



Metropolitan Chicago Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

mcselca.org

BOOK of REPORTS

*In Jesus' Name,
Proclaim the Gospel...*

#GoodSTEWardship



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

Greetings, in the name of Christ!

We are pleased and honored to present to you the 2022 Book of Reports. Throughout these pages, you will find evidence of the #GoodSTEWardship of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. As congregations and ministries across the synod have adjusted to a new normal, we together live into our synod mission statement: In Jesus' name: Proclaim the Gospel, Make Disciples, Do Justice.

Look inside to discover many ways in which your ministries across the synod have carefully and courageously stewarded resources. As you notice how these ministries *travel together* in our synod*, notice also how we steward the message of the gospel. Encounter the ways in which the partnership between the synod office and ministries around the synod has enabled congregations to In Jesus' name: Proclaim the Gospel. We hope that your passion to uncover, live out, and share the mission in your own ministries will be rekindled as we celebrate the good news and #GoodSTEWardship of the past year in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. May God bless our shared ministry in the coming year as we continue to proclaim the gospel 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.

"Cada uno ponga al servicio de los demás el don que haya recibido, administrando fielmente la gracia de Dios en sus diversas formas. El que habla, hágalo como quién expresa las palabras mismas de Dios; el que presta algún servicio, hágalo como quien tiene el poder de Dios. Así Dios será en todo alabado por medio de Jesucristo, a quien sea la gloria y el poder por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.

— 1 Pedro 4:10-11

¡Saludos, en el nombre de Cristo!

Nos complace y nos honra presentarles el Libro de informes de 2022. A lo largo de estas páginas, encontrará evidencia de la #buenaadministración del Sínodo Metropolitano de Chicago. Como congregaciones y ministerios en todo el sínodo se han ajustado a una nueva normalidad, juntos vivimos en nuestra declaración de misión sinodal: En el nombre de Jesús: proclamar el Evangelio, hacer discípulos, hacer Justicia.

Mire hacia adentro para descubrir muchas formas en las que sus ministerios en todo el sínodo han tenido cuidadosamente y recursos valientemente administrados. Al notar cómo estos ministerios *viajan juntos* en nuestro sínodo*, observe también cómo administramos el mensaje del evangelio. Encuentre las formas en que la asociación entre la oficina del sínodo y los ministerios en torno al sínodo ha permitido a las congregaciones a En el nombre de Jesús: Anunciar el Evangelio. Esperamos que su pasión por descubrir, vivir y compartir la misión en sus propios ministerios se reavivará mientras celebramos las buenas nuevas y #buenaadministración del año pasado en el Sínodo Metropolitano de Chicago. Que Dios bendiga a nuestro ministerio compartido en el próximo año mientras continuamos proclamando el evangelio 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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

"And [Jesus] said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15).

Dear siblings in Christ,

When I talk about our goal of engaging a million new, young, diverse people I get asked a lot, "I'm not new, young, or diverse. Am I not important to the church anymore?" My answer is always the same, "You've never been more important."

When we committed to our new goal, we identified our purpose as "Activate each of us so more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love." This goal does not happen without the people who are already part of this church. Theresa of Avila talked about the church as the hands and feet of Christ in the world, the very way God will work to engage new people.

Those aren't easy things to do and certainly not ones that only a few of us can do alone. God has blessed us with so many resources to do this work: nearly 3.6 million people, 65 synods, and 350 CWO staff, plus colleges, universities, seminaries, social ministry organizations, and other affiliated organizations, and our separately incorporated ministries. We truly are a church of abundance.

So, what can you do right now?

- Pray. For our church. For one another. For those whom we have yet to meet.
- Find time to listen to people who are new to the ELCA, young, and/or diverse. Share the story of Jesus with them.

Along the way, don't forget: You are important.

Grace and peace,

Reporte De Obispa Presidente

OBISPA ELIZABETH A. EATON



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

"[Jesús] les dijo: 'Vayan por todo el mundo y anuncien las buenas nuevas a toda criatura'"
(Marcos 16:15).

Estimados hermanos en Cristo:

Cuando hablo de nuestra meta de atraer a un millón de personas nuevas, jóvenes y diversas, me preguntan mucho: —No soy nuevo(a), joven ni diverso(a). ¿Ya no soy importante para la iglesia?— Mi respuesta siempre es la misma: —Nunca has sido más importante.

Cuando nos comprometimos con nuestra nueva meta, identificamos nuestro propósito como "Activar a cada uno de nosotros para que más personas conozcan el camino de Jesús y descubran la comunidad, la justicia y el amor". Esta meta no se alcanza sin las personas que ya son parte de esta iglesia. Teresa de Ávila habló de la iglesia como las manos y los pies de Cristo en el mundo, la misma forma en que Dios trabajará para atraer a nuevas personas.

Esas no son cosas fáciles de hacer, y ciertamente no son cosas que unos cuantos de nosotros podemos hacer solos. Dios nos ha bendecido con tantos recursos para hacer esta obra: casi 3.6 millones de personas, 65 sínodos y 350 miembros del personal de la Oficina Nacional de la Iglesia, además de universidades, seminarios, organizaciones de ministerio social y otras organizaciones afiliadas, y nuestros ministerios incorporados por separado. Realmente somos una iglesia de abundancia.

Entonces, ¿qué puede hacer usted ahora mismo?

- Orar. Por nuestra iglesia. El uno por el otro. Por aquellos que aún tenemos que conocer.
- Saque tiempo para escuchar a las personas que son nuevas en la ELCA, jóvenes y/o diversas. Comparta con ellas la historia de Jesús.

A lo largo del camino no olvide esto: Usted es importante.

Gracia y paz,



SYNOD OFFICERS

Bishop

BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

*Look for the bishop's report after the 2022 assembly,
2nd edition of Book of Reports.*

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

Vice President's Report

TERRY HENDERSON

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. Grace to you and peace from God, our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

— 1 Peter 4:10

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

Well, we are in year two of the Covid pandemic, that seems to like hanging around. I don't think any of us thought that we would still be talking about the pandemic. It's supposed to be in our rear view mirrors. Though we have made, significant progress, we continue to use protocols as we re-enter our church buildings. Yes, the challenges are many. Yet, we as faithful stewards of Christ, continue to serve, reaching out to those less fortunate as ourselves. We are blessed to serve a God who continues to touch our hearts, to love and give our time, talents and monetary gifts to those in need. Many congregations use a hybrid worship service, giving the opportunity for those who are uncomfortable or unable to attend in person worship, allowing them to receive the Gospel each week.

Thank you, Bishop Curry and Synod Staff, for your dedication, love and service to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod.

Thank you to the Synod Council, for your faithfulness, service, insights, commitment in serving our Synod. I look forward to a time when our meetings are in-person and not a zoom call.

"Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Whatever happens, give thanks, because it is God's will in Christ Jesus that you do this."

— 1 Thessalonians 5 : 16-18

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Henderson

Vice President, Metropolitan Chicago Synod



*We are blessed to serve a God
who continues to touch our
hearts, to love and give our
time, talents and monetary gifts
to those in need.*

Secretary's Report

REV. ERIN CLAUSEN

Recently, my spouse bought a new cell phone for me and was going through the process of transferring and deleting everything on the 'old' phone. The following conversation ensued:

"What else needs to be transferred?"

"I don't have data that I need."

"What data do you need?"

"I don't have data that I need."

(frustrated now) "I understand that. What data don't you have?"

...

"There is no data on that phone that I need."

"Oh. That's not what you said the first time."



Conversations like these become quick (frustrating) reminders that the words we use – and the order in which we use them – do not always communicate as effectively as we think they do. Oftentimes, the more confident we feel in what we say, the less likely we are to communicate effectively. The more people involved in such a conversation can quickly devolve into chaos, irritation, and frustration.

Unfortunately, the same can happen in congregations and synods. We gather for the purposes of being #GoodStew – communities intended to worship God through Word and action. We share our common purpose through our governing documents – constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions. These documents help to provide clarity across the three expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – congregations, synods, and the national churchwide unit. Through our constitutions, each of these expressions share certain articles of faith. We share an understanding of the interdependency of the three expressions of the church. At the same time, we recognize that God gifts each congregation and synod in their own ways, and our governing documents reflect this diversity. These governing documents – at the congregational, synodical, and churchwide levels – are covenants between members of this church. They are sacred and holy promises that define how we will be church together. As such, we understand that stewarding these documents reflects a holy calling to uphold our promises to the members of our congregations and the larger church. Thus, as we engage in ministry together, we sometimes discover that we could communicate better.

To this end, at this year's Synod Assembly, we will consider amendments to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod's governing documents. These documents provide us as a synod with clarity regarding our shared purpose, intentions for our life together, and goals for our shared ministry.

I am grateful to the Constitution Working Group for their diligence and care in suggesting the amendments that will go before the assembly. You will note that many of these recommended amendments are primarily editorial in nature, to provide greater clarity to our governing documents. Other recommended amendments seek to clarify and align these governing documents with the current practices in the synod. Bringing our constitution and bylaws into such alignment will aid the Constitution Working Group and future synod assemblies in determining better practices, which may then be adopted into the synod's governing documents. Finally, some recommended amendments come before the assembly for thoughtful and prayerful deliberation about ways the synod might function more effectively as #GoodStew. The Constitution Working Group identified these as "Substantive Changes about which the assembly may wish to debate."

Jesus said to his disciples, "where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20) As we gather at the Synod Assembly, in Jesus' name, Jesus meets us there. As we engage in the work of the assembly, we engage in worship. We gratefully acknowledge God's work in our congregations and the synod. We meet Jesus, who provides nourishment to bring the gospel into the world. Guided by the Spirit, we consider how God may be calling us – in this moment – to be the church in the world.

Considering amendments to governing documents may not be the most exciting worship you will engage in during this assembly. Yet this worship is foundationally important, and it provides a way forward for how we will worship together in years to come.

I am deeply honored to serve you in this way, as we seek to clarify how we will be the church together. I am also honored to be a resource to congregations seeking to do the same. I am grateful for those with whom I share this calling: Bishop Curry, Vice President Henderson, Treasurer NewberryWhite, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council and the Synod staff. Finally, for each of the congregations of the synod, seeking to be #GoodStew with the gifts God has given you – I am grateful for you. May God bless our ministry together.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Erin Clausen

Secretary, Metropolitan Chicago Synod

SUMMARY of ACTIONS

2021 SYNOD COUNCIL ACTIONS

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| S.C.21.01.01 | <p>Vote Resolved, that the following amounts shall be designated as a housing allowance for each pastor: Bishop Yehiel Curry \$34,000 Rev. Robert Biekman \$25,000 Rev. Sunitha Mortha \$30,000 Rev. Kyle Severson \$30,000</p> <p>Resolved, that the above designations of housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2021 and all future years unless otherwise provided by this board.</p> |
| S.C.21.01.02 | <p>Vote for Synod Council to close Bethel Imani Lutheran Church with its assets to revert to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, consistent with †S13.24. of constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod.</p> |
| S.C.21.01.03 | <p>Vote for Synod Council to approve funding for Chosen Tabernacle, at the Bethel Imani Lutheran Church site at the following levels: 2021 \$15,000 2022 \$15,000 2023 \$15,000.</p> |
| S.C.21.01.04 | <p>Vote for Synod Council to approve funding for the mission start in the Southland in collaboration with the Southwest Conference at the following levels: 2021 \$35,000 2022 \$35,000 2023 \$35,000.</p> |

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|--------------|--|--------------|---|
| S.C.21.01.05 | Vote for Synod Council to release the previously authorized \$15,000 in funding for the Synodically Authorized Ministry Chosen Tabernacle at the Bethel Imani Lutheran Church site for 2021. | S.C.21.01.11 | Vote for Synod Council to formally endorse Bishop Curry's pastoral message posted January 8, 2021, "A Letter from Bishop Yehiel Curry Addressing the Events of January 6, 2021," and pledge to continue to support Bishop Curry in communicating the truth of the gospel, especially those truths which our majority-white denomination may find outside of its social experience or comfort level. |
| S.C.21.01.06 | Vote for Synod Council to release the previously authorized \$35,000 in funding for the mission start in the Southland in collaboration with the Southwest Conference for 2021. | | |
| S.C.21.01.07 | Vote for Synod Council to adopt the consent agenda as presented. | S.C.21.01.12 | Vote for Synod Council to approve Ashburn as a Synodically Authorized Ministry site. |
| S.C.21.01.08 | Vote for Synod Council to adopt the minutes of the October 24, 2020 meeting as presented. | S.C.21.01.13 | Vote for Synod Council to approve Lutheran Church of the Cross, Arlington Heights as a Synodically Authorized Ministry site. |
| S.C.21.01.09 | Vote for Synod Council to adopt CR S12.01.A21 as presented. | S.C.21.01.14 | Vote for Synod Council to approve Windsor Park Lutheran as a Synodically Authorized Ministry site. |
| S.C.21.01.10 | Vote for Synod Council to formally move the business of the Synod Assembly to update the Metropolitan Chicago constitution, previously announced as 2020 Synod Assembly Business, to 2021 Synod Assembly business, and to ask the secretary to make formal announcement thereof. | S.C.21.01.15 | Vote for Synod Council to extend a synod council call to Ms. Maria Rojas as a mission developer for the Unidad SAWC. |
| | | S.C.21.01.16 | Vote for Synod Council to extend a synod council call to Ms. Nikkeya Berryhill for ministry in Southland SAWC in the Southwest Conference. |

2021 SUMMARY OF ACTIONS CONTINUED

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| S.C.21.01.17 | Vote for Synod Council to extend a synod council call to Rev. Kristin Glass Perez for ministry in the capacity of University Chaplain and Executive Director of Religious and Spiritual Life at Northwestern University. | S.C.21.01.21 <i>continued...</i> | The synod funding shall be allocated as follows: 2021 \$45,000 2022 \$35,000 2023 \$25,000. |
| S.C.21.01.18 | Vote for Synod Council to extend a synod council call to Ms. Lora Salley for ministry in the capacity of Hospice Chaplain for Advocate at Home. | S.C.21.01.22 | Vote for Synod Council to authorize utilization of the 2021 interest from the Ministry on the Margins fund for to meet obligations for Strategic grants, as requested by the bishop or DREAM team. |
| S.C.21.01.19 | Vote for Synod Council to adjust the previously approved funding in S.C.20.07.19 for Belen at the following allocation: 2020 \$36,358 2021 \$28,000 2022 \$28,000 2023 \$28,000. | S.C.21.01.23 | Vote for Synod Council to direct \$80,000 of the funds currently earmarked for the COVID Congregation Support Fund to New Missions, with the remaining funds to be utilized for continued congregational support. |
| S.C.21.01.20 | Vote for Synod Council to vacate S.C.20.10.26, the approval of synod funding for Come Alive Ministry of Christ. This funding has transitioned to originating in the Domestic Mission Unit of ELCA Churchwide. | S.C.21.01.24 | Vote for Synod Council to amend governing policy B.3.1.1 as presented. |
| S.C.21.01.21 | Vote for Synod Council to modify the previously approved funding for Mosaic, due to increased funding from the Domestic Mission unit of ELCA Churchwide. | S.C.21.01.25 | Vote for Synod move into executive session. |
| | | S.C.21.01.26 | Vote for Synod Council to award the Sunergos Award at the 2021 Synod Assembly, to the candidate previously presented. |
| | | S.C.21.04.27 | Vote for Synod Council to adopt the consent agenda as presented. |

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| S.C.21.04.28 | Vote for Synod Council to recommend the 2022 budget as presented for adoption by the assembly. | S.C.21.04.33 | Vote for Synod Council to return the remaining funds previously allocated to the RUACH ministry of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, to the new mission fund. |
| S.C.21.04.29 | Vote for Synod Council to adopt the minutes of the January 30, 2021 meeting as presented. | S.C.21.04.34 | Vote for Synod Council extend a synod council call to Dcn. Joanne Otte as Program Manager, Addressing Critical Needs of The Chicago Community Trust. |
| S.C.21.04.30 | Vote for Synod Council to reallocate one half of the remaining funds in the COVID-19 Congregational Support Grant Fund to create a new fund entitled COVID-19 Congregational Recovery Fund. The purpose of the COVID-19 Congregational Recovery Fund will be as defined in the "COVID-19 Congregation Recovery Grant Proposal COVID-19 Task Force Report to Synod Executive Committee 13 April 2021" document presented to the synod council. | S.C.21.05.35 | v Vote for The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council, with regard to St. James, Foster, 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. The Synod Council determines that it is necessary for this synod to protect and preserve the congregation's property from waste and deterioration in regard to St. James Lutheran Church located at 7400 W. Foster Ave, Chicago, Illinois. |
| S.C.21.04.31 | Vote for Synod Council to activate the Fund for Ministry from the Margins consistent with the report provided by the task force. | | |
| S.C.21.04.32 | Vote for Synod Council to grant voice and vote at the 2020/2021 assembly to those who have applied for such membership, as presented. | S.C.21.04.31 | Vote for The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council, with regard to St. James Lutheran Church located at 7400 W. Foster Ave, Chicago, Illinois, <i>continued...</i> |

2021 SUMMARY OF ACTIONS CONTINUED

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| S.C.21.05.36 <i>continued...</i> | exercise the power of S13.25. of the synod constitution to “temporarily assume administration of a congregation upon its request or with its concurrence.” This motion will be in force upon receipt of such request. | S.C.21.06.42 | Vote for the Synod Council to formally remove Norwegian Lutheran Church from the roster of the ELCA, consistent with provision 9.23. of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA. |
| S.C.21.06.37 | Vote for the Synod Council to adopt the consent agenda as presented. | S.C.21.06.43 | Vote for the Synod Council to adopt the MCS Personnel Manual (June 2021) as presented. |
| S.C.21.06.38 | Vote for the Synod Council to adopt the minutes of the 2019 Regular Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly as presented. | | Vote for the Synod Council to move into executive session to discuss confidential matters. |
| S.C.21.06.39 | Vote for the Synod Council to recommend the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2021 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly as presented, for adoption by the assembly. | S.C.21.06.44 | Vote for the Synod Council to approve the On Leave From Call Applications for: Rev. Fanya Burford Berry, Rev. Joanne Fitzgerald, Rev. Matthew Holmes, and Rev. David Hulse (retroactive). |
| S.C.21.06.40 | Vote for the Synod Council to recommend the Agenda for the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly 2021 as presented, for adoption by the assembly. | S.C.21.06.45 | Vote for the Synod Council to extend a synod council call to Rev. Matthew Zemanick as Chaplain to the SE Side Environmental Justice Community. |
| S.C.21.06.41 | Vote for the Synod Council to adopt the minutes of the April 24, 2021 meeting as amended. | S.C.21.06.46 | Vote for the Synod Council to grant voice and vote at the 2020/2021 assembly to those additional people who have applied for such membership, as presented. |

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| S.C.21.07.47 | Vote for the Synod Council to adopt the consent agenda as presented. | S.C.21.10.54 | Vote for Synod Council to authorize the expenditure of \$5,000 from the New Missions Fund for the St. James/ Shepherd's Heart Synod Authorized Worshipping Community during the 2021/2022 fiscal year. |
| S.C.21.07.48 | Vote for the Synod Council to adopt the minutes of the May 8, 2021 meeting as presented. | | |
| S.C.21.07.49 | Vote for the Synod Council adopt the minutes of the June 3, 2021 meeting as amended. | S.C.21.10.55 | Vote for Synod Council to extend a synod council call to Rev. Wyvetta Bullock as part-time Associate to the Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. |
| S.C.21.10.50 | Vote for Synod Council to adopt the consent agenda as presented. | | |
| S.C.21.10.51 | Vote for Synod Council to adopt the minutes of the July 24, 2021 meeting as presented. | S.C.21.10.56 | Vote for Synod Council to transfer \$6,791.49 – from the 2021 interest from the Ministry from the Margins fund to the Congregational Support Grant Fund and Congregational Recovery Grant Fund to cover the pending applications. |
| S.C.21.10.52 | Vote for Synod Council to recommend to the 2022 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly the adoption of the constitutional amendments and bylaw amended as presented. | S.C.21.10.57 | Vote for Synod Council to appoint Rev. Erin Clausen, Ms. Jennifer DeLeon, Deacon Tracy Katschke-Goss, Mr. Iván Pérez, and Mr. Charles Willett to a Ministry from the Margins temporary board until the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council approves a permanent board-selection process. |
| S.C.21.10.53 | Vote for Synod Council to approve the St. James/ Shepherd's Heart Synod Authorized Worshipping Community to be funded with \$15,000 over the next 3 years from the New Missions Fund. | | |

2021 SUMMARY OF ACTIONS CONTINUED

- S.C.21.10.58 Vote for Synod Council to support a waiver of the 3-year requirement for congregational service and request that the COB approve the Synod Council Call to Rev. Matthew Zemanick.
- S.C.21.10.59 Vote for Synod Council to approve the Southeast Chicago Environmental Justice Coalition Exploration and fund it with \$7,000 to come from the New Mission Fund.
- S.C.21.10.60 Vote for Synod Council to approve the use of the \$20,000 deposit at the Tinley Park Convention Center for a synod event other than a synod assembly.
- S.C.21.10.61 Vote for Synod Council to move into executive session.
- S.C.21.10.62 Vote for Synod Council to receive Rev. Reginald Mortha to the disability roster of the ELCA.



MCS SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2021

GOOD STEWARDS

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2021

TIME: 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

WHERE: VIRTUAL

LIKE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE MANIFOLD GRACE OF
GOD, SERVE ONE ANOTHER WITH WHATEVER GIFT
EACH OF YOU HAS RECEIVED,
| PETER 4:10

**Minutes of the 33rd & 34th Annual Synod Assemblies
of the
Metropolitan Chicago Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Hosted online via Zoom and eBallot**

2020 Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod

Welcome

At 9:00AM Ms. Hope Johnson opened the assembly with a Native Land Acknowledgement. Bishop Curry then welcomed members, visitors, and guests to the Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth Annual Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Bishop Curry explained that last year, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council voted to postpone the 2020 synod assembly in compliance with Illinois state law, having determined that meeting was inadvisable for reasons of health, life, and safety. Therefore, to fulfill the synod's bylaws, the synod council decided to host the 2020 synod assembly very briefly today, just in advance of the 2021 assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. Following the opening litany, the 2020 assembly will be closed and the 2021 assembly convened immediately afterward. Bishop Curry also briefly outlined the online format of the assembly and thanked the assembly for their grace as the synod and the participants navigate this new format for assembly. Bishop Curry then introduced Pastor Mark Carlsson, Senior Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Naperville, the host for the on-site portion of the Synod Assembly.

Greetings

Pastor Mark Carlsson briefly greeted the assembly.

Opening Litany / Bishop's Report Part I

At 9:08AM Bishop Curry thanked Pastor Carlsson and introduced the musicians, who played "Come Let us Worship God." Bishop Curry then continued with an invocation and prayer, followed by "Blessed Assurance."

The Bishop's recorded report began with a sermon reflection on 1 Peter 4:7b-11. Bishop Curry briefly outlined the theme for the 2020/2021 Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, "Good Stew." This report acknowledged the brevity of the online assembly compared with in-person assemblies and invited the assembly to experience nourishment in the stories of the 'good stew'-ardship of ministries around the synod.

Following this video, the assembly musicians led the assembly in 'Vamos Todos,' and Ms. Jen DeLeon led the assembly in prayer.

2020 Business

At 9:36AM Bishop Curry declared the 2020 Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod to be open. He noted that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council had approved the minutes of the 2019 Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. Bishop Curry then introduced a video

recognizing rostered ministers and congregations that celebrated significant milestone anniversaries of service in the last year. Following the video, Bishop Curry declared the 2020 Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod closed.

2021 Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod

At 9:43AM Bishop Curry declared the 2021 Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod to be open. He introduced Pastor Darryl Thompson-Powell, chair of this year's Nominations, Credentials and Election Committee. Bishop Curry asked Pastor Thompson Powell to present the credentials report. Pastor Thompson Powell reported to the assembly that the total number of voting members registered as of 9:48AM was 374, including 168 rostered ministers and 206 lay voting members. The voting membership of the assembly therefore is comprised of 56% lay and 44% rostered ministers. The number of voting members necessary for a quorum is 231. Pastor Thompson Powell moved the adoption of this report, and Secretary Clausen seconded. The assembly voted using the polling function on Zoom, and the report was adopted as presented.

Rules of Organization and Procedure

Bishop Curry then introduced the next item of business before the assembly - the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2021 Assembly. This document had been sent via email as part of the assembly checklist, and is also located on page 9 in the Voting Member Handbook. Having been recommended to the assembly for adoption by the Synod Council, the Rules of Organization and Procedure do not require a second. There was no discussion, and the assembly voted using the polling function on Zoom. The Rules of Organization and Procedure were adopted by the assembly.

Adoption of the Agenda

Bishop Curry instructed the assembly to consider the agenda for the assembly which was published on page 3 of the Voting Member handbook. Having been recommended for approval by the synod council, the proposed agenda does not require a second. There was no discussion, and at 9:50AM the assembly adopted the agenda via the polling function on Zoom.

Appointment of Parliamentarian / Welcome to Churchwide Office Representative

Bishop Curry then appointed Ms. Joan Bundley as parliamentarian for the assembly. Ms. Bundley is a Registered Parliamentarian with the National Association of Parliamentarians. He also extended a warm welcome to the Churchwide Office representative – Pastor Keith Fry, Executive for Administration in the Office of the Secretary.

Election Committee Report

At 9:51AM Bishop Curry invited Pastor Thompson Powell to explain the Elections Process and the Election Committee Report. Pastor Thompson Powell explained that the members of the 2021 Nominating & Elections Committee are listed in the voting handbook and asked the assembly to please join him in thanking them for their good and faithful work, including Rev. Kyle Severson who served as the staff liaison to these committees.

Pastor Thompson Powell then explained the election process for the Vice president and Secretary elections. The elections for Synod Vice President and Synod Secretary are by ecclesiastical ballot, which means that for the first ballot there are no formal nominees or printed names and votes are taken by writing the name of any eligible individual. For the first ballot two-thirds of the votes are required for election; failing a 2/3 majority this first ballot becomes the nominating ballot. All eligible persons named on the first ballot, with the exception of those who withdraw their names, become eligible for votes on the second ballot. When the bishop declares voting to be open, each voting member will receive an email from E-Ballot. At that time, voting members will open that email and vote for one eligible person for each position. Pastor Thompson Powell explained that the Vice President must be a lay person. The Secretary may be a lay person or a rostered leader (pastor or deacon). All nominees named on this first ballot will have the opportunity before the second ballot to decline a nomination, thus each voting member must add a contact number for the person you nominate for either office. After the bishop declares voting to be open, voting members may complete their ballot. Once completing and submitting the ballot, please wait patiently for the bishop to declare balloting closed. The elections committee will steward the elections process throughout the assembly.

Ecclesiastical Ballot for Vice President and Secretary

Bishop Curry thanked Pastor Thompson Powell for his report and the instructions to the assembly. He explained that ballots would arrive in voting members' email boxes and reiterated that voting members must be aware of which position they were voting for on each ballot. He then invited Pastor Kyle Severson, Associate to the Bishop, to lead the assembly in prayer. Following the prayer, Bishop Curry explained that voting members would have 5 minutes to vote. He then declared voting open at 9:58AM.

Because of technical difficulties voting members shared in the Zoom chat, voting was extended to 10:06AM, at which time Bishop Curry declared voting closed.

First General Ballot

Bishop Curry then invited Pastor Darry Thompson Powell to explain the process for voting on the first general ballot. Pastor Thompson Powell explained that biographical information for all nominees had been shared with all voting members in the document entitled Elections Resource. This information was shared via email to all registered voting members on June 2, 2021 under "Resource Documents" and on the Synod Assembly page of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod website. The elections on this general ballot include electing voting members to the 2022 churchwide assembly, members of the synod council, members of the discipline committee and members of the consultation committee. Voting members will again use E-Ballot to vote and should vote for one person in each position.

Bishop Curry thanked Pastor Thompson Powell for this explanation and declared voting to be open at 10:09AM. At 10:20AM, Bishop Curry declared voting to be closed.

Anniversaries of Rostered Ministers 2021

While votes were being tabulated, Bishop Curry introduced a video to be played for the assembly, 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.

Report of the Ecclesiastical Ballot for Vice President and Secretary

At 10:30AM, Bishop Curry invited Pastor Thompson Powell to give the report of the ecclesiastical ballots for Vice President and Secretary. Pastor Thompson Powell reported that on the ecclesiastical ballot for Vice President, there were 31 ballots cast. An election on this ballot requires two-thirds of the votes, or at least 21 votes. The results were projected and shared on participants' screens. Mr. Terry Henderson received 21 votes, representing 68% of the total ballots cast. Therefore, there was an election. Bishop Curry declared Mr. Terry Henderson elected as Vice President.

Pastor Thompson Powell then reported that on the ecclesiastical ballot for Secretary, there were 42 ballots cast. An election on this ballot requires two-thirds of the votes, or at least 28 votes. The results were projected and shared on participants' screens. Rev. Erin Clausen received 36 votes, representing 85% of the total ballots cast. Therefore, there was an election. Bishop Curry declared Rev. Erin Clausen elected as Secretary.

Bishop's Report – Part II

At 10:35AM, the Bishop's Report Part II video was shown. During this video, Bishop Curry highlighted several ministries doing good work throughout the Metropolitan Chicago Synod.

Report of the General Ballot

Following the Bishop's Report Part II video, Bishop Curry invited Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell to share the report of the General Ballot. The results follow – those receiving enough votes to be elected in bold:

Churchwide Assembly - Lay Female

Selene Partida (Near West)* 100% 294 votes

Churchwide Assembly - Lay Female

Ariolye Frost (Northeast)* PC/L 61% 178 votes

Claire Embil (Northeast) PC/L 39% 116 votes

Churchwide Assembly - Lay Female

Sherri D'Agostino (West)* 100% 294 votes

Churchwide Assembly - Lay Male

Ismael Calderon (North)* PC/L 63% 184 votes

Donal Barlow (North) 37% 110 votes

Churchwide Assembly - Lay Male

John Nicholas (Northwest)* 100% 294 votes

Churchwide Assembly - Lay Male

Zachary Howell (Southwest)* 51% 150 votes

Rodger Jones (South) PC/L 49% 144 votes

Churchwide Assembly, Lay

Angela Bell (Southwest) 48% 141 votes

Elisabeth Trost (Northeast) 52% 153 votes

Churchwide Assembly, Lay

Frank Imhoff (Northwest) 100% 294 votes

Churchwide Assembly, Rostered Female

Pr Erin Clausen (Near West) 55% 161 votes

Pr. Julie Grafe (West) 45% 133 votes

Churchwide Assembly, Rostered Female

Pr Alison Bengfort (Northeast) 100% 294 votes

Churchwide Assembly, Rostered Male

Pr. Jason Glombicki (Central)* 65% 190 votes

Pr. David Elliot (West) 35% 104 votes

Churchwide Assembly, Rostered Male

Pr. Andrew Bell (Southwest) 38% 112 votes

Pr. Nathan Klein (Southwest) 62% 181 votes

Churchwide Assembly, Rostered

Pr. Lester White (South)* PC/L 100% 294 votes

Churchwide Assembly, Person of Color/Primary language other than English

Loretta Northcutt (South) PC/L 39% 114 votes

Yvette Newberry White (South) PC/L 61% 180 votes

Churchwide Assembly, Youth/Young Adult

Kayshawn Colbert Jones (Near West) PC/L 52% 152 votes

Emily Martinez (Near West) PC/L 48% 142 votes

Synod Council - Lay Female

Kristina Adamczeski (Near West)* 100% 294 votes

Synod Council Lay Female

Nancy Arnesen (West)* 100% 294 votes

Synod Council Rostered Female

Pr. Maria Rojas-Banda (Near West)* PC/L 100% 294 votes

Synod Council Rostered Male

Pr. Joel Lohafer (Northwest)* 100% 294 votes

Synod Council - Rostered

Pr. Lester White (South)* PC/L 100% 294 votes

Synod Council

Iván Pérez (Central) PC/L 100% 294 votes

Synod Council

Robert Langlois (Northwest) 100% 294 votes

Committee on Consultation, Lay Female

Barbara Hiller (Northeast) 100% 294 votes

Committee on Consultation, Lay Male

Thomas Weglarz (North) 100% 292 votes

Committee on Discipline, Lay Male

Wayne Giampietro (North) 100% 294 votes

Committee on Discipline - Lay Female

Angela Bell (Southwest) 100% 293 votes

Committee on Discipline, Rostered Female

Pr. Melody Eastman (West) 100% 294 votes

Committee on Discipline, Rostered Female

Pr. Carla Powell (Central) 100% 294 votes

Committee on Discipline, Rostered Male

Pr. Josh Evans (Northeast) 100% 294 votes

Following the report, Bishop Curry declared those individuals elected.

Report of the Treasurer

At 10:57AM 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 highlighted that for the fiscal year that ended January 31, 2021, the synod received 95% of the anticipated mission support from congregations. Fifty percent of the mission support received by the synod is passed through to the Churchwide Organization. Additionally, nine percent is used to financially support the synod's partners in ministry such as Lutheran seminaries, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, campus ministry, etc. 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 2022 Budget.

2022 Budget

Bishop Curry thanked Treasurer NewberryWhite for her stewardship of the budgeting process and indicated that the assembly would now consider the 2022 Budget. As the proposed 2022 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 2022 budget as presented using the polling function in Zoom. The budget was adopted as presented.

Bishop's Report – Part III

This video concluded the Bishop's Report. In this video, Bishop Curry shared examples of ways the synod council and bishop's office live into the synod's mission and the 'Good Stew' of the synod. Bishop Curry shared about a Congregational Support Fund and a Congregational Recovery Fund established by the synod council to address the COVID-19 pandemic realities. He also explained there are additional monies available in a Ministry From the Margins fund, to begin in October 2021. Bishop Curry then shared information about new mission starts and various synod working groups that offer opportunities to share one's gifts with the larger church, with an invitation to nominate yourself or someone else to these groups. The bishop's report concluded with a benediction.

Partner Ministry Videos

At 11:18AM, Bishop Curry introduced two partners in ministry – First Immanuel and Lakeview Lutheran Churches. Videos of each of these ministries were presented.

Vote on Constitutional Amendments

At 11:28AM, Bishop Curry indicated that the assembly would consider the constitutional amendments recommended by the synod council. All amendments considered at this assembly are those consistent with the 2019 Model Constitution for Congregations. As they have been moved by the synod council, they do not require a second. There was no discussion. The

assembly voted using the polling feature of the Zoom platform. The amendments were adopted as presented.

Churchwide Office Report

Bishop Curry then invited Rev. Keith Fry, Executive for Office of the Secretary Administration, to share the churchwide report with the assembly. Rev. Fry shared greetings and a video of Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA. He continued with a brief presentation.

DREAM Team Report

At 11:46AM, Bishop Curry introduced Rev. Robert Biekman, Associate to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission. A brief report followed of the newly named DREAM Team – which had previously been called the Outreach Ministry Team.

Report of the Vice President and Secretary

Bishop Curry introduced the video report of Vice President Terry Henderson at 11:53AM, followed immediately by the video report of Secretary Erin Clausen. As a conclusion to the report, Secretary Clausen reported on actions of the synod council during the previous year. There was no discussion following this report.

Sunergos Award

At 12:00PM, Bishop Curry introduced the Sunergos Award for Synodical Service recipient, Ms. Mary Richardson, who retired from service to the synod office earlier in the year. Sunergos is a Greek word that means “a companion in work” or “fellow worker.” The award was established by the synod council in May 2000 to “celebrate the gift of lay servants of our synod who give so much to the life of the church.” This concluded with a video thanking Ms. Richardson for her service.

Authorization of Approval of the Minutes

Bishop Curry then invited Vice President Terry Henderson to the stage to move the Authorization of Approval of the Minutes.

Vice President Henderson moved, and a member of the assembly seconded:

That the synodical secretary be authorized to correct punctuation, references to resolutions and other positions, and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the assembly in connection with positions adopted, and that the synod council’s executive committee be given authority to approve the minutes of this assembly.

The assembly voted using the polling function on the Zoom platform. The motion passed.

Memorials

Bishop Curry thanked Vice President Henderson, as well as Pastor Thompson-Powell and the synod staff and volunteers listed on pages 15-16 of the Voting Member handbook, all of whom worked so hard to make this a successful assembly. He then introduced a video in memory of those rostered leaders who have found their eternal rest in God in the past year.

Closing Litany

Ms. Hope Johnson was invited forward to lead the closing litany.

Order for the Closing of the Assembly

At 1:10PM Bishop Curry declared the assembly closed, and the assembly concluded with a final song.



FEBRUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2022

Deacon Nancy L. Vaughn

It is always difficult saying goodbye to someone we love and cherish. Family and friends must say goodbye to their beloved Nancy L. Vaughn (Long Grove, Illinois), born in Chicago, Illinois, who passed away at the age of 84, on March 19, 2021. You can send your sympathy in the guestbook provided and share it with the family. You may also light a candle in honor of Nancy L. Vaughn.

She was predeceased by : her parents, Edward Nelson and Dorothy Nelson; her husband Donald L. Vaughn; and her son Mark Vaughn. She is survived by : her children, Karen Dorfmeier (Alan), Steven Kuhn, Deborah Schmalfeldt (Gregory) and Christy Falkosky; her grandchildren, Nicole Nelson (Nick), Elizabeth Wolf (Brian), Heather Hasler (Wynn), Megan Bryan (Carter), Jonathan Kuhn, Kristin Dorfmeier, Allison Kuhn, Erin Falkosky, Hannah Tipton, Rebecca Dorfmeier, Grace Schmalfeldt, Nolan Falkosky and Andrew Falkosky; and her sister Arlene Devience (late Alexander). She is also survived by 10 great grandchildren.

Visitation Sunday, March 28, 2021 from 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm at Glueckert Funeral Home Ltd. (capacity limits, PPE requirement, and social distancing in effect), 1520 N. Arlington Heights Road (four blocks south of Palatine Road), Arlington Heights, IL 60004. Visitation Monday, March 29, 2021 9:00 am until the 10:00 am Funeral Service at Hope Lutheran Church (also with capacity limits and PPE, and social distancing), 1660 Checker Road, Long Grove, IL 60047.

Rev. Dr. Robert R. Leshar Jr.

6/24/48 – 9/6/21

Deacon Gerald "Jerry" Koenig

Gerald "Jerry" Louis Koenig was born June 26, 1937 in Collinsville, Illinois, and died on December 23, 2021. Between those dates he lived a wonderful and blessed life. Jerry is survived by his wife LaNell Mahler Koenig and his three children and nine grandchildren, Kendall (Connie) Koenig—Kaleb, Maddie & Leah, Kurt (Brenda) Koenig—Karl, Kevin & Kristian, and Karla (Bill) Koehne—Aiden, Ethan & Ryan, as well as three siblings: Don (Marcia) Koenig, Darlene Gutzwiller, and Ralph (Sue) Koenig. Jerry also cherished LaNell's children and grandchildren, Naomi Mahler (Todd Lynum)—Sofia & Grace, Rachel (Brett) Kraemer—Andrew & Julia, and Matthew (Loren) Mahler—Hannah. He was preceded in death by his parents Hilbert and Olinda Koenig; two siblings, Melbourne Koenig and Dolores Thayer; and his beloved wife Marj (nee Will).

Jerry and Marj both graduated from Concordia Teacher's College (now Concordia University) in River Forest in 1960 with degrees in education and were married August 14 of that year. Jerry later earned a master's degree. After four years of teaching at Immanuel Lutheran School in Des Plaines, Jerry took a call to serve as a junior high teacher at Grace Lutheran School in River Forest. He served there for the next 36 years, as teacher and then principal, investing

in students and shaping them with God's guidance and grace. Over the years, at different times, he also led high school ministry, father/son canoe trips, building expansion projects, and numerous other activities in the congregation. In 2015, he received a commendation in recognition of 55 years of rostered ministry by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, having originally served as an Associate in Ministry (AIM) and later as a Deacon.

Jerry loved the outdoors—camping, hunting, fishing, and traveling—as well as his beloved St. Louis Cardinals. He camped with his family around more than 30 states and visited many countries, chaperoning choirs and visiting international Christian schools. He enjoyed wood-working, gardening, and a good game of cards. Most of all, he treasured God's people—the students he taught and led, his many friends and colleagues, and the family he delighted in.

After Marj's death in 2009, Jerry and LaNell were married August 21, 2010. They enjoyed many years of travel and time with family and friends. In his last years, Jerry fought a valiant fight with Lewy-Body Dementia with Parkinsonism. LaNell's care for Jerry during that time was an incredible blessing.

A visitation will be held at Grace Lutheran Church (7300 Division St, River Forest) on Friday, January 28, 5-8pm, and a memorial service on Saturday, January 29 at 10am. Memorial gifts may be given to Grace Lutheran School in River Forest.

Rev. John Haynes Johnson

The Rev. John Haynes Johnson was born on March 26, 1927 in Chicago, Illinois, and died on January 19, 2022. John is survived by his wife Dora Mae "Dolly" Johnson and their four sons, Maurice "Maury" Timothy Johnson, David Alan Johnson (daughter Caitlin Rae, son Ian, grandson Cedar), Martin "Marty" Duane Johnson, and Erik Haynes Johnson (daughter Aniya). He was preceded in death by his parents John Martin and Helene (Haynes) Johnson; three siblings, Janet Helene Nilsen, Martha Ann Sherman, and the Rev. Marvin Andrew Johnson; and eldest son John Mark Johnson.

John loved to preach and serve God. Called to the ministry at an early age, he fulfilled his mother's wishes to have her two boys become pastors. He graduated from St. Olaf College in 1947 and Luther Seminary in 1952. His first call took him to rural North Dakota near Minot, at three small rural farming community churches in Kief, Balfour, and Butte from 1952 to 1955. From there, he went on to serve Burke Lutheran Church in Madison, Wisconsin, while raising his first four boys from 1955 to 1963.

The next big challenge John faced was when the church called on him to start a new mission in the town of Riverton in west central Wyoming, in the middle of the Wind River Indian Reservation. At the time of his call, Riverton was a booming uranium mining town that quickly went bust upon his arrival. The expectation of starting one new congregation and

building a church of worship was challenging enough, yet while there, he built two: St. John's Lutheran Church in Riverton (1963-1968) and Faith Lutheran Church in Lander (1965-1968). He loved the people and the natural wonders of Wyoming, becoming an avid trout fisherman and a deer and elk hunter. He always had his fishing gear in the trunk when out visiting parishioners and would often stop to "fish a little" in the creeks he passed on the way home. Unfortunately, during this time, he quietly suffered from depression due to the burdensome expectations that come with building a growing mission church, especially in the face of Riverton's challenges.

As he left Riverton, John was given a fresh start when he was called to serve a mission church in the inner city of Chicago at Moreland Lutheran Church, from 1968 to 1972. Moreland was an old Norwegian Lutheran congregation—in the Austin neighborhood of west Chicago—in the midst of rapid urban decline and white flight. The church wanted John to increase membership and donations, but he recognized that the community he was serving needed greater access to social services and assistance. Arising from this need, John attempted to provide a community daycare in the church basement, but this was met with resistance and challenges. As a result, John left the parish and pursued a career outside of the congregation.

While exploring other career options, a new exciting phase of his life began. He remained committed to the church, preaching as a supply pastor in the Chicago area. He kept his sense of humor, coming up with a business calling card that read, "Have Sermon, Will Travel." During this new phase of his ministry, John continued his education, earning a master's degree in business at Governor's State University, and starting a new career with a full-time job in non-profit fundraising.

While keeping his full-time job in Chicago, John started filling in as a regular supply pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Tonica, Illinois, a small farming community about 100 miles southwest of Chicago. St. Paul's would become his joy. Being a Sundays-only preacher, he would joke how the parishioners could only die and get married on the weekends. For 19 years he joyfully served the people of St Paul's.

John officially retired in 1992. Having fulfilled his mother's wishes of becoming a minister, he came full circle after retirement by serving part-time as the chaplain at Bethesda Nursing Home in northwest Chicago. In his waning years, spending more time with his family, he retired completely from the ministry.

However, his career wasn't the only highlight of his life. During his time at seminary, while interning at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1950, he met the love of his life, Dora Mae Johnson. They celebrated

their 70th wedding anniversary this past December. John was a loving and caring husband to Dolly. He loved his five boys, took them trout fishing, camping, and hunting in the Wyoming mountains. He adored his granddaughters, Caitlin and Jasmine, and his grandson, Ian. And it was his great-grandson, Cedar, who lit a smile on his face in his last days. He will be remembered for his gentle loving soul.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday, May 14 at 3:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church (7300 Division Street, River Forest, IL). The family would request that in lieu of gifts that you make a deliberate "act of kindness" in John's memory.

CHANGES in the SYNOD ROSTER and CONGREGATIONS

JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021

Additions to the Clergy Roster by Ordination

Maria Rojas-Banda 04/17/21

Pamela Voves 04/18/21

Nikkeya Berryhill 05/02/21

Julia Grafe 05/30/21

Lora Salley 06/13/21

Additions to the Roster by Rite of Reinstatement

Linda Kay
Laura King

Additions to the Clergy Roster by Rite of Reception

none

Rostered Leaders Called to the Churchwide Office

Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda

Rostered Leaders Called to Specialized Ministry

Joanne Otte
Matthew Zemanick
R. Kim Maschoff

Resignations

David Miller 8/11/2021

Removed From the Roster by Death

Deacon Nancy L. Vaughn 03/19/21

Rev. Dr. Robert R. Leshar Jr. 09/06/21

Deacon Gerald L. Koenig 12/23/21

Rev. John Haynes Johnson 01/19/22

Removed From the Roster

David Miller 8/11/2021

Haye Shim 10/1/2021

Transfers In

Rev. Pongtep Chutimapongrat
Pacifica Synod

Rev. Ann Gonyea-Alexander
In Northern Great Lakes Synod

Rev. Laura Harris-Ferree
Northwest Washington Synod

Rev. Carl Johnson
Greater Milwaukee Synod

Rev. Mark Sloss
Indiana-Kentucky Synod

Rev. Michael Stadie
Northeastern Iowa Synod

Rev. Christine Thompson
Southeast Michigan Synod

Transfers Out

Deacon Sally Almen
Grand Canyon Synod

Rev. Brittany Baurle-Kooi
Rocky Mountain Synod

Rev. James Hearne
Greater Milwaukee Synod

Rev. David Hulse
New England Synod

Deacon Hugh Kress
East-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Rev. Diane Johnson
Southeastern Minnesota Synod

Rev. Jay Terry "JT" Miller
Northern Texas - Northern Louisiana Synod

Rev. Daniel Ruen
Saint Paul Area Synod

Rev. Sarah Stumme
Greater Milwaukee Synod

CONTINUED...

CHANGES IN SYNOD ROSTER AND CONGREGATIONS CONTINUED...

Congregations Added

none

Rev. Jay Trygstad 07/01/21

Rev. Peter Hellstedt 08/01/21

Congregations Organized

none

Synod Authorized Worshiping Communities

none

Congregations Closed

Bethel-Imani Lutheran Church

Chicago, Illinois 01/30/21

Martin Luther Lutheran Church

Chicago, Illinois 04/04/21

St. James Lutheran Church

Chicago, Illinois 05/08/21

Grace Lutheran Church

Westchester, Illinois 05/13/21

St. Philip Lutheran Church

Blue Island, Illinois 05/23/21

Congregations Removed From ELCA Roster

none

Retired Roster Leaders

Rev. Roger Crum 06/01/21

Rev. Said Ailabounie 07/01/21

Deacon William Decker 07/01/21

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 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



We continue to be blessed in your stewardship and our partnership together — congregations, individuals, and our partners — in ministry in this great Synod.

For the fiscal year ended January 31, 2022, the Synod received congregational benevolence in the amount of \$2,691,947 equaling 95% of the anticipated budgeted amount, slightly above 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 \$1,585,742 — 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 in the amount of \$1,355,850 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 \$1,364,201.

CONTINUED...

TREASURER'S REPORT CONTINUED...

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 \$10.4 million by fiscal year end. These funds are invested in the ELCA Endowment Fund and Thrivent Investment Management with earnings available for future mission development.

Included in the audited financial statements for the past year is a gain on investments of approximately \$363,569. 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 2023-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.

We continue to adapt to new ways of proclaiming God's glory and power in the world, from the sharing of financial resources to new ways of being community together and serving others. In some ways the world seems different, but as we serve our congregations, communities, and the greater church with our gifts, including our financial ones, we are reminded that as good stewards of the manifold grace of God we go forth 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 M. NewberryWhite

Synod Treasurer, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA

2023 Budget Notes

During the past several years, ownership interest in real estate properties reverted to the Synod. Budgeted revenues remain the same from 2022 to 2023. Interest income is projected higher based on the current market outlook.

The Endowment Management Fee increases from \$150,000 to \$173,075, within the industry standard 1.5% of endowment balances. At the beginning of our fiscal year, 2/1/22, our endowment total balance was \$11,538,364. The management fee is included in revenues as part of the balanced budget. In the three budget years since this strategy has been implemented, no funds have been withdrawn from the endowment for this purpose.

In the area of Partner Ministries, grant percentages were adjusted, with no net change overall. Two long time partners will transition to funding opportunities through the Fund for Mission semiannual disbursements. This will enable two new partners to benefit from this funding in 2023, to be determined by the Synod Council. Until that determination is made, the Council has directed the funding to be temporarily added to the Lutheran Social Services of Illinois monthly grant.

Personnel funds have been increased by 3.0% from 2021 actuals, to cover salary increases and the projected rise in benefit costs.

Proposed Operating Budget

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

REVENUE

| | <u>2023 Proposed</u> | <u>2022 Budget</u> | <u>2021 Actuals</u> |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Congregational Benevolence | 2,900,000 | \$2,900,000 | 2,691,947 |
| Interest and Capital Gains | <u>50,000</u> | <u>\$40,000</u> | <u>50,000</u> |
| Total Operating Revenue | 2,950,000 | \$2,940,000 | 2,741,947 |
| Authorized Management Fees | 173,075 | \$150,000 | |
| Closing Congregations - Restricted | | | 355,438 |
| Closing Congregations - Unrestricted | | | 121,632 |
| Government Grants | | | |
| Fund for Mission | | | 1,040 |
| Total Revenue | \$3,123,075 | \$3,090,000 | 3,217,963 |

EXPENSE

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| Mission Support to ELCA | 1,450,000 | \$1,450,000 | 1,355,850 |
| Partner Ministries | 260,040 | \$260,356 | 236,375 |
| Campus Ministry 3.00% | 87000 | | 81,207 |
| Lutheran School of Theology 1.50% | 43500 | | 27,069 |
| Wartburg Seminary 1.25% | 36250 | | 27,069 |
| Lutheran Social Services 1.75% | 50750 | | 54,138 |
| Lutheran Outdoor Ministries .50% | 14500 | | 31,535 |
| Lutheran Volunteer Corps .25% | 7250 | | 6,767 |
| Bethel New Life .25% | 7250 | | 6,767 |
| TBD 0% | 0 | | 6,767 |
| TBD 0% | 0 | | 6,767 |
| Companion Synod .25% | 7250 | | 0 |
| Region 5 Assessment | 3512 | | 3,512 |
| Region 5 Outdoor Camps | 825 | | 825 |
| Illinois Conference of Churches | 1953 | | 1953 |
| Global Mission | 4,475 | \$4,475 | 591 |
| Justice Team | 600 | \$600 | 0 |
| Outreach | 1,200 | \$1,200 | 0 |
| Worship | 4,000 | \$4,000 | 3,108 |
| Metro Chicago Youth | 11,000 | \$11,000 | 2,250 |
| Candidacy | 24,000 | \$24,000 | 36,773 |
| Education & Support | 24,000 | \$24,000 | 1,503 |
| Hearing Impaired Ministry | 9,400 | \$9,400 | 2,175 |
| Diakonia Ministry | 1,200 | \$1,200 | 0 |
| Ecumenical Relations | 2,500 | \$2,500 | 786 |

| | <u>EXPENSE</u> | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------|
| Synod Communication | 2,500 | \$2,500 | 166 |
| African Descent Team | 10,000 | \$10,000 | 0 |
| Latinx Team | 10,000 | \$10,000 | 0 |
| Anti-Racism Team | 15,000 | \$15,000 | 2,305 |
| Synod Personnel | 1,039,410 | 1,006,019 | 1,008,341 |
| Occupancy | 32,750 | \$37,750 | 27,620 |
| Office Operations | 89,900 | \$84,900 | 89,651 |
| Insurance, Audit, & Legal | 78,500 | \$78,500 | 62,610 |
| Staff Expenses | 29,100 | \$29,100 | 24,102 |
| Synod Council | 8,500 | \$8,500 | 100 |
| Synod Assembly | 15,000 | \$15,000 | -2,621 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 3,123,075 | \$3,090,000 | 2,803,452 |
| Unbudgeted Expenses | | | 2,875 |
| Designated Expenses | | | 333,431 |
| Depreciation | | | 67,034 |
| Total Expenses | \$3,123,075 | \$3,090,000 | 3,255,029 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | \$0 | \$0 | -37,166 |

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 statement of financial position as of January 31, 2022 and 2021, 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, 2022 and 2021, 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
INPAC
INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE
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.

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Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. Schedules 1 and 2 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

DUGAN & LOPATKA

Warrenville, Illinois
May 6, 2022

Statement of Financial Position

JANUARY 31, 2022 AND 2021 / EXHIBIT 1

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| <u>ASSETS</u> | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 368,212 | \$ 347,380 |
| Cash held for others | 310,745 | 111,132 |
| Investments | 2,290,678 | 2,527,568 |
| Property held for sale | 830,000 | - |
| Benevolence receivable | 12,064 | 24,444 |
| Other receivables | 6,609 | 6,624 |
| Notes receivable - Current | 16,050 | 19,856 |
| Deposits and prepaid expenses | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Total current assets | 3,854,358 | 3,057,004 |
| LONG-TERM ASSETS: | | |
| Notes receivable | 85,008 | 82,915 |
| Investments | 11,242,633 | 10,397,265 |
| Property and equipment, net | 1,672,499 | 1,726,656 |
| Total non-current assets | 13,000,140 | 12,206,836 |
| Total assets | \$ 16,854,498 | \$ 15,263,840 |
| <u>LIABILITIES</u> | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES: | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | \$ 942 | \$ 19,934 |
| Beneficiary grants payable | 364,815 | 160,153 |
| Custodial and transmittal funds | 310,745 | 111,132 |
| Total current liabilities | 676,502 | 291,219 |
| <u>NET ASSETS</u> | | |
| NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS: | | |
| Designated | 11,820,107 | 11,057,007 |
| Undesignated | 2,258,125 | 2,291,056 |
| NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS | 2,099,764 | 1,624,558 |
| Total net assets | 16,177,996 | 14,972,621 |
| Total liabilities and net assets | \$ 16,854,498 | \$ 15,263,840 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Statement of Activities

FOR YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2022 AND 2021 / EXHIBIT 2

| | 2022 | | | 2021 | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | Without Donor Restrictions | With Donor Restrictions | Total | Without Donor Restrictions | With Donor Restrictions | Total |
| REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT: | | | | | | |
| Benevolences from member congregations | \$ 2,691,947 | \$ - | \$ 2,691,947 | \$ 2,656,967 | \$ - | \$ 2,656,967 |
| Contributions | 841,035 | 822,015 | 1,663,050 | 263,605 | 298,228 | 561,833 |
| Interest and dividends | 495,179 | - | 495,179 | 383,575 | - | 383,575 |
| Grant under CARES Act | - | - | - | 187,777 | - | 187,777 |
| Other | 1,872 | - | 1,872 | 2,198 | - | 2,198 |
| Net assets released from restrictions | 346,809 | (346,809) | - | 513,812 | (513,812) | - |
| | 4,376,842 | 475,206 | 4,852,048 | 4,007,934 | (215,584) | 3,792,350 |
| Unrealized gain on investments | 363,569 | - | 363,569 | 719,535 | - | 719,535 |
| Total revenues, gains and other support | 4,740,411 | 475,206 | 5,215,617 | 4,727,469 | (215,584) | 4,511,885 |
| EXPENSES: | | | | | | |
| Program | 3,357,677 | - | 3,357,677 | 3,461,493 | - | 3,461,493 |
| Management and general | 652,565 | - | 652,565 | 684,803 | - | 684,803 |
| Total expenses | 4,010,242 | - | 4,010,242 | 4,146,296 | - | 4,146,296 |
| Change in net assets | 730,169 | 475,206 | 1,205,375 | 581,173 | (215,584) | 365,589 |
| NET ASSETS, Beginning of year | 13,348,063 | 1,624,558 | 14,972,621 | 12,766,890 | 1,840,142 | 14,607,032 |
| NET ASSETS, End of year | \$ 14,078,232 | \$ 2,099,764 | \$ 16,177,996 | \$ 13,348,063 | \$ 1,624,558 | \$ 14,972,621 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Statement of Cash Flows

FOR YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2022 AND 2021 / EXHIBIT 3

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Benevolences, grants and contributions received | \$ 3,539,264 | \$ 3,488,295 |
| Investment income received | 495,179 | 383,575 |
| Grants paid | (2,434,895) | (2,758,631) |
| Cash paid to vendors and employees | (1,119,817) | (1,414,598) |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities | 479,731 | (301,359) |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Purchase of property and equipment | (16,090) | - |
| Proceeds from sale of investments | 250,000 | - |
| Purchases of investments | (494,909) | (383,575) |
| Receipts from notes receivable | 17,550 | 48,982 |
| Issuance of notes receivable | (15,837) | - |
| Net cash (used in) investing activities | (259,286) | (334,593) |
| NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | 220,445 | (635,952) |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, Beginning of year | 458,512 | 1,094,464 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, End of year | <u>\$ 678,957</u> | <u>\$ 458,512</u> |
| RECONCILIATION OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Change in net assets | \$ 1,205,375 | \$ 365,589 |
| Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 67,034 | 67,101 |
| Loss on disposal of equipment | 3,213 | - |
| Donated property | (830,000) | - |
| Unrealized (gain) on investments | (363,569) | (719,535) |
| (Increase) decrease in assets - | | |
| Benevolence receivable | 12,380 | 29,447 |
| Other receivables | 15 | 3,058 |
| Deposits and prepaid expenses | - | (20,000) |
| Increase (decrease) in liabilities - | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | (18,992) | (71,943) |
| Custodial and transmittal funds | 199,613 | 47,015 |
| Beneficiary grants payable | 204,662 | (2,091) |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities | <u>\$ 479,731</u> | <u>\$ (301,359)</u> |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted | \$ 368,212 | \$ 347,380 |
| - held for others | 310,745 | 111,132 |
| Total cash and cash equivalents | <u>\$ 678,957</u> | <u>\$ 458,512</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Statement of Functional Expenses

FOR YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2022 AND 2021 / EXHIBIT 4

| | 2022 | | | 2021 | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| | Program | Management and General | Total Expenses | Program | Management and General | Total Expenses |
| Salaries and housing allowances | \$ 323,277 | \$ 310,600 | \$ 633,877 | \$ 322,104 | \$ 335,251 | \$ 657,355 |
| Employee benefits and payroll taxes | 208,350 | 200,179 | 408,529 | 167,474 | 174,310 | 341,784 |
| Staff development | 19,521 | 18,755 | 38,276 | 15,872 | 16,520 | 32,392 |
| Grants | 2,646,041 | - | 2,646,041 | 2,756,540 | - | 2,756,540 |
| Meetings and conferences | 1,178 | - | 1,178 | 11,131 | - | 11,131 |
| Repairs and maintenance | 14,059 | 13,507 | 27,566 | 13,922 | 14,491 | 28,413 |
| Technology | 16,816 | 16,157 | 32,973 | 30,415 | 31,656 | 62,071 |
| Scholarships | 26,700 | - | 26,700 | 16,750 | - | 16,750 |
| Depreciation expense | 34,187 | 32,847 | 67,034 | 32,879 | 34,222 | 67,101 |
| Insurance | 8,383 | 8,054 | 16,437 | 17,219 | 17,922 | 35,141 |
| Professional fees | 23,548 | 22,624 | 46,172 | 23,040 | 23,980 | 47,020 |
| Utilities | 8,163 | 7,843 | 16,006 | 8,619 | 8,970 | 17,589 |
| Telephone | 6,223 | 5,978 | 12,201 | 6,478 | 6,743 | 13,221 |
| Printing and postage | 10,080 | 9,685 | 19,765 | 10,079 | 10,490 | 20,569 |
| Supplies | 2,945 | 2,829 | 5,774 | 2,941 | 3,061 | 6,002 |
| Youth events | 2,250 | - | 2,250 | 4,212 | - | 4,212 |
| Miscellaneous | 3,651 | 3,507 | 7,158 | 6,906 | 7,187 | 14,093 |
| Workshops | 2,305 | - | 2,305 | 14,528 | - | 14,528 |
| Stewardship | - | - | - | 384 | - | 384 |
| | <u>\$ 3,357,677</u> | <u>\$ 652,565</u> | <u>\$ 4,010,242</u> | <u>\$ 3,461,493</u> | <u>\$ 684,803</u> | <u>\$ 4,146,296</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Notes to Financial Statements

JANUARY 31, 2022 AND 2021

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

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

The financial statements were available to be issued on May 6, 2022, 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.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED...

(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.

(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.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED...

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

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.

(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, 2022 was as follows:

| | Balance January 31, 2021 | Receipts | Disbursements | Balance January 31, 2022 |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Transmittal funds - | | | | |
| World Hunger | \$ 40,444 | \$ 137,596 | \$ 138,680 | \$ 39,360 |
| Disaster Relief | (1,792) | 40,099 | 39,677 | (1,370) |
| LSSI and other MCS | 9,075 | 231,176 | 30,681 | 209,570 |
| ELCA Missionaries | 8,313 | 20,682 | 23,207 | 5,788 |
| Other miscellaneous ELCA | 12,101 | 13,676 | 13,771 | 12,006 |
| Total transmittal funds | 68,141 | 443,229 | 246,016 | 265,354 |
| Custodial funds - | | | | |
| Let's Talk | \$ 4,309 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 4,309 |
| Mission Partners | 493 | - | - | 493 |
| Augustana / Henze | 15,589 | - | - | 15,589 |
| Medill Ave RE Taxes | 22,600 | 2,400 | - | 25,000 |
| Total custodial funds | 42,991 | 2,400 | - | 45,391 |
| Total | \$ 111,132 | \$ 445,629 | \$ 246,016 | \$ 310,745 |

(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.

(3) NOTES RECEIVABLE: (Continued)

Notes receivable consisted of the following:

| | January 31, | |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| | 2022 | 2021 |
| Environmental Concerns Loan Fund: | | |
| Non-interest-bearing loans with monthly payments of \$55 to \$400 and due from 2020 to 2023. | \$ 13,795 | \$ 25,483 |
| Reformation Lutheran note: | | |
| Promissory installments note, bearing interest at 3%, with monthly interest and principal payments of \$760. The note is past due, and payment is expected when the building is sold. | 42,278 | 42,278 |
| Orihuela, West Medill Ave, Chicago note: | | |
| Promissory installments note, bearing interest at 6%, with monthly interest and principal payments of \$591 through July 31, 2020. | 27,398 | 32,760 |
| Reformation Church Chicago: | | |
| Non-interest bearing loan. Payment on the loan will be made once the Church building is sold. | 2,357 | - |
| Redeemer North Avenue – Mosaic: | | |
| Non-interest bearing loan. Payment on the loan will be made once the Church building is sold. | 13,480 | - |
| Individual note: | | |
| Non-interest-bearing loan with monthly payments of \$250 starting upon receiving full-time call. | 1,750 | 2,250 |
| | 101,058 | 102,771 |
| Less - Current portion | (16,050) | (19,856) |
| | <u>\$ 85,008</u> | <u>\$ 82,915</u> |

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED...

(4) INVESTMENT:

The funds' market values are as follows:

| | January 31, | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | 2022 | 2021 |
| Pooled investment account | \$ 7,816,237 | \$ 7,195,032 |
| Mutual funds | 3,426,396 | 3,202,233 |
| Money market | <u>2,290,678</u> | <u>2,527,568</u> |
| | <u>\$ 13,533,311</u> | <u>\$ 12,924,833</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, 2022 and 2021.

Mutual Funds: Valued at the quoted market prices the individual securities are traded on.

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, 2022 | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----------|----------|------------------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Total |
| 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 |
| | <u>1,336,633</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,336,633</u> |
| 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 |
| | <u>2,087,763</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>2,087,763</u> |
| Total mutual funds | <u>3,424,396</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>3,424,396</u> |

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED...

(5) FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS: (Continued)

| Description | Assets at Fair Value as of January 31, 2022 | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---------|--------------|---------------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Total |
| 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 |

| Description | Assets at Fair Value as of January 31, 2021 | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---------|--------------|---------------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Total |
| Investments - | | | | |
| Equity funds - | | | | |
| U.S. large cap | \$ 560,932 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 560,932 |
| U.S. mid/small cap | 363,549 | - | - | 363,549 |
| International | 220,533 | - | - | 220,533 |
| | 1,145,014 | - | - | 1,145,014 |
| Fixed income funds - | | | | |
| Balanced stocks and bonds | 722,731 | - | - | 722,731 |
| High yield bonds | 188,506 | - | - | 188,506 |
| Intermediate long-term bonds | 814,202 | - | - | 814,202 |
| Intermediate short-term bonds | 331,780 | - | - | 331,780 |
| | 2,057,219 | - | - | 2,057,219 |
| Total mutual funds | 3,202,233 | - | - | 3,202,233 |
| Pooled investment account | - | - | 7,195,032 | 7,195,032 |
| Money market funds | 2,527,568 | - | - | 2,527,568 |
| Total investments | \$ 5,729,801 | \$ - | \$ 7,195,032 | \$ 12,924,833 |

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

Financial instruments classified as level 3 in the fair value hierarchy represent the Synod's investments in financial instruments in which the Synod has used one significant unobservable input in the valuation model. The following table presents a reconciliation of activity for the level 3 financial instruments for the years ended January 31, 2022 and 2021:

(5) FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS: (Continued)

| | <u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Balance, beginning of year | \$ 7,195,032 | \$ 6,419,716 |
| Unrealized gain (loss) on investments | 358,232 | 532,493 |
| Investment income reinvested | <u>262,973</u> | <u>242,823</u> |
| Balance, end of year | <u>\$ 7,816,237</u> | <u>\$ 7,195,032</u> |

(6) PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:

Property and equipment consisted of the following:

| | <u>January 31,</u> | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | <u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u> |
| Church properties: | | |
| Land | \$ 278,000 | \$ 278,000 |
| Buildings | 952,000 | 952,000 |
| Land | 105,964 | 105,964 |
| Building and improvements | 1,306,413 | 1,297,028 |
| Office equipment and furnishings | 147,197 | 147,197 |
| Automobile | 40,000 | 40,000 |
| Computer equipment and software | <u>107,811</u> | <u>107,811</u> |
| | 2,937,385 | 2,928,000 |
| Less - Accumulated depreciation | <u>(1,264,886)</u> | <u>(1,201,344)</u> |
| | <u>\$ 1,672,499</u> | <u>\$ 1,726,656</u> |

Depreciation and amortization expense for the years ended January 31, 2022 and 2021 amounted to \$67,034 and \$67,101, respectively.

(7) LEASE COMMITMENTS:

The Synod leases various office and security equipment under operating leases which are in effect through April 2026. Rent expense was \$14,719 and \$17,067 for the years ended January 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

The future minimum noncancelable lease commitment as of January 31, 2022 is as follows:

| | |
|------|----------|
| 2023 | \$ 7,844 |
| 2024 | 7,844 |
| 2025 | 7,844 |
| 2026 | 1,828 |

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED...

(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:

| | January 31, | |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | 2022 | 2021 |
| Fund for Mission of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod | \$ 7,283,928 | \$ 6,600,501 |
| Deaf Ministry | 8,400 | 8,400 |
| Property management | 22,719 | 22,719 |
| Bishop's Discretionary | 9,927 | 5,447 |
| Conference Deans | 23,453 | 25,000 |
| Synod Mission on the Margins | 2,752,509 | 2,628,946 |
| Turn-Around Synod Initiative | 56,730 | 19,149 |
| Congregational support | 570 | 176,799 |
| Stewardship Initiative | 78,709 | 76,909 |
| Concordia | - | 44,667 |
| HT Loop | - | 10,000 |
| LSSI Community Redevelopment Grant Fund | 119,303 | 119,303 |
| New missions | 648,798 | 568,798 |
| Campus ministry | 815,061 | 750,369 |
| Total designated net assets | \$ 11,820,107 | \$ 11,057,007 |

(9) NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS:

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

| | January 31, | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| | 2022 | 2021 |
| Environmental Concerns Loan Fund | \$ 47,172 | \$ 32,789 |
| Deaf ministry | 5,869 | 5,385 |
| Church improvements | 491,366 | 412,906 |
| Asian Ministry | 157,477 | 157,477 |
| Latino Ministry | 340,426 | 319,496 |
| Grants Program - Carlmark | 11,345 | 10,345 |
| SOLI Grant | 8,000 | 8,000 |

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

| | January 31, | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 2022 | 2021 |
| Region 5 Grant | \$ 15,600 | \$ 15,600 |
| Southwest Conference SAWC | 119,423 | - |
| New Missions | 155,830 | - |
| African American Strategy | 73,441 | 84,932 |
| Scholarships | 224,505 | 224,505 |
| TSI Grant Fund | - | 19,804 |
| Grace Lutheran Seminary | 138,664 | 85,364 |
| Campus Ministries | 63,872 | 64,983 |
| Emerson Trust | 51,890 | - |
| AGCS | 61,881 | 61,881 |
| Lutheran Disaster Response Fund | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Zimmer Trust | 11,912 | - |
| Portico Retirement Fund | 118,091 | 118,091 |
| Total net assets with donor restriction | <u>\$ 2,099,764</u> | <u>\$ 1,624,558</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, 2022 and 2021 approximated \$75,307 and \$65,031, respectively.

(11) LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY:

| | January 31, | |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| | 2022 | 2021 |
| Financial Assets - | | |
| Cash | \$ 368,212 | \$ 347,380 |
| Short-term investments | 2,290,678 | 2,527,568 |
| Note's receivable – current | 16,050 | 19,856 |
| Benevolence receivables | 12,064 | 24,444 |
| Investments | 11,242,633 | 10,397,265 |
| Total financial assets | 13,929,637 | 13,316,513 |
| Less: Donor imposed restrictions, included in financial assets | (1,849,559) | (1,624,558) |

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED...

(11) LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY: (Continued)

| | January 31, | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| | 2022 | 2021 |
| Internal designations - | | |
| Board advised funds for long-term purposes, included in financial assets | \$ (11,489,794) | \$ (11,057,007) |
| Financial assets available to meet cash needs for general expenditures that is without donor or other restrictions limiting their use within one year | \$ 590,284 | \$ 634,948 |

The Synod's goal is to generally maintain enough financial assets to meet 3 months of operating expenses (approximately \$1,000,000).

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

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

Schedule of Synodical Treasury Expenditures for Grants to Beneficiaries as Compared to Budget

FOR YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2022 AND 2021 / SCHEDULE 1

| | 2022 | | 2021 | |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| | Actual | Budget (unaudited) | Actual | Budget (unaudited) |
| Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | \$ 1,355,850 | \$ 1,450,000 | \$ 1,478,790 | \$ 1,428,000 |
| Lutheran Social Services of Illinois | 54,138 | 58,000 | 54,049 | 56,000 |
| Lutheran Campus Ministries | 81,207 | 87,000 | 81,074 | 84,000 |
| Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago | 27,069 | 29,000 | 27,025 | 28,000 |
| Wartburg Seminary | 27,069 | 29,000 | 27,025 | 28,000 |
| Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center | 13,535 | 14,500 | 14,130 | 14,000 |
| Bethel New Life | 6,767 | 7,250 | 6,756 | 7,000 |
| Holy Family Ministries | 283 | 7,250 | 6,756 | 7,000 |
| Lutheran Volunteer Corps | 6,767 | 7,250 | 6,756 | 7,000 |
| Concordia Place | 6,767 | 7,250 | 6,138 | 7,000 |
| Regional Center for Mission | 3,512 | 3,831 | 1,193 | 5,750 |
| Illinois Conference of Churches | 1,953 | 1,950 | 1,950 | 1,950 |
| Outdoor Ministries | 825 | 825 | 825 | 825 |
| Total gifts and grants | <u>\$ 1,585,742</u> | <u>\$ 1,703,106</u> | <u>\$ 1,712,467</u> | <u>\$ 1,674,525</u> |

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

The 2021 budgeted figures presented are as approved in the minutes of the Synod Assembly held on April 25, 2020.

Schedule of Synodical Treasury Standing Committee Expenses

FOR YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2022 AND 2021 / SCHEDULE 2

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Committees: | | |
| Ministry | \$ 38,276 | \$ 32,392 |
| Synodical Mission | 201,955 | 280,539 |
| Worship | 3,108 | 2,529 |
| Youth and Young Adult Ministry | 2,250 | 537 |
| Stewardship | - | 384 |
| Global Mission | 591 | 1,150 |
| Outreach Team | - | 338 |
| | <u>\$ 246,180</u> | <u>\$ 317,869</u> |

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 Pastor Carla Thompson Powell

The Central Conference continues to be one of the smallest conferences (more so since several recent congregation closures). Within our conference, we have many cultures and ethnicities represented. We also have a wide variety of leadership models represented within various size congregations. In spite of these differences we live out in our communities and congregations, we try to maintain ongoing connections and relationships in the Central Conference.

On Easter 2021, Martin Luther Church (on Addison) had their last official worship service as a congregation, ending their long 103-year history of worship, outreach and stewardship. Continued prayers to those who grieve this loss.

Just after Easter (April 10, 2021), at a ZOOM meeting, the Central Conference re-elected Pastor Carla Thompson Powell as dean of the conference. At this same meeting, we made nominations for churchwide assembly voting members, as well as other positions as requested by the Synod Nominating Committee.

In June 2021, St. James Lutheran Church (Foster) was officially closed. Before this happened, an alternative worshipping and meeting site had already been secured (a storefront at Gunnison and Nagle), under the title “Shepherd’s Heart.” In late 2021, Shepherd’s Heart was officially established as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community (SAWC). Leaders have continued to work with synod staff to determine further steps.

Toward the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022, the Central Conference engaged in some foundational work on Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging with Pastor Sunitha Mortha, our Central Conference staff liaison.

In March 2022, the Central Conference decided to join the Metro Chicago’s Fill The Drawer donation drive during the season of Lent. As of the writing of this report, no decisions had been made on where these gathered items would be donated (after Easter).

In between Central Conference meetings, we have remained in contact through email and our Central Conference Facebook group – sharing information from the metro Chicago synod and/or other community organizations. Our partnerships together through the Central Conference give us many creative ministry ideas. Most of the time, our conference gatherings are open to lay and clergy members alike.

The congregations who have affiliated with the Central Conference are:

Acacia Park Norridge

Bethel (Keeler) Chicago

Edgebrook Chicago

Edison Park Chicago

First Lutheran (Fullerton) Chicago

Iglesia Luterana de la Trinidad Chicago

Mosaic SAWC (North Ave) Chicago

Purna Jiwan (First Lutheran-Fullerton)

Chicago

St. Luke (Logan Square) Chicago

St. Timothy (Kildare) Chicago

Shepherd's Heart SAWC (Gunnison) Chicago

United in Faith Chicago

Wicker Park Chicago

Near West

Under the leadership of Rev. Julie Boleyn and Rev. Zachary Wagner, the Near West Conference gathered virtually on February 25, 2021 to hear from Rev. Josh Ebener, the Latinx Ministries Coordinator for the Metro-Chicago Synod and Rev. Maria Rojas, pastor at Mision Luterana Unidad, to learn about supporting Latinx ministries in our conference. The conference gathered virtually again on April 8, 2021 to make nominations for the Synod Nominating Committee, Churchwide Assembly, and Synod Council.

In the fall of 2021, both Rev. Boleyn and Rev. Wagner resigned their roles as co-deans of the conference. We are deeply grateful for their leadership and support.

On Sunday, January 23, 2022, we (Chris and Heidi) were elected co-deans of the conference. We organized the conference's first gathering of 2022 in-person on March 16, 2022 for a time to intentionally re-establish relationships, welcome new colleagues, and share the joys and burdens of life in ministry during this strange time in which we live and lead. With an emphasis on building relationships, we hope to provide consistent opportunities for meaningful support and connection for our colleagues, rostered leaders, lay leaders and conference partners.

Respectfully,

Rev. Chris Honig

Rev. Heidi Torgerson

North

Report Submitted by Pr. Eric Schaefer, Co-Dean

In 2021, churches in our conference continued to struggle with COVID at the beginning of the year. As Spring came, a season of rebirth for the church as we celebrated Easter, creation woke up from the cold dark nights of winter, and the churches in the conference also woke up from COVID. We faced the same challenges as other churches in the area and around the world. We had new questions to ask. What does church look like now? Who is still a member? How do we adapt worship, fellowship, and ministry? How do we reengage our members? But amongst all these challenges we saw new opportunities. From our conference meetings I heard many similar stories. It was less a question and more of an exclamation, "what can we do now!" It gave us a chance to rethink ministries, retire some, and embark in new opportunities.

Our conference meetings shifted from virtual to in person. At the beginning of the year we used conference time to check in with each other to see how each church was shifting from online to in-person worship and when each church was planning on making the change. Later we discussed masking and regional thoughts on what made sense for our own church within the region.

We gathered over summer for a conference barbecue, later in the season at a restaurant and celebrated seeing each other face to face. We used our time together to share what each of our congregations were feeling, new ministries that started, and supported each other as we welcomed some pastors that were new to the conference and celebrated the ministries of some who retired this past year.

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 continued our focus from last year to see how we, as a conference, could continue to support the ministry, leadership, and community of Sagrado Corazon in Waukegan.

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

Report Submitted by Kelly Faulstich and Chris Neptun, Co-Deans

Our conference met 4 times this past year and hope to meet monthly during the program year in 2022-2023.

April 28, 2021 via Zoom

We give thanks for the representatives from Lutheran Social Services of Illinois who joined us during our meeting via Zoom. We began with devotions and a time of sharing in breakout rooms.

Spring 2021 Nominations

We corresponded with rostered leaders via email to identify individuals interested in serving on the Nomination committee (1yr term) and as Female Lay Delegate to the Churchwide Assembly.

September 29, 2021 In-Person

We are thankful for Josh Evans for hosting us at St. Philip in Glenview for some fellowship and conversation outside, a tour of the church, and worship with communion in their lovely outdoor chapel.

November 10, 2021 In-person

We are thankful for host pastor Eric Worringer at Holy Family in Chicago for worship, a tour and time of learning about the host congregation, and fellowship.

March 23, 2022 via Zoom

We began with devotions and enjoyed a time of fellowship, reminding ourselves of the Lenten Fill the Drawer Initiative through the synod, our conference collecting socks for The Night Ministry. Eric Worringer presented a proposed resolution regarding on-leave from call status. The motion to approve and pass on was moved by Eric Worringer, seconded by Michelle Sevig, and passed unanimously.

At the time of this report, we look forward to meeting on April 27, 2022 at Grace in Evanston, hosted by Laura Harris-Ferree.

We also look forward to seeing and connecting at Synod Assembly this year.

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

CONTINUED...

NORTHEAST CONFERENCE REPORT CONTINUED...

Co-deans Neptun and Faulstich continue to split the duties of dean. Chris is taking lead on communications, sending a monthly conference newsletter as announcement for upcoming meetings and synopsis of information passed along by the synod. Kelly takes lead on programming and facilitating our guest presenters as we meet. We aim to welcome new leaders to our conference as they arrive and wish them well as they depart, splitting this opportunity between suburbs (Neptun) and city (Faulstich). We welcome the reminder or news of such transitions.

Northwest

Submitted by Deacon Tracy Katschke-Goss, Co-Dean

After taking a hiatus from meeting during the fall of 2021, the Northwest Conference resumed monthly gatherings in 2022. Due to the increase in COVID numbers over the winter months, we started to meet monthly via Zoom to connect, share and collaborate ideas, and catch up with each other. During the Lenten season, the Northwest Conference worked together on the Synod-wide “Fill the Drawer” project, which collected brand-new socks and underwear for homeless men, women, and children during the season of Lent. The conference decided to donate all collected items to three charities in the Northwest suburbs: Journeys: The Road Home, WINGS domestic violence programs, and PADS Night Ministries.

As COVID numbers and restrictions continued to decrease, the members of the Northwest Conference decided to have our first in-person meeting in over two years: a St. Patrick’s Day luncheon at Granite City Brewery in Schaumburg! Besides being able to finally see each other in person, the Northwest Conference members enjoyed enjoyable conversation and laughter over an excellent meal. We continued to meet in person throughout the spring and continued to brainstorm various conference collaborations, such as a conference Bible study and a Youth service opportunity. As it is also nearing the end of the two-year term for both Northwest Conference co-deans, conference members have also started to discuss dean nominations.

South

Submitted by Deacon By Rev. Nancy Goede and Rev. Lester White

The South Conference gathered several times throughout the past year, mostly via Zoom, always with the goal of supporting each other, as our congregations moved through the ups and downs of accommodations to covid. Our churches are still all over the board in terms of meeting in person, streaming, altered communion practices and returning activity schedules.

In the fall, we met in person to renew our ordination vows in worship, then had lunch with Bishop Curry, who talked about his work and answered questions.

Southwest

Submitted by Rev. Chris Wogaman

The Southwest Conference of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod has continued to meet regularly over the past year. We gathered for the first time in-person in a year and a half in October 2021 and have been meeting in-person with a virtual option available since. We continue to have several rostered ministers as well as lay leadership involved in each of our meetings.

We give thanks for the long ministry of St. Philip Lutheran Church in Blue Island. St. Philip went through Holy Closure in early 2021 and blessed several ministries and organizations with their resources.

We continue to be supportive of a new mission start in our area. Several conference congregations have chosen to financially support this mission, including a substantial gift from St. Philip in Blue Island upon their Holy Closure. We welcomed Rev. Nikkeya Berryhill into this mission mid-2021, and the conference wishes her all of the best as she has moved on to a new call.

CONTINUED...

SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE REPORT CONTINUED...

As Rev. Brittany Baurle Kooi moved calls and away from the conference, she left her position as co-dean of the conference. Rev. Nathan Klein and Rev. Chris Wogaman were elected co-deans in the summer of 2021. We welcomed Rev. Dr. Wyvetta Bullock as synod relater to our conference. We thank Rev. Kathy Nolte's ministry, who was previously synod relater to our conference.

There have been several transitions among rostered ministers in our conference: we have welcomed Rev. Carole Willer (Our Savior's, Burbank, interim), Rev. Bethany Ulrich (First Evangelical, Blue Island), and Rev. Andrew Bell (Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Palos Heights). Additionally, the Conference welcomed Kyle Johnson, M. Div., who is under licensure to preside at Our Saviour Lutheran, Lansing. We wished the best in new calls to Rev. Matt Holmes (Mt. Zion, Oak Lawn) and Rev. Brittany Baurle Kooi (St. Philip and First Ev., Blue Island) as they departed from their parish calls in SW Conference. We bade farewell to Rev. Jay Trygstad (St. Mark, Worth), Rev. Robert Klonowski (Faith, Homewood), and Rev. Dr. Maxine M. Washington (Redeemer, South Holland) upon their retirements.



West

Pastors Anders Nelson and Charles Plummer took over as co-deans of the conference in Fall 2021, taking the baton from Pastors PJ Malin and Timothy Seitz.

After more than a year of gathering via Zoom for monthly conference gatherings, the Conference opted to consider holding some gatherings in-person for those who would like to attend. We set a goal of a hybrid, meeting one month in person and one month via Zoom, for worship, fellowship, and updates about activities in the Conference and Synod. Having grown accustomed to pivoting rapidly throughout the pandemic, we are ready to adapt this model as needed in the coming months.

Additionally, the Conference was invited into a pilot learning program by Pastor Sunitha Mortha, our relator to the Synod. In February, we gathered with the Central Conference to participate in the first module of her Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging initiative, "The Power of Story," aimed at engaging our own stories to better understand the stories of our neighbors. Both conferences will continue to meet quarterly to engage in the remaining two modules, and look forward to more opportunities to learn, grow, and reflect together.

Finally, the Conference has also intentionally served its neighbor. In the Fall, rostered leaders assisted in the food distribution at Saint Andrew Lutheran Church, and are planning more outreach and fellowship events in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Reverend Anders Nelson

West Conference Co-dean
Metropolitan Chicago Synod

Reverend Charles Plummer

West Conference Co-dean
Metropolitan Chicago Synod



*Who has made us competent
to be ministers of a new covenant,
not of the letter but of the Spirit.
For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*

— 2 Corinthians 3:6

MINISTRIES

**Companion Synod
Advisory Group**

Deaf Ministry

Mission Interpreters

**Working Group
on the Middle East**

Youth Ministry Network

Companion Synod Advisory Team

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 relationships 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 relationships is with the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA). The Central Diocese is in the 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.

Companion Congregation-Parish relationships

The Metropolitan Chicago Synod and the Central Diocese (ELSCA) are working on congregation-parish relationships. Ten MCS congregations and ten Central Diocese parishes have been matched. As covenant agreements are affirmed at the synod-diocese level, partner congregations and parishes will be introduced through a Zoom (or similar technology) call. The framework of these relationships is based on Prayer, Presence, Peace, and Projects. Already partner congregations and parishes have been praying for one another.

Further Ministry of the Companion Synod Advisory Group

- Commissioned Mr. Lyle Elliott, member of St. Phillip Lutheran Church, Glenview, to create a pectoral cross for newly installed Bishop G.F. Seane
- Prepared a Christmas Greetings Video for our Companions, including the MCS partner congregations reading the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke and Bishop Curry giving a final word of greeting and prayer
- Continued work on the Companion Synod covenant as a vital step before launching congregation-parish relationships
- Collected updated Congregational Profiles for those participating in companion congregation-parish relationships
- Developed structure of the Advisory Group and outlined position descriptions for group members
- Currently developing guidelines for our MCS partner congregations as they live out the relationship with their partner parish

Deaf Ministry

2021 continued to be a year of uncertainty with the ongoing worldwide pandemic as many plans were paused, delayed, and cancelled for the Metropolitan Chicago Synod (MSC) Lutheran Deaf Ministry (LDM). In-person Monthly Deaf Bible Studies continued to be suspended and was shifted to a virtual setting. In-person interpreted worship services continued on.

In-person quarterly Deaf ASL Worship Services continued to be suspended for the second consecutive year of 2020 and 2021. Over the recent previous years of 2019 and 2018, we had four planned quarterly in-person Deaf ASL Worship Services per year. It was led by Deacon Dorothy Sparks from Bread of Life Deaf Church in Minneapolis, MN, and our members enjoyed having Deaf ASL Worship Services after a few years of unsuccessfully finding a pastor with sign language skills to lead Deaf

CONTINUED...

DEAF MINISTRY REPORT CONTINUED...

ASL Worship Services. Our previous ASL Deaf Worship Services was described as a visual experience and watching our hymns done in ASL with no musical accompaniment is truly amazing.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Downers Grove continued their interpreted worship services in-person and through live streams held on social media platforms every Sunday during the 2021 year. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Schaumburg also continued their interpreted worship services two Sundays monthly in-person and through live streams on Facebook.

We are excited that interpreted worship services at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church will now be every Sunday starting in the 2022 year.

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 said farewell to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Pastor Peter Hellstedt in June 2021 as he retired. The LDM spent many years together with strong support from him at Grace Lutheran Church in Mount Prospect and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Schaumburg. We thank Pastor Peter for his meaningful support to the LDM over the years, and we wish him well on his next chapter of retirement.

When Pastor Peter began his retirement chapter, Pastor Erin Clausen was called to become the next pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. We are excited on establishing a new friendship and partnership in ministry with Pastor Erin. We enjoy teaching some sign language and details about our Deaf Ministry with her.

Annual Sign Language classes resumed at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Fall 2021. There were about 80 people who participated on learning basic sign language. Participants were from 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.

We continue to have a LDM Facebook page linked to both Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. We hope this Facebook page we have will eventually draw new Deaf members to one of the two churches that have interpreted worship services.

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.

CONTINUED...

DEAF MINISTRY REPORT CONTINUED...

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

Mission Interpreters

Engaging in our Stories of Ministry Together

We give thanks that technology has allowed us to continue to maintain contact through the pandemic, but we do look forward to more personal interaction in the months ahead. As we look forward to being able to meet again in ways beyond virtual meetings, it may be useful to reintroduce Mission Interpreters.

Mission Interpreters (MI’s) have the pleasure of telling the great stories and sharing the good news with others of how we are doing “God’s Work. Our Hands.” in our communities, our Synod, the nation and the world. Our church, through its three expressions and in conjunction with our many partners around the world, does so many wonderful things that we have a wealth of inspiring stories to share. The pandemic may have changed some of the ways that we are able to do ministry, but the work and service has continued and evolved to meet the many needs that do exist at home and around the world.

Metro Chicago Synod Mission Interpreters are passionate about doing this, and while we have not been able to gather and share experiences, I know that they have continued to lift up the work of the church throughout the year, in our congregations and to wider audiences where possible. One of

the important tasks of a MI is to say “Thank You” to those in our faith communities for what they do as a part of the church, so a special “Thank You” to all MI’s in the synod. We appreciate the work you do in sharing the good news with others.

We continue to work toward a goal of having at least one MI in each congregation...two or three is even better. This means there are opportunities for many more “storytellers” to join in this exciting work. We invite you to check us out on the web, check us out on Facebook, or invite us in for an on-line or in-person conversation on how to be part of the team. All are welcome, no experience required. Please contact me with any questions.

Ken Olson, Ph.D., PAS, Mission Interpreter Coordinator- MIC@mcselca.org

Working Group on the Middle East

The Working Group of the Middle East meets every month not on any specific date to talk about issues concerning Israel-Palestine. We call ourselves peacemakers, but it’s been difficult this year meeting on zoom and not in person.

Peace Not Walls presented us with a possible Advent series. We met via Zoom with Gabby and Meghan Aelabouni in Jerusalem trying to work on something that would be appropriate for Advent and the people and churches in the MetroChicago as they initiated with Peace Not Walls and Churchwide. They presented us with a program, but we still had to tweak the materials to make it be something that we would offer to people for four weeks. We decided to present it on Wednesday and Thursday at different times. We titled it, “Journey to Bethlehem,” offering testimony from Palestinian people, songs of the people and pictures of sites in Israel-Palestine. It was difficult to advertise because of the short time frame. We were going to offer it beginning on November 28/29 via Zoom for 4 weeks. After those first days, the attendance being only members of the Working Group, we decided to discontinue the services and try again for Advent 2022.

We then began to consider a resolution or two to present to the 2022 Synod Assembly. Ultimately, we decided on a resolution on the issue of Boycotting.

Respectfully in Christ

The Rev. Joanne Fitzgerald

Convener, The Working Group on the Middle East

Youth Ministry Network

Dear MCS,

Hello! I am delighted to be sharing this first report with you as the Youth Ministry Leaders Network Coordinator. I began in this new role in October 2021. My contract position is 5 hours/week, and I am still called full-time as associate pastor at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Elmhurst. I am so grateful to Bishop Curry for the opportunity to be an official part of synod staff, and for his and our synod council's desire to direct more synod resources and energy to youth and young adult ministry in our synod. My colleagues in youth ministry leadership in the synod, as well as others who have reached out to me to share congratulations, also share my gratitude for this attention to youth ministry, and we are really looking forward to the next few years.

Monthly meetings of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod youth ministry network were held mostly on Zoom in 2021. Because of our busy schedules and often far geographic distance from each other, we have determined that meeting monthly on Zoom 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 are held on Thursday mornings on either the 3rd or 4th Thursday of the month from 10:30 am - noon, and I have also hosted an evening meeting about once every two months since the fall of 2021. *In 2022 and beyond, I hope to be more diligent about advertising our monthly meetings re: synod communications, but if you would like to be on the MCS YMNet email list to receive direct communications from me, please email me at the address below.* We have welcomed a number of new youth leaders to the Network in the past year, and we'd love to have you join us!

Your synod youth ministry leaders have formed a strong bond in recent years and operate well together as a team. We enjoy our monthly meetings, during which we are 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 have attended multiple ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza conferences together for fellowship and continuing education. We look forward to continuing to gather for fellowship and continuing education in addition to planning synod youth events in the years to come.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we did not host any youth events together as a synod in 2021, and we mourn the loss of the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering, particularly for our youth who will not have the experience of attending a Gathering as high schoolers. However, things are already looking up

for 2022. Recently, on March 11, we brought more than 200 youth and 50 chaperones together for the first time in two years for an event we have regularly held in the past - an overnight lock-in 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 - both youth and leaders, including Bishop Curry! Looking ahead, we are grateful to Pastor Emily Heitzman, Mitzi Jones-Paterson, and other MCS YMNet leaders for planning an in-person multi-day overnight gathering this July 21-24 for the Multicultural Youth Justice event, a hybrid virtual/in-person experience being planned by ELCA leaders as a result of the Youth Gathering's cancellation. We are also looking ahead to returning to Lutherdale Bible Camp and Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center for overnight confirmation retreats in the next few years, as well as planning other events to bring us together as a synod more regularly (such as, perhaps, a service day this fall). Finally, we look forward to working with Bishop Curry and the rest of synod staff to plan for a special MCS Youth Gathering in the summer of 2023.

Finally, at the risk of forgetting someone, I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of the MCS YMNetwork to the following people:

- Bishop Yehiel Curry and The Rev. Sunitha Mortha, Associate to the Bishop and Director of Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging, for their leadership, guidance and support
- Lauren Busey, Director of Faith Formation at Trinity Lutheran Church in Evanston and long-time leader and organizer of the MCS YMNetwork, for all of the years of volunteer time, effort and energy she has given towards bringing youth ministry leaders together and making opportunities for youth accessible in our synod
- Deacon Tracy Katschke-Goss, who has graciously agreed to stay on as ELCA Youth Gathering Synod Coordinator as we look towards the 2024 Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA. (For more information, please go to elca.org/gathering)
- The Rev. Josh Evans, Synod Director of Communications, and Tom Anderson, Business Manager, for their technical and logistical support of the MCS YMNetwork

It is our joy to learn, serve, and enjoy life alongside 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

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

diakonia

ELCA Federal Credit Union

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

Ten Things to Know about 1517 Media Spring 2022

1. Over the past year we have added several new **All Creation Sings**, resources including an expanded Indexes volume that includes both ACS and ELW listings, the *Guitar Accompaniment Edition*, the *Ensemble Setting of Setting 12*, and an eBook version of the Pew Edition. We continue to add learning resources that can help you use this hymnal supplement to enliven your congregation's worship in these rapidly changing times. augsburgfortress.org/allcreationsings
2. Daniel Erlander's timeless work continues to inspire faith formation at all levels in the church. **Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe** is a family of books and curriculum to support conversations about the Bible with your whole congregation. This collection of resources complements three other series: **A Place for You** (Holy Communion), **Come to the Water** (Holy Baptism), and **Baptized, We Live** (introduction to Lutheranism). augsburgfortress.org/manna
3. Augsburg Fortress continues to support musical proclamation of the gospel with new seasonal choral music, vocal solo offerings, and piano and organ collections, including a new, second series of church year volumes in the acclaimed Augsburg Organ Library. augsburgfortress.org/new-releases
4. We have expanded our seasonal devotion options, with a new devotional for Advent and Christmas each year joining the Lent offering. Quantity discounts make these pocket-sized booklets ideal for congregational distribution and for household use. The accessible, colorful format makes it easy to incorporate a simple Christian observance into these central times of the year. augsburgfortress.org/seasonal-devotions
5. Fortress Press continues its legacy of publishing compelling theological, biblical, and ethical engagements for the church and the world in which it lives. New releases for 2022 include: **Storycraft: The Art of Spiritual Narrative by Walt Wangerin Jr.**, **20 Myths about Religion and Politics in America by Ryan Burge**, and an expanded edition of Fred Lehr's *Clergy Burnout: Surviving in Turbulent Times*. fortresspress.org
6. Our Broadleaf Books imprint explores the expanse of human experience—seeking to deepen faith and understanding and bring wholeness to readers and society. New 2022 releases include **You Can Talk to God like That**, **The Mindful Grandparent**, and **Unbossed: How Black Girls Are Leading the Way**. broadleafbooks.com
7. Sparkhouse provides digital access for a low annual fee 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. augsburgfortress.org/sparkhouse-digital
8. This spring Sparkhouse released a collection of poems by Joe Davis written with high school graduates in mind. **We Rise Higher: Poems and Prayers for Graduates** helps youth celebrate, commemorate, and reflect on this transition as they move on to the next phase of life. augsburgfortress.org/we-rise-higher
9. Frolic Preschool, Frolic Nursery, and Frolic Family introduce little ones to faith concepts in age-appropriate ways. This year we have released the award-winning Frolic Storybooks in affordable paperback bundles. wearesparkhouse.org/frolic
10. 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. New releases for 2022 include: **God's Holy Darkness**, **The Animals Speak: A Christmas Eve Legend**, **God Made All Your Feelings**, and **Mother God**. beamingbooks.com

Want to learn more? Follow us on social media. Sign up for our free eNewsletters at augsburgfortress.org | wearesparkhouse.org | fortresspress.com | beamingbooks.com | broadleafbooks.com



2022 Summer Savings

Purchase \$100 or more at augsburgfortress.org
and **save \$25** now through August 30, 2022.

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Offer does not apply to website or print subscriptions
and it's limited to one use per account.

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

April 2022

April 1 marks four years since the Advocate and Aurora health systems came together to form Advocate Aurora Health, now one of the top 12 non-profit health care systems in the United States. When we merged, we did so under the belief that our combined strength and scale would allow us to help more people live well.

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. Rev. Kathie Bender-Schwich, Chief Spiritual Officer, meets regularly with ELCA and UCC leadership who offer counsel, prayer, accountability, and vision.

As partners, ELCA and UCC 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.

We have met the challenge to fulfil our vision of helping people live well through a global pandemic, while doubling down on our commitment to health equity. We are pleased to share some of the ways we have been working to ensure that all people have a fair shot at living well.

Supporting Workforce Development Initiatives

Raising our minimum wage to \$18/hour

In December 2021, we raised our minimum wage to \$18 an hour – making us a regional leader and among the first health systems in the country to do so. The pay increases amounted to a \$93 million investment through 2022.

Our 10,800 team members directly impacted by our new minimum wage include those in food service and environmental services positions. An additional 20,000 team members who already made more than \$18 an hour, including pharmacy technicians and licensed practical nurses (LPNs), also received raises.

Bringing healthcare careers to historically marginalized communities

Through Chicago-based **Healthcare Forward** and **Employ Milwaukee**, Advocate Aurora Health is recruiting individuals for a wide range of roles, including non-medical entry-level positions that don't require a high school diploma or GED equivalent.

The program is focused on reaching people who may never have considered healthcare but would like to know more and who live in historically marginalized communities. Workforce development is one of the key focus areas of our **Community Strategy**.



Providing equal access to returning citizens

Through our Returning Citizens initiative, we have hired 22 individuals returning from the criminal justice system in the past year and have provided individualized support to help them adapt to the workplace and remain in their jobs.

The program was launched in Wisconsin in August 2020. Since then, we have placed workers in such roles as certified nursing assistant, community health worker, housekeeping, patient transporter, food and nutrition specialists, and more.

Supporting Community Economic Development

Advocate Aurora Health and 11 other health systems across the country recently signed the Impact Purchasing Commitment to build healthy, equitable, and climate-resilient local economies through how they spend their dollars.

The commitment includes increasing spending with minority and women owned businesses as well as local and employee-owned, cooperatively owned and/or nonprofit-owned enterprises, by at least \$1 billion by 2025.

Increasing Access to Primary and Behavioral Health Services

Building new systems of care

Advocate Trinity Hospital is one of the leaders in launching the South Side Healthy Community Organization (SSHCO) - a coalition of 14 health care organizations on Chicago's South Side that are working to coordinate care to improve health for people in the community.

The proposed transformation model has been informed from the start by community listening sessions, large-scale community meetings, survey responses and continued community feedback. Based on that input, SSHCO leaders have developed the following model:



Improving access to community-based services

The **Advocate Aurora Health Local Services Guide** provides community members in Illinois and Wisconsin with easy access to up-to-date information about free and affordable options for food, safe housing, childcare, transportation, and other vital resources.

Mission and Spiritual Care Response to COVID-19

Investing in faith communities as trusted centers for COVID prevention and support

In 2021, our Faith and Health Partnerships department awarded microgrants to 29 faith communities and faith-based organizations in Illinois and Wisconsin to support their outreach efforts in increasing COVID-19 vaccination rates in their communities.

The microgrants, totaling \$20,000, supported a variety of projects in zip codes that have been hit hard by COVID-19 or that experience health inequities. Projects included setting up pop-up vaccination clinics, creating public service announcements, videos, and social media messages, and holding multilingual webinars on the vaccine.

Mobilizing food, mental health support and vaccinations

The Advocate Aurora Faith and Health Partnerships program carried out a wide range of food, mental health and COVID outreach programs and services for community members in Illinois and Wisconsin throughout the first three quarters of 2021.

Among our work, we provided 5,492 food boxes to primarily low-income African American and Hispanic families. We also provided 1,795 hot meals and 3,444 bags with supplies such as diapers, hygiene kits, hand sanitizers, cleaning supplies, etc. and distributed 5,671 masks.

Learn more about the breadth and depth of the work [here](#).

Pivoting to make spiritual care available to all

Our chaplains responded to the challenge of providing spiritual care under COVID safety protocols by setting up Chaplain Connect, a 24/7 phone line that offers confidential chaplain visits. This program has benefited our team members, patients, families, and physicians since its inception in 2020.

Now, Chaplain Connect is available to community members in our service areas in Illinois and Wisconsin. Through the phone line, Advocate Aurora Health chaplains provide spiritual care and support to anyone, regardless of faith tradition and religious affiliation.

Access Chaplain Connect at 855-483-6977.



Responding to the Crisis in Ukraine

In response to the recent crisis in Ukraine, we have:

- Donated critically needed medical supplies to Eastern Europe through Project CURE, the world's largest distributor of donated medical supplies, equipment, and services.
- Partnered with other local health systems and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America to ship additional supplies.
- Encouraged team members to contribute financially to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Eastern Europe Crisis Response fund, the United Church of Christ International Emergency Fund, The Red Cross, and Project CURE.

We stand with the people of Ukraine, as well as our patients, team members, and communities that have families and roots in Eastern Europe.

Caring for our team members

Beginning in early 2020, Advocate Aurora Health team members, like many other healthcare workers nationwide, experienced unprecedented stress due to the COVID-19 pandemic and healthcare labor shortage. We have worked quickly to address the issue by:

- Adjusting salaries to remain competitive
- Implementing hiring bonuses and a referral bonus program for select positions, such as certified nursing assistants, environmental services, food and nutrition services and home health aide
- Streamlining and shortening the application and onboarding process for Environmental Services and Food Service hires
- Augmenting nursing staff with traveling and redeployed nurses

We have addressed workplace stress by offering team members a wide range of well-being and resiliency resources to help them reconnect to their purpose and remember why they went into healthcare in the first place. Among the resources:

- Still Points, a chaplain-led 15-minute reflective pause
- Renewal Day, a day focused on internal recovery and thriving
- Chaplain Connect, a confidential 24/7 phone line for those in need of spiritual care services
- Together as One Peer Support Program, an initiative that enables team members and physicians to recognize and intervene when a peer is impacted by stress within the workplace

In addition, we have hired Julie Rabinowitz as the Well-being Program Director, a newly created position responsible for the strategy, operations, growth, and promotion of our well-being programs that support team members and physicians.



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

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)

Minister Michelle Day, UCC Lay

Jennifer DeLeon, ELCA Lay

Rev. Sinclair Gallagher, UCC Clergy

Tammy Jackson, ELCA Lay

Rev. Monte Johnson, ELCA Clergy

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

Rev. Darryl Thompson-Powell, ELCA Clergy

Harlette Smith Washington, UCC Lay



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

**Advocate Health Care Network
Lay/Clergy 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

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 Representative

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. Kevin McLemore – UCC Clergy Representative

Rev. Tasha Vinson Brown – UCC Clergy Representative

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital

Ronald Mallicoat – ELCA Lay Representative

Pastor 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





A Place of Yes

A Note from Brenda Swartz President/CEO, Concordia Place

Concordia Place is a “Place of Yes.” This started forty years ago when we opened Concordia on Seeley in response to a community ask. Fifteen years ago, saying “Yes” again led to a new community with Concordia on Whipple and new programs to serve teens and adults. Five years ago, Yes led to innovation when we opened Concordia on Ravenswood, followed closely by Concordia on Milwaukee.

Concordia Place continues to say “Yes” not just when it’s easy, but also when it’s hard. Our challenges with the pandemic didn’t diminish over the past year but instead constantly changed: supply shortages, protocol changes, group size limits, vaccines, and so on. Throughout the pandemic, Concordia Place has worked hard to continue to demonstrate Yes. We’ve worked hard to create the “normal” that children, teens, and parents desperately seek and need.

Concordia Place is committed to serving all Chicagoans—regardless of their faith, economic level, or identity. We will continue to provide education, enrichment and hands-on experiences to young children, youth, teens, and parents today to empower them to live bigger tomorrows.

The next few pages show some of our programmatic highlights from the past year. If you would like to learn more, you can visit our website at concordiaplace.org or contact me at bswartz@concordiaplace.org or 773.463.1600 x412.

Early Learning and Preschool

Learning through purposeful play

The Challenge

Children who are not school-ready when they enter kindergarten only have a 45% chance of mastering basic skills by age 11.

Pathways to the Middle Class: Balancing Personal and Public Responsibilities, Washington, DC: Center on Children and Families at the Brookings Institution (September 20, 2012)

The Concordia Place Results

- **97%** of children transitioning to kindergarten met or exceeded standards in six developmental areas
- **99%** of parents are happy with their child’s growth and development at Concordia Place
- **100%** of parents said Concordia’s year-round, full-day programming was important to their family
- **431** children provided in-person early learning and preschool in FY21
- **All 4** Concordia centers open for in-person learning

Home Visiting

In late 2019, Concordia Place launched Home Visiting to serve children and their families from pregnancy through the first three years of life. Offering child development and parenting support to families, Home Visiting fosters resilience, improves family functioning and self-sufficiency, and helps families thrive.



“Concordia gives our family comfort and routine. We’re able to focus on our jobs knowing our son is being nurtured and inspired. He’s excited every morning and happy at the end of the day.”

Concordia Preschool Parent

School-Age 365

Enriching lives all year long



The Challenge

49% of Illinois families do not have suitable after-school options for their children. Cost, availability, and a safe way to get there are top roadblocks.

Demand Grows, Opportunity Shrinks. After 3pm, Afterschool Alliance, 2020 Study.

Only 60% of low-income students regularly log into online instruction versus 90% of higher income students. At schools serving predominantly Black and Hispanic students, just 60 to 70% log in regularly.

COVID-19 and Student Learning in the United States: The Hurt Could Last a Lifetime. Emma Dorn, Bryan Hancock, Jimmy Sarakatsan



"Without Concordia, I would've lost my job. I have no other options for child care."

Concordia School-Age 365 Parent

The Concordia Place Results

2

virtual learning support centers open for full-day in-person learning

100%

of parents happy (and 90% very happy) with the program

114

children served with virtual learning, summer camp, and emergency care during teacher strikes in FY21

Teen Leadership

Preparing tomorrow's leaders

The Challenge

Young people not involved in structured activities after school are more likely to engage in risky behaviors, experiment with drugs, and skip school.

Inspiring Learning, Providing Safety, Promoting Smart Choices, and Supporting Working Parents, Afterschool Alliance, 2020 Study.

In a 2019 survey of employers, more than 80% encountered challenges recruiting qualified job candidates. Among that group, three out of four reported a skills gap among applicants.



"Concordia strongly shaped my plans for life after high school. I'm grateful I was able to participate and learn from Ruckus as it helped me prepare me for my next stage in life through the skills taught. Never did I think I would go into business."

Concordia Teen

The Concordia Place Results

122

teens served in FY2021

*45% fewer served than prior years due to COVID-imposed restrictions

82

earn and learn opportunities offered

94%

of teens reported to be on track to go onto the next grade level

100%

of graduating seniors reported to have post high school plans

21

ZIP codes represented

A Place for All

Committed to our mission



The Challenge

Research suggests that segregating children limits their learning. Yet, much of current preschool policy [funding] effectively segregates children by income, and often, by race or ethnicity.

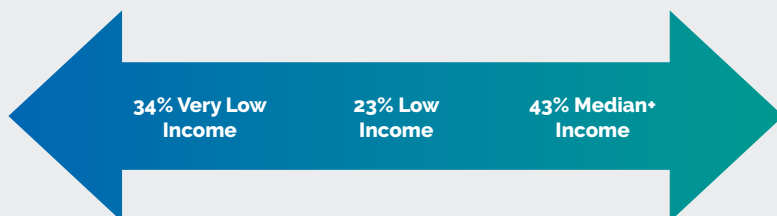
A Better Start: Why Classroom Diversity Matters in Early Education by Jeanne L. Reid and Sharon Lynn Kagan, National Center for Children and Families at Teachers College, Columbia University

Usually by kindergarten, children are aware of racial or ethnic identities and socioeconomic status, and have the ability to make social comparisons.

High-Quality Preschool: The Socioeconomic Composition of Preschool Classrooms and Children's Learning by Jeanne L. Reid and Douglas D. Ready, *Early Education and Development*, 24:8 1082–1111.

The Concordia Place Yes

Concordia Place serves the rich diversity of Chicago: ethnoracially, linguistically, and socioeconomically. **We serve this diversity in a unique way.** As a Place for All, Concordia Place seeks to overcome the conventional systems that segregate children by their socioeconomic status. Concordia Place serves children and families of all socioeconomic levels—in the same classrooms with the same quality teachers.



Serving the Gap

Not only does Concordia Place serve the very-low income, but with a unique sliding tuition scale, children in the "messy middle" are also served. Too often families that cannot afford market-rate tuition, but do not qualify for public support, fall between the cracks; and those children miss out on the benefits of center-based learning, a developmental curriculum, and quality teachers.



Faith in Action

Our commitment to the community

Concordia Place and Advocate Aurora Health, in conjunction with Avondale Neighborhood Association, St. Nikolai Church, and Kimball Avenue United Church of Christ, continued its work through the Avondale Faith and Health Community Collaborative to improve the health outcomes in the Avondale community. In FY21, meals, food, diapers, and cleaning supplies were given to over 11,000 people at food pop-ups, clothing drives, and community dinners.

diakonia

Purpose and Structure of diakonia program:

The original diakonia program which was established originally in the MNY Synod in 1978 and has functioned successfully in Metro Chicago synod since 2001 is completing its final year. In September 2022, a revised program, entitled 'Growing in Faith, The diakonia Program' will be introduced. The new program will continue to be six courses per year and will consist of a Foundation year, followed by a second year which will provide course work that will provide two options – one option will more fully develop personal faith and the second option will be course work leading to understanding and preparing for service opportunities within the church. The curriculum course descriptions for the Foundation Year will be available in the Summer of 2022.

Highlights of the Past Year:

The 2020/2021 diakonia graduation was held on August 14, 2021. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Downers Grove, IL. A total of twelve individuals from eight congregations were graduated. They participated in the programs which had been offered at Grace L.C., Evanston and Gloria Dei L.C., Downers Grove. Bishop Yehiel Curry gave the sermon and Pastor Stephen Bouman, led the Affirmation of Baptism at the ceremony. Following the graduation, a reception for graduates, their families, teachers and guests was held. The final year of the original diakonia program was offered via Zoom during 2021-22. Several past graduates enrolled in classes for enrichment so class size varied throughout the year. Two students completed their program and are eligible for graduation in 2022.

A Look Forward:

'Growing in Faith, The diakonia Program' promotional materials and applications will be available later this summer. The tuition per class has been raised by the National Steering Committee and will be \$65 per course in the new curriculum.

Further Information about diakonia:

Please contact Mary Ann Smith, Chair, MCS diakonia Steering Committee at carlmaryannsmith@aol.com for answers to specific questions or to request new printed materials. The synod website will be updated as soon as possible this summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Smith, Chair

MCS diakonia Steering Committee



ELCA Federal Credit Union
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

***Providing a full array 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. 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 strong online presence allows members to access their funds anytime, anywhere—as consumers expect today.



Why choose the ELCA Federal Credit Union?

"To use and share what God has given for the sake of all."

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 the most competitively priced products and services. Because we exist solely to serve our members, we can offer better rates and lower fees than many traditional banks. We have demonstrated success in providing significant savings to our borrowers.

With the church as our sponsor, we operate in ways that are consistent with the church's values. We offer a socially responsible way to do your banking.

ELCA Federal Credit Union | 8765 West Higgins Road | Chicago, Illinois 60631 | Tel: 877-715-1111 | Web: elcafcu.org

Page 1



ELCA Federal Credit Union
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Throughout the past year, we continued to serve the church and its members.

The Paycheck Protection Program drew to a close in 2021. With assistance from the Mission Investment Fund, we provided loans in 2020 and 2021 to ELCA congregations and ministries that required financial assistance during the pandemic. Covering payroll and operating expenses, these PPP loans proved to be a lifeline to a number of congregations and ministries in need. The loans were particularly meaningful to smaller congregations that didn't qualify for loans from local or national banks. Over the course of the full PPP program, the ELCA FCU provided a total of **360 loans totaling \$13.9 million**. These loans **helped continue payroll for some 2,100 congregation and ministry employees** and continued in-person and virtual worship and ministry services for more than 95,000 church members throughout 2020 and 2021.

In 2021, we ushered in the third 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 more than **645 rostered ministers** who, collectively, have made emergency savings deposits of more than \$1 million.

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.

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.

If you know any college students, refer them to Lutheran Campus Ministry!

Go to: <https://www.luminelca.org/refer-a-student/>

Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern University (LCMNU)

Pastor Deanna Langle

With Covid-19 safety guidelines in place, LCMNU began the 2021-2022 academic year in person with a rite of remembrance and regathering on our first Sunday back together. We welcomed juniors, seniors, and grad students who remembered what an in-person campus ministry was like; we welcomed sophomores - who called themselves "second year freshmen" - who had actively engaged the ministry online and now had the opportunity to experience the ministry in-person; and we welcomed the freshmen for whom all things were new!

This year has certainly been about merging a variety of communities into "one" and figuring out, once again, what it means to be a ministry in relationship, in real time and in real space—even as students were figuring out these things in all dimensions of their lives having been online since March 2020. It's been a transition on many levels for students as it has for the rest of the world. We've needed both intentional time and space to get to know each other not only through our regular worship and education events but also with some additional fellowship times; we've found ways to safely make and pack meals for the homeless shelter again; we've worked together on two fundraisers to support the campus food pantry for students and Bridges to Home, a program for young adults who need a home; we're working with Connections for the Homeless on an education event in April to educate Northwestern students on the actions they can take to address young adult homelessness in Evanston; and we continue through Bible study and theological reflection to educate ourselves about our own power and privilege and how Jesus calls us to a path of love and justice.

We celebrate that we have a student who will be affirming her faith this spring and an alumna who we are supporting in her first year of seminary. We're currently preparing for our annual Showcase fundraiser

(showcasing our students, their faith, and their talents) on May 14th and a festival worship on May 15th celebrating the 75th anniversary of a Lutheran presence at Northwestern University.

Thank you, Metro Chicago Synod and congregations, for your support! May you also see your support of campus ministry as a part of your outreach to and care for young adults.

South Loop Campus Ministry - ELCA and Episcopal

Pastor Elle Dowd (she/they)

As a new campus ministry pastor I am learning that campus ministry is a context in constant transition. Between graduations and transfers, community turnover is high and the ongoing pandemic has exacerbated this reality and brought with it new challenges. South Loop Campus Ministry (SLCM) also had an added leadership transition this summer 2021 when Pastor Ben Adams (he/him) moved on to his next call after 7 years of faithful service.

The SLCM board worked diligently over the summer forming a call committee, getting paperwork together, and interviewing for the position with hopes of filling it before the students returned for the Fall semester. My first day at SLCM was in mid August 2021 and my first task was hiring student interns for the coming year to help me get the lay of the land, make decisions, and build relationships.

Our programming pivoted this year away from event driven programming because of the pandemic and towards rebuilding a sense of community through 1:1 conversations with students, faculty, community members, and other stakeholders. While I have focused my attention on building community, the board has put a lot of work into building healthy administrative and financial systems as a foundation for the ministry's sustainability and growth.

The most vibrant part of SLCM's ministry is South Loop Community Table (SLCT). SLCM partners with another downtown campus ministry, the Inclusive Collective, to sponsor and run SLCT. SLCT is a weekly community meal on Sunday evenings throughout the school year. Students, community members, church volunteers, and people experiencing homelessness serve and eat together. SLCT puts an emphasis on community and solidarity over charity, working as much as possible to break down social barriers between people. We like to say that SLCT is less like a soup kitchen and more like a dinner party. We also have a lot of fun together playing games, singing karaoke, and celebrating with holiday parties. Our Christmas party had around 200 guests, and each guest received a Christmas present through the generous donations of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. SLCT partners with community organizations such as Chicago Street Medicine (medical care) and Humans for Hope (clothing and hygiene items) to provide much needed services and resources.

I am grateful to the MCS and the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago for their support and encouragement. I look forward to deepening our engagement with area congregations and ministries in the next year.

CAMPUS MINISTRIES REPORT CONTINUED...

Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Chicago

Pastor Matthew Stuhlmuller

The last 12 months have continued to bring opportunities and challenges for Lutheran Campus Ministry at The University of Chicago. Throughout the year, we had to experiment with a variety of formats, particularly meeting online because of COVID restrictions during the Delta wave. Thankfully, we were able to end Spring Quarter 2021 on a high note. We were able to hold our final meetings in person, and for the students who would return in the 2021-22 academic year, this provided a real sense of community that we have been able to carry into the current academic year.

With the easing of public-health restrictions, we have been able to follow a normal format for most of the 2021-22 academic year. Except for mask wearing and social distancing, we have been able to worship (and sing!) in person, as well as share meals. This was a refreshing change of pace. Whereas last year we needed to focus on simply maintaining our existence, this year we have been able to focus on growing our community. We have welcomed several new participants, and we are averaging nine participants at our weekly gatherings.

Throughout the school year, we have sometimes needed to make temporary adjustments to our routine when the university implemented temporary COVID restrictions, especially during the Omicron wave. Nevertheless, we have been able to plan alternative gatherings outdoors, such as apple picking and ice skating. Despite the disruptive change and upheaval, these events drew our regular number of participants. This speaks to the quality of the relationships we have formed in campus ministry. The students are genuinely interested in connecting with each other, showing the fruitfulness of our relational (as opposed to programmatic) approach to ministry.

In February 2022, Augustana Lutheran Church of Hyde Park voted to expand the Campus Pastor position from ½-time to ¾-time, with the hope of continuing to expand the position in the coming years. I am so grateful for this opportunity. We have great potential for expanding our work among students at The University of Chicago, and the increased hours will help to bring long-term stability to the position. ¾-time is the largest number of hours ever given to this position. Previously, the highest number was 2/3-time. This expansion is a wonderful sign of Augustana's commitment to campus ministry at The University of Chicago.

I am pleased to share this report with you. I feel honored and privileged to serve in this community, and I'm grateful for the synod's ongoing support. Thank you for your trust and encouragement.



Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Siblings in Christ of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod,

2021 was many things – frustrating, surprising, heartbreaking, and heartening – to name a few. At Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, however, the word we find ourselves using the most is *transformative*.

Like all of you, we found ourselves facing parallel crises: the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, an influx of vulnerable immigrant children at our border, and the devastating refugee crisis in Afghanistan. While it was an incredibly difficult year in many ways, it was also one of the most inspiring in our 83-year history.

People of faith and communities like yours stepped up in ways that we never could have expected to meet this moment and fulfill our Biblical call to welcome the stranger. In the last year alone:

- **100,000 volunteers** signed up to support our refugee and immigrant neighbors
- Supporters provided more than **\$30,000 worth** of essential items like cell phones and gift cards to our Afghan brothers and sisters
- **14,000+ generous donors** opened their hearts to the ministry of welcome
- LIRS welcomed more than **10,500 Afghans** through our nationwide resettlement network
- Our team assisted in reunifying or placing nearly **33,000 children** in loving homes
- We sent nearly **20,000** holiday cards and **1,750+ gifts** to families affected by immigration detention
- LIRS launched several exciting new programs and offices, such as field offices in Northern Virginia and Fargo, ND; the New American Cities economic empowerment program; Mental Health services for refugee children and families, and more.

Our resettlement and immigration services were complemented by our ever-growing slate of annual programs, which offer the public opportunities to **ADAPT**: Act, Donate, Advocate, Pray, and Teach. We invite you to engage with LIRS, as an individual or community, through one of our five key programs:

- [Stand Up Speak Up](#) – Our interfaith advocacy program organized each spring
- [Gather](#) - A cultural education program hosted in the fall
- [Hope for the Holidays™](#) - LIRS' flagship winter program for supporting families impacted by immigration detention
- [EMMAUS Congregational Network](#) - Our network of congregations who receive resources and support from LIRS
- [LIRS Ambassador Network](#) - A community of change-makers from around the US

In 2022, we are deepening our commitment to the work of welcome and believe that together, we can realize Matthew 25:35 in communities across the United States. We are so grateful for your astounding support and look forward to welcoming our newest neighbors alongside you.

In peace,

Dr. Kristin Witte, Director for Outreach

National Headquarters: 700 Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230 | Phone: 410-230-2700 | Fax: 410-230-2890 | www.LIRS.org
Advocacy Office: 110 Maryland Avenue NE, Suite 506/507, Washington, DC 20002 | Phone: 202-381-1030 | Fax: 202-330-5807

FAITH FLIGHT

In early winter, Canada geese fly over LOMC in the hundreds using their notable “V” pattern. It is strange to think so many geese fly over this relatively small greenspace of LOMC. The geese see something we don’t. They have the benefit of perspective. Sight to see water, farmland, forest and to avoid human populations. We see only what is on the ground. They

have the gift of altitude.

2021 has of course had us “see” COVID’s “on-the-ground” affect on LOMC including smaller numbers of groups and continued future financial questions.

Through 2021, God has however (despite a pandemic) given us altitude and blessed us with an attitude of moving forward on property projects, three summer camp events, new practices, new improvements, new events and a renewed heart for God in nature. We thank you for joining with LOMC in continuing a space to ponder, play, pray and be together in creation.

Rob Gieraltowski
Executive Director

2021 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

INCOME

| ACTUAL | BUDGETED |
|--------------|--------------|
| \$407,264.99 | \$381,900.00 |

EXPENSES

| ACTUAL | BUDGETED |
|--------------|--------------|
| \$392,127.10 | \$441,408.84 |

NET ORDINARY INCOME: \$15,137.89

**Does not include depreciation or mortgage expenses.*

2021 had a budgeted loss of around \$59,000 and so we are very thankful for the guests, groups, donors, churches, synods, federal help and more that helped LOMC stay financially sustainable! The staff continue to do an amazing job of keeping expenses down throughout the 600+ acres!



Photo on cover is from one of our two 2021 Middle School Scurry summer camps.

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center
Oregon IL 815-732-2220 www.LOMC.org



A Partner In Ministry With:

- Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
- Central / Southern Illinois Synod
- Metropolitan Chicago Synod
- Northern Illinois Synod
- Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (LOM)

The purpose of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) is to be the Church in outdoor settings, nurturing Christian faith and providing experiences connecting the Word of God with the World of God.

LOMC is very grateful to honor and acknowledge the Očhéthi Šakówiŋ, Hoocąk (Ho-Chunk), Myaamia, Sauk/Meskwaki, Peoria, Kiikaapoi (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.

IMPROVEMENTS

- New artwork for Hawkins Hospitality Center.
- Painting throughout Freedom Tree Village.
- Geocache course created.
- New smoke alarms installed in Freedom Tree Village.
- Butterfly garden replanted and tended to by Tri Church (Sterling/Rock Falls).
- Labyrinth was weeded and improved.
- Trail signage added for Levi's Cave and Meadow/Timbers Villages.



- Volleyball court received loads of sand and spread by Kirkwood Scout Troop 350.
- Many trees removed and trimmed near Drama Drum and Campground thanks to Kurt Wolter, Brad Anderson and Chris Senti (staff).
- New 8' long tables for Moline Dining Hall donated by Bob and Sue Gingras.
- Additional new flooring laid in Health Center hallway.

EVENTS

SUNDAES ON SATURDAY

On two Saturdays in March, guests enjoyed guided hikes and ice cream sundaes.

OREGON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Firefighters from Oregon, IL burned several areas of our prairie in spring to support healthy growth and adhere to our Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands.

CREATE RETREAT

A hobby and crafting retreat was held in April and was enjoyed by an enthusiastic and creative group of guests.

AUTUMN FEST

Our annual fall open house returned (after being cancelled in 2020) on Saturday, October 9. New craft fair combined with all the great autumn activities (and great weather) made the event a wonderful opportunity.



Fall Youth Group Fun Day

LOMC's regular fall overnight retreats were cancelled due to COVID and Fun Days were created to engage congregations. We welcomed Trinity Lombard and First Geneseo on October 16 for a day filled with faithful community.

COVID-19 IMPACT

More groups were able to safely stay at LOMC in 2021, but overall, LOMC was far behind our non-COVID years. Cancellations, new COVID strains, financial difficulties and more prevented groups from staying at LOMC.

SUMMER CAMPS

LOMC held three summer camps in 2021.

Middle School Scurry

June 13-16 and July 25-28

High School THEKA

July 11-16



Staying in Freedom Tree Village to maximize COVID safety, 29 campers were led by LOMC's program and executive director.

FUNDRAISERS

HIKE-A-THON

This campaign brought 15 teams to hike and find sponsors to raise dollars for LOMC's Scholarship/Grant Fund. The campaign was paired with our "Sundae on Saturdays" events and raised \$6,300.



GIVING TUESDAYS

Our Giving Tuesday in May raised \$22,500 and the November/December campaign raised over \$25,000 to support LOMC's Annual Fund.

AUTUMN FEST DONUT FUN 5K

The Donut Fun Run/Walk brought 7 teams together to raise over \$5,200 to help LOMC.

Icons made by [Freepik](https://www.freepik.com) and [Pixel perfect](https://www.flaticon.com) from www.flaticon.com

AND MORE IMPROVEMENTS

- New on-demand water heaters for the Moline Dining Hall thanks to Geneva Lutheran (Geneva, IL).
- New mattresses for Marander and Dody Lodges thanks to Geneva Lutheran.
- Complete bedding replacement for Freedom Tree Village thanks to donors.
- Septic line from Retreat Cabins was cleared after many years of problems. Septic system for the Dining Hall was inspected and repaired as well.
- Partial concrete pad poured for Maintenance Building.
- New boiler for Marander Lodge.
- Well house had electrical improvements made.
- Drama Drum, bridge, playground and Moline Dining Hall deck painted/stained thanks to Sterling/Rock Falls Tri Church.
- New landscaping at the John Califf Memorial Garden.
- Smart thermostats installed throughout LOMC.
- New (pre-owned) truck purchased with new plow.
- New lounge chairs for Hawkins Hospitality Center entryway.





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

Metropolitan Chicago Synod 2022 Annual Report from Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Dear Valued Partners in Ministry:

Let us take heart that hope is more clearly on the horizon than a year ago. As people of faith, we can be grateful, even in the midst of challenging circumstances that we can turn to each other. On behalf of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), I am grateful to the members of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod and your commitment to our ministry. With your support, we continued to provide services to our neighbors in need.

LSSI's staff provided vital services to 38,000 children, adults, and seniors throughout our state last year—one out of every 333 people in Illinois! The needs of the people we serve continued even in the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these challenges, we were able to expand our services and remain responsive to the people we are privileged to serve.

This year, LSSI will celebrate the 155th anniversary of our founding. Just as people worked together to help children orphaned by a cholera epidemic in western Illinois in 1867, we continue this vital ministry that responds to the needs of our communities. Crucial to this response is the ongoing support of congregations and individual members of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod.

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

We're pleased to share program highlights from last year:

- LSSI's Therapeutic Foster Care Program successfully concluded its five-year pilot phase at sites in Aurora, Chicago, and Rockford. The initial outcomes from the pilot indicate significant benefits, with 73% of kids successfully achieving their treatment goals. This surpasses the average completion rate of 66% in the research trials of all children enrolled in the Treatment Foster Care of Oregon model across the U.S. and internationally. The program added a second team to the Chicago program during the pilot phase and has now expanded to Central Illinois as of January 1, 2022. This new program site is based out of LSSI's West Peoria office and will serve families within a one-hour radius. We expect to welcome the first children into this program in June of 2022.
- LSSI continues the distinction as the largest statewide provider of foster care in Illinois, serving 2,857 children in foster care in Fiscal Year 2021.

- LSSI added programs at its Sterling location so that it now offers a full spectrum of behavioral healthcare services there. Clients aged 11 and older can access outpatient mental health and drug/alcohol treatment services, all in one convenient location. These include outpatient drug and alcohol treatment services and outpatient mental health services.
- Project IMPACT (Immediate Multidisciplinary Pre-Screening Assessment Crisis Team) grew to include another hospital emergency department site at West Suburban Hospital in Oak Park. Project IMPACT is imbedded in these hospitals' emergency departments 24/7 using trained counselors to assist adults and children who are experiencing a behavioral, psychiatric, or addiction crisis. With the addition of West Suburban, LSSI's reach expands beyond the north and northwest side of Chicago into the city's west side and western suburbs. Project IMPACT served 12,541 patients last fiscal year.

We express our appreciation 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 Metro Chicago Synod service area who served on the LSSI Board of Directors this past year: Rev. Dr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, Treasurer; Donald B. Erickson; Esther Macchione; John T. Rudy, Chair; and Rev. Kathie Bender Schwich.

We are grateful to the trustees of LSSI's Cornerstone Foundation representing the Metropolitan Chicago Synod service area this past year: Thomas Cunniff; William (Bill) S. Fleck; Pr. John Freidheim; Susan Gilpin; Pr. Richard Holmer; Ronald Kok-Alblas; Nancy Nagel; Carol A. Poplawski, Vice Chair; Charles Price; Pr. Art Puotinen; Mary Ann Smith, Secretary; Jon A. Theeke Jr.; and Bonalynn Wallach.

LSSI appreciates the generosity of our friends in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod who share in our ministry. Our collective work is an expression of the love of Christ, bringing healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities.

Thank you for your support that enables us to continue our mission together.

In faith,



Mark A. Stutrud
President and Chief Executive Officer



N7891 US Hwy 12 | Elkhorn, WI 53121 | info@lutherdale.org | www.lutherdale.org | 262-742-2352

The year 2021 was year two of the pandemic and another challenging year for the ministry of Lutherdale. While still challenging, things are moving in the right direction.

Summer camp returned to week long programs. A lot has been learned about COVID-19 and we were prepared to run a safe and healthy camp program again in 2021. And we did. No COVID cases all summer. We had 441 summer campers, up from 200 the summer of 2020.

With the low numbers of summer campers and our partner camps that canceled, we had room to welcome another camp to our summer program. Camp CODA selected Lutherdale to run their 4-week program. CODA stands for Children of Deaf Adults. It was a great experience working with CODA and seeing the special bond they offer to children who have the responsibility of being the hearing family member.

The HOPE Conference Center started to welcome guests. We had a few church groups, families, and quilters enjoy the new facility. The WELCA of South Central Wisconsin held their conference here. The feedback that we kept hearing from guests was very positive. The HOPE Center exceeded their expectations. Word was starting to get out about the new facility. We gave many tours to potential groups, conferences, and weddings and have booked many of them for 2022. We anticipate an increase of over 150% in 2022.

The pandemic has had an impact on our youth programs. Youth participation in retreats is very low. Only a few churches were able to bring their youth to Lutherdale. There is so much uncertainty around COVID, youth, and vaccines. The trend of more adults coming to Lutherdale than youth continues.

When the HOPE Center was built, we had to hold off with paving the parking and road. We were able to complete that project in 2021 and what a difference it has made for all our guests to be able drive up to the front door of the HOPE Center. It has been a big improvement.

Work has started on the remodeling of the Watson Retreat Center to make it more accommodating for youth and large groups needing more space than one of our traditional cabins. When complete, the Watson Center is going to be an attractive housing option for many groups.

The Prairie Restoration Project has begun. The 4.5 acres on the south side of the entry road, was seeded in prairie during the month of November. This project will take about 5 years for the prairie to mature and will provide a habitat for birds, butterflies, insects, and small animals. Youth and adults will be able to walk and explore the prairie and learn about its unique ecological system. Part of the plan is to mow a walking labyrinth path into the field when it has grown to a proper height.

We Do Ministry Together

It has been my joy to serve as the Executive Director of Lutherdale for the last 25 years. This is my last Annual Report because I will be retiring at the end of the year. Getting to know so many people and hearing the stories of how Lutherdale has been an important part of their lives has been a great privilege. Visiting our member congregations and sharing the Lutherdale story showed me the wonderful partners we have in ministry and always with a focus that we do ministry together. That has been so evident with the tremendous support Lutherdale has received during these difficult times. The support from congregations and donors has made all the difference. With the addition of the HOPE Conference Center and the remodeling of the Watson Center, Lutherdale is expanding ministry opportunities and is ready to serve the church of today, tomorrow, and the future.

In Christ's service,

Jeff Bluhm, Executive Director



Mission Investment Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

With faith and finance at our core

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 provides 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 social service agencies and outdoor camps.

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.

We were present for our investors and borrowers that needed assistance during the pandemic. We collaborated with our ministry partner, the ELCA Federal Credit Union, to offer expedited loans for congregations, ministries and individuals, as well as 360 Paycheck Protection Program loans totaling \$13.9 million. The PPP loans helped continue payroll for some 2,100 congregation and ministry employees and continued in-person and virtual worship and ministry services for more than 95,000 church members throughout 2020 and 2021.



MIF has a longstanding tradition of strength and stability. At year-end 2021, MIF had 820 loans outstanding, totaling \$575.4 million. Investment obligations totaled \$575.4 million. With total assets of \$822.0 million and net assets of \$226.4 million at year-end 2021, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 27.5 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, 2021):

- 48 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of \$46,366,623
- \$30,588,387 in Mission Investment Fund investment obligations

Mission Investment Fund | 8765 West Higgins Road | Chicago, Illinois 60631 | Tel: 877-886-3522 | Web: mif.elca.org



Mission Investment Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



The Mission Investment Fund can be your financial resource and partner of choice.

Why MIF?

MIF has demonstrated expertise in church and ministry financing. As a ministry of the ELCA with longstanding experience in congregation and ministry building projects, we're unique among lending institutions. We're prepared to listen to what you need, we understand your requirements, and we'll serve as your strategic partner.

We offer competitive rates and terms. MIF consistently offers competitive rates. And now, interest rates on loans remain at historic lows.

We offer a full suite of financial services. In addition to loans, MIF offers congregations, ministries and individuals a host of investment options. Our financial ministry partner, the ELCA Federal Credit Union, offers an additional array of financial services.

The faithful stewardship of Lutheran congregations and their members funds our loans. We use the money invested in MIF to finance hundreds of capital projects across the church.

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

Benefit Stability in Uncertain Times

PORTICO®

Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA

As the pandemic ebbed and flowed in 2021, Portico's benefits remained a reliable constant for ELCA congregations and organizations, affirming the importance of church together.

- ELCA-Primary health benefits helped to lower stress levels and provided virtual access to health care.
- The ELCA Retirement Plan continued to deliver strong investment returns while offering no- or low-cost access to financial planning and coaching services.

In recent years, we've brought added stability to our program by extending quality, cost-effective benefits to more of those who serve. As we include more ELCA-affiliated social ministry organizations, colleges, and universities, as well as full communion partner denominations, we grow the size of our pool, which, in turn, allows us to secure lower administrative fees and innovative benefits not typically available to smaller groups. In this way, we continue our mission to serve those who serve.



The Rev. Jeff Thiemann
President & CEO

Meeting the Need in 2021

869

Plays of New Portico Podcast

Hosted by an ELCA pastor on current issues impacting our faith community.

34%

Chose New Voluntary Benefit

Through our cost-saving vision care services provider.

643

Retired

In Portico's bundled benefits program — Well done, good and faithful servants!

7.3%

Annuity Payment Increase

Approved for ELCA annuitants in 2022.

2,564

Medical Visits via Text

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

8

Large Organizations Joined

In 2021 — 1 ELCA college, 6 ELCA-affiliated social ministries, and 1 full communion partner social ministry.

2,880

Classes Completed in 2021

On Burnalong, Portico's new online fitness and wellness benefit.

76%

More Accessed Financial Coaching

Through LSS of Minnesota in 2021 than during the same period in 2020.

87.8%

Very Satisfied

With our Customer Care Center service.

Data as of Dec. 31, 2021; sources available upon request. Availability of and eligibility for benefits will vary.

60-302 (3/2022)



Region 5

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Report for 2022 Synod Assembly

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.

As with all ministry settings, Region 5 ministries shifted in the past 2 years due to the global pandemic. Bishop and their staff have taken this opportunity to connect online across synods more frequently. In 2021 Region 5 gathered for a Bishops and Staff retreat, the first of its kind since 2019. With masks and testing protocols, your synod leaders cherished the time to collaborate, learn, and worship together. The past few years have had a record number of bishop elections in the Region, thus making the in person gathering that much more helpful to the ministry that each synod has in common.

The Region 5 steering committee continued a collaborative grants program established in 2020. Funds are awarded for innovative collaborations involving two or more synods in Region 5. Currently, Region 5 is supporting projects aimed diversity and inclusion. 1) Diversity and Inclusion series of events for adults. 2) Multi-Cultural Youth Leadership Academy. Both projects will involve all three synods in Illinois and Northern Great Lakes Synod in Wisconsin/U.P. of Michigan.

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 2022 candidacy committee ongoing education will focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

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 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. As congregations in the region 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

Stephanie Olson, Vice President

Bonnie Lopez, Secretary

Sandra Schlauch, Treasurer

Rev. Joanne Fitzgerald

Jenny Araujo

Kathleen West

Due to the Pandemic, we have been meeting via Zoom for meetings during 2020-2022. During that time, we have nominated new board positions. Carol Ika President is our president of SWO, Stephanie Olson is our new Vice President, Rev. Joanne Fitzgerald is one of our board members along with Jenny Araujo. 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.

In October 2021 our convention was in-person at Zion Lutheran Church in Tinley Park which was very successful. We had a pre-recorded keynote speaker, coffee hour, a workshop, and a worship service. Overall it was a wonderful convention.

This year 2022, we opened the year with Women of the ELCA (SWO) and Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women of Chicago merging with a morning of dialogue and prayer. The theme was "Women of Peace" and it was held at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oak Lawn IL. It was a wonderful turnout and the offering was donated to BEDS Plus Care Emergency Services, helping to end homelessness.

We are in the planning stages for our next convention to be held in October 2022. We are planning a workshop, 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. Our theme will be "Putting the Pieces/Peace together - We Are One".

Respectfully,

Carol Ika President, President

Metro-Chicago Synodical Women's Organization

COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES and SEMINARIES

Grand View University

Luther College

**LSTC and Wartburg
(Seminaries)**

*An intelligent heart acquires knowledge,
and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.*

— Proverbs 18:15



Dear Friends,

Warm greetings on behalf of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni! This year, Grand View celebrates its quasiquicentennial anniversary. During these past 125 years, Grand View has evolved from a Danish folk-school into a diverse university. With each transition has come new opportunities to advance our mission. In the spirit, I am pleased to announce Dr. Rachelle Keck as the University's 14th president. I will retire June 30, having been blessed with the opportunity to serve Grand View for more than 22 years. An Iowa native, Dr. Keck is proud to be a first-generation college student, graduating from Wartburg College, after which she earned her juris doctorate from the University of Iowa and her doctor of philosophy from Drake University. Dr. Keck brings extensive strategic budgeting, organizational leadership experience, and innovative expertise to Grand View. She also is Lutheran and is fully committed to the tenets of Lutheran higher education. This is an exciting next chapter in Grand View's history. In addition to this exciting news, here are some highlights from the past year:

Project: Student Ready - Grand View University received a Federal Department of Education Title III grant entitled, "*Project Student Ready: Transforming Grand View University.*" This five-year grant totaling \$2,242,894 allows Grand View to expand work in several areas which will enhance students' experiences, improve academic achievement, and remove barriers to students' success. The program expands the university's capacity to serve low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability.

Campus Ministry – The Campus Ministry department continues to bless the students at Grand View as well as the larger church. Multiple Bible study groups, prayer groups, evening worship, and weekly chapel are offered. PEER Ministry continues to be a major program on our campus along with Alpha.

The Moses Project— The mission of the project is to give rural pastors a vision of ministry that will help them thrive in congregational leadership. With 20 pastors from nine Midwestern states, the pastors build community in mini-cohorts, receive mentoring, attend three in-person events, and participate in monthly exemplar meetings. In August, pastors travelled to Des Moines for a Kick Off Event, which featured Rev. Dr. Yolanda Pierce, the Dean at Howard Divinity School. Check out our resource page <https://www.mosesproject.org>.

The NEXUS Institute – Gvu offered its fifth summer of NEXUS, a theological institute that focuses on ministry vocation exploration for high school students. Currently, we are recruiting for summer 2022, which plans to be on campus June 12-18. For more information, to nominate students, or to request brochures, check out our website at www.grandview.edu/NEXUS

Theology Department – Grand View University offers a variety of scholarships for ELCA students such as the EPIC Scholarship and the Bishop Hougen Scholarship. In addition, there are additional scholarships for students interested in ministry: The NEXUS Scholarship and the Muedeking Scholarship. For more information, contact Department Chair: Rev. Dr. Mark Mattes at mmattes@grandview.edu.

In a moment of transition, I am thankful to God who is with us every step of the way

God's Peace and Joy,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent Henning".

Kent Henning, Grand View President

Grand View University
1200 Grandview Avenue | Des Moines, IA 50316
1-800-444-6083 | www.grandview.edu

LUTHER COLLEGE

Greetings from Luther College in the beautiful Driftless region of northeastern Iowa!

This 2021-2022 academic year has been one of renewed energy and celebration of the gifts of the Luther College community. We are grateful for the dedicated, thoughtful, and conscientious group of leaders who continue to monitor and manage our Covid-19 response. Because of their leadership, and because of the campus-wide shared commitment to healthy practices, we have been able to resume a fuller schedule of on-campus in-person events, from athletic events to Christmas at Luther to admissions events to our thriving Center Stage Series.

In fall of 2021, we hosted multiple homecoming weekend events, including a special in-person Commencement Celebration for the class of 2020. This spring, our music ensembles were able to resume touring. Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Orchestra, Concert Band, and Collegiate Choral toured a variety of locations in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Nordic Choir performed during February's American Choral Directors Association regional conference in Chicago and toured the Midwest in May. We hope some of you were able to attend one of these events.

We are happy to share with you that Luther College has received a NetVUE Reframing the Institutional Saga grant of nearly \$40,000 to prepare and publish a collection of essays that explore the college's identity as a Norwegian-Lutheran liberal arts college. The grant began in February of this year and runs through January 2024, when the anthology will be published and made available to the public.

We are also grateful to the many friends and alumni who helped us raise more than \$1 million for a major renovation of the Sports and Recreation Center, part of our campus athletic complex. Along with the renovation project comes the commemorative naming of spaces to honor Luther coaches who have made a lifetime of impact on their student-athletes.

The Office for College Ministries welcomed Pastor Melissa Bills as its new Director for College Ministries and College Pastor at the beginning of this academic year. College Ministries continues to sustain weekday chapel and special event worship services, as well as to support the ongoing spiritual needs of Luther's entire campus community - students, staff, faculty, and alumni/emeriti. A new student Council for Faith and Life has been convened as a way for students to more deeply engage with intersections of faith and learning and to serve as faith and justice leaders on campus.

We encourage you (and your high school students) to visit the Luther College campus and the Decorah, Iowa community. Please help spread the word that in addition to offering a series of Church Leadership Scholarships, Luther College participates in the EPIC (Educational Partners in Covenant) grant program, which matches up to \$1000 per year in support of each student from your congregation.

Luther College, like many congregations, communities, and institutions, has been challenged to show enormous flexibility and resilience during these last years. We remain committed to providing students a supportive, faith-grounded environment of academic excellence where they can learn, grow, and discern. We look to the future with great hope and possibility, focusing our energy on values of stewardship, integration, and adaptability, recognizing our mission as being both grounded and global. Thank you for your prayers and support for Luther College. We are grateful for your partnership.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Dr. Jenifer K. Ward
Luther College President



2022 joint report to synods from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago & Wartburg Theological Seminary

Dear Partners in Ministry in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod:

The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) and Wartburg Theological Seminary (WTS), the two seminaries that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod supports, stand united with a vision to form compassionate, ever-evolving leaders for a changing church.

The impact of the pandemic lingers, but both of our schools are thriving, having adapted well to a changing situation. We remain committed to forming leaders for the church who are deeply grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ and well-prepared to accompany congregations and other church-related institutions into more diverse and adaptive ministries.

A few examples of these efforts by LSTC are highlighted below:

- LSTC joyfully began 2022 with the reinauguration of the Pero Center, renamed the Albert “Pete” Pero Jr. and Cheryl Stewart Pero Center for Intersectionality Studies, with Dr. Linda Thomas as the new program director. Also this past year LSTC’s Antiracism Transformation Team was commissioned, and Vima Couvertier-Cruz was appointed director of diversity, inclusion, equity, and justice. Two related strategic plan initiatives were also launched: “Pursuing Equity: Race, Sexuality, Gender” and “Authentic Diversity.”
- With LSTC’s announcement of the \$2 million endowed Damm Chair, we are searching for an effective scholar with a record of inspiring teaching who can help LSTC integrate leadership cultivation into all aspects of our curriculum. This newly established chair was funded by a generous gift from Larry and Christie Tietjen and will help prepare mainly MDiv, MA and MAM students for ministry. It will allow LSTC to reach additional audiences to enhance leadership across the church. The seminary is also underway with the search process for a professor of Lutheran Systematic Theology with an expertise in global Lutheranism.
- Motivated by the need to provide scholarships for our students, LSTC has engaged in multiple fundraising initiatives, the majority of which have been board-directed. We were especially grateful for a \$1 million gift in 2021 that catapulted us into a successful fundraising year.
- As LSTC reached the conclusion of two years offering all courses in a blended format (remote and in person), we are grateful for the generous grant from the In Trust Center for Theological Schools that enabled LSTC to consult with Learning Forte (Learning for Theological Education). The firm helps seminaries and schools of theology upgrade online learning tools. The upshot of this partnership was a transition of all online learning to Brightspace, a state-of-the-art online learning platform.
- The board of directors has also actively engaged its own improvement in shared governance and attention to diversity, equity, and inclusion by active participation in the Wise Stewards program sponsored by In Trust. LSTC was one of ten schools elected for this program.

A few examples of these efforts by WTS are highlighted below:

- WTS received a Phase II Lily Grant for \$725,000 in support of two initiatives that are meant to develop resources for both leaders and congregations that come from diverse backgrounds. The one program is “Journey Together,” a new competency-based TEEM program, which is offered fully in Spanish and English. The second initiative is a re-launch of LSPS, the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest, which is expected in early July 2022.
- WTS has launched “Lead BOLDLY,” a \$28 million comprehensive campaign built around Scholarships and Innovation as the top priorities. A \$6-7 million remodel of Fritschel Hall, the seminary’s main academic building, is included in the innovation focus. With deep gratitude, they announced that \$20.5 million had already been received from lead donors.
- In December, WTS announced the formation of a new department, the Department for Vocation and Formation, led by Dr. Kris Stache, the Vice President for Leadership formation. This department was created to establish a more integrated network of support for students, from inquiry out into first call, as they are formed for a long career in public ministry.
- WTS called a new Hebrew Bible faculty member, Dr. Beth Elness-Hanson, who will join the faculty in July from her current position in Uppsala, Sweden. In other faculty news, long-time Hebrew Bible professor Ann Frischel will be retiring in July, and long-time dean, Craig Nesson, will be stepping down from the dean’s position at the end of June, but continuing his role as professor of contextual theology and ethics.
- Finally, the theme of the presidential inauguration in November was “Life Together in a New Day.” WTS has continued to live into that identity, grounded in its history but looking forward into the future, responding to the call of the Holy Spirit who is continually doing a new thing in our midst.

Please know that you are welcome at our seminaries at any time, online or in person! Participate in upcoming educational opportunities. Join us for community events. Worship alongside our students in chapel. Bring someone you know with gifts for ministry. Consider rostered ministry in the ELCA. Come create a meaningful connection with the future leaders that you and your synod support through your gifts to Wartburg and LSTC.

Your synod partnership is essential for LSTC and Wartburg to continue our shared mission of providing effective theological education and developing leaders for the many ministries of your congregation, synod, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are so grateful for you and our shared collaborations for the sake of the gospel in service of the church and the world. We could not do this work without you! Thank you for your time, thank you for your talents, and thank you for your financial support.

To learn more about your seminaries and the innovative ways that we are forming leaders, please visit www.lstc.edu and www.wartburgseminary.edu.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. James R. Neiman, Ph.D.
President
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago



The Rev. Kristin Johnston Largen, Ph.D.
President
Wartburg Theological Seminary

**The Constitution, Bylaws,
and Continuing Resolutions
of the
Metropolitan Chicago Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran
Church
in America**



April 23, 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.

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Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Updated: CR April 23, 2022 ; Constitution & Bylaws June 5, 2021

Chapter 1.

NAME AND INCORPORATION

- †S1.01. The name of this synod, as determined by the Churchwide Assembly, shall be the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †S1.02. For the purposes of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is hereafter designated as “this synod” or “the synod.”
- †S1.11. This synod shall be incorporated. Amendments to the articles of incorporation of this synod shall be submitted to the Church Council for ratification before filing.
 - S1.11.01. Place of incorporation location of office. This synod shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois; its office shall be at Chicago, Illinois, or elsewhere in the territory as the Assembly may from time to time determine.
- †S1.21. The seal of this synod is a circular device with the words “METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA” on the margin, and the words “CORPORATE SEAL ILLINOIS” in the central portion.

Chapter 2.

STATUS

- †S2.01. This synod possesses the powers conferred upon it, and accepts the duties and responsibilities assigned to it, in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, which are recognized as having governing force in the life of this synod.
- †S2.02. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA or “this church”) as used herein refers in general references to this whole church, including its three expressions: congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is also the name of the corporation of the churchwide organization to which specific references may be made herein.
- †S2.03. No provision of this constitution shall be inconsistent with the constitution and bylaws of this church.

Chapter 3.

TERRITORY

- †S3.01. The territory of this synod, as determined by the Churchwide Assembly, shall be the Counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, and Lake in the State of Illinois.
- †S3.02. “Determined by the Churchwide Assembly,” as stipulated by †S3.01., is understood to include the reported changes in synod relationship made by any congregation in a border area agreed under ELCA bylaws 10.01.01. and 10.02.02.

Chapter 4.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

- †S4.01. This synod confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- †S4.02. This synod confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.
 - a. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.

- b. The proclamation of God’s message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in the history of Israel, and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
 - c. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by God’s Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God’s revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God’s Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.
- †S4.03. This synod accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life.
- †S4.04. This synod accepts the Apostles’, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of this synod.
- †S4.05. This synod accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a true witness to the Gospel, acknowledging as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.
- †S4.06. This synod accepts the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord, namely, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles and the Treatise, the Small Catechism, the Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord, as further valid interpretations of the faith of the Church.
- †S4.07. This synod confesses the Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scripture and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the Church for God’s mission in the world.

Chapter 5.

NATURE OF THE CHURCH

- †S5.01. All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this synod are to be carried out under his rule and authority.
- †S5.02. This church confesses the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church and is resolved to serve Christian unity throughout the world.
- †S5.03. The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations. This church, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day.
- †S5.04. This church, inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, participates in The Lutheran World Federation as a global communion of churches, engaging in faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and in service for the sake of God’s mission in the world.

Chapter 6.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- †S6.03. This synod, in cooperation with the churchwide organization, shall bear primary responsibility for the oversight of the life and mission of this church in its territory. In fulfillment of this role and consistent with policies and procedures of this church, the synod shall:
- a. Provide for pastoral care of congregations and rostered ministers in the synod;
 - b. Plan for, facilitate, and nurture the mission of this church through congregations;
 - c. Strengthen interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and foster relationships with agencies and institutions affiliated with or related to this church as well as ecumenical partners.
 - d. Interpret the work of this church to congregations and to the public on the territory of the synod.
- †S6.03.01. The responsibilities of the synod include the following:
- a. providing for pastoral care of congregations, ministers of Word and Sacrament, and ministers of Word and Service in the synod, including:

- 1) approving candidates for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in cooperation with the appropriate seminaries of this church, which may be done through multi-synod committees;
 - 2) authorizing ordinations and ordaining ministers of Word and Sacrament on behalf of this church;
 - 3) approving ministers of Word and Service, which may be done through multi-synod committees;
 - 4) authorizing ordinations and ordaining ministers of Word and Service on behalf of this church; and
 - 5) consulting in the call process for rostered ministers.
- b. providing for leadership recruitment, preparation, and support in accordance with churchwide standards and policies, including:
- 1) nurturing and supporting congregations and lay leaders;
 - 2) seeking and recruiting qualified candidates for the rostered ministries of this church;
 - 3) making provision for pastoral care, call review, and guidance;
 - 4) encouraging and supporting persons on the rosters of this church in stewardship of their abilities, care of self, and pursuit of continuing education to undergird their effectiveness of service; and
 - 5) supporting recruitment of leaders for this church's colleges, universities, seminaries, and social ministry organizations.
- c. providing for discipline of congregations, ministers of Word and Sacrament, and ministers of Word and Service; as well as for termination of call, appointment, adjudication, and appeals consistent with Chapter 20 of this church's constitution.
- d. providing for archives in conjunction with other synods.
- †S6.03.02. In planning for, facilitating, and nurturing the mission of this church through congregations, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:
- a. developing of new ministries, redevelopment of existing ministries, and support and assistance in the conclusion, if necessary, of a particular ministry;
 - b. leading and encouraging of congregations in their evangelism efforts;
 - c. assisting members of its congregations in carrying out their ministries in the world;
 - d. encouraging congregations to respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and the suffering, and participate responsibly in society;
 - e. providing resources for congregational life;
 - f. grouping congregations in conferences, clusters, coalitions, or other area subdivisions for mission purposes.
- †S6.03.03. In strengthening interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and in fostering relationships with agencies and institutions affiliated with or related to this church as well as with ecumenical partners, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:
- a. promoting interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and entering into relationships with other synods in the region;
 - b. fostering organizations for youth, women, and men, and organizations for language or ethnic communities;
 - c. developing relationships with social ministry organizations and ministries, participating in their mission planning, and providing supportive funding;
 - d. supporting relationships with and providing supportive funding on behalf of colleges, universities, and campus ministries;
 - e. maintaining relationships with and providing supportive funding on behalf of seminaries and continuing education centers;
 - f. fostering supporting relationships with camps and other outdoor ministries;
 - g. fostering supporting relationships with preschools, elementary schools, and secondary schools operated by congregations of the synod;
 - h. fostering relationships with ecumenical and global companions;
 - i. cooperating with other synods and the churchwide organization in creating, using, and supporting regions to carry out those functions of the synod which can best be done cooperatively with other synods and the churchwide organization.
- †S6.03.04. In interpreting the work of this church on the territory of the synod, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:
- a. encouraging financial support for the work of this church by individuals and congregations;
 - b. participating in churchwide programs;
 - c. interpreting social statements in a manner consistent with the interpretation given by the churchwide

- unit or office which assisted in the development of the statement, and suggestion of social study issues;
d. providing ecumenical guidance and encouragement.
- †S6.04. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, the Synod Council shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of the synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; and that at least 45 percent of the lay members of assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be women and at least 45 percent shall be men; and that, where possible, the representation of ministers of Word and Sacrament shall include both men and women. This synod shall establish processes that will enable it to reach a minimum goal that 10 percent of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
- †S6.04.01. It is the goal of this synod that 10 percent of the membership of synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards and/or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
- †S6.04.02. It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term “young adult” means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.
- S6.04.A88. *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.*
- S6.04.B22 *To best live out its Reconciling In Christ designation, this synod encourages the following:*
- That all buildings utilized for synod events, meetings, assemblies, offices, and the like have the availability of a non-gendered bathroom.*
 - 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.*
 - That language at all functions be carefully used to acknowledge the diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities found in this synod.*
- †S6.05. Each assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body of this synod or any synod units shall be conclusively presumed to have been properly constituted, and neither the method of selection nor the composition of any such assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body may be challenged in a court of law by any person or be used as the basis of a challenge in a court of law to the validity or effect of any action taken or authorized by any such assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body.
- †S6.06. References herein to the nature of the relationship between the three expressions of this church—congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization—as being interdependent or as being in a partnership relationship describe the mutual responsibility of these expressions in God’s mission and the fulfillment of the purposes of this church as described in this chapter, and do not imply or describe the creation of partnerships, co-ventures, agencies, or other legal relationships recognized in civil law.

Chapter 7.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

- †S7.01. This synod shall have a Synod Assembly, which shall be its highest legislative authority. The powers of the Synod Assembly are limited only by the provisions in the Articles of Incorporation, this constitution and bylaws, the assembly’s own resolutions, and the constitutions and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- S7.01.01. Assembly report. For all regular meetings of the Assembly, the secretary of this synod shall prepare an Assembly report. At least 20 days prior to each such meeting, the secretary shall distribute the Assembly report to all Congregations and voting members elect, and file a copy thereof in the public file. The Assembly report shall include a proposed agenda for the meeting; minutes of the preceding regular

meeting of the Assembly and of each special meeting since the preceding regular meeting; reports of the bishop, the Council, related and affiliated organizations, Standing committees, and deans; and, the proposed budget. For meetings at which elections are held, the Assembly report shall also include information concerning such elections.

- S7.01.02.** Arrangements for Assembly meetings. The arrangements for agenda, program, and worship at meetings of the Assembly shall be under the supervision of the bishop. This synod shall be responsible for the costs of the Assembly; such costs shall not include voting members' expenses.
- S7.01.03.** Other members of Assembly. Unless elected as voting members, members of the Council who are not officers shall serve as advisory members of the Assembly, with voice but not vote. Other categories of non-voting members of the Assembly may be established by the Assembly.
- S7.01.05.** Assembly committees and officials. The Assembly shall have committees and officials as provided in this bylaw. Generally, eligibility for appointment to a committee of the Assembly is as provided in the first sentence of S11.01.02. Unless the bishop so requires, an Assembly committee or official need not make a formal report covering its or her/his activities.
- a. The Council shall appoint a Committee on Reference and Counsel consisting of ten members. The functions and responsibilities of the committee are to review and advise the Assembly and the bishop (or other person presiding at a meeting of the Assembly) with respect to proposed changes or additions to the constitution and the bylaws and other items submitted to the Assembly which are not germane to items in the agenda of the meeting.
 - b. Officials and committees of the Assembly, in addition to the Committee on Reference and Counsel (such as Planning Committee, Credentials Committee, Memorials Committee, Resolutions Committee, convention manager, sergeant-at-arms, tellers, parliamentarian), as deemed necessary by the bishop or the Council, may be appointed by the bishop with the advice of the Council. The specific functions and responsibilities of each such official and committee shall be described in writing before appointment is made.
 - c. For special meetings of the Assembly the committees and officials may be the same as for the preceding regular meeting.
 - d. Committees and officials of the Assembly are accountable to the bishop and the Assembly for due performance of their functions and responsibilities.
- S7.01.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.
- 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.*
 - 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 Assembly meetings. Regular meetings of the Assembly shall be held annually, normally during the month of May or the month of June, each at a convenient place selected by the Executive Committee.

S7.12. Special meetings of the Synod Assembly may be called by the bishop with the consent of the Synod Council, and shall be called by the bishop at the request of one-fifth of the voting members of the Synod Assembly.

- a. The notice of each special meeting shall define the purpose for which it is to be held. The scope of actions to be taken at such a special meeting shall be limited to the subject matter(s) described in the notice.

- b. If the special meeting of the Synod Assembly is required for the purpose of electing a successor bishop because of death, resignation, or inability to serve, the special meeting shall be called by the Synod Council after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- S7.13.** Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be given by the secretary of this synod.
- S7.14.** One-half of the members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.
- †S7.21.** The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60 percent of the voting membership shall be composed of laypersons, shall be constituted as follows:
 - a. All ministers of Word and Sacrament under call on the roster of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.
 - b. All ministers of Word and Service, under call, on the roster of this synod shall be voting members in the Synod Assembly.
 - c. A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with 175 or more baptized members related to this synod, typically one of whom shall be a man and one of whom shall be a woman, shall be voting members. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of the number of baptized members in the congregation. The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that at least 45 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be women and at least 45 percent shall be men.
 - d. Voting membership shall include the officers of this synod.
- †S7.21.01.** Voting members shall begin serving with the opening of a regular Synod Assembly and shall continue serving until voting members are seated at the next regular Synod Assembly.
- †S7.21.02.** If a special Synod Assembly is called and voting members at the previous assembly are unable to serve as voting members, where permitted by state law, the congregation through the Congregation Council may elect new members who shall continue to serve until the next Synod Assembly.
- S7.21.03.** The †S7.21.c. formula. Preparatory to regular meetings of the Assembly, the Council shall provide the †S7.21.c. formula, with revisions as from time to time necessary. Prior to each such meeting the Council shall file a written description of the formula's current version and application in the public file.
- S7.21.A88** *The membership of the Assembly, in addition to the members indicated in †S7.21., shall include the retired minister of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service whose names appear on the rosters of this synod and who are elected by the Council to such membership.*
- S7.21.B04** *The membership of the Assembly, in addition to the members indicated in †S7.21., shall include ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service whose names appear on the roster of this synod and who are serving as interim minister under contract in a congregation of this synod at the time of the assembly.*
- S7.22.** This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those 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 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 authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.01.04., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.
- S7.27.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant a minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister's service in a congregation of this church.
- S7.28.** Duly elected voting members of the Synod Council who are not otherwise voting members of the Synod Assembly under †S7.21. shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote as members of the Synod Assembly.
- †**S7.31.** Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of the Synod Assembly.
- S7.32.** *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly, unless otherwise ordered by the assembly.
- S7.32A98** **Applying Continuing Positions**
1. Definition. In this continuing resolution, "continuing position" means the position of this synod with reference to particular subject matter, as set forth in a position resolution during the resolution's period of effectiveness, or as derived from such a resolution; see continuing resolution S10.02.A98.
 2. Purpose. The purpose of this continuing resolution is to enable voting members of the Assembly to propose that the Assembly apply already-established positions of the synod in respect of new or additional situations, and so to avoid Assembly action that would be merely duplicative of an established position.
 3. Provisions in aid of applying a continuing position. Each regular meeting of the Assembly, by an appropriate official or committee, shall provide to its voting members (a) a list or catalogue of continuing positions of the synod, including specific identification of each continuing position: and, (b) a reasonable period of time, but not more than thirty minutes, for voting members to propose and to deliberate Assembly actions so to apply continuing positions.
 4. Procedure. For a voting member who seeks Assembly action so to apply a continuing position, the suggested procedure is to present a motion for that purpose to the Assembly. For example, a suitable form of motion is:
 "I move that this Assembly apply the continuing position of this synod, as set forth in (-identify the continuing position-) in respect of (-indicate the new or additional situation-) by (-describe the specific course of action, if any, that movant proposes so to apply the continuing position-)."
 Each such motion (a) is to be presented during the period of time provided and when the member presenting it is entitled to the floor, (b) may not change the substance of a continuing position, and (c) otherwise, is to be governed by all pertinent rules of parliamentary procedure.
 5. Records. Synod records of a continuing position shall reflect and include each instance in which the Assembly has acted so to apply the continuing position.
- S7.33.** "*Ex officio*" as used herein means membership with full rights of voice and vote unless otherwise expressly limited.

Chapter 8. OFFICERS

- †**S8.01.** The officers of this synod shall be a bishop, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.
- S8.10. Bishop**

- †S8.11. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The bishop shall be a minister of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- S8.11.01. 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;
 - 5) Foster awareness of other churches throughout the Lutheran world communion and, where appropriate, engage in contact with leaders of those churches;
 - 6) Cultivate communion in faith and mission with appropriate Christian judicatory leaders functioning within the territory of this synod; and
 - 7) Be *ex officio* a member of the Churchwide Assembly.
 - i. Oversee and administer the work of this synod and in so doing:
 - 1) Serve as the president of the synod corporation and be the chief executive and administrative officer of this synod, who is authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to sign deeds or other instruments and to affix the seal of this synod;
 - 2) Preside at all meetings of the Synod Assembly and provide for the preparation of the agenda for the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, and the council's Executive Committee;
 - 3) Ensure that the constitution and bylaws of the synod and of the churchwide organization are duly observed within this synod, and that the actions of the synod in conformity therewith are carried into effect;
 - 4) Exercise supervision over the work of the other officers;
 - 5) Coordinate the work of all synod staff members;
 - 6) Appoint all committees for which provision is not otherwise made;

- 7) Be a member of all committees and any other organizational units of the synod, except as otherwise provided in this constitution;
- 8) Provide for preparation and maintenance of synod rosters containing the names and addresses of all rostered ministers of this synod and a record of the calls under which they are serving or the date on which their retired or disability status took effect;
- 9) Annually bring to the attention of the Synod Council the names of all rostered ministers on leave from call or engaged in approved graduate study in conformity with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church and 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 parochial reports of the congregations and make the reports available to the secretary of this church for collation, analysis, and distribution of the statistical summaries to this synod and the other synods of this church.

S8.12.A87. *Office of ecumenical relations. Upon recommendation of the bishop, the Council may establish a synodic office of ecumenical relations to assist the bishop with her/his responsibilities under †S8.12.h.3. and provide for the staffing of such office by employees of this synod. The bishop may appoint a board of six persons to advise him/her concerning the office; generally, terms and other incidents of service on the board are the same as for members named by the bishop to the Mutual Ministry Committee.*

†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 synod bishop may have such assistants as this synod shall from time to time authorize.

S8.14.01. *Assistants to the bishop. After consultation with and upon the recommendation of the bishop, the Council may call or engage one or more persons to serve as assistants to the bishop in the work and conduct of the bishop's office and of this synod. Such assistants may be ministers of Word and Sacrament, ministers of Word and Service, or lay persons, and shall be employees of the synod and perform such work assignments as may be designated by the bishop. Each assistant who is a minister of Word and Sacrament shall be on the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament of the synod, and serve an initial term call of not less than one year and not more than six years. Each assistant who is a minister of Word and Service shall be on the roster of ministers of Word and Service of the synod, and serve an initial term call of not less than one year and not more than six years. Each assistant who is a lay person shall reside on the territory and shall be employed for an initial period of not more than six years. After the Council receives the bishop's recommendations, the term of each minister of Word and Sacrament, each minister of Word and Service assistant's call, or period of each lay assistant's employment, and the salary, emoluments and other remuneration to be received by each assistant shall be determined by the Council and incorporated into the provisions of the call or letter of engagement. If the bishop so recommends, any assistant may serve successive calls or periods of employment as determined by the Council, but the term of any successive call or length of any successive period of employment shall be not less than one year and not more than six years.*

- S8.14.02.** Support staff. Upon recommendation of the bishop, the Council may authorize employment by this synod of support staff, in an appropriate number, for the bishop and the bishop's assistants in the work of the synod.
- S8.14.A87.** Number of assistants. *The number of assistants 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 his or her determination or action with respect to a related individual as defined in †S8.16.01.c., the synod bishop shall withdraw from personal involvement in such matter and shall so notify the presiding bishop. The presiding bishop shall then appoint another synod bishop from the same region to handle the matter to conclusion. In dealing with such matter, the appointed bishop shall exercise all of the functions and authority to the same extent as if the appointed bishop were the elected bishop of the withdrawing bishop's synod.
 - Matters include any proceedings under Chapter 20, proceedings under provision 7.46. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* (†S14.13.), candidacy, reinstatement, and similar matters where determinations or actions by the synod bishop could change, limit, restrict, approve, authorize, or deny the related individual's ministry on one of the official rosters of this church.
 - 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.
- †S8.23.** In the event of the death, resignation, or disability of the bishop, the vice president, after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall convene the Synod Council to arrange for the conduct of the duties of the bishop until a new bishop shall be elected or, in the case of temporary disability, until the bishop resumes full performance of the duties of the office.
- 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.
- †S8.32.** The secretary shall:
- Keep the minutes of all meetings of the Synod Assembly and Synod Council, be responsible for the printing and distribution of such minutes, and perform such other duties as this synod may from time to time direct.
 - 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.
 - In consultation with the bishop, classify and arrange all important papers and documents and deposit them in the archives of this synod.
 - 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. The secretary of this synod shall have charge of the public file and maintain it at the synod office.
- 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, she/he shall be responsible to make the filing, or

(b) by the Council or a committee of the synod, the vice-president of this synod or the committee chairperson, as the case may be, shall be responsible to make the filing.

S8.32.03. Access to public file. The public file is open to the people of the synod. The secretary may make regulations for orderly access such as the requirement for prior appointments and reasonable limitations on time allowed. No document currently required to be in the file may be removed, but, upon request and subject to a reasonable charge, the synod office will provide a copy of any such document to any interested person.

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.

S8.42. 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

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.*

S8.50. 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 his or her successor takes office.
 - c. The treasurer of this synod shall be [elected] [appointed] to a four-year term and may be re-elected or reappointed. The treasurer shall serve until his or her successor takes office.
- S8.52. 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 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, other than those who are disqualified, shall review the findings and decision of the Synod Council and by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting may adopt the findings and grant the petition.
 - f. If the synod officer is a minister of Word and Sacrament, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.22.01. and as defined under the process described in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.21. and 20.22. as grounds for discipline. If the officer is a minister of Word and Service, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.23.01. and as defined under the process described in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.21. and 20.22. as grounds for discipline.
 - g. If the officer is a layperson, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.41.01. as grounds for discipline.
 - h. If the case of alleged willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions or of alleged conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action, the following procedures shall apply:
 - 1) the petition shall be referred to the Committee on Appeals, which shall function as the discipline hearing committee that shall conduct a hearing in accordance with the rules provided for in ELCA bylaw 20.22.14. except to the extent that those rules are in conflict with the provisions of this bylaw; and
 - 2) the members of the Committee on Appeals, other than those who are disqualified, may grant the petition by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting.
 - i. Written notice of a decision by the Committee on Appeals that the charges have been sustained shall be given to the affected officer and to the Synod Council, and the office shall be vacated.
- †S8.58. If the bishop is to be temporarily absent from the synod for an extended period, the bishop, with the consent of the Synod Council, may appoint as acting bishop for such period a minister of Word and Sacrament of this church. Except as limited by action of the Synod Council, an acting bishop shall possess all of the powers and authority of a regularly elected bishop other than authority to ordain or to authorize the ordination of properly approved candidates for ordination.

Chapter 9. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- †S9.01. The Synod Assembly shall elect such officers of this synod and such other persons as the constitution and bylaws may require, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws. The Synod Assembly shall elect members of the Churchwide Assembly in accordance with bylaw 12.41.11. of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- S9.01.01** Elections by the Assembly. In addition to elections prescribed in the constitution to be made by the Assembly, the Assembly shall elect
- a) voting members of the Churchwide Assembly allocated to this synod.
 - b) the other council members (OCMs) and the youth who is a member of the Council.
 - c) the members of the Consultation Committee and the synodical component of the Committee on Discipline.
- In each election for a position described in this bylaw, the Nominating Committee shall slate one nominee for the position. With the exception of the situations noted below, the Assembly shall permit nominations from the floor for the position provided that any person nominated from the

floor must be eligible for election, have affirmed willingness to serve if elected, and meet each specification pertaining to the position, including that, for an elective position within the purview of paragraph (a) of S9.03.02. Nominations from the floor for positions in which nominees have been chosen by conferences must be of people who are voting members of a congregation of the same conference as the conference of the slated nominee. If there are slots that are not filled by a nominee from a conference, or through other constitutional provisions, nominees from the floor may come from any conference, provided the provisions of †S6.04 and S6.04.C88 are fulfilled. Such positions having a term of service of four years or longer shall be arranged so equal or approximately equal numbers of the positions are elected biennially.

S9.01.02. Elections at regular Assembly meetings. The elections described in S9.01.01. shall be held at regular meetings of the Assembly.

S9.01.03. Elections for Churchwide Assembly. At least one-third of the ministers of Word and Sacrament or ministers of Word and Service and at least one-third of the lay persons elected by this synod as voting members of each Churchwide Assembly shall be persons who have not been elected by this synod to be voting members of a previous Churchwide Assembly.

S9.01.04. Reelection of Other Council Members (OCMs). Normally, OCMs may be reelected once; however, if an expiration of the term of an incumbent OCM, the incumbent does not meet a specification for the position according to S9.03.04. or otherwise, she/he is ineligible to reelection. If an OCM was first appointed to fill an interim vacancy and serves for more than half of the current term of the position reckoned from date of appointment, then, for the purpose of determining eligibility for reelection, he/she shall be deemed to have served the full term.

S9.01.06. Interim elections and appointments. In the context of this bylaw “interim vacancy” means a position that is vacant because the incumbent died, resigned, or became unable to serve. Should an interim vacancy occur, the vacancy is to be promptly filled in accordance with these provisions:

- a. An interim vacancy in a position appointed by the bishop shall be filled by a successor appointment by the bishop, under the same conditions, if any, as applied to the original appointment.
- b. An interim vacancy in an elective position or a Council-appointed position shall be filled by interim appointment by the Council. The Council may have the Nominating Committee’s recommendation, but need not consider more than one candidate for an appointment. Current specifications for the position under S9.03.04. apply and the term of service shall be for the remainder of the term during which the interim vacancy occurred.

S9.01.A88. *The Council, having regard to the provisions of †S7.21. and S7.21.A88., shall elect to the membership of the Assembly, with voice and vote, the ones of the retired ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service whose names appear on the rosters of this synod and who make timely written application for such election. Each such application shall indicate the applicant’s intention to attend the Assembly, bear his/her signature, and be deemed timely if received in the synod office during the month of November or the month of December of the year next preceding the year during which the Assembly is to be held; each such election shall be only for such Assembly. For purpose of †S7.21., retired ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service elected under this Resolution shall be counted as ministers of Word and Sacrament or ministers of Word and Service.*

†S9.02. In all elections by the Synod Assembly, other than for the bishop, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.

S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of eleven members who shall be appointed by the Synod Council to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee.

S9.03.01 Nominating Committee

- a. Generally, eligibility for appointment to the Nominating Committee is as provided in the first sentence of S11.01.02., and positions on the Committee may be subject to a specification under S9.03.04. Members of the Consultation Committee, the Committee on Discipline, or a committee convened under S14.13.b would be ineligible for appointment. Council members, other than those eligible to reelection at the next regular meeting of the Assembly, may be appointed. A member of the Committee may be consecutively reappointed twice.
- b. The Council is to complete appointments to the Nominating Committee for the meeting of the Assembly for which the Committee is to serve by January 1 of the year of the meeting.

S9.03.02 Participation of Conferences in electoral processes.

- a) Each Conference is to select, for each meeting of the Assembly at which the Nominating Committee is to slate nominees, one person for appointment to a respective one of positions on the Nominating Committee; and, for each such meeting which is to elect voting members of the Churchwide Assembly, one person for 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 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 her/him, otherwise be eligible for the position for which he/she is selected or to which she/he is elected, have affirmed willingness to serve in the position, and meet each specification under S9.03.04, if any, pertaining to the position.
 - e) If a selection under paragraph (a) or an election under paragraph (c) of this bylaw fails for any reason -- for example, if a person becomes unable to accept appointment, nomination, or election -- or is in default, then, as the case may be, the Council shall appoint an affected position on the Nominating Committee and shall elect an affected position on a team board; and, the Nominating Committee shall slate a nomination for an affected position of voting member of the Churchwide Assembly or of OCM.
- S9.03.03** Adoption of selections under S9.03.02. Normally, the Council, in making appointments to the Nominating Committee, is to adopt the selections of Conferences under sentence (1) of paragraph (a) of S9.03.02; and, the Nominating Committee, in slating nominees for positions of voting member of the Churchwide Assembly and of OCM, is to adopt the selections of Conferences under paragraph (a) of S9.03.02.
- S9.03.04** Specifications for Nominating Committee and OCM positions. So the Council and the Nominating Committee, as nearly as practicable and in terms of their full complements, meet inclusivity criteria and/or have members residing in areas throughout the territory, the Council may establish specifications for at least some Nominating Committee and OCM positions, and, for that purpose may have the advice of the Nominating Committee. If such a specification applies to any position for which a Conference is to select a person under paragraph (a) of S9.03.02, the Council shall notify the Conference well in advance of the affected electoral meeting.
- 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 Assembly at which an election for the office of bishop is to be held, the Council shall appoint a Committee on Pre-election Canvass consisting of five members. Each member of the committee shall meet the same general qualifications as in S11.01.02., shall not be eligible for nomination or election to the office of bishop, and may, but need not be a voting member of the Assembly.
 - b) The duties of the Committee on Pre-election Canvass shall be

- 1) to mail directly to each voting member of the Assembly, at least sixty (60) days but not more than seventy (70) days prior to the 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 Assembly;
 - 3) to obtain, on a uniform basis, and to mail to each voting member of the Assembly at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the Assembly, biographical information about the six (6) persons (plus ties) who receive the highest numbers of identifications, and are willing to be nominated for the office of bishop, together with a full report concerning the canvass.
- c) The Committee on Pre-election Canvass, on behalf of the Council, may arrange and conduct a pre-assembly forum where those of the six (6) persons identified in clause 3, paragraph b, of this bylaw, who desire so to participate, may -- all on a uniform basis -- be introduced to, address, and respond to questions from voting members of the Assembly and others in attendance. The forum, if and when arranged and conducted, is to be suitably publicized and held at a convenient place on the territory approximately two (2) weeks prior to the Assembly.
- 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.A99.

- 1) *In each meeting of the Assembly at which an election for the office of bishop is held, and the election is to include a fourth ballot, and as an order of business following the report of the results of the third ballot, the Assembly shall conduct Assembly-wide introductions of persons who are to be on the fourth ballot, in accordance with the provisions of this continuing resolution.*
- 2) *Generally, introductions of persons who are to be on the fourth ballot shall be on a uniform and impartial basis, and the introduction of each such person is to include aspects of (i) an address by the person to the Assembly and (ii) spoken answers by the person to propounded questions, provided that if the person is not in attendance or otherwise so desires, he/she may designate a spokesperson to participate in his/her stead. During introduction of one such person, the other such persons shall not be present. If such a person opts not to participate in an introduction, that circumstance shall not affect the person's position or status on the fourth or any later ballot. When such a person participates in one aspect of an introduction, he/she is expected also to participate in the other aspect. The official presiding at the election shall likewise preside during the introductions.*
- 3) *Each such person, in any aspect of her/his introduction to the Assembly, shall not utilize or authorize any kind of ancillary material or special effects. The assembly, including members and all others in attendance, shall refrain from any kind of demonstration of support or opposition with reference to such a person during her/his introduction and otherwise in connection with the election.*
- 4) *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.*
- 5) *The propounded questions of the introductions shall normally comprise a series of five questions pertaining to the work the Synod and the office of bishop, and shall be prepared by the Elections Committee of the Assembly. The Elections Committee shall consult with the official presiding and other appropriate resources, and shall endeavor to formulate questions that are succinct, suitable for answer in the time provided, and widely representative of interests and responsibilities of voting members of the Assembly, as, for example, by soliciting exemplary questions or topics from voting members and otherwise. The official presiding shall propound the questions to each such person in the same manner and order. An answer to a propounded question is expected to be responsive. The time provided for answering a question shall be an undivided period of two minutes, but an answer need not consume the full period.*

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 Assembly at which an election for the office of vice president is held and the election is to include a third ballot, and as an order of business following the report of the results of the second ballot, the Assembly shall conduct introductions of persons who are to be on the third ballot. These introductions shall be on a uniform and impartial basis, and the introduction of each such person is to include an address by the person to the Assembly. Such an address is expected to deal with person's candidacy for the office of vice president; otherwise, the content of the address is wholly a matter for the person's discretion. The time for an address is an undivided period of three minutes, but the address need not consume the full period.*

S9.06.01. Election of the Secretary shall proceed without oral nominations. The first ballot of the election, unless resulting in election, shall be the nominating ballot. On the first ballot, two-thirds of votes shall elect. On the second ballot, only votes for persons who received votes on the first ballot shall be valid, and a majority of votes shall elect. On the third ballot, voting shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who received the highest number of votes on the second ballot, and a majority of votes shall elect. A person may withdraw from the election prior to the voting on any ballot, and upon such withdrawal, votes for the person on a preceding ballot shall be deemed invalid as to a subsequent ballot. An invalid vote shall not be counted for any purpose.

S9.06.A99 *In each meeting of the Assembly at which an election for the office of secretary is held and the election is to include a third ballot, and as an order of business following the report of the results of the second ballot, the Assembly shall conduct introductions of persons who are to be on the third ballot. These introductions shall be on a uniform and impartial basis, and the introduction of each such person is to include an address by the person to the Assembly. Such an address is expected to deal with person's candidacy for the office of secretary; otherwise, the content of the address is wholly a matter for the person's discretion. The time for an address is an undivided period of three minutes, but the address need not consume the full period.*

S9.07. If the treasurer is elected, the Synod Council shall nominate at least one person for treasurer; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

S9.08. In all elections, except for the bishop, the names of the persons receiving the highest number of legal votes, but not elected by a majority of the legal votes cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot to the number of two for each vacancy unfilled. On any ballot when only two names appear, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.

S9.08.A99 *A person who is nominated for election by the Assembly (a) for an OCM position, or (b) to the position of voting member of the Churchwide Assembly, is to provide, prior to the election in which she/he is a nominee, a written statement with regard to his/her candidacy for the position. The Nominating Committee or the Elections Committee of the Assembly, as appropriate, may receive the statement from the person. The statement is for distribution to voting members of the Assembly as an information resource; it is not to exceed forty (40) words in length; and, otherwise, its content is wholly a matter for the person's discretion.*

S9.09. The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced in detail to the assembly.

†**S9.10.** When notified by the secretary of this church, on behalf of the Nominating Committee of the Churchwide Assembly, the Synod Assembly shall nominate two persons in the specified categories for possible election by the Churchwide Assembly to the Church Council.

S9.11. The Synod Council shall elect or appoint representatives to the steering committee of its region.

†**S9.12.** Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated as synod officers prior to their election, if possible, or as soon as practical after their election. The specific procedures and timing of background checks and screening shall be determined by the Synod Council.

Chapter 10.

SYNOD COUNCIL

†**S10.01.** The Synod Council, consisting of the four officers of the synod, 10 to 24 other members, and at least one youth and at least one young adult, shall be elected by the Synod Assembly.

a. Each person elected to the Synod Council shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, with the exception of ministers on a roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this

synod. The process for election and the term of office when not otherwise provided shall be specified in the bylaws. A member of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, unless otherwise elected as a voting member of the Synod Council, may serve as an advisory member of the Synod Council with voice but not vote.

- b. The term of office of members of the Synod Council, with the exception of the officers and the youth member, shall be four years.

S10.01.01. The terms of service of members of the Synod Council shall begin on the first day of the second month following their election.

S10.01.02. Youth member. The term of service of the youth shall be two years and shall begin on the first day of the second month following election. The youth shall be at least 16 years of age when her/his term begins and not more than 21 years of age when the term ends, and is not eligible to reelection.

S10.01.03. Young adult member. The term of service of the young adult member shall be two years and shall begin on the first day of the second month following election. The young adult shall be at least 21 years of age when her/his term begins and not more than 30 years of age when the term ends, and is not eligible to reelection.

S10.01.04. Council meetings. The Council shall hold regular meetings at least four times a year and, normally, once in each calendar quarter. The place of meetings of the Council shall be determined by the Executive Committee. Special meetings of the Council may be called by the Executive Committee as provided in S10.01.07., and shall be called by the bishop upon the written request of ten Council members. The secretary of this synod shall give written notice of each meeting of the Council to Council members.

S10.01.05. Committee liaison. The Council shall maintain liaison with Synod Program committees, Advisory committees, and any Task Forces and Temporary committees of this synod. For this purpose (apart from the bishop ex officio) members of the Council may attend and have voice at meetings of such committees.

S10.01.06. Council committees--generally. The council shall have an Executive Committee and such other committees as it may from time to time determine. The Council shall appoint the members of its committees. No one other than a member of the Council may serve on a Council committee. Subject to the Council's directions concerning purpose, procedure, and record-keeping, a Council committee develops its own agenda and sets its own procedure. Unless the Council so requires, a Council committee need not make a report to the Assembly covering its activities.

S10.01.07. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall comprise the officers and five other council members (OCMs); at least one of the OCMs shall be serving a term with an expiration date different than the expiration date of the terms of the other OCMs. Normally, the period of appointment for OCMs on the committee is two years, with no limitation on reappointment to an available position. The committee shall perform those functions of the Council assigned to it by the Council, and, subject to other or additional directions from the Council, the committee shall oversee preparation of the agenda for Council meetings, and shall set the salary of the bishop. The committee -- by the action or with the common approval of a majority of its members, and, normally, with at least five days' notice -- may call special meetings of the Council. In appropriate circumstances, so recognized by a majority of its members, and provided that all committee members have a reasonable opportunity to participate, the committee may deliberate and do committee work by telephone conferences.

S10.01.09. Accountability of Council and Council-appointed committees. Council committees and the Nominating Committee are accountable to the Council for due performance of their functions and responsibilities.

†**S10.02.** The Synod Council shall be the board of directors of this synod and shall serve as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. It may make decisions that are not in conflict with actions taken by the Synod Assembly or that are not precluded by provisions of this constitution or the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

S10.02.A98Positions Process

1. *Definition. In this continuing resolution, "position resolution" means an action of the Assembly which expresses the synod's position as to indicated subject matter, but is not and is not connected with another action of the Assembly such as an amendment of the constitution, adoption or amendment of a bylaw, a continuing resolution or an annual budget of the synod, an election conducted pursuant to the constitution or the bylaws, or, approval of a report.*
2. *Applicability. This continuing resolution applies in respect of each position resolution and without regard to the date of the resolution.*

3. *Period of effectiveness. The period during which a position resolution may be deemed effective, having regard for the purpose and subject matter of the resolution, and for other pertinent circumstances, should be of reasonable length and not continue after the purpose has been accomplished or the subject matter has substantially changed. In any 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.*
4. *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 Council considers the subject matter or purpose of an expiring position resolution to be of continuing interest to the synod, the Council may adopt the substance of the resolution as a continuing position or an operational policy of the synod.*
 - (b) *The period of effectiveness of a position resolution with a date prior to this continuing resolution shall not be deemed to have expired until the Council has taken action concerning subsequent status of the resolution or unless the resolution provides for its own expiration.*
5. *Resolutions and Positions Review Committee. The Executive Committee in consultation with the bishop may appoint a Resolutions and Positions Review Committee of not more than five members, including Council members and others. The duties and responsibilities of the committee are to include annual review of (a) expiring position resolutions and (b) continuing positions and operational policies which derive from position resolutions, and making recommendations to the Council concerning subsequent status of such position resolutions, continuing positions and operational policies. The committee is to accord priority to review of any recommendations as to position resolutions with dates prior to this continuing resolution.*

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.
- S10.05.** No elected member of the Synod Council shall receive compensation for such service.
- 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

(names of other organizational units)

- †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 relating to the office of the bishop are the Ministry Committee and the Constitution Review Committee, and their functions and responsibilities are as from time to time provided in the bylaws and continuing resolutions of the synod. The bishop appoints members of these committees, with the approval of the Council, and, generally, for terms of service of four years arranged, with reference to an election cycle, in the same manner as terms of OCM positions. Members of these committees are eligible to reappointment.
- S11.01.02. Eligibility/qualifications for committee service. Other than the bishop ex officio, and subject to the provisions of S11.02.01 (Consultation Committee), and S11.03.01 (Committee on Discipline), no person shall concurrently be a member of more than one of the Standing Committees. An OCM is ineligible to be a member of a Standing Committee.
- S11.01.03. General provisions pertaining to committees. Except as the bylaws may otherwise provide or require with reference to committees of the Assembly, the Nominating Committee, Council committees, the Consultation Committee, the Committee on Discipline, and a Task Force or Temporary committee, the provisions of this bylaw apply to the committees of this synod.
- 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.
 - 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.*
- 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. Assembly committees. Committees of the Assembly have status, composition, appointment process, and functions and responsibilities as described and provided in S7.01.05.
- S11.01.06. Council committees. 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.
- S11.01.07. 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.
- S11.01.08. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee has the status, composition, appointment processes, and functions and responsibilities as described and provided in Chapter 9.
- S11.01.09. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall comprise the officers and five other council members (OCMs); at least one of the OCMs shall be serving a term with an expiration date different than the expiration date of the terms of the other OCMs. Normally, the period of appointment for OCMs on the committee is two years, with no limitation on reappointment to an available position. The committee shall perform those functions of the Council assigned to it by the Council, and, subject to other or additional directions from the Council, the committee shall oversee preparation of the agenda for Council meetings, and shall set the salary of the bishop. The committee -- by the action or with the common approval of a majority of its members, and, normally, with at least five days' notice -- may call special meetings of the Council. In appropriate circumstances, so recognized by a majority of its members, and provided that all committee members have a reasonable opportunity to participate, the

committee may deliberate and do committee work by telephone conferences or by other electronic means.

- S11.01.11** Standing Committees. The Standing Committees are the Consultation Committee, the Committee on Discipline, and committees relating to the office of the bishop.
- S11.01.16** Committees relating to the office of the bishop. Committees relating to the office of the bishop are the Ministry Committee and the Constitution Review Committee, and their functions and responsibilities are as from time to time provided in the bylaws and continuing resolutions of the synod. The bishop appoints members of these committees, with the approval of the Council, and, generally, for terms of service of four years arranged, with reference to an election cycle, in the same manner as terms of OCM positions. Members of these committees are eligible to reappointment.
- S11.01.30.** Reports by Standing committees. The Standing committees shall make annual written reports to the Assembly. Each report shall cover the committee's activities since the preceding report. Such reports by the Consultation Committee and the Committee on Discipline shall not provide indemnificatory particulars with respect to any matter or case pending on the date of any such report.
- S11.01.35.** Task Forces and Temporary committees. The Council shall, as directed by the Assembly, and may, by its own action as it from time to time finds necessary, establish task forces and temporary committees of this synod. Normally, a task force or temporary committee shall have a specific assignment not duplicative of a function or responsibility of another committee established pursuant to the constitution, and the Council shall describe the assignment in reasonable detail. The Council shall appoint the members of a task force or temporary committee and may appoint the chairperson or convener. Generally, eligibility for appointment is as provided in the first sentence of S11.01.02. Members of the Council may be appointed, but no member of the Consultation Committee, the Committee on Discipline or a committee convened under †S14.13.b. or pursuant to S14.13.08. is eligible to serve on a task force or temporary committee. A task force or temporary committee may have up to twenty members, and shall complete its assignment and submit any required report within a period of not more than 18 months.
- S11.01.45.** Accountability. The Standing committees and Task Forces and Temporary committees of this synod -- together with their members -- are accountable to the Council and the Assembly for due performance of their respective functions and responsibilities. Normally, the oversight of such performance -- which may encompass a committee's policies, programs, activities and work-product--shall be by the Council.
- S11.01.E95.** Ministry Committee. *The functions and responsibilities of the Ministry Committee pertain to pastoral care of Congregations and to ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service. The committee, as appropriate for this synod, develops, guides, supports and oversees programs of ministry in daily life; programs and activities for development of professional leaders (including recruitment, encouragement and evaluation, and subsequent certification of candidates); policies and standards for compensation and benefits for professional leaders; and, programs for the care of and the continuing education for professional leaders. Members of the committee, selected by it, may participate in multi-synodic committees for certification of candidates for ordination and in the certification or accreditation processes for other professional leaders. The committee shall have 20 members.*
- S11.01.F99.** Constitution Review Committee. *The functions and responsibilities of the Constitution Review Committee are to review the constitutions of Congregations and organizational documents of Conferences of this synod to determine whether the documents conform with apposite provisions of the constitution, the bylaws and the continuing resolutions of the ELCA (including the Constitution for Congregations); to report to the bishop and the Council concerning such determinations; and, where a document appears deficient, to indicate necessary revision to the Congregation or the Conference. The committee may also advise the bishop and the Council with regard to constitutional matters. The committee shall have six members including, normally, the secretary of the synod.*
- †S11.02.** The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of at least six persons and not more than 12 persons, of whom half shall be ministers of Word and Sacrament and half shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive re-election. The functions of the Consultation Committee are set forth in Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and in Chapter 17 of this constitution. The size of the Consultation Committee, in accord with this provision, shall be defined in this synod's bylaws.

- S11.02.01.** The Bishop shall be a member of the Consultation Committee ex officio except in instances when the Bishop brings charges against an ordained minister.
- S11.02.02.** The terms of service of members of the Consultation Committee begin on the first day of the third calendar month following election.
- †**S11.03.** The Committee on Discipline of this synod shall consist of 12 persons, of whom six shall be ministers of Word and Sacrament and six shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive re-election.
- a. The functions of the Committee on Discipline of this synod are set forth in Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.
- b. The Synod Council shall fill vacancies on the Committee on Discipline for any unexpired term.
- S11.03.01.** The Bishop shall not be a member of the Committee on Discipline.
- S11.03.02.** The terms of service of members of the Committee on Discipline begin on the first day of the third calendar month following election.
- †**S11.04.** The Mutual Ministry Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Synod Council to provide support and counsel to the bishop.
- S11.04.01.** Mutual Ministry Committee. The Mutual Ministry Committee consists of seven members, and its function is to provide support and counsel to the bishop. Two members are named by the bishop and serve for the period the bishop may determine, and five members are appointed by the Council and serve for the period the Council may determine; in any case, the period of service of each member shall expire not later than the expiration of the bishop's current term of office. The bishop may seek the counsel and support of any member of the committee at the bishop's pleasure, and may convene meetings of the committee, or of any of its members, to seek their counsel and support on any matter which she/he deems necessary or desirable. Meetings of the committee or consultation between the bishop and any member shall be informal, and votes, minutes or other written memorials or reports not required unless requested by the bishop.
- †**S11.05.** The Audit Committee of this synod shall consist of three to six persons, none of whom is a member of the synod staff. Up to half of the committee members may be Synod Council members. The Audit Committee members shall be elected by the Synod Council for a term of three years and be eligible for re-election to a second consecutive three-year term. The terms of the Audit Committee members shall be staggered. The Audit Committee shall be responsible for assisting the Synod Council in fulfilling its general oversight of the synod's accounting, financial reporting, internal control systems, and external audit processes as provided in †S15.31.
- S11.10. General Provisions**
- S11.11.** This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to ensure that the members of its committees and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of †S6.04. With the exception of ministers on the rosters of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a committee of this synod, or any other organizational unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.

Chapter 12.

CONFERENCES, CLUSTERS, COALITIONS, AREA SUBDIVISIONS, AND NETWORKS

- †**S12.01.** This synod may establish conferences, clusters, coalitions, area subdivisions, and networks as appropriate within its territory and in collaboration with other synods and entities, as specified in the bylaws and continuing resolutions. The purpose of such groupings shall be to foster interdependent relationships for missional purposes among congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and other affiliates.
- S12.01.01.** Conferences. Groupings of Congregations of this synod, under Chapter 12 of the constitution, are "Conferences."
- S12.01.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
 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 Lutherana Sagrado Corazon, Waukegan
 Peace, Lake Zurich
 Shepherd of the Lakes, Grayslake
 St. Andrew, Mundelein
 St. James, Lake Forest
 St. Mark's, Waukegan
 St. Paul, Waukegan
 St. Stephen, Antioch
 Trinity Evangelical, Ingleside
 Trinity United, Waukegan
 Zion, Deerfield

NORTHEAST (checked)

Christ, Chicago
 Concordia, Chicago
 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
 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
 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, ~~Naperville~~ Aurora
 New Hope, Aurora
 Our Savior, Aurora
 Our Saviour's, Naperville
 Prince of Peace, Woodridge
 Rejoice, Geneva
 St. Andrew, West Chicago
 St. Luke, Glen Ellyn
 St. Mark's, Aurora
 St. Paul, Wheaton
 St. Timothy, Naperville
 Trinity, Warrenville
 Truth, Naperville

- c. *The Council may transfer a congregation from one Conference to another. Normally, such a transfer shall be based upon an application by a congregation proposing to be transferred. The application shall be in writing, addressed to the Council, and include rationale in support of the proposed transfer.*

12.01.02 Purposes of the Conferences. The purposes of the Conferences are --

- a. to foster clustering of Congregations within one Conference and with those of other Conferences; to encourage gatherings among Congregations for worship; programming, nurture and support; and, to provide monthly meetings of ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service of a conference for education, nurturing and fellowship.
- b. to participate in this synod's electoral processes -- that is, processes for nominations and elections - in accordance with the bylaws and continuing resolutions of the synod.

12.01.03. Organizational principles. Various organizational forms are available to Conferences. A Conference shall define its own organization by means of an appropriate organizational document. The initial organization and any re-organization of a Conference shall reflect principles in this bylaw and be subject to approval by the Council. Individual leadership of a Conference shall be the dean. The dean shall be elected according to a Conference's process for such election and for a term of service of not more than four years; there may, but need not, be a limitation on reelection of the dean. After the organizational meeting, and apart from the process for electing the dean, the voting constituency of a Conference shall include the ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service of the Congregations of the Conference and at least one lay person from each Congregation. A Conference shall hold an annual meeting including its voting constituency, and have a planning council elected by the voting constituency. The planning council shall have at least five members, including the dean, who are voting members of different Congregations of the Conference. The terms of service of planning council members shall not exceed four years, and should be staggered to different expiration dates; there may, but need not, be limitations on reelection of planning council members. A Conference may have funds in reasonable amount for which its planning council shall be accountable.

12.01.04 Electoral meetings.

- a) Each Conference shall hold electoral meetings of its voting constituency in order, pursuant to S9.03.02, to select persons for appointment or nomination for meetings of the Assembly.
- b) Each electoral meeting is subject to these requirements: An electoral meeting shall be at the meeting of the conference at the synod assembly or at a meeting held before December, upon due notice to members of the voting constituency, for the purpose of selecting persons for appointment or nomination. Each selection and election of a person shall be by majority vote of the voting constituency and with a quorum of at least one member of the voting constituency from each of Congregations comprising 30% of Congregations of the Conference, and shall be the subject of a written record. Proxy or absentee voting shall not be permitted.
- c) A Conference, by its Dean, is promptly to report each selection and election by an electoral meeting to the Council. The Council is promptly to advise the Nominating Committee of each such selection and election.

S12.01.05. Dean The dean of a Conference shall --

- a) aid the Conference and its planning council in setting and achieving Conference objectives,
- b) arrange the monthly meetings of ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service,
- c) maintain personal contacts with the ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service of the Conference,
- d) serve as a communications link between the synod office and the ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service of the Conference,
- e) make an annual written report to the bishop -- including a summary of Conference activities and advising with respect to the conditions and needs of this church within her/his Conference -- to be part of the reports to the Assembly, and
- f) perform such other duties as the bishop may from time to time assign.

The deans may attend meetings of the Council as spokespersons and observers for their Conferences, with voice but not vote at such meetings.

Chapter 13.

CONGREGATIONS

- †S13.01. Each congregation, except those certified as congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the uniting churches, prior to being listed in the roster of congregations of this synod, shall adopt the *Model Constitution for Congregations* or one acceptable to this synod that is not in contradiction to the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- a. **New congregations.** A congregation newly formed by this church and any congregation seeking recognition and reception by this church shall:
- 1) Accept the criteria for recognition and reception as a congregation of this church, fulfill the functions of the congregation, and accept the governance provisions as provided in Chapter 9 of the constitution and bylaws of this church.
 - 2) Adopt governing documents that include fully and without alterations the Preamble, Chapter 1, where applicable, and all required provisions of Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 in the *Model Constitution for Congregations* consistent with requirements of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church. Bylaws and continuing resolutions, appropriate for inclusion in these chapters and not in conflict with these required provisions in the *Model Constitution for Congregations*, the constitution of this synod, or the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, may be adopted as described in Chapters 16 and 18 of the *Model Constitution for Congregations*.
 - 3) Accept the commitments expected of all congregations of this church as stated in *C6.01., *C6.02., and *C6.03. of the *Model Constitution for Congregations*.
- b. **Congregations from another church body.** If a congregation is a member of another church body, the leadership of the congregation first should consult with the appropriate authorities of that church body before taking action to leave its current church body. After such consultation, leaders of the congregation should contact the ELCA synod bishop or staff where the congregation is located. The synod bishop or synod staff where the transferring or independent congregation is located shall confer with the congregation to assure its understanding and acceptance of commitment to and affiliation with this church.
- c. **Recognition and reception.** Recognition and reception into this church of transferring or independent congregations by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is based on the judgment of the synod and action by the synod through the Synod Council and Synod Assembly. The synod bishop shall provide for prompt reporting of such additions to the secretary of this church for addition to the roster of congregations.
- †S13.02. It shall be the responsibility of each congregation of this synod to choose from among its voting members laypersons to serve as members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected by each congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by this synod.
- S13.11. When a rostered minister resigns, the Congregation Council shall receive the letter of resignation, report it to the congregation, and at once notify the bishop of this synod.
- S13.12. A congregation under financial obligation to its former rostered minister shall make satisfactory settlement of the obligation before calling a successor.
- †S13.20. A congregation considering a relocation shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected.
- †S13.20. A congregation considering development of an additional site to be used regularly for worship shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.
- †S13.21. A congregation considering development of an additional site to be used regularly for worship shall confer

- with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.
- †S13.22. Each congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America within the territory of this synod, except those which are in partnership with the Slovak Zion Synod, shall establish and maintain a relationship with this synod.
- †S13.23. Provision 9.71. of the constitution of this church shall govern the relationship of this synod and a congregation of this synod regarding the property of the congregation. This synod may transfer or convey property to a congregation of the synod, subject to restrictions accepted by the congregation, including provision that if the Synod Council, in its sole and exclusive discretion, determines (1) that the property is not being used to serve the mission and ministry needs of this church, or (2) that the congregation has transferred, encumbered, mortgaged, or in any way burdened or impaired any right, title, or interest in the property without the prior approval of the Synod Council, then title to the property shall revert to the synod, and the congregation, upon written demand, shall reconvey the property to the synod.
- S13.23.01. Property of congregation terminating relationship with this church. This bylaw is subject to provision 9.52. of the ELCA constitution concerning the governing documents of Congregations recognized at the establishment of this church, and does not provide for action inconsistent with the said provision 9.52. Whenever a Congregation has initiated action to terminate its relationship with this church under provision 9.62. of the ELCA constitution and requested to become independent or to relate to a non-Lutheran church body, the synodical process set forth in steps a. through e. of this bylaw is established for the consultation concerning title to property of the Congregation, under provision 9.71.e. of the ELCA constitution, by the Council with the Congregation prior to the Council's decision on whether to approve the Congregation's request.
- a. The Congregation shall, after having submitted the certified copy of the resolution to terminate to the bishop and, in the case of congregations which had been members of the Lutheran Church in America (as constituted prior to January 1, 1988), after the termination is approved by this synod (as required for such congregations by provision 9.62. of the ELCA constitution), deliver to the bishop a written request stating whether the Congregation desires to become independent or to relate to a non-Lutheran church body and, if the latter, such request shall identify the non-Lutheran church body and describe any and all action the Congregation has taken or which it intends to take in order to accomplish such relationship.
 - b. Within 30 days from receipt of such written request from a Congregation, the bishop shall present the request to the Council.
 - c. After the Council receives the request, the bishop shall be afforded opportunity by the Congregation for a meeting with it, at a mutually-agreed time and place, for the purpose of discussing the request. Such meeting shall be informal, and any member of the Congregation and any member of the Council may attend and be given voice. However, no such meeting shall be held unless the pastor or pastors of the Congregation and at least a majority of members of the Congregation Council (or, if such body is identified by a different designation, to the equivalent congregational authority) are also present.
 - d. Within 10 days after the said informal meeting, the Congregation shall deliver to the bishop true, complete and correct copies of all documents, papers, letters and records in the possession of the Congregation, as may be requested by the bishop or by any member of the Council who attended the meeting, which pertain to the requested termination.
 - e. Within 45 days after the informal meeting, the bishop shall convene a meeting of the Council for the purpose of making the final determination concerning the Congregation's request. Any member of the Congregation may attend such meeting and be afforded reasonable time and opportunity to address the Council on matters pertaining to the requested termination. The Council need not announce the determination at such Council meeting, but as soon as practicable after the meeting, the Council will give written notification to the Congregation by sending copies of the determination to the pastor or pastors, to each member of the Congregation Council (or equivalent authority), and to the secretary of the Congregation. The Council in its sole discretion, may decide whether it would be appropriate or desirable for the notification to set forth the basis or reason for the determination.
- †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.
 - f. 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.

Chapter 14.

ROSTERED MINISTERS

†S14.10. Ministers of Word and Sacrament

†S14.11. The time and place of the ordination of those persons properly called to ministry in this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.

†S14.12. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

- a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:
 - 1) preach the Word;
 - 2) administer the sacraments;
 - 3) conduct public worship;
 - 4) provide pastoral care;
 - 5) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;
 - 6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through available channels of effective communication;
 - 7) witness to the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation and abroad; and
 - 8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.
- b. Each pastor with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:
 - 1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;
 - 2) relate to all schools and organizations of the congregation;
 - 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council;
 - 4) with the council, administer discipline;
 - 5) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the churchwide organization and of this synod; and

- 6) encourage adherence to covenantal relationship with this church as expressed in the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.
- S14.13.** The pastor (a) shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, (b) shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod, and (c) shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- S14.14.** Whenever members of a congregation move to such a distance that regular attendance at its services becomes impractical, it shall be the duty of the pastor to commend them, upon their consent, to the pastoral care of a congregation nearer to their place of residence.
- S14.15.** Each minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- †**S14.16.** When a congregation of this church desires to call a pastor or a candidate for the ministry of Word and Sacrament of this church:
- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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 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:
- The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by the pastor's death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for the following reasons:
 - mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
 - resignation of the pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
 - inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in that congregation in view of local conditions;
 - physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor;
 - suspension of the pastor through discipline for more than three months;
 - resignation or removal of the pastor from the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church;
 - termination of the relationship between this church and the congregation;
 - dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
 - suspension of the congregation through discipline for more than six months.
 - When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
 - the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
 - 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.
 - In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition.

When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the pastor on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament with disability status. Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the pastor to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.

- 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 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 parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members transferred or dismissed, members who have become inactive, or members excluded from the congregation shall be kept accurately and permanently. They shall remain the property of each congregation. At the time of the closure of a congregation, such records shall be sent to the regional archives. The secretary of the congregation shall attest to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in his or her hands in good order by a departing pastor before:
- a. installation in another call, or
 - b. 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:
- a. installation in another call, or
 - b. 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 parochial 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:

- a. Be rooted in the Word of God, for proclamation and service;
- b. Advocate a prophetic diakonia that commits itself to risk-taking and innovative service on the frontiers of the Church's outreach, giving particular attention to the suffering places in God's world;
- c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad;
- d. Equip the baptized for ministry in God's world that affirms the gifts of all people;
- e. Encourage mutual relationships that invite participation and accompaniment of others in God's mission;
- f. Practice stewardship that respects God's gift of time, talents, and resources;
- g. Be grounded in a gathered community for ongoing diaconal formation;
- h. Share knowledge of this church and its wider ministry of the gospel, and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church; and
- i. Identify and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the gospel.

S14.33. The minister of Word and Service shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the minister of Word and Service shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

S14.34. Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

†S14.41. When a congregation of this church desires to call a minister of Word and Service or a candidate for the ministry of Word and Service of this church:

- a. Each congregation of this synod shall consult the bishop of this synod before taking any steps leading to the extending of a call to a prospective minister of Word and Service.
- b. For issuance of a letter of call to a minister of Word and Service or candidate by a congregation of this synod in accord with ELCA constitutional provision 7.71., a two-thirds vote shall be required of members of the congregation present and voting at a meeting regularly called for the purpose of issuing such a call.
- c. When the congregation has voted to issue a call to a prospective minister of Word and Service, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.

S14.42. No minister of Word and Service shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Service shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

†S14.43. The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Service and a congregation shall be as follows:

- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a minister of Word and Service, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for the following reasons:
 - 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
 - 2) resignation of the minister of Word and Service, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
 - 3) inability to conduct the office effectively in that congregation in view of local conditions;
 - 4) physical disability or mental incapacity of the minister of Word and Service;
 - 5) suspension of the minister of Word and Service through discipline for more than three months;
 - 6) resignation or removal of the minister of Word and Service from the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church;
 - 7) termination of the relationship between this church and the congregation;

- 8) dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
 - 9) suspension of the congregation through discipline for more than six months.
 - b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the minister of Word and Service under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the ministry of Word and Service under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
 - 1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
 - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.
 - c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the minister of Word and Service's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant. When the position is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the deacon on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service with disability status. Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the minister of Word and Service to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the minister of Word and Service to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
 - d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the minister of Word and Service and then to the congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee address whether the minister of Word and Service's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by the congregation and by the minister of Word and Service, if appropriate. If the minister of Word and Service and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.
 - e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the minister of Word and Service's call, the congregation may dismiss the minister of Word and Service only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.
 - f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.
- †S14.44. Ministers of Word and Service shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited to do so by the Congregation Council.
- †S14.45. The minister of Word and Service shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:
- a. installation in another call, or
 - b. approval of a request for change in roster status.
- †S14.46. With the approval of the synod bishop expressed in writing, which sets forth a clear statement of the purpose to be served by such a departure from the normal rule of permanency of the call as expressed in †S14.43., a congregation may call a minister of Word and Service for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop of this synod or a representative of the bishop shall meet with the minister of Word and Service and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of †S14.43.

- S14.47.** All ministers of Word and Service under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the ministers of Word and Service of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.

Chapter 15.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

- †**S15.01.** The fiscal year of this synod shall be February 1 through January 31.
- †**S15.11.** Since the congregations, synods, and churchwide organization are interdependent expressions that share in God's mission, all share in the responsibility to develop, implement, and strengthen the financial support of the whole church. The gifts and offerings of the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are given to support all parts of this church, the unity of this church should be evidenced in determining each part's share of the gifts and offerings. Therefore:
- 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 each congregation in making its determination.
 - 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.
 - 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 synod 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.
- The application shall be in writing and addressed to the Council. The application shall identify, as applicant, all Congregations or organizations seeking the consent, describe the purpose and scope of the proposed appeal, and include all supporting information applicant believes pertinent.
 - The Council may summarily deny an application whereof applicant includes a Congregation which is not current in providing proportionate share support according to Chapter 15 of the constitution or an organization which is not fulfilling requirements of its affiliation or relationship.
 - Before deeming an application complete, the Council in its discretion shall have a reasonable opportunity to ask applicant for additional information (allowing a reasonable period for applicant's reply) or otherwise to develop such additional information.

- d) Within 180 days after the Council deems an application complete, it shall act on the application, with written notice of the action to applicant. Such action, in the Council's discretion, may include any of the following:
 - 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 Assembly.
- e) The Council's disposition of the application is final. An application referred by the Council to the Assembly, may be disposed of in any manner the Assembly deems appropriate.

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
 - 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. The financial reports shall be in the format approved from time to time by the churchwide Office of the Treasurer.
- †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 section †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 synodical component of the Committee on Discipline, the Ministry Committee of this synod, and of each committee convened under †S14.13.b. or S14.13.08., within the scope and proper conduct of the functions and responsibilities of such committees and with reference to certain third persons, are agents of the synod and eligible to be indemnified under †S16.01. of the constitution. “Certain third persons” means only persons who are members of this church and with whom such a committee deals on behalf of this church or this synod, but not persons who are indemnified under †S16.01.*
- b. *As from time to time appropriate for purposes of indemnification according to †S16.01., the Council may designate members of committees of the synod, other than the committees identified in provision a. of this resolution, as agents of the synod.*

†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 section †S16.01. or section †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 decided by the Synod Council.

Chapter 17. 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 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.

Explanation of recommended amendments to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod governing documents for 2022 presentation

In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the church of which we collectively are a part, our governing documents serve as covenants between us and the various expressions of church. Ideally, any covenant serves at least two purposes: first, to hold us accountable to one another for our life together, and second to provide a strong foundation from which our ministry grows, adapts, and flourishes.

Governing documents such as ours are intended as living documents. As ministry informs our life together, we seek to reflect new realities through these covenants while at the same time maintaining the strong foundation with which the ELCA and Metropolitan Chicago Synod were founded. This church is founded with the understanding that it is the assembly of the people – the church itself – who make this covenant. Therefore, amendments to the synod constitution are made by the Synod Assembly. Voting members to the Synod Assembly have the opportunity to debate, amend, and vote for or against any recommended provision. More information about how this is done will be shared in the Book of Reports and at the Synod Assembly.

The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council has given due notice that a number of amendments to the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod will be considered at the 2022 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly. Prior to the 2022 Synod Assembly, a hearing will be held to answer questions and receive feedback on the proposed amendments. Following are rationale statements for each of these proposed amendments.

For information purposes:

1. Throughout the governing documents, outline numbering has replaced bullets in continuing resolutions for clarity when referring to such resolutions. This editorial change has been incorporated but is not highlighted in the attached document and is not being voted on by the Synod Assembly.
2. The nomenclature of continuing resolutions will be adjusted editorially following adoption by the Synod Assembly.

Editorial Changes - Changes marked in BLUE in the draft proposed constitution

These proposed amendments are considered by the Constitution Working Group to be primarily editorial in nature. These amendments seek to clarify the preexisting structure and document, rather than to make substantial changes. These will be presented to the Synod Assembly *en bloc*, meaning that the Synod Assembly will have the opportunity to vote on all of these

recommended amendments at once. Any voting member of the Synod Assembly can request that an amendment be pulled out of the bloc for discussion, debate, and separate vote. There will be one bloc regarding constitutional provisions and one bloc regarding bylaws.

1. Throughout – The word “Synod” has been added before each reference to Assembly, Council, etc, to clarify the synod expression of this church. This clarity becomes particularly useful when the governing documents of different expressions of the church are being used in conversation with each other, such as when a congregation is relating to the synod, or when the synod is relating to the churchwide expression of the church.
2. Throughout – In non-required provisions gendered language has been removed. This is consistent with the amendments to the model Constitution for Synods expected to be approved at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.
3. **S7.01.03** – This bylaw has been removed, as it is inconsistent with the existing (and overruling) constitutional provision of **S7.28.**, which specifies that all Synod Council members are voting members of Synod Assembly. This is consistent with the constitutional provision governing bylaws (**†S18.21.**), which indicates that bylaws may not conflict with constitutional provisions.
4. **S7.01.05.c.** -- Added the phrase “as directed by the bishop.” This provision relates to a special Synod Assembly and the composition of committees related to it. Specifically, this provision says that these committees *may* be comprised in the same way as former committees. However, this phrase is added to provide clarity for who has the authority to make a final decision. Also removed the phrase “first sentence of” in reference to another provision of this constitution.
5. **S7.13** -- Added specific references to when or how notice of a synod assembly is given by the secretary.
6. **S7.22.** -- Updated language around disability status to current language used in ELCA documents.
7. **S8.14.01.** -- “Assistants to the Bishop” changed to “Associates to the Bishop” to match function and the name used in practice.
8. **S8.14.01** -- Updated the decision making practice regarding compensation for Associate to the Bishop positions to match the current and historical practice.
9. **S8.32.01** -- This bylaw also adds information about the contents of the public file for clarity.
10. **S9.01.04 and following** – Changed the words “Other Council Members / OCMs” to “Synod Council Members at-large,” for clarity.
11. **S9.03.01** -- Removed the phrase “first sentence of” and left intact the provision.
12. **S10.01.01; S10.01.02; S10.01.03** -- Changed the first day of office for Synod Council Members from 2nd month to 3rd month to be the same as the first day of office for Synod Council Officers.

13. **Chapter 11** – This entire chapter has been rearranged to provide clarity to the already present committee structure. No changes have been made to the present committee structure at this time. Amendments to the current committee structure will be considered at a later Synod Assembly.
14. **S11.01.02** -- Consistent with recommended Chapter 11 constitutional provision amendments, this bylaw has been rewritten and restructured to provide clarity of committee structures.
15. **S11.01.18**. -- Removed “first sentence of” and indicates the appropriate provision (as rewritten.)
16. **S13.23.01** -- Added the words “to retain their property” to clarify the existing process.
17. **Chapter 17** – Added the words “Consultation and” to adhere to model Constitution for Synods.

Substantive Changes – Minor

These proposed amendments are considered by the Constitution Working Group to make substantive but minor changes to the synod’s current governing documents. These amendments intend to update the current governing documents to align with the current practices. These will be presented to the Synod Assembly *en bloc*, meaning that the Synod Assembly will have the opportunity to vote on all of these recommended amendments at once. Any voting member of the Synod Assembly can request that an amendment be pulled out of the bloc for discussion, debate, and separate vote.

1. **S6.04.03** This new bylaw indicates the synod’s existing Reconciling in Christ status and intentions.
2. **S7.01.05**. -- Added the words “five to” 10 members for the Reference and Council Committee, to align with actual practice and the historical difficulty of finding 10 people willing and able to serve in this capacity.
3. **S8.41.01** -- This bylaw is added to outline a process by which the synod council may appoint a treasurer. Prior governing documents allowed for the synod council to appoint a treasurer (~~†S8.41.~~) but did not include a process by which such appointment would be made. Appointment of the treasurer (as opposed to election) has become practice in recent years, allowing potential candidates for the position to be vetted for ability and appropriateness prior to the appointment.
4. **S9.05 & S9.06** -- Language updated to align with the current model Constitution for Synods, incorporating a practice of nominating individuals for Synod Vice President and Synod Secretary. Under this practice, the nominating committee would nominate at least one person for vice president and secretary. This would be received as information by the Synod Assembly. Both positions would continue to be elected by ecclesiastical ballot.

5. **S10.05.01** -- Clarified that mileage reimbursement is not the same as compensation for duties, and synod council members may receive mileage reimbursement for some synod duties. Synod council members may be called on by the bishop to attend meetings and hearings all over the synod, and some council members may be unable to assist the bishop in these ways because of mileage costs. This bylaw seeks to expand synod council active membership to individuals who might find the costs of commuting to synod council responsibilities prohibitive.
6. **S11.01.02** -- Added requirement of being a member of the synod in good standing in order to serve on a committee.

Substantive Changes – Major

These proposed amendments are considered by the Constitution Working Group to make major substantive changes to the synod's current governing documents. These are amendments that the Constitution Working Group suspects the Synod Assembly may wish to debate. These will be presented to the Synod Assembly *en bloc*, meaning that the Synod Assembly will have the opportunity to vote on all of these recommended amendments at once. However, any voting member of the Synod Assembly can request that an amendment be pulled out of the bloc for discussion, debate, and separate vote.

7. **S1.11.01** -- This bylaw amendment allows the decision about the synod's office location to be made by synod council rather than the synod assembly. In order to provide the most flexibility and cost-saving alternatives, enabling the synod council to make this decision would present the opportunity for the synod to be much more flexible in its negotiations and determination of an appropriate location for the synod office.
8. **S7.11.01** -- Regarding frequency, time & place of Synod Assembly, this language aligns to the model Constitution for Synod's language and removes the necessity for an annual Synod Assembly with ample notice of each Synod Assembly. At this time, the state of Illinois requires not-for-profit institutions to hold an annual meeting. Thus, amending this bylaw does not affect the practice of an annual Synod Assembly in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod at this time, but it does give greater leeway to find appropriate dates and locations based on the changing needs of the synod.
9. **S8.32.03** -- Edited the language to give charge of the public file to the bishop instead of the secretary to align with the current practice of server storage and access. This bylaw may be revisited with future amendments as the technology by which public file is stored changes.
10. **S8.33 & S8.43** -- These new bylaws make the secretary & treasurer ex-officio members of churchwide assembly; all officers would therefore attend the churchwide assembly. It has been the practice that secretary and treasurer must be elected, which typically

happens, and the attendance at Churchwide Assembly by all officers is quite helpful to the functioning of the synod within the larger church. This is a practice in some but not all other synods across the ELCA. Because the number and requirements for voting members at Churchwide Assembly are set by the churchwide expression of this church, amending these bylaws would affect how many people would be elected to Churchwide Assembly by the Synod Assembly.

11. †S8.51. -- Where the decision to elect or appoint the treasurer must be made in this required provision - specifies that the treasurer will be “appointed” instead of “elected,” enabling the synod council to vet the potential treasurer prior to their appointment. This is considered good financial practice. The model Constitution for Synods allows the assembly to choose either option.

We will vote on these provisions in 3 blocs – with the ability for voting members to pull any one amendment from a bloc.

Bloc 1

First, the assembly will vote on amendments to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Constitution, consistent with †S18.13. 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. [emphasis added]**

This bloc includes all constitutional provisions relating to numbers 1. and 2. above, as well as:

S7.13

S7.22.

S8.33

S8.43

†S8.51.

S9.05

S9.06

Chapter 11 constitutional provisions

Chapter 17

Bloc 2

Second, the assembly will vote on amendments to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Bylaws, consistent with †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. **[emphasis added]**

This bloc includes all bylaw provisions relating to numbers 1. and 2. above, as well as:

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

Bloc 3

Third, the assembly will vote on amendments to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod's Continuing Resolutions, consistent with †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. **[emphasis added]**

This bloc includes all continuing resolutions relating to numbers 1. and 2. above, as well as:

Chapter 11 continuing resolutions

The Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



DRAFT For Presentation at 2022 Synod Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod

Additions are underlined. Deletions are ~~struck through~~ in the text.

Blue – amendments that the Constitution Working Group believe are editorial in nature

Purple – amendments that the Constitution Working Group believe are substantive in nature

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.

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Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Draft Presentation for 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 **Assembly 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.

- 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 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 for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless and committing itself to their needs.

d. 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 the ministry of Word and Sacrament in cooperation with the appropriate seminaries of this church, which may be done through multi-synod committees;

2) authorizing ordinations and ordaining ministers of Word and Sacrament on behalf of this church;

3) approving ministers of Word and Service, which may be done through multi-synod committees;

4) authorizing ordinations and ordaining ministers of Word and Service on behalf of this church; and

5) consulting in the call process for rostered ministers.

b. providing for leadership recruitment, preparation, and support in accordance with churchwide standards and policies, including:

1) nurturing and supporting congregations and lay leaders;

2) seeking and recruiting qualified candidates for the rostered ministries of this church;

3) making provision for pastoral care, call review, and guidance;

4) encouraging and supporting persons on the rosters of this church in stewardship of their abilities, care of self, and pursuit of continuing education to undergird their effectiveness of service; and

5) supporting recruitment of leaders for this church's colleges, universities, seminaries, and social ministry organizations.

c. providing for discipline of congregations, ministers of Word and Sacrament, and ministers of Word and Service; as well as for termination of call, appointment, adjudication, and appeals consistent with Chapter 20 of this church's constitution.

d. providing for archives in conjunction with other synods.

†S6.03.02. In planning for, facilitating, and nurturing the mission of this church through congregations, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:

a. developing of new ministries, redevelopment of existing ministries, and support and assistance in the conclusion, if necessary, of a particular ministry;

b. leading and encouraging of congregations in their evangelism efforts;

c. assisting members of its congregations in carrying out their ministries in the world;

d. encouraging congregations to respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and

- the suffering, and participate responsibly in society;
 - e. providing resources for congregational life;
 - f. grouping congregations in conferences, clusters, coalitions, or other area subdivisions for mission purposes.
- †S6.03.03. In strengthening interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and in fostering relationships with agencies and institutions affiliated with or related to this church as well as with ecumenical partners, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:
- a. promoting interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and entering into relationships with other synods in the region;
 - b. fostering organizations for youth, women, and men, and organizations for language or ethnic communities;
 - c. developing relationships with social ministry organizations and ministries, participating in their mission planning, and providing supportive funding;
 - d. supporting relationships with and providing supportive funding on behalf of colleges, universities, and campus ministries;
 - e. maintaining relationships with and providing supportive funding on behalf of seminaries and continuing education centers;
 - f. fostering supporting relationships with camps and other outdoor ministries;
 - g. fostering supporting relationships with preschools, elementary schools, and secondary schools operated by congregations of the synod;
 - h. fostering relationships with ecumenical and global companions;
 - i. cooperating with other synods and the churchwide organization in creating, using, and supporting regions to carry out those functions of the synod which can best be done cooperatively with other synods and the churchwide organization.
- †S6.03.04. In interpreting the work of this church on the territory of the synod, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:
- a. encouraging financial support for the work of this church by individuals and congregations;
 - b. participating in churchwide programs;
 - c. interpreting social statements in a manner consistent with the interpretation given by the churchwide unit or office which assisted in the development of the statement, and suggestion of social study issues;
 - d. providing ecumenical guidance and encouragement.
- †S6.04. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, the Synod Council shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of the synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; and that at least 45 percent of the lay members of assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be women and at least 45 percent shall be men; and that, where possible, the representation of ministers of Word and Sacrament shall include both men and women. This synod shall establish processes that will enable it to reach a minimum goal that 10 percent of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
- †S6.04.01. It is the goal of this synod that 10 percent of the membership of synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards and/or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
- †S6.04.02. It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term “young adult” means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.
- S6.04.03** 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 be comprised of individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+.

- S6.04.A22** *To best live out its Reconciling In Christ designation, this synod encourages the following:*
- That all buildings utilized for synod events, meetings, assemblies, offices, and the like have the availability of a non-gendered bathroom.*
 - 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.*
 - 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.
- S7.01.03.** Other members of Synod Assembly. ~~Unless elected as voting members, members of the Synod Council who are not officers shall serve as advisory members of the Synod Assembly, with voice but not vote. Other categories of non-voting members of the Synod Assembly may be established by the Synod Assembly.~~
- 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 ~~the first sentence of~~ S11.01.02. Unless the bishop so requires, a Synod Assembly committee or official need not make a formal report covering its or ~~his/her~~ 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.
 - 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.

- 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.*

- 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. ~~Regular meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be held annually, normally during the month of May or the month of June, each at a convenient place selected by the Executive Committee. 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:
- a. All ministers of Word and Sacrament under call on the roster of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.
 - b. All ministers of Word and Service, under call, on the roster of this synod shall be voting members in the Synod Assembly.
 - c. A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with 175 or more baptized members related to this synod, typically one of whom shall be a man and one of whom shall be a woman, shall be voting members. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of the number of baptized members in the congregation. The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that at least 45 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be women and at least 45 percent shall be men.
 - d. Voting membership shall include the officers of this synod.
- †S7.21.01. Voting members shall begin serving with the opening of a regular Synod Assembly and shall continue serving until voting members are seated at the next regular Synod Assembly.
- †S7.21.02. If a special Synod Assembly is called and voting members at the previous assembly are unable to serve as voting members, where permitted by state law, the congregation through the Congregation Council may elect new members who shall continue to serve until the next Synod Assembly.
- S7.21.03. The †S7.21.c. formula. Preparatory to regular meetings of the 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 designated as disabled 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 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.

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;
 - 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) Exercise supervision over the work of the other officers;

5) Coordinate the work of all synod staff members;

6) Appoint all committees for which provision is not otherwise made;

7) Be a member of all committees and any other organizational units of the synod, except as otherwise provided in this constitution;

8) Provide for preparation and maintenance of synod rosters containing the names and addresses of all rostered ministers of this synod and a record of the calls under which they are serving or the date on which their retired or disability status took effect;

9) Annually bring to the attention of the Synod Council the names of all rostered ministers on leave from call or engaged in approved graduate study in conformity with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church and 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 parochial reports of the congregations and make the reports available to the secretary of this church for collation, analysis, and distribution of the statistical summaries to this synod and the other synods of this church.

S8.12.A87. *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 **his/her 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 **him/her 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.

- S8.14.01.** Assistants 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 assistants-associates to the bishop in the work and conduct of the bishop's office and of this synod. Such assistants-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 assistant-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 assistants-associates 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 assistants-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 assistant's-associate's call, or period of each lay assistant's-associate's employment, and the salary, emoluments and other remuneration to be received by each assistants-associates 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 assistant-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 assistants-associates in the work of the synod.
- S8.14.A87.** Number of assistants-associates. The number of assistants-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 his or her determination or action with respect to a related individual as defined in †S8.16.01.c., the synod bishop shall withdraw from personal involvement in such matter and shall so notify the presiding bishop. The presiding bishop shall then appoint another synod bishop from the same region to handle the matter to conclusion. In dealing with such matter, the appointed bishop shall exercise all of the functions and authority to the same extent as if the appointed bishop were the elected bishop of the withdrawing bishop's synod.
 - Matters include any proceedings under Chapter 20, proceedings under provision 7.46. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* (†S14.13.), candidacy, reinstatement, and similar matters where determinations or actions by the synod bishop could change, limit, restrict, approve, authorize, or deny the related individual's ministry on one of the official rosters of this church.
 - 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.
- †**S8.23.** In the event of the death, resignation, or disability of the bishop, the vice president, after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall convene the Synod Council to arrange for the conduct of the duties of the bishop until a new bishop shall be elected or, in the case of temporary disability, until the bishop resumes full performance of the duties of the office.

- 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.
- †**S8.32.** The secretary shall:
- Keep the minutes of all meetings of the Synod Assembly and Synod Council, be responsible for the printing and distribution of such minutes, and perform such other duties as this synod may from time to time direct.
 - 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.
 - In consultation with the bishop, classify and arrange all important papers and documents and deposit them in the archives of this synod.
 - 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. The secretary of this synod shall have charge of the public file and maintain it in the synod office.
- 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, she/he 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 secretary-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:
- 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.
 - Investment of funds upon the authorization of the Synod Council.
 - 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.
 - Maintenance of a regular account with each congregation of this synod and informing the congregation, at least quarterly, of the status of this account.
 - 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

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 his or her successor takes office.
- c. The treasurer of this synod shall be ~~elected~~ **appointed** to a four-year term and may be re-elected or reappointed. The treasurer shall serve until his or her successor takes office.

S8.52. 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 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 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, other than those who are disqualified, shall review the findings and decision of the Synod Council and by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting may adopt the findings and grant the petition.
 - f. If the synod officer is a minister of Word and Sacrament, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.22.01. and as defined under the process described in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.21. and 20.22. as grounds for discipline. If the officer is a minister of Word and Service, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.23.01. and as defined under the process described in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.21. and 20.22. as grounds for discipline.
 - g. If the officer is a layperson, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.41.01. as grounds for discipline.

- h. If the case of alleged willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions or of alleged conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action, the following procedures shall apply:

1) the petition shall be referred to the Committee on Appeals, which shall function as the discipline hearing committee that shall conduct a hearing in accordance with the rules provided for in ELCA bylaw 20.22.14. except to the extent that those rules are in conflict with the provisions of this bylaw; and

2) the members of the Committee on Appeals, other than those who are disqualified, may grant the petition by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting.

- i. Written notice of a decision by the Committee on Appeals that the charges have been sustained shall be given to the affected officer and to the Synod Council, and the office shall be vacated.

†S8.58. If the bishop is to be temporarily absent from the synod for an extended period, the bishop, with the consent of the Synod Council, may appoint as acting bishop for such period a minister of Word and Sacrament of this church. Except as limited by action of the Synod Council, an acting bishop shall possess all of the powers and authority of a regularly elected bishop other than authority to ordain or to authorize the ordination of properly approved candidates for ordination.

Chapter 9.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

†S9.01. The Synod Assembly shall elect such officers of this synod and such other persons as the constitution and bylaws may require, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws. The Synod Assembly shall elect members of the Churchwide Assembly in accordance with bylaw 12.41.11. of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

S9.01.01 Elections by the Synod Assembly. In addition to elections prescribed in the constitution to be made by the Synod Assembly, the Synod Assembly shall elect

- voting members of the Churchwide Assembly allocated to this synod.
- the ~~other council members (OCMs)~~ Synod Council Members-at-large and the youth who is a member of the Synod Council.
- the members of the Consultation Committee and the synod's ~~seal~~ 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 ~~other council members (OCMs)~~ Synod Council Members-at-large. Normally, OCMs Synod Council Members-at-large may be reelected once; however, if an expiration of the term of an incumbent OCM Synod Council Member-at-large the incumbent does not meet a specification for the position according to S9.03.04. or otherwise, ~~she/he the individual~~ is ineligible to reelection. If an OCM

- 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, **she/he 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:
- 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.
 - 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.A88.** *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 **his/her 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
- Generally, eligibility for appointment to the Nominating Committee is as provided in **the first sentence of** S11.01.02., and positions on the Committee may be subject to a specification under S9.03.04. Members of the Consultation Committee, the Committee on Discipline, or a committee convened under S14.13.b would be ineligible for appointment. **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.
 - 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.
- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - Each person selected pursuant to paragraph (a) or elected pursuant to paragraph (c) of this bylaw shall be a voting member of a Congregation of the Conference which selects or elects **her/him the individual**, otherwise be eligible for the position for which **he/she the individual** is selected or to

which she/he is elected, have affirmed willingness to serve in the position, and meet each specification under S9.03.04, if any, pertaining to the position.

- 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 **OCM 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 **OCM 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 **OCM 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 **OCM 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 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.A99.

- a. *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.*
- b. *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, ~~he/she-the person~~ may designate a spokesperson to participate ~~instead his/her stead~~. During introduction of one such person, the other such persons shall not be present. If such a person opts not to participate in an introduction, that circumstance shall not affect the person's position or status on the fourth or any later ballot. When such a person participates in one aspect of an introduction, ~~he/she-the person~~ is expected also to participate in the other aspect. The official presiding at the election shall likewise preside during the introductions.*
- c. *Each such person, in any aspect of ~~her/his 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 ~~her/his the~~ introduction and otherwise in connection with the election.*
- d. *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.*
- e. *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. **The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for vice president; additional nominations may be made from the floor.**

- 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 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. **The Synod Council shall nominate at least one person for secretary; additional nominations may be made from the floor.**

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.A99 *A person who is nominated for election by the **Synod** Assembly (a) for **an OCM 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 ~~she/he~~ **the individual** is a nominee, a written statement with regard to ~~his/hers~~ **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 specified in the bylaws. A member of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, unless otherwise elected as a voting member of the Synod Council, may serve as an advisory member of the Synod Council with voice but not vote.
 - b. The term of office of members of the Synod Council, with the exception of the officers and the youth member, shall be four years.
- S10.01.01. The terms of service of members of the Synod Council shall begin on the first day of the ~~second~~ 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 ~~second~~ third month following election. The youth shall be at least 16 years of age when ~~his/her~~ 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 ~~second~~ third month following election. The young adult shall be at least 21 years of age when ~~his/her~~ 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 Synod 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 ~~other council members (OCMs)~~ Synod Council Members-at-large; at least one of the ~~OCMs~~ 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 ~~OCMs~~ Synod Council Members-at-large. Normally, the period of appointment for ~~OCMs~~ 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 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.
- 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

- a. *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.
- b. *Applicability.* This continuing resolution applies in respect of each position resolution and without regard to the date of the resolution.
- c. *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.
- d. *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.
- 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) (names of other organizational units)

- †**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:
Committees relating to the office of the bishop are the Ministry Committee and the Constitution Review Committee, and their functions and responsibilities are as from time to time provided in the bylaws and continuing resolutions of the synod. The bishop appoints members of these committees, with the approval of the Council, and, generally, for terms of service of four years arranged, with reference to an election cycle, in the same manner as terms of OCM positions. Members of these committees are eligible to reappointment.
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.
 5. Synod Council committees, as provided for in S11.01.07
- S11.01.02. Eligibility/qualifications for committee service.** Other than the bishop ex officio, and subject to the provisions of S11.02.01 (Consultation Committee), and S11.03.01 (Committee on Discipline), no person shall concurrently be a member of more than one of the Standing Committees. 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.*
- 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. (re-numbered)
- 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 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 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. (re-numbered)
- 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. (re-numbered)
- S11.01.10. Standing Committees.** The Standing Committees are the Consultation Committee, the Committee on Discipline, the Ministry Committee, and the Constitution Review Committee, as stipulated in S11.01.16 and S11.01.17 (re-numbered)
- 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. (re-numbered)
- S11.01.16 The Ministry Committee**
The Ministry Committee, and its functions and responsibilities are as from time to time provided in the bylaws and continuing resolutions of the synod. The bishop appoints members of this committee, 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 **Synod Council Members-at-large** positions. Members of these committees are eligible to reappointment.
- S11.01.C22. 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. (re-numbered)*
- S11.01.17 The Constitution Review Committee**
The Constitution Review Committee and its functions and responsibilities are as from time to time provided in the bylaws and continuing resolutions of the synod. The bishop appoints members of this committee, 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 Synod Council Members-at-large positions. Members of these committees are eligible to reappointment.
- 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 ~~the first sentence of~~ 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. (re-numbered)
- 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. (re-numbered)
- †S11.02. The Consultation Committee** of this synod shall consist of at least six persons and not more than 12 persons, of whom half shall be ministers of Word and Sacrament and half shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive re-election. The functions of the Consultation Committee are set forth in Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and in Chapter 17 of this constitution. The size of the Consultation Committee, in accord with this provision, shall be defined in this synod's bylaws.
- S11.02.01.** The Bishop shall be a member of the Consultation Committee ex officio except in instances when the Bishop brings charges against an ordained minister.
- S11.02.02.** The terms of service of members of the Consultation Committee begin on the first day of the third

- calendar month following election.
- †S11.03. The Committee on Discipline of this synod shall consist of 12 persons, of whom six shall be ministers of Word and Sacrament and six shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive re-election.
- a. The functions of the Committee on Discipline of this synod are set forth in Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.
 - b. The Synod Council shall fill vacancies on the Committee on Discipline for any unexpired term.
- S11.03.01. The Bishop shall not be a member of the Committee on Discipline.
- S11.03.02. The terms of service of members of the Committee on Discipline begin on the first day of the third calendar month following election.
- †S11.04. The Mutual Ministry Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Synod Council to provide support and counsel to the bishop.
- S11.04.01. **Mutual Ministry Committee.** The Mutual Ministry Committee consists of seven members, and its function is to provide support and counsel to the bishop. Two members are named by the bishop and serve for the period the bishop may determine, and five members are appointed by the Synod Council and serve for the period the Synod Council may determine; in any case, the period of service of each member shall expire not later than the expiration of the bishop's current term of office. The bishop may seek the counsel and support of any member of the committee at the bishop's pleasure, and may convene meetings of the committee, or of any of its members, to seek their counsel and support on any matter which she/he deems necessary or desirable. Meetings of the committee or consultation between the bishop and any member shall be informal, and votes, minutes or other written memorials or reports not required unless requested by the bishop.
- †S11.05. The Audit Committee of this synod shall consist of three to six persons, none of whom is a member of the synod staff. Up to half of the committee members may be Synod Council members. The Audit Committee members shall be elected by the Synod Council for a term of three years and be eligible for re-election to a second consecutive three-year term. The terms of the Audit Committee members shall be staggered. The Audit Committee shall be responsible for assisting the Synod Council in fulfilling its general oversight of the synod's accounting, financial reporting, internal control systems, and external audit processes as provided in †S15.31.
- S11.10. **General Provisions**
- S11.11. This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to ensure that the members of its committees and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of †S6.04. With the exception of ministers on the rosters of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a committee of this synod, or any other organizational unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.

Chapter 12. CONFERENCES, CLUSTERS, COALITIONS, AREA SUBDIVISIONS, AND NETWORKS

- †S12.01. This synod may establish conferences, clusters, coalitions, area subdivisions, and networks as appropriate within its territory and in collaboration with other synods and entities, as specified in the bylaws and continuing resolutions. The purpose of such groupings shall be to foster interdependent relationships for missional purposes among congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and other affiliates.
- S12.01.01. **Conferences.** Groupings of Congregations of this synod, under Chapter 12 of the constitution, are "Conferences."
- S12.01.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
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 Lutherana Sagrado Corazon, Waukegan
Peace, Lake Zurich
Shepherd of the Lakes, Grayslake
St. Andrew, Mundelein
St. James, Lake Forest
St. Mark's, Waukegan
St. Paul, Waukegan
St. Stephen, Antioch
Trinity Evangelical, Ingleside
Trinity United, Waukegan
Zion, Deerfield

NORTHEAST (checked)

Christ, Chicago
Concordia, Chicago
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
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
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 Savior, Aurora
Our Saviour's, Naperville
Prince of Peace, Woodridge
Rejoice, Geneva
St. Andrew, West Chicago
St. Luke, Glen Ellyn
St. Mark's, Aurora
St. Paul, Wheaton
St. Timothy, Naperville
Trinity, Warrenville
Truth, Naperville

c. The **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.
- 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 **his/her 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 affiliation with this church.
- c. **Recognition and reception.** Recognition and reception into this church of transferring or independent congregations by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is based on the judgment of the synod and action by the synod through the Synod Council and Synod Assembly. The synod bishop shall provide for prompt reporting of such additions to the secretary of this church for addition to the roster of congregations.
- †S13.02. It shall be the responsibility of each congregation of this synod to choose from among its voting members laypersons to serve as members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected by each congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by this synod.
- S13.11. When a rostered minister resigns, the Congregation Council shall receive the letter of resignation, report it to the congregation, and at once notify the bishop of this synod.
- S13.12. A congregation under financial obligation to its former rostered minister shall make satisfactory settlement of the obligation before calling a successor.
- †S13.20. A congregation considering a relocation shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected.
- †S13.20. A congregation considering development of an additional site to be used regularly for worship shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.
- †S13.21. A congregation considering development of an additional site to be used regularly for worship shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.
- †S13.22. Each congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America within the territory of this synod, except those which are in partnership with the Slovak Zion Synod, shall establish and maintain a relationship with this synod.

†S13.23. Provision 9.71. of the constitution of this church shall govern the relationship of this synod and a congregation of this synod regarding the property of the congregation. This synod may transfer or convey property to a congregation of the synod, subject to restrictions accepted by the congregation, including provision that if the Synod Council, in its sole and exclusive discretion, determines (1) that the property is not being used to serve the mission and ministry needs of this church, or (2) that the congregation has transferred, encumbered, mortgaged, or in any way burdened or impaired any right, title, or interest in the property without the prior approval of the Synod Council, then title to the property shall revert to the synod, and the congregation, upon written demand, shall reconvey the property to the synod.

S13.23.01. Property of congregation terminating relationship with this church. This bylaw is subject to provision 9.52. of the ELCA constitution concerning the governing documents of Congregations recognized at the establishment of this church, and does not provide for action inconsistent with the said provision 9.52. Whenever a Congregation has initiated action to terminate its relationship with this church under provision 9.62. of the ELCA constitution and requested to become independent or to relate to a non-Lutheran church body, the synod's idea 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 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.

Chapter 14. ROSTERED MINISTERS

†**S14.10. Ministers of Word and Sacrament**

†**S14.11.** The time and place of the ordination of those persons properly called to ministry in this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.

†**S14.12.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

- a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:
 - 1) preach the Word;
 - 2) administer the sacraments;
 - 3) conduct public worship;
 - 4) provide pastoral care;
 - 5) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;
 - 6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through available channels of effective communication;
 - 7) witness to the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation and abroad; and
 - 8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.
- b. Each pastor with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:
 - 1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;
 - 2) relate to all schools and organizations of the congregation;
 - 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council;
 - 4) with the council, administer discipline;
 - 5) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the churchwide organization and of this synod; and
 - 6) encourage adherence to covenantal relationship with this church as expressed in the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

- S14.13.** The pastor (a) shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, (b) shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod, and (c) shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- S14.14.** Whenever members of a congregation move to such a distance that regular attendance at its services becomes impractical, it shall be the duty of the pastor to commend them, upon their consent, to the pastoral care of a Lutheran congregation nearer to their place of residence.
- S14.15.** Each minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod shall submit a **ministry** report **of his or her ministry** to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- †S14.16.** When a congregation of this church desires to call a pastor or a candidate for the ministry of Word and Sacrament of this church:
- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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 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:
- The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by the pastor's death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for the following reasons:
 - mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
 - resignation of the pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
 - inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in that congregation in view of local conditions;
 - physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor;
 - suspension of the pastor through discipline for more than three months;
 - resignation or removal of the pastor from the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church;
 - termination of the relationship between this church and the congregation;
 - dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
 - suspension of the congregation through discipline for more than six months.
 - When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
 - the bishop** in **his or her the bishop's** sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
 - 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.
 - In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition.

When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the pastor on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament with disability status. Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the pastor to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.

- 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 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 parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members transferred or dismissed, members who have become inactive, or members excluded from the congregation shall be kept accurately and permanently. They shall remain the property of each congregation. At the time of the closure of a congregation, such records shall be sent to the regional archives. The secretary of the congregation shall attest to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in his or her hands in good order by a departing pastor before:
- a. installation in another call, or
 - b. 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:
- a. installation in another call, or
 - b. 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 parochial 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:

- a. Be rooted in the Word of God, for proclamation and service;
- b. Advocate a prophetic diakonia that commits itself to risk-taking and innovative service on the frontiers of the Church's outreach, giving particular attention to the suffering places in God's world;
- c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad;
- d. Equip the baptized for ministry in God's world that affirms the gifts of all people;
- e. Encourage mutual relationships that invite participation and accompaniment of others in God's mission;
- f. Practice stewardship that respects God's gift of time, talents, and resources;
- g. Be grounded in a gathered community for ongoing diaconal formation;
- h. Share knowledge of this church and its wider ministry of the gospel, and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church; and
- i. Identify and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the gospel.

S14.33. The minister of Word and Service shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the minister of Word and Service shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

S14.34. Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

†S14.41. When a congregation of this church desires to call a minister of Word and Service or a candidate for the ministry of Word and Service of this church:

- a. Each congregation of this synod shall consult the bishop of this synod before taking any steps leading to the extending of a call to a prospective minister of Word and Service.
- b. For issuance of a letter of call to a minister of Word and Service or candidate by a congregation of this synod in accord with ELCA constitutional provision 7.71., a two-thirds vote shall be required of members of the congregation present and voting at a meeting regularly called for the purpose of issuing such a call.
- c. When the congregation has voted to issue a call to a prospective minister of Word and Service, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.

S14.42. No minister of Word and Service shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Service shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

†S14.43. The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Service and a congregation shall be as follows:

- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a minister of Word and Service, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for the following reasons:
 - 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
 - 2) resignation of the minister of Word and Service, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
 - 3) inability to conduct the office effectively in that congregation in view of local conditions;
 - 4) physical disability or mental incapacity of the minister of Word and Service;
 - 5) suspension of the minister of Word and Service through discipline for more than three months;
 - 6) resignation or removal of the minister of Word and Service from the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church;

- 7) termination of the relationship between this church and the congregation;
 - 8) dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
 - 9) suspension of the congregation through discipline for more than six months.
- b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the minister of Word and Service under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the ministry of Word and Service under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
- 1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
 - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.
- c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the minister of Word and Service's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant. When the position is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the deacon on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service with disability status. Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the minister of Word and Service to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the minister of Word and Service to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
- d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the minister of Word and Service and then to the congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee address whether the minister of Word and Service's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by the congregation and by the minister of Word and Service, if appropriate. If the minister of Word and Service and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.
- e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the minister of Word and Service's call, the congregation may dismiss the minister of Word and Service only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.
- f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.
- †S14.44. Ministers of Word and Service shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited to do so by the Congregation Council.
- †S14.45. The minister of Word and Service shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:
- a. installation in another call, or
 - b. approval of a request for change in roster status.
- †S14.46. With the approval of the synod bishop expressed in writing, which sets forth a clear statement of the purpose to be served by such a departure from the normal rule of permanency of the call as expressed in †S14.43., a congregation may call a minister of Word and Service for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop of this synod or a representative of the bishop shall meet with the minister of Word and Service and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of †S14.43.

- S14.47.** All ministers of Word and Service under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the ministers of Word and Service of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.

Chapter 15.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

- †**S15.01.** The fiscal year of this synod shall be February 1 through January 31.
- †**S15.11.** Since the congregations, synods, and churchwide organization are interdependent expressions that share in God's mission, all share in the responsibility to develop, implement, and strengthen the financial support of the whole church. The gifts and offerings of the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are given to support all parts of this church, the unity of this church should be evidenced in determining each part's share of the gifts and offerings. Therefore:
- a. The mission of this church beyond the congregation is to be supported by such a proportionate share of each congregation's annual budget as each congregation determines. This synod shall develop guidelines for determining "proportionate share," and shall consult with congregational leaders to assist 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 Synod 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
 - 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. The financial reports shall be in the format approved from time to time by the churchwide Office of the Treasurer.

†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 section †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’s **ieal** 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.*

†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 section †S16.01. or section †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 decided 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 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:
- 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.
 - 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
God's work. Our hands.

End of Report 2022

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