;</p> <p>4) physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor;</p> <p>5) suspension of the pastor through discipline for more than three months;</p> <p>6) resignation or removal of the pastor from the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church;</p> <p>7) termination of the relationship between this church and the congregation;</p> <p>8) dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or</p> <p>9) suspension of the congregation through discipline for more than six months.</p> <p>b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the</p>	<p>c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the pastor on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament with disability status. Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the pastor to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.</p> <p>d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the pastor and then to the congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee must address whether the pastor's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by the congregation and by the pastor, if appropriate. If the pastor and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.</p> <p>e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the pastor's call, the congregation may dismiss the pastor only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not</p>	<p><b>†S14.19.</b> Ministers of Word and Sacrament shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited to do so by the pastor, or if there is no duly called pastor, then by the interim pastor in consultation with the Congregation Council.</p> <p><b>†S14.21.</b> The parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members transferred or dismissed, members who have become inactive, or members excluded from the congregation shall be kept accurately and permanently. They shall remain the property of each congregation. At the time of the closure of a congregation, such records shall be sent to the regional archives. The secretary of the congregation shall attest to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in his or her hands in good order by a departing pastor before:</p> <p>a. installation in another call, or</p> <p>b. approval of a request for change in roster status.</p> <p><b>†S14.22.</b> The pastor shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:</p> <p>a. installation in another call, or</p> <p>b. approval of a request for change in roster status.</p> <p><b>†S14.23.</b> During service to a congregation, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in the congregation of a regularly called pastor. The interim pastor may delegate the same in part to an interim supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of this synod. The interim pastor and any rostered minister who may assist shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor. Upon completion of service, the interim pastor shall certify to the bishop of this</p>	<p><b>S14.25.</b> All ministers of Word and Sacrament under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the pastors of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.</p> <p><b>†S14.30. Ministers of Word and Service</b></p> <p><b>†S14.31.</b> The time and place of the ordination of those persons properly called to ministry in this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.</p> <p><b>†S14.32.</b> Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every Minister of Word and Service shall:</p> <p>a. Be rooted in the Word of God, for proclamation and service;</p> <p>b. Advocate a prophetic diakonia that commits itself to risk-taking and innovative service on the frontiers of the Church's outreach, giving particular attention to the suffering places in God's world;</p> <p>c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad;</p> <p>d. Equip the baptized for ministry in God's world that affirms the gifts of all people;</p> <p>e. Encourage mutual relationships that invite participation and accompaniment of others in God's mission;</p> <p>f. Practice stewardship that respects God's gift of time, talents, and resources;</p> <p>g. Be grounded in a gathered community for ongoing diaconal formation;</p> <p>h. Share knowledge of this church and its wider</p>



ministry of the gospel, and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church; and

- i. Identify and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the gospel.

**S14.33.** The minister of Word and Service shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the minister of Word and Service shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

**S14.34.** Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

†S14.41. When a congregation of this church desires to call a minister of Word and Service or a candidate for the ministry of Word and Service of this church:

- a. Each congregation of this synod shall consult the bishop of this synod before taking any steps leading to the extending of a call to a prospective minister of Word and Service.

- b. For issuance of a letter of call to a minister of Word and Service or candidate by a congregation of this synod in accord with ELCA constitutional provision 7.71., a two-thirds vote shall be required of members of the congregation present and voting at a meeting regularly called for the purpose of issuing such a call.

c. When the congregation has voted to issue a call to a prospective minister of Word and Service, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.

**S14.42.** No minister of Word and Service shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Service shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

**†S14.43.** The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Service and a congregation shall be as follows:

- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a minister of Word and Service, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship

and commitment which shall be terminated only by death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for the following reasons:

1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;

- 2) resignation of the minister of Word and Service, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;

3) inability to conduct the office effectively in that congregation in view of local conditions;

4) physical disability or mental incapacity of the minister of Word and Service;

5) suspension of the minister of Word and Service through discipline for more than three months;

6) resignation or removal of the minister of Word and Service from the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church;

7) termination of the relationship between this church and the congregation;

8) dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or

9) suspension of the congregation through discipline for more than six months.

b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the minister of Word and Service under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the ministry of Word and Service under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,

- 1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or

- 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.

c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain

and document competent medical opinion concerning the minister of Word and Service's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant. When the position is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the deacon on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service with disability status. Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the minister of Word and Service to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the minister of Word and Service to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.

d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the minister of Word and Service and then to the congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee address whether the minister of Word and Service's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by the congregation and by the minister of Word and Service, if appropriate. If the minister of Word and Service and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.

e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the minister of Word and Service's call, the congregation may dismiss the minister of Word and Service only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.

f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

†S14.44. Ministers of Word and Service shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited to do so by the Congregation Council.

†S14.45. The minister of Word and Service shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:

a. installation in another call, or

- b. approval of a request for change in roster status.

†S14.46. With the approval of the synod bishop expressed in writing, which sets forth a clear statement of the purpose to be served by such a departure from the normal rule of permanency of the call as expressed in †S14.43., a congregation may call a minister of Word and Service for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop of this synod or a representative of the bishop shall meet with the minister of Word and Service and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of †S14.43.

**S14.47.** All ministers of Word and Service under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the ministers of Word and Service of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.

## Chapter 15.

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

†**S15.01.** The fiscal year of this synod shall be February 1 through January 31.

†S15.11. Since the congregations, synods, and churchwide organization are interdependent expressions that share in God's mission, all share in the responsibility to develop, implement, and strengthen the financial support of the whole church. The gifts and offerings of the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are given to support all parts of this church, the unity of this church should be evidenced in determining each part's share of the gifts and offerings. Therefore:

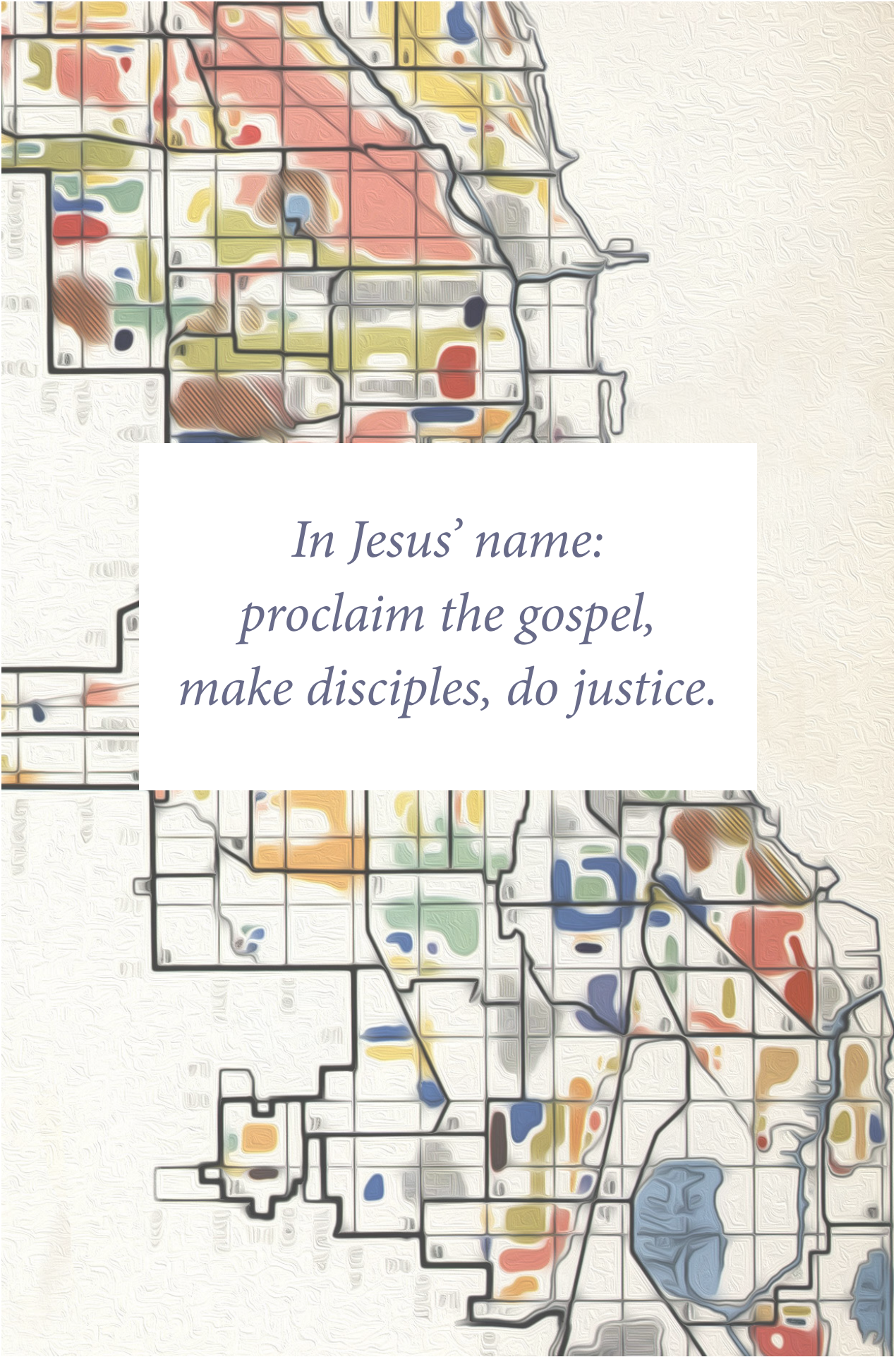
- a. The mission of this church beyond the congregation is to be supported by such a proportionate share of each congregation's annual budget as each congregation determines. This synod shall develop



<p>guidelines for determining “proportionate share,” and shall consult with congregational leaders to assist each congregation in making its determination.</p> <p>b. This synod shall receive the proportionate share of the mission support from its congregations, and shall transmit that percentage or amount of each congregation’s mission support as determined in consultation with the churchwide organization and approved by the Synod Assembly as part of its budget consideration.</p> <p>c. Should the Synod Assembly not approve the proportionate share of mission support determined in consultation with the churchwide organization, a new consultation with the churchwide organization shall take place. The Synod Council is authorized to amend the budget adopted by the Synod Assembly to reflect the results of this consultation.</p> <p>†S15.12. The annual budget of this synod shall reflect the entire range of its own activities and its commitment to supportive funding with other synods and the churchwide organization.</p> <p>S15.13. On the basis of estimated income, the Synod Council shall authorize expenditures within the budget for the fiscal year. Expenditure authorizations shall be subject to revision, in light of changing conditions, by the Synod Council.</p> <p>S15.14. Except when such procedure would jeopardize current operations, a reserve amounting to no more than 16 percent of the sum of the amounts scheduled in the next year’s budget for regular distribution to synodical causes shall be carried forward annually for disbursement in the following year in the interest of making possible a more even flow of income to such causes. The exact number of dollars to be held in reserve shall be determined by the Synod Council.</p> <p>S15.21. No appeal to congregations of this or any other synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the raising of funds shall be conducted by congregations or organizations related to or affiliated with this synod without the consent of the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council.</p> <p>S15.21.01. <u>Intermediaries.</u> A Congregation or organization related to or affiliated with this synod may not utilize an intermediary to avoid the consent required in S15.21.</p> <p>S15.21.02. <u>Fund-raising.</u> Generally, for purposes of S15.21., consent by this synod for an appeal</p>	<p>for raising funds shall be based upon an application for such consent. The process set forth in steps a. through e. of this bylaw is established for such applications and their disposition.</p> <p>a) The application shall be in writing and addressed to the Council. The application shall identify, as applicant, all Congregations or organizations seeking the consent, describe the purpose and scope of the proposed appeal, and include all supporting information applicant believes pertinent.</p> <p>b) The Council may summarily deny an application whereof applicant includes a Congregation which is not current in providing proportionate share support according to Chapter 15 of the constitution or an organization which is not fulfilling requirements of its affiliation or relationship.</p> <p>c) Before deeming an application complete, the Council in its discretion shall have a reasonable opportunity to ask applicant for additional information (allowing a reasonable period for applicant’s reply) or otherwise to develop such additional information.</p> <p>d) Within 180 days after the Council deems an application complete, it shall act on the application, with written notice of the action to applicant. Such action, in the Council’s discretion, may include any of the following:</p> <p>i. consent or conditional consent for the appeal.</p> <p>ii. denial of consent which may, but need not, recite a particular reason for the denial.</p> <p>iii. referral of the application, with or without recommendation, to the Assembly.</p> <p>e) The Council’s disposition of the application is final. An application referred by the Council to the Assembly, may be disposed of in any manner the Assembly deems appropriate.</p> <p>S15.21.03.<u>Consent not required in certain circumstances.</u> Consent by this synod under S15.21. is not applicable to and is not required for—</p> <p>a. reasonable funding of activities of a Conference by Congregations of the Conference.</p>	<p>b. reasonable funding for a period of not more than one year of specific educational, charitable or benevolence projects within the Statement of Purpose of this church by a Congregation provided</p> <p>i. such funding may not supplant the Congregation’s proportionate share support for this church beyond the congregation under Chapter 15 of the constitution,</p> <p>ii. during the period of funding the Congregation is current in providing such support, and</p> <p>iii. the Congregation has invited a proposal for such funding.</p> <p>c. reasonable funding for a period of not more than one year of specific joint educational, charitable or benevolence projects within the Statement of Purpose of this church by or on the part of several Congregations provided</p> <p>i. such funding shall not supplant the Congregations’ proportionate share support for this church beyond the congregation under Chapter 15 of the constitution,</p> <p>ii. during the period of funding each such Congregation is current in providing such support, and</p> <p>iii. the funding is provided by all or some of such Congregations.</p> <p>†S15.31. This synod shall arrange to have an annual audit of its financial records conducted by a certified public accountant firm recommended by the synod Audit Committee and approved by the Synod Council. The audited annual financial report shall be submitted by this synod to the churchwide Office of the Treasurer and to the congregations of this synod. The financial reports shall be in the format approved from time to time by the churchwide Office of the Treasurer.</p> <p>†S15.32. This synod shall maintain adequate, continuous insurance coverage in accordance with standards recommended by the churchwide organization. Insurance programs offered or endorsed by the churchwide organization shall be deemed to fulfill this obligation.</p>	<p><b>Chapter 16.</b></p> <p><b>INDEMNIFICATION</b></p> <p>†S16.01. Subject to the limitations and duties imposed by law, each person who is or was made or threatened to be made a party to any proceeding by reason of the present or former capacity of that person as a Synod Council member, officer, employee, or committee member of this synod shall be indemnified against all costs and expenses incurred by that person in connection with the proceeding. Indemnification of any person by reason of that person’s capacity as a director, officer, employee, or committee member of any other organization, regardless of its form or relationship to this synod, is subject to the provisions of section †S16.02.</p> <p>a. The term “proceeding” means a threatened, pending, or completed lawsuit, whether civil or criminal, an administrative or investigative matter, arbitration, mediation, alternative dispute resolution, or any other similar legal or governmental action. Except as otherwise required by law, the term “proceeding” does not include (a) any action by this synod against the individual seeking indemnification, or (b) subject to †S16.04., a disciplinary hearing or related process described in Chapter 20 of the <i>Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</i>.</p> <p>b. The term “indemnification” includes reimbursement and advances of costs and expenses for judgments, penalties, fines, settlements, excise taxes, reasonable attorneys’ fees, disbursements, and similar required expenditures.</p> <p>S16.01.A87. <u>Indemnification for members of certain committees.</u></p> <p>a. <i>Members of the Consultation Committee, the synodical component of the Committee on Discipline, the Ministry Committee of this synod, and of each committee convened under †S14.13.b. or S14.13.08., within the scope and proper conduct of the functions and responsibilities of such committees and with reference to certain third persons, are agents of the synod and eligible to be indemnified under †S16.01. of the constitution. “Certain third persons” means only persons who are members of this church and with whom such a committee deals on behalf of this church or this synod, but not</i></p>
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<p><i>persons who are indemnified under †S16.01.</i></p> <p>b. <i>As from time to time appropriate for purposes of indemnification according to †S16.01., the Council may designate members of committees of the synod, other than the committees identified in provision a. of this resolution, as agents of the synod.</i></p> <p>†S16.02. Whenever a person who, while a Synod Council member, officer, committee member, or employee of this synod, is or was serving at the request of this synod as (or whose duties in that position involve or involved service in the capacity of) a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or agent of another organization, is or was made or threatened to be made a party to a proceeding by reason of such capacity, then such person shall be entitled to indemnification only if (a) the Synod Council has established a process for determining whether a person serving in the capacity described in this section shall be entitled to indemnification in any specific case, and (b) that process has been applied in making a specific determination that such person is entitled to indemnification.</p> <p>†S16.03. This synod may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of itself or any person entitled to indemnification pursuant to this chapter against any liability asserted against and incurred by this synod or by such other person in or arising from a capacity described in section †S16.01. or section †S16.02.</p> <p>†S16.04. When written charges against a rostered minister of this church are made in disciplinary proceedings under Chapter 20 of the <i>Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</i> by the synod bishop or when written charges against a congregation are made in disciplinary proceedings by the Synod Council or the synod bishop, and the discipline hearing committee determines that no discipline shall be imposed, then if such determination is not reversed or set aside on appeal, indemnification shall be made by the synod to the accused for reasonable attorney’s fees and other reasonable expenses related to the defense of the charges. The determination of the reasonableness of such fees and expenses shall be decided by the Synod Council.</p>	<p><b>Chapter 17.</b></p> <p><b>ADJUDICATION</b></p> <p>†S17.01. The synod bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall be available to give counsel when disputes arise within this synod.</p> <p>†S17.02. The synod bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall receive expressions of concern from rostered ministers of this church, congregations, and organizations within this synod; provide a forum in which the parties concerned can seek to work out matters causing distress or conflict; and make appropriate recommendations for their resolution. When a concern relates directly to the synod bishop, the synod vice president will lead the Executive Committee’s efforts at resolving the matter. When the matter at issue cannot be resolved in this manner, applicable procedures for investigation, decision, appeal, and adjudication shall be followed. Allegations or charges that could lead to the discipline of a rostered minister of this church shall not be addressed by the Executive Committee but shall be resolved through the disciplinary process set forth in the <i>Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</i>.</p> <p>†S17.03. When there is disagreement between or among congregations of this synod on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, the council of an affected congregation may petition the synod bishop for a consultation after informing the other affected congregation(s) of its intent to do so. If this consultation fails to resolve the issue, the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation Committee’s efforts fail to resolve the issue(s), the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the council deems necessary. The decision of the Synod Council shall be final.</p> <p>†S17.04. When conferences, clusters, coalitions, or area subdivisions of this synod have a disagreement on a substantive issue that they cannot resolve, the aggrieved party or parties may petition the synod bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council requesting a consultation after informing the other affected parties of their intent to do so. In this case the decision of the Executive Committee shall prevail, except that, upon the motion of a member of the Synod Council, the decision shall be referred to the Synod Council for final action.</p> <p>†S17.10. <b>Adjudication in a Congregation</b></p>	<p>†S17.11. When there is disagreement between or among factions within a congregation on a substantive issue which cannot be resolved by the parties, members of the congregation may petition the synod bishop for consultation after informing the president of the Congregation Council of their intent to do so. The synod bishop shall seek a timely resolution of the dispute. If the issue relates directly to the pastor, the bishop may begin the process in †S14.18.d. In all other matters, if the bishop’s consultation fails to resolve the issue, the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation Committee’s efforts fail to resolve the dispute, the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the council deems necessary. The Synod Council’s decision shall be final.</p> <p><b>Chapter 18.</b></p> <p><b>AMENDMENTS, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS</b></p> <p>†S18.10. <b>Amendments to Constitution</b></p> <p>†S18.11. Certain sections of this constitution incorporate and record therein required provisions of the constitution and bylaws of this church. If such provisions are amended by the Churchwide Assembly, corresponding amendments shall be introduced at once into this constitution by the secretary of this synod upon receipt of formal certification thereof from the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.</p> <p>†S18.12. Whenever the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially informs this synod that the Churchwide Assembly has amended the <i>Constitution for Synods</i>, this constitution may be amended to reflect any such amendment by a majority vote at any subsequent meeting of the Synod Assembly without presentation at a prior Synod Assembly. An amendment that is identical to a provision of the <i>Constitution for Synods</i> shall be deemed to have been ratified upon its adoption by this synod. The Church Council, through the secretary of this church, shall be given prompt notification of its adoption.</p> <p>†S18.13. Other amendments to this constitution may be adopted by this synod through either of the following procedures:</p> <p>a. Introduced with the support of at least 100 voting members and having been approved by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at a regular meeting of</p>	<p>the Synod Assembly, an amendment may be adopted unchanged by a two-thirds vote at the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.</p> <p>b. The Synod Council may propose an amendment, with notice to be sent to the congregations of this synod at least six months prior to the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Such an amendment shall require for adoption a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at such a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.</p> <p>All such amendments shall become effective upon ratification by the Churchwide Assembly or by the Church Council.</p> <p>†S18.20. <b>Amendments to Bylaws</b></p> <p>†S18.21. This synod may adopt bylaws not in conflict with this constitution or with the constitution and bylaws of the churchwide organization. This synod may amend its bylaws at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a two-thirds vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting. Newly adopted bylaws and amendments to existing bylaws shall be reported to the secretary of this church.</p> <p>†S18.30. <b>Amendments to Continuing Resolutions</b></p> <p>†S18.31. This synod may adopt continuing resolutions not in conflict with this constitution or its bylaws or the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of the churchwide organization. Such continuing resolutions may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Synod Assembly or by a two-thirds vote of Synod Council. Newly adopted continuing resolutions and amendments to existing continuing resolutions shall be reported to the secretary of this church.</p>
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An abstract map of the United States, where each state is filled with a unique, colorful, and textured pattern. The colors include shades of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and brown. The map is set against a light beige background with a subtle, repeating pattern of small, stylized figures. A white rectangular box is centered over the map, containing the text.

*In Jesus' name:  
proclaim the gospel,  
make disciples, do justice.*