SYNOD ASSEMBLY BOOKLET

LIVING IN HOPE

2023 Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly
Friday, May 12 | Mission Fair, Hymn Sing & Worship Service
Saturday, May 13 | Assembly Business Meeting
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PROPOSED AGENDA

Friday, May 12

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<thead>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 5:00 p.m. | Mission Fair Opens  
Check-in & On-Site Registration Open for Saturday’s Assembly       |
| 7:00 p.m. | Hymn Sing & Worship Service                                         |
| 8:30-9:00 p.m. | Mission Fair Continues  
Reception with Beverages & Cookies                                    |

Saturday, May 13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</table>
| 8:00 a.m. | Check-In and On-Site Registration Opens  
Mission Fair Opens                                         |
| 9:00 a.m. | Plenary Session 1  
Morning Prayer & Opening of Assembly, Adoption of Proposed Rules of  
Procedure & Agenda, Report of the Nominating Committee, First Ballot |
| 9:35 a.m. | Keynote Address: The Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing                        |
| 10:05 a.m. | Break                                                              |
| 10:25 a.m. | Plenary Session 2  
Report of the Bishop, Report of the Churchwide Representative, Global  
and Local Mission Partner Reports, Report of First Ballot, *Second Ballot (if  
needed), The Planting Hope Campaign                                 |
| 12:00 p.m. | Lunch                                                              |
| 1:00 p.m. | Plenary Session 3  
Synod Council, Gleaning From the Harvest Presentations, Reference and  
Counsel Committee & Resolutions, Report of the Synod Treasurer, Intro-  
duction & Adoption of 2024 Budget, Closing Announcements, Closing  
Prayer & Installation of Newly Elected                                |
| 2:45 p.m. | Adjournment                                                         |

* Denotes an agenda item that may not be needed based on election results.
Welcome to the 2023 Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly!

Medical Assistance
If you or someone near you should need medical assistance during Synod Assembly, our on-site first responder is H. Marie Wiegert from the Lultheran Faith Community Nurse Association. During plenary sessions, she will be seated in a pew next to the sound booth. If you need assistance during other times and cannot locate Marie, go to the information desk in the Gathering Space (near the assembly check-in tables).

Food and Beverage
Your registration includes lunch on Saturday as well as coffee, tea and water. St. Andrew’s allows only covered beverages in the sanctuary. Boxed lunches on Saturday come from the Lake Elmo Inn. Vegetarian/gluten-free options are available for those who indicated that preference during the registration process. Thank you to the Guatemala Committee for sponsoring cookies from Thumbs Cookies for our post-worship service reception on Friday evening. All food is served in the Fellowship Hall.

Care of Creation
The synod continually strives to be better stewards of creation. Once again this year, we offered digital materials, encouraged carpooling, and the use of re-usable beverage holders. Help us keep the assembly “green” by noting the following:
- St. Andrew’s has clearly marked compost, recycling, and trash receptacles. Please be mindful of where you are throwing your waste. If you are new to composting, ask your neighbor or a volunteer for help.
- All nametag holders are reusable—please be sure to return your nametag holder in the collection containers outside the sanctuary at the end of assembly.

Phones
Cell phones, laptops and other wireless electronic communication devices must be on silent mode in the assembly hall. Calls are not allowed in the assembly hall.

Assembly Worship Offering
This year’s assembly worship offering will go to the synod’s Planting Hope Campaign, in particular for the Families Together therapeutic preschool planned for the East Side of St. Paul by Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. You may place your cash or check in the offering plate during the Friday evening worship service or you may give your offering online via credit card at https://spas-elca.org/give. If you pay online, you will have the opportunity to cover the 3% credit card processing fee. We appreciate you doing that so your gift goes further!

Photo Consent & Live Streaming
The synod is taking photos and video footage of this event for post-event coverage, future promotional purposes and general synod communications. In addition, the Synod Assembly is being livestreamed (http://live.saintandrews.org/) for those who wish to observe the proceedings. Unless you specifically request to opt out, your image may appear in event coverage in the synod’s newsletter, website and/or social media or in future event promotions.

If you are uncomfortable with the idea of your likeness appearing in photos or on the livestream, please speak to someone at the registration desk and be sure to be seated in the designated digital privacy pew directly in front of the sound booth in the sanctuary.

Seating
You are welcome to sit wherever you want on the main level of the sanctuary during Saturday’s business meeting; however, when it comes time to vote, credentialed voting members must be seated in one of the two center sections of pews. Advisors and visitors will be asked to sit in one of the side sections. Additionally, there will be designated
seating areas for certain groups such as synod council officers. If you are uncomfortable with the idea of your likeness appearing in photos or the livestream, please sit in the designated photo-free zone of the sanctuary near the sound board.

**Mothers’ Room**
A nursing room is available in the library, which is adjacent to the sanctuary. A live feed of the assembly hall is available in this room.

**Post-Assembly Feedback**
After assembly, an email will be sent to assembly registrants requesting feedback about assembly on an online evaluation form. Your comments and ideas are important to us! Help us serve you better in the years ahead by completing the survey when it arrives in your inbox.

**When the Assembly Adjourns**
Please drop off your name tag, voting cards and any other materials for recycling in the collection containers as you leave the sanctuary.

### MISSION FAIR

More than 20 organizations/ministries will be part of the mission fair on Friday and through lunch on Saturday. We encourage you to visit with these affiliated organizations — our partners in ministry are eager to share information and stories about their work!

- Augsburg University Campus Ministry
- Bega Kwa Bega
- Brenda Moore & Associates LLC
- Camp Onomia
- Care of Creation
- The Center of Addiction & Faith
- Cherish All Children
- Clergy Financial
- Dignity for Daughters
- ELCA Federal Credit Union
- ELCA Foundation
- ELCA Mission Investment Fund
- ENGAGE: Lutherans for Gun Violence Prevention
- Friends of Huruma
- Guatemala Committee
- Lutheran Advocacy Minnesota
- Lutheran Campus Ministry Twin Cities
- Lutheran Faith Community Nurse Association
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
- Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
- The Ministry Lab
- Portico Benefit Servies
- Saint Paul Area Synod Vitality Team
- Shobi’s Table
- Twin Cities CYF Leadership Team
- U.S. Navy Chaplains
- Vanco
- The Vine

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Thank you to our Synod Assembly sponsors:

- Clergy Financial Resources
- Mission Investment Fund
- Portico Benefit Services
FEATURED SPEAKERS

Keynote Speaker:
The Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing
The Rev. Dr. Barbara R. Rossing is professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, where she has taught since 1994. She loves to teach and preach about the Bible, including the Bible’s role in public life.

An avid environmentalist, Rossing is involved with environmental initiatives at the seminary. Rossing received the bachelor of arts degree from Carleton College, the master of divinity degree from Yale University Divinity School and the doctor of theology degree from Harvard University.

She served as pastor of a congregation in Minnesota, director for Global Mission Interpretation for the American Lutheran Church, pastor at Holden Village Retreat Center in Chelan, Wash., and chaplain at Harvard University Divinity School.

Rossing has lectured and preached widely, including synod assemblies and global mission events for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), as well as ecumenical theological conferences. She has served on the executive committee and council of the Lutheran World Federation (2003-2010), and chaired the Lutheran World Federation’s theology and studies committee. She currently serves on the advisory committee for The Lutheran Magazine.

As a public theologian, her media appearances have included CBS’ 60 Minutes as well as The History Channel, National Geographic, Living the Questions, and numerous print and radio interviews. Her publications include The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation (Basic Books, 2004); The Choice Between Two Cities: Whore, Bride and Empire in the Apocalypse (Trinity Press, 1999); two volumes of the New Proclamation commentary (Fortress Press, 2000 and 2004); a nine-session Bible study, Journeys Through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today (Presbyterian Women, 2010); and articles and book chapters on the Apocalypse and ecology.

ELCA Churchwide Representative:
The Rev. Louise Johnson
Louise N. Johnson is a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). She serves as the Assistant to the Presiding Bishop/Executive for Administration of the ELCA. Prior to her work with the ELCA, Johnson served as Director for Leadership Development for LEAD, teaching and speaking on change leadership. Johnson also served as the fourteenth president of Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, where she led the seminary to its largest fundraising and enrollment years in the history of the school.

Johnson is a native of Akron, Ohio, and attended Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. During college, she worked in Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, where she developed a strong sense of call to serve the church. After college, she pursued her love for youth ministry, serving congregations in Chicago, Ill., and Madison, Wis. In 1995, she began studies at Wartburg Seminary in Waverly, Iowa, and received her Master of Divinity in 1999. Following seminary, Johnson served at Wartburg, primarily in Admissions. Between 2000 and 2004, Johnson also served as pastor of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Spragueville, Iowa.

Johnson was called to serve the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (LTSP) in 2004 as Associate Director of Admissions, quickly rising to Director of Admissions in 2006. Johnson served LTSP as Vice President for Mission Advancement beginning in fall 2012 with responsibilities for strategic planning, accreditation and alumni relations.
PROPOSED RULES OF PROCEDURE

Table of Contents
A. Agenda
B. Quorum
C. Floor Procedures
D. Voting
E. Elections
F. Resolutions
G. Seating
H. Miscellaneous

A. Agenda
   I. The business of the assembly shall be conducted during working sessions on Saturday, May 13, 2023. The chair shall have authority to call items of business before the assembly in whatever order is most expedient for conducting assembly business. Resolutions or other business not addressed by the synod assembly shall be forwarded to the Synod Council.
   
   II. The agenda shall be presented and adopted at the beginning of the first plenary session. If any voting member desires to add any item of new business to the agenda after the initial adoption of the agenda by the assembly, the voting member shall present such item of business to the chair. A two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting shall be required to add the item of new business to the agenda.

B. Quorum
   I. Fifty percent (50%) of voting members who have confirmed registration upon the beginning of the assembly shall constitute a quorum as required by the synod constitution (S714.).

C. Floor Procedures
   I. Registered voting members and advisory members shall have equal privilege of addressing the assembly. Advisory members will have voice but no vote on matters before the assembly. They shall include: rostered persons not under call (retired, on leave from call, and in study) except for those selected as voting members; lay members of committees, leadership teams, task forces and work groups; lay members of synod assembly committees; lay members elected by this synod to be voting members of an upcoming churchwide assembly; lay members of the synod staff; representatives of synod partners in ministry; and representatives from ELCA synodical, and churchwide offices. Congregations, congregations under development, and synodically-authorized worshiping communities may request from the Synod Council such privilege for persons not on the ELCA roster serving in pastoral roles in the congregation prior to the registration deadline. If granted, such persons pay the normal registration fees.

   II. Upon a motion from a voting member, a registered visitor may be granted the privilege of voice by a two-thirds vote of the synod assembly.

   III. Once recognized by the chair, each speaker will state his or her name and congregational membership. No person may speak more than once on an item of business until all others who wish to speak have had opportunity to do so.

   IV. Except for the making of a motion, all speaking to an item by each voting or advisory member is limited to two (2) minutes. Time will be kept by a member of the Reference and Counsel Committee. The chair will rotate speaking privileges among floor microphones and between proponents (green card) and opponents (red card) of a measure. A white card will indicate procedural questions. Debate will terminate when three speakers have been heard on each side, unless otherwise determined by a majority vote of the assembly. All speaking to the assembly shall be done from one of the floor microphones, and the order of the speakers will be determined by their order in line at the microphone.

   V. If a voting member recognized by the chair desires to make a motion, the motion is to be made first, before the voting member speaks to it. Once a motion is made, if there is a second, the voting member at the microphone may then speak in support of the motion made.
VI. The chair may recognize an individual(s) to provide pertinent background information regarding a resolution. Such speakers shall be limited to four (4) minutes.

VII. Following the reading of the resolution or the introduction of the item of business, discussion on any item of business shall be limited to twenty (20) minutes. This rule may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting.

D. Voting

I. Voting shall be by use of voice, voting card, written ballot, or by a division of the house upon request. In determining the outcome of a vote, only the yes and no votes shall be counted in determining the total number of votes required for adoption. Abstentions may be recorded, but do not count in the vote total. Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of the Synod Assembly.

II. Those in attendance at the Synod Assembly entitled to vote upon all matters before the assembly shall include:

   a. Lay voting members chosen by member congregations, congregations under development, or synodically authorized worshiping communities in accordance with the synod constitution (S7.21.c).

   b. All Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service under call on the rosters of the synod (S7.24.).

   c. Five percent (5%) of retired ministers (pastors and deacons) on the roster of this synod elected as voting members at a caucus convened by the bishop (S7.22). Retired ministers on the roster of the Saint Paul Area Synod who are serving as interim pastors in the Saint Paul Area Synod shall automatically be included in the ten percent. Should their service conclude prior to the synod assembly, an alternate shall be chosen.

   d. The officers of this synod (7.21.d) and lay members of the Synod Council not otherwise serving as voting members (S7.28.).

III. All voting members shall confirm registration upon arrival at the assembly. No voting member shall be able to vote unless duly registered with the Credentials Committee.

IV. Each congregation is allotted lay voting members as follows, according to baptized membership: one voting member for congregations having fewer than 175 baptized members. Two voting members for congregations of 175-500 members, with an additional voting member for every 500 baptized members or major fraction thereof (i.e., 501-749 = 2 voting members; 750-1249 = 3 voting members; 1250-1749 = 4 voting members, etc.) (S7.21.c).

V. Each congregation shall pre-register lay voting members, as nearly as possible, with at least 45 percent women and at least 45 percent men. The percentage of laypersons that is not allocated to women or men may be allocated to persons who identify as gender non-binary, gender fluid, women, men, or other gender.

VI. A pre-registered alternate voting member may be seated as voting member for one or more complete plenary sessions. Certification of the change must be registered with the assembly office by the pastor or congregational president. A relinquished voting privilege may not be reclaimed.

VII. An alternate not listed on the registration rolls must have a letter of authorization from his or her congregational officer or pastor in order to be registered as an official voting member. This will be submitted electronically to the Credentials Committee.

E. Elections

I. Along with candidates for election from the Nominating Committee, additional names may be placed in nomination by electronic submission to the Nominating Committee by Friday, May 5, 2023, at 5 p.m. A person willing to serve shall be nominated by one voting member and seconded by one additional voting member. The following information must be provided: name, address, telephone number, email,
congregation, conference, roster status (clergy/lay), and position for which being nominated. Nominations should be sent to leslie.ortiz@spas-elca.org. The Nominating Committee may amend their report to include substitutions for persons listed in the pre-assembly bulletin, who remove their name prior to the reading of the report at the assembly.

II. Elections shall be by written ballot or electronic voting application. Unless otherwise stated, all elections must be by a majority of the legal votes cast. In all elections, including the officers other than the bishop, the names of the persons receiving the highest number of votes, but not elected by a majority of the votes cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot. For each vacancy unfilled, the second ballot shall be one-half of the number of persons on the first ballot. If no one receives a majority of the votes cast on the second ballot, the third ballot shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes on the second ballot (S9.08).

III. Invalid ballots — which shall not be counted — are those ballots that:
   a. Are illegible;
   b. Contain more marks than the ballot permits;
   c. Contain a write-in vote, except where a write-in vote is specifically permitted.

IV. Ballots shall be distributed and collected only by assembly pages and/or members of the Election Committee.

F. Resolutions

I. All proposed resolutions other than those originating with the Synod Council can be directed to the assembly only through the reference and counsel committee in accordance with the procedures outlined in the pre-assembly materials. Authority to submit resolutions is limited to congregations, constitutionally defined committees, conferences, and the Synod Council. The Reference and Counsel Committee may seek to provide for engagement with the concerns/issues identified by the resolution in a manner that does not include a vote. Such engagement may be in the form of group presentation/discussion, action-strategy sessions, or other means. Any voting member wishing to bring to a vote a resolution that has been otherwise provided for by the Reference and Counsel Committee may move to suspend the rules for the purpose of considering the resolution for vote. Such a motion shall require a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting.

II. Resolutions are deemed to have been moved for adoption and require no second to become the business of the assembly. The Reference and Counsel Committee shall present resolutions to the assembly with recommendation and may include appropriate background information. The Reference and Counsel Committee may submit its own amendment or a substitute motion to the assembly as an alternative to any proposed resolution. The Reference and Counsel Committee may also seek to combine resolutions addressing the same topic into one resolution to facilitate the assembly's consideration of multiple resolutions. Such committee-drafted resolution(s) shall be submitted only after discussion with the originator of the resolution(s). An amendment or substitute motion moved by the Reference and Counsel Committee for adoption requires no second.

III. Should inaccuracies be found in the text of a resolution, the Reference and Counsel Committee has the authority to make technical corrections to clarify meaning, correct grammar, provide the accurate name for organizations, etc.

IV. A voting member wishing to present an amendment or substitute motion shall present the exact wording in writing to the designated person prior to moving the amendment, using a form available from assembly pages.

V. The deadline for submitting resolutions is March 26, 2023.

VI. Resolutions submitted after this deadline must be considered first by the Reference and Counsel Committee, and then (with or without their support) will come before the assembly only by means of a motion to suspend the rules for the purpose of considering the late resolution. The Reference and Counsel Committee will consider the reason for late submission in giving its recommendation.
VII. Resolutions not addressed by the Synod Assembly shall be forwarded to the Synod Council.

VIII. The synod constitution may be amended in either of the two following ways:
   a. According to §18.13.a., changes to the provisions of the constitution shall be submitted to the Reference and Counsel Committee in the form of a resolution over the signatures of at least eighty (80) voting members. Such resolutions shall require a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting to pass at two (2) consecutive regular meetings of the synod assembly;
   b. According to §18.13.b., the Synod Council may propose the amendment(s) and notify the congregations six (6) months in advance of the Synod Assembly. Such proposals shall require a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting to pass at one (1) regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

IX. Changes to the bylaws of the constitution shall be submitted to the Reference and Counsel Committee in the form of a resolution by the March 26, 2023 deadline. Such resolutions shall require a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting to pass as required by §18.21.

X. Changes to the continuing resolutions (as included in the synod constitution) shall be submitted to the Reference and Counsel Committee in the form of a resolution by the March 26, 2023 deadline. Such resolutions shall require a majority vote to pass as required by §18.31.

XI. The synod constitution may be amended by a simple majority vote to reflect amendments made to the Model Constitution for Synods by the Churchwide Assembly (§18.12.).

XII. All other resolutions shall require a majority vote of the voting members present and voting to pass.

G. Seating
   I. Seating on the floor of the assembly shall be designated for voting members, advisors, and visitors. Only those persons officially registered and wearing proper credentials shall be allowed a seat in each of these designated sections.

H. Miscellaneous
   I. Smoking shall be prohibited in all assembly facilities in accordance with Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly Resolution 87-06A, and shall additionally follow all smoking regulations of our host site.
   II. Any proposal increasing any line item in the proposed 2024 budget shall indicate from which line or lines an equal amount is to be subtracted.
   III. No printed materials of any kind may be distributed or posted within the assembly hall or dining areas except by assembly pages, and only following authorization granted by the assembly manager as authorized by the Reference and Counsel Committee.
   IV. Cell phones, laptops, and other wireless electronic communication devices must be on silent mode in the assembly hall. Calls are not allowed in the assembly hall or meeting rooms.
   V. A motion to adjourn shall be debatable.
   VI. The chair, at any time, may declare a recess of the assembly for purposes of addressing technical issues.
   VII. All matters not governed by rules of this assembly or by specific assembly action shall be governed by Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, in its most current edition.
## PARLIAMENTARY TERMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motion</th>
<th>Debatable</th>
<th>Necessary Vote</th>
<th>Amendable</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REGULAR</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item of Business</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Majority</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Presents an item of business in a form for proper assembly decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROCEDURAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lay on the Table</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Majority</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Permits consideration of more urgent business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call for the Question</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Two-thirds</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Ends the debate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limit or Extend Time</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Two-thirds</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>As stated (may be reconsidered)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for Debate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postpone Definitely</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Majority</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>To delay to a definite later time, in the next meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refer</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Majority</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Postpones action by the body until report of the committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amend or Substitute</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Majority</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Refines wording or meaning of main motion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rise to Question of</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No vote</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Obtains information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call for Division</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No vote</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Secures a counted vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raise of Question of</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No vote</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Expresses rights of individual members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privilege</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take from the Table</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Majority</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Returns a prior motion for consideration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconsider</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Majority</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Must be from member of prevailing side on previously considered motion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elected at Conference Assemblies
On February 25, 2023, the following persons were elected:

**Conference Dean – 3-year term**
1. The Rev. Kirsten Fryer - Bethlehem in the Midway, St. Paul (City Conference)
2. The Rev. Patrick Joiner - Luther Memorial, South St. Paul (Southeast Conference)

**Synod Council – 3-year term**
1. George Mickelsen (second term) - Zion, Chisago City (North Conference)
2. The Rev. Peter Christ - Prince of Peace, Roseville (North Central Conference)
3. The Rev. Caroline Harthun-Woolridge (second term) - Faith, St. Paul (City Conference)
4. The Rev. Tim Maybee - Amazing Grace, Inver Grove Heights (Southeast Conference)
5. Melissa Taphorn (second term) - Shepherd of the Valley, Apple Valley (South Conference)

**Nominating Committee – 3-year term**
1. Linda Born - Trinity, North Branch (North Conference)
2. The Rev. Marty Wyatt - Roseville, Roseville (North Central Conference)
3. Marybeth Stoltz - Augustana, West St. Paul (Southeast Conference)
4. Birdie Olson - St. James, Burnsville (South Conference)

Elections at Synod Assembly
The following elections will take place during this assembly:

**Synod Council, At-Large, Lay – 1-year term**
1. Toya Dragseth - St. Anthony Park, St. Paul

**Synod Council, Youth – 2-year term**
1. Lovetta Kamara - Redeemer, White Bear Lake

**Synod Council, Young Adult – 3-year term**
1. William Siong, Jr. - Eternal Flame, Vadnais Heights

**Committee on Discipline, Clergy – 6-year term**
1. The Rev. Sue Gravelle - Newport, Newport
2. The Rev. Rich Larson - Trinity, Stillwater
3. The Rev. Wendy Steger - All Saints, Eagan

**Committee on Discipline, Lay – 6-year term**
1. Russ Carlson - Grace, St. Paul

**Consultation Committee, Clergy – 6-year term**
1. The Rev. Tammy Wilkinson - Beaver Lake, Maplewood
2. The Rev. Jon Yurk - Christ the Servant, Vadnais Heights

**Consultation Committee, Lay – 6-year term**
1. Jeff Murray - Resurrection, Woodbury

Nominating Committee 2023
The Rev. Brice Bloxham - Shepherd of the Hills, Shoreview
Katie Hendriksen - Augustana, West St. Paul
Kirsten Levorson - Shepherd of the Valley, Apple Valley
*Lynne Moratzka - Elim, Scandia
The Rev. Dan Streeper - Redeemer, White Bear Lake
Melissa Taphorn - Shepherd of the Valley, Apple Valley (Synod Council representative)
The Rev. Karen Williams - Grace, St. Paul
The Rev. Justin Grimm - Synod staff
*committee chair
NOMINEES FOR ELECTION AT SYNOD ASSEMBLY

SYNOD COUNCIL - AT LARGE, LAY

Toya Dragseth - St. Anthony Park, St. Paul
As a member of St. Anthony Park Lutheran in St. Paul, I have served/volunteered for many things including teaching Sunday School, chaperoning youth trips and participating in church council. Currently I am part of our Worship, Music and Arts Commission. As a community member I have served on the Midway YMCA Community Board for the last five years. I also participate in the Parent Teacher Organization at the schools my daughter and son attend. I have attended Synod Assembly twice and was elected as the lay person of color, allowing me the opportunity to participate in the ELCA Churchwide Assembly last year in Columbus. I am currently part of the Advocates for Racial Equity work group.

SYNOD COUNCIL - YOUTH

Lovetta Kamara - Redeemer, White Bear Lake
I am a member at Redeemer Lutheran in White Bear Lake. I really love doing things for my church, my family, and I have been going to my church for many years now. I am involved in church by being a part of confirmation and singing in the church.

SYNOD COUNCIL - YOUNG ADULT

William Siong, Jr. - Eternal Flame, Vadnais Heights
I am involved at Eternal Flame, Vadnais Heights, with the church band as the drummer. I also assist with church planning with the worship team. I am involved in youth activities and youth engagement. I also volunteer with any of my church fundraising, or any work related within the church.

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE - CLERGY

The Rev. Sue Gravelle - Newport, Newport
I have served as a voting member for the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, served on the Reference and Counsel Committee (four years) as well as serving as a representative of the SPAS for the Augsburg Corporation (four years). Newport Lutheran Church in Newport has a strong presence in the community. As a pastor serving Newport Lutheran I am involved in community outreach in the area, including the local elementary school. Globally, I have traveled to Tanzania to visit our companion congregation in Kimala (2013 & 2016) and plan on visiting again in 2024.
The Rev. Rich Larson - Trinity, Stillwater
I want to work hard to promote healthy pastors and healthy congregations. I look forward to helping the synod with congregations and pastors that are working through difficult situations. I currently attend Trinity Lutheran in Stillwater. I am recently retired from Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Bayport. For 43 years I have served the church and the synod on several levels. My experience as a successful parish pastor should be of value to the synod Discipline Committee. I look forward to serving in this capacity.

The Rev. Wendy Steger - All Saints, Eagan
As pastor of All Saints in Eagan, I am involved in our congregation’s coalition with other South Metro area churches for anti-racism awareness and education. I volunteer with the Eagan Rotary as the chair of New Generations activities, promoting service and volunteerism in partnership with Eagan High School, and I am in the Second Act cohort through the Lilly Grant in the Saint Paul Area Synod.

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE - LAY

Russ Carlson - Grace, St. Paul
I serve as the director of music ministries at Grace Lutheran in St. Paul. I served as the parish administrator of Immanuel Lutheran Church on Snelling Ave in St. Paul for 15 years until retirement in 2019.

CONSULTATION COMMITTEE - CLERGY

The Rev. Tammy Wilkinson - Beaver Lake, Maplewood
I began my call in 2021, where I am serving as pastor at Beaver Lake Lutheran Church in Maplewood. What I appreciate about my role is the opportunity to not only serve the church community, but to also be involved in the wider community. We have wonderful partnerships with a daycare and Hmong church that shares our building, our neighbors at Achieve Language Academy, as well as other local and church community partnerships. I am deeply committed to community involvement, faith formation and our community garden. This past year, I have co-developed and taught courses in Word and Watercolor with a local pastor, which explores Scripture, art and prayer. I have been very involved in our community garden efforts to not only grow food for our community, but to engage our neighbors in gardening. My dream is to continue engaging more people in learning about how to grow food, share food with other gardeners, and give abundantly those in need. When I’m not at church, I enjoy spending time outside with my family hiking and canoeing, as well as visiting with our neighbors.
The Rev. Jonathan Yurk - Christ the Servant, Vadnais Heights
I was recently called to be the redevelopment pastor at Christ the Servant in Vadnais Heights. I care deeply about community outreach and enjoy exploring new ways to love and serve our neighbors. I have been involved in stewardship and strategic planning at the synod level when I was in the Sierra Pacific Synod. I look forward to the opportunity to get more involved in the Saint Paul Area Synod!

CONSULTATION COMMITTEE - LAY

Jeff Murray - Resurrection, Woodbury
My wife, Jennifer, and I have been lifelong Lutherans and joined Resurrection in Woodbury in 2016. My past Resurrection service involvement was serving on our mission leadership team in the roles of secretary and president. I am currently involved in the greeter/usher ministries and stay immersed in the appropriate groups that keep me connected. With my recent retirement I have been pursuing various community volunteer opportunities in providing food, shelter and education to those in need.
ELECTED AT CONFERENCE ASSEMBLIES

The following persons were elected to three-year terms during Conference Assemblies on Feb. 25 at Shepherd of the Valley, Apple Valley.

CONFERENCE DEAN

The Rev. Kirsten Fryer - Bethlehem in the Midway, St. Paul (City Conference)
Prior to serving at Bethlehem in the Midway (St. Paul), I served as pastor of St. Andrew’s United Church in Cairo through ELCA Global Mission and as associate pastor at Peace Lutheran in Waunakee, Wis. I really appreciate the model of accompaniment used by ELCA Global Mission and am particularly interested in the ways that we can use this model for congregational life. I currently serve on the synod’s Vitality Team and served on Synod Council in South Central Wisconsin. I am also involved in the work of the Union Park District Council in St. Paul and have really enjoyed meeting neighbors and listening for ideas for building community throughout our little corner of St. Paul. I love finding ways to connect people across generations, vocations and congregations.

The Rev. Patrick Joiner - Luther Memorial, South St. Paul (Southeast Conference)
I am the pastor of Luther Memorial Church in South St. Paul. I have served this congregation and community for seven years in a variety of roles. During my time here, we have worked together to spread the love of Christ in our community through worship, fellowship and service to our neighbors. I am honored to walk with the faithful people of this congregation and to work alongside the Saint Paul Area Synod to be the Body of Christ in the world that God so loves!

The Rev. Peter Christ - Prince of Peace, Roseville (North Central Conference)
God grabbed ahold of me and won't let go. I have been serving at Prince of Peace in Roseville for the past seven years. This gifted community of faith is a vibrant expression of the Body of Christ and deeply committed to loving our neighbors in Roseville and around the globe. Before coming to PoP, I served in the Montana Synod as a Synodically Authorized Minister, where I also owned and operated a restaurant and related enterprises for 18 years and while studying at Luther Seminary. I currently serve on the advisory board for The Lutheran Center in Iringa, Tanzania, and as a synod representative to Augsburg University. I’m known to wear bowties, especially on Tuesdays. While I love being called to the church, I’m passionate about food, wine, travel and my family.

SYNOD COUNCIL

George Mickelsen - Zion, Chisago City (North Conference)
My wife and I have been faithful and active members at Zion in Chisago City for 23 years. I have previously served as an elementary Sunday school teacher and on our church council as congregational president, vice president, and currently on varied committees and church functions. I serve on the visitation team visiting shut-ins to build relationships and commune them. Upon retirement we have assisted at the local food shelf and Meals on Wheels.

The Rev. Peter Christ - Prince of Peace, Roseville (North Central Conference)
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The Rev. Caroline Harthun-Wooldridge - Faith, St. Paul (City Conference)
I have been at Faith in Frogtown since December 2019. Before I came to Faith, they kept their doors shut to the community. After my arrival, we implemented a free store in the basement, which has now evolved from a clothing store to a food pantry, open Thursdays 12-2 p.m. I was able to bring in community partnerships with Shobi’s Table (the big blue food truck serves pay-as-you-can lunches from our parking lot every Thursday), as well as with the Animal Humane Society, which provides free dog and cat food to our food pantry. We have a partnership with Ramsey County Sheriff’s Department, which delivers prepackaged frozen meals every week, and we distribute them to all in need. Our biggest mission partner is Recovery Café Frogtown, which rents space from us three days a week, and offers community, meals, and programming. This is a safe space and place for hope and healing, as recovery takes on all forms: addiction, mental health, grief, etc. I lead a Bible study every Tuesday with them. I serve on the board of Recovery Café Frogtown. We also have a partnership with 94.1-FM WFNU Frogtown Community Radio. I host a radio show every Wednesday 3-4 p.m., “The Woo Hoo Hour with the Preacher Lady,” which sheds light on positive things going on in our community.

The Rev. Tim Maybee - Amazing Grace, Inver Grove Heights (Southeast Conference)
In the last 10 years, I’ve served two congregations of God’s beloved children, the first in Circle Pines and now at Amazing Grace, Inver Grove Heights. In my years of ministry I’ve found particular fulfillment in creating space for people to connect in relationship with God and others. Leadership in both the SPAS/MAS CYF Team and the SPAS Advocates for Racial Equity have provided the means to pursue this fulfillment. I’ve also been involved with various campaigns with Isaiah and have had the privilege of organizing community connections between the non-profit sector, faith community, mental health sector, and school system in the Centennial school district through the “Centennial Confab” group. My passion lies in working with the church to be more outward-facing and involved with the larger community context.

Melissa Taphorn - Shepherd of the Valley, Apple Valley (South Conference)
I enjoy living my faith through volunteering my time and talents to the church. I have actively participated in the SPAS Council for the past two years. I had the honor of attending ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August 2022. I am currently the president of my church council at Shepherd of the Valley in Apple Valley, and volunteer in a variety of the ministries there.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Linda Born - Trinity, North Branch (North Conference)
I have been a member of Trinity Lutheran in North Branch since 1984. I have been on the church council and also have been a Sunday School teacher and a confirmation leader. Now that I am retired, I volunteer with different things going on in our church like Vikings Vittles and other things.
The Rev. Marty Wyatt - Roseville, Roseville (North Central Conference)
I am one year into my first call as associate pastor at Roseville Lutheran and looking forward to getting to know people better on the synod level. I’ve enjoyed getting to know the people and community in Roseville where my focuses include children, youth, and family and working with our justice groups on engaging with our neighbors in God’s work in the world.

Marybeth Stoltz - Augustana, West St. Paul (Southeast Conference)
Wanting to worship and be more involved in a faith community closer to our new home, my husband and I joined Augustana Lutheran Church in West St. Paul in 1990. Over the years, I have been engaged in several ways at ALC including Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, confirmation Lenten mentoring, and other church programs and ministries. I have served on the harvest fund and youth & family committees, chaired the social ministry and personnel committees, and served as vice president and president of the congregation. One highlight was chaperoning our son and other senior high youth to Tanzania in 2012. I am recently retired and feel blessed to where God has led me on my faith journey and look forward to new ways in which to serve Him and the wider church.

Roberta (Birdie) Olson - St. James, Burnsville (South Conference)
I have been actively involved in the synod over the last 15 years, serving on the Synod Council, the Bishop Election Committee, delegate to churchwide assembly, and Candidacy Committee for two terms. I have recently served as president of St. James in Burnsville and am currently serving on the Iringa Committee as cluster leader for the South Conference. I am also serving currently on the pastoral care team at St. James.
Living in Hope, the theme for the 2023 Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly, reminds us that we have been given a living and vital faith in our baptism into Jesus Christ. Such a living hope is more than a description of us as Christians. It also describes God’s intention for the whole creation. It is God’s will that the whole cosmos reverberate with God’s glory and grace.

Yet, our eyes and ears tell us that all is not well. Severe weather events are on the rise. The polar ice cap is melting. Human architecture encroaches on what were once woodlands and prairies. An increasing number of animals are on the endangered species list. Our physical senses cause us to wonder what we have done to the earth that is our home. And yet, our calling is to live in hope, not cower in defeat.

With decades of experience in connecting the scriptures to environmental concerns, Dr. Barbara Rossing, our assembly keynote presenter, will give us reasons to be hopeful even as we address the reality of climate change in our own day. I am eager to learn from her and trust you are, too.

Looking ahead
At this midpoint in my second term, I have been praying and reflecting on what I hope we will accomplish together by the end of my time as bishop in the summer of 2026. I am so grateful when I witness the cohesiveness and relative financial stability we have realized over the past nine years.

While all congregations in the synod have been tested by COVID-19 pandemic realities, so many are rebounding with a fresh commitment to vitality and renewed engagement in the communities where they are located, including around issues of racial justice. Two congregations closed this past year – Hope in St. Paul and Faith in Rosemount. Both concluded their ministry with a spirit of confidence in God’s ongoing mission and trust that God would continue to work through their legacy of generosity. May the same be said of each of us when our season in a ministry – or even our earthly life – comes to a close.

There are many dynamic changes afoot in our world and in the life of religious institutions. You see those, too. Attendance at weekly worship services, the engagement of families with children and youth, vigorous outreach to new or unchurched neighbors, candidates for ordination as pastors or deacons, connections to a national structure – these assets all look different than they did in 2019. This isn’t simply a response to the pandemic. These are signs (and opportunities) that arise in a post-Christendom world in the West.

As I have said before, we are not the first generation that has needed to rebuild the church in a time of cultural shifts and changes. But we are the first generation needing to do so in the context of 21st century realities.

Let me confess that this is a challenge I have been preparing for my whole life. Like other pilgrims and seekers from biblical times to the present, I am not a particularly patient person. I am itchy to see what God has in store for those of us called to be the church in this time and place, because I know that the church belongs to God, not to any of us, and God is not finished inspiring and leading us. I hope you have some enthusiasm for that discovery, too.

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1 I have found encouragement in books like Stefan Paas’ Pilgrims and Priests: Christian Mission in a Post-Christian Society, SCM Press, 2019.
How, then, do we best live out our mission as a synod in such a world? We are fortunate to have a history of understanding the church to be both global and local. Our work with the Diocese of Iringa in Tanzania and the Augustinian Lutheran Church in Guatemala stretches us beyond the realities and the vicissitudes of life in America. The rich engagement of so many congregations with their near neighbors and the blossoming work of The Planting Hope Campaign's investment on the East Side of St. Paul signal an understanding of being church that doesn’t end at the walls of a building.

What will happen as we take heart and begin to intentionally and personally invite all sorts of neighbors into life in Christ with us? It’s easy to anticipate that some will shrug or dismiss our efforts to invite them into an unusual lifestyle that is more about serving others than serving self. But what of the three or four, the dozens or hundreds, who have been waiting to encounter the kind of community we have found in the church? I say it’s high time we find out.

Though mission support dollars have diminished over the past two decades, congregations continue to honor this financial partnership as a core expression of their life and work. I am so grateful for that. However, it is not realistic to expect total mission support revenue to increase in coming years.

Given that financial realism, we need to invest strategically the dollars we steward as a synod. There are three chief areas in my mind – synod staff, congregational vitality, and equipping leaders. Supporting our strengths in those three areas seems to me the best way to guide this synod through the uncharted, but Spirit-led, days ahead. You will see those priorities in the 2024 synod budget presented at the assembly.

**Update on The Planting Hope Campaign**

Launched in 2020, we are well into this synod-wide campaign. Though we were slowed down during the pandemic years, we have received $876,450 to date toward the $2.75 million goal. We are on our way. This year, $125,000 was allocated as additional funding for congregational vitality, supporting our new mission starts and redevelopment efforts. Another $50,000 disbursal was made to inaugurate the paid internships for young adults. You will hear more about this initiative at the assembly.

Having paid for consultants and communication tools, we have raised $567,320 toward the $1,000,000 check we hope to present to Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota in our partnership to bring a therapeutic preschool to the East Side of St. Paul. A number of congregations have been raising funds toward this during Lent and into Easter. Several foundations are considering grant requests. But how can we reach that $1 million goal unless all of us and every congregation step forward? It will take all of us to accomplish this.

In case you wonder, I do trust that God will bring this good work to completion and joyfully contribute myself to the campaign each month.

**Thanks to the synod staff and you**

The Synod Assembly offers an excellent opportunity to thank those who serve on the synod staff. They include Rachel Holsten, front office administrator and event planner, who started work with us last August; Mary Smith, director of communications; David Roinas, finance administrator; Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer, assistant to the bishop for lay leadership and equity initiatives; Pastor Justin Grimm, director for evangelical mission and assistant to the bishop for congregational vitality; Deacon Krista Lind, assistant to the bishop for vocational formation; Leslie Ortiz, executive assistant to the bishop and program director for the Lilly Grant’s Thriving in Ministry Initiative; Kirsten Levorson, who became the director for Bega Kwa Bega last September; and Ryan and Astine Bose, who continue to serve as short-term volunteers with BKB in Iringa, Tanzania.

Finally, there are all of you: lay leaders in congregations, rostered ministers, prayer partners, curious readers, loving critics or quiet supporters. I thank you for taking seriously the work of the synod, which is part of God’s splendid and redemptive activity in our world. In your own way, you also are an agent of living hope. It remains my privilege to serve alongside you as the bishop of this synod. Thank you.

Bishop Patricia Lull
Holy Week, 2023
“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age’” (Matthew 28:18-20).

Dear siblings in Christ,

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

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

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

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

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

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
INFORME DE LA OBISPO PRESIDENTA

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

Queridos(as) hermanos(as) en Cristo:

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

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

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

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

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

En Cristo,

La Rvda. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Obispa Presidenta
Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en América
The synod’s Guatemala Committee exists to “help guide and coordinate our walk together with our Christian brothers and sisters in the Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala (ILAG) in an authentic and mutually transformative companion synod relationship, through prayerful support, communication, projects and exchange of visitors.” 2022 was a year of renewal and reengagement coming out of the pandemic. We began the year still in the distancing mindset but ended coming together in a celebration of God’s abundance.

The committee has focused on staying in touch with our partners in ILAG and supporting four of ILAG’s priorities.

**Staying in touch**

- Said goodbye to Pastors Nick Fisher-Broin and Peter Harrits and welcomed Juli Smith and Bishop Lull to the committee.
- Celebrated a new partnership with King of Kings, Woodbury. There are now 14 Minnesota churches partnered with the ILAG.
- Hosted three Guatemala Friends events, in addition to the annual gala, over the course of the year highlighting the SEEDS Agriculture project, the health ministry, and resumptions of in-person visits respectively. The July gathering was a return to meeting in person.
- Introduced a new Facebook page in July, which celebrates the good news of the church in Guatemala.
- Continued to publish *Caminando Juntos (Walking Together)* – our monthly email which shares stories, updates and other information.
- Hosted an in-person Guatemala Gala in October raising over $110,000 for ILAG ministries. The special emphasis for the synod continues to be the Colegio Luterano Agustino de Guatemala, the elementary school in Guatemala City.
- Sponsored a delegation visit to the Lutheran Center to learn how to navigate pandemic protocols and reconnect with ILAG staff as we begin resuming in-person visits.
- Established new processes for scheduling and preparing for delegation visits.
- Continued to remind supporters to pause for prayer with ILAG staff each Friday at 4:00.

**Leadership**

- Supported various leadership development activities as noted in the following highlights:
  - Leadership retreats are held quarterly, both regionally and at the Lutheran Center. Retreats focused on gratitude, study of Lutheran liturgy and emotional intelligence.
  - Agreements made to strengthen leadership ministry, especially women’s and children’s ministry with materials and workshops for Sunday school teachers.
  - Many men are encouraging women to become a part of the leadership training and hoping they will accept the call.
  - Support for teachers in the schools where there is a school in the village. Thinking of a daycare in some churches.
  - Serious concerns about villages (congregations) where many males have migrated to the U.S.
  - Rejoiced with several communities that are actively upgrading church grounds and constructing new churches, kitchens, and fellowship spaces.
- Supported the initiative to provide churches with iPads to improve communication and minimize isolation due to the pandemic and remote locations. The ILAG and local leaders are collaborating with community commissions and cell phone companies to secure internet connection into more of the villages.

**Music**

- Music class and instruction continues during this school year for Milagro students. The first Milagro Recital of 2022 was held via Zoom on May 25, providing 15 young women of Milagro an opportunity to share with us their musical knowledge.
Health

- Exploring options for expanding the health ministry participation in the synod is currently led by Spring Garden Lutheran Church, Cannon Falls; a delegation from this church is booked for a trip to Guatemala in early 2024.
- Held virtual classes during the school year with the Milagro women focused on nutritional options for the community facilitated by Joan Felice and Randee Edmundson.
- Presented on-site nutrition classes in 2022 at ILA Cristo, Luz del Mundo, Santa Amelia, and ILA San Agustín, La Esmerelda, during a November trip made by Joan and Randee.
- The SEED project is going well and the experimental garden plots are successful. Communities are now growing radishes, celery, pineapple, papaya, garlic, onions and cabbage. More families are showing interest in this voluntary program and entire family units are getting involved, up to 83 families in May; seven communities over the course of the year. In addition to families in the ILAG churches, the SEED project is an outreach program to others in the village who are interested.

Education

- Supported the Colegio Luterano Agustino de Guatemala. Highlights include:
  
  **Building**
  - $35,000 mortgage payment made to the ELCA.
  - CLAG building – One section of the school was demolished and will be repurposed as a salon for special school events such as graduation; flooring on entire first floor.
  - Five more classrooms were added to accommodate 192 students.

  **People**
  - CLAG elementary school was in hybrid mode for 2022. Some kids were 100% virtual but others were present two days per week, taking turns per week.
  - The school added three more teachers in 2023; the staff includes seven teachers plus a coordinator. All students meet at the inviting, learning space this year.
  - Classes are in person for the 2023 school year.

  **Scholarships**
  - 24 youth and adults are continuing their education with scholarships.

In closing, we want to acknowledge the 14 Minnesota congregations from the Saint Paul Area, Southeastern Minnesota, and Minneapolis Area synods that have accompanied ILAG this past year and pass on the thanks and blessings from Pastora Karen Castillo and whole ILAG community.

Thank you for your incredible generosity as we’ve walked together with the ILAG in the past year.

May God’s Peace be with you all,

Saint Paul Area Synod Guatemala Committee

Guatemala Committee:
Joel McDermott (Chair) - Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Roseville
Kim Becker (Vice Chair) - Easter, Eagan
Marge Hoffmann – Grace, Apple Valley
Becky Maier (Secretary) - Our Savior’s, Stillwater
Deanne Mann – Our Savior’s, Circle Pines
Julie Printz – Gloria Dei, St. Paul
Jennifer Reinhardt – Augustana, West St. Paul
Juli Smith - Our Savior’s, Circle Pines
Janet Metcalfe (non-voting member) – Augustana, West St. Paul
Bishop Patricia Lull (Synod staff)
David Roinas (Synod staff)
Mambo Muhimu [Highlights]

- 130 Saint Paul Area Synod travelers resumed visits to Iringa
- Rev. Jiskaka Lwila and Assistant to the Bishop Askali Mgeyekwa were featured Fall Festival guests
- Program Coordinators Ryan & Astine Bose toured synod congregations in December
- Fiscal Year End 2022 showed our first net gain since before the pandemic
- Pastor Lusungu Msigwa returned to the BKB – DIRA office as International Affairs Officer
- The multi-purpose building’s third and final phase of construction was completed at Mtera Secondary School
- Dignity for Daughters began providing reproductive health education and period kits to students in diocese secondary schools
- $350,000+ was pledged to support 1,000+ scholarship students, including students from 76 partnered and 31 unpartnered parishes
- $30,000+ funded 50 college and university scholarships

Pamoja [Together]

After two and a half years of companionship at a distance, managing to connect through email and Zoom, we rejoice to be in person, face to face, and shoulder to shoulder with our siblings in Christ again. Bwana Yesu Asifiwe!

About 50 Saint Paul Area Synod travelers made the journey to Iringa in 2022, and 80 more followed in January 2023. Each group was met and welcomed by Bishop Gaville and diocese leaders. Another dozen groups are scheduled to visit during the remainder of 2023. The pent-up demand for travel brings larger groups and high energy to these visits, renewing and strengthening the bonds of companionship, and propelling many project plans forward. At the same time, our time apart during the pandemic demonstrated the value of tools like WhatsApp and Zoom to enhance our communication between visits. We are grateful for technology and the people who can facilitate its use for our benefit.

Changamoto [Challenges]

In 1987, the Iringa Diocese was established with 24 parishes; now there are 130. Ten years ago, there were 70 parishes and each one was paired with a U.S. companion; now 76 have a BKB partner and 54 parishes are unpartnered. Our Tanzanian companions give us some credit for their growth, thanking us for sending pastoral candidates to seminary and for contributing to the construction of new chapels around the diocese. While we know those gifts helped, we acknowledge that the amazing growth of the Tanzanian church is owed to the dedicated work of the indigenous church, and to the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our challenge in the days and years to come is to continue to find ways to practice accompaniment and companionship with the entire Iringa Diocese. While we have seen congregation to parish pairings bear much fruit and deep faith on both sides of this companionship, we also seek out ways for our entire synod – congregations, pastors and congregants – to walk alongside our Tanzanian brothers and sisters in Christ in new patterns and on new pathways.

Matumaini [Hopes]

We are full of hope for the future of Bega Kwa Bega and our relationship with the people of the Iringa Diocese. We are grateful for the good stewardship of financial resources which enabled BKB to weather the pandemic years, maintain our core functions, and emerge in a positive financial position.
We are grateful for the deep joy we experience in the resumption of face-to-face, in-person visits with our companions, both in Iringa and in Minnesota. We are grateful for the new technological tools we learned to use during the pandemic, and know they will continue to enrich our communication between visits.

We are grateful for the faithful witness of our Tanzanian companions, and all that they teach us about living in the hope of Christ, and sharing the good news with all people.

On this firm foundation, and with the collaboration of our companions, we are hopeful for the ministry yet to come.

Caryn Josephson, Chair of the Iringa Committee
Kirsten Levorson, Director of Bega Kwa Bega

Iringa Committee Members:

Caryn Josephson (Chair) - Prince of Peace, Roseville
Deacon Stephanie Anderson - Augustana, West St. Paul
The Rev. Joy McDonald Coltvet - Christ on Capitol Hill, St. Paul
Barb Damlo - Christus Victor, Apple Valley
Elizabeth Hendrickson - King of Kings, Woodbury
Russ Hilliard - Holy Trinity, Newton NH
Michael Johnson - Trinity, Stillwater
Jim Josephson - Prince of Peace, Roseville
Barbara Lind - House of Prayer, Oakdale
The Rev. Karsten Nelson - Our Redeemer, St. Paul
Birdie Olson - St. James, Burnsville

Ginny Rudolph - Augustana, West St. Paul
The Rev. Chris Smith - Shepherd of the Valley, Apple Valley
The Rev. Dale Stiles - St. Paul, Wyoming
The Rev. Lynda Thompson - Incarnation, Shoreview
Jo Whiting - Holy Trinity, Newington NH
Jim Wolf - St. Mark’s, North St. Paul
Helen Yotter - Amazing Grace, Inver Grove Heights
Bishop Patricia Lull (Synod staff)
Kirsten Levorson (Synod staff)
David Roinas (Synod staff)

2023 Bega Kwa Bega Approved Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Approved 2022 Budget</th>
<th>2022 Actual</th>
<th>Approved 2023 Budget</th>
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<td>Administrative Fees</td>
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<td>(long-term volunteers &amp; ambassadors)</td>
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<td>Rental Income</td>
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<td>Total Income</td>
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*continued, next page*
## Expenses

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<td>Office SPAS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fuel &amp; Maintenance</td>
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<td><strong>Net Operating Income</strong></td>
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Living in hope — what a great theme for our Synod Assembly. Each year, the Synod Assembly allows me the opportunity to take a look back on the past 12 months and to revel in the amazing way God continues to bring hope to life through you and your ministries. Hope is alive in our synod and I am so honored to be part of proclaiming the Gospel with each and everyone of you. Also, through this call, I get to work with an amazing staff on a regular basis, and a vitality team of leaders that are committed to bringing vitality about in our synod. It is this — seeing God again and again in new and familiar ways that allows me to live in hope alongside of each of you.

The guiding foundation behind this work is the purpose statement of our Synod Vitality Team which is, “Rooted in the Holy, we stand together with congregations to reshape the church for the future.” In addition to that purpose, we live into it through the following values: listening, collaboration, innovation, equipping, endless possibility. To me, that foundation and those values truly proclaim living in hope. Below are just a few highlights of the work of Vitality in our synod.

**Synod Authorized Worshiping Communities and Strategic Ministries**

One of the most inspiring ways I think we are living in hope is by the way we, as synod, support the work of our Synod Authorized Worshiping Communities (SAWCs) and our Strategic Ministries. SAWCs are our newest congregations that we together support through funding and prayer. Currently, we support five of these ministries: Humble Walk, Cristo Rey, Foundation of Life, Eternal Flame (formerly Good Samaritan), and Shobi’s Table — and wow are they doing amazing ministry. It would be impossible to even begin to tell you much of their story on this page so please seek them out at assembly and beyond. Follow their journey, offer prayer, listen, learn. They are us — communities of the synod and they are bringing hope to life every single day.

In addition to new starts, we also support intentional redevelopment or strategic ministries. These are congregations that either were at a critical juncture or are established congregations serving ethnic specific populations. Today we have four of these: Minnesota Faith Chinese, Lutheran Church of Peace, Christ the Servant, and St. Paul in Wyoming. In addition to the day-to-day life of ministry, these congregations engage in specific efforts and trainings aimed at reaching out in new and innovative ways. Thank you for your mission support, which enables us to ensure these vital ministries can continue to thrive in hope.

**Tools for The Church**

Similar to what we did a year ago, the Synod Vitality team hosted three Tools for the Church events through the year. These day-long opportunities were signs of hope as we wrestled together around the question, “Where is God calling us to go now?” The three topics this year were: Mission, Vision, Values; Innovative Practices and Design Thinking; and Reaching Outside Your Walls. This work of vitality is foundational to congregations living into the hope that God has given them and it has been absolutely amazing to see the work pay off for congregations as they begin to get a clearer sense of who they are and why they exist. I can’t wait to see more of this happen this next year. The Vitality Team looks forward to hosting more of these events in 2023-2024. Join us!

**Generosity Culture Work**

Another key component of congregational vitality that I want to highlight is our work with congregations on generosity. In partnership with GSB Consulting, we have created two avenues for congregations to engage this work: Building a Culture of Generosity and Stewardship for All Seasons. Building a Culture of Generosity was offered in the
fall as a short-term process to help congregations do a general financial appeal while Stewardship for All Seasons engages the work of generosity all year long leading to a fall campaign as well as additional giving throughout the year. These processes have had notable success in the congregations that have participated and we look forward to offering them again this year. Financial sustainability is a key component to vitality and when we do it well it can indeed be an example of “living in hope!”

Resiliency Cohorts
The reality is that leading the church in this time is quite difficult and our pastors and deacons continue to do it with grace and giftedness. Upon hearing again and again from rostered leaders the reality of their call and its challenges, I worked with Mary Frances, a certified coach, to create a resiliency cohort that we offered twice this past year. More than 20 pastors and deacons took part in this and did some serious work on resiliency in ministry. I am grateful for Mary’s partnership as well as the willingness of these leaders to engage in this important work.

The last thing I will say is thank you for allowing me to do ministry in this synod alongside of you. I still consider my call to be the best call in the church and that is because of you and the hope you breathe and live. Thank you so much.

The Rev. Justin A. Grimm
Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational Vitality

Synod Vitality Team
Rev. Liz Eide - Lutheran Church of Peace, Maplewood
Rev. Kirsten Fryer - Bethlehem in the Midway, St. Paul
Rev. John Hierlinger - Gustavus Adolphus, St. Paul
Rev. Peter Weston Miller - Trinity, Stillwater
Rev. Julie Wright - Shepherd of the Valley, Apple Valley
Rev. Justin Grimm - Synod staff
Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer - Synod staff
REPORT ON LAY LEADERSHIP
& EQUITY INITIATIVES

The past year has been fruitful in the area of lay leadership. It is a pleasure to work with many engaged volunteers who are so committed to their congregations! Listed below are a few highlights related to the synod’s lay leadership ministries from the last year:

Online Series for Presidents and Vice Presidents of Congregations
An online series called “A Deeper Dive” was held in partnership with Dr. Dave Webb, former superintendent of the South St. Paul Public Schools. He is currently president of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Shoreview. This series consisted of five, one-hour sessions over Zoom covering topics that included governance vs. management, agenda building, the science behind decision making, leadership during anxious times, five reasons to call the Bishop (the Bishop presented one evening) and more. This has been a great way to accompany leaders throughout the year.

Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders
Dr. Dave Webb also led two sessions on Leadership for Congregational Presidents and VPs in late February at the Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders. More than 150 lay leaders gathered at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley for nine sessions that equipped and empowered lay leaders from around our synod. Those sessions included: “No More Next Time” (by-stander training), “Understanding Bias,” “Hybrid Ministry,” “Culture of Calling,” “Congregational Finance,” “Peer Ministry,” and “Graceful and Effective Advocacy.” The hope of each Tool Kit is that lay people can return to their congregations with new learnings and energy to engage more deeply in God’s mission.

Vitality and Advocates for Racial Equity
Synod Vitality events and Advocates for Racial Equity (ARE) events also include plenty of opportunities for learning and for growing lay leaders across the synod and beyond. ARE events focus on racial justice and Vitality events focus on a range of topics from evangelism and outreach to demographics and storytelling. Scores of leaders attend these events and workshops each year. Lay leaders are able to take a number of tools and learnings back to their own contexts and hopefully find life-giving ways to apply them!

Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer
Assistant to the Bishop for Lay Leadership and Equity Initiatives
REPORT ON THE LILLY GRANT

In 2018, the synod was awarded a grant through the Lilly Endowment’s Thriving in Ministry Initiative. This grant was designed to equip three specific groups of the synod’s rostered ministers:

- Those interested in senior/executive leadership of large congregations (Kubernesis Seminar);
- Those in years 4-10 of public ministry (Second Act Cohort); and
- Leaders who identify as people of color (Leaders of Color Cohort).

We are now in our final program year of this grant. Interruptions due to the pandemic and shifts in program leadership have impacted each of our participants and the program, but together we have explored what it means to be vibrant and resilient as leaders in the challenges of our time.

2022-2023 finally saw several meaningful gatherings for our participants. Relationships were built, projects and challenges were shared, strong mentors walked with participants, and skilled facilitators guided them through learning and reflection.

Kubernesis Seminar:
Our Kubernesis Seminar group took a capstone sailing trip in the Apostle Islands of Lake Superior. They were joined by two senior leaders (retired pastors from our synod, Glenn Berg-Moberg and Rich Larson) who were brought into the experience to deepen the reflection of participants and assist in the integration of aggregate learnings. Also included was Anna Marsh, the previous grant director. Anna had been with this cohort from the start and it was a gift to the participants to have her present for this final leg of their journey.

In Greek, the word Kubernesis is related to “steering a ship” and an actual sailing trip became the grounding experience and metaphor for the life of faith and leadership.

Second Act Cohort:
The second cycle of the Second Act Cohort met monthly with two Bible scholars (Corrine L. Carvalho, Ph.D., and Diane L. Jacobson, Ph.D.) who facilitated deep reflection and conversation around Scripture. Participants worked closely with mentors exploring their capacity for deep reflection on life, service and the world.

They also invested grant funding in congregational projects centered around scripture and in personal enrichment including spiritual direction, retreats and continuing education.
Leaders of Color Cohort:
Our leaders of color cohort members were offered opportunity for rest and renewal and then gathered for a retreat in Sedona, Ariz., facilitated by Rev. Aqueelah Ligonde, D.Min. Participants at the retreat identified and presented to synod staff assets and challenges they see within our synod as leaders of color. They named the values that they see as operative within our synod, and they identified key action steps for their flourishing in the life of the synod, both as a cohort and in relationship with synod staff.

Participants shared appreciation for the opportunity for “deep introspection,” the time and space to truly connect with peers, and the openness of the synod staff to receive feedback and calls for deeper collaboration.

I am grateful for the warm welcome that I have received and the rich experiences I have been able to share with these rostered leaders and with many members of the synod this past year.

Leslie M. Ortiz
Lilly Grant Program Director and Executive Assistant to the Bishop
**OBSERVANCES**

**Roster Anniversaries**  
*Ordination, Commissioning, Consecration*

**25 Years**  
The Rev. Richard Baumann  
Deacon Elaine Brant  
The Rev. Luther Dale  
The Rev. Darin Easler  
The Rev. David Killeen  
Deacon Krista Lind  
The Rev. John Marboe  
The Rev. Steven Pannkuk  
The Rev. Diane Sponheim  
The Rev. Lauren Wrightsman

**65 Years**  
The Rev. Robert Johnson  
The Rev. Keith Lentz

**70 Years**  
The Rev. Thomas Schultz

**50 Years**  
The Rev. James Barsch  
The Rev. Mark Becker  
The Rev. Brian Bergin  
The Rev. Paul Bjorklund  
The Rev. James Borgschatz  
The Rev. Paul Larsen  
The Rev. Jerome Malak  
The Rev. Peter Rognness

**75 Years**  
The Rev. Robert Albers  
The Rev. Gary Anderson  
The Rev. Eldon DeWeerth  
The Rev. William Eisenmann  
The Rev. Gary Langness  
The Rev. Erik Saxvik  
The Rev. James Sbertoli  
The Rev. George Weinman

**80 Years**  
The Rev. John Degelau  
The Rev. Perry Hanson  
The Rev. James Jensen  
The Rev. Daniel Johns

**Congregation Anniversaries**

**25 Years**  
Resurrection, Woodbury

**125 Years**  
St. Mark, St. Paul

**Retirements**

The Rev. Karri Anderson  
The Rev. Randy Brandt  
The Rev. Allen Dundek  
The Rev. Lisa Richardson Engen  
The Rev. Mary Froiland  
The Rev. Janet Karvonen-Montgomery  
The Rev. Richard Larson  
The Rev. Shen Yen Lin  
The Rev. Jennifer Mason  
The Rev. Terry Nordheim  
The Rev. Sandra Rothschilder

**In Remembrance**

The Rev. Ramona Anderson - May 10, 2022  
The Rev. Norman Belland - July 19, 2022  
The Rev. Don Fultz - October 2, 2022  
The Rev. Glen Hanggi - November 16, 2022  
The Rev. Philip Heide - October 30, 2022  
The Rev. William Larson - August 30, 2022  
The Rev. Paul Martinson - August 19, 2022  
The Rev. Richard Nelson - October 21, 2022  
The Rev. Edward Novak - June 24, 2022  
The Rev. Beverly Anne Robinson - January 15, 2023  
The Rev. Roger D. Schwartz - March 8, 2023  
The Rev. Cynthia Senarighi - March 4, 2023  
The Rev. James Shiell - January 31, 2023  
The Rev. William Strom - July 19, 2022  
The Rev. Daniel Zielske - October 30, 2022
New to the Synod
The Rev. David W. Anderson - Retired
The Rev. Ana Becerra - Cristo Rey, New Brighton
The Rev. Nancy Nord Bence - Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, St. Paul
The Rev. Kevin Bergeson - Easter, Eagan
The Rev. Terri Elton - Lutheran Church of Peace, Maplewood
The Rev. A. Joseph Everson - Retired
The Rev. Justin Fenger - Immanuel, Almelund
The Rev. Jua Jay Her - Eternal Flame, Vadnais Heights
The Rev. Amy Johnson - Highview Christiania, Farmington
The Rev. Brian King - Chisago Lake, Center City
The Rev. Victoria Kraus - Roseville, Roseville
Deacon Shirley Lee - Retired
The Rev. Eric Lesher - Bethlehem, Bayport
The Rev. Jennifer Luong - St. Mark, St. Paul
The Rev. Susan Modrow - Our Savior's, Circle Pines
The Rev. Dennis Ormseth - Retired
The Rev. Steve Pannkuk - Optage Presbyterian Homes, St. Paul
The Rev. Seth Perry - Elim, Scandia
The Rev. Beverly Robinson - Retired *(now deceased)*
The Rev. Sarah Rohde - Grace, Apple Valley
The Rev. Kristin Ross - On Leave From Call
The Rev. Dorothy Sandahl - Retired
The Rev. Joyce Sandberg - Retired
The Rev. Irving Sandberg - Retired
The Rev. Erik Sevig - Easter, Eagan
The Rev. Karen Treat - Memorial, Afton
The Rev. Thomas Tsen - Minnesota Faith Chinese, Roseville
REPORT OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL

The report of the Synod Council provides the Synod Assembly with a summary of the work undertaken by the council over the past year as required by the Constitution, Bylaws & Continuing Resolutions of the Saint Paul Area Synod.

What is the Synod Council?
Between meetings of the Synod Assembly, the Synod Council acts as the synod’s board of directors. The Synod Council meets at least five times annually. During those meetings, the Synod Council performs the following functions:

- exercises governance responsibilities as trustees on behalf of the synod;
- provides guidance and counsel to the bishop and synod staff, helping to support their work and the ministry of the synod;
- recommends significant program goals and the annual operating budget to the Synod Assembly;
- provides an annual review of the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament and the roster of ministers of Word and Service;
- approves synodical calls for interim appointments; and
- appoints individuals to committees, boards of partners in ministry, and other vacancies in synodical offices or positions until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

Who is on the Synod Council?
There are 17 voting members on the Synod Council. They include the four officers of the synod (bishop, vice president, treasurer and secretary), three lay persons and three rostered ministers elected from the conferences, one conference dean elected by the other conference deans, one youth, one young adult who may be either rostered or lay; and four members-at-large elected by the synod assembly (one pastor, one deacon, and two lay persons).

Advisory members of the Synod Council include the president of WELCA, assistants to the bishop, conference deans not elected to the voting position, a member of the ELCA Church Council from the Saint Paul Area Synod or, if there is no member from the Saint Paul Area Synod, the Minneapolis Area Synod, and the Synod Attorney.

What has the Synod Council Been Doing?
Since the 2022 meeting of the Synod Assembly, the Synod Council has:

- returned to in-person meetings rotating around congregations throughout the synod;
- approved a first phase distribution plan for funds raised through The Planting Hope Campaign and continued to support the efforts of the campaign;
- participated in a learning session on congregational renewal and our commitment to addressing racism and cultural humility;
- received updates from the 19 synod-affiliated organizations who received Gleaning from the Harvest grants;
- engaged in a focused discussion of the synod’s role in roster decisions and candidacy;
- approved a revision of the synod’s sexual misconduct policy;
- requested that the ELCA Church Council revise a continuing resolution to allow for interim calls for ministers of Word and Service; This was approved by the ELCA Church Council and forwarded to the Office of the Secretary for inclusion in the next update.
- recommended nominees to the ELCA Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church;
- monitored the synod’s finances and forwarded the recommended 2024 proposed budget to the Synod Assembly;
- appointed individuals to fill positions or vacancies on the Synod Council, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the Guatemala Committee, the Iringa Committee, the Candidacy Committee, assembly committees and various other board positions.
- extended 20 synodical calls, approved 55 changes to roster status, and provided for the annual review of the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament, the roster of ministers of Word and Service, and the roster of retired ministers.
- applied for a three-year sustainability grant for Thriving in Ministry initiative with the Lilly Endowment.

Yours in God’s service,
The Rev. Patricia Lull - Bishop
Jason Langworthy - Vice President (St. Anthony Park, St. Paul)
The Rev. Amanda Simons - Secretary (Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, St. Paul)
David Laden - Treasurer (Como Park, St. Paul)
The Rev. Caroline Harthun-Wooldridge - City Conference (Faith, St. Paul)
Spencer Legred - East Conference Representative (St. Andrew’s, Mahtomedi)
George Mickelsen - North Conference Representative (Zion, Chisago City)
Laurie Krachmer - North Central Conference Representative (St. Michael’s, Roseville)
Melissa Taphorn - South Conference Representative (Shepherd of the Valley, Apple Valley)
Helen Yotter - Southeast Conference Representative (Amazing Grace, Inver Grove Heights)
Jonah Sitorus – Youth Representative (Christ on Capitol Hill, St. Paul)
Teresa Bettman – Young Adult Representative (Christ the King, New Brighton)
Michael Collins - Member At-Large (Grace, Apple Valley) - through December 2022
The Rev. Nouk Vagh – Member At-Large (Hmong Central, St. Paul)
Richard Cedergren - Member At-Large (Fish Lake, Harris)
Deacon Tashina Good - Member At-Large (Shepherd of the Hills, Shoreview)
The Rev. Patrick Shebeck - Voting Dean - City Conference (St. Paul-Reformation, St. Paul)

Advisors
The Rev. Karna Moskalik - East Central Conference Dean (Our Savior’s, Stillwater)
The Rev. Nathan Baker-Trinity - North Conference Dean (First, Rush City)
The Rev. Ivy Huston - North Central Conference Dean (Living Waters, Lino Lakes)
The Rev. Lloyd Menke - South Conference Dean (Our Saviour’s, Hastings)
The Rev. Tanner Howard – Southeast Conference Dean (All Saints, Cottage Grove) – through March 10, 2023
The Rev. Patrick Joiner – Southeast Conference Dean (Luther Memorial, South St. Paul) – beginning March 11, 2023
Dawn Sargent - WELCA (St. Mark, Circle Pines)
Sarah Crippen - Synod Attorney (Gloria Dei, St. Paul)
The Rev. Justin Grimm - Synod staff
Deacon Krista Lind - Synod staff
Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer - Synod staff
REPORT OF THE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE

The Reference and Counsel Committee understands its purpose to be assisting the assembly in accomplishing its work on resolutions and memorials. To that end, the committee:

- Ensures resolutions and memorials are properly formatted and titled;
- Checks resolutions and memorials for factual accuracy;
- Reviews and edits resolutions and memorials submitted to provide the clearest possible wording;
- Considers consistence with established churchwide and synodical actions and policies;
- Makes recommendations to the assembly for proposed actions, generally as follows:
  - Recommends approval for those actions that are consistent with, support and extend the policy and ministry directions of the church;
  - Recommends disapproval for those proposed actions that are inconsistent with practice or would inhibit the work of the church;
  - Makes no recommendation in the case of resolutions which seek to ask for change or establish new policies or directions. In these cases, the committee seeks to lay the matter before the assembly as clearly as possible so that the assembly may make its own determination.

Resolutions Before the Assembly
The Reference and Counsel Committee recommends approval of:
Resolution 2023-1  At-Large POC Bylaw
Resolution 2023-2  Sacred Tiny House Communities
Resolution 2023-3  Amendment to Synod Constitution S8.52
Resolution 2023-4  Amendment to Synod Bylaw S10.01.06
Resolution 2023-5  Amendment to Synod Bylaw S9.20.05

Notice of Required Amendments to the Synod Constitution
The Constitution of the Saint Paul Area Synod will be revised to include all changes adopted at the August 2022 Churchwide Assembly in Columbus, Ohio. To review the adopted changes, see the Appendix at the back of this booklet or visit https://www.elca.org/constitution.

Reference and Counsel Committee
The Rev. Nathan Baker-Trinity - First, Rush City
The Rev. Cindy Bullock - Immanuel, St. Paul
*The Rev. Caroline Harthun-Wooldridge - Faith, St. Paul
The Rev. Keith Long - St. Luke, Cottage Grove
Deacon Bradley Mills - Atonement, New Brighton
Bishop Patricia Lull - Synod staff
*committee chair
Resolution 2023-1
For the Saint Paul Area Synod to add one at-large position to the synod council to be a Person of Color or whose first language is not English.

WHEREAS the Saint Paul Area Synod encompasses an ethnically diverse population; and

WHEREAS the Saint Paul Area Synod values ethnic diversity; and

WHEREAS the Saint Paul Area Synod’s Advocates for Racial Equity workgroup shows a commitment to address racial disparity; and

WHEREAS the Synod’s staff does not currently employ a Person of Color; and

WHEREAS efforts have been made by the nominating committee of the Saint Paul Area Synod to bring forth leaders of color; and

WHEREAS we acknowledge a lack of Persons of Color in leadership positions in the Saint Paul Area Synod;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that that the Saint Paul Area Synod, in assembly, amend bylaw S10.01.01. as follows:

The Synod Council shall include three lay persons and three rostered ministers persons elected from the conferences, four officers, one youth, one dean elected by the deans, one person of color and/or person whose primary language is other than English who may be either rostered or lay, one young adult who may be either rostered or lay, and four members at large (one Minister of Word and Sacrament, one Minister of Word and Service, and two lay persons) elected by the Synod Assembly.

The Nominating Committee shall select candidates for election to the Synod Council to maintain an appropriate balance of laypersons and rostered ministers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Saint Paul Area Synod, in assembly, direct the Synod Council to appoint an individual by August 2023 to the newly created position in accordance with S10.01.04. for a one-year term to expire on July 31, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Saint Paul Area Synod, in assembly, hold an election at the 2024 Synod Assembly to elect a person to the newly created position for a full three-year term.

Resolution 2023-2
For the Saint Paul Area Synod to Support Sacred Tiny House Communities.

WHEREAS, Minnesota has a severe lack of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, this shortage is particularly severe for those who are chronically homeless; and

WHEREAS, these individuals often have suffered significant trauma, loss of family and relationships; and

WHEREAS, most programs address only the need for housing; and

WHEREAS, the non-profit Settled has developed a model in which churches, synagogues, mosques, and other religious organizations create tiny house communities on their premises for those experiencing homelessness which include intentional “neighbors” (missioners) trained in addressing trauma and other issues; and

WHEREAS, these communities can be created with no government cost; and

WHEREAS, some municipalities believe any such community should be allowed only if the city determines it wants to allow these to be present in their jurisdiction, regardless of a faith community’s call to serve these neighbors in need; and

WHEREAS, this form of housing is not currently recognized under Minnesota law; AND

WHEREAS, we as people of faith are called to care for those among us as described in Isaiah 1:17: “Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul Area Synod endorses the Sacred Tiny House Community concept; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the synod and congregations will work with Lutheran Advocacy-MN, the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC), and Settled by contacting legislators to encourage passage of the bipartisan Sacred Tiny House Community Legislation which would both allow tiny houses of less than 400 square feet in these communities, and allow such communities to be hosted at the discretion of the faith communities themselves without local NIMBY (“not in my backyard”) bans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the synod will encourage congregational participation through education about homelessness in Minnesota and in the creation of Sacred Tiny House Communities through a variety of means ranging from hosting a Tiny House Sacred Community on their property, to taking an offering to help in the ongoing work with such communities (could include helping build or furnish a tiny house, providing volunteers, or helping provide an occasional communal meal or activity for a Sacred Tiny House Community).

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Resolution 2023-3  
Amendment to Synod Constitution S8.52
At the recommendation of the synod council, to amend the synod constitution, S8.52 so that all officers (bishop, vice president, treasurer, and secretary) begin their terms in the third month, following the Synod Assembly.

Current
The term of the bishop shall begin on the first day of the third month following election. The terms of the other officers and members of committees elected by the Synod Assembly shall begin immediately following the adjournment of the assembly at which they were elected. The terms of officers shall, in special circumstances, begin at a time designated by the Synod Council.

Proposed Revision
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.

Resolution 2023-4  
Amendment to Synod Bylaw S10.01.06
At the recommendation of the Synod Council, to amend synod bylaw S10.01.06 as follows.

Current
The term of each member of Synod Council shall begin immediately after the adjournment of the Synod Assembly in the year of the election.

Proposed Revision
The term of each member of Synod Council shall begin August 1 in the year of the election.

Resolution 2023-5  
Amendment to Synod Bylaw S9.20.05
At the recommendation of the Synod Council, to amend synod bylaw S9.20.05 as follows.

Current
If an individual elected as a voting member of the Churchwide Assembly is unable to serve, the process for designating a replacement to fill the vacancy shall be as follows, subject to the requirements of S6.04, S6.04.01 and S6.04.02, and in line with §12.41.12 of the ELCA Constitution:

a. The individual who received the second-highest number of votes at the Conference Assembly at which candidates were originally nominated shall be nominated as a candidate for election by the Synod Assembly. If that individual is unable to serve, other conference-nominated individuals will be considered for nomination, one by one, in descending order of votes received. If no individual originally nominated is able to serve, the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall nominate a replacement for election by the Synod Assembly.

b. If the vacancy occurs after the Synod Assembly in the year of the Churchwide Assembly, the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall appoint a replacement.

c. If the vacancy occurs within 30 days of the Churchwide Assembly, the bishop shall appoint a replacement.

Proposed Revision
If an individual elected as a voting member of the Churchwide Assembly is unable to serve, the process to fill the vacancy shall follow bylaw 12.41.11 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and be subject to the requirements of S6.04, S6.04.01 and S6.04.02.
Thank you for giving to your local congregation and for your congregation’s generosity to the Saint Paul Area Synod. The 2022 budget for Congregational Mission Support was $1,975,000. Due to stable giving throughout the year and a one-time gift of just over $65,000, actual Mission Support for 2022 came in at $1,970,648 – just $4,352 short of budget. Through mission support we serve God here in the greater St. Paul area, across the country and throughout the world through vital congregations, lay and rostered leaders, and partner ministries.

The synod ended the year with net income over expenses of $80,230 due primarily to increased interest earnings and personnel expenses coming in less than budgeted. A portion of this will be carried forward to be used in the 2024 budget.

A budget is a plan for the use of the financial resources God has entrusted to us as the Saint Paul Area Synod. Since the budget is prepared and passed by the assembly many months in advance, it is not uncommon for the Synod Council to revise the budget in January based on the previous year’s experience and a revision to projected expenses. The revised budget for 2023 represents a change in the funding model for the Director of Evangelical Mission (DEM) position. The salary and benefits for this position will now be paid by the synod with a grant from the churchwide organization rather than being paid directly by the churchwide organization.

The proposed budget for 2024 includes a goal for mission support of $1,885,000. This is at the same level as 2023 and represents a realistic projection of Mission Support given information available at this time. The budget includes sharing of mission support with the churchwide expression at 41.5% of undesignated congregational mission support, support for partnership ministries, and resources to allow the synod to carry out the ministries to which we are called.

Giving to The Planting Hope Campaign continues from congregations and individuals. In 2022, the synod began disbursing funds from this campaign for the synod’s new mission starts and redevelopment efforts, and paid internships for young adults. With gifts received this spring, we will soon be able to disburse funds to Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota for the Families Together therapeutic preschool on the East Side.

Thank you to David Roinas, the synod’s financial administrator, for attending to the day-to-day financial affairs of the synod and preparing reports for finance and executive committees and the Synod Council. And thanks to the Finance Committee for their support.

Thanks be to God.

In Christ’s Service
David Laden, Treasurer
COMMENTARY ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET

Finance Committee
Kelly Birkmaier - Mount Calvary, Eagan
Richard Gunderson - Grace, St. Paul
*David Laden, Como Park - St. Paul, treasurer
Helen Otto Yotter - Amazing Grace, Inver Grove Heights
The Rev. Richard Summy - Shepherd of the Valley, Apple Valley
Bishop Patricia Lull
* Committee Chair

Advisor
David Roinas, financial administrator

Financial Audit
The external audit of the synod finances was performed in July by Mahoney, Ulbrich, Christiansen, Russ, PA, Certified Public Accountants. The results of the audit are examined by the Audit Committee and shared with the Executive Committee and the Synod Council. A copy of the management letter is available by contacting the synod office. Results of this audit found the financials in good order.

Income
Congregational Mission Support in 2022 was $1,970,648 which is $100,271 more than in 2021 thanks to a one-time gift of $65,750. Budgeted Mission Support for 2023 is $1,885,000 and for 2024 (proposed) is the same. This reduction in expectation is a realistic approach, given financial realities in congregations, and a hearty investment from congregations in The Planting Hope Campaign currently.

Planting Hope/Local Mission For the past several years we have had an annual appeal for added funding beyond the budget to support the ministry of our new mission starts and congregations under redevelopment. With the congregational phase of The Planting Hope Campaign now underway, going forward this line will reflect funds raised through the campaign.

Grant Administration reflects the portion of grant funds that cover the grant administrator’s time and other related expenditures. In 2018 the synod was awarded a five-year grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. Lilly-funded work wraps up at the end of 2023. A new grant has been applied, subject to approval, that will fund this line in 2024.

Income from Endowment Funds includes $13,000 from the two endowment funds the synod has established to support new ministries (the Erdahl fund) and ministries among the poor (the Mount Carmel fund).

Salary Offset – DEM Position is an ELCA grant in 2024 (and in 2023 in the revised budget) to offset the salary increase expense to the synod in regards to the Purchase of Service agreement between the ELCA and SPAS moving the salary and benefits of Director for Evangelical Mission Justin Grimm to the synod.

Expenses Offset – DEM is a churchwide expense offset from the Christian Community and Leadership Unit (formerly Domestic Mission (DM) providing partial support for in-office expenses for the assistant to the bishop, or DEM, a position historically funded by the churchwide office.

Expense Offset - BKB Admin reflects revenues that cover the office and financial administrators’ time in coordinating travel groups, funding, accounting, and reporting for our companion partnership with the Iringa Diocese in Tanzania.

Expense Offset – ILAG Admin reflects revenues that cover the office and financial administrators’ time in funding, administrative support, accounting, and reporting for the Guatemala Committee.
Interest and Miscellaneous includes income from interest on investment accounts as well as miscellaneous income, which includes non-restricted gifts to the synod.

Prior Years Carry Forward includes money received as mission support in 2021, which was not needed to cover reduced expenses because of a staff vacancy and the curtailment of in-person events during the COVID-19 pandemic and some excess funding from 2022.

Expenditures

Synod Support of ELCA Churchwide Mission is proposed for 2024 as 41.5% of undesignated congregational mission support. The contribution is calculated and submitted monthly based on the actual mission support received each month.

Synod Partnership Ministries include support for this synod’s four partners in ministry—agencies, institutions, and specialized ministries supported through the synod budget. Our partners in ministry are paid 100% of the support budgeted to them each month regardless of the overall mission support given by congregations. These ministries include Luther Seminary, Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities, Lutheran Advocacy Minnesota, and Minnesota Council of Churches. The two reductions in 2024 are results of changes in other funding support of the partner and in conversation with the partner.

A brief overview of each partner in ministry follows:

- **Luther Seminary** receives support from the ELCA churchwide and synods in Regions 1 and 3 in addition to tuition, grants, and annual designated giving, as well as income from its endowment for scholarships for students and operating expenses.
- **Lutheran Campus Ministry - Twin Cities** supports ELCA ministries with students at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and St. Paul.
- **Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota** is funded by all the Minnesota synods and the ELCA’s Service and Justice unit (formerly Domestic Mission). Funding supports program expenses for this ministry which provides a Lutheran voice in public policy advocacy.
- **Minnesota Council of Churches** (MCC) is an autonomous, interdenominational organization of member communions throughout Minnesota. Through the MCC, we work jointly with other church bodies to resettle refugees, promote respectful civic engagement, promote racial justice, and to foster ecumenical work.

Also included among Synod Partnerships are two resources shared with other synods in this region:

- **Region 3 Fair Share** support includes the work our synod does cooperatively with the other eight synods in Region 3, especially our synod’s support for the synod archives located at Luther Seminary. Region 3 is an administrative entity in the ELCA structure and is funded on per member dues by the nine constituent synods.
- **The Planned Giving Partnership** includes both metro synods, the ELCA Foundation, and ELCA agencies and institutions in and around the Twin Cities to support the work of the full-time regional gift planner who works with congregations and individuals in this synod around planned giving for ELCA ministries. The gift planner is available to consult with congregations and individuals without cost.

Synod Ministries include funding that supports work that arises out of the collective mission and ministry of the congregations and mission starts of the Saint Paul Area Synod and efforts that equip and support leaders and congregations.

- **Companion Synod - Iringa Tanzania** includes over 60 congregations that are partnered with congregations in Tanzania promoting prayer, presence and funding construction projects, secondary school tuition, and exchange visits. The 2024 proposed support is identical to 2023.
- **Companion Synod - Guatemala** congregations in partnership with the Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala (ILAG) — the Lutheran Church of Guatemala — fund a number of projects including women and children's programs, health related projects, and support to the ILAG congregations. The 2024 proposed support is identical to 2023.
- **Renewing Established New Missions** funds our existing mission starts (Synod Authorized Worshiping Communities), as well as some of the expenses of the DEM and mission committee meetings and funds a portion of the synod’s share of new mission starts, as well as redevelopment and renewal work with congregations.
This continues to be a priority for common work as a synod. The 2024 proposed budget remains the same as previous years, however, this is a new line item combining previous line items Established Mission Starts & Renewing Congregations & New Missions.

- **Planting Hope Local Mission Distribution** extends additional financial support to new mission starts, redevelopment and renewal efforts with funds raised through an annual appeal, which in 2023 blended into revenue from The Planting Hope Campaign. The amount distributed matches the amount received as income. For 2024, this is projected to be $125,000.

The next three budget line items, group together several smaller funded categories into three groups – a new layout for the 2024 budget. These categories parallel the funding committed in 2022.

- **Equipping Leaders** is a grouping of Re-equipping Rostered Leaders, Lay Leadership Initiative, First Call Theological Education, Second Act and Gatherings for Rostered Persons.
- **Synod Wide Programs** is a grouping of Children, Youth and Family, Racial Justice, Faith Formation, Stewardship and Ecumenical Events.
- **Committee Support** is a grouping of Committees/Task Forces/Training Events and Synod Council and related Committees.

**Candidacy** funds the candidacy process expenses and **Communications** funds all electronic and print communications.

**Synod Staff Ministry**

**Personnel** – This line funds the staff of the synod. In the 2023 revised budget, this included a cost-of-living increase of 2.0% as well as merit increases and salary/benefit costs related to the Justin Grimm as a Purchase of Service employee. The $915,000 budgeted for 2024 anticipates an increase in health insurance costs and 2.0% overall increase. This budget line includes health insurance, pension, FICA offset for clergy, the employer's share of FICA for others, as well as salaries. The staffing expenses for the director and short-term volunteers for Bega Kwa Bega are included in the BKB budget, which is funded through a $30,000 grant from the synod and various administrative fees. For 2023 this includes health insurance, pension, as well as salaries.

**Continuing Education, Office, Capital Expenditures & General Expenses** – These expense categories fund the administrative functions of the synod office and include, but are not limited to, rent, office supplies, equipment purchases and leases, repairs and maintenance, insurance, the synod's annual audit, and staff travel.
## PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Actual 2022 01.31.2023</th>
<th>Approved Revised 2023 Budget</th>
<th>Proposed 2024 Budget</th>
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<td>Renewing Congregations &amp; New Mission Starts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Income/(Loss)</td>
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<td>$2,765</td>
<td>$125</td>
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Every Easter I am reminded afresh that Christ’s resurrection allows me to live in a new way, here and now. Big worries? Personal set-backs? Times of loss and disappointment? I certainly experience all of those and yet I rise each day, reminded that my future rests with God not with my small self.

The Rev. Patricia Lull
Bishop

For me, living in hope begins and ends with the promise made to me in my baptism. I am claimed by God and no matter what I go through or what happens around me God has me forever. I try to live out of that in hope every single day.

The Rev. Justin Grimm
Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational Vitality

One of the most tangible places where I feel hope is in when I experience children making music. Children singing, playing instruments, and dancing with full heart and soul always makes me feel like the world will be ok. Thanks be to God for music and children who remind us of the abundance of God’s love for us.

Deacon Krista Lind
Assistant to the Bishop for Vocational Formation

I see hope in the wilderness, the wild places of Creation that reflect God’s mystery and majesty. I see hope in my children, in the ways they celebrate life and all living things. I see hope in the people of faith I work with, in their commitment to engaging deeply in God’s mission across their respective communities.

Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer
Assistant to the Bishop for Lay Leadership and Equity Initiatives

I am filled with hope in observing my teenage son, his friends and teammates, and his classmates. This radically diverse generation of kids is wiser, braver, more engaged with the world, and more caring than I recall anyone in my generation being.

Leslie Ortiz
Executive Assistant to the Bishop and Lilly Grant Program Director

When the world feels like an angry, loveless place, I see hope in simple acts of kindness and care for others. When someone offers assistance, encouragement or support, I see Christ at work in the world.

Mary Smith
Director of Communications

What gives me hope is the results of the works of myself and others for others and in music.

David Roinas
Finance Administrator

What gives me hope is having a cup (or two) of coffee every morning. We all know that caffeine is the essence of producing hope and of being Lutheran.

Rachel Holsten
Front Office Administrator and Event Planner

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Rachel Holsten
Front Office Administrator and Event Planner
Experiencing the deep joy of in-person visits with our Tanzanian companions, resumed after 2½ pandemic years, gives me more than hope. It gives me the sure confidence that our BKB ministry is a life-giving priority for SPAS congregations. We have a lot to learn from our friends about living in the hope that Christ gives.

Kirsten Levorson
Director of Bega Kwa Bega

I see hope in education, businesses and communities that support each other. I live in hope knowing that “this too shall pass” and that there is a season for everything.

Aistine Bose
Bega Kwa Bega Program Coordinator

I see hope in so many people, selflessly working behind the scenes, trying to make the world a better place. When I become cynical from the news, social media, or climate change, they give me hope.

Ryan Bose
Bega Kwa Bega Program Coordinator
The Bulletin of Reports contains reports from the synod’s public witness work groups, ministry partners, and agencies and institutions affiliated with the Saint Paul Area Synod and the ELCA. These reports reflect the array of work we undertake together and as part of the whole church as we carry out global ministries, seek to become more inclusive and loving to all, develop resources and equip leaders, advocate for justice and the common good, serve the needs of the poor and marginalized, and find new collaborative and effective ways to work together as the body of Christ in the world. Reports from the following entities were received for 2023:

**Synod Work Groups:**
- Advocates for Racial Equity
- Care of Creation
- Cherish All Children
- Engage - Lutherans for Gun Violence Prevention

**Other Organizations:**
- Augsburg University
- Carthage College
- ELCA Federal Credit Union
- ELCA Foundation
- ELCA Region 3 Archives
- 1517 Media
- Luther College
- Lutheran Campus Ministries - Twin Cities
- Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services
- Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
- Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
- Mission Investment Fund
- Portico Benefit Services
- Seafarers International House
- Wartburg College

These reports are available at spas-elca.org/2023-bulletin-of-reports.
Appendix
The 2022 Churchwide Assembly amended the Constitution for Synods. The required changes are highlighted below.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION FOR SYNODS**

**AS APPROVED BY THE 2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY**

**Official Notice of Certification of Required Provisions and Notice of Recommended Provisions**

Prepared by the Office of the Secretary
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
August 2022

Following is official notification of amendments to the Constitution for Synods that were approved by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly. Additions are underlined. Deletions are struck through in the text.

Provisions within the Constitution for Synods are of two types:

- **Required Provisions:** Sections of the Constitution for Synods marked by a dagger (†) are required provisions. These sections, including constitutional provisions and bylaws, must be used without alteration or amendment of the text in any manner (i.e., neither additions nor deletions are permissible). In accordance with provision 1518.11, amendments to required provisions in the Constitution for Synods passed by the Churchwide Assembly are automatically incorporated into the constitutions of individual synods upon formal certification by the secretary of that church.

- **Non-Required Provisions:** Sections of the Constitution for Synods not marked by a dagger are non-required provisions. These provisions represent wording recommended by the Churchwide Assembly. In accordance with provision 1518.12, whenever the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially informs synods that the Churchwide Assembly has amended non-required provisions within the Constitution for Synods, the synod constitution may be amended to reflect any such amendment by a majority vote at any subsequent meeting of the 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 the synod. The Church Council, through the secretary of this church, shall begin prompt notification of its adoption.

For convenience, in this document the amendments to the Constitution for Synods approved by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly are organized into four sections:

1. **Amendments to Required Provisions:** These provisions are presented in Section 1.
2. **The 2022 Churchwide Assembly approved the redesignation of two provisions from non-required to required. These provisions are presented in Section 2.**
3. **The 2022 Churchwide Assembly approved the redesignation of two provisions from required to non-required.** This provision is presented in Section 3. If a synod desires to eliminate this provision, there must be a majority vote by the synod assembly to amend the synod’s constitution. Note also that there is a wording change that was approved by the assembly. If the synod maintains this provision, the wording change may be incorporated, and would require a majority vote.
4. **Amendments to Non-Required Provisions:** These provisions are presented in Section 4.

For convenience, in this document the amendments to the Constitution for Synods approved by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly are organized into four sections:

1. **Section 1: Amendments to Required Provisions**
   **Chapter 6: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**
   156.02. To participate in God’s mission, this synod as a part of the Church shall:
   c. Serve in response to God’s holy meeting humankind, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity, and justice, and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciling among the nations, seeking the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of all people, and standing on the principle of the interconnectedness and interdependency of all creation, and committing itself to that need.
   156.03.01. The responsibilities of the synod include the following:
   a. providing for pastoral care of congregations, ministers, and synod ensembles and staff and ministers of Word and Service in the synod.
   b. authorizing candidates for the ministry of Word and Service in the synod and ordaining ministers of Word and Service in the synod in cooperation with the appropriate seminaries of this church.
   c. consulting in the call process for rostered ministers.
   156.04. The membership of the Synod Assembly shall be as follows:
   a. All rostered ministers of Word and Service in the synod shall be voting members.
   b. All ministers of Word and Service under call, the counselor of the synod, and any other organizational units shall be persons of color and persons whose primary language other than English.
   c. The membership of the Synod Assembly shall include at least 45 percent of the members of the Synod Assembly, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be persons of color and persons whose primary language other than English.
   d. The membership of the Synod Assembly shall include at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units be persons of color and persons whose primary language other than English.
   156.04.01. 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 between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.
   157.21. 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 rostered ministers of Word and Service, and members of the Synod Assembly, and those members of the Synod Assembly who have not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service.
   b. A minimum of lay members 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.
   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.
   d. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of the number of baptized members in the congregation. The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent...
of the lay members of the assembly shall be women and, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent shall be men.

4. Voting membership shall include the officers of this synod.

5.2.02. If a special synod assembly is called and voting members at the previous assembly are unable to serve as voting members, where permitted by state law, the congregation through the Congregation Council may elect new members who shall continue to serve until the next regular Synod Assembly.

Chapter 8: OFFICERS

8.12. As this synod's pastor, the bishop shall:

1. Oversee and administer the work of this synod and in so doing:
   a. Preside at all meetings of the Synod Assembly and Synod Council
   b. Appoint and remove any synod bishop appointed by this synod to serve as acting bishop
   c. Appoint the officers of this synod
   d. Appoint the members of the Consultation Committee
   e. Appoint the members of the Committee on Appeals
   f. Appoint the members of the Committee on Nominations
   g. Appoint the members of the Committee on Ordination and Installation
   h. Appoint the members of the Committee on Stewardship
   i. Appoint the members of the Committee on the Office of Minister of Word and Sacrament
   j. Appoint the members of the Committee on the Office of Lay Ministry

8.16.01. The following procedures shall govern matters of potential conflicts of interest for synod bishops:

a. Whenever a synod bishop determines that a matter described in §11.01b, may require a synod bishop to declare a conflict of interest, the synod bishop shall withdraw from the consideration of such a 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 synod bishop.

b. Matters include any proceedings under Chapter 20, proceedings under provisions 7.46, and 7.75, of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (TS14.38 and TS14.43), candidacy, reinstatement, and similar matters where determination or action by the synod bishop could change, limit, restrict, approve, authorize, or deny the related individual's ministry on one of the official matters of this church.

8.25.1. 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 hold recesses full performance of the duties of the

8.32.3. The secretary shall:

a. Keep the minutes of all meetings of the Synod Assembly and Synod Council, be responsible for the keeping and distribution of such minutes, and perform such other duties as this synod may from time to time direct.

8.51. In the terms of office of the officers of this synod shall be as follows:

b. The vice president and secretary of this synod shall be elected to a term of ______ 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 term of ______ years and may be re-elected. The treasurer shall serve until his or her successor takes office.

8.57.1. The recall or dismissal of an officer and the vacating of office may be effected for willful disregard or violation of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of this church; for such physical or mental incapacity 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.

d. In the case of alleged physical or mental incapacity of an officer of the synod, the procedures outlined in §18.56 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:

2022 Amendments to the Constitution for Synods

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2022 Amendments to the Constitution for Synods

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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, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.

§14.21. 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 the secretary's hands in good order by a departing pastor before

§14.23. During services 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 election of a pastor. Upon completion of service, the interim pastor shall certify to the bishop of this synod that the records of the congregation have been accurately placed in the hands of the secretary of the congregation. The interim pastor's services shall be responsible, as in order.

§14.32. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:

Chapter 20: INDENDIFICATION

§16.01. 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 §16.02.

§16.04. When written charges are made against a rostered minister of this church in disciplinary proceedings under Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the synod bishop or when written charges against a congregation are made in disciplinary proceedings by the Synod Council or the synod bishop, and the discipline hearing committee determines that no discipline shall be imposed, then if such determination is not reversed or set aside on appeal, indemnification shall be made by the synod to the accused for reasonable attorney's fees and other reasonable expenses related to the defense of the charges. The determination of the reasonableness of such fees and expenses shall be made decided by the Synod Council.

Chapter 21: AMENDMENTS, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

§18.31. 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 the Synod Council. Newly adopted continuing resolutions and amendments to existing continuing resolutions shall be reported to the secretary of this church.

Section 2: Provisions Reclassified from Non-Required to Required

Chapter 5: FINANCIAL MATTERS

§15.11. 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 to be support to that the unity of this church should be evidenced in determining each part's share of the gifts and offerings. Therefore: […]

§15.31. 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 the format approved from time to time by the churchwide Office of the Treasurer.

Chapter 7: OFFICERS

§58.52. The terms of the officers shall begin on the first day of the month following election or, if inspection circumstances, at a time designated by the Synod Council.

Chapter 9: COMMITTEES (Names of other organizational units)

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 benefit members of such units, and to meet the requirements of §15.04. With the exception of members on the roster of this synod who reside outside of 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.
Section 3: Provision Reclassified from Required to Non-Required

**Chapter 7: SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

[S7.23.01.](#) Voting members shall begin serving with the opening of a regular Synod Assembly and shall continue serving until voting members are seated at the opening of the next regular Synod Assembly.

Section 4: Amendments to Recommended Provisions

**Chapter 7: SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

[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 opening of the next regular Synod 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 provided that such processes not result in fewer than 60% of the voting members of the Synod Assembly being laypersons in contravention of consistent with S7.21.c. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

[S7.23.](#) 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 roster of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until the opening of the next regular synod assembly, or until they have been disqualified by termination of congregation membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to convening a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

[S7.24.](#) This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of authorized worshiping 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.

[S7.25.](#) 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.

Chapter 8: OFFICERS

[S8.42.](#) The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:

- 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.

[S8.43.](#) 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 as well as any funds to support restricted programs of the church.

Chapter 11: COMMITTEES (names of other organizational units)

[S11.10.](#) General Provisions

Chapter 14: ROSTERED MINISTERS

[S14.13.](#) The pastor (a) shall keep accurate records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, and other events, 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.

[S14.15.](#) 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.

[S14.34.](#) 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.