



Metropolitan Chicago Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

mcselca.org

BOOK of REPORTS

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

1 PETER 4:10-11

#GoodSTEWardship

2023

Welcome

Metropolitan Chicago Synod

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

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.”

– 1 Peter 4:10-11

#GoodSTEWardship

May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

We are honored to present to you the 2023 Book of Reports. Throughout these pages, you will find evidence of the #GoodSTEWardship of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. You will notice how congregations and ministries across this synod live into the synod mission statement: In Jesus' name: Proclaim the Gospel, Make Disciples, Do Justice.

As you encounter these reports, consider these ministries through Jesus' command to make disciples. Consider who makes disciples. This report answers that question with your stories revealing God's Spirit moving across the synod through countless ministries.

The partnership between the synod office and ministries around the synod has enabled us to: In Jesus' name – Make Disciples. These reports exhibit some of the facets of this partnership. This year, we are excited to reintroduce the Herb Carlmark Fund, an innovative way to financially support lay ministry. Although financial support is only one aspect of our shared ministry, this commitment highlights that lay leadership is one way God makes disciples. This and other grant opportunities exhibit the strong partnership between the synod office and your ministries.

In reading these reports, we hope that you will catch our enthusiasm and excitement about the Spirit's work across the synod. We hope you will be reinvigorated for your own ministries. As we celebrate the #GoodSTEWardship of the past year in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, we look forward with hope and joy to God's surprising creativity in the next year, as our ministries continue to inspire disciples. May God bless our shared ministry and keep making disciples in Jesus' name.



Bishop Yehiel Curry

Bishop, Metropolitan Chicago Synod



Rev. Erin Clausen

Secretary, Metropolitan Chicago Synod

* the word 'synod' comes from a Greek word meaning 'traveling together'

Bienvenido

Sínodo Metropolitano de Chicago

En el nombre de Jesús: Proclamar el Evangelio - Hacer Discípulos - Hacer Justicia.

"Como buenos administradores de los diferentes dones de Dios, cada uno de ustedes sirva a los demás según lo que haya recibido. Cuando alguien hable, sean sus palabras como palabras de Dios. Cuando alguien preste algún servicio, préstelo con las fuerzas que Dios le da. Todo lo que hagan, háganlo para que Dios sea alabado por medio de Jesucristo, a quien pertenece la gloria y el poder para siempre. Amén."
– 1 Pedro 4:10-11

#GoodSTEWardship (#BuenaMAYORdomía)

Que la Gracia y la paz sean con ustedes en abundancia en el conocimiento de Dios y de Jesús nuestro Señor.

Tenemos el honor de presentarles el Libro de Informes del 2023. A lo largo de estas páginas, encontrará evidencia de la #GoodSTEWardship (#Buena MAYORdomía) del Sínodo Metropolitano de Chicago. Notará cómo las congregaciones y los ministerios de este sínodo viven la declaración de la misión del sínodo: En el nombre de Jesús: proclama el evangelio, forma discípulos, haz justicia.

Cuando encuentre estos informes, considere estos ministerios a través del mandato de Jesús de formar discípulos. Considere quién forma discípulos. Este informe responde a esa pregunta con sus historias que revelan el Espíritu de Dios moviéndose a través del sínodo por medio de innumerables ministerios.

La asociación entre la oficina del sínodo y los ministerios del sínodo nos han permitido: En el nombre de Jesús: formar discípulos. Estos informes muestran algunas de las facetas de esta asociación. Este año, nos complace volver a presentar el Fondo Herb Carlmark, una forma innovadora de apoyar financieramente el ministerio laico. Aunque el apoyo financiero es solo un aspecto de nuestro ministerio compartido, este compromiso destaca que el liderazgo laico es una manera en que Dios forma discípulos. Esta y otras oportunidades de subvenciones muestran la sólida asociación entre la oficina del sínodo y sus ministerios.

Al leer estos informes, esperamos que capte nuestro entusiasmo y emoción por la obra del Espíritu en todo el sínodo. Esperamos que sea revigorizado para sus propios ministerios. Mientras celebramos el #GoodSTEWardship del año pasado en el Sínodo Metropolitano de Chicago, esperamos con esperanza y alegría la sorprendente creatividad de Dios en el próximo año, mientras nuestros ministerios continúan inspirando discípulos. Que Dios bendiga nuestro ministerio compartido y siga formando discípulos en el nombre de Jesús.



Obispo Yehiel Curry

Obispo, Sínodo Metropolitano de Chicago



Rev. Erin Clausen

Secretaria, Sínodo Metropolitano de Chicago

* la palabra 'sínodo' viene de la palabra Griega que significa 'viajar juntos'

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Presiding Bishop Report

BISHOP ELIZABETH A. EATON



“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age’”
(Matthew 28:18-20).

Dear siblings in Christ,

We know the gospel changes lives and that God’s power and grace are real and at work today. Together we are called to bear God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world. What if we could make God known to more people? To the child who’s never heard of Jesus? To young adults who are trying to make sense of the world? To older adults who often feel lonely and isolated?

Our purpose – “to activate each of us so that more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love” – is an expression of our calling and our longing for others to know the love of God in Christ Jesus. We live out our purpose through worship and service, in our congregations and communities, through our individual vocations and our collective work as church together.

Many of you have wondered why we set a goal to reach one million new, young and diverse people. We believe that each of us is made in the image of God, redeemed by Jesus on the cross, and filled with the Holy Spirit. Our focus on young and diverse people is not exclusive but an acknowledgment that younger and more diverse people are disproportionately missing from our pews and gatherings. We are challenging one another to reach out across differences of all sorts to meet our neighbors.

Setting a goal to engage with one million is a way for us to know whether the work we are doing is, in fact, reaching new people. It encourages us to work together to be a church that cares about the world around us and is effective and faithful in responding to God’s call.

Join us on this future-focused journey to widen our welcome and break down the barriers that keep people from engaging with the church. Together, we can help people experience the difference God’s grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation.

In Christ,



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Reporte De Obispa Presidente

OBISPA ELIZABETH A. EATON



“Jesús se acercó entonces a ellos y les dijo: –Se me ha dado toda autoridad en el cielo y en la tierra. Por tanto, vayan y hagan discípulos de todas las naciones, bautizándolos en el nombre del Padre y del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo, enseñándoles a obedecer todo lo que les he mandado a ustedes. Y les aseguro que estaré con ustedes siempre, hasta el fin del mundo” (Mateo 28:18-20).

Queridos(as) hermanos(as) en Cristo:

Sabemos que el evangelio cambia vidas, y que el poder y la gracia de Dios son reales y están obrando hoy. Juntos somos llamados a llevar la palabra creadora y redentora de Dios a todo el mundo. ¿Qué pasaría si pudiéramos dar a conocer a Dios a más personas? ¿Al niño que nunca ha oído hablar de Jesús? ¿A los adultos jóvenes que están tratando de entender el mundo? ¿A los adultos mayores que a menudo se sienten solos y aislados?

Nuestro propósito —activar a cada uno de nosotros para que más personas conozcan el camino de Jesús y descubran la comunidad, la justicia y el amor— es una expresión de nuestra llamada y nuestro anhelo de que otros conozcan el amor de Dios en Cristo Jesús. Vivimos nuestro propósito a través de la adoración y el servicio, en nuestras congregaciones y comunidades, a través de nuestras vocaciones individuales y nuestro trabajo colectivo como iglesia juntos.

Muchos de ustedes se han preguntado por qué fijamos la meta de alcanzar a un millón de personas nuevas, jóvenes y diversas. Creemos que cada uno de nosotros está hecho a imagen de Dios, redimido por Jesús en la cruz y lleno del Espíritu Santo. Nuestro enfoque en las personas jóvenes y diversas no es exclusivo, sino un reconocimiento de que las personas más jóvenes y diversas están desproporcionadamente ausentes de nuestras bancas y reuniones. Nos estamos desafiando unos a otros a avanzar a través de diferencias de todo tipo para conocer a nuestros vecinos.

La meta de comprometernos con un millón es una forma de saber si el trabajo que hacemos está, en efecto, llegando a nuevas personas. Nos anima a trabajar juntos para ser una iglesia que se preocupa por el mundo que nos rodea y que es eficaz y fiel en su respuesta al llamado de Dios.

Únase a nosotros en esta jornada concentrada en el futuro para extender nuestra bienvenida y romper las barreras que impiden que las personas participen en la iglesia. Juntos podemos ayudar a la gente a experimentar la diferencia que la gracia y el amor de Dios en Cristo hacen en todas las personas y la creación.

En Cristo,

La Rvda. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Obispa Presidente
Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en América



SYNOD OFFICERS

Bishop

BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Vice President

TERRY HENDERSON

Secretary

ERIN CLAUSEN

Treasurer

YVETTE NEWBERRYWHITE

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

— 1 Peter 4:10

Bishop's Report

BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

“In Jesus Name. Proclaim the Gospel. Make Disciples. Do Justice.” This is the second of four years we have used our synod mission statement as an assembly theme. Last year, we focused on the first part of our mission: “In Jesus name... Proclaim the Gospel.” In 2023 we take a closer look at the second part of our mission: “In Jesus name... make disciples.”

But let's be clear: we don't make disciples. God makes disciples.

Today we will explore: How is God making disciples in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod?



If we had the time, I could go on and on about the many ways God is making, forming disciples. But we don't have all day... so during my time with you this morning I'm going to speak about three ways God is making disciples in the Metro Chicago Synod: Stewardship, Candidacy and Youth.

How is God making disciples?



First: God is making disciples through good stewardship. Good Stewardship is one of our favorite hashtags based on I Peter 4:10-11: “Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received...”

We are grateful for the consistent, faithful, generous giving of our congregations, and the thoughtful stewardship of leaders like you.

There are countless stewardship stories of faithful giving throughout the synod, but today I want to focus on one and demonstrate the tangible ways this gift will fund our efforts to nurture discipleship in our synod.

At the beginning of this year, we received an unrestricted gift of \$250,000 from Redeemer Lutheran Church in Park Ridge.

With the synod council's guidance, here is how we decided to steward this gift:

As is our custom, we tithed \$25,000 to the ELCA churchwide office for ministries of the wider church.

We also provided financial support to a fund for distressed closed properties, AND leadership development opportunities like the annual Rostered Ministers Gathering.

But the largest portion of this gift--\$100,000--has been earmarked for the Carlmark Fund to establish an annual lay resource event starting a year from now. Before I continue, let's learn a little more about the Carlmark Fund.



Thank you Carlmark family for sharing your loved one and your memories with us.

What is the lay resource event?

Imagine the day before Synod Assembly in 2024. Lay people from across our synod are gathered at our resource event where they can choose from a variety of workshops: web design; grant writing; property usage; DIBS (Diversity, Inclusion, Belonging); church council structures and governance; youth programming; young adult engagements; intergenerational ministries; shared staff; managing volunteers; the hybrid church—where do we go from here? The possibilities are endless.

The Carlmark fund is one of the ways God is making disciples and using our hands through stewardship. But we'll need your help! We want to raise another \$100,000 to match the gift from Redeemer to ensure its longevity. So we are launching #100kLay!



CONTINUED...

BISHOP'S REPORT CONTINUED...

Will you join me in continuing the vision, cast by Bishop Ken Olson, in honor of Pastor Herbert Carlmark? Thank you in advance for your support, and again we want to thank Redeemer Lutheran Park Ridge for your partnership.

How else is God making disciples in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod?

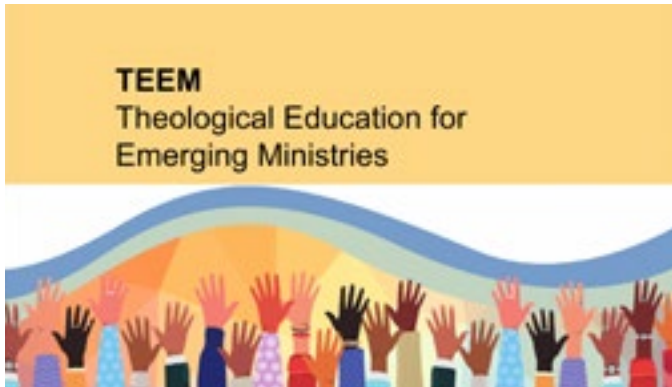
In the Metro Chicago Synod God is calling and we are helping with the formation of pastors and deacons whose paths to ministry have come by way of Synodically Authorized Ministry and the TEEM program.

What is a SAM? And what is TEEM?

The ELCA and the Metropolitan Chicago Synod recognize that sometimes a congregation can't support the ministry of a full or part-time pastor because of economics or geography. When this is the case, the synod staff and council work with the faith communities and congregations to become a "Synodically Authorized Ministry." This doesn't change anything about their status as a congregation – just that the bishop can then appoint an appropriate leader in this time of need.



We are typically looking for an indigenous candidate – someone who is already an active part of that worshipping community who is a natural leader. This person is typically making a living somewhere else in another vocational field. They are bi-vocational. But they are the leader. And so we help them in that discernment process and then have them begin our formal Candidacy process. They go through the standard evaluative processes around personal faith, sense of call, and wellness that lead toward entrance in candidacy.



After Entrance, the SAM candidate enters the TEEM program—the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program with our partner, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

The TEEM curriculum involves six core courses at LSTC, Clinical Pastoral Education and internship. The students take courses side-by-side with other MDiv or MA students. But unlike other seminary

students, for TEEM students, learning takes place *while* they are leading and working in their congregation an average of 10-15 hours a week. As Synodically Authorized Ministers, our TEEM students are authorized to offer pastoral services such as preaching, teaching, baptizing, and presiding at the communion table, weddings, and funerals at the congregational site.

In addition to seminary training, SAM / TEEM students receive additional training and participate in retreats and workshops led by synod staff that help prepare them for their ministry context.

Our SAM / TEEM students are not rostered leaders but 90 percent are on the ordination track. Once they are ordained, we ask the former SAMS to remain at their part-time calls for a minimum of three additional years.

Let's meet some of them.

Meet Dennis Debie, a Synodically Authorized Minister and a TEEM student who serves Lutheran Church of Martha and Mary in Mount Prospect.



CONTINUED...

BISHOP'S REPORT CONTINUED...

Dennis, a retired carpenter, who wondered if he waited too late to respond to God's call. He remembers having ministry aspirations as 9-year-old altar boy crossing country roads on his way to mass. When given the opportunity to become a SAM / TRRM student, Dennis replied, "Here I am, send me, I'll go."

Meet Llewellyn Dixon, a Synodically Authorized Minister and a TEEM student. Since 2019 he has been serving Jubilee Faith Community Lutheran Church in Country Club Hills. He already has an MDiv and a Doctor of Ministry degree in Theology from McCormick Theological Seminary.



Prior to his retirement, Dr. Llewellyn Dixon worked full-time for the Illinois Department of Public Health as a clinical laboratory technologist. Llewellyn, a father of five, is scheduled to be ordained at our synod ordination service in August.



Meet Pastor Maria Rojas-Banda, a former social worker, who is now part-time Mission Developer of Unidad, a Latinx LGBTQIA+ faith community (including families and allies) in the Berwyn area. In addition to serving Unidad, Pastor Maria is also our synod's Latinx Ministry Coordinator and part-time pastor of Unity Lutheran Church which shares space with Unidad.

Maria says this diverse, predominantly Spanish-speaking congregation is "strong, creative and hardworking, but above all, has a firm faith and clear vision of what they want as a church." Maria completed the TEEM program through Wartburg Seminary in 2021.

We give thanks for these three who serve in our synod, along with 12 other SAMS/TEEM students. If we have any graduates or current students in the SAM / TEEM program please stand. Thank you for your dedication to the synod.

And these 12 are part of the larger group of 60 who are in formation for rostered ministry in the synod. We also give thanks for you who have heard God's call and are now in the candidacy process, which is strong and diverse in the Metro Chicago Synod—a model for the rest of the church! Some of you may also be here today. Will you please stand?

45 - Candidates for ministry of Word & Sacrament
15 - Candidates for ministry of Word & Service

30 - Inquirers about the process

14 - African American or African Nationals
5 - Latinx
1 - South Asian
19 - Identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community

How else is God is making disciples?

Through our youth.



Babies and children, teenagers and adults are being brought to the font and taught faith formation. Young people of our synod gather regularly in their congregations and communities. And thanks to Pastor Anna Roper, and many other adult and youth leaders, we have several opportunities to gather synod-wide to nurture the disciples God has blessed us through our annual lock-in and winter retreat. So many young people wanted to come to the retreat last January at Lutherdale that there was a waiting list!

CONTINUED...

As you will see from these photos, youth ministry is alive and well in our synod! And this fall we have something new: our first Metro Youth Gathering in preparation for the ELCA Youth Gathering next summer in New Orleans. Our ELCA gathering was delayed not once but twice because of the pandemic. But it is happening in the summer of 2024!



But first: Congregations of the Metro Chicago Synod, get ready for the Oct. 20-22 MCS Youth Gathering! Speakers, musicians, worship and workshops! The theme is “Boundless Invitation.”

God’s work around discipleship is boundless. God IS making disciples in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. In Jesus name, let us continue to practice faithful, generous STEWARDSHIP, including our new fundraising campaign for a lay resource event prior to the 2024 Synod Assembly. Get ready for #100kLay! In Jesus name, let us continue to celebrate all the ways that God continue to call leaders—like SAM / TEEM. And In Jesus name, let us find new ways to affirm the boundless gifts of our young people!

People often ask me about how I experience this call as bishop—what is my joy? This is it. My joy is that I’m often filled with abundant gratitude as I see what we have been able to accomplish from year to year. I’m grateful for our synod staff—that even with transitions, functions as a family. And I’m grateful to all of you—rostered leaders, lay leaders of every age, especially our wise, experienced elders on whose shoulders we and our ministries rest. Thank you for your conversations over coffee, your emails, zoom meetings and telephone calls. Thank you for sharing your ideas, frustrations, and good news with the synod. I’m thankful for our 165 congregations and their faithful worship and ministries—all of which had to pivot to do new and creative things from one year to the next year. Thank you.

Bishop Yehiel Curry

Metropolitan Chicago Synod





Vice President's Report

TERRY HENDERSON

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

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32.

A disciple is defined as a student or learner. As we continue to move forward and maneuver from the pandemic, we are continually learning, from Jesus' teaching, to trust and believe that his will be done. That, no matter how much we plan and think that something is going to go a particular way, God just may have a different, better plan.

Just as the twelve, it is our responsibility and duty to spread the Gospel, in whatever way we can. God has, strategically placed scholars, ordained and lay, to carry out this command.

I would like to thank Bishop Curry and his staff for their hard work and continued dedication and service to our synod. I would also like to thank the Synod Council. Their insight and wisdom is invaluable, as they perform their legislative duties.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have come commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen! (Matthew 28:19-20).

Yours, in Christ,

Terry Henderson

Vice President, Metropolitan Chicago Synod



Secretary's Report

REV. ERIN CLAUSEN

It continues to be my honor to serve as your secretary of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. In this position, I serve you in various ways. I work with congregations, primarily on constitutional and congregation meeting issues. I maintain minutes and records of the synod council. I communicate with the Churchwide Office of the Secretary on synod-related matters. In so doing, I represent you in all three expressions of the church – congregation, synod, and churchwide.



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is organized as one body with three expressions: congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. Individual congregations in particular geographic locations journey together as synods. The Metropolitan Chicago Synod, of which your congregation is a part, is one of 65 synods throughout the country.

The word 'synod' means walking together. Under the leadership of Bishop Curry, the synod council and staff seek to resource congregations to do just that. The council carefully stewards the gifts the synod has to share, so that we might "In Jesus' name, Make Disciples." These gifts include a variety of resources including volunteer commitments, financial resources, and staff responsibilities. The synod council has streamlined granting processes so that congregations may easily receive funding for new ministry initiatives. The synod staff continues to resource both leaders and congregations with the information and connections needed to do ministry in a quickly changing landscape.

If we are to focus on making disciples, we must ensure that our governing documents are up to date and accurately represent the synod's ministry. These documents provide a strong structure from which creative ministry may grow. With the Constitution Review Committee, I carefully attend to these documents and present amendments when advisable. At the 35th Synod Assembly in 2022, the assembly voted to approve a variety of amendments to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod's governing documents. These amendments were approved by the ELCA Churchwide Council in

November 2022, and therefore went into effect. Two other provisions were flagged as out of date by the Churchwide Council, and these will be considered at 36th synod assembly in 2023. The specific language for these provisions is located on the 2023 synod assembly website.

As your congregation also seeks to make disciples, I invite you to consider your congregation's governing documents (constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.) As your secretary, I am happy to be a resource in helping you to care for your congregation's governing documents. We have a strong Constitution Review Committee whose members are dedicated to assisting congregations in review and amendment processes. 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 pieces of the constitution called "required provisions" (marked with an asterisk * in your constitution) are those pieces that keep our unique and diverse congregations connected to one another in one confession of faith, polity, and commitment to the gospel as we seek to make disciples in Jesus' name. Should you have any questions, please connect with me, and I or another member of the Constitution Review Committee will be happy to assist you.

I remain deeply thankful for those with whom I engage in this work and ministry. For Bishop Curry, Vice President Henderson, Treasurer NewberryWhite, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council and the Synod staff, I thank God. I am also grateful for the members of the Constitution Review Committee and Synod Assembly Minutes Committee, without whom I would not be able to successfully serve in this position. Finally, for each of the congregations of the synod, seeking to: In Jesus' Name – Make Disciples, I am grateful for you. May God bless us and provide opportunities for us to serve using the gifts God has richly provided for us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Erin Clausen

Secretary, Metropolitan Chicago Synod

SUMMARY of ACTIONS

2022 SYNOD COUNCIL ACTIONS

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| S.C.22.01.01 | Vote for Synod Council to adopt the consent agenda as amended. |
| S.C.22.01.02 | Vote for Synod Council to adopt the minutes of the October 23, 2021, meeting as presented. |
| S.C.22.01.03 | Vote for Synod Council to designate Lutheran Church of Martha and Mary in Mt. Prospect as a Synodically Authorized Ministry. |
| S.C.22.01.04 | Vote for Synod Council to designate Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit in Chicago as a Synodically Authorized Ministry.

Motion for Synod Council rescinds our letter of invitation to Mark Carlsson effective April 1, 2022. |
| S.C.22.01.06 | Vote for Synod Council to move into executive session. |
| S.C.22.01.07 | Vote for Synod Council to rescind our letter of invitation to Mark Carlsson effective upon the termination of his contract with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Naperville. |
| S.C.22.04.08 | Vote for Synod Council to adopt the consent agenda as presented. |
| S.C.22.04.09 | Vote for Synod Council to re-allocate the .5% of partnership funding in the 2023... |

S.C.22.04.09 <i>continued...</i>	...proposed budget to LSSI, such that the budget would reflect 1.75% partnership funding for LSSI in the 2023 budget. A working group will be formed from the synod council and other interested people across the synod to consider distribution of .5% partnership support among other organizations for the 2024 budget.	S.C.22.06.14 <i>continued...</i>	...disability rosters, and full-communion partners serving ELCA Congregations in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, who have registered for Synod Assembly.
S.C.22.04.10	Vote for Synod Council to recommend the fiscal year 2023 budget as amended for adoption by the 2022 Synod Assembly.	S.C.22.06.15	Vote for Synod Council to adopt the minutes of the April 23, 2022 synod council meeting as presented.
S.C.22.04.11	Vote for Synod Council to adopt the amendments to the continuing resolutions of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod's governing documents as presented.	S.C.22.06.16	Vote for Synod Council, in consultation with the Committee on Reference and Counsel, to recommend the adoption of the 2 resolutions and 2 memorials submitted to the Committee by the 35th Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly as presented.
S.C.22.04.12	Vote for Synod Council to adopt the minutes of the January 29, 2022 synod council meeting as presented.	S.C.22.06.17	Vote for Synod Council to recommend the 2022 Rules of Organization and Procedure for adoption by the 35th Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly as amended.
S.C.22.06.13	Vote for Synod Council to adopt the consent agenda as presented.	S.C.22.06.18	Vote for Synod Council to amend the 2022 Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 35th Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly to include that no voting member may speak a second time on any item on the floor unless everyone who wants to speak first has done so.
S.C.22.06.14	Vote for Synod Council to grant the privilege of voice and vote to those individuals on the OLFC, retired, and...		

2022 SUMMARY OF ACTIONS CONTINUED

S.C.22.06.19	Vote for Synod Council to amend the 2022 Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 35th Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly to indicate that time limits on speakers and debate does not include time necessary for interpretation.	S.C.22.06.22 <i>continued...</i>	...Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and To direct the secretary of this synod to report this action to the Office of the Secretary of the ELCA and ask that First Immanuel Lutheran Church, Chicago, be recorded on the roster of congregations of this church.”
S.C.22.06.20	Vote for Synod Council, in consultation with the Committee on Reference and Counsel, to set the time for debate on resolutions and memorials to 10 minutes total per resolution or memorial.	S.C.22.06.22	Vote for Synod Council to award the Sunergos award to 2 recipients at the 2022 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly: Ms. Sandra Schlauch and Ms. Viola Collins Brown.
S.C.22.06.21	Vote for Synod Council to move the adoption of the amendments to the governing documents by the 35th Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly as presented in the Book of Reports, to be presented in 3 blocs – constitutional amendments, bylaw amendments, and continuing resolution amendments. Any item a voting member wishes to pull from a bloc must be pulled by 10:00am to facilitate assembly process.	S.C.22.07.24	Vote for Synod Council to adopt the consent agenda as amended.
S.C.22.06.22	Vote for Synod Council to recommend that the 35th Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly recognize and receive First Immanuel Lutheran Church, Chicago, as a congregation of the...	S.C.22.07.25	Vote for Synod Council to appoint Deacon Steven Dickens to specialized ministry as Volunteer Coordinator at Kindred Hospice.
		S.C.22.07.26	Vote for Synod Council to extend a synod council call to Rev. Charisse Jensen to Gloria Dei, Northbrook.
		S.C.22.07.27	Vote for Synod Council to adopt the minutes of the June 3, 2022 synod council meeting as presented.

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| S.C.22.07.28 | Vote for Synod Council to approve Juneteenth as a paid holiday for staff, consistent with the personnel manual last updated in 2021. | S.C.22.10.35 | Vote for Synod Council to extend a synod council call to Rev. Julie Boleyn to specialized ministry as Executive Director of the Kaleidoscope Institute. |
| S.C.22.07.29 | Vote for Synod Council to move into executive session at 9:44am. | S.C.22.10.36 | Vote for Synod Council to extend a synod council call to Rev. Myron M. Erickson to specialized ministry as a Chaplain at Westminster Place. |
| S.C.22.10.30 | Vote for Synod Council to adopt the consent agenda as presented. | S.C.22.10.37 | Vote for Synod Council, with regard to Salem Lutheran Church, 318 E 74th Street, Chicago, exercise the power of †S13.24 of the synod constitution to “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....
d. 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.
e. The Synod Council determines that it is necessary for this synod to protect and preserve the congregation’s property from waste and deterioration. |
| S.C.22.10.31 | Vote for Synod Council to adopt the minutes of the July 23, 2022 synod council meeting as presented. | | |
| S.C.22.10.32 | Vote for Synod Council to adopt the minutes of the 2022 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly as presented. | | |
| S.C.22.10.33 | Vote for Synod Council to extend a synod council call to Rev. Manoj Gunthoti as a mission developer of previously named site Mosaic, Chicago. | | |
| S.C.22.10.34 | Vote for Synod Council to approve the appointment of Mr. Frank Imhoff, Ms. Carol Rechteris, and Rev. Michael Stadie to the Constitution Review Committee with a 4-year term. | | |

MINUTES of the SYNOD ASSEMBLIES



*Like good stewards
of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with
whatever gift each of you has received.*

— 1 Peter 4:10

*Minutes of the 2022 Synod Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod:
In Jesus' Name: Proclaim the Gospel – Page 1 of 17*



**Minutes of the 35th Annual Synod Assembly
of the
Metropolitan Chicago Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
June 4, 2022**

Chicago Marriott Naperville (1801 N. Naper Blvd., Naperville)

35th Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod

Welcome & Land Acknowledgment

At 8:01AM, Deacon David Webb began the assembly with this Native Land Acknowledgement:

The Metropolitan Chicago Synod is located on the traditional unceded homelands of the Council of the Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations. Many other tribes such as the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac, and Fox also called this area home. The region has long been a center for Indigenous people to gather, trade, and maintain kinship ties. Today, one of the largest urban American Indian communities in the United States resides in Chicago. Members of this community continue to contribute to the life of this city and to celebrate their heritage, practice traditions, and care for the land and waterways.

We embrace and recommit to the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery and to Indigenous rights, racial justice, and cultural equity not only through our statements but also in our decisions and actions.

Bishop Curry then welcomed the voting members of the assembly, sharing some of the unique challenges of an in person assembly this year, and asking for grace and care for the neighbor as the assembly navigated the business, fellowship, and worship set before the assembly for the day. Bishop Curry also thanked those members of the synod assembly planning team that made the day possible.

The opening litany for the assembly included music, a baptismal remembrance led by Bishop Curry, and a devotion led by Rev. Joanne Post which was adapted from a piece written by Ruth Harvey and recorded in *'Enemy of Apathy,'* by John L. Bell & Graham Maule.

At 8:20AM Bishop Curry declared the 35th assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod open.

Appointment of Parliamentarian

Bishop Curry then appointed Ms. Joan Bundley as parliamentarian for the assembly. Ms. Bundley is a Registered Parliamentarian with the National Association of Parliamentarians.

Report of the Credentials Committee

Bishop Curry invited the Rev. Kathy Nolte, pastor of Good Shepherd in Oak Park and part-time synod pastoral staff member, to present the credentials report. Rev Nolte reported that as of 8:20am, 337 voting members checked in at the registration desk, of which 117 were Rostered Ministers and 220 were Lay Voting Members. Thus, the assembly was comprised of 65% lay members and 35% rostered ministers. The number necessary for a quorum is 50% of those present and voting. The bishop then declared a quorum to be present.

Rules of Organization and Procedure

Bishop Curry then introduced the first item of business before the assembly - the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2022 Assembly. Synod Secretary Rev. Erin Clausen gave a brief overview of the purpose of the assembly, a brief introduction to Robert's Rules, an explanation of the bar of the assembly, and a brief explanation of the important rules coming before the assembly. Secretary Clausen also explained the procedure and timeline for pulling any governing document amendments from en bloc prior to voting on these amendments later in the assembly.

Having been recommended to the assembly for adoption by the Synod Council, the Rules of Organization and Procedure do not require a second. After brief clarification of the Bar of The Assembly, the Rules of Organization and Procedure were adopted by the assembly.

Adoption of the Agenda

Bishop Curry invited Secretary Clausen to present the agenda. Secretary Clausen presented the agenda in voting members' folders as presented. Having been recommended for approval by the synod council, the proposed agenda does not require a second. There was no discussion, and the assembly adopted the agenda as presented.

Acknowledgements

Bishop Curry next invited Vice President Terry Henderson to provide introductions of the guests attending the assembly. Vice President Henderson acknowledged the following guests:

- Churchwide Representative, Rev. Amy Reumann, ELCA Director of Advocacy, who will provide the Report of the Presiding Bishop,
- Vance Blackfox Vance, Founder & Director Other+Wise., who will lead the assembly in the blanket exercise in the afternoon,
- Mark A. Stutrud, Chief CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois,
- Rev. Kirsten Peachey, Vice President, Faith Outreach, Advocate Aurora Health, workshop presenter and representative of Advocate Aurora Health. Vice President Henderson also expressed thanks to Advocate Aurora Health for sponsoring the dinner to be offered later at the assembly,
- Synod Assembly Music-Educators, and
- Ms. Jennifer Prinz from Portico Benefit Services.

Portico Benefit Services presented a video, and then Vice President Henderson appointed the assembly committees:

Credentials and Courtesies

Committee

Pr. Kathy Nolte - Chair
Heather Haynes
Pr. Josh Evens
Tom Anderson
Pr. Robert Biekman
Arlene Johnson

Synod Worship Team

Pr. Christina Garrett Klein, chair
Ms. Viola Collins
Pr. Josh Evens
Mr. Matt Haider
Ms. Hope Johnson
Pr. María Rojas-Banda
Pr. Kyle Severson, staff

*Minutes of the 2022 Synod Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod:
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Minutes Committee

Mr. John Nicholas
Ms. Carol Rechteris
Ms. Patti Tregoning
Rev. Bethany Ulrich
Rev. Erin Clausen, chair

Sergeants at Arms

Rev. Paul D. Pfeffer
Rev. Jeffrey Mikyska
Rev. Jennie English-Dumont
Rev. John Freidheim
Mr. Rodger Jones

Nominations and Elections

Pr. David Walters, chair
Mrs. Nan Dahlke
Ms. Hope Johnson
Dr. Anne McCall
Pr. Eric Schaefer
Pr. Kyle Severson, staff

Greetings from Partners

Following the appointment of the committees, Bishop Curry invited Mark A. Stutrud, Chief CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, to greet to the assembly.

Introduction Video of Rostered Leaders

Bishop Curry then introduced a video celebrating different milestones of rostered leaders in the synod, as well as those rostered leaders who joined in the mission and ministry of this Synod as a first call pastor or deacon or moved into the synod since the last assembly, whose names are listed in the 2022 Book of Reports.

Memorial Video for Rostered Leaders

Following this introduction video, Bishop Curry introduced a video memorial of those rostered ministers who have died in the previous year, whose names are listed in the 2022 Book of Reports.

Report of the Bishop

Bishop Curry's report centered around the theme for the assembly: In Jesus' Name, Proclaim the Gospel. Bishop Curry shared that 'proclaiming the gospel' is embedded in our everyday lives. He invited the assembly to share Jesus moments with each other. Calling the assembly back together, Bishop Curry shared stories from synod staff members regarding their work and ministry in the synod. The complete bishop's report is available in the 2022 Book of Reports, Second Edition.

Election Committee Report & First General Ballot

At 9:41AM Bishop Curry invited Pastor David Walters, chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, to explain the elections process for ELCA Churchwide Council nominees. Pastor Walters explained the balloting process for the First General Ballot. Bishop Curry invited Pastor Sarah Swindall to pray prior to declaring voting open.

Deaf Ministry

After Bishop Curry declared voting to be closed, ballots were collected while a video played of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod's Deaf Ministry.

Resolutions & Memorials

The assembly then moved to the work of resolutions. Bishop Curry invited Deacon Heather Feltman, chair of the Committee on Reference and Counsel, to provide the committee's report and introduce the resolutions and memorials that would be before the assembly for discussion and vote.

The first resolution was amended by agreement of the assembly to be split into a separate resolution to address the synod and memorial to address the churchwide assembly.

RESOLUTION on Support for the First Amendment Right to Boycott

WHEREAS, the ELCA, in its policy document "Boycott Policies and Procedures" defined boycott as "A collective effort to abstain from the purchase or use of products or services provided by a targeted firm, government or other agency,"¹ and

WHEREAS, the ELCA, in "Boycott Policies and Procedures" further affirms that the "purpose of a boycott is to persuade the targeted entity to cease certain practices judged to be unjust and/or to perform certain practices deemed to be just"², and

WHEREAS, boycotts, as a nonviolent political action to oppose injustice have an honorable history from Americans' pre-Revolutionary boycott of tea to the boycott of South Africa during apartheid, and

WHEREAS, historically, Lutherans have been involved in social movements that used boycotts as a means of witness and reform in a wide range of areas, including the consumption of liquor and tobacco, business establishments open on Sunday, objectionable entertainment, goods produced with child or slave labor, gambling, and racial discrimination³, and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther himself called for a boycott of the Fuggers, a merchant banking company,⁴ and

WHEREAS, Boycott, Divest, Sanctions [BDS] does not call for the end of Israel but rather seeks for Israel to comply with international law and respect human rights, and

WHEREAS, over 100 measures have been introduced in state and local legislatures and in the U.S. Congress to punish BDS supporters, including those who merely refuse to pledge never to boycott Israel.⁵ and

WHEREAS, whatever one's stance on specific boycotts, in view of the ongoing assault on the right to boycott, this resolution is rooted in defense of the First Amendment right to speak and to act nonviolently for the sake of the common good in accordance with one's convictions

THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the Chicago Metropolitan Synod Assembly calls on Bishop Curry to urge our Illinois Governor and state legislature to oppose and overturn legislation penalizing or criminalizing support for nonviolent boycotts, divestment and/or sanctions on behalf of Palestinian human rights.

1. Adopted by Church Council, November 1989 (CC89.11.183)

2. Ibid.

3. See, e.g., Klein, Christa R., with Christian D. von Dehsen, *Politics and Policy: The Genesis and Theology of Social Statements in the Lutheran Church in America* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989) for discussion of Lutheran involvement in the temperance movement of the 19th and 20th centuries. (See the Preface and Chapter 1.)

4. Martin Luther, "Trade and Usury," *Luther's Works*, Vol. 45: *Christian in Society II* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1962).

5. American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise, "State Anti-BDS Legislation," 1998, <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/> (Accessed March 7, 2022). To date, more than 30 states have enacted anti-BDS measures, including governors' executive orders.

The assembly voted on the Resolution on Support for the First Amendment Right to Boycott by show of blue cards, and the resolution passed. The assembly then moved immediately to the related memorial:

MEMORIAL on Support for the First Amendment Right to Boycott

WHEREAS, the ELCA, in its policy document "Boycott Policies and Procedures" defined boycott as "A collective effort to abstain from the purchase or use of products or services provided by a targeted firm, government or other agency,"¹ and

WHEREAS, the ELCA, in "Boycott Policies and Procedures" further affirms that the "purpose of a boycott is to persuade the targeted entity to cease certain practices judged to be unjust and/or to perform certain practices deemed to be just"², and

WHEREAS, boycotts, as a nonviolent political action to oppose injustice have an honorable history from Americans' pre-Revolutionary boycott of tea to the boycott of South Africa during apartheid, and

WHEREAS, historically, Lutherans have been involved in social movements that used boycotts as a means of witness and reform in a wide range of areas, including the consumption of liquor and tobacco, business establishments open on Sunday, objectionable entertainment, goods produced with child or slave labor, gambling, and racial discrimination³, and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther himself called for a boycott of the Fuggers, a merchant banking company,⁴ and

WHEREAS, Boycott, Divest, Sanctions [BDS] does not call for the end of Israel but rather seeks for Israel to comply with international law and respect human rights, and

WHEREAS, over 100 measures have been introduced in state and local legislatures and in the U.S. Congress to punish BDS supporters, including those who merely refuse to pledge never to boycott Israel.⁵ and

WHEREAS, whatever one's stance on specific boycotts, in view of the ongoing assault on the right to boycott, this resolution is rooted in defense of the First Amendment right to speak and to act nonviolently for the sake of the common good in accordance with one's convictions

THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly memorialize the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to oppose legislation penalizing or criminalizing support for nonviolent boycotts, divestment and/or sanctions on behalf of Palestinian human rights by requesting the Presiding Bishop to call on the President of the United States and U.S. Congress to oppose the same and to call upon synods, congregations, and members to oppose or overturn legislation penalizing or criminalizing support for nonviolent boycotts, divestment and/or sanctions at their state and local jurisdictional levels.

1. Adopted by Church Council, November 1989 (CC89.11.183)
2. Ibid.
3. See, e.g., Klein, Christa R., with Christian D. von Dehsen, *Politics and Policy: The Genesis and Theology of Social Statements in the Lutheran Church in America* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989) for discussion of Lutheran involvement in the temperance movement of the 19th and 20th centuries. (See the Preface and Chapter 1.)
4. Martin Luther, "Trade and Usury," Luther's Works, Vol. 45: Christian in Society II (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1962).
5. American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise, "State Anti-BDS Legislation," 1998, <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/> (Accessed March 7, 2022). To date, more than 30 states have enacted anti-BDS measures, including governors' executive orders.

Following debate, the assembly voted on the Memorial on Support for the First Amendment Right to Boycott, and the memorial passed. The assembly then considered the Resolution on Care for Black, Indigenous, Persons of Color Leaders (BIPOC) and Congregations During Times of Alleged Misconduct and Discipline.

RESOLUTION on Care for Black, Indigenous, Persons of Color Leaders (BIPOC) and Congregations During Times of Alleged Misconduct and Discipline

WHEREAS, the teaching of the Church instructs us in mutual accountability reflected in 1 Corinthians 5 under the guidance of Saint Paul; and

WHEREAS, for the good order, transparency, and faithfulness of the Gospel a consistent discipline is needed in all levels of the Church; and

WHEREAS, the Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries, its leadership, and their communities feel vulnerable and discriminated against in situations of allegation because

of a lack of dialog and accountability of those in positions of power and decision making; and

WHEREAS, at this time in our society many people are experiencing deep harm from institutional racism; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the Metropolitan Chicago Synod (MCS) to recognize the racism present within ourselves and our institutions, and to make strides towards healing actions; and

WHEREAS, The MCS has spent significant time studying the ELCA document *How Strategic and Authentic is Our Diversity; A Call for Confession, Reflection and Healing Action (2019)*¹ and confessing the synod's complicity in acts of harm and racism; and

WHEREAS, the MCS wishes to live into our mission—to proclaim the Gospel, make disciples, and do justice, in Jesus' name—by working toward healing actions; and

WHEREAS, under the laws enforced by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission², racial discrimination in hiring practices has long been illegal in the United States of America, and

WHEREAS, even with these laws and past good intentions of our synod and individual congregations, underrepresentation of Black, Indigenous, Latine, and others who identify as People of Color (BIPOC) leadership continues in the synod; and

WHEREAS, the BIPOC leaders serving our synod are very much in the minority and many times the only person of color in the room; and

WHEREAS, in this church, severance packages are misused to keep rostered ministers silent and disproportionately affects BIPOC and other marginalized rostered ministers — a practice which we believe goes against our call as Christians to love our neighbors as well as our synodical values; and

WHEREAS the current policies and public actions of other synods and the churchwide expression have brought to light both real and potentially harmful synodical processes regarding the call process, discipline, and misconduct can be for BIPOC leaders and multicultural congregations; and

WHEREAS, the way that we, as the MCS, handle misconduct cases is part of our public witness; therefore be it

RESOLVED that in the event of a misconduct claim, the MCS Office of the Bishop and the Synod Council will review and continue to follow the outlined protocols in the synod and ELCA constitution³; and be it further

RESOLVED that the MCS will seek to honor and respect our multicultural congregations by paying particular attention to ethnically and culturally specific holidays, special occasions, or culturally-significant leaders, leadership roles, events and traditions for that community before removing a rostered minister; and be it further

RESOLVED that, in the event that the Office of the Bishop of the MCS needs to remove a rostered minister in leadership in an ethnic-specific or a multicultural congregation, a synod staff member who has spent significant time in that community should accompany the bishop and our synod staff person for DIBs (Diversity Inclusion and Belonging) to share that news and, if necessary, an interpreter be present so that everyone in the congregation can understand what is being shared; and be it further

RESOLVED that when a BIPOC rostered minister meets with the Office of the Bishop, the MCS Consultation or Discipline Committee, that rostered minister may choose to have a representative from the BIPOC community present with them to hear what is discussed; and be it further

RESOLVED that if the rostered minister in question serves a Synodically Authorized Worship Community (SAWC) for which the synod council holds both the employment status and roster status, a member of the ELCA Ethnic Specific Desk in association with this SAWC be consulted as part of the investigation phase ensuring that the method is culturally appropriate; and be it further

RESOLVED that neither the MCS Council nor the Office of the Bishop would ask a rostered minister in need of pastoral care, counseling, coaching, or other professional services, to waive HIPAA rights which would violate the trust that undergirds these avenues of healing, even though a counselor may, with the rostered minister's consent, from time to time provide evaluations to the synod as to their opinion about the person's readiness for a return to ministry; and be it further

RESOLVED that the severance package and the transition in ministry agreement be negotiated separately; and be it further

RESOLVED that in such case, the synod and affected rostered minister will work to provide a statement to established communities and associations that would be affected by the decision; and be it further

RESOLVED that in such case, pastoral care would be provided to not only the immediate community affected but offered to all BIPOC rostered ministers and BIPOC lay leaders around the synod; and be it further

RESOLVED that the MCS will continue to listen to the voices of BIPOC rostered ministers and multicultural congregations and continue to adapt our policies and procedures to value these leaders and communities as we seek to heal the racism and brokenness that exists in this church, and be it further

RESOLVED that the MCS affirms the ELCA Church Council action from their meeting in April 2022 which “Authorized the creation of a task force to review the current process for discipline and its impact on people of color and other historically marginalized groups.”⁴

¹ https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Strategy_Toward_Authentic_Diversity.pdf

² <https://www.eeoc.gov/statutes/title-vii-civil-rights-act-1964>

³ MCS Constitution S13.31; ELCA Constitution Chapter 20

⁴ <https://elca.org/News-and-Events/8136>

After debate and a successful amendment [reflected above], the assembly voted on the Resolution on Care for Black, Indigenous, Persons of Color Leaders (BIPOC) and Congregations During Times of Alleged Misconduct and Discipline by show of blue cards, and the resolution passed. The assembly next considered the Memorial to Uphold the Dignity of the Office of Ministry.

MEMORIAL to Uphold the Dignity of the Office of Ministry

WHEREAS the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in its rites makes affirmative declarations concerning its rostered ministers;¹

WHEREAS these declarations and the affirmations of the rostered ministers which precede them are made without reference to time nor subject to periodic renewal;²

WHEREAS continuance of rostered persons in the offices of the ministry is presumed barring death, incapacity, resignation, or disqualification through discipline;

WHEREAS removal of a rostered minister from the roster of this church is the highest, most severe form of discipline and highest penalty which can be imposed;

WHEREAS the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of this church provide for definite procedures with regard to discipline, including assurances of due process and fundamental procedural fairness;³

WHEREAS the removal of rostered persons from the roster for reasons other than death, incapacity, resignation, or disqualification through discipline is fundamentally arbitrary and inconsistent with the affirmations made by church;

WHEREAS removal from the roster due to exceeding On Leave From Call Status time limits, missing deadlines, or unclear communication is not uncommon, even when rostered leaders actively maintain a Rostered Minister Profile in the ELCA mobility system and/or are serving as an interim, transition, bridge, or other minister;

WHEREAS synods and synod bishops handle interim, transition, specialized ministry, and diaconal calls, and on-leave-from call status inconsistently;

WHEREAS some rostered ministers experience traumatic and/or abusive calls, and some rostered ministers experience this brokenness from the synod, including the synod bishop;⁴

WHEREAS deacons in general and BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, disabled, and female rostered ministers disproportionately experience extended time of transition, including in On Leave From Call status;⁵

WHEREAS those removed from the roster have no way to effectively challenge their removal; therefore be it⁶

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly memorialize the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to create a task force to establish churchwide guidelines for handling interim, transition, bridge, specialized, non-parish based, and innovative calls (with increased attention to calls for deacons), on-leave from call status, removal from roster protocols, and communication protocols; Be it further

RESOLVED that said task force establish a process for rostered ministers to challenge their removal from the roster, including the possibility of an appeal in a synod other than the synod from which they were removed from the roster; Be it further

RESOLVED that said task force include members who are or have recently been involved in specialized ministries (e.g. interim, transition, campus, outdoor, college or seminary faculty, chaplains, etc.), as well as those currently on-leave from call for a variety of reasons (e.g. family, personal, disability, between-calls, study, etc.), and to include a minimum of two deacons; Be it further

RESOLVED that this task force present a report and recommendations for policy and procedure changes to the Church Council and Conference of Bishops prior to the Fall 2024 meeting of the Conference of Bishops for evaluation before presentation to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly for adoption; Be it further

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly memorialize the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to suggest, recommend, and urge the Conference of Bishops and all Synod Councils to suspend removal from the roster due to anything other than death, incapacity, resignation, or disqualification through formal disciplinary process until the report of the task force has been acted upon by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly; Be it further

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod memorialize the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to remove the time limit on On Leave From Call Status immediately.

¹ "Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament," https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Ordination_Ministers_Word_Sacrament-pdf.pdf

² ELCA Constitution 7.31.01/7.31.02

³ ELCA Constitution Chapter 20

⁴ Tanner, Marcus, et. al., "Clergy Who Experience Trauma as a Result of Forced Termination," *Journal of Religious Health* (2013 Dec;52(4)):1281-95.

⁵ See ELCA research: "Wait Times For First Call," Survey Report, August 2021.

⁶ ELCA 7.31.06/7.31.07, no appeal exists for roster removal due to on leave from call, unlike the due process laid out in chapter 20 of the ELCA constitution.

Following discussion and amendments [reflected above], the assembly voted on the memorial by show of blue card. The memorial passed. The assembly then considered A Memorial to Restructure the Governance of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

A Memorial to Restructure the Governance of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was formed in 1988 from three Lutheran church bodies, i.e., the Lutheran Church in America (LCA), the American Lutheran Church (ALC), and the Association Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC), with 5.3 million members and 11,133 congregations¹; and

WHEREAS, the Commission for a New Lutheran Church, envisioning stability and anticipating growth, developed a structure and polity with three interdependent entities, i.e., the churchwide organization, 65 synods, and 11,133 congregations, organized for the realities of the time;² and

WHEREAS, the leadership of the Commission for a New Lutheran Church (CNLC) expressed an eagerness to form "a new Lutheran church truly committed to the Gospel and organized for effective mission in today's world,"³ and

WHEREAS, over the last 34 years, the ELCA has decreased in size to 3.1 million members and 8,894 congregations;⁴ and

WHEREAS, the governing documents, constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of the ELCA do not allow these interdependent entities to reorganize quickly to meet the changing realities for effective mission in today's world; and

WHEREAS, the churchwide organization as well as many synods and many congregations, having decreased significantly in size and resources,

struggle to meet the expected work as assigned by the governing documents; and

WHEREAS, the Church Council of the ELCA, through its adoption of Strategic Directions 2025, has called for a “well-governed, connected, and sustainable church;”⁵

WHEREAS, it is critical that the stated mission of the ELCA be not only consistent with Lutheran expectations for the institutional church but also realistic with respect to human and fiscal resources; and

WHEREAS, the social statements of the ELCA call us to be a better version of ourselves including a commitment to actively dismantle racism in our systems; and

WHEREAS, the church has been complicit in trauma and harm through our current structures; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that the structure of the ELCA meet the needs of effective mission in today's changing world; and

WHEREAS, a reconstituting convention for the ELCA, in the form of a special meeting of the Churchwide Assembly, would provide an opportunity for deliberation and action on these pressing matters of mission, ministry, and structure;

THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA memorialize the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA to direct the Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church consisting of leaders from across the three expressions, including persons representing historically marginalized groups that, working in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council, shall reconsider the Statements of Purpose for each of the expressions of this church, the Principles of Organization, and all matters pertaining thereunto, in light of the stated goals, ideals and purposes of this church to dismantle racism and engage the pressing matters of mission, structure and ministry for these days, presenting its findings to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

¹ [Churchwide Assembly Minutes 1989](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/CWA1989.pdf) (p.70);

<https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/CWA1989.pdf>

² The CNLC was a representative body of the three predecessor institutions who worked from 1982-1986 to plan the ELCA and keep the merger on track. For more information see Edgar R. Trexler, *Anatomy of a Merger*, Augsburg Fortress, 1991.

³ [LUTHERAN BODIES TOTALING 5 MILLION DECIDE ON MERGER - The New York Times](https://www.nytimes.com/1982/09/09/world/3-lutheran-bodies-totaling-5-), <https://www.nytimes.com/1982/09/09/world/3-lutheran-bodies-totaling-5->

million-decide-on-merger.html

⁴ <https://directory.elca.org/Pages/reports/Summary-of-Congregational-Reports.pdf>

⁵ https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Future_Directions_Paper_Called_Forward_Together_in_Christ.pdf (p.8)

Following debate, a vote was taken by show of blue cards. The memorial passed. Bishop Curry thanked Deacon Feltman and the Committee on Reference and Counsel for their good work.

Report of the General Ballot

The assembly viewed a video about Community Table, then Bishop Curry invited Pastor David Walters to give the report of the first general ballot. The assembly was to elect two people to the position of Nominee for Lay Male Representative to the ELCA Churchwide Council. Those two individuals with the most votes would be elected. The vote totals were as follows:

Nominee for Lay Male Representative to ELCA Churchwide Council

Mr. Iván Pérez	280
Mr. Clyde Walter	222
Mr. William Gregory Aimonette	121
Mr. Luther Grafe	62
Mr. Ronald Koepke	49

The two highest vote recipients were Mr. Iván Pérez and Mr. Clyde Walter. There were no ties for these positions. Following the report, Bishop Curry declared those individuals elected.

Report of the Treasurer

Bishop Curry invited Treasurer Yvette NewberryWhite to give the report of the treasurer. Treasurer NewberryWhite indicated that the treasurer's written report and financial statements are located in the Book of Reports. She briefly highlighted that for the fiscal year that ended January 31, 2022, the synod received 95% of the anticipated mission support from congregations. The Synod Council this year distributed \$1,585,742 — 59% of unrestricted congregational benevolence received — to program ministry support of our partner institutions. 9 percent of this sum went to organizations and agencies in budgeted grants. The remainder of partner institutional support represents our tithe of 50 percent of received benevolence to the ministry of the larger Church to the Churchwide Organization. Treasurer NewberryWhite also reported on operational costs for those ministries within the synod, as well as the Fund For Mission, concluding by giving thanks to the officers, synod council members, synod staff, and congregations for their work and ministry partnership. She then presented the 2023 budget for adoption by the assembly.

2023 Budget

Bishop Curry thanked Treasurer NewberryWhite for her stewardship of the budgeting process and indicated that the assembly would now consider the 2023 Budget. As the proposed 2023 budget had been moved for consideration by the synod council, it did not require a second and

was on the floor before the assembly. There was no discussion, and the assembly voted on the 2023 budget as presented using a show of blue cards. The budget was adopted as presented.

Amendments to Governing Documents

Bishop Curry invited Secretary Clausen to present the amendments to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions. Secretary Clausen explained that no provision had been pulled from *en bloc*, and each bloc came before the assembly as a recommendation from Synod Council. Therefore, the amendments will not require a second and, per the Rules of Organization and Procedure already adopted by the assembly, there will be no discussion prior to a vote on each motion.

Secretary Clausen then read the motions for amending the synod's governing documents.

That the 35th Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly amend the following constitutional provisions as presented in the Book of Reports: All constitutional provisions relating to items 1 and 2 of the Explanation document, S7.13, S7.22., S8.33 S8.43, †S8.51, S9.05, S9.06, Chapter 11, and the Chapter 17 heading.

Bishop Curry called for a vote by blue cards, and the motion passed.

That the 35th Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly amend the following bylaw provisions as presented in the Book of Reports: All bylaw provisions relating to items 1 and 2 of the Explanation document, S1.11.01. S6.04.03 S7.01.03 S7.01.05.c. S7.01.05. S7.11.01. S8.14.01. S8.32.01 S8.32.03. S8.41.01 S9.01.04 and following S9.03.01 S10.01.01 S10.01.02 S10.01.03 S10.05.01 Chapter 11 bylaws S11.01.02 S11.01.02 S11.01.18. S13.23.01.

Bishop Curry called for a vote by blue cards, and the motion passed.

That the 35th Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly amend the continuing resolutions relating to items 1 and 2 of the explanation document and all continuing resolutions found in Chapter 11, as presented in the Book of Reports.

Bishop Curry called for a vote by blue cards, and the motion passed.

Secretary Clausen explained that she will report these amendments to the Churchwide Office of the Secretary. These amendments will take effect following ratification by the churchwide council.

Welcoming a New Congregation

Bishop Curry then explained that at the 2022 Synod Assembly held via Zoom, the assembly welcomed First Immanuel Lutheran Church but did not formally vote them into the roster of the ELCA. Bishop Curry shared a little about the ministry of First Immanuel, and then invited Secretary Clausen to bring this motion to the floor on behalf of the synod council. Moved by the synod council, the motion did not require a second.

That the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly recognize and receive First Immanuel Lutheran Church as a congregation of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and as Secretary I will report this action to the Office of the Secretary of the ELCA and ask that First Immanuel Lutheran Church be recorded on the roster of congregations of this church.

There was no debate and the motion passed as presented.

Churchwide Office Report

Bishop Curry explained that as the ELCA, we are a church with three expressions: Congregations, Synods and the Church Wide Office. We exist in interrelationship to deepen and extend God's mission. Bishop Curry invited The Rev. Amy E. Reumann, Senior Director, Witnessing in Society to bring greetings from the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Elizabeth Eaton and share the Church Wide Office Report. Following the report, Bishop Curry thanked Rev. Reumann for her presence and the report.

Sunergos Award

Bishop Curry introduced Vice President Terry Henderson, who gave a brief report of the Vice President. As a part of this report, Vice President Henderson introduced the Sunergos Award for Synodical Service, and the 2022 recipients, Ms. Sandra Schlauch and Ms. Viola M. Collins-Brown. 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." Vice President Henderson then provided a brief biography of each of the recipients.

Ms. Sandra Schlauch is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Evanston. She is a life-long Lutheran, having attended both a Lutheran grammar and high school. Sandie has served for more than 30 years in all three expressions of the church, working first at Holy Trinity, Glenview, then at the churchwide offices in the area of outreach, and finally at the synod office. She has been an active participant in the Metro Chicago Synodical Women's Organization, having served terms as a board member and treasurer. In her congregation, she has been involved with her congregational unit of Women of the ELCA, Sunday School, Worship Committee and Altar Guild, and currently serves as financial secretary.

Ms. Collins-Born is from the west side of Chicago, she shares that she is 66 years old, mom, servant, educator, Lutheran. Although a 35-year resident of Edgewater/ Rogers Park she still works and worships mostly in Cabrini Green with Holy Family Lutheran Church. She served extensively with youth programs from fundraising to education and even music ministry. She wrote proposals with the "Intelligents" Organization to raise money for fun and educational outings for Youth in the Cabrini Green area. She's been an educator and counselor for almost 3 decades. Her servant heart is evident in her volunteering for Lutheran Youth Organization, ELCA Worship and Liturgy Committee and ECT Youth Group and the Edgewater community. Currently she's a member of Edison Park Lutheran Church.

The award reads:

“The Metropolitan Chicago Synod expresses its deep appreciation for his many years of faithful service as a congregational leader, a leader in synodical stewardship development, and as an administrative leader for synodical mission. We give thanks to God for his life and witness.”

Vice President Henderson asked the assembly to help express the synod’s deep gratitude to Ms. Sandra Schlauch and Ms. Viola M. Collins-Brown their service and for the blessings this synod has received from their work. This concluded the report of the Vice President.

Authorization of Approval of the Minutes

Bishop Curry then invited Vice President Terry Henderson 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.

There was no discussion. The assembly voted using blue cards. The motion passed.

Rostered Leader Anniversaries

A video was played that indicated major anniversaries of rostered leaders in the synod, whose names are listed in the 2022 Book of Reports.

Closing Remarks

Bishop Curry thanked the assembly for their faithful engagement. He explained that although this concludes the business of the assembly, the assembly will continue our learning and fellowship time together. This time will include various workshops and a Blanket Exercise led by Mr. Vance Blackfox, ELCA Director of Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations. Bishop Curry explained that before the 2022 Synod Assembly comes to a close, we will come together after the Blanket Exercise to worship and commune with one another.

The business of the 35th annual Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly concluded at 12:34pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Erin E. Clausen
Secretary, Metropolitan Chicago Synod



**Metropolitan Chicago
Synod Council Meeting**
Saturday – January 29, 2022
Zoom Call

Meeting Minutes

Synod Council Officers

Curry, Rev. Yehiel – (Southwest) - (Bishop) [‘25]
Henderson, Mr. Terry – (Southwest) - (Vice President) [‘25]
NewberryWhite, Ms. Yvette – (South) - (Treasurer) [‘23]
Clausen, Rev. Erin – (Near West) - (Secretary) [‘25]

Synod Council Members

Adamczewski, Ms. Kristina (Near West) [‘25]
Aimonette, Rev. Amy O. (West) [‘23][excused]
Arnesen, Ms. Nancy (West) [‘25]
Christensen, Rev. Erik Christensen C. (Northeast) [‘23]
DeLeon, Ms. Jennifer, Chicago (Central) [‘23]
Glombicki, Rev. Jason (Central) [‘23]
Jones, Mr. Rodger L. – Bethel (West), Chicago (Central) [‘23]
Katschke-Goss, Deacon Tracy (North) [‘23]
Langlois, Mr. Robert (Northwest) [‘25]
Linstrom, Rev. Timothy (North) [‘23]
Lohafer, Rev. Joel (Northwest) [‘25][excused]
Pérez, Mr. Iván – (Central) [‘25]
Post, Rev. JoAnn (Northeast) [‘23]
Rojas-Banda, Rev. Maria (Near West) [‘25]
White, Rev. Lester (South) [‘25]
Willett Jr., Mr. Charles – (Southwest) [‘23]
Willey, Mr. Paul S. (Northwest) [‘23]
Worringer, Rev. Eric R. (Northeast) [‘23]
Yucha, Rev. Joseph P. (West) [‘23][excused]

Synod Staff Members

Rev. Robert E. Biekman (*Director of Evangelical Mission*)
Rev. Wyvetta Bullock (*Associate to the Bishop – Southwest Conference*)
Rev. Anna Ernst (*Youth Ministry part-time*) - excused
Rev. Sunitha Mortha (*Associate to the Bishop – West and Central Conferences*)
Rev. Kyle Severson (*Associate to the Bishop – North and Nearwest Conferences*)
Rev. Kathy Nolte (*Associate to the Bishop – Northwest Conference*)
Rev. Josh Ebener (*Latinx Strategy Coordinator part-time*)
Mr. Tom Anderson (*Business Manager*)
Rev. Josh Evans (*Director of Communications*)

Ms. Heather Haynes (Executive Assistant to the Bishop)
Ms. Nancy “Gaby” Valladolid (Receptionist/Photographer) - excused

Guests

No guests were present at this meeting.

Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council Meeting Minutes

Opening DevotionDeacon Tracy Katschke-Goss

Deacon Tracy Katschke-Goss opened the meeting with devotions. Vice President Terry Henderson then called the meeting to order at 9:06am.

Staff Reports

- Rev. Robert E. Biekman (Director of Evangelical Mission)*
- Rev. Wyvetta Bullock (Associate to the Bishop – Southwest Conference)*
- Rev. Anna Ernst (Youth Ministry part-time)*
- Rev. Sunitha Mortha (Associate to the Bishop – West and Central Conferences)*
- Rev. Kyle Severson (Associate to the Bishop – North and Nearwest Conferences)*
- Rev. Kathy Nolte (Associate to the Bishop – Northwest Conference)*
- Rev. Josh Ebener (Latinx Strategy Coordinator part-time)*
- Mr. Tom Anderson (Business Manager)*
- Rev. Josh Evans (Director of Communications)*
- Ms. Heather Haynes (Executive Assistant to the Bishop)*
- Ms. Nancy “Gaby” Valladolid (Receptionist/Photographer)*

Written reports were posted to google groups. Each staff member briefly introduced themselves and shared any highlights from their written reports.

Consent Agenda Bishop Curry

Secretary Clausen moved and Iván Pérez seconded:
MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council adopt the consent agenda as amended.
VOTE: Motion as presented.
S.C.22.01.01 ADOPTED

Report of the Treasurer Treasurer NewberryWhite

Treasurer NewberryWhite began her comments with gratefulness for the members and congregations who have continued to be such faithful stewards in giving mission support to the synod. There have been few changes in our financial status since the last report. At present, the synod has taken in about 11% less than hoped for at this point in the fiscal year in congregational benevolence. Still, benevolence is only about \$150,000 less that it was at this point last year. Expenses coming in at or under budget. The synod is continuing our mission support to the ELCA and partner support. Overall, we are doing well.

The question was raised – if there is a deficit, do we have funds to cover it? The industry standard includes drawing money from an endowment to cover operating expenses. We have budgeted to draw money from our endowment for a couple years, but we have never actually done so because of lack of need. Still, in the event of a deficit, that would be a place to draw from. Following each year’s audit, investment dollars also roll into income figures. These funds often also cover a cash deficit. Finally, in the event that neither of these covered an income deficit, we have equity in various funds of around \$750,000 that would be utilized to cover an operating deficit.

Report of the Secretary Secretary Clausen

Secretary Clausen reported briefly on the status of the constitutional updates, voted on by the council in the October 2021 meeting, for presentation to the Synod Assembly in 2022.

- Minutes – October 23, 2021

Secretary Clausen moved and Dcn. Tracy Katschke-Goss seconded:
MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council adopt the minutes of the October 23, 2021 meeting as presented.
VOTE: Motion as presented.
S.C.22.01.02 ADOPTED

Report of the Vice President Vice President Henderson

Vice president Henderson reported that the vice presidents of the ELCA meet once a month via Zoom call. Often, representatives of the ELCA are invited to present.

Vice president Henderson asked for a volunteer to lead devotions for the April meeting; Jennifer DeLeon volunteered.

Vice president Henderson also asked the council to please keep holding our Bishop in prayer for his ministry and travel, as well as the synod’s leaders and lay leaders.

Report of the Bishop Bishop Curry

- Synod Assembly 2022 planning update
Bishop Curry and Rev. Sunitha Mortha (staff liaison to the planning committee) led a brief discussion about current recommendations for the 2022 assembly. Voting method has not yet been decided. Aligned with the experiences of other synods throughout the church, the assembly planning team recommends against a hybrid format. Instead, they recommend a 1 day in-person event. All participants must be vaccinated. We will accept resolutions at the 2022 assembly, to enable time for movers to present memorials to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly. Letters of invitation to congregations will go out in about a week. These letters are ready, and the registration system will be up and running.

•SAM Requests

Bishop Curry briefly explained the process and need for designating Synodically Authorized Ministries. Receiving the designation of Synodically Authorized Ministry does not remove the 'congregation' designation, if the ministry is a current congregation. Rather, in some cases, something going on in the congregation does not allow for a regular rostered leader to be there. In order for the bishop to appoint a Synodically Authorized Minister, the council must first make the designation of Synodically Authorized Ministry for the congregation or ministry. Synod staff work closely with the congregation in determining whether this designation might be appropriate, prior to the bishop bringing the request to the synod council. Typically, this designation is requested for hard to place locations. Designating a church/ministry as a Synodically Authorized Ministry does not promise synod funding.

Secretary Clausen moved and Dcn. Tracy Katschke-Goss seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council designate Lutheran Church of Martha and Mary in Mt. Prospect as a Synodically Authorized Ministry.

VOTE: Motion as presented.

S.C.22.01.03 ADOPTED

Secretary Clausen moved and Mr. Iván Pérez seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council designate Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit in Chicago as a Synodically Authorized Ministry.

VOTE: Motion as presented.

S.C.22.01.04 ADOPTED

• First Immanuel Lutheran Church

First Immanuel is a former Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod congregation that we celebrated at the last synod assembly. About 5 years ago, as the congregation was in discernment, they became an independent Lutheran church. They could then call an ELCA pastor through the synod council. The congregation was not yet sure they wanted to join the ELCA. In 2019, the congregation voted to formally join the ELCA and the Metropolitan Chicago Synod (MCS). The synod assembly welcomed the congregation – but the synod assembly did not officially vote on accepting this congregation. Therefore, at the 2022 assembly, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod will officially vote to welcome the congregation into the ELCA and the synod. The pastor, Harry Therwanger, is on the MCS roster and continues to serve under synod council call.

• 2023 Budget Consideration

The synod council had previously raised a question about the way we choose partners for funding. In particular, the synod funds two schools but not every school in our territory. Concordia and Holy Family are funded. Bishop Curry understands that at the time these schools were added to the synod's budgeted partner support, they were added in order to spur innovation.

Bishop Curry suggests that in future budgets, we move this kind of funding to an open application process, similar to Fund for Mission or Ministry from the Margins. Funding rules

would include that a ministry that receives funding one year would not be eligible the following year. Also, we would want to focus on ensuring that those schools who have grant writers aren't prioritized over smaller ministries. We would also ask on the application how the schools are continuing to engage congregations.

Discussion continued with the idea that the synod council might want to focus on entities that need a lot more help than larger institutions. Bishop Curry concurred, indicating that he is not sure that the council just "choosing" an entity to go on the budget is an equitable process. Rather, by creating a more wholistic process via an application might enable other ministries to be considered. A council member stated that their understanding of what it means to be a part of the ELCA includes a really deep commitment to mission support and funding organizations outside of "ourselves." Therefore, every decision we make as this council needs to reflect our principles of justice.

This will come back before the council in the April meeting, to affect future budgets.

- Grace, Westchester

Grace Lutheran in Westchester was scheduled to close in 2019; this process happened in 2020. There had been tension with the synod from long ago. Grace sold the building and shared with Bishop Curry that they did not intend to share any of the proceeds with the synod. Synod staff maintained a supportive and loving presence through the closure process. Following this, the congregation sent four checks totaling \$240,000: \$75,000 for seminarian support, \$100,000 to new mission \$50,000 to Latinx, and \$15,000 to campus ministry. Bishop Curry suspects that the congregation made this investment in the synod's ministries both because of the staff maintaining a relationship and also likely directly aligned with the last synod assembly's focus on #GoodStew and all the good ministry lifted up there.

Salem Lutheran Church reached out to the synod office because they are financially struggling. Rev. Wyvetta Bullock went to be present with them, because Rev. Biekman was on vacation at that time. Rev. Biekman is currently working with the congregation. The utilities had been turned off for the church and the parsonage; there was an outstanding utility bill of about \$20,000. At this point, the bill for the parsonage has been paid and the utilities turned back on. The congregation is still raising funds for the utilities for the building itself. It is the synod's intention to be a full partner in the finances, because "if the pipes go, the building goes." The synod needs assistance from Salem to ensure that this building can be maintained.

Executive session

Secretary Clausen moved and Mr. Iván Pérez seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council rescind our letter of invitation to Mark Carlsson effective April 1, 2022.

Pastor Mark Carlsson is from the Lutheran Church of Sweden. In 2019, he was the primary pastoral candidate for Good Shepherd, Naperville. Good Shepherd asked Bishop Miller for the letter of invitation so that they could extend a contract to Pastor Carlsson for him to serve as

their pastor, in keeping with the governing documents of this church. At this point, Good Shepherd's church council has let Bishop Curry know that they do not intend to extend the contract. Therefore, the synod is requested to rescind the letter of invitation. Bishop Curry had a conversation with Pastor Carlsson to let him know that the church's council would not be extending the contract, therefore the synod council would be rescinding the letter of invitation.

Secretary Clausen moved and Tracy Katschke-Goss seconded:
MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council amend the prior motion to read:
The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council rescind our letter of invitation to Mark Carlsson effective upon the termination of his contract with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Naperville.
VOTE: Motion as amended
S.C.22.01.05 ADOPTED

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding what a Letter of Invitation means and what the council's role is in this process. A Letter of Invitation indicates that the pastor will serve at the pleasure of the bishop. Because the congregation has decided not to continue the contract, Bishop Curry no longer recommends that the council continue the letter of invitation. This process is addressed in 7.31.09. of the Constitution of the ELCA: *Invitation to Service. In accord with bylaw 8.63.01. and following, a minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may serve contractually in a ministry setting of this church under a "Letter of Invitation to Service" upon the authorization of the bishop of the synod in which such service occurs.*

Rev. Eric Worringer moved and Rev. Jason Glombicki seconded:
MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council move into executive session.
VOTE: Motion as amended
S.C.22.01.06 ADOPTED

Following executive session, the council voted on the motion before them:

Secretary Clausen moved and Tracy Katschke-Goss seconded:
MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council rescind our letter of invitation to Mark Carlsson effective upon the termination of his contract with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Naperville.
VOTE: Motion as amended
S.C.22.01.07 ADOPTED

Other Business.....
No other business was brought forward.

Closing Prayer.....

Vice President Henderson closed the meeting at 11:08am, and Bishop Curry ended the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Erin E Clausen
Secretary, Metropolitan Chicago Synod

Summary of Synod Council Actions: January 29, 2022

- S.C.22.01.01** Vote for Synod Council to adopt the consent agenda as amended.
- S.C.22.01.02** Vote for Synod Council to adopt the minutes of the October 23, 2021, meeting as presented.
- S.C.22.01.03** Vote for Synod Council to designate Lutheran Church of Martha and Mary in Mt. Prospect as a Synodically Authorized Ministry.
- S.C.22.01.04** Vote for Synod Council to designate Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit in Chicago as a Synodically Authorized Ministry.
- Motion for Synod Council rescinds our letter of invitation to Mark Carlsson effective April 1, 2022.
- S.C.22.01.05** Vote for Synod Council to amend the prior motion to read: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council rescinds our letter of invitation to Mark Carlsson effective upon the termination of his contract with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Naperville.
- S.C.22.01.06** Vote for Synod Council to move into executive session.
- S.C.22.01.07** Vote for Synod Council to rescind our letter of invitation to Mark Carlsson effective upon the termination of his contract with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Naperville.



**Metropolitan Chicago
Synod Council Meeting**
Saturday – April 23, 2022
Zoom Call

Meeting Minutes

Synod Council Officers

Curry, Rev. Yehiel – (Southwest) - (Bishop) [‘25]
Henderson, Mr. Terry – (Southwest) - (Vice President) [‘25]
NewberryWhite, Ms. Yvette – (South) - (Treasurer) [‘23]
Clausen, Rev. Erin – (Near West) - (Secretary) [‘25]

Synod Council Members

Adamczewski, Ms. Kristina (Near West) [‘25]
Aimonette, Rev. Amy O. (West) [‘23]
Arnesen, Ms. Nancy (West) [‘25]
Christensen, Rev. Erik Christensen C. (Northeast) [‘23]
DeLeon, Ms. Jennifer, Chicago (Central) [‘23]
Glombicki, Rev. Jason (Central) [‘23]
Jones, Mr. Rodger L. – Bethel (West), Chicago (Central) [‘23]
Katschke-Goss, Deacon Tracy (North) [‘23][excused]
Langlois, Mr. Robert (Northwest) [‘25]
Linstrom, Rev. Timothy (North) [‘23]
Lohafer, Rev. Joel (Northwest) [‘25]
Pérez, Mr. Iván – (Central) [‘25]
Post, Rev. JoAnn (Northeast) [‘23][excused]
Rojas-Banda, Rev. Maria (Near West) [‘25][excused]
White, Rev. Lester (South) [‘25][excused]
Willett Jr., Mr. Charles – (Southwest) [‘23]
Willey, Mr. Paul S. (Northwest) [‘23]
Worringer, Rev. Eric R. (Northeast) [‘23]
Yucha, Rev. Joseph P. (West) [‘23][excused]

Synod Staff Members

Rev. Robert E. Biekman (*Director of Evangelical Mission*)
Rev. Wyvetta Bullock (*Associate to the Bishop – Southwest Conference*)
Rev. Anna Ernst (*Youth Ministry – part-time*) - excused
Rev. Sunitha Mortha (*Associate to the Bishop – West and centra Conferences*)
Rev. Kyle Severson (*Associate to the Bishop – North and Nearwest Conferences*)
Rev. Kathy Nolte (*Associate to the Bishop – Central and Southwest Conferences*) -
excused
Rev. Josh Ebener (*Latinx Strategy Coordinator part-time*)
Mr. Tom Anderson (*Business Manager*)

Rev. Josh Evans (Director of Communications) - excused
Ms. Heather Haynes – (Executive Assistant to the Bishop)
Ms. Nancy Gaby Valladolid – (Receptionist & Synod Photographer)

Guests

Anders Nelson, West Conference co-dean
Charles Plummer, West Conference co-dean

Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council Meeting Minutes

Opening DevotionMs. Jen DeLeon

President Terry Henderson called the meeting to order at 9:08. Ms. Jen DeLeon opened the meeting with devotions.

Staff Reports

Rev. Robert E. Biekman (Director of Evangelical Mission)
Rev. Wyvetta Bullock (Associate to the Bishop – Southwest Conference)
Rev. Anna Ernst (Youth Ministry part-time)
Rev. Kyle Severson (Associate to the Bishop – North and Nearwest Conferences)
Rev. Kathy Nolte (Associate to the Bishop – Northwest Conference)
Rev. Josh Ebener (Latinx Strategy Coordinator part-time)
Rev. Josh Evans (Director of Communications)
Ms. Heather Haynes (Executive Assistant to the Bishop)
Ms. Nancy “Gaby” Valladolid (Receptionist/Photographer)
Rev. Sunitha Mortha (Associate to the Bishop – West and Central Conferences)
**Synod Assembly Update*
Mr. Tom Anderson (Business Manager)

Written reports were posted to google groups. Each staff member shared highlights from their written reports.

Ms. Heather Haynes reported that there were 17 submissions for Fund for Mission grants, rather than the 16 previously reported.

Rev. Sunitha Mortha reported that a location for Synod Assembly 2022 has been secured at the Marriott, Naperville. Council meets for a meeting and a meal on Friday evening prior to the assembly; likely 4pm-6pm. There will also be some rehearsal for synod assembly during that time. Registration will begin at 7. The bulk of the work will be done between 8 and 12, followed by worship and workshops. There will be an opportunity to gather for dinner as well. We will still have Zoom pre-events. There are 3 resolutions that have come before us. We will have hearings for these, as well as a budget hearing, and an online/recorded orientation.

Consent Agenda Bishop Curry

Secretary Clausen moved and Iván Pérez seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council adopt the consent agenda as presented.
VOTE: Motion as presented.
S.C.22.04.08 ADOPTED

Report of the Treasurer Treasurer NewberryWhite

• Financial Reports

Financials for fiscal year 2021 2/1/2021 – 1/31/2022

Benevolence received from congregations totaled \$2,691,947, just under the budgeted amount of \$2,900,000 and \$36,000 above last year. Total income for the year including proceeds from closing congregations and interest income was \$3,217,863. Of note: Mission Support to ELCA \$1,135,850 Synod Partner Support \$236,375 Most expense category spending, other than fixed administrative expenses such as personnel and office operation, remained under budget for the year, primarily due to the ongoing pandemic. Total expenses including Mission Support to ELCA, Synod Partner support and depreciation equal \$3,255,029. Spending exceeded income by \$37,166.

The Endowment summary reports the amount of the Endowment accounts to be \$11,538,364 as of 1/31/22.

Fiscal Year 2021 Audit Report

The draft audit report was uploaded to Google Docs and we have included in these reported financials the adjusting entries required by the auditors. The draft audit is an internal document and is not released to the body. The final audit report for fiscal year 2021, when received, will be released to the Synod via the Book of Reports.

Proposed 2023 Budget

The proposed 2023 Budget, with budget notes, was uploaded for review at this meeting, and must be approved by the Synod Council to be included in the Book of Reports for vote at the Synod Assembly.

Financials for fiscal year 2022 2/1/22 – 1/31/2023

Due to timing issues of the year-end audit process and transition to a new accounting system, financial reports are not available for this council meeting. Full financial reports will be provided at the July council meeting.

• 2023 Budget Recommendations

This discussion has been moved to follow the bishop’s report.

Report of the Bishop Bishop Curry

• TurnAround Synod Initiative

Have not requested any money from reserves since 2019. The needs of the synod have shifted toward transitional ministry. The remaining \$50,000 in this line item will be used for this purpose. Individuals making use of these funds will be called by the synod to intentional interim ministry and make a 3 year commitment to such ministry.

- Fund for Mission & Ministry from the Margins

The boards for these grants need to be appointed. At this year's synod assembly, Bishop Curry will ask for nominations for both of these boards. These slates will be presented at the October 2022 council meeting. Bishop Curry will ask the current synod council members to continue on these boards for another year.

- Domestic Companion Synod

We have not done much with our domestic companion synod, the Florida Bahama Synod. Bishop Curry & Bishop Suárez of the Florida Bahama Synod are working on next steps. The synod council executive committees will meet together, and we are planning a joint mission to the Holy Land in 2023. In 2024, the Florida Bahama Synod will send a delegation to attend our synod assembly.

Congregation / Property updates:

Bishop Curry briefly outlined some property and congregational updates, as detailed in his written report: Martin Luther (Chicago) – Reformation (Chicago) – Bethel Imani (Chicago) – Salem (Chicago) – Good Shepherd (Naperville) – Ashburn (Chicago) – St. Timothy (Chicago) – St. James / Shepherd's Heart (Chicago).

- Synod Assembly

The synod celebrated First Immanuel for joining the ELCA at the last synod assembly. However, we did not officially vote to receive them into the synod. We will do that at this synod assembly. This assembly also needs to elect two people to the churchwide assembly in the "Lay Man" category.

- Audit / Proposed Budget Recommendations

The bishop's major recommendation is that the elementary/high schools be removed from the "Ministry Partners" category in the regular budget, and instead that schools and early childhood centers be encouraged to apply for Fund for Mission Grants. The FFM board would then set aside a certain amount specifically for elementary/high schools and early childhood education centers.

The recommended 2023 budget includes adjustments to partnership support: LSTC at 1.5%, Wartburg at 1.25%, and LSSI at 1.25%. Concordia Place and Holy Family [both schools] have been removed from the regular budget, consistent with the bishop's recommendation above. The budget as presented therefore has 2 placeholders for partnership support at .25%.

- Churchwide Assembly

Bishop Curry will begin addressing churchwide assembly needs soon. He will call a voters meeting soon. He plans to invite all of Metropolitan Chicago Synod's churchwide assembly voting members to a meal and fellowship opportunities while at the churchwide assembly, consistent with past practices.

Secretary Clausen moved and Mr. Paul Willey seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council recommend the fiscal year 2023 budget as amended for adoption by the 2022 Synod Assembly.

VOTE: Motion as amended.

S.C.22.04.10 ADOPTED

Bethel New Life – why is this one kept in right now? They have been restructuring as an organization. We have not had any discussion about this partner ministry, so they were not

Before voting, we want to discuss the two placeholders. One suggestion is that RefugeeOne – Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services partner in Illinois be considered for one of these placeholders. Maybe for this next year we redistribute this funding to present partners and then form a working group to look at the 2024 budget, to consider many organizations. This may look cleaner and be an easier explanation to the synod if we take our time with this decision.

Rev. Jason Glombicki moved and Rev. Timothy Linstrom seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council reallocate the .5% of partnership funding in the 2023 proposed budget to LSSI, such that the budget would reflect 1.75% partnership funding for LSSI in the 2023 budget. A working group will be formed from the synod council and other interested people across the synod to consider distribution of .5% partnership support among other organizations for the 2024 budget.

VOTE: Motion as presented.

S.C.22.04.09 ADOPTED

Report of the Secretary Secretary Clausen

- Continuing Resolutions

These recommended resolutions were presented for the October 2021 meeting. The council is now asked to act on them, in advance of the constitution and bylaw amendments that will be addressed at the 2022 Synod Assembly. Following adoption, these continuing resolutions will be included in the recommended governing documents in the 2022 Book of Reports.

Secretary Clausen moved and Iván Pérez seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council adopt the amendments to the continuing resolutions of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod’s governing documents as presented.

VOTE: Motion as presented.

S.C.22.04.11 ADOPTED

- Minutes – January 29, 2022

Secretary Clausen moved and Treasurer NewberryWhite seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council adopt the minutes of the January 29, 2022 synod council meeting as presented.

VOTE: Motion as presented.

S.C.22.04.12 ADOPTED

• Recommendations for Governance

The Constitution Working Group has put forward a rationale document regarding the recommended amendments to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Constitution and Bylaws. They have requested that the council consider the language in this document, so that it may be published in the 2022 Book of Reports, with the recommended amended constitution. The council is also invited to provide guidance regarding whether any of these should be removed from *en bloc* consideration prior to the beginning of the assembly.

The council had no recommendations for changes to the language, and did not request that any particular provision be pulled from the blocs as presented. The council may still act to pull a provision from a bloc prior to the synod assembly.

Report of the Vice President Vice President Henderson

Vice President Henderson read a brief explanation of how synod assembly may use resolutions and memorials to request consideration or action by churchwide council and churchwide assembly.

Iván Pérez volunteered to lead devotions at the next meeting.

Other business

• Fill the Drawer – Deacon Tracy Katschke-Goss

Tracy is unable to be present today, but shared some information about the Fill the Drawer synod event. The synod was invited to collect socks, underwear and undershirts through Lent to be donated to organizations across the synod. Tracy is excited about the number of things donated and will get final numbers as soon as possible.

Closing Prayer.....

Vice President Henderson closed the meeting at 10:24am, and Bishop Curry ended the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Erin E Clausen
Secretary, Metropolitan Chicago Synod



Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council Meeting

Friday – June 3, 2022
Mariott Chicago - Naperville

Meeting Minutes

Synod Council Officers

Curry, Rev. Yehiel – (Southwest) - (Bishop) [‘25]
Henderson, Mr. Terry – (Southwest) - (Vice President) [‘25]
NewberryWhite, Ms. Yvette – (South) - (Treasurer) [‘23]
Clausen, Rev. Erin – (Near West) - (Secretary) [‘25]

Synod Council Members

Adamczewski, Ms. Kristina (Near West) [‘25]
Aimonette, Rev. Amy O. (West) [‘23]
Arnesen, Ms. Nancy (West) [‘25][excused]
Christensen, Rev. Erik Christensen C. (Northeast) [‘23][excused]
DeLeon, Ms. Jennifer, Chicago (Central) [‘23]
Glombicki, Rev. Jason (Central) [‘23][excused]
Jones, Mr. Rodger L. – Bethel (West), Chicago (Central) [‘23]
Katschke-Goss, Deacon Tracy (North) [‘23]
Langlois, Mr. Robert (Northwest) [‘25]
Linstrom, Rev. Timothy (North) [‘23]
Lohafer, Rev. Joel (Northwest) [‘25]
Pérez, Mr. Iván – (Central) [‘25]
Post, Rev. JoAnn (Northeast) [‘23]
Rojas-Banda, Rev. Maria (Near West) [‘25]
White, Rev. Lester (South) [‘25][excused]
Willett Jr., Mr. Charles – (Southwest) [‘23]
Willey, Mr. Paul S. (Northwest) [‘23]
Worringer, Rev. Eric R. (Northeast) [‘23][excused]
Yucha, Rev. Joseph P. (West) [‘23][excused]

Guests

Ms. Joan Bundley – Synod Assembly Parliamentarian

Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council Meeting Minutes

Opening Devotion **Mr. Iván Pérez**
President Terry Henderson called the meeting to order at 4:06pm. Mr. Iván Pérez opened the meeting with devotions.

Staff Reports

- Rev. Robert E. Biekman (Director of Evangelical Mission)*
- Rev. Wyvetta Bullock (Associate to the Bishop – Southwest Conference)*
- Rev. Anna Ernst (Youth Ministry part-time)*
- Rev. Kyle Severson (Associate to the Bishop – North and Nearwest Conferences)*
- Rev. Kathy Nolte (Associate to the Bishop – Northwest Conference)*
- Rev. Josh Ebener (Latinx Strategy Coordinator part-time)*
- Rev. Josh Evans (Director of Communications)*
- Ms. Heather Haynes (Executive Assistant to the Bishop)*
- Ms. Nancy “Gaby” Valladolid (Receptionist/Photographer)*
- Rev. Sunitha Mortha (Associate to the Bishop – West and Central Conferences)*
- *Synod Assembly Update*
- Mr. Tom Anderson (Business Manager)*

Written reports were posted to google groups.

Consent Agenda Bishop Curry

- Retirement application(s)
- On Leave From Call application(s)
- Interim Ministry Call(s)

Mr. Iván Pérez moved and Dcn. Tracy Katschke-Goss seconded:
MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council adopt the consent agenda as presented.
VOTE: Motion as presented.
S.C.22.06.13 ADOPTED

- Request for voting privileges

Secretary Clausen moved and Mr. Paul Willey seconded:
MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council grant the privilege of voice and vote to those individuals on the OLFC, retired, and disability rosters, and full-communion partners serving ELCA Congregations in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, who have registered for Synod Assembly.
VOTE: Motion as presented.
S.C.22.06.14 ADOPTED

Report of the Secretary Secretary Clausen

Recommendations for Governance

• Minutes – April 23, 2022
Secretary Clausen moved and Ms. Jen DeLeon seconded:
MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council adopt the minutes of the April 23, 2022 synod council meeting as presented.
VOTE: Motion as presented.

S.C.22.06.15 ADOPTED

• 2022 Synod Assembly Resolutions & Memorial

Secretary Clausen moved and Mr. Iván Pérez seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council, in consultation with the Committee on Reference and Counsel, recommend the adoption of the 2 resolutions and 2 memorials submitted to the Committee by the 35th Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly as presented.

VOTE: Motion as presented.

S.C.22.06.16 ADOPTED

• Adopt Rules of Procedures

Secretary Clausen moved and Treasurer NewberryWhite seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council recommend the 2022 Rules of Organization and Procedure for adoption by the 35th Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly as amended.

VOTE: Motion as amended.

S.C.22.06.17 ADOPTED

A member of the council questioned whether the time for debate would *or would not* include time required for translation. In consultation with the guest parliamentarian, the council amended the rules as follows:

Mr. Iván Pérez moved and Dcn. Tracy Katschke-Goss seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council amend the 2022 Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 35th Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly to include that no voting member may speak a second time on any item on the floor unless everyone who wants to speak first has done so.

VOTE: Motion as presented.

S.C.22.06.18 ADOPTED

Rev. Maria Rojas-Banda moved and Ms. Jen DeLeon seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council amend the 2022 Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 35th Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly to indicate that time limits on speakers and debate does not include time necessary for interpretation.

VOTE: Motion as presented.

S.C.22.06.19 ADOPTED

• Set time for speeches for resolutions

Secretary Clausen moved and Dcn. Tracy Katschke-Goss seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council, in consultation with the Committee on Reference and Counsel, set the time for debate on resolutions and memorials to 10 minutes total per resolution or memorial.

VOTE: Motion as presented.

S.C.22.06.20 ADOPTED

• Move the amendments to the governing documents

Secretary Clausen moved and Mr. Iván Pérez seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council move the adoption of the amendments to the governing documents by the 35th Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly as presented in the Book of Reports, to be presented in 3 blocs – constitutional amendments, bylaw amendments, and continuing resolution amendments. Any item a voting member wishes to pull from a bloc must be pulled by 10:00am to facilitate assembly process.

VOTE: Motion as presented.

S.C.22.06.21 ADOPTED

• Move the reception of First Immanuel

Secretary Clausen moved and Treasurer NewberryWhite seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council recommend that the 35th Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly recognize and receive First Immanuel Lutheran Church, Chicago, as a congregation of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and
To direct the secretary of this synod to report this action to the Office of the Secretary of the ELCA and ask that First Immanuel Lutheran Church, Chicago, be recorded on the roster of congregations of this church.”

VOTE: Motion as presented.

S.C.22.06.22 ADOPTED

Report of the Vice President Vice President Henderson

Mr. Henderson shared that he is glad the council could be present in person. The Vice Presidents continue to meet monthly and the conversations continue to revolve around the Churchwide Assembly.

Mr. Rodger Jones volunteered for devotions for the next meeting – July 23, 2022.

Report of the Bishop Bishop Curry

• Lay Awards

Secretary Clausen moved and Treasurer Yvette NewberryWhite seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council award the Sunergos award to 2 recipients at the 2022 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly: Ms. Sandra Schlauch and Ms. Viola Collins Brown.

VOTE: Motion as presented.

S.C.22.06.23 ADOPTED

• **Advocate Aurora Health Update**

Advocate-Aurora is merging with another health organization named Atrium. The more healthcare organizations like this merge, the less faith-based the organization may be. Although there are people of faith on the board, the bishop’s office does not have a place on the board.

Bishop Curry challenged the council to talk to representatives who are here at the synod assembly. He also indicated that the dinner tomorrow is sponsored in part by Advocate/Aurora Healthcare. Ms. Jen DeLeon, member of the synod council, serves on the Mission & Spiritual Care Committee of the Advocate-Aurora Board. Other ELCA pastors and members also serve on these boards. However, Bishop Curry cautioned that this may shift as this merger goes through.

• **Sierra Pacific Letter**

Bishop Curry shared a pastoral letter to the synod regarding the situation in the Sierra Pacific Synod. The council recommends that this letter be released today, prior to the beginning of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly. The council also recognized that an addendum may be required following votes taken at the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly this week.

Other business

Bishop Curry has been working to reinvigorate a relationship with our sister synod – Florida Bahamas Synod. The executive committee will spend time in Florida this year with their executive committee. Next year, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod will receive the Florida-Bahamas Synod’s executive committee.

Bishop Curry also extended a request for council members to step in and help out wherever they can. This year, the structure of the assembly and the location are both different from the past. There were fewer than 250 registrants when registration was nearing closure; now, we have received 420 registrations.

Closing Prayer.....

Vice President Henderson closed the meeting at 5:11pm, and Bishop Curry ended the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Erin E Clausen
Secretary, Metropolitan Chicago Synod



Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council Meeting

Friday – June 3, 2022
Zoom & In Person

Meeting Minutes

Synod Council Officers

Curry, Rev. Yehiel – (Southwest) - (Bishop) [‘25]
Henderson, Mr. Terry – (Southwest) - (Vice President) [‘25]
NewberryWhite, Ms. Yvette – (South) - (Treasurer) [‘23]
Clausen, Rev. Erin – (Near West) - (Secretary) [‘25]

Synod Council Members

Adamczewski, Ms. Kristina (Near West) [‘25]..... excused
Aimonette, Rev. Amy O. (West) [‘23]
Arnesen, Ms. Nancy (West) [‘25]
Christensen, Rev. Erik Christensen C. (Northeast) [‘23]
DeLeon, Ms. Jennifer, Chicago (Central) [‘23]..... excused
Glombicki, Rev. Jason (Central) [‘23] excused
Jones, Mr. Rodger L. – Bethel (West), Chicago (Central) [‘23]
Katschke-Goss, Deacon Tracy (North) [‘23]
Langlois, Mr. Robert (Northwest) [‘25]
Linstrom, Rev. Timothy (North) [‘23]
Lohafer, Rev. Joel (Northwest) [‘25]
Pérez, Mr. Iván – (Central) [‘25]
Post, Rev. JoAnn (Northeast) [‘23] excused
Rojas-Banda, Rev. Maria (Near West) [‘25]
White, Rev. Lester (South) [‘25]
Willett Jr., Mr. Charles – (Southwest) [‘23]
Willey, Mr. Paul S. (Northwest) [‘23]
Worringer, Rev. Eric R. (Northeast) [‘23]
Yucha, Rev. Joseph P. (West) [‘23] resigned

Guests

Chris Neptune, Dean

Synod Staff Members

Rev. Robert E. Biekman (*Director of Evangelical Mission*)
Rev. Wyvetta Bullock (*Associate to the Bishop – Southwest Conference*)
Rev. Anna Ernst (*Youth Ministry – part-time*) - excused
Rev. Sunitha Mortha (*Associate to the Bishop – West and centra Conferences*)
Rev. Kyle Severson (*Associate to the Bishop – North and Nearwest Conferences*)

- Rev. Kathy Nolte (*Associate to the Bishop – Central and Southwest Conferences*) - excused
- Rev. Josh Ebener (*Latinx Strategy Coordinator part-time*)
- Mr. Tom Anderson (*Business Manager*) - excused
- Rev. Josh Evans (*Director of Communications*)
- Ms. Heather Haynes – (*Executive Assistant to the Bishop*) - excused
- Ms. Nancy Gaby Valladolid – (*Receptionist & Synod Photographer*) -excused

Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council Meeting Minutes

Opening Devotion Mr. Rodger Jones

Mr. Rodger Jones opened the meeting with devotions. President Terry Henderson called the meeting to order at 9:09am with a quorum.

Staff Reports

- Rev. Robert E. Biekman (*Director of Evangelical Mission*)
- Rev. Wyvetta Bullock (*Associate to the Bishop – Southwest Conference*)
- Rev. Anna Ernst (*Youth Ministry part-time*)
- Rev. Kyle Severson (*Associate to the Bishop – North and Nearwest Conferences*)
- Rev. Kathy Nolte (*Associate to the Bishop – Northwest Conference*)
- Rev. Josh Ebener (*Latinx Strategy Coordinator part-time*)
- Rev. Josh Evans (*Director of Communications*)
- Ms. Heather Haynes (*Executive Assistant to the Bishop*)
- Ms. Nancy “Gaby” Valladolid (*Receptionist/Photographer*)
- Rev. Sunitha Mortha (*Associate to the Bishop – West and Central Conferences*)
- *Synod Assembly Update
- Mr. Tom Anderson (*Business Manager*)

Written reports were posted to google groups. Staff members who were present had the opportunity to highlight parts of their reports.

Gabi Valladolid will be going on maternity leave soon. Her position will be covered by an intern, who in the meantime.

Consent Agenda Bishop Curry

- SAM requests

**Secretary Clausen moved and Dcn. Tracy Katschke-Goss seconded:
MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council adopt the consent agenda as amended.
VOTE: Motion as presented.
S.C.22.07.24 ADOPTED**

Prior to motion or vote, Bishop Curry briefly outlined the process of Synodically Authorized Ministry and why these are included in the consent agenda. Specialized ministry applications were pulled from the consent agenda for discussion and representation in the minutes.

- Specialized Ministry application(s)

Secretary Clausen moved and Treasurer NewberryWhite seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council appoint Deacon Steven Dickens to specialized ministry as Volunteer Coordinator at Kindred Hospice.

VOTE: Motion as presented.

S.C.22.07.25 ADOPTED

- Interim Ministry application(s)

Secretary Clausen moved and Mr. Charles Willett seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council extend a synod council call to Rev. Cherise Jensen to Gloria Dei, Northbrook.

VOTE: Motion as presented.

S.C.22.07.26 ADOPTED

Report of the Treasurer Treasurer NewberryWhite

Tom Anderson, business manager, is in the process of converting to a new accounting system. The council will receive more complete financial reports when this is complete and they are available.

Report of the Secretary Secretary Clausen

- Minutes – June 3, 2022

Secretary Clausen moved and Treasurer NewberryWhite seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council adopt the minutes of the June 3, 2022 synod council meeting as presented.

VOTE: Motion as presented.

S.C.22.07.27 ADOPTED

Report of the Vice President Vice President Henderson

Vice Presidents continue to meet monthly, and they have been discussing Churchwide Assembly.

Rev. Joel Lohafer volunteered for devotions for the next meeting in October.

Report of the Bishop Bishop Curry

Bishop Curry requests that the council mark their calendars for October 7/8 as the synod council retreat instead of later in the month.

- Personnel Manual Change

The synod council updated the personnel manual in 2021. Since then, Juneteenth has been declared a national holiday, and Bishop Curry has been giving the staff the day off. He now wishes to update the personnel manual for consistency.

Secretary Clausen moved and Treasurer NewberryWhite seconded:
MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council approve Juneteenth as a paid holiday for staff, consistent with the personnel manual last updated in 2021.
VOTE: Motion as amended.
S.C.22.07.28 ADOPTED

• Synod Assembly Evaluation

There has not been a full evaluation of the synod assembly. Bishop Curry invites the council to give a one-word evaluation of how we are feeling about the synod assembly: throwback – energetic & engaging; engaged worship, sobering blanket exercise; loved a one day assembly; grateful to be in person; energetic; welcoming – especially having the choir sing in multiple languages; most diverse; blanket exercise continuing to make an impact; dinner – people enjoyed it and stayed for it.

Drawbacks: Tight space; want the tables back; reminder that when we are planning events that are in-person only, we are leaving some people out.

Synod staff is working on ensuring that we have a formal evaluation in the future.

• 2023 Synod Assembly

Next year we'll be at the Q Center in St. Charles. This will include some transportation issues. Following that, we're hoping to find a location that is more suitable for the whole synod. However, this will be a good interim space given our short timeline until the next assembly.

Other business

Secretary Clausen moved and Dcn. Katschke-Goss seconded:
MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council move into executive session at 9:44am.
VOTE: Motion as amended.
S.C.22.07.29 ADOPTED

Executive session closed at 9:49 am.

Closing Prayer.....

Vice President Henderson closed the meeting at 9:50am, and Rev. Eric Christensen ended the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Erin E Clausen
Secretary, Metropolitan Chicago Synod



**Metropolitan Chicago
Synod Council Meeting**
Saturday, October 8, 2022
In Person

Meeting Minutes

Synod Council Officers

Curry, Rev. Yehiel – (Southwest) - (Bishop) [‘25]
Henderson, Mr. Terry – (Southwest) - (Vice President) [‘25]
NewberryWhite, Ms. Yvette – (South) - (Treasurer) [‘23]
Clausen, Rev. Erin – (Near West) - (Secretary) [‘25]

Synod Council Members

Adamczewski, Ms. Kristina (Near West) [‘25]
Aimonette, Rev. Amy O. (West) [‘23] excused
Arnesen, Ms. Nancy (West) [‘25] excused
Christensen, Rev. Erik Christensen C. (Northeast) [‘23]
DeLeon, Ms. Jennifer, Chicago (Central) [‘23]
Glombicki, Rev. Jason (Central) [‘23]
Jones, Mr. Rodger L. – Bethel (West), Chicago (Central) [‘23]
Katschke-Goss, Deacon Tracy (North) [‘23]
Langlois, Mr. Robert (Northwest) [‘25]
Linstrom, Rev. Timothy (North) [‘23]
Lohafer, Rev. Joel (Northwest) [‘25] excused
Pérez, Mr. Iván – (Central) [‘25]
Post, Rev. JoAnn (Northeast) [‘23]
Rojas-Banda, Rev. Maria (Near West) [‘25]
White, Rev. Lester (South) [‘25] excused [administrative leave]
Willett Jr., Mr. Charles – (Southwest) [‘23]
Willey, Mr. Paul S. (Northwest) [‘23]
Worringer, Rev. Eric R. (Northeast) [‘23] excused

Guests

None present

Synod Staff Members

Rev. Wyvetta Bullock (*Associate to the Bishop – Southwest Conference*)
Rev. Anna Ernst (*Youth Ministry – part-time*) - excused
Rev. Sunitha Mortha (*Associate to the Bishop – West and centra Conferences*)
Rev. Kyle Severson (*Associate to the Bishop – North and Nearwest Conferences*)
Rev. Kathy Nolte (*Associate to the Bishop – Central and Southwest Conferences*)
Rev. Josh Ebener (*Latinx Strategy Coordinator part-time*) – excused
Mr. Tom Anderson (*Business Manager*) - excused

Rev. Josh Evans (Director of Communications) - excused
Ms. Heather Haynes – (Executive Assistant to the Bishop)
Ms. Nancy Gaby Valladolid – (Receptionist & Synod Photographer) - excused

Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council Meeting Minutes

Opening Devotion Mr. Terry Henderson

Vice President Henderson opened the meeting with devotions. He then called the meeting to order at 9:19am with a quorum.

Orientation.....Erin Clausen

Secretary Clausen gave a brief introduction and orientation of the council's work together.

Staff Reports

Rev. Wyvetta Bullock (Associate to the Bishop – Southwest Conference)

Rev. Bullock shared briefly about her role and the congregations to whom she relates.

Rev. Anna Ernst (Youth Ministry part-time)

Rev. Ernst is not at the retreat to provide a report.

Rev. Sunitha Mortha (Associate to the Bishop – West and Central Conferences)

Rev. Mortha shared briefly about her role and the congregations to whom she relates. A question was raised regarding how the council and synod office might support congregation and rostered leaders in transition, especially around finances. A connection between rostered deacons and lay deacons and the role each plays in the church. This may be a good retreat question for the next year.

Rev. Kyle Severson (Associate to the Bishop – North and Nearwest Conferences)

Among other things, Rev. Severson reported that the synod office is transitioning away from individual ordinations to quarterly ordinations. The Metropolitan Chicago Synod currently has 30 first call leaders since 2019. No Word & Sacrament candidates assigned to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod are currently awaiting call. There are 5 candidates awaiting call outside of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. We have 3 Word & Service candidates assigned to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod who are currently awaiting call.

Conversation for the future – is there a denominational or synod strategy for helping congregations and candidates connect? There has been some discussion about this in the Conference of Bishops. This discussion needs to include all of: seminary, congregations, synod, and Conference of Bishops.

A Synod Authorized Ministry retreat is upcoming to support SAMs in different and creative ways.

Rev. Kathy Nolte (Associate to the Bishop – Northwest Conference)

Rev. Nolte reported some highlights from her ministry with congregations. She lifted up ways the staff is trying to be imaginative in their accompaniment of congregations. One of these is a 3 Pathways document to share with congregations when congregations begin to discern about

whether they can continue in ministry. This document is being reviewed prior to publication. Answering a question about whether synod staff is engaging around property disposition in the city of Chicago, Rev. Nolte and Bishop Curry explained that congregations take actions on many matters prior to synod involvement, so typically the synod inherits problematic situations. The synod never desires to be responsible for property or simply to sell property.

Rev. Josh Ebener (Latinx Strategy Coordinator part-time)
Rev. Ebener is not at the retreat to provide a report.

Mr. Tom Anderson (General Manager)
Mr. Anderson’s job description has shifted from “Business Manager” to “General Manager.” Rev. Bullock’s portfolio and hours are shifting to do some of the DEM work which Rev. Biekman had done before his resignation on August 31, 2022. Other aspects of this will be covered by Tom Anderson, the Bishop, and Heather Haynes until the synod has a new DEM.

Rev. Josh Evans (Director of Communications)
Rev. Evans is not at the retreat to provide a report, but his written report is available on the google group.

Ms. Heather Haynes (Executive Assistant to the Bishop)
Ms. Haynes shared that the synod received 7 applications for Fund For Mission grants. The committee intends to have those awarded by Nov 1, 2022. Ministry on the Margins received 2 applications, which also will be awarded by Nov 1.

Ms. Nancy “Gaby” Valladolid (Receptionist/Photographer)
Ms. Valladolid is not at the retreat to provide a report.

Consent Agenda Bishop Curry

- Retirement
- On Leave From Call
- Disability

**Secretary Clausen moved and Treasurer NewberryWhite seconded:
MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council adopt the consent agenda as presented.
VOTE: Motion as presented.
S.C.22.10.30 ADOPTED**

Report of the Treasurer..... Treasurer NewberryWhite

Treasurer NewberryWhite explained that the synod office is in the midst of transitioning to a new accounting system, so the synod council does not have the same detailed reports as previously presented. Tom Anderson is doing an excellent job with the transition, but this takes a lot of time. The council will see a detailed reports in the future. Treasurer NewberryWhite lifted up mission support – the synod has received 49% of what was projected to have receive by the end of the year, about 9% lower than projected. The report before the council does not

include synod assembly costs, which will be addressed later in this meeting. The synod has not yet drawn on the authorized management fee from our investment accounts. We budget for a loss of \$150,000 that would be covered by this management fee if or when it becomes necessary.

• Synod Assembly

Bishop Curry reports that before the pandemic, it was not uncommon to have a \$30,000 deficit in synod assembly. He asks the council to consider a strategy to address this issue and subsidize the synod assembly at the needed rate. The council may need to consider using reserve funding as part of this strategy. We may be strategic about using reserve funding and also asking congregations who can give more to give more. We also will need to be strategic in addressing costs. One question is whether the synod pays for hotel rooms for council members. Bishop Curry wants these questions to be a priority, because people are responding to the synod assembly. This year, the synod budgeted for 250 people; total assembly attendance ended up over 400. It will be important for the synod to continue to subsidize congregations that need financial assistance so that they can continue to engage.

In light of all of these realities, Tom Anderson will provide 3 scenarios regarding specific funds and dollars for the January council meeting, so the council may vote at that time.

The synod council will need to also consider what style and format of synod assembly we want to have. Many voices in the synod have strong opinions about how the assembly should be structured, and synod staff do not have the space in their portfolios to make this a priority. Thus, the synod council, Bishop, and staff need to consider how to structure things moving forward.

Report of the Secretary Secretary Clausen

Secretary Clausen reported that Rev. Joe Yucha resigned from his position on the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council, since he took a call and moved outside of this synod.

The 2022 Metropolitan Chicago Synod adopted amendments to the synod's governing documents, which Secretary Clausen provided to the ELCA Office of the Secretary. The meeting of the Churchwide Council to ratify the amendments will take place on November 11, 2022. Following ratification, the amendments will go into effect immediately.

• Minutes – July 23, 2022

Secretary Clausen moved and Treasurer NewberryWhite seconded:
MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council adopt the minutes of the July 23, 2022 synod council meeting as presented.
VOTE: Motion as presented.
S.C.22.10.31 ADOPTED

• Synod Assembly Minutes – June 4, 2022

Secretary Clausen moved and Dcn. Tracy Katschke-Goss seconded:
MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council adopt the minutes of the 2022 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly as presented.
VOTE: Motion as presented.
S.C.22.10.32 ADOPTED

Report of the Vice President Vice President Henderson
Vice President Henderson provided a brief report of the Churchwide Assembly.

Report of the Bishop Bishop Curry

- Synod Assembly

Bishop Curry and the synod staff are currently discerning a chair for the 2023 assembly. They are also looking at ways to be able to provide a stipend or contract for this person, as the responsibilities are quite large and time consuming.

- Mission Development / Mosaic

Secretary Clausen moved and Treasurer NewberryWhite seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council extend a synod council call Rev. Manoj Gunthoti as a mission developer of previously named site Mosaic, Chicago.

VOTE: Motion as presented.

S.C.22.10.33 ADOPTED

No additional funding is needed at this time, as the congregation of Mosaic transferred all of their assets to this new ministry. The Synod Council had also previously designated New Mission money for Mosaic, but that money is not needed to be utilized at this time. When a DEM has been called, we will have that person reach out to Churchwide to restart the previously approved mission funding. The new ministry will have an ethnic-specific Indian and immigration focus. Bishop Curry reassured the council that there has also been exhaustive outreach for pastoral care to the former members of Mosaic.

- DEM & Communications positions

Bishop Curry has identified a candidate of choice for the Director of Evangelical Mission. It is a churchwide position, so the churchwide unit is doing their due diligence. The Bishop is hoping for a December 1 start date.

The Communications Director, Rev. Josh Evans, will complete his ministry with the synod on October 31. Bishop Curry is looking for someone who will fit very well with the current staff. The Bishop hopes that this position might be filled quickly.

- Domestic Companion Synod

The Bishop and staff have engaged with the synod's domestic companion synod, Florida-Bahamas Synod, on a 3-year plan. The Metropolitan Chicago executive committee will meet with the Florida-Bahamas executive committee in Florida during the last week of November. Next year, the synods will offer a joint holy land pilgrimage opportunity. Unfortunately, the synod is not in a position to offer scholarships to go on the Holy Land trip. Bishop Curry suggested that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod may be able to receive the Florida-Bahamas delegation during our synod assembly time.

- Constitution Working Group

Secretary Clausen moved and Iván Pérez seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council approve the appointment of Mr. Frank Imhoff, Ms. Carol Rehtoris, and Rev. Michael Stadie to the Constitution Review Committee with a 4-year term.

VOTE: Motion as presented.

S.C.22.10.34 ADOPTED

The Constitution Review Committee currently has serving Secretary Erin Clausen, Rev. Jason Glombicki, and Mr. John Nicholas.

- Specialized Ministry Call

Secretary Clausen moved and Treasurer NewberryWhite seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council extend a synod council call to Rev. Julie Bolyn to specialized ministry as Executive Director of the Kaleidoscope Institute.

VOTE: Motion as presented.

S.C.22.10.35 ADOPTED

Secretary Clausen moved and Paul Wiley seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council extend a synod council call to Rev. Myron M. Erickson to specialized ministry as a Chaplain at Westminster Place.

VOTE: Motion as presented.

S.C.22.10.36 ADOPTED

- Salem Lutheran Church

Secretary Clausen moved and Mr. Iván Pérez seconded:

MOTION: The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council, with regard to Salem Lutheran Church, 318 E 74th Street, Chicago, exercise the power of †S13.24 of the synod constitution to “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....

d. 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.

e. The Synod Council determines that it is necessary for this synod to protect and preserve the congregation’s property from waste and deterioration.

VOTE: Motion as presented.

S.C.22.10.37 ADOPTED

The council reviewed written documentation regarding the current situation at Salem, Chicago. Bishop Curry explained briefly what administrative leave means for a rostered leader and how this provides financial protection for the leader. There was also a brief discussion of what this motion means, in terms of synod preservation. Bishop Curry has a meeting scheduled with the

congregation on the Monday following this retreat, to let Salem’s members know the outcome of this vote. Should the council vote in favor of this motion, the congregation would have the option to appeal at the next synod assembly.

Other business

There was no other business.

Closing Prayer.....Bishop Curry

Vice President Henderson closed the meeting at 11:51am. Mr. Charles Willett volunteered to lead devotions at the January meeting. A full schedule of meetings will be sent out by Heather.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Erin E Clausen
Secretary, Metropolitan Chicago Synod



JUNE 1, 2022 THROUGH APRIL 1, 2023

Rev. Jerrold R. Swanson

MUNDELEIN – The Reverend Jerrold Richard Swanson, of Mundelein, passed away on Thursday morning, June 23, 2022, with his wife, Sandra at his bedside. He was born on October 19, 1931, to Leslie and Myrna Swanson in Minneapolis. And subsequently lived in various parts of the Midwest throughout his career.

Pastor Swanson's life was firmly grounded in Christian ministry. Built on both Law and Gospel instilled in him at an early age, he was a graduate from Concordia College in Milwaukee and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. His constant witness to Christ's love and forgiveness was shared with everyone he met in the congregations where he was pastor, to the families he met while serving as a Chaplain for the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War, and by many others he encountered in his Christian walk through life. He had an undying passion for preaching, from pulpits to living rooms, and profoundly loved the Lutheran liturgy. Throughout his life, he had a creative spirit when developing new programs in the congregations he served. Jerrold had a thirst for knowledge, and loved reading with hobbies including working on a number of different handyman projects around the house and working in his computer room.

Jerrold loved his family. He recently celebrated his 68th Wedding Anniversary with Sandra and was recognized for 65 years of ministry as an Ordained Pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Jerrold now joins the great cloud of witnesses of those who went before him. Living now, without him are his wife, Sandra Swanson of Mundelein; his brother Gene (Jaynell) Swanson; four children, Wendy Haase, Heidi (Rob) Furr, Dawn (Michael) Rickman, Kurt (Marc Hauptert) Swanson; grandchildren, Luke, Jacob, Sandra, Martin, Robert, Jonathan, Rebekah, Michael; and great-grandchildren, Melody, Evelyn, Aria, Emery, Brynn, Eloise and many nieces and nephews.

A Private Memorial Service is being held for the Immediate Family at an undisclosed time and location. Anyone wishing to express their condolences to the family may send a card to Kristan Funeral Home, 219 W. Maple Ave., Mundelein, IL 60060. The family wishes to thank the many care providers from Journey Care Hospice, Kristan Funeral Home, and Pastor Ann Gonyea for their ministry and service.

Rev. Miltoria Bey Sangobiya

The Rev. Miltoria Bey Sangobiya was born on November 17, 1945, in Chicago, Illinois. She transitioned on October 13, 2022, strong in faith and filled with gratitude and love right until the end. Miltoria was a strong woman who lived her life with a fierce love of God and those she loved. A loving mother to La'Tisa Taylor and Rafael Taylor. Daughter to Fredonia Bey, sister to Renee Norton, Ira Bey (Margo), Denise Bonds (G. Tyrone), Fredonia Bean, Michelle Bey, and LaRue Bey. Miltoria also has many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and great-great nieces and nephews.

Miltoria was always called to serve but it was not initially as a Pastor. She served as a caseworker at the Howard Area Community Center assisting individuals and families in the greater Rogers Park area of Chicago. She created a group counseling program at a women's shelter in Rogers Park and led weekly meetings with young mothers. She served as the Executive Director of the Chicago Uptown Ministry. She also worked for National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice as a project coordinator, traveling throughout the southern United States to raise awareness in the faith community of poultry workers' issues.

Miltoria attended Chicago Theological Seminary. Her ministry started working as a hospice chaplain. She later served as Senior Pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Gary, Indiana. She also served as Interim Pastor at First Lutheran Church in Harvey, Illinois, and most recently at Christ the Mediator Lutheran Church in Chicago. She loved helping people whether they were family, friends, or people within the communities where she lived and served. She enjoyed preaching, ministering to people, and comforting them in their time of need. She was also there to celebrate with them in times of joy.

There will be a memorial service for Miltoria at Christ the Mediator Lutheran Church (3100 S Calumet Ave, Chicago,) on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at 10:00 am. Following congregation COVID-19 safety protocols, those attending in person are asked to wear a face mask and self-screen for symptoms in advance.

REPORT OF NECROLOGIST CONTINUED...

Rev. Stephen H. Swanson

The Rev. Stephen Hjalmar Swanson, age 77, of Lombard. The very beloved husband of Maureen Ann Swanson, nee Stimetz; loving father of Sascha (Colm Cahill) Swanson, Lucas (Sarah) Swanson, Frank Marlovits, Bridget (Jim) Koefeldt, Kathleen (Brad) Cooper; dear son of the late Madelyn, nee Haasarud, and the late Rev. Stanley H. Swanson; always present and faithfully devoted grandfather of Brandon, Brittany, Logan, Lucas, Jack, Madeline, Hayes, Larkin; fond brother of Timothy (Susan) Swanson, Susan (Jay) Swartz, Rebekah (Mike) Wagner, Sarah (Paul) Bieber; uncle of many nieces and nephews. Beloved Pastor, dear friend and advocate for many.

Memorial Gathering Saturday November 5th, 9:00AM until time of service at 10:30AM, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 545 S. Ardmore Ave. Villa Park IL, 60181. In lieu of flowers memorials to Bethany College (Attn: Advancement Office 335 E. Swensson Street Lindsborg, KS 67456), ELCA Global Mission (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ELCA Gift Processing Center P.O. Box 1809 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009), or St. Paul Lutheran Church. Interment private. Funeral info: steuerlefh.com or (630) 832-4161.

Rev. Ernst L. Rex

Ernst Leroy Rex passed away December 4th, 2022 at the age of 71 in the comfort of his home in DeKalb.

Ernie was born on March 21, 1951 in East Chicago, IN to Edward and Ingeborg Rex. He grew up in Hammond, IN until he began attending high school at Concordia Milwaukee WI High School his sophomore year as part of God's calling him into ministry at a young age. After graduating and earning his Associates from Concordia Milwaukee, he earned his BA in Classical Studies from Indiana University. He would then attend Seminex in St. Louis, MO where he earned his MDiv and met his future wife, Doris Steinbach. They were married June 7, 1975, welcomed Nick on December 16, 1981; Andrew on July 20, 1984; and Inge on May 13, 1987.

He began his ministry as an intern at Zion Lutheran Church in Belvidere, IL. He was ordained on November 18, 1979 at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Elmhurst where he served until 1982. The family then moved to Jacksonville, IL where he served Faith Lutheran Church until 1987. The family then moved to Lily Lake where he served Grace Lutheran Church of Lily Lake for 27 years up to his retirement.

Ernie enjoyed his family, most specifically the sports and activities that his children and grandchildren participated in. He made almost every game, performance, and event. He was the carpool dad for countless of his children's friends whose parents couldn't pick them up in time. He especially loved babysitting grandkids and taking or picking them up from preschool/school. He created many new family traditions

that have continued, like the Indy 500 and the never-ending dad jokes.

He was a fiercely independent, compassionate, empathetic, reserved, loyal man who respected his Lord and Savior, and fought for his family and justice. He made time for everyone, as best he could, and was extremely selfless. He appreciated the humor and value of a good joke. He would endure struggle and strife if he thought it would bring freedom or peace to another. He served and shepherded the sheep of his congregation well. He was a devout Indiana University fan and a golf enthusiast. He liked to play racquetball, watch sports, and read no less than 2 books at a time. He loved studying family dynamics and started our family on a quest back to early Germany (through many spreadsheets) to find out about our family origins. He loved to tell stories. He was never dismissive of an answer. He challenged conventional thinking. He was a tough fighter (6 and 1/2 years of cancer) and he anchored our extended family through daily questions and bad dad jokes. All who met him were grateful for his example and legacy of faith. We pray that we all may steward our time and money well as we serve God in His Kingdom.

Ernie is survived by his loving wife, Doris (Steinbach) Rex; his children, Nick (Mandy) Rex, Andrew Rex, and Inge (Philip) Peterson; his grandchildren Emric Rex; David, Grace, & Karen Rex; Theda & Hank Peterson; his sister Elizabeth (Larry) Landfried; his brother Daniel Rex; his sisters-in-law Fern (Russ) Bowder;

Sandra (Gary) Lindsay; & Nancy Leonard; many nieces & nephews; great nieces and nephews; and a faith community that spans the country.

Ernie is preceded in death by his parents Edward & Ingeborg Rex and his father and mother-in-law Lorenz & Mary Ann Steinbach. Ernie's family is holding a memorial service in his honor on Thursday, December 15, at 11am at First Lutheran Church in DeKalb (324 N 3rd St., DeKalb, IL). There will be a visitation prior to the service starting at 9:30am. In lieu of flowers, a memorial can be sent to First Lutheran Church 324 N 3rd Street, DeKalb, IL 60115.

Rev. Paul L. Hayes

Paul L. Hayes, age 78 of Warrenville, passed away on December 29, 2022. Beloved husband of 55 years to Jane nee Johnson; loving father of Aaron (Michelle) and Andrew (Amy) Hayes; cherished son of the late Lyle and Dorothy Hayes; proud grandfather of Caleb, Benjamin, Ethan, Elijah, Ava and Vivienne; dear brother of Sandi (Robert) Teiken and Roland (Betsy) Hayes and brother-in-law of David Johnson; fond uncle of Eric, Karin, Tim, Emily, Carrie and Lindsay.

Originally from Harvard, Illinois, Paul earned his undergraduate degree from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, then attended Luther-Northwestern Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He also studied spiritual formation...

CONTINUED...

REPORT OF NECROLOGIST CONTINUED...

...at Creighton University. Paul served and ministered to many during his life-long career as a pastor.

Paul was an avid biker, enjoyed traveling, and spending time with his family and friends. A Memorial Service for Paul will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church (3S460 Curtis Avenue, Warrenville) on Saturday, January 7, 2023, at 1:00 pm with a brief time for visitation with the family beginning at 12:30 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Feed My Starving Children (fmssc.org), 401 93rd Ave NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433.

Rev. Warren L. Thummel

The Rev. Warren L. Thummel, age 90, died on Sunday, January 8, 2023, at Advocate Condell Medical Center. He was born January 23, 1932, in Sterling, IL, to Leroy and Helen (Longanecker) Thummel. He was a former resident of Glenview, Skokie, Grayslake, and has lived in Mundelein the past five years. He was a 1954 graduate of Augustana College, a 1958 graduate of the Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary in Maywood, IL, and served as Pastor at several Lutheran Churches in the Chicagoland area. Warren's life was shaped by his many passions including music, choir, travel, languages, and nature; and his love for camping + woodlore, diving, canoeing, cycling and storied conversation. He was a fervent ally and defender of the equality, dignity, and rights of all people, answering at great personal risk Dr. Martin Luther King's 1965 Call To March at Selma, Alabama, and again later, leading a unified front

of prominent clergy in 1977 against a proposed Nazi rally in Skokie, IL. He was a friend to many and stranger to no one. Pastor Warren Thummel is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Marji; two children, Leslie (John) Thummel-Peterson, Hans (Kathryn) Thummel; two grandchildren, Connor, and Julia; and his four sisters, Nancy Swanson, Jane Giddings, and Jacquelin Rylander and Martha Thummel. A visitation will be 10:00 a.m. until the funeral service at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 14, 2023 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1151 N. St. Mary's Road, Libertyville, IL 60048. Memorial contributions can be made to the American Diabetes Association, online at <https://diabetes.org/>, or by mail (with form) to P.O. Box 7023, Merrifield, VA 22116-7023; or to PADS Lake County at <https://www.padslakecounty.org/>.

Rev. Kenneth F. Pohlmann

Kenneth F. Pohlmann, 91, of Huntley, died peacefully on January 17, 2023. Ken was born June 4, 1931, in Beatrice, Neb., to George and Charlotte Pohlmann. He met Katharine Nielsen at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, and they were married June 8, 1952. A pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, he served two Iowa congregations—American, La Porte City, and Gloria Dei, Cedar Rapids—and three in Illinois—St. Andrew, Glenwood; Bethel, Palatine; and St. Matthew, Itasca. From 1979 to 1987, Ken served as director of confirmation ministry with the Division for Life and Mission in the Congregation of the American Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

Over the years, Ken enjoyed spending time with family, gardening, attending the opera, woodworking, solving crossword puzzles, reading, singing in the church choir and with the Prairie Singers, traveling and camping. He was very grateful that he lived a blessed and independent life, full of family and friends.

Ken is survived by his children, Kristine Stewart, Luther (Gisele) Pohlmann, and Andrea (Ken) Kulik, his grandchildren, James Stewart, Sarah Flick, Heidi (Seth) Trier, Eric (Kara) Pohlmann, Greg Pohlmann, Katharine Carlson, Kristofor Carlson, Kirstin (Matthew) Gonzalez, John Pohlmann, and Ryan Pohlmann, his 8 great-grandchildren, his son-in-law, Steve Carlson, his daughter-in-law, Vickie Pohlmann, and his special friend, Adele Wogstad, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Katharine Pohlmann, his children, Ruth Carlson, and Karl Pohlmann, his grandchildren, Timothy Pohlmann, and Alicia Stewart, and his siblings, Martha (Ervin) Haecker, Henry (Fern) Pohlmann, and Raymond (Marjorie) Pohlmann. Visitation will be Friday, January 27, 2023, from 10 a.m. to time of service 11 a.m. all at Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church, 10805 Main Street, Huntley.

Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made in Ken's name to the scholarship fund of Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa (wartburgseminary.edu/giving-opportunities).

Rev. Mark P. Bangert

Mark P Bangert, died on Sunday, February 12, 2023, after a brief hospitalization. He was a pastor, professor, musician, husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Mark was born in 1938 in Sheboygan, WI to Martin and Lonella Bangert. He was the youngest of three children growing up in a family whose lives revolved around music, especially church music, and service to the church and to the world.

He graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, and was ordained in 1965. He served congregations in Illinois and Missouri and taught at Concordia Seminary, St Louis, and Christ Seminary-Seminex before joining the faculty at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) in 1983. He earned his MA and PhD from the University of Minnesota. He was an accomplished musician and published widely in the area of church music. At the time of his death, Mark was writing a book on Martin Luther and music, A Divine and Most Excellent Gift.

Mark was the John H. Tietjen emeritus professor of pastoral theology: worship and music at LSTC where he taught courses in worship and music, served as dean of the chapel and director of the LSTC Chorus. In addition, he was parish choir director and Bach Choir Artistic...

CONTINUED...

REPORT OF NECROLOGIST CONTINUED...

...Director and scholar in residence at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saint Luke, Chicago. While one of his great passions was Bach's music, he tuned his knowledge of liturgical studies to include issues of culture and worship and the place and meaning of music in worship. His interest in ethnomusicology took him to Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Manila, Bali, Thailand, and India.

Mark and his beloved wife Kristi were married in 1985. She was the love of his life and survives him along with his dear children Gretchen Bangert (Michael Feldmann), Rachel (Timothy) Smith, and Christopher (Suzanne) Bangert, and stepchildren Sara (Patrick) Church and Jessica (Derek) Vogler; 14 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Mark was preceded in death by his parents, sister Elsa (William) Fischer, brother Martin (Carol) Bangert, and stepdaughter Martha Carr.

A funeral service will be held at 2:00 pm on Saturday, March 4, 2023, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 1218 West Addison Street, Chicago, IL 60613, with a reception following. There will be no visitation. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made in Mark's name to the music program at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church or to the scholarship fund of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, 810 Freeman Street, Valparaiso, Indiana, IN, 46383



CHANGES in the SYNOD ROSTER and CONGREGATIONS

Additions to the Clergy Roster by Ordination

The Rev. Katherine Ehlert

Lutheran Church of the Cross,
Arlington Heights

Deacon Annette Hernandez

Ascension Hospice
Christus Victor, Elk Grove Village

The Rev. Kyle Johnson

Our Saviour, Lansing

Deacon Karen Katamay

Redeemer, Park Ridge

The Rev. Alex Molina

St. Andrew, West Chicago

The Rev. Christina Montgomery

First Trinity, Chicago

Deacon Erie Sara

The Night Ministry, Chicago

The Rev. Ole Schenk

United, Oak Park

The Rev. Aneel Trivedi

Messiah, Park Ridge

The Rev. Paul Willey

Mission Developer

The Rev. Michael Willis

Rejoice, Geneva

Additions to the Roster by Rite of Reinstatement

The Rev. Melanie Potuznik
Christus Victor, Elk Grove Village

Additions to the Clergy Roster by Rite of Reception

The Rev. Myron Erickson
Westminster Place, Evanston

The Rev. Manoj Gunthoti
Mission Developer

Resignations

David William Wegner 1/19/23

Removed From the Roster by Death

The Rev. Jerrold Swanson 06/23/22
The Rev. Miltoria Sangobiyi 10/12/22
The Rev. Stephen Swanson 10/20/22
The Rev. Ernst Rex 12/4/22
The Rev. Paul Hayes 12/29/22
The Rev. Warren Thummel 1/8/23
The Rev. Kenneth Pohlmann 1/17/23
The Rev. Mark Bangert 02/12/23

Retirements

The Rev. Fredric Kinsey 6/1/2022
The Rev. John Gerike 4/30/2022

The Rev. Dr. Pongsak Limthongviratn
6/17/2022

The Rev. Robert Klonowski 6/1/2022

The Rev. Robin Brown 7/1/2022

The Rev. Kim Beckmann 9/1/2022

The Rev. Sue Allen 3/31/2023

The Rev. James Andrews 1/8/2023

The Rev. Dale Beutler 7/1/2022

The Rev. James Gullickson 12/31/2022

The Rev. Gwendolyn Miller 2/1/2023

Deacon Pat Gerber 1/20/2023

The Rev. Timothy Brown 5/1/2023

The Rev. Kathie Bender Schwich 3/24/2023

Transfers In

The Rev. Kelly Nieman Anderson
from the Greater Milwaukee Synod
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

The Rev. Carol Braun
From the Northwest Wisconsin Synod
Christ, Clarendon Hills

The Rev. David Bruner
From the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
Knox Presbyterian, Naperville

The Rev. James Frank
From the East Central Synod of Wisconsin
Retired

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CHANGES IN SYNOD ROSTER AND CONGREGATIONS CONTINUED...

The Rev. Hannah Hawkinson

From the Indiana-Kentucky Synod
St. Timothy, Skokie

The Rev. Timothy Housholder

From the Northern Illinois Synod
Atonement, Barrington

The Rev. Anna-Kari Johnson

From Southwest California Synod

The Rev. Krista Zimmerman

From the Greater Milwaukee Synod
Interim Ministry – Bethlehem, St. Charles

Transfers Out

The Rev. John Berg

Greater Milwaukee Synod

The Rev. Dennis Bushkofsky

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod

The Rev. Josh Evans

Upstate New York Synod

The Rev. PJ Malin

Northwestern Minnesota Synod

The Rev. Sarah Rohde

Saint Paul Area Synod

The Rev. Steven Srock

Minneapolis Area Synod

Dcn. Christine Yucha

North Carolina Synod

The Rev. Joseph Yucha

North Carolina Synod

Congregations Closed

Faith, Brookfield

St. Stephen, Antioch

Congregations Removed

Salem, Chicago

St. Timothy, Chicago



Treasurer's Report

YVETTE M. NEWBERRYWHITE

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. ...Whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ."

— 1 Peter 4:10, 11b



In Jesus' Name, we step boldly into realizing God's glory and power in the world, sharing financial resources, teaching and learning, manifesting God's love, being community near and far, and serving others.

For the fiscal year ended January 31, 2023, the Synod received congregational benevolence in the amount of \$2,527,382 equaling 87% of the anticipated budgeted amount, slightly below the prior year. We continue to be blessed in your stewardship and our partnership together -- congregations, individuals, and our partners -- in ministry in this great Synod.

The Synod Council this year distributed \$1,497,439 – 59% of unrestricted congregational benevolence received-- to program ministry support of our partner institutions. 9 percent of this sum went to organizations and agencies in budgeted grants. The remainder of partner institutional support represents our tithe of 50 percent of received benevolence to the ministry of the larger Church in the amount of \$1,268,793 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 \$1,553,390.

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 \$10.6 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 loss on investments of approximately \$1,046,073. 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 2024-year budget, presented for approval at this 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.

In Jesus' Name, we step boldly into realizing God's glory and power in the world, sharing financial resources, teaching and learning, manifesting God's love, being community near and far, and serving others. We are adapting every day to changes in our lives and faith communities, aided by God's never changing grace. We bring our gifts, not only our financial ones, but also our talents, so that together we make disciples proclaiming the Gospel and doing justice with the strength that God supplies. Good stewards, yes, by God's grace. The Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is so thankful for your continued partnership in God's mission.

Yvette NewberryWhite

Yvette M. NewberryWhite

Synod Treasurer, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA



2024 Proposed Budget Notes

Budgeted revenues were reduced by \$100,000 to reflect the downward trend in Mission Support received from congregations. Interest income is projected higher based on the current market outlook.

- Synod Personnel – the total for Salary and Benefits was increased by 2.0% to accommodate salary increases for the fiscal year.
- The Authorized Management Fees were increased to \$215,883, representing 2.0% of our endowment balances at year end. This management fee utilizes a portion of our earnings on the endowment funds to supplement the funding of our operations.
- Partner Ministries were reallocated to assign a .25% share of mission support revenues for a newly designated partner, Refugee One. A corresponding adjustment of .25% was deducted from Lutheran Social Services to make their share 1.50%. The overall percentage for Partner Ministries remains unchanged.
- Most other expenses categories remain the same, with the understanding that cost increases will require close attention to continue our trend of operating within overall budget constraints.

Proposed Operating Budget

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024: 2/1/24 - 1/31/25

	<u>2024 Proposed</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>2022 Budget</u>	<u>2022 Actuals</u>
Congregational Benevolence	2,800,000	2,900,000	2,900,000	2,539,446
Interest and Dividends	<u>70,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>28,098</u>
Total Operating Revenue	2,870,000	2,950,000	2,940,000	2,567,544
Authorized Management Fees	215,883	173,075	150,000	150,000
Total Revenue	<u>\$3,085,883</u>	<u>\$3,123,075</u>	<u>\$3,090,000</u>	<u>2,717,544</u>

EXPENSE

Mission Support to ELCA	1,400,000	1,450,000	\$1,450,000	1,268,793
Partner Ministries	251,290	260,040	\$260,356	228,645
Campus Ministry 3.00%	84000			
Lutheran School of Theology 1.50%	42000			
Wartburg Seminary 1.25%	35000			
Lutheran Social Services 1.50%	42000			
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries .50%	14000			
Lutheran Volunteer Corps .25%	7000			
Bethel New Life .25%	7000			
Refugee One .25%	7000			
Companion Synod .25%	7000			
Region 5 Assessment	3512			
Region 5 Outdoor Camps	825			
Illinois Conference of Churches	1953			
Global Mission	4,475	4,475	\$4,475	
Justice Team	600	600	\$600	
Outreach	1,200	1,200	\$1,200	1,377
Worship	4,000	4,000	\$4,000	2,801
Metro Chicago Youth	11,000	11,000	\$11,000	12,095
Candidacy	24,000	24,000	\$24,000	24,072
Education & Support	24,000	24,000	\$24,000	5,272
Hearing Impaired Ministry	9,400	9,400	\$9,400	5,625
Diakonia Ministry	1,200	1,200	\$1,200	
Ecumenical Relations	2,500	2,500	\$2,500	1,342
Synod Communication	2,500	2,500	\$2,500	2,150
African Descent Team	10,000	10,000	\$10,000	
Latinx Team	10,000	10,000	\$10,000	
Anti-Racism Team	15,000	15,000	\$15,000	1,563
Synod Personnel	1,060,968	1,039,410	\$1,006,019	1,052,298

Occupancy	32,750	32,750	\$37,750	26,200
Office Operations	89,900	89,900	\$84,900	76,507
Insurance, Audit, & Legal	78,500	78,500	\$78,500	68,221
Staff Expenses	29,100	29,100	\$29,100	22,037
Synod Council	8,500	8,500	\$8,500	11,493
Synod Assembly	15,000	15,000	\$15,000	15,000
Total Operating Expenses	3,085,883	3,123,075	\$3,090,000	2,825,491
Surplus (Deficit)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$107,947)



Certified Public Accountants
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which comprise the statements of financial position as of January 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of activities, cash flows and functional expenses for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

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, 2023 and 2022, and its changes in net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

MEMBER
IMPACT
INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF
PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

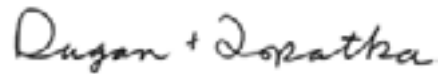
- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgement, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Independent Accountant's Report
To the Synod Council
Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Page three

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. Schedules 1 through 3 are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are 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

Warrenville, Illinois
April 24, 2023

Statement of Financial Position

JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 337,424	\$ 368,212
Cash held for others	327,487	310,745
Investments	1,652,819	2,290,678
Property held for sale	2,759,345	830,000
Benevolence receivable	-	12,064
Other receivables	200	6,609
Notes receivable - Current	8,372	16,050
Deposits and prepaid expenses	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
Total current assets	<u>5,105,647</u>	<u>3,854,358</u>
LONG-TERM ASSETS:		
Notes receivable	45,867	85,008
Investments	10,605,548	11,242,633
Property and equipment, net	<u>1,618,623</u>	<u>1,672,499</u>
Total non-current assets	<u>12,270,038</u>	<u>13,000,140</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 17,375,685</u>	<u>\$ 16,854,498</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Statement of Financial Position

JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022 / EXHIBIT 1

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 12,288	\$ 942
Beneficiary grants payable	174,767	364,815
Custodial and transmittal funds	<u>327,487</u>	<u>310,745</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>514,542</u>	<u>676,502</u>
<u>NET ASSETS</u>		
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS:		
Designated	10,794,149	11,820,107
Undesignated	3,831,670	2,258,125
NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	<u>2,235,324</u>	<u>2,099,764</u>
Total net assets	<u>16,861,143</u>	<u>16,177,996</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 17,375,685</u>	<u>\$ 16,854,498</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Statement Activities

JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022 / EXHIBIT 2

EXHIBIT 2

METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

	2023			2022		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT:						
Benevolences from member congregations	\$ 2,527,382	\$ -	\$ 2,527,382	\$ 2,691,947	\$ -	\$ 2,691,947
Contributions	103,893	393,587	497,480	11,035	822,015	833,050
Contributed property	1,885,000	-	1,885,000	830,000	-	830,000
Interest and dividends	421,128	-	421,128	495,179	-	495,179
Other	1,538	-	1,538	1,872	-	1,872
Net assets released from restrictions	258,027	(258,027)	-	346,809	(346,809)	-
	5,196,968	135,560	5,332,528	4,376,842	475,206	4,852,048
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(1,046,073)	-	(1,046,073)	363,569	-	363,569
Total revenues, gains and other support	4,150,895	135,560	4,286,455	4,740,411	475,206	5,215,617
EXPENSES:						
Program	2,925,204	-	2,925,204	3,357,677	-	3,357,677
Management and general	678,104	-	678,104	652,565	-	652,565
Total expenses	3,603,308	-	3,603,308	4,010,242	-	4,010,242
Change in net assets	547,587	135,560	683,147	730,169	475,206	1,205,375
NET ASSETS, Beginning of year	14,078,232	2,099,764	16,177,996	13,348,063	1,624,558	14,972,621
NET ASSETS, End of year	\$ 14,625,819	\$ 2,235,324	\$ 16,861,143	\$ 14,078,232	\$ 2,099,764	\$ 16,177,996

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Statement of Cash Flows

JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022 / EXHIBIT 3

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Benevolences, grants and contributions received	\$ 3,044,873	\$ 3,539,264
Investment income received	421,128	495,179
Grants paid	(2,239,966)	(2,434,895)
Cash paid to vendors and employees	<u>(1,457,500)</u>	<u>(1,119,817)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(231,465)</u>	<u>479,731</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of property and equipment	(13,926)	(16,090)
Purchases of property held for sale	(44,345)	-
Proceeds from sale of investments	650,000	250,000
Purchases of investments	(421,129)	(494,909)
Receipts from notes receivable	68,672	17,550
Issuance of notes receivable	<u>(21,853)</u>	<u>(15,837)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>217,419</u>	<u>(259,286)</u>
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(14,046)	220,445
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, Beginning of year	<u>678,957</u>	<u>458,512</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, End of year	<u>\$ 664,911</u>	<u>\$ 678,957</u>
RECONCILIATION OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in net assets	\$ 683,147	\$ 1,205,375
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	67,802	67,034
Loss on disposal of equipment	-	3,213
Donated property	(1,885,000)	(830,000)
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments	1,046,073	(363,569)
Decrease in assets -		
Benevolence receivable	12,064	12,380
Other receivables	6,409	15
Increase (decrease) in liabilities -		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	11,346	(18,992)
Custodial and transmittal funds	16,742	199,613
Beneficiary grants payable	<u>(190,048)</u>	<u>204,662</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>\$ (231,465)</u>	<u>\$ 479,731</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted	\$ 337,424	\$ 368,212
- held for others	<u>327,487</u>	<u>310,745</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>\$ 664,911</u>	<u>\$ 678,957</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Statement of Functional Expenses

JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022 / EXHIBIT 4

EXHIBIT 4

METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

	2023			2022		
	Program	Management and General	Total Expenses	Program	Management and General	Total Expenses
Salaries and housing allowances	\$ 357,125	\$ 316,696	\$ 673,821	\$ 323,277	\$ 310,600	\$ 633,877
Employee benefits and payroll taxes	219,507	194,657	414,164	208,350	200,179	408,529
Staff development	22,319	19,793	42,112	19,521	18,755	38,276
Grants	2,049,918	-	2,049,918	2,646,041	-	2,646,041
Meetings and conferences	26,493	-	26,493	1,178	-	1,178
Repairs and maintenance	15,578	12,040	27,618	14,059	13,507	27,566
Technology	18,499	16,405	34,904	16,816	16,157	32,973
Scholarships	66,217	-	66,217	26,700	-	26,700
Depreciation expense	35,935	31,867	67,802	34,187	32,847	67,034
Insurance	14,922	13,233	28,155	8,383	8,054	16,437
Professional fees	40,691	36,085	76,776	23,548	22,624	46,172
Utilities	28,770	25,513	54,283	8,163	7,843	16,006
Telephone	3,054	2,709	5,763	6,223	5,978	12,201
Printing and postage	6,671	5,916	12,587	10,080	9,685	19,765
Supplies	3,597	3,190	6,787	2,945	2,829	5,774
Youth events	14,345	-	14,345	2,250	-	2,250
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	3,651	3,507	7,158
Workshops	1,563	-	1,563	2,305	-	2,305
	<u>\$ 2,925,204</u>	<u>\$ 678,104</u>	<u>\$ 3,603,308</u>	<u>\$ 3,357,677</u>	<u>\$ 652,565</u>	<u>\$ 4,010,242</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

(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 April 24, 2023, 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.

Investments -

The Synod invests in the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust, ELCA Mission Plus Fund 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.

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. The Synod received \$1,885,000 and \$830,000 of donated property during the years ended January 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. The assets are held for sale, and once sold the proceeds are used in program activities.

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

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 -

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.

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.

Property Held for Sale -

Property held for sale consists of church buildings and land from congregations of the Synod which dissolved. Upon the dissolution of the congregations, the assets of the congregation reverted to the Synod which may hold or sell the property in accordance with its policies and procedures.

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

Leases -

The Synod determines if an arrangement is a lease or contains a lease at inception of the contract. For any operating leases with a term of over one year, the Synod records an operating lease right-of-use asset, and current and long-term operating lease liabilities in the statement of financial position.

Operating lease right-of-use assets and lease liabilities are measured based on the present value of future lease payments over the lease term at each lease's commencement date. As most of the Synod's leases do not specify their implicit rate, the Synod has elected a practical expedient to use the nominal yield, at lease inception, applicable to U.S. Treasury instruments with a maturity of similar length of the lease term.

Operating lease right-of-use assets include all fixed contractual lease payments and initial direct costs incurred by the Synod, less any lease incentives the Synod receives from the lessor. The Synod has elected a practical expedient to account for lease and non-lease components together as a single lease component. Only the fixed lease components are included in the right-of-use assets and lease liabilities. Additionally, the Synod has elected not to apply these lease accounting policies to leases with a term of one year or less at the commencement date.

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.

New Accounting Pronouncement -

Effective February 1, 2022, the Synod adopted ASU 2016-02, *Leases* (Topic 842) and subsequent amendments. Under ASU 2016-02, all of the Synod's equipment leases that have lease terms exceeding twelve months will now be required to be recognized on the statement of financial position as amortizable right-of-use assets accompanied by liabilities for the present value of the lease payments that the Synod is obligated to make in order to obtain control of the leased assets for the duration of each lease term.

Lease expense, under these amendments, will be recognized in different patterns depending on whether the underlying lease is an operating lease or a finance lease. Lease expense for operating leases will be recognized as a single expense using the straight-line method over the term of the lease, which includes options to renew the lease that the Synod is reasonably expected to exercise. Finance lease expense will consist of two components, interest expense on the lease obligation payable and straight-line amortization of the right-of-use asset.

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

New Accounting Pronouncement - (Continued)

Implementation of these amendments is reflected using the modified retrospective method as of February 1, 2022. Consequently, the 2022 financial statements and disclosures do not reflect the effects of implementing the new lease standard. During 2023, the Synod did not have any operating leases that exceeded a one year term and would result in recording a lease asset and lease liability. Upon implementation, the Synod elected an available package of practical expedients permitted under the transition guidance included in ASU 2018-11, *Leases (Topic 842) – Targeted Improvements* that permits the Alliance to carry forward the historical lease identification, classification and initial direct costs associated with the Synod’s pre-existing leases. The implementation of the amendments did not materially impact the Synod’s change in net assets or cash flows.

(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, 2023 was as follows:

	Balance January 31, 2022	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance January 31, 2023
Transmittal funds -				
World Hunger	\$ 39,360	\$ 123,326	\$ 118,314	\$ 44,372
Disaster Relief	(1,370)	23,482	19,694	2,418
LSSI and other MCS	209,570	14,417	14,837	209,150
ELCA Missionaries	5,788	20,794	24,872	1,710
SOLI Grant	-	8,000	-	8,000
Other miscellaneous ELCA	12,006	2,040	-	14,046
Total transmittal funds	<u>265,354</u>	<u>192,059</u>	<u>177,717</u>	<u>279,696</u>
Custodial funds -				
Let’s Talk	\$ 4,309	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,309
Mission Partners	493	-	-	493
Augustana / Henze	15,589	-	-	15,589
Medill Ave RE Taxes	25,000	2,400	-	27,400
Total custodial funds	<u>45,391</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,791</u>
Total	<u>\$ 310,745</u>	<u>\$ 194,459</u>	<u>\$ 177,717</u>	<u>\$ 327,487</u>

(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:

	<u>January 31,</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Environmental Concerns Loan Fund:		
Non-interest-bearing loans with monthly payments of \$55 to \$400 and due in various date in 2024.	\$ 5,465	\$ 13,795
Reformation Lutheran note:		
Promissory installments note, bearing interest at 3%, with monthly interest and principal payments of \$760. The loan was closed out during 2023 when the congregation closed and the building was transferred to the Synod.	-	42,278
Orihuea, West Medill Ave, Chicago note:		
Promissory installments note, bearing interest at 6%, with monthly interest and principal payments of \$591 through July 31, 2026.	22,814	27,398
Reformation Church Chicago:		
Non-interest bearing loan. Payment on the loan will be made once the Church building is sold.	2,357	2,357
Redeemer North Avenue – Mosaic:		
Non-interest bearing loan. The loan was closed out during 2023 when the congregation closed and the building was transferred to the Synod.	-	13,480
Rejoice Geneva:		
Non-interest bearing loan. Payment on the loan will be made once the Church building is sold.	10,000	-
First Luther – Fullerton:		
Non-interest bearing loan. Payment on the loan will be made once the Church building is sold.	11,853	-
Individual note:		
Non-interest-bearing loan with monthly payments of \$250 starting upon receiving full-time call.	<u>1,750</u>	<u>1,750</u>
	54,239	101,058
Less - Current portion	<u>(8,372)</u>	<u>(16,050)</u>
	<u>\$ 45,867</u>	<u>\$ 85,008</u>

(4) INVESTMENT:

The funds' market values are as follows:

	<u>January 31,</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Pooled investment account	\$ 7,374,789	\$ 7,816,237
Mutual funds	3,230,759	3,426,396
Money market	<u>1,652,819</u>	<u>2,290,678</u>
	<u>\$ 12,258,367</u>	<u>\$ 13,533,311</u>

(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:

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.

(5) FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS: (Continued)

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 on January 31, 2023 and 2022.

Mutual Funds: Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Shares in mutual funds held by the Synod are open-ended mutual funds that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily net asset value and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Synod are deemed to be actively traded.

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.

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, 2023			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Investments -				
Equity funds -				
U.S. large cap	\$ 606,745	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 606,745
U.S. mid/small cap	432,476	-	-	432,476
International	225,121	-	-	225,121
	<u>1,264,342</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,264,342</u>
Fixed income funds -				
Balanced stocks and bonds	720,687	-	-	720,687
High yield bonds	183,100	-	-	183,100
Intermediate long-term bonds	739,913	-	-	739,913
Intermediate short-term bonds	322,717	-	-	322,717
	<u>1,966,417</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,966,417</u>
Total mutual funds	<u>3,230,759</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,230,759</u>

(5) FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS: (Continued)

<u>Description</u>	<u>Assets at Fair Value as of January 31, 2023</u>			
	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pooled investment account	-	-	7,374,789	7,374,789
Money market funds	1,652,819	-	-	1,652,819
Total investments	\$ 4,883,578	\$ -	\$ 7,374,789	\$ 12,258,367

<u>Description</u>	<u>Assets at Fair Value as of January 31, 2022</u>			
	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Investments -				
Equity funds -				
U.S. large cap	\$ 669,195	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 669,195
U.S. mid/small cap	424,394	-	-	424,394
International	243,044	-	-	243,044
	1,336,633	-	-	1,336,633
Fixed income funds -				
Balanced stocks and bonds	770,466	-	-	770,466
High yield bonds	191,512	-	-	191,512
Intermediate long-term bonds	798,201	-	-	798,201
Intermediate short-term bonds	327,584	-	-	327,584
	2,087,763	-	-	2,087,763
Total mutual funds	3,424,396	-	-	3,424,396
Pooled investment account	-	-	7,816,237	7,816,237
Money market funds	2,290,678	-	-	2,290,678
Total investments	\$ 5,715,074	\$ -	\$ 7,816,237	\$ 13,531,311

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

(5) FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS: (Continued)

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, 2023 and 2022:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 7,816,237	\$ 7,195,032
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(730,332)	358,232
Investment income reinvested	<u>288,884</u>	<u>262,973</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 7,374,789</u>	<u>\$ 7,816,237</u>

(6) PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:

Property and equipment consisted of the following:

	<u>January 31,</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Church properties:		
Land	\$ 278,000	\$ 278,000
Buildings	952,000	952,000
Land	105,964	105,964
Building and improvements	1,314,323	1,306,413
Office equipment and furnishings	147,197	147,197
Automobile	40,000	40,000
Computer equipment and software	<u>113,827</u>	<u>107,811</u>
	2,951,311	2,937,385
Less - Accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,332,688)</u>	<u>(1,264,886)</u>
Property and equipment, net	<u>\$ 1,618,623</u>	<u>\$ 1,672,499</u>

Depreciation and amortization expense for the years ended January 31, 2023 and 2022 amounted to \$67,802 and \$67,034, respectively.

(7) LEASE COMMITMENTS:

The Synod leases various office and security equipment under short term leases. Rent expense was \$8,613 and \$14,719 for the years ended January 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. Cash paid for short term leases was \$8,613 and \$14,719 for the years ended January 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

(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.

Designated funds consisted of the following:

	<u>January 31,</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Fund for Mission of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod	\$ 6,592,978	\$ 7,283,928
Deaf Ministry	10,530	8,400
Property management	22,719	22,719
Bishop's Discretionary	13,071	9,927
Conference Deans	21,026	23,453
Synod Mission on the Margins	2,483,975	2,752,509
Leader Development Fund	36,237	56,730
Congregational support	1,167	570
Stewardship Initiative	60,409	78,709
LSSI Community Redevelopment Grant Fund	119,303	119,303
New missions	663,803	648,798
Campus ministry	<u>768,931</u>	<u>815,061</u>
Total designated net assets	<u>\$ 10,794,149</u>	<u>\$ 11,820,107</u>

(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:

	<u>January 31,</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Environmental Concerns Loan Fund	\$ 55,502	\$ 47,172
Deaf ministry	5,869	5,869
Church improvements	475,998	491,366
Asian Ministry	154,540	157,477
Latinx Ministry	318,426	340,426
Grants Program - Carlmark	12,345	11,345
SOLI Grant	8,000	8,000

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

	<u>January 31,</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Region 5 Grant	-	15,600
Southwest Conference SAWC	106,170	119,423
New Missions	104,466	155,830
African American Strategy	70,441	73,441
Ashburn LC Proceeds	37,549	-
Scholarships	223,505	224,505
Grace Lutheran Seminary	130,489	138,664
Campus Ministries	34,360	63,872
Emerson Trust	51,890	51,890
AGCS	61,881	61,881
Lutheran Disaster Response Fund	3,000	3,000
Zimmer Trust	12,802	11,912
Portico Retirement Fund	118,091	118,091
Redeemer Estate Gift	<u>250,000</u>	-
Total net assets with donor restriction	<u>\$ 2,235,324</u>	<u>\$ 2,099,764</u>

(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, 2023 and 2022 approximated \$74,293 and \$75,307, respectively.

(11) LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY:

	<u>January 31,</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Financial Assets -		
Cash	\$ 337,424	\$ 368,212
Short-term investments	1,652,819	2,290,678
Note's receivable – current	8,372	16,050
Benevolence receivables	-	12,064
Investments	<u>10,605,548</u>	<u>11,242,633</u>
Total financial assets	12,604,163	13,929,637
Less: Donor imposed restrictions, included in financial assets	(1,905,011)	(1,849,559)

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, 2023 AND 2022

	2023		2022	
	Actual	Budget (unaudited)	Actual	Budget (unaudited)
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	\$ 1,268,793	\$ 1,450,000	\$ 1,355,850	\$ 1,450,000
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois	50,752	50,750	54,138	58,000
Lutheran Campus Ministries	76,128	87,000	81,207	87,000
Companion Synod	6,344	7,250	-	-
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago	25,376	43,500	27,069	29,000
Wartburg Seminary	25,376	36,250	27,069	29,000
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center	12,688	14,500	13,535	14,500
Bethel New Life	6,344	7,250	6,767	7,250
Holy Family Ministries	6,344	-	283	7,250
Lutheran Volunteer Corps	6,344	7,250	6,767	7,250
Concordia Place	6,344	-	6,767	7,250
Regional Center for Mission	3,831	3,512	3,512	3,831
Illinois Conference of Churches	1,950	1,953	1,953	1,950
Outdoor Ministries	825	825	825	825
Total gifts and grants	<u>\$ 1,497,439</u>	<u>\$ 1,710,040</u>	<u>\$ 1,585,742</u>	<u>\$ 1,703,106</u>

The 2023 budgeted figures presented are as approved in the minutes of the Synod Assembly held on April 23, 2022.

The 2022 budgeted figures presented are as approved in the minutes of the Synod Assembly held on April 24, 2021.

METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
SCHEDULE OF SYNODICAL TREASURY STANDING COMMITTEE EXPENSES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Committees:		
Ministry	\$ 34,969	\$ 38,276
Synodical Mission	109,161	201,955
Worship	2,801	3,108
Youth and Young Adult Ministry	14,345	2,250
Global Mission	<u>-</u>	<u>591</u>
	<u>\$ 161,276</u>	<u>\$ 246,180</u>

SCHEDULE 3

METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
SCHEDULE OF OPERATIONS BY FUND
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

	2023			2022		
	Operating Fund	Restricted & Designated Funds	Total	Operating Fund	Restricted & Designated Funds	Total
REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT:						
Benevolences from member congregations	\$ 2,527,382	\$ -	\$ 2,527,382	\$ 2,691,947	\$ -	\$ 2,691,947
Contributions	3,038	447,186	450,224	296,154	536,896	833,050
Interest and dividends	26,560	394,568	421,128	28,633	466,546	495,179
Other	1,538	-	1,538	1,872	-	1,872
Interfund management fee	150,000	(150,000)	-	-	-	-
Total revenues, gains and other support	2,708,518	691,754	3,400,272	3,018,606	1,003,442	4,022,048
EXPENSES:						
Program	2,352,578	572,626	2,925,204	2,589,132	768,545	3,357,677
Management and general	678,104	-	678,104	652,565	-	652,565
Total expenses	3,030,682	572,626	3,603,308	3,241,697	768,545	4,010,242
Change in net assets before contributed property and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(322,164)	119,128	(203,036)	(223,091)	234,897	11,806
Contributed property and other assets from church closings	1,932,256	-	1,932,256	169,375	660,625	830,000
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(36,546)	(1,009,527)	(1,046,073)	20,785	342,784	363,569
Total change in net assets	1,895,710	(1,009,527)	886,183	190,160	1,003,409	1,193,569
NET ASSETS, Beginning of year	1,573,546	(890,399)	683,147	(32,931)	1,238,306	1,205,375
NET ASSETS, End of year	2,258,125	13,919,871	16,177,996	2,291,056	12,681,565	14,972,621
	\$ 3,831,671	\$ 13,029,472	\$ 16,861,143	\$ 2,258,125	\$ 13,919,871	\$ 16,177,996





CONFERENCES

Central
Near West
North
Northeast
Northwest
South
Southwest
West

*In Christ you also are being built
together into a dwelling place
for God by the Spirit.*

— Ephesians 2:22

Central

Submitted by Rev. Jason S. Glombicki, Interim Conference Dean

The central conference made significant strides over the past year, despite a changing landscape. While our conference may be small, with only about a dozen congregations, we are a diverse group covering various Chicago neighborhoods on the west and northwest sides. Our focus this last year has been on re-envisioning, reconnecting, and renewing.

Our most important change came after our conference dean, Reverend Carla Thompson Powell, was selected to be the next Director of Evangelical Mission (DEM) for the Synod in January. Following this exciting news, the Reverend Jason Glombicki was elected as our interim dean until the synod assembly. This change in leadership prompted us to re-envision our conference and come up with new strategies to engage within our unique context.

In February, we were able to gather in person for the first time since the pandemic began. This was a crucial step for us to reconnect and discuss our work together. We strategized on how to move forward and put in place new plans to gather more regularly. As the pandemic subsides, we are eager to engage with each other in deeper ways.

We are also excited about the renewal happening in our synod! In July, our conference continued to engage with the process of creating a new Synod Authorized Worshiping Community (SAWC) on North Ave, where Mosaic Church formerly gathered. We are thrilled to welcome a Swahili-speaking community to our conference, and we are grateful to Bishop Yehiel Curry and our synod DEM, Reverend Carla Thompson Powell, for their support and leadership.

As we look ahead, we are filled with optimism about what God has in store for us. We are in the process of discerning who will be the best leader as our conference dean, and we plan to continue gathering both in person and virtually. We are also looking for new opportunities to share God's love, justice, and peace throughout our conference.

In closing, we believe that our work in re-envisioning, reconnecting, and renewing has positioned us for success in the future. We thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to the year ahead with hope and enthusiasm. Thanks be to God!

Near West

For much of the past year, conference leaders and congregations continued to navigate the transition from pandemic ministry into an altogether new and different landscape of church work. Responding to this context, our conference continued to emphasize stated goals of building relationships and providing consistent opportunities for meaningful support and connection for our colleagues, rostered leaders, lay leaders and conference partners.

We held in-person conference meetings on August 18, September 8, and November 9 of 2022 to share and process the joys and burdens experienced by our rostered leaders. On February 9, 2023, we organized a visit to the Garfield Park Conservatory. On March 9, 2023, we held a virtual meeting and presentation from Rev. Dr. Brooke Petersen on trauma in our congregations. Finally, our conference is finding ways to encourage and support a new youth initiative led by Rev. Maria Rojas and Misión Luterana Unidad in Berwyn.

We look forward to our participation in the synod's Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging module with the North conference on May 18, 2023 in addition to future opportunities to strengthen connections, relationships and support within our conference.

Respectfully,

Rev. Chris Honig

Rev. Heidi Torgerson

North

Report Submitted by Rev. Eric Schaefer, North Conference Dean

2022 began with the residual struggles of COVID. Churches in our conference continued to struggle with COVID at the beginning of the year. Then as Spring arrived what little hesitancy dissolved as people adapted to a new norm. The churches in the area all expressed similar thoughts – how do we rebuild. We shared ideas at the beginning of the year. Many thoughts were the same. It was a mix of what are we not doing again, what can we build back and what new things can we start up. As the year progressed the churches in the area found a new rhythm with the Spirit's guidance.

NORTH CONFERENCE REPORT CONTINUED...

Our conference meetings attendance continued to grow. Typically 60-75% attendance. We had several speakers from the area share their gifts or news about their organization. We welcomed new leaders to our conference. We had some great discussions at some meetings and had time for spiritual reflection at others.

During our conference meetings, I've heard from some that there were new community outreach initiatives and support for those on the margins. Our conference has used our email chain to ask questions to see how other churches are approaching a topic and we've also been able to share connections and resources. We continue to grow closer as we use our conference meetings to build connections and resources.

I am thankful for the times we are able to gather and the commitment of the churches in this conference to support each other. Through our continued conversations, sharing our ideas, connections, and our resources with each other, we continue to be the body of Christ in the North Conference in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod.

Northeast

The Northeast Conference includes 28 congregations and one campus ministry, spanning north from downtown Chicago to Northbrook, all the way from Lake Michigan to I-294.

The called and retired deacons and pastors of our conference aim to meet regularly, about once a month, during the program year (September through May). We seek to provide space to build collegiality, friendships, and mutual support in the highs and lows of ministry together.

As of this report, our conference has gathered on:

- September 28, 2022, at Irving Park Lutheran Church in Chicago, hosted by Pastor Erin Bouman.
- October 26, 2022, at Grace Lutheran Church in Evanston, hosted by Pastor Laura Harris-Ferree.
- November 30, 2022, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Park Ridge, hosted by Pastor John Schumacher and Director of Music Ministries Anne Krentz Organ.

- December 21, 2022, at St. Philip Lutheran Church in Glenview, hosted by Pastor Josh Evans.
- January 25, 2023, at Ann Sather Restaurant in Chicago, for a special Epiphany brunch, courtesy of remaining synod grant funds given to conference deans during COVID-19.
- February 15, 2023, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Northbrook, hosted by Pastor Charisse Jensen.

We look forward to our remaining gatherings this year on:

- March 22, 2023, at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Park Ridge, hosted by Deacon Karen Katamay.
- April 25, 2023, at Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern University, hosted by Pastor Deanna Langle.
- May 31, 2023, at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church in Skokie, hosted by Pastor Hannah Hawkinson.

The Northeast Conference continues to be served by two co-deans, with one to represent suburban congregations and the other to represent Chicago congregations. Pastor Kelly Faulstich continues to serve as the Chicago co-dean, and at our September meeting, Pastor Josh Evans accepted the nomination to serve as the suburban co-dean, following the departure of Pastor Chris Neptun for his new call in Libertyville.

In addition, this year also saw a transition of synodical representation with Pastor Kathy Nolte now relating to the pastoral needs of our conference, following the departure of Pastor Robert Biekman in August of last year.

Co-deans Faulstich and Evans have continued to split the duties of dean, with Pastor Evans taking lead on communications and Pastor Faulstich working on programming and facilitating guest presenters. We aim to welcome new leaders to our conference as they arrive and wish them well as they depart, and we welcome the reminder or news of such transitions.

Finally, at the time of writing, our conference will soon seek a new suburban co-dean, with the departure of Pastor Evans for a new call in another synod.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Josh Evans

(he/they)

Rev. Kelly Faulstich

(she/her)

Northwest

Submitted by Deacon Tracy Katschke-Goss, Co-Dean

After taking a summer hiatus, the Northwest Conference resumed monthly gatherings in the fall of 2022. During the meetings, the conference has spent time connecting, sharing and collaborating on ideas, as well as catching up with each other. Pastor Kathy Nolte, who is the Synod relator for the Northwest Conference, has been a consistent and wonderful presence for the pastors and deacons by not only providing Synod updates, but also in offering pastoral advice. During the January 2023 meeting, the conference elected Pastor Katherine Ehlert from the Lutheran Church of the Cross as the conference co-dean. By electing a co-dean in the new year, the terms of both Northwest Conference deans will be different, thus allowing for consistent leadership when the term of one dean ends.

There is so much for the Northwest Conference to look forward to in 2023! The conference has begun enjoying bi-monthly collegial luncheons, which have been great settings to relax and connect! These luncheons take place in lieu of a monthly meeting and usually occur at a restaurant in the Northwest suburbs. At each luncheon, lots of laughter and conversation ensues! Both conference deans have been working with Pastor Kathy Nolte and Pastor Sunitha Mortha with the Metro Chicago Synod to schedule the first DIBS module work for the conference. Co-dean Pastor Katherine Ehlert has begun planning a conference-wide Feed My Starving Children service project, which will take place on Saturday, May 20th. On that day, 168 spots have been reserved at the Schaumburg facility for the conference to pack meals to be shipped to areas in need worldwide! Discussions have also begun regarding the start of a conference-wide Bible study or hosting an off-campus event, such as attending a Schaumburg Boomers game together this summer!

South

Submitted by Pastor Nancy Goede, Augustana Lutheran Church of Hyde Park & Lutheran Campus Ministry

The South Conference met several times during the year, mostly in person, occasionally on Zoom, to share what is happening in our congregations. A highlight of the year was lunch with Bishop Curry. Calvary Lutheran and Rev. Gary Cox graciously hosted this - thank you! Rev. Carla Thompson-Powell joined the bishop in talking about the different kinds of new communities that are springing up around the synod.

Southwest

The Southwest Conference of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod has continued to meet regularly over the past year, in-person and virtually. We continue to have several rostered ministers as well as lay leadership involved in each of our meetings.

We continue to be supportive of a new mission start in our area. Several conference congregations have chosen to financially support this mission and remain invested in its development. We look forward to conversation with MCS's new Director for Evangelical Mission, Rev. Carla Thompson Powell, as this mission start takes shape over the next year.

In February 2023 our conference welcomed Rev. Sunitha Mortha, Associate to the Bishop and Director of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging to lead several conference rostered ministers in the first module of the synod's new DIB program.

Rev. Nathan Klein and Rev. Chris Wogaman continued serving as co-deans of Southwest Conference. We are thankful for Rev. Dr. Wyvetta Bullock serving as synod relater to our conference.

Our conference celebrated the ordination of Rev. Dr. Kyle Johnson, M. Div., who is pastor at Our Saviour Lutheran, Lansing.

West

Pastor Anders Nelson remained one of the two co-deans of the conference this year. They were joined by Pastor Julie Grafe as Pastor Charles Plummer took a call in another conference. The conference is thankful to Pastor Plummer's service in the midst of a difficult climate of ministry, and we look forward to Pastor Grafe's leadership in these coming months.

Conference gatherings continued to occur in a hybrid model swapping between Zoom and in-person gatherings as needed. This also included additional sessions with Pr. Sunitha Mortha and the Central conference as we continued our journey through the Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DIB) modules, including the second module which took us to Rio's in Addison for a delicious meal and meaningful storytelling. As we look towards completing the set of modules in the coming year, we're excited by the prospect of taking this work engaged at a conference level and translating that to the work in our own communities. Additionally, the year was capped with our annual Advent white elephant gift exchange and fellowship gathering hosted by Trinity (Warrenville).

The highlight of our conference's work this year has been finding ways to engage collaborative ministry within the conference. Some of the major pieces that have been highlighted this year have been participating in Feed My Starving Children's "Feed The Need" effort to pack more than 800,000 meals thanks to the efforts of Bethlehem (St. Charles), Geneva (Geneva), Good Shepherd (Naperville), Our Saviors (Naperville), St. Mark's (Aurora) and St. Timothy's (Naperville), the continued efforts of the Food Distribution program housed at St. Andrew (West Chicago) and regularly supported by Geneva (Geneva), Trinity (Warrenville), and Bethlehem (St. Charles), and the West conference's participation in synod-wide Lenten sock and underwear drive. Even beyond what's highlighted here, additional collaborative ministry occurred throughout the conference in this last year as well. We look with hope towards the future of collaborative and innovative ministry and service in the West conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Reverend Anders Nelson

West Conference Co-dean
Metropolitan Chicago Synod

Reverend Julie Grafe

West Conference Co-dean
Metropolitan Chicago Synod

MINISTRIES

**Companion Synod
Advisory Group**

Deaf Ministry

Youth Ministry Network

Companion Synod Advisory Group

Members

Rev. Elaina Salmon, Chair

Rev. Sunitha Mortha, Staff

Rev. Mary Appelt-Graves

Rev. Chris Buresh

Ms. Shemiah Curry

Rev. Josh Evans

Ms. LaToya Gray

What is a Companion Synod?

Companion synod relationship of the ELCA connect Lutheran churches throughout the world with ELCA synods and congregations. These relationships are concrete expressions of the communion and fellowship with the more than 140 Lutheran member churches of The Lutheran World Federation. The 65 synods of the ELCA have more than 120 companion synod relationships.

Who is our companion?

The Metropolitan Chicago Synod companion synod relationship is with the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA). The Central Diocese is in Gauteng Province. It is highly urban, home to the cities of Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Soweto.

How do we live out this relationship?

In its global mission work and companion synod relationships, the ELCA is committed to the concept and practice of accompaniment. Accompaniment is defined as walking together in a solidarity that practices interdependence and mutuality. The ELCA lives out accompaniment in relationships with global companions, striving to share God's love and participate in God's mission together:

- Mutually: All of us have gifts to support God's mission. There is no mission *to*, only mission *with* and *among*.
- Inclusively: We seek to build relationships across boundaries that exclude and divide.
- Vulnerably: Just as Jesus became vulnerable to us, we open ourselves to others.
- Empowering: We seek to identify and correct imbalances of power, which may mean recognizing and letting go of our own.
- Sustainably: To ensure local ministries last for a long time, we seek to embed mission in ongoing relationships and communities.

News from the Central Diocese

Rev. DJ Prins, the Executive Secretary of the Central Diocese, has shared that the Central Diocese is working hard to recover from the effects and impact of COVID-19. During the pandemic, their churches were closed for many months, except for funerals. This had impacts on faith communities and the financial realities of the Central Diocese. For months, pastors and diocesan leaders went unpaid. Now, churches are fully open and are working on reengaging congregants. The Diocesan Office remains at reduced hours as a result of reduced income levels and inability to pay full monthly salaries for their office workers.

Another challenge for our companions has been the load sharing of electricity across the country. There are hours each day when electricity is cut off to conserve and share energy.

Support from Metropolitan Chicago Synod

As a sign of our accompaniment with the Central Diocese, especially in light of the financial challenges, the MCS sent a gift of \$3,977.77 in December 2022 for use at the bishop's discretion.

Companion Congregation-Parish relationships

When a MCS delegation traveled to the Central Diocese in 2017, then-Bishop Rakuba of the Central Diocese proposed developing congregation to parish relationships. Initial steps were made to match MCS congregations and Central Diocese parishes and develop guidelines for these relationships. With changes in leadership in Metro Chicago Synod and in the Central Diocese, and then with the onset of the pandemic and the lasting impacts on our siblings in the Central Diocese, the congregation-parish relationships are currently stalled.

Looking Forward

Bishop Curry has been invited to visit the Central Diocese. Plans for that visit in November 2023 will be in development in the coming months.

Continued Prayers

We invite your prayers for our companions in the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa.

Respectfully submitted,

MCS Companion Synod Advisory Group

Rev. Elaina Salmon

Chair

Rev. Sunitha Mortha

Staff

Deaf Ministry

2022 was another year of uncertainty with the worldwide pandemic as many plans continued to be paused, delayed, and canceled for the Metropolitan Chicago Synod (MCS) Lutheran Deaf Ministry (LDM). In-person Monthly Deaf Bible Studies continued to be suspended and was shifted to a virtual setting until it became completely canceled out at year's end. However, in-person interpreted worship services continued.

The MCS LDM grieved the losses of three older members who passed away during 2022. Unfortunately, with the deaths in our MCS LDM family, the ministry shrunk into a much smaller population where other active members moved out of state or no longer wanted to participate.

Due to a much smaller MCS LDM population, the focus has been shifted to utilizing interpreted worship services in-person and live streams and promoting deaf awareness through American Sign Language courses. We have assisted MCS churches by providing interpreters for special occasions.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Downers Grove have been continuing their interpreted worship services in-person and through live streams held on social media platforms every Sunday during the 2022 year. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Schaumburg also continued their interpreted worship services three Sundays monthly in-person and through live streams on Facebook.

We continue to be blessed and thankful for the continued willingness from Rev. Tim Robertson from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church to step in and provide emergency services, hospital calls, funerals, etc. alongside with an interpreter for any deaf member requesting a pastoral visit. We are also thankful for the first year of our new friendship and partnership in ministry with Pastor Erin Clausen from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.

Annual Sign Language classes continued to be offered at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Fall 2022 and Spring 2023. There were about 45 people who participated on learning basic sign language. Participants were from all over the Chicagoland area including the Schaumburg area, MCS churches, and Prince of Peace. Classes were taught by Nathan Zastoupil.

We continue to have our ongoing biggest challenge that Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing individuals are scattered all across the Metropolitan 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.

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. We remain grateful that Metro Chicago Synod continues to support this ministry.

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 a variety of deaf organizations across the world. Previous years, we have sent offerings to Africa to assist a young Deaf boy so that he could go to school with an interpreter. More recently, we have given annual offerings to Haiti Deaf Academy that provide educational programs to children and families.

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 Lutheran Church uses wide screens to project their services to make it easier for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing to follow worship. They also have WiFi assisted listening devices. We can offer suggestions to work with your members so their worship experience is enhanced.
 - Prince of Peace Lutheran Church has a "hearing loop" T-Coil 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 Nathan Zastoupil and he will provide 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 interested in learning sign language, please contact Nathan Zastoupil and he will provide you information on the next upcoming sign language classes.
 - 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,

Nathan Zastoupil and Bonnie Osborne

Co-Chairs, Lutheran Deaf Ministry

Youth Ministry Network

Dear Metro Chicago Synod,

Hello! In 2022 I continued in my role as MCS Youth Ministry Network Coordinator. My contract position on synod staff is 5 hours/week, and I am still called full-time as associate pastor at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Elmhurst.

Monthly meetings of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod youth ministry network continued to be held mostly on Zoom in 2022. Because of our busy schedules and often relatively far geographic distance from each other, we have determined that this meeting plan continues to work well for us as a network. Meeting attendance is open to ALL youth ministry leaders in the synod – rostered or non-rostered, full-time, part-time or volunteer – with most of our focus on (though not limited to) youth in 6th – 12th grades. Currently, meetings continue to be held on Thursday mornings on the 3rd or 4th Thursday of the month from 10:30 am – noon. I have also continued to host a few evening meetings and recognize the importance of hosting these regularly so that especially volunteer youth leaders who work during the day are able to participate.

If you would like to be on the MCS YMNet email list to receive direct communications from me, please email me at aernst@mcselca.org. Another great way to stay in touch with what's going on at the Network is to join our public Facebook group, which you can do at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/chicagoymnet>

The network continues to work well together as a team! There tends to be a significant amount of turnover in youth ministry positions, and we're always glad to welcome new colleagues. We enjoy our monthly meetings, during which we're committed to working together to collaborate on events and activities, as well as praying for and supporting each other when times get challenging in any way for us in our congregations or lives. We attended ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza conferences together in Minneapolis in 2022 and just this past February in Anaheim, CA (with some of us participating online) for fellowship and continuing education.

In March and November 2022, we hosted two overnight youth lock-ins at Enchanted Castle Restaurant and Entertainment Center in Lombard. Everyone had a blast being back eating pizza and playing games together until the wee hours of the morning. At the November lock-in, we also made cards for Chicago-based organization Cardz for Kidz to be delivered to hospital patients and veterans. In July 2022, thanks to the work of many MCS YMNet leaders, a few congregations got together at Loyola University for an in-person multi-day overnight gathering for the Multicultural Youth

Justice event, a hybrid virtual/in-person experience which was planned by ELCA leaders as a result of the 2022 Youth Gathering's cancellation. Youth participated in service projects, learning activities, and really enjoyed getting to know each other and dive more deeply into their faith. 5 congregations and 35 people (25 youth and 10 adults) participated in this event. On the weekend of January 18-20, 2023, we returned to Lutherdale Bible Camp in Elkhorn, WI for the first Metro Chicago Synod youth retreat since February 2020! We brought together approximately 120 youth and 40 leaders from 15 congregations to learn, play and enjoy spending time together under the theme "The Ten Commandments."

Looking ahead, we're very excited to announce the Metro Chicago Synod Youth Gathering for grades 8-12 to be held Friday evening, October 20 – Sunday morning, October 22, 2023 at Tinley Park Convention Center. This event will serve as an exciting "kick-off" opportunity to bring our synod youth together who are eligible to attend the summer 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans! As I write this report, we're still in the early stages of planning the event, but we hope to share more information about registration, cost, activities and special guest speakers at least initially by the end of the school year and then in more detail over the summer.

Speaking of New Orleans, I would like to once again thank Deacon Tracy Katschke-Goss, who will be our ELCA Youth Gathering Synod Champion as we look towards summer 2024. Deacon Tracy will be sharing more information about the New Orleans gathering registration process as soon as it becomes available. We are very excited that registration fees have been waived for the Multicultural Youth Gathering (MYLE), a pre-gathering event for youth of color or whose primary language is not English, and for the tAble, a pre-gathering event for youth with disabilities, and we look forward to having great MCS representation at both of these events! For more information about everything youth gathering, you can go now to elca.org/gathering.

In closing, I would like to once again offer a special thank you to Bishop Curry, Tom, Gaby, Julie, and the entire synod staff for their support of the MCS Youth Ministry Network. It is our joy to learn, serve, and enjoy life alongside all of the youth of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. We thank you for your support of them and of our network! Again, if you have any questions or would like to get involved with the network, please contact me at the email address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Anna Ernst Roper

MCS Youth Ministry Leaders Network Coordinator

aernst@mcselca.org

On Behalf of the Youth Ministry Leaders Network of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod

PARTNERS in **MINISTRY**

1517 Media

Advocate Health Care

Concordia Place

ELCA Federal Credit Union

Holy Family Ministries

Lutheran Campus Ministries

**Lutheran Immigration and
Refugee Services (LIRS)**

**Lutheran Outdoor
Ministries Center**

**Lutheran Social Services
of Illinois**

Lutherdale Ministries

Mission Investment Fund

Portico Benefits

Region V

**Synodical Women's
Organization**

*For we are God's fellow workers.
You are God's field, God's building.*

— 1 Corinthians 3:9

10 Things to Know about 1517 Media Spring 2023

1. The *All Creation Sings* family of resources continues to expand, including the *Assembly Song Companion to All Creation Sings*, the *Ensemble Setting of Holy Communion (Setting 12)*, and the soon-to-be-released braille edition. We continue to add online resources that can help you use this liturgy and song supplement to *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* to enliven your congregation's worship. augsburgfortress.org/allcreationsings
2. Kids will find new ways to explore and learn about Lutheran worship with the newly updated *Kids Celebrate* series, featuring topics like Worship, Creation, the Trinity, and Hymns and Songs. *A Time to Say Goodbye: A Booklet for Kids about Funerals* helps kids understand what happens during a Lutheran funeral. augsburgfortress.org/for-kids
3. This summer we invite kids to learn what it means to become members in God's world with *Operation Restoration*, a new Vacation Bible School based on Daniel Erlander's timeless works. This flexible VBS complements other Erlander resources: *A Place for You* (Holy Communion), *Come to the Water* (Holy Baptism), *Baptized, We Live* (introduction to Lutheranism), and *Manna and Mercy* (the biblical narrative). augsburgfortress.org/operationrestoration
4. Fortress Press continues its legacy of publishing compelling theological, biblical, and ethical books for the church and the world in which it lives. Recent and upcoming releases include *The Everyday Advocate: Living Out Your Calling to Social Justice* by Deacon Ross Murray, *Blessing and Beseeking: Seventy Prayers Inspired by the Scriptures* by Gail Ramshaw, and *So That All May Flourish: The Aims of Lutheran Higher Education* by a veritable "who's who" of Lutheran higher education, a must read for everyone concerned about the work being done on Lutheran campuses. fortresspress.com
5. Our Broadleaf Books imprint explores the expanse of human experience—seeking to deepen faith and understanding and bring wholeness to readers and society. Recent releases include *Ordinary Blessings for Parents: Prayers, Poems and Meditations for Family Life* by Rev. Meta Herrick Carlson, *Red State Christians: A Journey into White Christian Nationalism and the Wreckage It Leaves Behind* by Rev. Angela Denker, and *What Makes You Come Alive: A Spiritual Walk with Howard Thurman* by Dr. Lerita Coleman Brown. broadleafbooks.com
6. For a low annual fee, Sparkhouse provides access through *Sparkhouse Digital* to a wide range of regularly refreshed resources for early childhood, children, and youth. Subscribers can access new digital activity kits that help congregations provide resources for use in the home or as a supplement to in-person faith formation activities. sparkhousedigital.com
7. Congregations looking to bridge connections with families during the summer will find, *Families Celebrate Summer* an excellent resource. This colorful deck of 56 cards is full of faith-based activities, rituals, reflections, and other ideas for families to try at home and on the go. augsburgfortress.org/familiescelebrate
8. This spring Sparkhouse released *Remind Me Again: Poems and Practices for Remembering Who We Are*, a collection of 41 poems by Joe Davis that will inspire, challenge, and affirm readers from all stages of life. This fall, a facilitator guide by Rev. Jia Starr Brown will help youth and adults engage with the poetry and encourage meaningful discussions and connections to your own community. augsburgfortress.org/remind-me-again
9. Beaming Books continues its mission to publish high-quality children's books that help kids thrive in every part of who they are—emotionally, socially, and spiritually. Recent and upcoming releases include *I Am Not Afraid: Psalm 23 for Bedtime, Wherever You Are*, and *Pause, Breathe, Be: A Kid's 30-Day Guide to Peace and Presence*. beamingbooks.com
10. Frolic Preschool, Frolic Nursery, and Frolic Family introduce little ones to faith concepts in age-appropriate ways. The award-winning Frolic Storybooks are now available in affordable paperback bundles that make great gifts for kids in your communities. wearesparkhouse.org/frolic


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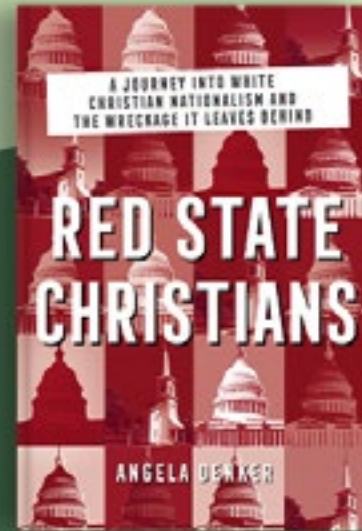
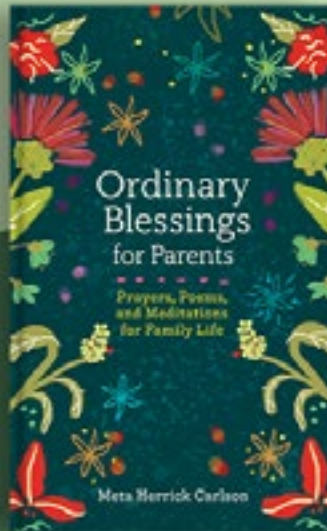
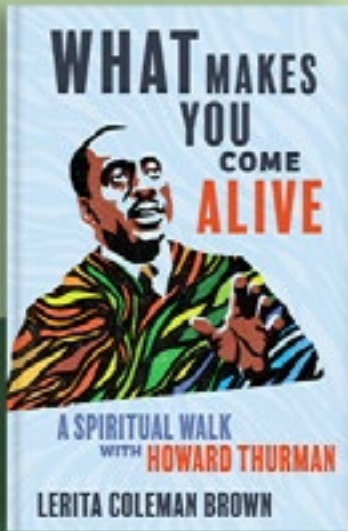
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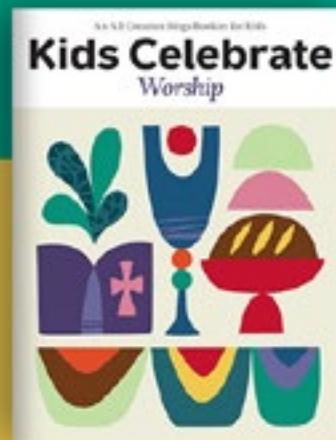
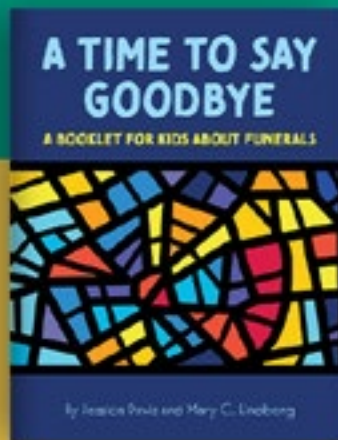
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A Vacation Bible School Based on the Works of Daniel Erlander

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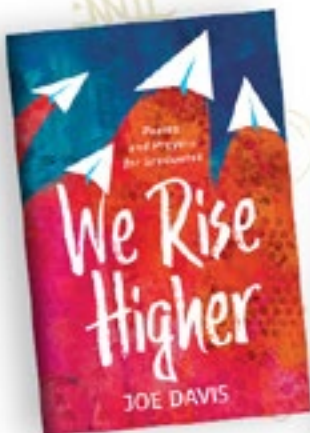


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Poetry Books by Tommy Award Winner

Joe Davis



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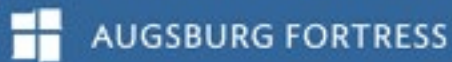
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Report to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Church in America

April 2023

In December 2022, Advocate Aurora Health and Atrium Health combined to create the fifth-largest nonprofit integrated health system in the United States. Our new enterprise is called Advocate Health, with our Illinois and Wisconsin presence known as Advocate Health Midwest. Locally, we will return to our original names: Advocate Health Care for Illinois; Aurora Health Care for Wisconsin.



We continue to be committed to delivering the best health outcomes, making care more accessible and affordable, and being a force for meaningful social impact. A few of the priorities we have set to meet those commitments include:

- Establishing the Advocate National Center for Health Equity (ANCHE). ANCHE will transform health care delivery, dismantle structural inequities, and ensure all communities thrive by being an incubation hub, enabling engine and collaborating body;
- Building the Next Generation Workforce, creating new jobs and advancing careers for our teammates and community members;
- Leading Environmental Sustainability to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 and strive for Net Zero Carbon by 2035.



Celebrating our Covenantal Partnership

As partners, ELCA and United Church of Christ clergy and lay leaders serve on our Advocate Health Care Board of Directors, our Mission and Spiritual Care Committee, the Governing Councils at our Illinois hospitals, and on our Professional Advisory Board for our Clinical Pastoral Education programs. See a list at the end of this report for all those who have served over the past year. Learn more about Advocate's [history](#) and [covenantal agreements with the ELCA and UCC](#).

We recognize the enormous contributions of Rev. Kathie Bender Schwich, ELCA clergy, who has been the Chief Spiritual Officer for Advocate Aurora Health and wish her the best as she retires, effective March 24, 2023.

We are pleased to share here some of the ways we have been working to ensure that all people have a fair shot at living well.

Enhancing the Social Conditions that Impact Health

We are part of a network of health systems called the Health Anchor Network (HAN) committed to increasing spending with Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBs) as well as local and employee-owned, cooperatively owned and/or nonprofit-owned enterprises by at least \$1 billion over a five-year period.

We are investing \$50 million to fund community development organizations to work on housing and food access in under-resourced neighborhoods.

All of our hospital community health programs work with partners to expand access to healthy food. In Illinois in 2022, we served over 11,000 individuals and distributed 160,840 pounds of food. [Learn more about our efforts in this Chicago Tribune story](#).

And we continue our policies and practices dedicated to the equitable treatment and inclusion of our LGBTQ+ patients, visitors, and employees. [Learn more](#).

Connecting to Care

We want to make sure that people get care when they need it and where it's most convenient for them. Our Primary Care Connection (PCC) program deploys Community Health Workers (CHWs) to connect people with social supports and a medical home, so they do not have to use the Emergency Department for care.

We also have expanded our mobile health teams to bring care, including oral health programs, directly to the community members that need them. For example, the Special Needs Dentistry Program uses a mobile dental clinic to provide access to oral health for children and adults with developmental disabilities. In 2022, they served 1,490 persons with special needs.



Engaging with Faith Partners

Faith and Health Partnerships (FHP) has prioritized addressing mental health and chronic disease, based on input that we receive from the communities we serve. FHP offers a wide range of mental health programs, including the [Faith and Health Companion program](#) that raises awareness and teaches pastors and congregation members simple skills for supporting each other when challenges arise.

Faith and Health Partnerships also collaborates with others to lead the [Chicagoland Trauma Informed Congregations Network](#) and just received a [grant](#) from the Office for Violence Prevention for the city of Chicago to help congregations and other organizations employ trauma-informed, healing-centered practices and approaches.

We also continue to offer regular learning and support cadres for clergy, with opportunities for ongoing relationship building and connecting. [Learn more here.](#)

Mobilizing Spiritual Care

Our spiritual care team is constantly creating new ways to help people connect to their spiritual resources. That includes team members. Through our Team Member Well-Being program, we offer a Renewal Day retreat, as well as briefer opportunities to pause and connect to purpose, such as a Tea Cart that chaplains bring to the floors to give teammates a time out.

We also offered a Well-being Grant program and awarded a total of \$10,000 to ten of our teams to implement projects aimed at improving team member and physician well-being. Winning projects included a culinary workshop, caregiver choir and a community garden.

Chaplain Connect is our program that allows people to talk with a chaplain on the phone. Originally designed for team members, it has caught on with patients and families and has become one of the core spiritual care services that we offer.

There is so much more, but we can't tell it all. [Click here](#) to find a report that provides many more examples of how we are striving to live into our commitments that are informed by our covenantal relationship with the ELCA.

[Click here](#) to join our monthly newsletter mailing list:
<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/ocvGryz>



**Thank you to those who have served
Advocate Aurora Health over the past year**

We are grateful for the partnership of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and United Church of Christ (UCC) partners as you have walked alongside us in this ministry, and offered counsel, prayer, accountability, and vision. Thank you for your time, wisdom, and investment in this healing ministry.

Advocate Aurora Health Board of Directors

Michelle Baker Richardson, UCC Lay. Board Chair.
Mark Harris, UCC Lay
John Timmer, ELCA Lay

Advocate Health Care Board of Directors

David Anderson, UCC Lay
Dr. Ulysses Burley, ELCA Lay
Rev. Molly Carlson, UCC Clergy
Bishop Yehiel Curry, ELCA Clergy
Dr. Daisy Varughese, ELCA Lay

Mission and Spiritual Care Committee of the Advocate Health Care Board

Rev. Kelsey Peterson Beebe, UCC Clergy (WI)
Rev. Donna Childs, Larger Faith Community Member (WI)
Minister Michelle Day, UCC Lay
Rev. Nathaniel Edmond, Advocate Health Care Board Representative
Jennifer DeLeon, ELCA Lay
Mark Harris, Advocate Health Care Board Representative
Tammy Jackson, ELCA Lay
Rev. Allison Johnson, ELCA Clergy (WI)
Rev. Monte Johnson, ELCA Clergy
Irshad Khan, Larger Faith Community Member
Rev. Marilyn Lange, ELCA Clergy (WI)
Rev. Kathy Lawes, UCC Clergy
Sheryl Magee, UCC Lay
Rev. Jon Gilbert Martinez, UCC Clergy
Rev. Kathy Nolte, ELCA Clergy
Rabbi Joseph Ozarowski, Larger Faith Community Member
Rev. Darryl Thompson-Powell, ELCA Clergy
Harlette Smith Washington, UCC Lay



Advocate Health Care Hospital Governing Council Representatives

Advocate Christ Medical Center

Benna Whyte Bell – UCC Lay Representative
Rev. Jennifer English – ELCA Clergy Representative
Rev. MaryBeth Ingberg – UCC Clergy Representative
Rev. Vickie Johnson – ELCA Clergy Representative

Advocate Condell Medical Center

Rev. Selena Blackwell – UCC Clergy Representative
Nanette Dahlke – ELCA Lay Representative
Rev. Matthew Smith-Laubenstein – ELCA Clergy Representative

Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital

Rev. Katie Hines-Shah – ELCA Clergy Representative
Nancy Kupka – ELCA Lay Representative
Rev. Scott Oberle – UCC Clergy Representative

Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital

Bill Eich – UCC Lay Representation
Rev. Gregory Lucas – UCC Clergy Representative
Rev. Donald Wink – ELCA Clergy Representative

Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center

Rev. David Abrahamson – ELCA Clergy Representative
Richard Boyum – ELCA Lay Representative
Rev. Tasha Vinson Brown – UCC Clergy Representative

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital

Ronald Mallicoat – ELCA Lay Representative
Rev. Carol Hill – UCC Clergy Representative
Rev. Christopher Neptun – ELCA Clergy Representative

Advocate Southland Health Network

(Combined Council for Trinity Hospital and South Suburban Hospital)

Rev. Robert Klonowski – ELCA Clergy Representative
Rev. Terrill Murff – UCC Clergy Representative
James Richardson, M.D. – UCC Lay Representative



Bigger and Better Tomorrows

FY2022 Concordia Place Highlights



Our new vision statement “bigger and better tomorrows” acknowledges that each person may have a unique tomorrow. And their vision of tomorrow may even change as experiences inspire them to envision greater things than they had previously thought possible. Our teen leadership program is one place we watch this live out.

Research tells us what we believe in our hearts: “rich diversity strengthens learning and growth for all.” Not just one child. Not just our classrooms. It is the whole of the community around us. Concordia Place cultivates economically integrated communities through our mixed income model. This is how we disrupt inequities. All of our centers are providing access to top-quality education, enrichment, and hands-on experiences that includes everyone - together. This, in turn, builds a lifetime foundation for learning, empowers youth to make responsible decisions, and unleashes potential for youth and families.

The following pages highlight some of our impact from FY2022. If you’d like to learn more, visit cconcordiaplace.org or contact Katie Bernabei at kbernabei@concordiaplace.org. We’d love to show you our mission in action!

Early Learning and Preschool

Learning through purposeful play

Every day and all year round, children six weeks to five years of age are building a strong foundation for learning through purposeful play. Experienced teachers with degrees in early childhood education encourage curiosity and promote confidence as children explore the world around them. Structured and meaningful activities help children comprehensively develop cognitive, social, emotional, and physical skills for academic and social success in kindergarten and beyond.



97% of children transitioning to kindergarten met or exceeded standards in six developmental areas.



96% of families reported they can pursue their professional or educational goals because of Concordia Place's year-round programming.

“Having a consistent, reliable child care center for the kids allows everyone in our family to pursue a vocation that brings meaning to their life and empowers us to come together as a family energized and happy.” Concordia Early Learning Parent

Family Support

Into and through parenthood

Home Visiting provides free, personalized visits and support to foster resilience and improve family functioning and self-sufficiency. Through a relationship- and researched based curriculum, Home Visiting works with families to set and assess goals, provides individualized lesson plans, and tracks children’s development to promote families’ well-being.



School-Age 365

Enriching lives all year long



School-Age 365 blends education and recreation to keep youth 6-12 years old learning all year round in after-school, summer camp, and other out-of-school time programs. Youth maintain and build upon the skills learned at school through science experiments, games, reading, art, dram, sports, and more. In addition to homework help, they have time to socialize with friends and build relationships with the warm guidance from our instructors.



91% of families reported that Concordia Place homework help keeps their child on track academically



93% of families reported their child is growing socially and emotionally at Concordia Place and learning to make good choices



100% of families reported their child feels safe during out of school time because of Concordia Place

"It is a relief to have a place that picks up my son after school. Concordia Place provides a safe place for him to go with adults that care about him." Concordia School-Age 365 Parent

Teen Leadership

Preparing tomorrow's leaders



Teen Leadership provides teens ages 13-18 with access to a safe, enriching, and transformative space. With an ultimate goal to address social inequities and violence prevention, Concordia Place offers earn-and-learn opportunities so teens can develop the important practical and life skills that drive academic, career, and personal achievement.



95% of Concordia Place teens report to be on track to go onto the next grade level



100% of graduating teens report having post-high school plans

"Concordia provides a safe and uplifting environment. I used to be shy growing up, but after many selling events and speaking with customers on the phone directly, I learned how to improve my communications skills and became a lot more mature as a person. Concordia has provided endless opportunities to better myself and the other teens in the program." - Concordia Teen

A Place for All

Committed to our mission

As a Place for All, Concordia Place uniquely provides access to education, enrichment, growth and opportunity regardless of a person's socioeconomic status. Concordia Place seeks to overcome the conventional systems that segregate children by their socioeconomic status. As a result, a rich multifaceted diversity of race and ethnicity, socioeconomic levels, etc. is created at Concordia Place that benefits the children, the classrooms, and the whole community.

Serving the Gap

38% Very Low Income
42% Low Income
20% Medium Income



A Rich Racial Diversity

38% White
34% Latino
12% Mixed-Race
7% Black
5% Asian
5% Other





ELCA Federal Credit Union

***Providing a full complement of financial services
to ELCA members, congregations and ministries***



The ELCA Federal Credit Union, founded in 2016, provides a full suite of financial products and services to members, congregations and ministries of the ELCA. **We are the first of the ELCA's financial ministries to offer loans to individuals.**

The Credit Union offers a rich variety of products—from savings and checking accounts and CDs ... to loans, lines of credit and credit cards. And now, we provide home mortgage loans for new homes or remodeling, along with home equity lines of credit.

We serve ministries with deposit accounts, a flexible credit card program, auto loans and unsecured ministry loans up to \$100,000 for small projects such as building repair and purchases. Our new CU@Work program presents the opportunity for ministry organizations to offer our Credit Union products and services to their employees.

In 2022, we ushered in the fourth cohort of participants in the ELCA's Resourceful Servants program, designed to improve financial wellness and assist rostered leaders in building emergency savings funds. In this matching program, ELCA rostered leaders make ongoing deposits to their Credit Union emergency savings accounts, and our partner MIF matches those funds up to an established amount. Together, we already have served **657 rostered ministers** who, collectively, have made emergency savings deposits of more than \$1 million.

Our strong online presence allows members to access their funds anytime, anywhere—as consumers expect today.

Why choose the ELCA Federal Credit Union?

- **The ELCA Federal Credit Union supports the ELCA's mission of good stewardship.** We provide full services to all ELCA members, congregations and related ministries.
- **Our mission is to offer competitively priced products and services.** We can often offer better rates and lower fees than traditional banks. We have demonstrated success in providing savings to our borrowers.
- **With the church as our sponsor, we operate in ways that are consistent with the church's values.**

Membership is open to every ELCA member, synod, congregation and ministry—and their employees.

For more information about the products and services of the ELCA Federal Credit Union, please visit our website, elcafcu.org or call us at toll free at 877-715-1111.

HOLY FAMILY MINISTRIES

Holy Family Ministries

Holy Family Ministries provides opportunities for children, youth, and families from Chicago's under-resourced neighborhoods to excel academically, grow spiritually, expand life experiences, and become exceptional leaders through a faith-based approach.

OUR HISTORY

Holy Family Ministries began as Holy Family School 38 years ago. Formed by a west side African American congregation, Holy Family School's purpose was to provide an alternative to underperforming public schools to families living in the Cabrini Green neighborhood. HFM incorporated in 1999 as a 501(c)3 organization. The preschool opened when we moved all of our programs into our own, award-winning building on the Homan Square Campus of North Lawndale in 2008. Holy Family holds the highest ratings available from Charity Navigator (4-Star) and GuideStar (Platinum Seal of Transparency).



MINISTRY PROGRAMS

Holy Family School: A faith-based school providing k-8th grade students with a learning environment that nurtures intellectual, spiritual, social, emotional, and physical growth.

Little Learners Academy: A full-day Early Childhood Education Program that provides experiential learning that fosters healthy development and equips young children with the skills and behaviors necessary to make a successful transition into kindergarten.

Adventures in Learning: An out-of-school time program that provides youth with a safe and stimulating afterschool and summer camp environment supervised by caring and trusted adult role models. AIL provides educational tutoring and enrichment, and exposure to new experiences including the visual and performing arts, technology, and athletics.

The Peace Exchange: An intensive nonviolence and leadership development program for high school students who deliver a 4-hour conflict resolution workshop, Speaking Peace, to thousands of Chicago grade school students in dozens of Chicago schools annually.

OUR APPROACH

At HFM, we're passionate about preparing our students to succeed in high school and beyond. We're proud to offer a range of unique factors that set our students up for success.

- Support such as tutoring and mentoring ensures every child reaches their full potential.

- Rigorous academics and high expectations lay the foundation for high school and beyond. Our curriculum emphasizes problem-solving skills to encourage self-directed learning.
- An emphasis on critical thinking and STEM prepares students for 21st century careers.
- Weekly chapel inspires students and nurtures spiritual growth.
- Education and resources empower parents to support their children's achievement.
- Social emotional learning equips students with skills to thrive.
- As a trauma-informed school, teachers and staff are trained to recognize and respond to traumatic stress.
- Students' holistic needs are met by our wraparound support team including our counselor, social worker, nurse, and chaplain.

WHO WE SERVE

HFM educates students from North Lawndale, Austin, and East Garfield Park. These communities face significant challenges such as poverty, unemployment, violence, and education achievement gaps. The unemployment rate is 15%, and the average household income is \$32,850. Only 23% of adults have a college degree and one in five has no high school diploma. HFM is located in Chicago Police Department's 11th district, which experiences the highest violent crime rate per capita in the city. All Holy Family School students come from low-income households—many where the income falls below the poverty level.

Despite these challenges, HFM firmly believes that nurturing self-confidence in children can unlock endless possibilities. We provide rigorous, high-quality education and comprehensive wraparound support to enable our students to thrive.

OUR IMPACT

Again in 2022, 100% of Holy Family School 8th grade graduates have been accepted into high-performing private, charter, or selective enrollment public high schools. Our students are accepted at some of the most prestigious high schools in the Chicago area, including Proviso Math and Science, Latin School of Chicago, Lake Forest Academy, St. Ignatius, Providence St. Mel, Fenwick, Urban Prep, De La Salle Institute, Chicago Hope Academy, and Whitney Young.



While families contribute what they can towards their children's tuition (25% on average), 100% of students receive financial assistance at HFS. We depend on the generosity of our partners to bridge the gap between the cost of our programs and what our families can afford. We deeply appreciate the Chicago-area congregations providing invaluable contributions to our mission. **We are grateful for your support and prayers for our students, families, and staff as we engage in the work of Holy Family Ministries.**

For more information or to schedule a tour and attend our weekly chapel, please contact
Cynthia Schmidt at cschmidt@hfm.org.
3415 W Arthington St, Chicago, IL 60624 | 773-265-0550

Lutheran Campus Ministries

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 for our ministries and our campuses.

South Loop

Pastor Elle Dowd (she/they)
slcmpastor@gmail.com
www.southloopcampusministry.org
facebook.com/southloopcm

Northwestern University

Pastor Deanna Langle (she/her/hers)
deanna.langle@u.northwestern.edu
lcmnorthwestern.org
facebook.com/NULutheran

University of Chicago

Pastor Matthew Stuhlmuller (he/him/his)
campuspastor@augustanahydepark.org
uchicagolcm.org
facebook.com/uchicagolutheran



If you are a college student or if you know of a student who is looking for a community of friends with whom to explore and express faith, consider Lutheran Campus Ministry. LCM has a presence at more than 180 state and private colleges and universities.

To locate a ministry or to refer a student, go to: <https://www.luminelca.org/ministries/>



“Change” is a hallmark of campus ministry, and the pandemic generated and accelerated change in ways that the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern University (LCMNU) continues to discover and adapt to. Recognizing this, LCMNU engaged in studying the book of Acts and discerned who the Spirit is calling us to be and what the Spirit is calling us to be about at this time and place. We identified three foci: to be selfless and to unify our words and deeds into a genuine community of one heart and soul; to live out our baptismal vocation with courage and the discomfort of being the bridge between the truth we find in Jesus and the demands of the world; and to look outside ourselves, LCMNU, and our campus to see the needs and perspectives of our neighbors.

To this calling, we have sought to build trust, relationships, and meaningful fellowship through Supper Worship on Wednesdays and Sunday Worship, personal invitations to watercolor and game nights, and a fall retreat. We encourage each other to invest our agency in the ministry through leadership, service work, sharing Sunday offerings, and holding fundraisers for Reconciling Works and Lutheran Disaster Response. Through worship, student preaching, and the weekly education hour, we experience a brave space that allows each to express lived experiences and current beliefs, to make time for reflection and discernment about what is happening in life and in the world in light of faith, and to grapple with “vocation” from a Lutheran theological perspective that gives our lives new perspective and freedom. We are honest about our need for sabbath rest and reflection that help us turn outward, toward God and neighbor. Monthly, we commit to provide 30 hot meals for a local shelter, and we advocate for affordable housing in Evanston through supporting transitional housing for young adults and sending letters to and attending the city council and zoning meetings. This year, we also helped host a focus group for Northwestern students on affordable student housing.

Thank you for your consistent support of “who we are and what we’re about” at LCMNU, especially during all the changes of the last few years. May you hear that your support positively impacts the lives of young adults who, in turn, impact the lives of many beyond this ministry!

CAMPUS MINISTRIES REPORT CONTINUED...



As the whole world has grappled with the COVID-19 pandemic for nearly three years now, I have heard many people talk about finding a “new normal”: whatever “normal” was before, it is impossible for us to return to that reality, and we now need to find ways to live and thrive amidst a contagion that is endemic to society. I think it is fair to say that late 2022 and early 2023 is the year that campus ministry at UChicago began to find its new normal.

As 2022 unfolded, we found new and renewed ways to connect with one another. Especially for campus ministry, we welcomed the return of our weekly evening prayer and dinner. This space is the touchstone gathering for our campus ministry community; it is the primary place where we build new relationships, strengthen existing friendships, and share in the joys and struggles of life. Gathering regularly on Thursdays has brought a renewed stability and consistency to our life together, and I have been delighted to see these relational connections extend beyond our scheduled events. Students are genuinely interested in connecting with each other, showing the fruitfulness of our relational (as opposed to programmatic) approach to ministry.

In the past year, we had to say goodbye to some leaders who graduated, but as we also do so frequently in campus ministry, we have been delighted to welcome new leaders, especially Kyle Duff and Katja Della Libera. Kyle is serving as the Pastoral Intern at Augustana from August 2022 to July 2023, as he prepares for rostered ministry in the ELCA. Katja is in the second year of her PhD program at UChicago, and she is serving as the Campus Ministry representative to Augustana’s council and as chair of our Campus Ministry Committee. These leadership transitions remind us that we have an embarrassment of riches in campus ministry throughout the ELCA. We are integral members of college and university communities, and we are the grateful recipients of the gifts that these bright, talented students bring to the church.

In early 2023, Augustana’s council expanded the Campus Pastor position from $\frac{3}{4}$ -time to full-time. This was a significant step for campus ministry at UChicago. Throughout our history, the Campus Pastor position has never been larger than $\frac{3}{4}$ -time. This expansion is a wonderful sign of the growth and vitality of campus ministry in the ELCA; indeed, it is a new normal that is worth celebrating. Even during the pandemic, campus ministry has been thriving, and as we live into our new normal, the expansion of the

Campus Pastor position will bring long-term stability to the ministry at UChicago. I am looking forward to investing the additional time in relational outreach, building our ecumenical partnerships, and offering additional avenues for students to grow spiritually, especially through spiritual coaching and retreats. I give thanks to all our many students, leaders, and partners who make this ministry possible, and I am excited to see the continued blessings that campus ministry will bring to the ELCA.



Although campus ministry is still feeling the effects of the pandemic on student life, this year was another faithful year of service and ministry for South Loop Campus Ministry (SLCM). We focused on building relationships and having 1:1 and small group conversations. We spent time visioning about the future of the ministry with both ELCA and Episcopal stakeholders at all three expressions of the church. We offered mentorship and leadership development to students and young adults. We supported students in crisis through prayer and pastoral care, and provided material support for things like rent money or therapy bills. Pastor Elle hosted outreach events and activities at Roosevelt University. For example, they brought Ashes to Go to the cafeteria on Ash Wednesday and offered care packages and prayer around final exams.

Each Sunday during the academic year we hosted South Loop Community Table (SLCT), our weekly dinner party for students, unhoused community members, and other volunteers. These weekly meals emphasize community over charity and seek to break down the “us-them” barriers that exist in the South Loop. Everyone serves together and eats together. There’s often karaoke and dancing or Jenga tournaments. Twice monthly we partner with Chicago Street Medicine to offer a primary care clinic. On other weeks we partner with Compassionate Souls to offer a free store with clothing, hygiene items, art supplies, and other items available for anyone who needs them. On any given Sunday, SLCT serves between 35 to 200 people. Folks were especially grateful for our Christmas party again this year, where we partnered with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church to offer Target gift cards to everyone in our community.

This summer concludes the 2 year term call of our campus pastor, The Rev. Elle Dowd, who will be focusing on her PhD studies. SLCM is grateful for their vision and leadership during their time with us. At the time that this report was written, SLCM’s board is working with the synod office to discern the next chapter of leadership for SLCM. We appreciate your prayers!



Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Partners in Ministry,

For many of us, 2022 represented a moment of hope. After the darkness and isolation of the pandemic, life has begun to return to normal –offering new opportunities for connection and renewed commitment to serving our neighbor.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has embraced this moment; in the past year, we have grown exponentially in both size and scale, expanding our capacity to welcome immigrants and refugees.

With the help of people of faith and communities like yours, we were able to...

- help **16,690 children** reunify with their families or find safe, loving foster homes
- resettle nearly **12,000 Afghans** forced to flee after Afghanistan fell under Taliban control
- welcome **3,169 refugees** from countries across the world
- assist **18,262 people** seeking safety from Central America and beyond

We continue to expand our slate of innovative programming to move beyond traditional resettlement into an empowered living experience that promotes not just surviving, but thriving.

That work reaches, too, into our media and advocacy footprint. You may have seen LIRS President and CEO Krish O'Mara Vignarajah on national news programs like *PBS Newshour*, *MSNBC*, *NPR*, the *BBC*, and others, advocating on behalf of our immigrant and refugee neighbors from Ukraine to Venezuela.

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

It remains a priority of ours in 2023 to combat the divisive, xenophobic rhetoric surrounding immigration and instead promote kindness, compassion, and inherent human dignity.

We invite you to join us in that work! This year, we will continue to offer opportunities to get involved in the work of welcome, including:

- advocating alongside LIRS and our newest neighbors in celebration of [World Refugee Day](#) on June 20th,
- sharing notes of welcome with children and families impacted by immigration detention through LIRS' [Hope for the Holidays™ program](#) each fall,
- and equipping leaders and faith communities to create more just and welcoming communities through the [LIRS Ambassador Network](#) and [EMMAUS Network for Congregations](#) throughout the year.

Together, we can realize Jesus's ministry of compassion and welcome. We're so grateful for your support and look forward to working alongside you in the coming year.

In peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chelsey Johnson".

Chelsey Johnson, LIRS Mobilization and Faith Relations

National Headquarters: 700 Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230 | Phone: 410-983-4000 | Fax: 410-230-2890 | www.lirs.org
Advocacy Office: 110 Maryland Avenue NE, Suite 506-507, Washington, DC 20002 | Phone: 202-381-1030 | Fax: 202-350-5807



LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES CENTER 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

LOMC is very grateful to honor and acknowledge the **Ochéthi Sakówiq, Hoocak (Ho-Chunk), Myaamia, Sauk/Meskwak, Peoria, Kikkapoi (Kickapoo)** peoples upon whose ancestral homelands amidst the Rock River Valley we now share ministry as well as all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place-this land-and call it their home.

SUMMER CAMPS

A full summer camp schedule returned after a two-season hiatus due to COVID. LOMC offered six weeks for children and youth entering first grade through twelfth.



Camps included: Flutter (grades 1-2), Flock (grades 3-5), Scurry (grades 6-12), Pack (grades 9-12), THEKA (grades 9-12) and Night Owls (grades 6-8). 51 summer campers enjoyed a partial or full week of camp!

Team Camp also brought 7 ELCA churches to LOMC this summer with a total of 50 campers and leaders.

We are very thankful for our 7 summer staff and the amazing leadership of our program director, Michelle Wandersee.

May Work Days: On the first two Saturdays in May, volunteers gathered together to help repair and improve LOMC. Important days for LOMC!

EVENTS



Autumn Fest: A very fun day on October 8 for our annual fall open house featuring devotions, wagon rides, apple cider press, crafts, bake sale and more. Thanks to all who attended!

Fall Retreats: In November, LOMC offered separate high school and middle school retreats with the theme, "Neck of the Woods." 72 youth and leaders attended the retreats.

Candlelight Walk: This event is hosted by the Oregon Chamber of Commerce and LOMC had a table selling baked goods and other festive offerings. A fun opportunity to share about LOMC!

LOMC is always seeking ways to improve the experiences for all those who visit LOMC. In 2022, we completed the following larger projects:

- Finished placing all new mattresses and bedding throughout Freedom Tree Village (January).
- A new Gaga Ball pit was purchased and installed by staff. The new pit will last a very long time and is easier to move if needed (April).



IMPROVEMENTS TO LOMC

- Timbers B roof was replaced with a long-lasting steel roof (May).
- Marander Lodge's roof was also replaced with a steel roof (June).

- The resident house at the entrance received a much-needed new gas heating and A/C system.
- Septic systems were inspected and emptied and many systems had to be located first. Several systems have new access to make future draining and inspecting easier (August and October).
- The Moline Dining Hall received new heating and cooling systems for the main areas of the facility (December).

Many improvements are coming in 2023 for the Drama Drum, Ahlgrim's Roost (at Meadows) and the Hawkins Hospitality Center.

PO BOX 239 OREGON IL 61061 | 815.732.2220 | www.LOMC.org



Retreat Groups: 40

Crafting, churches, family reunions and more experienced wonderful relationship building at LOMC.

Church Workers: 11

We continued to welcome church workers to spend a night or two at LOMC for rest, focused work and/or prayer. Freely given; donations accepted.



Households: 7

We loved having a variety of small household groups stay at LOMC.

Day Events: 18

With less cost and time commitment, a number of groups took advantage of day-only experiences.



Facility Rentals: 21

A number of groups found LOMC to be an excellent place to hold their meeting or event in one of our facilities.



INCOME HIGHLIGHTS*	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	\$ Over Budget
Annual Fund Donations	240,354.15	145,500.00	94,854.15
Synod Grants	37,894.32	30,500.00	7,394.32
Farm Land Rental/CRP	44,772.85	30,000.00	14,772.85
Campground	845.00	1,600.00	-755.00
Freedom Tree Retreats	46,553.00	90,000.00	-43,447.00
Cabin Retreats (includes Summer Camps)	56,551.00	171,890.00	-115,339.00
Day Events	8,323.40	5,700.00	2,623.40
TOTAL INCOME	\$438,303.05	\$489,890.00	\$-51,586.95
EXPENSE HIGHLIGHTS*	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	\$ Over Budget
Office/Administration	202,233.44	197,622.76	4,610.68
Food & Meal Service	67,932.43	107,214.93	-39,282.50
Property	128,793.12	131,494.18	-2,701.06
Program	62,948.02	100,543.54	-37,595.52
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$459,044.50	\$533,725.41	\$-74,680.91
Net Ordinary INCOME	\$-20,741.45	\$-43,835.41	\$23,093.96
Transfer from Scholarship/Grant	10,630.00		
Balance in Checking Account	72,935.85		
Loan Expenses	35,647.68		
NET	\$27,176.72		



LOMC showed a budgeted loss of \$20,741.45 largely due to a lack of guests and cancellations from January through mid-May as a result of the COVID virus.

For the first five months, LOMC received only 4 overnight groups and just 9 small households and church worker overnight reservations. We are hopeful for a fuller guest calendar in 2023!



*All accounts are not shown. The total does reflect all accounts.



1001 E. Touhy Avenue, Suite 50
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847.635.6764
LSSI.org

Metropolitan Chicago Synod 2023 Annual Report from Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI)

Dear Valued Partners in Ministry:

Last year, LSSI served 42,000 children, adults, families, and seniors in our state—one out of every 297 people. We provide whole-person care and embrace a generative model of human services that does more than just address problems: responding to the Gospel, we bring healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities.

In order to fully respond to the Gospel and fulfill our mission 156 years strong, I am excited to announce a multiyear gift initiative several years in the making, “Expansion of Our Hearts,” which is already helping to fund our strategic priorities and go beyond our shared work and ministry with the Metropolitan Chicago Synod and many others across Illinois. This effort was announced in congregations this spring as part of LSSI’s Good Shepherd Sunday and is grounded in the words of theologian Henri Nouwen:

“One of the most powerful experiences in a life of compassion is the expansion of our hearts into a world-embracing space of healing from which no one is excluded.”

In 1867, LSSI emerged during a cholera epidemic in western Illinois. Lutherans working together established an orphanage and welcomed our first client, Edward, among so many other children who had lost parents. As we celebrate our 156th anniversary this October, I am proud that LSSI provides a lifeline and consistent resource for our communities despite local, national, and global crises that have challenged us in recent years and throughout LSSI’s long history.

Your support and that of your congregations and members remains critical to our ability to serve our neighbors in Illinois through our residential programs for people with developmental disabilities, programs that help individuals and families impacted by incarceration, traditional and therapeutic foster care, mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment, affordable senior housing, and more.

I’m pleased to share some program highlights from this past year:

- Project IMPACT (Inter Multidisciplinary Pre-Screening Assessment Crisis Team) expanded to West Suburban Medical Center in Oak Park, LSSI’s fifth program location. Project IMPACT is embedded in Chicago-area hospitals’ emergency departments 24/7 using trained counselors to assist adults and children who are experiencing a behavioral, psychiatric, or addiction crisis. Project IMPACT served 9,012 people last year, roughly two-thirds of all clients served by LSSI’s mental health programs.

- LSSI was among the first Chicago organizations to receive federal funding to launch a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) to better serve the mental health and substance use needs of Chicago’s Northwest Side neighborhoods. The grant was awarded in September 2022. CCBHC is a special designation for clinics providing comprehensive mental health and substance use services. LSSI’s Portage Cragin Counseling Center, 4840 W. Byron St., Chicago, will become one of 450 CCBH clinics nationwide.
- Through a partnership with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), LSSI began offering Family Supportive Services. These services intervene when families have been reported to the DCFS Child Abuse Hotline, but a child abuse or neglect investigation is not warranted. Instead, these families are referred for short-term supportive services over a 30-day timeframe, with the goal of preventing or remedying minor to moderate challenges that may be placing their children at risk. The program is provided by LSSI offices in Canton, Champaign, Danville, Galesburg, Marion, Moline, Nachusa, Peoria, and Rockford.
- LSSI continues the distinction as the largest statewide provider of foster care in Illinois, serving 2,747 children last year—roughly 12% of children under the guardianship of DCFS. There are 610 LSSI-supervised licensed foster care homes in the state.

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 service area who served on the LSSI Board of Directors this past year: John T. Rudy, Chair; The Rev. Kathie Bender Schwich, Vice Chair; The Rev. Dr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, Treasurer; Donald B. Erickson, James E. Harney, Esther Macchione, and The Rev. Rhonda L. Pruitt.

We are grateful to the trustees of LSSI’s Cornerstone Foundation representing the Metropolitan Chicago Synod service area this past year: Thomas Cunniff, Treasurer; Susan Gilpin, Jon Habegger, Pr. Richard Holmer, Nancy Nagel, Charles Price, Pr. Art Puotinen, Mary Ann Smith, Jon Theeke Jr., and Bonalynn Wallach.

LSSI appreciates the generosity of our friends in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod who share in our ministry as we expand our hearts to serve our neighbors and follow in Christ’s footsteps.

In faith,



Mark A. Stutrud
President and Chief Executive Officer



Lutherdale Report to the Metro Chicago Synod

**"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."
Ecclesiastes 3:1**

2022 was a season of transition at Lutherdale. We thanked Jeff Bluhm for his 25 years of faithful service in November with a retirement party and the dedication of the new Hope Courtyard build in his honor. We also wished David Box farewell and Godspeed as he moved from his position at Lutherdale to serving in a congregation this fall. We welcomed new Executive Director, Rev Tracy Polzin and new program director, Grace Crevier.

Programmed retreats returned to Lutherdale this fall after a nearly 3 year pause because of the pandemic and it has been wonderful to see Lutherdale filled with the energy and joy these bring to camp. We have also seen an increase in our hosted retreat ministry as well. We were thrilled to welcome back the Metro Chicago youth retreat this winter. Our Hope Center continues to expand its usage, with nearly every weekend booked for much of the year.

We believe that every camper that steps onto Lutherdale's site deserves to be welcomed, accepted, known, celebrated, and loved as a Child of God. We are working hard to find ways to make sure our programs and facilities are designed to help us to live that motto out. We have an inclusivity task force that will be analyzing ways we can make Lutherdale a safe place for all in all different ways.

We are continuing to build our programming for adults and families. Plans are underway for a travel day trip and an onsite day program for each month from May- December. We have expanded our summer offering for families to include both a 24 hour weekend program and a half-week program. Next year's retreat schedule will also include offerings for both groups.



This summer, we will explore the wonder of God's love for us as we explore the Trinity- the three in one God. We will get to know God more fully and ourselves more wholly. Please hold us in prayer as we search for the final summer staff members and make preparations for our 79th season of ministry.

We give thanks for your partnership in ministry! Lutherdale exists because a group of faithful leaders cast a vision for a place for people to come together to grow in faith and in community. We could not live this mission out without your prayers and support. Please let us know if there are ways we can support you in your ministry! While much has changed in this season, the same Spirit that founded Lutherdale remains today. We hope you will come to experience it this year!

"Lutherdale is a faith community, dedicated to building lives in Christ, through the wonder of God's creation and the study of God's word."

N7891 US HWY 12, Elkhorn, WI, 53121, 262-742-2352





The Mission Investment Fund: Your financial partner

The Mission Investment Fund, a financial services ministry of the ELCA, provides a strong, stable, faith-based way for individuals, congregations and ministries to achieve their financial goals. MIF offers a range of investments for individuals, congregations and ministries. We put those investments to work to fund building and renovation loans for congregations and partner ministries, including outdoor camps, senior housing and social service agencies.



The result? Impact investments, with a transformative impact on our communities: Expanded worship spaces ... new space for education and youth ministry ... much-needed day care centers for working families ... industrial-grade kitchens and fellowship halls for community meals.

Why is MIF the right choice?

- **MIF has demonstrated expertise** in church and ministry financing. With longstanding experience in congregation and ministry building projects, we're unique among lending institutions.
- **We consistently offer competitive rates and terms.**
- **We offer a full suite of financial services.** MIF offers congregations, ministries and individuals a host of investment options. We work in deep partnership with the ELCA Federal Credit Union to offer a wide range of financial products and services.
- **The faithful stewardship of Lutheran congregations and their members funds our loans.** The money invested in MIF finances hundreds of capital projects across the church.

MIF has a longstanding tradition of strength and stability. At year-end 2022, MIF had 812 loans outstanding, totaling \$582.7 million. Investment obligations totaled \$559.4 million. With total assets of \$776.3 million and net assets of \$202.9 million at year-end 2022, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 26.14 percent—positioning MIF in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds.

Our steadfast support continues for the members, congregations and ministries of the ELCA and the many ways you minister to a world in need. We are honored to walk alongside you as a trusted partner.

MIF at work in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod (as of December 31, 2022):

- 44 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of \$46,296,704
- \$28,738,550 in Mission Investment Fund investment obligations

For more information about MIF capabilities, please visit our website, mif.elca.org or contact your Regional Manager the Rev. Richard Wehrs: 708-475-2169 richard.wehrs@elca.org

Helping Members Refill Their Cup with Responsive Benefits

In 2022, Portico invited plan members to use their full range of benefits to care for themselves following the challenges and stress of the last few pandemic years. We continually seek cost-effective and nimble ways to support ELCA leaders, congregations, and organizations with high-quality, innovative, and stable benefits that promote holistic well-being.

- ELCA-Primary health benefits provided both in-person and virtual access to health care and wellness resources.
- Portico's Financial Planners and LSS of Minnesota helped ELCA Retirement Plan members navigate the weight of rising interest rates and market downturns through no- or low-cost financial planning, coaching services, and financial education.

In recent years, we've added several eligible ELCA- and full-communion-partner organizations to the Portico community. Growing the number of members we serve helps us manage costs and offer innovative benefits not typically available to smaller groups, affirming the importance of church together.



The Rev. Jeff Thiemann
President & CEO

Meeting the Need in 2022

232

Podcast Plays

Of the "Creative Approaches to Innovative Ministry" episode of Being Here last year.

16,002

Total Pounds Lost

Through the Omada prevention program since it launched in 2018, with 2,643 pounds lost in 2022.

591

Retired

With Portico's bundled benefits program — Congratulations to these faithful servants!

1,132

Webinar Views

Of the annual Retirement Readiness Series (live and on-demand).

3,080

Medical Visits via Text Based Care

Through 98point6[®], our virtual primary health care service.

9.75%

Increase in Net Membership

Over the past 5 years.

3,952

Health & Fitness Classes Completed

On Portico's online Bernalong platform.

Over \$2M

Debt Paid Off

By plan members working with LSS of Minnesota financial counseling since the partnership began.

86%

Very Satisfied

With our Customer Care Center, certified for excellence since 2015.

Data as of Dec. 31, 2022; sources available upon request. Availability of and eligibility for benefits will vary.

60-302 (2/2023)

refugeeONE

BIENNIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2021 & 2022

WITH YOUR
SUPPORT:

WE WELCOMED

120

NEW CLIENTS
IN FY21

1,121

NEW CLIENTS
IN FY22

FROM

64

COUNTRIES,
ESPECIALLY

AFGHANISTAN

AND

UKRAINE

...AND BUILT

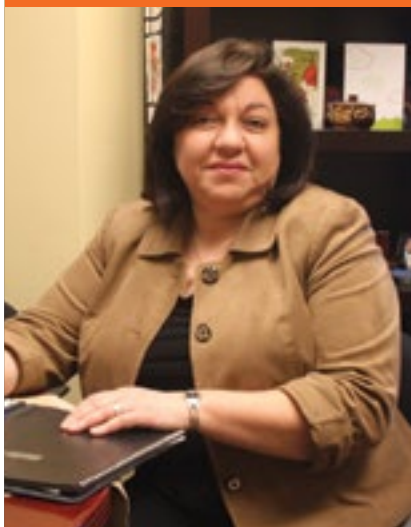
ONE

AMAZING NEW
HEADQUARTERS



RISING TO THE
CHALLENGE
TOGETHER

DEAR FRIENDS –



In my decades of service at RefugeeOne, these past two years are unlike any others.

Thankfully, through it all, we stood together.

Just as we began to pull ourselves out of COVID-19 we faced more world crises. You stood with us at O’Hare Airport to welcome Afghan families after the fall of Kabul and gave them the opportunity to rebuild a community here in Chicago.

Then, as war escalated in Eastern Europe, we expanded our efforts to better serve Ukrainians, supporting more than 300 Ukrainians in less than 3 months. That number continues to multiply each week, now exceeding 2,500 in January 2023.

You set up apartments, raised money, and volunteered, investing your valuable time to help refugees learn English and adjust to their new home. You offered employment to refugees eager to provide for their families.

With your support, we are building up the next generation of community leaders and active citizens.

In this biennial report, we cover two years of immense growth including the rapid expansion of our staff and construction of our new headquarters. You’ll also read the remarkable stories of Meena and Kateryna, two women who, despite having lost almost everything, have dedicated themselves to helping others.

Both RefugeeOne and those we welcome – like Meena and Kateryna – are deeply grateful for the unending support everyone has provided these past two years.

From the bottom of our hearts: **Thank You.**

Melineh Kano, Executive Director
Armenian refugee, resettled by RefugeeOne in 1984

refugeeONE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
As of May 2022

Robert Dunn
President

Nathan Brown
Vice President

Felice Weinberg Nelson
Secretary

Tom Mitchell
Treasurer

Sonia Bobra
Jennifer Borrell

Anne Brody
Rebecca Carlins

Laura Coplan
Stacy French Reynolds

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Julie Grafe

Jay Gratz
Catherine Guthrie

Gary Kaufman
Douglas Meyer

Talla Saghafi Mountjoy
Seng Rimpakone

Brad Schmarak
Steve Varick

MEENA - AFGHANISTAN

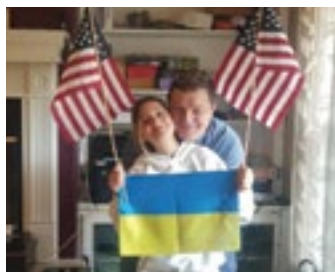


In August 2021, 27-year-old Meena had recently started a job with the U.S. embassy. Weeks later, Meena found herself swept up in the evacuation as the Afghan capital fell to the Taliban. This set in motion a rapid series of events that brought her to Chicago and to work at RefugeeOne, the very organization that resettled her.

Though the path hasn't always been straightforward, Meena has found community and belonging at RefugeeOne and in Chicago at large. She has helped hundreds of other Afghan clients seek asylum, all while anxiously awaiting the results of her own asylum application.

*Meena's face not shown to protect her wishes to stay anonymous

CREATING OPPORTUNITY FOR REFUGEES FLEEING WAR, TERROR, AND PER



COMPLETED ENGLISH CLASSES
56 | 151
 FY21 | FY22



NEW HOMES
94 | 222
 FY21 | FY22

BENEFITED FROM THERAPY
174 | 201
 FY21 | FY22

JOBS SECURED
122 | 337
 FY21 | FY22

KATERYNA - UKRAINE



“Most importantly, it’s safe.”

These are the powerful words Kateryna, a Ukrainian refugee, shared about her new life in the United States.

RefugeeOne assisted Kateryna and her son when they made their way to Chicago after their home in Mariupol was destroyed. In a rundown car, Kateryna escaped the besieged city, navigating through warzones and an active minefield to make it to safety.

Now Kateryna and her son are rebuilding their lives in the suburbs of Chicago. Her son is making new friends in school and she hopes to return to nursing so she can help her new community how she knows best. With RefugeeOne’s assistance, she is already taking her first steps towards her goal by attending English classes at a nearby university.

SECUTION TO BUILD NEW LIVES OF SAFETY, DIGNITY, AND SELF-RELIANCE.

CHILDREN SUPPORTED AND EMPOWERED

395 | 450

FY21

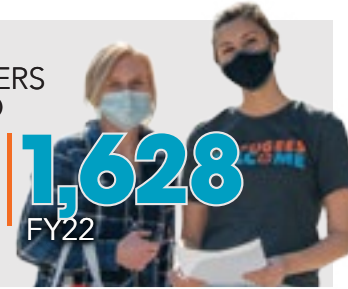
FY22

VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED

477 | 1,628

FY21

FY22



NEW CITIZENS

57 | 145

FY21

FY22



PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

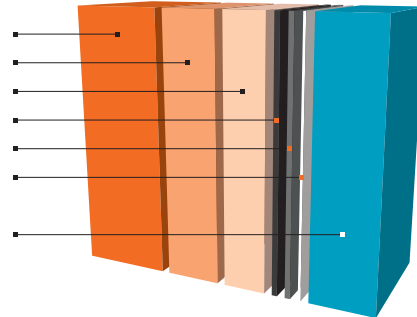
**AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES:
JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021**

FY 2021

SOURCE OF FUNDS

34%		Government	\$1,769,946
21%		Foundations & Corporations	1,096,222
16%		Individuals	830,807
2%		Religious Organizations	81,058
2%		Other Income	113,436
1%		Client Fees	52,870
0%		In-Kind	0
24%		Capital Campaign	1,211,154

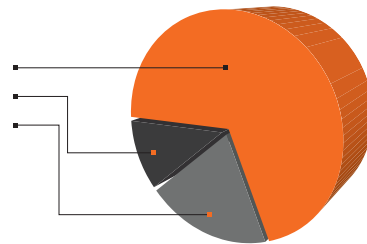
TOTAL \$5,155,493



USE OF FUNDS

69%		Program Services	\$2,412,562
20%		Management & General	694,484
11%		Fundraising	401,251

Total \$3,508,297



Surplus of \$1.6M includes \$1.4M in purpose/time-restricted grants, primarily capital donations for new headquarters.

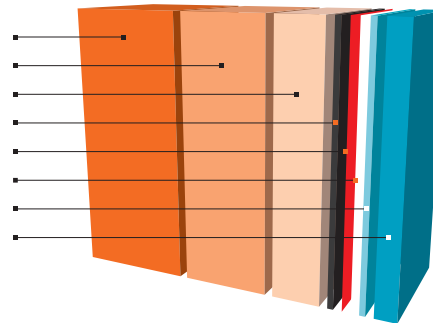
**AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES:
JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022**

FY 2022

SOURCE OF FUNDS

40%		Government	\$4,230,881
31%		Foundations & Corporations	3,310,073
17%		Individuals	1,781,073
2%		Religious Organizations	214,209
(<.2%)		Other Income	(22,669)
<.2%		Client Fees	15,580
2%		In-Kind	164,492
8%		Capital Campaign	801,567

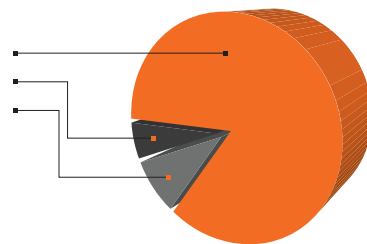
Total \$10,495,206



USE OF FUNDS

85%		Program Services	\$5,123,067
9%		Management & General	546,134
6%		Fundraising	366,523

Total \$6,035,724



\$4.5M surplus includes purpose/time-restricted funds including for capital campaign. Unrestricted surplus will be used to extend services to record number of refugees arriving in FY22 and FY23 and reduce debt on new headquarters.

Full financials are available upon request by contacting our office.

THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED OUR ANNUAL FUND!

We are grateful for every gift we receive, including those too numerous to list on this page.

FY21

FY22

DONORS: JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021

DONORS: JULY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2022

\$75,000 and Above

Walder Foundation

\$50,000 – \$74,999

The Chicago Community Foundation
Church World Service
Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation
Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
The Polk Bros. Foundation
VNA Foundation

\$30,000 – \$49,999

Baskin Family Foundation
Nathan & Barbara Brown Chicago Foundation for Women General Fund
Full Circle Family Foundation (Terrance & Virginia Holt)
Goldstein Charitable Gift Fund
John W. Parmelee Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
Maurice R. and Meta G. Gross Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
Michael Reese Health Trust
Steve and Maureen Meyer Charitable Fund

\$20,000 – \$29,999

David & Rebecca Carlins
The Christopher Family Foundation
Colonel Stanley R. McNeil Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Murray and Diana Johnson Charitable Fund of the Renaissance Charitable Foundation

\$10,000 – \$19,999

Anonymous (2)
The ARVD Foundation (Susan Dolan)
The Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation
BMO Harris
Jake Braun and Jena Sleboda Braun
Bright Promises Foundation

\$10,000 – \$19,999 (cont.)

Martha Campbell
Robert & Kelley Dunn
The Eunice & Joshua J. Stone Foundation (Drew & Carol DePaul)
First Congregational Church, Western Springs
Foundation for Health Enhancement, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
Cindy & Mark Fuller
Sean Germaine
Glencoe Union Church
Goldberg Kohn
Alan & Carol Greene
Jerome H. Stone Family Foundation (Cynthia Stone Raskin)
Kenilworth Union Church
North Shore Congregation Israel, Glencoe
Patrick and Anna M. Cudahy Fund
Patrick Raymond & Elizabeth (Brooke) Ward
Wellington Avenue UCC, Chicago
Winston & Strawn

TOP FIVE EMPLOYER PARTNERS



\$500,000 and Above

Anonymous (2)

\$100,000 – \$499,999

Crown Family Philanthropies
The Polk Bros. Foundation

\$75,000 – \$99,999

The Chicago Community Foundation
Community Sponsorship Hub, a sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
Rivers Casino

\$50,000 – \$74,999

Anonymous
Reid & Lindsay Bolton
Martha Campbell
The Hurst Family Charitable Gift Fund
Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation
John W. Parmelee Trust
Michael Reese Health Trust
Murray and Diana Johnson Charitable Fund
Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
Steve and Maureen Meyer Charitable Fund at Schwab Charitable
Unity Fund (The Chicago Community Trust)
Walder Charitable Fund (Walder Foundation)

\$20,000 – \$49,999

Anonymous
Anonymous donor advised fund at The Chicago Community Foundation
Adobe, Inc.
The Albert Pick, Jr. Fund
Barry Alberts
The AmazonSmile Foundation

\$20,000 – \$49,999 (cont.)

Baskin Family Foundation
Bradley and Gina Schmarak Donor Advised Fund
Nathan and Barbara Brown
David & Rebecca Carlins
The Christopher Family Foundation
The Eunice and Joshua J. Stone Foundation (Drew & Carol DePaul)
Hyde Park Refugee Project of the Hyde Park & Kenwood Interfaith Council
James J. Glasser Gift Fund (James & Louise Glasser)
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Marc and Jeanne Malnati Family Foundation
Maurice R. and Meta G. Gross Foundation, John D. Marshall and Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustees
Livia & Benjamin Szeto

TOP FIVE EMPLOYER PARTNERS



6008 North California Avenue | Chicago, IL 60659 | 773-989-5647 | info@refugeeone.org | refugeeone.org

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the ministry of Region 5 as you prepare for and engage in the business of your synod assembly. This synod joins with eleven other synods in Wisconsin, Upper Michigan, Iowa, and Illinois to form Region 5: one of the 9 regions across the ELCA. The ministry of region 5 is roughly divided into 3 categories: convening synod ministry leaders; accompaniment of those preparing to become pastors and deacons; and tending to archival records.

As a region, your synod bishop, staff, and other leaders gather with their colleagues throughout the year. These gatherings are a way for them to support and pray with one another; and to share their ideas, experience and expertise with one another to faithfully minister in your synod. The twelve bishops, along with the regional candidacy manager, make up a regional steering committee. Their collegiality is important in establishing great working partnerships for years to come.

In 2022, Region 5 hosted 2 in-person gatherings along with regular video conferencing throughout the year. In the spring, candidacy staff and chairpersons met under the theme “welcome accompaniment.” We spent time sharing and learning strategies to improve our welcome and inclusion of all potential candidates regardless of various identity markers. In the fall, 50 synod leaders (Bishops and staff) gathered for worship, learning and ministry collaboration. Our speaker, Dr. Miquel de la Torre provided insights for thought provoking discussion.

The Region 5 steering committee continued a collaborative grants program established in 2020. Funds are awarded for collaborations involving two or more synods in Region 5. Grants are intended to support innovative leadership and mission projects within the region. In 2022, 3 grants were awarded: a new regional youth gathering “ReBounce”; shared advocacy education with Wisconsin Council of Churches, and diversity, equity and inclusion education.

As candidacy and leadership manager for region 5, much of my work is spent working with synod candidacy committees. “Candidacy” is the term used to describe our process of forming and preparing people to serve as a pastor or deacon in the ELCA. Ministry also includes training for new candidacy staff and committees. In September 2023 candidacy committee members will have the opportunity to participate in a national online candidacy summit.

You have a part in raising up, nurturing, and sending those whom God calls into service as pastor and deacon. To that end, I commend to you a resource, “Called to Lead”, available online at www.elca.org/resources/candidacy. This discernment guide is for those who are wondering about ministry as a pastor or deacon. As a leader in your congregation, it is also a resource for you as a helpful conversation tool when talking with people you know who have gifts for ministry in the ELCA. As members of the ELCA we believe that discernment about vocation is holy work for all people. God calls all of us to live out our vocation in community, in service to God and in love toward the neighbor. A new online tool www.journi.faith is for all who are interested in exploring how their gifts for ministry can be put into service throughout the ecology of the ELCA and beyond.

As a region, we also share in the care of archival records. Region 5 archives are housed at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. Our archivist, Sue Dodd, collects records of and responds to inquiries concerning synods, deceased rostered personnel, and dissolved congregations within region 5. This work both preserves institutional records and documents the historical record of the institution within the context of the larger world. In 2022 Region 5 purchased a commercial scanner to begin undertaking the task of digitizing records currently held in the Region 5 collection. This will both assist us with space concerns as well as preserve documents in our collection at risk of deterioration. As congregations make decisions to close, Sue is a resource to you in determining what records to save and how to transfer them to the archives.

Thank you for your synod’s participation in this shared ministry and for the privilege to serve among you.

Rev. Ramie L. Bakken, Candidacy and Leadership Manager ramie.bakken@elca.org
Sue Dodd, Region 5 Archivist sdodd@wartburgseminary.edu

In partnership with the Synods of
Metropolitan Chicago ~ Northern Illinois ~ Central/Southern Illinois ~ Southeastern Iowa ~ Western Iowa ~ Northeastern Iowa
Northern Great Lakes ~ Northwest Wisconsin ~ East-Central Wisconsin ~ Greater Milwaukee ~ South-Central Wisconsin ~ La Crosse Area

Synodical Women's Organization

Office of Board Members

Carol Ika President, President

Jenny Araujo

Stephanie Olson, Vice President

Rev. Joanne Fitzgerald

Linda Thomas, Secretary

Sandra Schlauch

Deborah Williams, Treasurer

Kathleen West

Since the Pandemic, we have been meeting via Zoom for board meetings.

In October 2022, our convention was in-person at Trinity Lutheran Church, 3637 Golf Road, Evanston IL which was very successful. Our theme was "We Are One: Putting Pieces Together." We were privileged to have Pastor Christina Montgomery as our keynote speaker. A Bible Study was presented by the Rev. Sue Ellen Grudt, and an anti-racism workshop by SWO members Desiree Cole and Cheryl Dickinson. We had a closing worship service with Pastor Rebekah Wendt Costello as our homilist and Pastor Joanne Fitzgerald presiding.

At the convention, we re-elected Vice President Stephanie Olson for a second term, and elected two new board officers, Secretary Linda Thomas and Treasurer Deborah Williams. Jenny Araujo, the Rev. Joanne Fitzgerald, Sandra Schlauch and Kathleen West continued their terms as board members. We welcome the new and former board members. May we continue to do the work of empowering women, encouraging women throughout churches, neighborhoods, and the world through God's word.

On March 4, 2023, we opened the year with the Synodical Women's Organization and Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women of Chicago meeting together in our 34th annual morning of dialogue and prayer. The theme was "Living the Beatitudes" and was held at Our Lady of Hope Church, 9711 West Devon Ave., Rosemont IL. We had a wonderful turnout and the offering was donated to Mission of Our Lady of the Angels, an organization in Chicago helping to end homelessness.

In September, our president will be representing our SWO at the Women of the ELCA Triennial convention in Phoenix along with two voting members, Jenny Araujo and the Rev. Joanne Fitzgerald. We are in the planning stages for our next convention to be held in October, 2023. Our theme will be "The Holy Spirit in our Lives." We are planning a workshop in Liturgical Dance, a Bible study, a worship service, a live discussion on a Biblical character, and lunch. We are hoping that this convention will bring women from all walks of life together as one.

We are continuing to pray for all those in need of prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ika President, President/Metro Chicago SWO

Metro-Chicago Synodical Women's Organization

COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES and SEMINARIES

Luther College

**Lutheran School of
Theology at Chicago**

Wartburg College

**Wartburg Theological
Seminary**

*An intelligent heart acquires knowledge,
and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.*

— Proverbs 18:15

LUTHER COLLEGE

Greetings from Luther College in the beautiful Driftless region of northeastern Iowa!

After three academic years heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, our students, faculty, and staff have spent the 2022-2023 academic year returning to many joyful activities that have long been deferred. It has been a year of energy, creativity, and celebration.

Luther College recognizes itself to be both grounded and global-grounded in its history, mission, and embeddedness in the local community; and global in its curriculum, student programming, and development of graduates who understand themselves as stewards of the global common good.

This fall, we honored our global connections by welcoming members of the Norwegian Parliament to campus and sending a delegation to Saint Paul, MN to meet Queen Sonja of Norway, and just a few weeks later, celebrated our (literal) groundedness by co-hosting an exhibition of a life-sized model of the six-foot long Decorah sea scorpion, *Pentecopterus decorahensis*, a fossil discovery from the Decorah Crater basin, which was formed by a meteor impact around 465 million years ago.

We are especially pleased to share that Luther College has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by more than 72% since its baseline was established twenty years ago, in 2003. Achieving this milestone puts the college on track to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. In addition, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education has named Luther College the fourth best baccalaureate institution in the nation for its efforts in sustainability, according to the 2022 Sustainable Campus Index.

Bringing together values of sustainability and service, more than 70 students, staff, and faculty participated in environmental conservation projects this fall as part of God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. The Luther College Cafeteria to Community program, begun in 2014, marked a significant milestone in December, reaching 80,000 pounds of leftover food donated to local organizations to address hunger. In February, Luther College Ministries squared off against Wartburg College Ministries in a food drive competition, and the colleges combined collected more than 500 pounds of food and nearly \$2000 in donations.

Our Luther College baseball team made history this year by playing in the first collegiate game at the Field of Dreams in Dyersville, IA, welcoming more than 2000 attendees to this iconic location. In February, we celebrated with our men's and women's swimming and diving teams, each of them winning their second consecutive American Rivers Conference championship titles. Construction was completed on the Robert and Ann Naslund Sports and Recreation Center, a significant renovation and upgrade to our campus athletic complex.

This year has included a full slate of musical performances and performing arts offerings, including the Symphony Orchestra's three-week January residency in Vienna, Austria; Nordic Choir tour concerts in the southwest; and Concert Band tour concerts across the eastern midwest.

Recently, Luther has received several major gifts, totaling \$4.5 million, to help ensure that students have the financial resources they need to get the most out of their college experience. These gifts endow new scholarships for students with high financial need and for future educators and student musicians. These gifts also establish a new Peace Fellows program that seeks to engage students, faculty, and the broader community in how to practice peace in all of its dimensions. We are grateful for these gifts and for all donors who continue to support Luther College's mission.

Finally, a word about a few senior leadership transitions this year. After successful national searches, we welcomed Dr. Robert Clay as our new Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer and Special Assistant to the President for Community Engagement, and Mary Duvall as our new Vice President for Development. We also welcomed Dr. Bradley Chamberlain, Luther faculty and recent Vice President for Mission and Communication into his new role as Provost.

The Luther College community also remembers and celebrates the life of Richard "Rick" Torgerson, Luther's ninth president (1999-2013), who died on Oct. 30, 2022. A legendary figure in Luther history, he shaped the college in deep and meaningful ways that will resonate far into the future.

Luther College continues to be a thriving community of faith and learning. We are both deeply rooted in our history and our environment and also deeply committed to empowering and shaping our students to meet the future with hope, creativity, and wisdom.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support for Luther College. We are grateful for your partnership.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Dr. Jenifer K. Ward
Luther College President



Dear Partners in Ministry in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod:

The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) is grateful to share highlights from our seminary in this 2023 report to supporting synods. We form visionary leaders to declare the good news of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your support during these rapidly changing times.

Highlights from our school this year include:

- After several years of thoughtful discernment and evaluation, the Board of Directors decided to sell and relocate LSTC to a space better suited for our educational mission. Selling our building is a strategic move that puts us on stronger financial footing, enabling us to invest in key areas while opening the door for innovation and growth.
- We are relocating the seminary to a well-designed space on the fourth floor of the Catholic Theological Union (CTU). We are moving to CTU and staying in Hyde Park because this setting is a rich educational resource and enables ecumenical collaboration and cooperation. The Hyde Park community and our partnerships in the ACTS consortium enrich our ability to form people who are called into the world for innovative, inclusive ministry.
- LSTC has refocused its distance and online learning initiatives to increase student enrollment and flexibility for those who want to attend but cannot move to Chicago. In the current academic year, faculty and staff are launching comprehensive distance learning tracks in our MDiv, MAM, and MA programs. Cohorts of distance students will be formed starting with the 2023–2024 academic year. We are also developing programs with asynchronous online courses and look forward to sharing them with LSTC stakeholders in 2024. This initiative is led by Dr. Candace Kohli, assistant professor of Lutheran Systematic Theology and Global Lutheranism, who is experienced with online learning programs.
- We continue to advance our work toward diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice, making it one of the two central themes in our 2023–24 strategic plan. This work includes the intentional, strategic recruitment of BIPOC students to LSTC. It is also enriched by scholarly programming through the Pero Center for Intersectionality Studies, led by the center’s director, Dr. Linda Thomas, Professor of Theology and Anthropology. Antiracism training, hosted by C–ROAR, is also widely available to LSTC’s faculty, staff, students, and board of directors through our Antiracism Transformation Team (ATT). Administrative leadership in this area is provided by Vima Couvertier–Cruz, the school’s director of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice, as well as liaison with the ATT.
- LSTC will offer innovative leadership programs through a new endowed faculty position, the Damm Chair in Leadership. This position will oversee programs to nurture leaders for congregations, religious organizations, and nonprofits. New initiatives will develop skills such as change management, conflict transformation, operations and finance, resource development, and other key organizational areas. Audiences for these initiatives to enhance pastoral, diaconal, and other forms of leadership will include alumni, contextual education supervisors, LSTC faculty and staff, and lay leaders. A faculty search for the Damm Chair is underway with service at LSTC expected to begin on July 1, 2023.

To learn more about LSTC and the historic changes happening now, please visit www.lstc.edu.

Sincerely,

Rev. James R. Nieman, PhD
President

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago



2022 Annual Report to the Synods

Wartburg College is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning.

Guided by our vision, we are answering the call to prepare resilient leaders of positive change for service in a complex world. This will be realized by building on our distinctives and embracing new opportunities to be the leading institution in educating the whole person.

Changes in Senior Leadership

- President Darrel Colson retired effective June 30, 2022, after 13 years at Wartburg.
- Dr. Rebecca Neiduski was introduced to the campus in March 2022 as the 18th and first female president of Wartburg. She began her service on July 1, 2022, and was inaugurated Oct. 14, 2022. President Neiduski came to Wartburg from Elon University where she was the dean of the School of Health Sciences. The daughter of Lutheran educators and a certified hand therapist, President Neiduski is known for her commitment to global health equity, including humanitarian work and education of health care providers around the world. She sits on the board of directors for the Guatemala Healing Hands Foundation and has participated in 19 medical missions.
- Greg Kneser was named vice president for student life and dean of students in August. Prior to his work at Wartburg, he was vice president of student affairs at Lourdes University and vice president for student life at St. Olaf College.
- Krystal Madlock was named the college's first associate dean of inclusive community. She has been with the college since 1998 and most recently served as the director of multicultural student services.

Strategic Planning

- President Neiduski and Advancement Office staff engaged Wartburg alumni and friends around the country in a series of strategic dialogues to help shape and strengthen the college's priorities within the new strategic plan, *Our Brightest Days: Realizing Purpose, Leading Change*.
- Institutional priorities focus on four guiding themes: Educating Mind, Body, and Spirit; Inclusive Community; Student Success; and Competitive Advantage.

Enrollment

- Fall 2022 enrollment was 1,444 students from 38 U.S. states and 55 countries and more than 20 world religions. This number included 92 international students and 196 U.S. students of color.
- The five majors with highest enrollment are business administration, psychology, elementary education, journalism and communication, and biology. The online Master of Arts in Leadership program enrolled a new cohort of eight students.

Academic and Co-Curricular Programs

- The Ubuntu Center (formerly Centennial Complex), comprising Slife, Vollmer, and Hebron halls, was dedicated in August 2022. The \$11 million project included the renovation of Vollmer Hall; Slife Hall will undergo similar updates in 2023. Ubuntu, an African philosophy often expressed as 'I am because we are,' represents the college's renewed focus on how community is developed on campus.
- Michaelen Golay, associate professor of biology, was named the assistant dean for academic innovation, and Michael Gleason, director of the Institute for Leadership Education and Irving R. Burling Distinguished Professor in Leadership, is the new associate dean for graduate studies. Both will continue to teach in their respective areas.



Forming Valued Leaders for God's Mission

Dear Partners in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod,

The Holy Spirit is stirring up the community at Wartburg Theological Seminary, and we are glad to share an update with you of all that is happening!

We are currently moving toward the successful completion of our renovation of Fritschel Hall, our primary educational building. Necessary infrastructure upgrades have been made to our geothermal systems and smart classrooms. We also have taken this opportunity to re-envision the library, refurbish the auditorium, create a state-of-the-art integrated student services suite, and add several gender-neutral restrooms. These renovations will support all of our students in their different learning modalities for decades to come. We expect to rededicate Fritschel Hall in September.

Wartburg continues to develop and grow our **competency-based** TEEM program, Journey Together/Caminemos Juntos [JT/CJ]. Delivered fully in both English and Spanish, JT/CJ is designed to give students the flexibility to participate in a TEEM program that is personalized, interdisciplinary, integrative, contextual, and intercultural. The candidate remains in a local context, working with a supervisor, mentor, and academic advisor to achieve competency in each specific module. JT/CJ aims to remove barriers that have historically prevented candidates from accessing theological education and provide an alternate track to ordination.

We at Wartburg are committed to deepening our work in diversity, equity and inclusion. In addition to engaging in regular anti-racism training for our whole community, last November, our Board of Directors approved a Land Acknowledgement Statement; and this academic year, we have welcomed several leaders of the ELCA's Ethnic-Specific and Multicultural Ministries to campus.

Last summer, Wartburg launched Centro Teológico Luterano Multicultural (CTLM), a new program based in Texas. CTLM exists to provide education and support for new and existing lay and ordained Latine leaders and their worshipping communities. CTLM also provides training for ELCA congregations, pastors, and synod staff members seeking to be formed for effective multicultural ministries. This new initiative continues and expands Wartburg's long-term commitment to Latine ministries and leaders.

In closing, please remember that all candidates for public ministry begin in a local congregation. We would love to meet an individual you feel has gifts to be a deacon or pastor. Please know that you are welcome to visit us at Wartburg Seminary anytime!

We give thanks to God for your synodical partnership, which is so critical to our mission of forming future leaders to share the good news of Jesus Christ in a world in need of healing and wholeness. We could not do this work without you.

To learn more about Wartburg Seminary and our strategic, innovative programs, please visit www.wartburgseminary.edu.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Kristin Johnston Lergen, Ph.D.
President

333 Wartburg Place | Dubuque, IA 52003 | 563-589-0200 | 800-CALL-WTS (225-5987) | Fax: (563) 589-0333
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**The Constitution, Bylaws,
and Continuing Resolutions
of the
Metropolitan Chicago Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran
Church
in America**



Presented & Approved by Assembly Vote at 2022 Synod Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod; inclusive of required provisions of the CWA 2022; ratified by Churchwide Council November 2022

Introduction to the *Constitution of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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.

The Constitution of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod (ELCA) – Assembly: June 4, 2022; ratified CW Council November, 2022

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Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America November, 2022

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 Synod Council 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.

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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

†S6.01. The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.

†S6.02. To participate in God's mission, this synod as a part of the Church shall:

a. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.

b. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as

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Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.

c. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity, and justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, and standing in solidarity with the poor and oppressed and committing itself to their needs. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.

e. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.

f. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.

†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 rostered ministry in cooperation with the appropriate seminaries of this church, which may be done through multi-synod committees;
 - 2) authorizing ordinations and ordaining rostered ministers on behalf of this church;
 - 3) 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

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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, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; and that, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent of the lay members of assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be women and, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent shall be men; and that, where possible, the representation of rostered ministers 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 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.

- S6.04.03 This Synod has been designated a "Reconciling in Christ" (RIC) synod with a commitment to welcome, include, and celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) people. As such, it is the goal of this synod to ensure that the membership within all synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards and/or other organizational units include individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+.

- S6.04.A22 *To best live out its Reconciling In Christ designation, this synod encourages the following:*
- a. *That all buildings utilized for synod events, meetings, assemblies, offices, and the like have the*

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availability of a non-gendered bathroom.

- b. *That events, meetings, and the like include the ability for people to self-designate their gender pronouns during registration, introductions, on name tags, and the like, except when made impossible by required designations by the ELCA churchwide unit or required constitutional provisions.*
- c. *That language at all functions be carefully used to acknowledge the diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities found in this synod.*

S6.04.B88 *It shall be the goal of this Synod that at least 20% of the membership of the Synod Council, committees, and boards be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English to include but not be limited to American Sign Language and that this goal be attained within four years.*

†**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. Synod Assembly report. For all regular meetings of the Synod Assembly, the secretary of this synod shall prepare a Synod Assembly report. At least 20 days prior to each such meeting, the secretary shall distribute the Synod Assembly report to all Congregations and voting members elect, and file a copy thereof in the public file. The Synod Assembly report shall include a proposed agenda for the meeting; minutes of the preceding regular meeting of the Synod Assembly and of each special meeting since the preceding regular meeting; reports of the bishop, the Synod Council, related and affiliated organizations, Standing committees, and deans; and, the proposed budget. For meetings at which elections are held, the Synod Assembly report shall also include information concerning such elections.

S7.01.02. Arrangements for Synod Assembly meetings. The arrangements for agenda, program, and worship at meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be under the supervision of the bishop. This synod shall be responsible for the costs of the Synod Assembly; such costs shall not include voting members’ expenses.

S7.01.05. Synod Assembly committees and officials. The Synod Assembly shall have committees and officials as provided in this bylaw. Generally, eligibility for appointment to a committee of the Synod Assembly is as provided in S11.01.02. Unless the bishop so requires, a Synod Assembly committee or official need not make a formal report covering its or the official’s activities.

- a. The Synod Council shall appoint a Committee on Reference and Counsel consisting of five to ten members. The functions and responsibilities of the committee are to review and advise the Synod Assembly and the bishop (or other person presiding at a meeting of the Synod Assembly) with respect to proposed changes or additions to the constitution and the bylaws and other items submitted to the Synod Assembly which are not germane to items in the agenda of the meeting.

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- b. Officials and committees of the Synod 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 Synod Council, may be appointed by the bishop with the advice of the Synod 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 Synod Assembly the committees and officials may be the same as for the preceding regular meeting as directed by the bishop.
- d. Committees and officials of the Synod Assembly are accountable to the bishop and the Synod Assembly for due performance of their functions and responsibilities.

S7.01.A22. *The secretary of this synod shall review and propose to the Synod Council for recommendation to the Synod Assembly the “Rules of Organization and Procedure for the Assembly” prior to each Synod Assembly. The secretary shall have access to those officials and committees of the Synod Assembly as is necessary to complete this function.*

S7.01.B22.

- a. Definitions. *In this resolution --*
 - 1) “this Synod Assembly” means the next or current meeting of the Synod Assembly.
 - 2) “the Committee on Reference and Counsel shall have constitution as described in S11.01.05. and responsibilities as described in S7.01.05
 - 3) “Synod Council resolution” means a form of resolution which is presented to this Synod Assembly on behalf of the Synod Council and with the Synod Council’s recommendation for adoption.
 - 4) “reported resolution” means a form of resolution, other than a Synod Council resolution, which the Synod Council deems worthy of consideration by this Synod Assembly.
 - 5) “prospective voting member” means a person who is likely to be a voting member to this Synod Assembly and, as to a lay person, has been selected by the individual’s Congregation to be but is not yet registered as a voting member. The prospective voting member remains as such until the assembly is seated
 - 6) “additional resolution” means a form of resolution, other than a Synod Council resolution or reported resolution, which a prospective voting member or a voting member intends to propose to this Synod Assembly; and
 - i. seeks to amend the constitution or the bylaws, or
 - ii. seeks to add an item of new business to the agenda of this Synod Assembly, or
 - iii. is not germane to the proposed agenda, the agenda, or the pending question or report before the Synod Assembly.
 - 7) “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 Synod Assembly, may be expected to be pertinent thereto.
 - 8) “prospective movant” means the prospective voting member or voting member who proposes an additional resolution or is responsible for presenting a reported resolution to the Synod Assembly.
 - 9) “registered” means a prospective voting member who is present at the Synod Assembly and who has received their credentials as a voting member for the Synod Assembly.
- b. Synod Council resolutions and reported resolutions
 - 1) Council resolutions and reported resolutions shall be set forth in the Synod Assembly Report. Also, as in the Synod Council’s view circumstances warrant, the Synod Council may present revised and additional Synod Council resolutions, and shall furnish each such revised Synod Council resolution and additional Synod Council resolution, if any, to this Synod Assembly in written form and at the earliest practicable time.
- c. Form and initial processing of additional resolutions.

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- 1) *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 the proposer's contact information.*
- 2) *A prospective voting member may pre-submit an additional resolution prior to this Synod Assembly. If a prospective voting member does not register as a voting member on the first day of this Synod Assembly, an additional resolution which was pre-submitted by the prospective voting member will be discarded. The Committee on Reference and Counsel retains discretion to permit a substitute registered voting member to present a pre-submitted additional resolution, in the case that the prospective voting member who submitted the resolution is unable to register for the Synod Assembly.*
- 3) *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 on Reference and Counsel 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

- 1) *The Committee on Reference and Counsel will endeavor to consider pre-submitted additional resolutions prior to this Synod 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 Synod Assembly.*

e. Form and delivery of pre-amendments.

- 1) *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 endorsers. An endorser of a pre-amendment shall deliver it to the Committee on Reference and Counsel, but no pre-amendment shall be delivered to the Committee prior to the first business session of this Synod Assembly.*

f. Processing and status of pre-amendments.

- 1) *The Committee on Reference and Counsel 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 Synod Assembly.*

g. Considerations for pre-amendments

- 1) *The Committee on Reference and Counsel shall review actions of previous Synod Assemblies regarding similar proposed actions and resolutions, particularly resolutions or continuing resolutions that may still be in effect.*
- 2) *The Committee on Reference and Counsel shall search for any similar actions, especially memorials to the Churchwide Assembly or Churchwide Council that are being considered by other synods so as to attempt to coordinate language and action.*

h. Limitations.

- 1) *No member of the Committee on Reference and Counsel 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.*

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- 2) *The Synod Council may prescribe reasonable limitations with reference to additional resolutions, reported resolutions and pre-amendments, including limitations as to --*
- i. *number and priority of pre-submitted additional resolutions;*
 - ii. *the time for pre-submission of an additional resolution;*
 - iii. *the number of additional resolutions a prospective voting member or voting member may submit;*
 - iv. *the time for submission of an additional resolution;*
 - v. *the number and priority of pre-amendments;*
 - vi. *the latest time for delivery of a pre-amendment;*
 - vii. *the number of words comprising an additional resolution or pre-amendment. The Synod Council shall seek advice from the Committee on Reference and Counsel as to limitations which are to be operative during this Synod 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 Synod Assembly not later than the first business session.*
- i. *Advice by the Committee on Reference and Counsel*
- 1) *The Committee on Reference and Counsel, upon reasonable opportunity to consider the additional resolutions, reported resolutions and pre-amendments, shall advise the bishop and this Synod Assembly concerning disposition of those matters, but shall not advise as to disposition of a 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.*
 - 2) *The Committee on Reference and Counsel may advise also as to the order and time for consideration of a 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 Synod 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 Synod Assembly.*
 - 3) *The Committee on Reference and Counsel shall have the services of the parliamentarian, synod legal counsel, the churchwide Office of the Secretary, 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 Synod Assembly meetings. The time and place of the Synod Assembly shall be determined by the Synod Council. The time and place for the next regular assembly normally shall be announced 6 (six) months prior to the assembly.
- 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, consistent with provision S7.11.01 and S7.12.
- 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:
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- a. All rostered ministers under call on the roster of this synod shall be voting members of the Synod Assembly.
 - b. 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, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be women and, as nearly as possible, 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 regular Synod Assembly.
- S7.21.03.** The †S7.21.c. formula. Preparatory to regular meetings of the Synod Assembly, the Synod Council shall provide the †S7.21.c. formula, with revisions as from time to time necessary. Prior to each such meeting the Synod 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 Synod 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 Synod Council to such membership.*
- S7.21.B04** *The membership of the Synod 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.*
- S7.21.C21** *The membership of the Synod Assembly, in addition to the members indicated in †S7.21., shall include those Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service who have been granted disability status, or on leave from call status, on the roster of the synod may be elected by the Synod Council to such membership.*
- S7.21.D21** *Retired rostered ministers, or those designated as disabled, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod must indicate to the bishop's office their desire and intention to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, normally no less than 60 days before the Synod Assembly is seated. Such persons may be elected to membership of the Synod Assembly by vote of the Synod Council where possible consistent with †S7.21.*
- S7.22.** This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those granted disability status, 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.
- S7.22.A22** *The membership of the Synod Assembly, in addition to the members indicated in †S7.21., shall include those Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service who have been granted disability status, or on leave from call status, on the roster of the synod may be elected by the Synod Council to such membership.*
- S7.22.B22** *Retired rostered ministers, or those designated as disabled, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod must indicate to the bishop's office their desire and intention to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, normally no less than 60 days before the Synod Assembly is seated. Such persons may be elected to membership of the Synod Assembly by vote of the Synod Council where possible consistent with †S7.21.*
- †**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
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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.

S7.33. "Ex officio" as used herein means membership with full rights of voice and vote unless otherwise expressly limited.

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 Synod Assembly to propose that the Synod Assembly apply already-established positions of the synod in respect of new or additional situations, and so to avoid Synod 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 Synod 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 Synod Assembly actions so to apply continuing positions.*

4. *Procedure. For a voting member who seeks Synod Assembly action so to apply a continuing position, the suggested procedure is to present a motion for that purpose to the Synod Assembly. For example, a suitable form of motion is:*

"I move that this Synod 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.

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5. *Records. Synod records of a continuing position shall reflect and include each instance in which the Synod 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.

S8.11.01. When authorized by the Synod Council in order to address special circumstances, the synod bishop may be compensated as an employee or contractor for specified services to another expression of this church. Such an arrangement may be terminated by the Synod Assembly or Synod Council if determined to be detrimental to the function of the office or if the special circumstances no longer apply.

†**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;

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- 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 Synod 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) direct and guide the work of the other officers;
 - 5) exercise supervision over 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 pursuant to prior action of this synod through the Synod Council;
 - 10) Provide for prompt reporting to the secretary of this church of:
 - a) additions to and subtractions from the rosters of this synod;
 - 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
 - c) the entrance of the names of such persons for whom proper certificates of transfer have been received;
 - 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
 - 12) Appoint a statistician of the synod, who shall secure the 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.
- S8.12.A22.** *Office of ecumenical relations.* Upon recommendation of the bishop, the Synod Council may establish a synodic office of ecumenical relations to assist the bishop with the 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 the bishop 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.
- †S8.13. 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 services requested by the synod.
- S8.14.** The synodical bishop may have such assistants as this synod shall from time to time authorize.

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- S8.14.01.** Associates to the bishop. After consultation with and upon the recommendation of the bishop, the Synod Council may call or engage one or more persons to serve as associates to the bishop in the work and conduct of the bishop's office and of this synod. Such associates 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 associate 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 associate 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 associate 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 Synod Council receives the bishop's recommendations, the term of each minister of Word and Sacrament, each minister of Word and Service associate's call, or period of each lay associate's employment, and the salary, emoluments and other remuneration to be received by each associate shall be determined by the bishop and approved by the Executive Committee of the Synod Council and incorporated into the provisions of the call or letter of engagement. If the bishop so recommends, any associate may serve successive calls or periods of employment as determined by the Synod 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.
- S8.14.02.** Support staff. Upon recommendation of the bishop, the Synod Council may authorize employment by this synod of support staff, in an appropriate number, for the bishop and the bishop's in the work of the synod.
- S8.14.A22.** Number of associates. *The number of associates to the bishop under S8.14.01., at any one time, shall not exceed five.*
- †**S8.15.** 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.
- †**S8.16.** **Conflicts of Interest**
- †**S8.16.01.** The following procedures shall govern matters of potential conflicts of interest for synod bishops:
- Whenever a synod bishop determines that a matter of the kind described in †S8.16.01.b. may require the bishop's 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.
 - Matters include any proceedings under Chapter 20, proceedings under provisions 7.46. and 7.75 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* (†S14.18. and †S14.43), 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.
 - 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).
- S8.20.** **Vice President**
- †**S8.21.** 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.
- S8.22.** The vice president shall chair the Synod Council.
- S8.24.** The vice president shall be ex-officio a member of the Churchwide Assembly.
- S8.30.** **Secretary**
- †**S8.31.** 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.

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- †S8.32. The secretary shall:
- a. Keep the minutes of all meetings of the Synod Assembly and Synod Council, be responsible for distribution of such minutes, and perform such other duties as this synod may from time to time direct.
 - 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.
 - c. In consultation with the bishop, classify and arrange all important papers and documents and deposit them in the archives of this synod.
 - 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.
- S8.32.01. The public file. This synod shall have a public file as the place of filing, as required by the bylaws, and reference for certain documentary materials, including, but not limited to, the Constitution, Book of Reports, Synod Assembly actions/minutes, Synod Council actions/minutes.
- S8.32.02. Responsibilities for filing. 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, the individual shall be responsible to make the filing, or (b) by the Synod 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.
- S8.32.03. Access to public file. The public file is open to the people of the synod. The bishop 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.
- S8.33. The secretary shall be ex-officio a member of the Churchwide Assembly.
- S8.40. Treasurer**
- †S8.41. The treasurer may be elected by the Synod Assembly or may be appointed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The treasurer may be either a layperson or a rostered minister.
- S8.41.01. The Synod Council shall appoint a treasurer following a process guided by the nominating committee, in consultation with the bishop, to provide for a treasurer who can best fulfill the duties as outlined in
- S8.42.
- 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.
- S8.42.A91. Funds-keeping and Investment Policy

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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 in an amount appropriate for a period of up to the next forty-five days, but not petty cash*
 - *“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.*

S8.43

The treasurer shall be ex-officio a member of the Churchwide Assembly.

S8.50.

General Provisions

†**S8.51.**

The terms of office of the officers of this synod shall be as follows:

- a. The bishop of this synod shall be elected to a term of six years and may be re-elected.
- b. The vice president and secretary of this synod shall be elected to a term of four years and may be re-elected. The officer shall serve until a successor takes office.
- c. The treasurer of this synod shall be appointed to a term of four years and may be re-appointed. The treasurer shall serve until his or her successor takes office.

†**S8.52.**

The terms of the officers shall begin on the first day of the third month following election or, in special circumstances, at a time designated by the Synod Council.

†**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.

†**S8.54.**

Should the bishop die, resign, or be unable to serve, 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 appropriate care of the responsibilities of the bishop until an election of a new bishop can be held or, in the case of temporary disability, until the bishop is able to serve again. Such arrangements may include the appointment by the Synod Council of an interim bishop, who during the vacancy or period of disability shall possess all of the powers and authority of a regularly elected bishop. The term of the successor bishop, elected by the next Synod Assembly or a special meeting of the Synod Assembly called for the purpose of election, shall be six years with the subsequent election to take place at the Synod Assembly closest to the expiration of such a term and with the starting date of a successor term to be governed by constitutional provision S8.52.

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

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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.

†S8.56. The Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall determine whether an officer is unable to serve; the officer may appeal the decision of the Executive Committee by requesting a 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.

†S8.57. The recall or dismissal of an officer and the vacating of office may be effected for willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church; for such physical or mental disability as renders the officer incapable of performing the duties of office; or for such conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action as a rostered minister or as a member of a congregation of this church.

- 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, exclusive of any members 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:

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- 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 not to exceed 90 days, the bishop, after consultation with the presiding bishop and 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 Synod Assembly. In addition to elections prescribed in the constitution to be made by the Synod Assembly, the Synod Assembly shall elect

- a) voting members of the Churchwide Assembly allocated to this synod.
- b) the Synod Council Members-at-large and the youth who is a member of the Synod Council.
- c) the members of the Consultation Committee and the synod’s 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 Synod 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 Synod Assembly meetings. The elections described in S9.01.01. shall be held at regular meetings of the Synod 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 Council Members-at-large. Normally, Synod Council Members-at-large may be reelected once; however, if an expiration of the term of an incumbent Synod Council Member-at-large the incumbent does not meet a specification for the position according to S9.03.04. or otherwise, the individual is ineligible to reelection. If an Synod Council Member-at-large 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, the individual 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 Synod Council-appointed position shall be filled by interim appointment by the Synod Council. The Synod 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.A22. *The Synod Council, having regard to the provisions of †S7.21. and S7.21.A88., shall elect to the membership of the Synod 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 Synod Assembly, bear the applicant’s 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 Synod Assembly is to be held; each such election shall be only for such Synod 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 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. Synod Council members, other than those eligible to reelection at the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly, may be appointed. A member of the Committee may be consecutively reappointed twice.
- b. The Synod Council is to complete appointments to the Nominating Committee for the meeting of the Synod 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 Synod 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 Synod Assembly, one person for nomination to a respective one of those voting member positions.
- b) A Conference may not select the same person for more than one position of those to be selected for a meeting of the Synod 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.
- 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.
- 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 the

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individual, otherwise be eligible for the position for which the individual is selected or elected, have affirmed willingness to serve in the position, and meet each specification under S9.03.04, if any, pertaining to the position.

- 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 Synod 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 Synod Council Members-at-large.

S9.03.03 Adoption of selections under S9.03.02. Normally, the Synod 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 Synod Council Members-at-large, is to adopt the selections of Conferences under paragraph (a) of S9.03.02.

S9.03.04 Specifications for Nominating Committee and Synod Council Members-at-large positions. So the Synod 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 Synod Council may establish specifications for at least some Nominating Committee and Synod Council Members-at-large 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 Synod Council shall notify the Conference well in advance of the affected electoral meeting.

S9.03.05 Previously-selected or-elected incumbents. 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.

S9.04. 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.

S9.04.01. Election of the Bishop. In addition to the provision of S9.04., procedures for election of the bishop include—

- a. Prior to a meeting of the Synod Assembly at which an election for the office of bishop is to be held, the Synod 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 Synod Assembly.
- b. The duties of the Committee on Pre-election Canvass shall be
 - 1) to mail directly to each voting member of the Synod Assembly, at least sixty (60) days but not more than seventy (70) days prior to the Synod Assembly, a canvass instrument and instructions for identification, by means of the instrument, of one person for the office of bishop;
 - 2) to receive those of such instruments bearing postmarks no later than forty-five (45) days prior to the Synod Assembly;
 - 3) to obtain, on a uniform basis, and to mail to each voting member of the Synod Assembly at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the Synod Assembly, biographical information about the

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- 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.
- c. The Committee on Pre-election Canvass, on behalf of the Synod 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 Synod 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 Synod Assembly.
 - 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.
- S9.04.A22.** *In each meeting of the Synod 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 Synod 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.*
- a. *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 Synod Assembly and (ii) spoken answers by the person to propounded questions, provided that if the person is not in attendance or otherwise so desires, the person may designate a spokesperson to participate instead. 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, the person is expected also to participate in the other aspect. The official presiding at the election shall likewise preside during the introductions.*
 - b. *Each such person, in any aspect of the introduction to the Synod 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 the introduction and otherwise in connection with the election.*
 - c. *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.*
 - d. *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 Synod 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 Synod 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.*
- S9.05.01.** 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 Synod 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*
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the second ballot, the Synod 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 Synod 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 Synod 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 Synod 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 Synod 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.A22** *A person who is nominated for election by the Synod Assembly (a) for Synod Council Members-at-large position, or (b) to the position of voting member of the Churchwide Assembly, is to provide, prior to the election in which the individual is a nominee, a written statement with regard to the individual's candidacy for the position. The Nominating Committee or the Elections Committee of the Synod Assembly, as appropriate, may receive the statement from the person. The statement is for distribution to voting members of the Synod 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

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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 third 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 third month following election. The youth shall be at least 16 years of age when the youth's 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 third month following election. The young adult shall be at least 21 years of age when the young adult's term begins and not more than 30 years of age when the term ends, and is not eligible to reelection.

S10.01.04. Synod Council meetings. The Synod Council shall hold regular meetings at least four times a year and, normally, once in each calendar quarter. The place of meetings of the Synod Council shall be determined by the Executive Committee. Special meetings of the Synod 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 Synod Council members. The secretary of this synod shall give written notice of each meeting of the Synod Council to Synod Council members.

S10.01.05. Committee liaison. The Synod 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 Synod Council may attend and have voice at meetings of such committees.

S10.01.06. Synod Council committees--generally. The Synod council shall have an Executive Committee and such other committees as it may from time to time determine. The Synod Council shall appoint the members of its committees. No one other than a member of the Synod Council may serve on a Council committee. Subject to the Synod Council's directions concerning purpose, procedure, and record-keeping, a Synod Council committee develops its own agenda and sets its own procedure. Unless the Synod Council so requires, a Synod Council committee need not make a report to the Synod Assembly covering its activities.

S10.01.07. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall comprise the officers and five Synod Council Members-at-large; at least one of the Synod Council Members-at-large shall be serving a term with an expiration date different than the expiration date of the terms of the other Synod Council Members-at-large. Normally, the period of appointment for Synod Council Members-at-large on the committee is two years, with no limitation on reappointment to an available position. The committee shall perform those functions of the Synod Council assigned to it by the Council, and, subject to other or additional directions from the Synod Council, the committee shall oversee preparation of the agenda for Synod 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 Synod 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 Synod Council and Synod Council-appointed committees. Synod Council committees and the Nominating Committee are accountable to the Synod 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.A98 Positions Process

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Definition. In this continuing resolution, “position resolution” means an action of the Synod Assembly which expresses the synod’s position as to indicated subject matter; but is not and is not connected with another action of the Synod 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.

- a. *Applicability. This continuing resolution applies in respect of each position resolution and without regard to the date of the resolution.*
 - b. *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 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.*
 - c. *Subsequent status.*
- (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 Synod Council considers the subject matter or purpose of an expiring position resolution to be of continuing interest to the synod, the Synod Council may adopt the substance of the resolution as a continuing position or an operational policy of the synod.*
- (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 Synod Council has taken action concerning subsequent status of the resolution or unless the resolution provides for its own expiration.*
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 Synod 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 Synod 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.*

S10.03. The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:

- a. Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of this synod.
- b. Recommend program goals and budgets to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- c. Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.
- 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 actions in this regard.
- 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.
- 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.
- g. Report its actions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- 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.

S10.04. 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.

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- S10.05.** No elected member of the Synod Council shall receive compensation for such service.
- S10.05.01** A member of the Synod Council may receive mileage compensation consistent with IRS mileage guidelines currently in force for participation in Synod Council business, as approved by the bishop of this synod.
- S10.06.** 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.
- S10.07.** 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.
- S10.08.** **Robert's Rules of Order**, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of the Synod Council.
- S10.08.01.** 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.

Chapter 11.
COMMITTEES

(Task Forces, Working Groups)

†**S11.01.** 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 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.

S11.01.01. Committees of this synod. Committees of this synod are:

1. The Executive Committee, the Consultation Committee, the Committee on Discipline, the Mutual Ministry Committee as provided for in †**S11.01.**;
2. Committees relating to the office of bishop, as provided for in **S11.01.16**
3. Synod Assembly committees, as provided for in **S11.01.05.**
4. The Nominating Committee, as provided for in **S11.01.06.**

Synod Council committees, as provided for in **S11.01.07** **S11.01.02. Eligibility/qualifications for committee service.** Other than the bishop ex officio, no person shall concurrently be a member of more than one of the Standing Committees as defined in **S11.01.10**. The standing committees are the Consultation Committee, the Committee on Discipline, and committees relating to the office of the bishop: the Ministry Committee and the Constitution Review Committee. This provision is also subject to the provisions of S11.02.01 (Consultation Committee), and S11.03.01 (Committee on Discipline). Unless otherwise designated by the bishop, persons who are members in good standing in a congregation of this synod are eligible for committee service.

S11.01.03. General provisions pertaining to committees. Except as the bylaws may otherwise provide or require with reference to committees of the Synod Assembly, the Nominating Committee, Synod Council committees, the Consultation Committee, the Committee on Discipline, and any Task Force or other Temporary Committee, the provisions of this bylaw apply to the committees of this synod.

- 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.
- 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. The committee secretary is also responsible to provide such minutes to the synod office, through a process defined in the continuing resolutions.
- 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.

S11.01.A22 *Committee secretaries shall provide electronic copies of all committee minutes to the bishop's executive assistant within one week following their approval by the committee.*

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- S11.01.04. Expenses.** 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 not receive compensation for such service, but the synod may reimburse them for necessary travel and out-of-pocket expenses while serving.
- S11.01.05. Synod Assembly committees.** Committees of the Synod Assembly include: a Committee on Reference and Council and other Synod Assembly committees (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 Synod Council. Synod Assembly committees have status, composition, appointment process, and functions and responsibilities as described and provided in S7.01.05.
- S11.01.06. Nominating Committee.** The Nominating Committee has the status, composition, appointment processes, and functions and responsibilities as described and provided in Chapter 9.
- S11.01.07. Synod Council committees.** Synod 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.
- S11.01.08. 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 Synod Council assigned to it by the Synod Council, and, subject to other or additional directions from the Synod Council, the committee shall oversee preparation of the agenda for Synod 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 Synod 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.
- S11.01.09. Mutual Ministry Committee.** The Mutual Ministry Committee has the status, composition, appointment processes, and functions and responsibilities as described and provided in S11.04.01.
- S11.01.10. Standing Committees.** The Standing Committees are the Consultation Committee, the Committee on Discipline, and committees relating to the office of the bishop: the Ministry Committee and the Constitution Review Committee, as stipulated in **S11.01.16**.
- S11.01.11. Reports by Standing committees.** The Standing committees shall make annual written reports to the Synod 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.
- S11.01.16 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 Synod 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.B22. 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 the candidacy committee, may participate in multi-synodic committees for certification of candidates for ordination and in the certification or accreditation processes for other professional leaders.*

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2. ft. **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 Synod 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 Synod Council with regard to constitutional matters. The committee shall have six members including, normally, the secretary of the synod.*
- S11.01.18. Task Forces and Temporary committees.** The Synod Council shall, as directed by the Synod 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 Synod Council shall describe the assignment in reasonable detail. The Synod 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 S11.01.02. Members of the Synod 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 normally complete its assignment and submit any required report within a period of not more than 18 months.
- S11.01.19. Accountability.** The Standing committees and Task Forces and Temporary committees of this synod -- together with their members -- are accountable to the Synod Council and the Synod 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 Synod Council.
- †**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 rostered ministers 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 rostered ministers 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 Synod Council and serve for the period the Synod Council may determine; in any case, the period of service of each
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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.A21 **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) (checked)

*Bethel (West), Chicago
Edgebrook, Chicago
Edison Park, Chicago
First Evangelical, Chicago
Iglesia Luterana De La Trinidad, Chicago
Martin Luther, Chicago
Mission of Christ, Chicago
Mosaic, Chicago
Purna Jiwan, Chicago
St. James on Foster, Chicago
St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Logan Square, Chicago
St. Timothy, Chicago
United in Faith, Chicago*

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Wicker Park, Chicago

NEAR WEST (checked)

*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, La Grange
Grace, Westchester
Holy Trinity, Lombard
Lord of Life, Darien
Mision Luterana Unidad, Berwyn
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
United, Oak Park
Unity, Berwyn*

NORTH (checked)

*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 Lutheran 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, Ingleside
Trinity United, Waukegan
Zion, Deerfield*

NORTHEAST (checked)

*Christ, Chicago
Concordia, Chicago*

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Ebenezer, Chicago
Evangelical Church of St. Luke, Chicago
First Immanuel, Chicago
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, Wilmette
St. Luke's, Park Ridge
St. Paul's, Evanston
St. Philip, Glenview
St. Timothy's, Skokie
Trinity, Evanston
Unity, Chicago
University, Evanston

NORTHWEST (good)

All Saints, Palatine
Bethlehem, Elgin
Christ, Palatine
Christ the Lord, Elgin
Christus Victor, Elk Grove Village
Grace, Mount Prospect
Holy Trinity, Elgin
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 (checked)

Ashburn, Chicago
Augustana, Chicago

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Bethany, Chicago
Bethel-Imani, Chicago
Bethlehem Evangelical, Chicago
Calvary (Kenneth), Chicago
Christ the Mediator, Chicago
Come Alive Ministry of Faith, Chicago
First of the Trinity, Chicago
Iglesia de la Santa Cruz, Chicago
Lebanon, Chicago
Love, Faith, and Hope SAWC, Chicago
Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Chicago
Reformation, Chicago
Salem, Chicago
St. James (on Michigan), 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 (checked)

Bethany, Lemont
Evangelical LC of the Good Shepherd, Palos Heights
Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Palos Heights
Faith, Homewood
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
Zion, Tinley Park

WEST (good)

Bethany, Batavia
Bethlehem, St. Charles
Faith, Glen Ellyn
Faith, Aurora

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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 Yuhllin, Aurora
New Hope, Aurora
Our Saviour, 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 Synod 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 Synod 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 Synod 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 Synod Assembly.

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- 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 Synod Council. The Synod 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 the Conference -- to be part of the reports to the Synod Assembly, and
- f) perform such other duties as the bishop may from time to time assign.

The deans may attend meetings of the Synod 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

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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 elect 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. Normatively, congregations should hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. 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 synod's 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 Synod Council with the Congregation prior to the Synod Council's decision on whether to approve the Congregation's request to retain their property.

- 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

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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 Synod Council.
- c. After the Synod 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 Synod 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 Synod 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 Synod 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 Synod Council on matters pertaining to the requested termination. The Synod Council need not announce the determination at such Synod Council meeting, but as soon as practicable after the meeting, the Synod 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 Synod 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.

†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:

- a. The congregation has disbanded, ceased to worship, or otherwise ceased to exist as a congregation.
- b. The congregation has abandoned its property.
- c. 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.
- d. 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.
- e. The Synod Council determines that it is necessary for this synod to protect and preserve the congregation's property from waste and deterioration.

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. Such synod administration shall continue only so long as necessary to complete the purposes for which it was requested by the congregation or until the congregation withdraws consent to continued administration.

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. Synod 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.

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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, advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations.
- 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 ministry report 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.
 - 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.

S14.17. 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

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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.

†S14.18. The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Sacrament and a congregation shall be as follows:

- 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 any of the following reasons:
 - 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
 - 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;
 - 3) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in that congregation in view of local conditions;
 - 4) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in view of disability or incapacity of the pastor;
 - 5) suspension of the pastor through discipline for more than three months;
 - 6) resignation or removal of the pastor from the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament 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 disability or 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 bishop of this synod,
 - 1) the bishop, who has 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 disability or 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 resumption of the ability to conduct the office effectively, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor 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 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.
- 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 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

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- recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.
- †S14.19. 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.
- †S14.21. The 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 the secretary's hands in good order by a departing pastor before:
- installation in another call, or
 - approval of a request for change in roster status.
- †S14.22. The pastor shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:
- installation in another call, or
 - approval of a request for change in roster status.
- †S14.23. 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 synod that the congregation records, for the period for which the interim pastor was responsible, are in order.
- †S14.24. 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.
- S14.25. 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.
- †S14.30. **Ministers of Word and Service**
- †S14.31. 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.
- †S14.32. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every Minister of Word and Service shall:
- Be rooted in the Word of God, for proclamation and service;
 - 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;
 - Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations;
 - Equip the baptized for ministry in God's world that affirms the gifts of all people;
 - Encourage mutual relationships that invite participation and accompaniment of others in God's mission;
 - Practice stewardship that respects God's gift of time, talents, and resources;
 - Be grounded in a gathered community for ongoing diaconal formation;
 - Share knowledge of this church and its wider ministry of the gospel, and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church; and
 - Identify and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the gospel.

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- 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 any of 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) inability to conduct the office effectively in view of disability or 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, who has 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 disability or 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 resumption of the

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ability to conduct the office effectively, 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; thus 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 guidelines for determining "proportionate share," and shall consult with congregational leaders to assist

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- each congregation in making its determination.
- 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.
 - 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.
- †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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- S15.21.01. Intermediaries. A Congregation or organization related to or affiliated with this synod may not utilize an intermediary to avoid the consent required in S15.21.
- S15.21.02. Fund-raising. Generally, for purposes of S15.21., consent by this synod for an appeal 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.
- a) The application shall be in writing and addressed to the Synod 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.
 - b) The Synod 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.
 - c) Before deeming an application complete, the Synod 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.
 - d) Within 180 days after the Synod Council deems an application complete, it shall act on the application, with written notice of the action to applicant. Such action, in the Synod Council's discretion, may include any of the following:
 - i. consent or conditional consent for the appeal.
 - ii. denial of consent which may, but need not, recite a particular reason for the denial.
 - iii. referral of the application, with or without recommendation, to the Synod Assembly.
 - e) The Synod Council's disposition of the application is final. An application referred by the Synod Council to the Assembly, may be disposed of in any manner the Synod Assembly deems appropriate.
- S15.21.03. Consent not required in certain circumstances. Consent by this synod under S15.21. is not applicable to and is not required for—
- a. reasonable funding of activities of a Conference by Congregations of the Conference.
 - 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

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- i. such funding may not supplant the Congregation’s proportionate share support for this church beyond the congregation under Chapter 15 of the constitution,
 - ii. during the period of funding the Congregation is current in providing such support, and
 - iii. the Congregation has invited a proposal for such funding.
 - 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
 - i. such funding shall not supplant the Congregations’ proportionate share support for this church beyond the congregation under Chapter 15 of the constitution,
 - ii. during the period of funding each such Congregation is current in providing such support, and
 - iii. the funding is provided by all or some of such Congregations.
- †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.
- †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.

Chapter 16.
INDEMNIFICATION

- †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 †S16.02.
 - 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 *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.
 - 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.
- S16.01.A87. Indemnification for members of certain committees.
 - a. *Members of the Consultation Committee, the synod 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 persons who are indemnified under †S16.01.*
 - b. *As from time to time appropriate for purposes of indemnification according to †S16.01., the Synod 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.*

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- †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.
- †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 †S16.01. or †S16.02.
- †S16.04. When written charges against a rostered minister of this church are made in disciplinary proceedings under Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* 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 made by the Synod Council.

Chapter 17.
CONSULTATION AND ADJUDICATION

- †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.
- †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 *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.
- †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.
- †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.
- †S17.10. **Adjudication in a Congregation**
- †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

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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.

Chapter 18.

AMENDMENTS, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

†S18.10. Amendments to Constitution

†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.

†S18.12. Whenever the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially informs this synod that the Churchwide Assembly has amended the *Constitution for Synods*, 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 *Constitution for Synods* 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.

†S18.13. Other amendments to this constitution may be adopted by this synod through either of the following procedures:

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 the Synod Assembly, an amendment may be adopted unchanged by a two-thirds vote at the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

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.

All such amendments shall become effective upon ratification by the Churchwide Assembly or by the Church Council.

†S18.20. Amendments to Bylaws

†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.

†S18.30. Amendments to Continuing Resolutions

†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.



Metropolitan Chicago Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

End of Report 2023

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