

# Appendix A

## Minutes of the 2022 Synod Assembly



**Southeastern Minnesota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

### **2022 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly Minutes May 7, 2022**

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod met in assembly on Saturday, May 7, 2022 at the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center in Mankato, MN.

Southeastern Minnesota Synod Bishop Regina Hassanally greeted those gathered and walked through some of the basics needed for opening worship. This year's assembly theme is "Imagine: Endless Possibilities in God's Grace."

#### **OPENING WORSHIP**

The Assembly began with worship with Holy Communion at 9:00am. Bishop Hassanally presided. The assisting minister was Rev. Keith Fry, the Representative from the Churchwide organization. Worship was led by the Synod Assembly Worship Team. Bishop Hassanally opened the assembly with the "Opening Liturgy" at the close of opening worship.

She then called on Synod Secretary Rev. Josh Enderson for announcements.

The assembly then took a brief break before the first plenary.

#### **PLENARY ONE**

Bishop Hassanally called the assembly to order at 10:15 am.

#### **WELCOME**

Bishop Hassanally welcomed everyone to the 2022 SEMN Synod Assembly.

#### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Following her welcome, Bishop Hassanally invited Director of Evangelical Mission (DEM) Rev. Emily Carson forward to discuss the Synod Assembly offering.

Following this, the Bishop then went through important items needed for today's assembly, such as voting cards.

She then introduced several special guests, Synod Council, Synod Staff, and Synod Assembly volunteers.

Those who were lifted up:

- Rev. Keith Fry, this year's representative from the Churchwide organization of the ELCA. Rev. Fry serves as the executive for administration in the Office of the Secretary in the Churchwide organization.
- This year's keynote speaker: Rozella Haydée White, the #LoveBigCoach, a public theologian, spiritual life coach, leadership consultant, inspirational speaker and writer focused on nurturing love that is life-giving, justice-seeking and sustaining.
- Synod Council: Vice President Lisa Dierks, Secretary Rev. Josh Enderson, Synod Treasurer Jeff Chestnut, Rev. Collette Broady Grund, Rev. Jenna Couch, Rev. Shelly Cunningham, Rev. Kris Ferkin, Rev. David Knox, Marshall Laidlaw, Anya Liedtke-Quick, Rev. Benjamin Loven, Karen Myers, Gary Schindler, Deacon Amanda Sabelko, Mona Skare, Carolyn Solberg, Burton Svendsen, Jonah Udstuen, Mary Veiseth, Rev. Dr. Kristen Venne, and Rev. John Weisenburger.
  - Bishop Hassanally noted that Vice President Lisa Dierks is unable to be in attendance for today's assembly, as she is attending her son's college graduation.
- Synod Parliamentarian David Borka.
- Synod Staff: DEM and Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Emily Carson; Assistants to the Bishop Rev. Matt Larson, Rev. Barb Streed, and Kathy Chatelaine; Director of Communications Ashley Corbett, Call Process and Candidacy Administrator Cheryse Brenno, Office Administrator Gwen Larson, Financial Director Joe Ahrens, and ELCA Regional Gift Planner Tharan Leopold.
- Synod Assembly Planning Team: SEMN Synod Staff, Rev. Melanie Wallschlaeger, Chris Roberts, Burton Svendsen, Larry Stacy, Rev. Marla Rotman, Rev. Lisa Carlson, and Rev. Jessica Bakken. She also thanked all the Assembly volunteers.

Following this, Bishop Hassanally directed the assembly to the preassembly report, section 3: Celebrations, and acknowledged those

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celebrating ordinations anniversaries and retirements.

### REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

Synodical Authorized Minister Larry Iverson brought the report of the Committee on Credentials.

Lay voting members: 218

Ministers of Word and Sacrament voting members: 78

Ministers of Word and Service voting members: 7

**Total voting members: 303**

Voice without vote: 29

Visitors: 14

**Total Assembly: 346**

### ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF THE ASSEMBLY

Bishop Hassanally directed the assembly to refer to the Rules of the Assembly, as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report, Section 1.

A Motion was made by Rev. Allyson Bowman, Zion Lutheran, Stewartville, MN to adopt the rules of the assembly.

#### Assembly Action

**SA22.05.01 Motion to adopt the rules of the assembly.**

**Motion approved.**

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE ASSEMBLY

The proposed agenda for the assembly was presented to the assembly, as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report, section 1.

A Motion was made by Rev. Hanna Bergstrom de Leon, Mineola Lutheran, Goodhue, MN to adopt the agenda of the assembly.

#### Assembly Action

**SA22.05.02 Motion to adopt the agenda of the assembly.**

**Motion approved.**

### REPORT OF THE SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At this time, Bishop Hassanally invited Rev. Allyson Bowman forward to give the report of the Synod Nominating Committee.

Rev. Bowman directed the assembly to the ballot, which was located within the materials that voting members had received as they arrived. She lifted up the positions that were on the ballot:

- Synod Council Secretary
- Synod Council Youth Member
- Synod Council At-Large Lay Member
- Synod Council At-Large Rostered Member
- Committee on Discipline
- Committee on Election of a Bishop
- Augsburg University Corporation Board

She then directed the assembly to the submitted biographies for all standing for various positions on the ballot and noted that there was a 12:00pm deadline for additional submissions to the ballot. Voting on these positions will be held in the afternoon.

Bishop Hassanally then thanked the Synod Nominating Committee: Rev. Kristi Mitchell, Rev. Kathy Lowery, Rev. Allyson Bowman, Rev. Elizabeth Hermeier, and Synod Vice President Lisa Dierks.

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE & COUNSEL

Bishop Hassanally then invited Rev. Dr. Scott Olson forward on behalf of the Committee on Reference & Counsel.

Rev. Dr. Olson noted that the deadline for submitting late resolutions was 12:00pm and walked through the process of a late resolution coming before the assembly, noting that it requires a 2/3 vote of the assembly to suspend the rules in order to hear the resolution.

Bishop Hassanally then thanked the Committee on Reference and Counsel: Rev. Dr. Scott Olson, Susan Larson, Rev. Beth Krolak, Rev. Krista Henning-Ferkin, Dick Osborne, Rev. Emily Carson, Dave Borka.

### REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Bishop Hassanally then called on Synod Treasurer Jeff Chestnut to come forward to give the Report of the Treasurer.

Treasurer Chestnut noted that the 01/31/2021 Audit has been completed, that it has been received and that it is an accurate representation of the financial situation of the SEMN Synod. The audit can be found at [www.semnsynod.org/audit/](http://www.semnsynod.org/audit/). He then mentioned

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that the 01/31/2022 audit draft is currently being reviewed by the audit committee and will be posted on the synod's website once complete.

He noted that the spending plan has a notable change in the presentation of some accounts. Personnel costs are being split from a single line to 10 separate lines. He also mentioned that Mission Support to the Churchwide organization is going from 48% to 43% (or \$78,750), due to the decrease in income from congregations and continued estimated cost increases. This allows for a slightly positive bottom line in the proposed spending plan.

He lifted up that the proposed Spending Plan for Mission and Ministry for 2023-2024 is scheduled for adoption in Plenary 2, and that it can be found in the Pre-Assembly Report, section 1. He noted that the deadline for any amendments to the proposed spending plan is 12:00pm.

### GLOBAL GREETINGS

Following the Report of the Treasurer, Bishop Hassanally invited Assistant to the Bishop Kathy Chatelaine forward to give an update on the work that she is doing. She discussed the changes in the work with global partnerships that have occurred over the past 50 years. She noted the change from sending money and going on the occasional mission trip to building partnerships and relationships with our global partners. A video was shared with the assembly which included greetings from each of our global partner bishops and introductions to God's work that is happening within our global partnerships.

IMAGINE #1: WITH ROZELLA HAYDÉE WHITE Bishop Hassanally then invited Rozella Haydée White, the Assembly's keynote speaker for her first session before the assembly. Her first conversation focused on love and imagination and what (and who) in our past points us to what is possible in the future.

### RESOLUTION 2022-01

Bishop Hassanally then invited Rev. Dr. Scott Olson forward to present Resolution 2022-01: 2023 Minimum Compensation and Benefits Guidelines. She noted that this is also located in the Pre-Assembly Report, Section 1, page 24.

Rev. Dr. Olson then presented Resolution 2022-01, which had been submitted by the SEMN Synod Council. The text reads:

- **Whereas**, St. Paul writes, "and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together," (1 Corinthians 3); and
- **Whereas**, ¶S6.03.01.a. in the Constitution for Synods states that the responsibilities of the synod include "providing for pastoral care of congregations, ministers of Word and Sacrament, and ministers of Word and Service in the synod"; and
- **Whereas**, the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council has reviewed the *2023 Minimum Compensation and Benefits Guidelines*; therefore be it
- **Resolved**, that the Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA adopt the document *2023 Minimum Compensation and Benefits Guidelines* for Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Ministers of Word and Service, and non-rostered lay professionals serving in congregations in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod.

A Motion was made by Rev. Dr. Scott Olson, chairperson of the Committee on Reference & Counsel to approve Resolution 2022-01.

### Assembly Action

**SA22.05.03 Motion to approve Resolution 2022-01: 2023 Minimum Compensations and Benefits Guidelines.**

**Motion approved.**

### REPORT OF THE ELCA CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION

Bishop Hassanally then invited Rev. Keith Fry forward to give the report of the ELCA Churchwide organization. While he was coming forward, she also directed the assembly's attention to the Pre-Assembly Report, section 2 where they could find the Churchwide Organization Report and a letter from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. A few highlights from his report:

- \$22,924,057 went to ELCA world hunger last year.
- 286 world hunger grants were given out last year. \$14.5 million went out last year internationally in grants.
- Update on Lutheran Disaster Response's work over the past year: responded domestically, as well as internationally in places like Haiti. Response to the Ukrainian Crisis continues to be a place of ongoing

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support. Ongoing funding and responses are being planned.

- Fund for Leaders recipients: Kira Anderson (Luther Seminary), Sarah Krolak (LSTC).
- He then presented a video greeting and message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following Rev. Fry's report, Bishop Hassanally invited Secretary Rev. Josh Enderson to the microphone to give some announcements. As it was after noon, he reminded the assembly that the deadlines for late resolutions, nominations, and amendments to the spending plan had passed and gave them some instructions on lunch.

Following this, he led them in a table prayer.

Bishop Hassanally declared the assembly in recess until 1:00pm.

### PLENARY TWO

Bishop Hassanally welcomed the assembly back following lunch and then opened with a word of prayer.

Following this prayer, she declared the assembly back in session at 1:00pm.

Synodical Authorized Minister Larry Iverson brought the report of the Committee on Credentials.

Lay voting members: 219

Ministers of Word and Sacrament voting members: 79

Ministers of Word and Service voting members: 7

**Total voting members: 305**

Voice without vote: 29

Visitors: 14

**Total Assembly: 348**

IMAGINE #2: WITH ROZELLA HAYDÉE WHITE  
Rozella Haydée White addressed the assembly and explored the idea of creativity. She shared a poem by James Welden Johnson "The Creation." She then led the assembly through a time of discussion around love, creativity, and how God is at work imagining something new in that space.

### REPORT OF THE SEMN SYNOD

As Vice President Dierks was absent from today's assembly, a motion was called for to appoint Synod Secretary Rev. Josh Enderson as chair pro tem for the duration of the Report of the SEMN Synod. Synod Council member and Executive Committee at-large member Deacon Amanda Sabelko was appointed as Synod Secretary pro tem for the duration of the Report of the SEMN Synod, as Secretary Rev. Enderson was chair pro tem.

A Motion was made by Synod Treasurer Jeff Chestnut to appoint Secretary Rev. Josh Enderson as chair pro tem.

### Assembly Action

**SA22.05.04 Motion to appoint Synod Secretary Rev. Josh Enderson as chair pro tem for the duration of the Report of the SEMN Synod.**

**Motion approved.**

Bishop Hassanally then relinquished the chair to Rev. Enderson. Rev. Enderson then called on Bishop Hassanally to give the Report of the SEMN Synod.

During Bishop Hassanally's report, the following items were lifted up:

- She noted that we are the people of God, and that we are all sent out by God. God remains faithful and steadfast to us all and to the work that God sends us out to do. This is what grounds us in all that we do.
- Our past, our traditions, do not hold us bound, but are foundations on which we can build. She encouraged members of congregations to stand if they were planted or have planted a congregation or if they participate in outreach ministry, noting that we are people with a purpose, with a part to play in God's mission. We stand on a foundation and were reminded that this is who we are.
- The congregations of the synod and the synod staff walk together to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in a variety of ways: candidacy, call process, times of transition, accompanying global partners, stewardship, synod council, and the churchwide organization.
- We are called by the Spirit to make Christ known, to the world as it is today, not the world as it once was or as we'd like it to be.

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This is who God has called us to be. She left the assembly with the question of “How? How do you live this out in your community?”

- Bishop Hassanally mentioned that the proposed spending plan for this year leaves room for new ministry initiatives to fund our imagination, to live into our call to be God's people in this world today.

Following the Report of the SEMN Synod, Rev. Enderson returned the chair to Bishop Hassanally.

### RESOLUTION 2022-02

Bishop Hassanally then invited Rev. Dr. Olson forward to present Resolution 2022-02: To Be a United Church that Cares for the Community. She noted that this is located in the Pre-Assembly Report, Section 1.

Rev. Dr. Olson then presented Resolution 2022-02, which had been submitted by the Mount Olive Church Council, Rochester, MN. The text reads:

- **Whereas**, our Lord said that whatever we do “to one of the least members of Christ family” we do to Him (Matthew 25:40), and
- **Whereas**, the Church as the Body of Christ in the world is exhorted by St. Paul and others to “work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith (Galatians 6:10), and
- **Whereas**, St. John challenges us, saying, “How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help,” (1 John 3:17), and
- **Whereas**, the mission of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod is “To walk together proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ,” and
- **Whereas**, 80 of Minnesota's 87 counties lack necessary emergency shelter beds\*, and
- **Whereas**, 20% of Minnesota rental households are severely cost-burdened, spending 50% or more of their household income for housing\*, and
- **Whereas**, the nation's largest and longest established coalition of faith communities, the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC), is exhorting congregations to be advocates for sheltering needs of Minnesotans in poverty, and
- **Whereas**, the Minnesota Council of Churches, of which the Southeastern

Minnesota Synod is a member, is already a member of the JRLC, and

- **Whereas**, the congregations of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod are made up of compassionate, creative, resourceful, and persuasive people who can be a force for good in our state; therefore be it
- **Resolved**, that the Synod Council shall organize a three-year Housing Insecure Task Force for the purpose of guiding Synod participation to address this need, by 1) Encouraging its congregations to consider becoming member congregations of the JRLC, 2) Informing member congregations of the opportunities for pursuing advocacy for the housing insecure through the JRLC, and 3) Encouraging member congregations to consider being active in finding solutions for those who are housing insecure in their own community; be it further
- **Resolved**, that the Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA include in its 2025 annual report the activities of the said Task Force at the end of its three-year work, with appropriate celebration thereof.
- *\*Statistics taken from the website of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, [www.jrlc.org](http://www.jrlc.org).*

Rev. Dr. Olson then noted that the Committee on Reference & Counsel recommends that the assembly consider the resolution.

A Motion was made by Renee Schafer, Mount Olive, Rochester, MN to take up Resolution 2022-02.

### Assembly Action

**SA22.05.05 Motion to take up Resolution 2022-02: To Be a United Church that Cares for the Community.**

**Motion approved.**

REPORT OF THE SEMN SYNOD SECRETARY  
Bishop Hassanally then invited the assembly to the Pre-Assembly Report, Section 1 and invited Synod Secretary Rev. Enderson forward to give the Report of the Secretary.

Secretary Rev. Enderson noted that this year's report consists of changes to the the Synod's bylaws: S.11.09.02.b., S.11.09.02.c., and S.11.09.02.d. Following the last election of the bishop, a task force of council members

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reviewed the synod's process for electing the bishop and felt that clarification of the Committee on the Election of the Bishop's role in the selection of candidates who participate in the candidate forums would be helpful. This clarification is reflected in the proposed bylaw changes. He mentioned that the synod's bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a 2/3 vote of the voting members present and voting. He then read these changes which are as follows:

- **S11.09.02.b.** — This committee shall forward the names and biographical data of all candidates nominated by congregations ~~all candidates' names nominated by congregations and biographical data~~ to each conference assembly for consideration. Each conference assembly shall then recommend up to three of these candidates' names ~~for further consideration by the committee.~~ to continue in the non-binding pre-assembly process.
- ~~**S11.09.02.c.** — This committee may select up to three candidates to be added to those of the conference assemblies' recommendations to help sure a broader slate.~~
- ~~**S11.09.02.d.c.** — This committee may select up to nine candidates from those names lifted up by conference assemblies and any additional names lifted up by this committee and invite them all candidates recommended by the conference assemblies~~ to participate in a maximum of three candidate forums to be held throughout the synod prior to the Synod Assembly provided there is more than one candidate.

A Motion was made by Secretary Rev. Josh Enderson to adopt the changes to S.11.09.02.b., S.11.09.02.c., and S.11.09.02.d. in the SEMN Synod Bylaws.

### Assembly Action

**SA22.05.06** **Motion to adopt the changes to S.11.09.02.b., S.11.09.02.c., and S.11.09.02.d. in the SEMN Synod Bylaws.**

**Motion approved.**

ELECTION OF SYNOD BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Bishop Hassanally then called on Rev. Bowman

for the Election of Synod Boards and Committees.

Rev. Bowman announced that no additional names were brought forward and that there is an equivalent number of nominees for each vacancy on the election of Synod Council and Synod Committee position ballot. Bishop Hassanally declared those nominated to these positions elected.

IMAGINE #3: WITH ROZELLA HAYDÉE WHITE  
Rozella Haydee White returned to the stage for another Imagine session. This session focused around liberation.

Following this, Bishop Hassanally invited the assembly to take a break, and to fill out the assembly evaluation forms.

SEMN SYNOD CHANNELS OF GENEROSITY  
After the break, Bishop Hassanally invited Rev. Carson to come forward and discuss the SEMN Synod's five Channels of Generosity. Rev. Carson walked through the various means that congregations and individuals have to contribute to God's work in our area and the world. She reminded the assembly that the people of our synod are already generous in many ways. Everything that we do, in sharing our space, our time, and our resources are generosity. Rev. Carson discussed Mission Support, and that most of the resources that fund the work of the synod comes through the gifts from the people of the synod. She then walked through the five channels of generosity: ELCA Ministries, Mission Support, Annual Fund, Hand-In-Hand, Planned Giving.

ADOPTION OF THE 2023-2024 SPENDING PLAN FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

The Bishop then called on Treasurer Chestnut to present the 2023-2035 Spending Plan for Mission and Ministry.

A Motion was made by Bishop Regina Hassanally to adopt the Spending Plan for Mission and Ministry 2023-2024.

### Assembly Action

**SA22.05.07** **Motion to adopt the Spending Plan for Mission and Ministry 2023-2024.**

**Motion approved.**

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During the discussion of motion SA22.05.07, a motion was made by Rev. Dan Doering, People of Hope, Rochester, MN to amend the Spending Plan for Mission and Ministry 2023-2024 by increasing the amount to Good Earth Village's line item by \$25,000 to \$35,000 and decrease the amount to Mission Support to the ELCA Churchwide organization.

Rev. Doering spoke to the amendment, that it would help with supporting staffing levels. Others spoke to the amendment from the perspective of the Good Earth Village board, noting that they would like to increase the stipends for staff. Others spoke to the needs of youth and young staff members and how we should be supporting them.

Some spoke against the motion, concerned about further reducing the amount going to the ELCA Churchwide Organization.

During the discussion, it was decided that there was a way to find unused funds in this year's Spending Plan to increase funds to Good Earth Village, instead of adjusting the 2023-2024 Spending Plan. Rev. Dan Doering withdrew his motion.

### Assembly Action

**SA22.05.08 Motion to amend the Spending Plan for Mission and Ministry 2023-2024 by increasing the amount to Good Earth Village's line item by \$25,000 to \$35,000 and decrease the amount to Mission Support to the ELCA Churchwide organization.**

#### Motion Withdrawn.

A Motion was made by Treasurer Jeff Chestnut to decrease the amount budgeted for rent in the Spending plan for Mission and Ministry 2022-2023 (the current year) by \$15,000 and increase gift to Good Earth Village by \$15,000.

**SA22.05.09 Motion to decrease the amount budgeted for rent in the Spending plan for Mission and Ministry 2022- 2023 by \$15,000 and increase gift to Good Earth Village by \$15,000.**

#### Motion approved.

### VARIETY OF SHARINGS

Bishop Hassanally once again called on Rev. Bowman for the results of the ballot election.

Rev. Bowman announced the election of the SEMN Synod Council and Committees was a unanimous ballot, and that the following were elected:

- Synod Secretary: Rev. Josh Enderson (2<sup>nd</sup> term 2022-2026)
- Synod Council-Youth: Hanna Herfindahl Quint (1<sup>st</sup> term 2022-2023)
- Synod Council-At-Large Lay: Matthew Huggenvik (1<sup>st</sup> term 2022-2024)
- Synod Council-At-Large Rostered: Rev. Dean Aponte-Safe (1<sup>st</sup> term 2022-2024)
- Committee on Discipline: Roy Srp (1<sup>st</sup> term 2022-2028)
- Committee on the Election of a Bishop (2022-2028): Dr. Joyce Thompson (MN River), Barbara Anderson (Zumbro River), Paul Jacobson (Cannon River), Rev. Kristi Mitchell (Blue Earth River), Rev. Kurt Bockoven (Root River), Jean Wichman (At-Large), Reb. Mick Walerius (At-Large)
- Augsburg University Board (2022-2024): Rev. Daniel Kordahl, Megan Pratola

### HONORING OF CHERYSE BRENNO

Bishop Hassanally then invited Ms. Cheryse Brenno to the stage. Ms. Brenno has been serving the SEMN Synod and working in the Office of the Bishop for 20 years.

### SYNOD ASSEMBLY OFFERING UPDATE

Bishop Hassanally then invited Rev. Carson to give an update on the Synod Assembly offering. A total of \$18,577.33 was given in the Assembly offering.

### THANKING OF THE OUT-GOING SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bishop Hassanally thanked all out-going Synod Council members. She thanked them for their service. They are:

- Rev. David Knox
- Rev. Ben Loven
- Burton Svendsen
- Anya Leitke-Quick
- Adam Anderson

### INSTALLATION OF SYNOD COUNCIL

Bishop Hassanally then presented and installed the re-elected or continuing council members,

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along with all who were newly elected at this assembly. They were invited to stand where they were at and to remain standing throughout the installation liturgy. After all were recognized, the Bishop installed the 2022-2023 SEMN Synod Council.

Re-elected/continuing members are: Treasurer Jeff Chestnut, Vice President Lisa Dierks, Secretary Rev. Josh Enderson, Deacon Amanda Sabelko, Rev. Collette Broady Grund, Rev. Jenna Couch, Rev. Shelley Cunningham, Rev. Kris Ferkin, Marshall Laidlaw, Karen Myers, Gary Shindler, Mona Skare, Carolyn Solberg, Jonah Udstuen, Dr. Mary Veiseth, Rev. Dr. Kristen Venne, and Rev. John Weisenberger.

Newly Elected members are: Hanna Herfindahl-Quint, Matthew Huggenvik, Rev. Dean Aponte-Safe.

### COMMISSIONING OF CHURCHWIDE VOTING MEMBERS

Following this, Bishop Hassanally presented those who have been elected to represent the SEMN Synod at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA as voting members. They had been elected at the 2021 SEMN Synod Assembly. They were also asked to stand where they were at when recognized and to stay standing throughout the commissioning liturgy. After all were recognized, the Bishop led the commissioning liturgy.

2022 Churchwide voting members are: Gideon Anderson, Rev. Dean Aponte-Safe, Joellen Barak, Rev. Dr. Jeanette Bidne, Rev. Allyson Bowman, DJ Chatelaine, Vice President Lisa Dierks, Secretary Rev. Josh Enderson, Genie Hanson, Robert Hanson, Bishop Regina Hassanally, Ronald Jensen, Marshall Laidlaw, Rev. Ben Loven, Rev. Kathleen Lowry, Rev. Deborah Lyanga, Emma Mentz, David Nelson, Nadine Omans, Diana Parks, Thomas Peterson, Knight Stanley, Rev. Paul Thompson, Dr. Mary Veiseth.

IMAGINE #4: WITH ROZELLA HAYDÉE WHITE  
Rozella Haydée White addressed the assembly for her 4<sup>th</sup> session, which began with reflection around the themes that had been discussed today: Love, Creativity, Liberation, Healing. She then engaged in a time of question and answer with the assembly.

### CLOSING REMARKS

Following our last session with Rozella Haydée White, Bishop Hassanally gave some closing remarks.

### SENDING: READING OF WHATIF MONSTER

The Assembly ended with a reading of "Jonathan James and the Whatif Monster" by Michelle Nelson-Schmidt.

Bishop Hassanally then closed the assembly with the "Closing Litany" and declared the assembly adjourned at 4:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Joshua Enderson  
SEMN Synod Secretary

APPROVED at Synod Council Meeting  
09/24/2022 JE