



# 2023 Pre-Assembly Report



Assembly Mobile Site:

**semn23.org**

*Bookmark it, save it to your home screen, and use it to quickly access materials and updates throughout the event.*

Share your experience on social media! When you post photos, videos, quotes, or questions, tag the synod. And use:

**#SEM23**



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Website:  
**semnsynod.org**

Digital 2023 Magazine:  
**semnsynod.org/23zine**



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# Proposed Agenda

**8-9 AM**      **Event Check-In, Continental Breakfast**

**9 AM**          **Worship with Holy Communion**

**10:15 AM**    **Plenary One**

Welcome and Introductions  
Report of the Committee on Credentials  
Adoption of the Rules for the Assembly  
Adoption of the Agenda for the Assembly  
Report of the SEMN Synod  
Program and Keynote Speaker  
Announcements  
Recess for Lunch

**1 PM**          **Plenary Two**

Gathering Prayer  
Introductions  
Report of the Committee on Credentials  
Report of the Synod Nominating Committee  
Report of Reference and Counsel  
Introduction of Financial Processes  
Report of the Treasure  
MN Council of Churches  
Report of the ELCA Churchwide  
Break  
LSS Servant of Christ Award  
ELCA World Hunger River of Giving Awards  
Report of Synod Vice President  
Election of Council, Boards, and Committees  
Report of the Synod Secretary  
SEMN Synod Streams of Generosity  
Report of the Treasurer—Adoption of Spending Plan  
Variety of Sharings  
Closing Remarks  
Sending

**5:30 PM**    **Adjournment of the Assembly**

# Special Guest



## **Dr. Susan Brower** *Minnesota State Demographer*

Susan Brower is the Minnesota State Demographer and directs the MN State Demographic Center. Susan became the State Demographer in February 2012. In that capacity, she travels the state talking with Minnesotans about the new social and economic realities that are brought about by recent demographic shifts. Susan's work applies an understanding of demographic trends to changes in a range of areas including the state's economy and workforce, education, health, immigration and rural population changes.

Susan joined the State Demographic Center after working as a researcher on the Minnesota Compass project at Wilder Research in St. Paul. Prior to that, she worked at the Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan.

Susan earned her Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Michigan, specializing in demography and family sociology. She also holds a master's degree in public policy from Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

For media or other inquiries, please contact Susan at [susan.brower@state.mn.us](mailto:susan.brower@state.mn.us) (preferred) or 651-201-2472.

# Special Guest



## **Rev. Kimberly A. Vaughn** *Sr. Director, Christian Community & Leadership Mission (CCLM) - ELCA*

Prior to joining the churchwide staff of the ELCA in June 2021, Rev. Vaughn served as a pastor of congregations in Southeast Michigan, Northeastern Ohio and Southwestern Texas Synods, and as Assistant to the Bishop in the New Jersey Synod. She is from Cleveland, Ohio, a proud graduate of Cleveland Public Schools, Cleveland State University (2003, US History) and The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (2008, Master of Divinity, Urban Ministry). In her younger years, she was active in Lutheran Campus Ministry at Cleveland State, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio, and youth ministry in ELCA congregations in Ohio. In her pastoral ministry, she has delighted in preaching, pastoral care, teaching, urban ministry initiatives, and facilitating conversations on congregational call processes, racial justice, discipleship, outreach, hospitality and active bystandership.

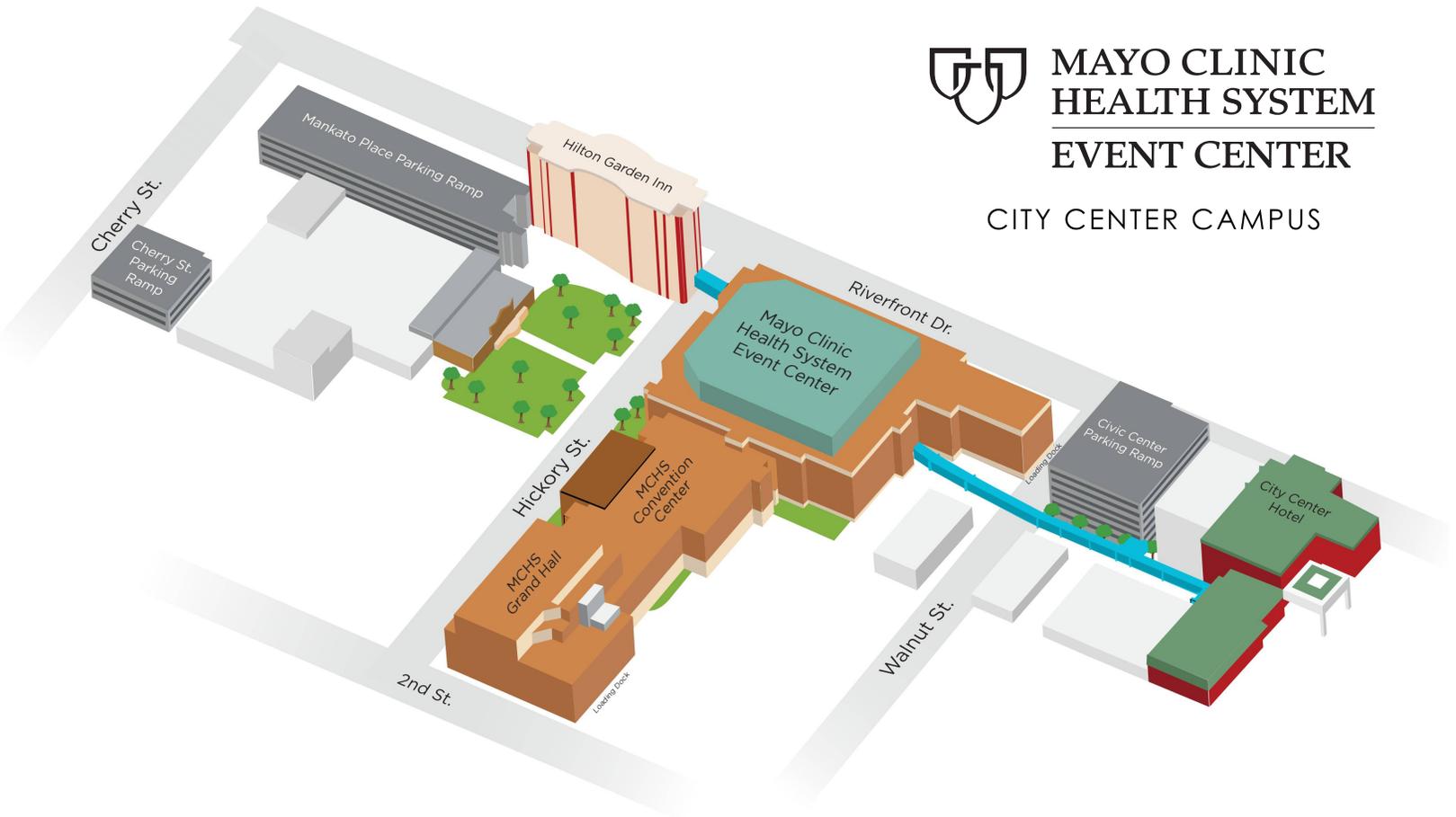
In her role as Senior Director of CCLM, Rev. Vaughn leads the team that has primary responsibility for: children's ministry, youth ministry, the ELCA Youth Gathering, young adult ministry, Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM), Lutheran Campus Ministry Network (LuMin), deaf ministry, disability ministry, Mission Builders and Total Inclusion. This dynamic and diverse team embodies the ELCA's goal to engage new, young and diverse people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Vaughn is the child of a Baptist preacher, the late Rev. Emory Vaughn and a nurse, Evelyn Vaughn who will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in May 2023, God willing! Rev. Vaughn is the youngest of 14 children, and has many, many nieces, nephews, godchildren, cousins, etc.

### Creator/Facilitator:

- *"The Rise of the Alt-Right"* – Conference of the Council of Anglican Episcopal Churches in Germany, Heidelberg, 2018
- *"Active Bystander Training"*, 2017 – present
- *"Hospitality Habits for Congregations"* – 2017-2021
- *"History of Defining of Race"*, New Jersey Synod WELCA, 2018
- *"Nurturing Faith: Holy Week and the Three Days"* – New Jersey Synod digital resources, March 2020

# Venue Maps



MAYO CLINIC  
HEALTH SYSTEM  
EVENT CENTER

CITY CENTER CAMPUS

## **Wi-Fi Access**

Network name: MCHS Event Center Guest

Username: eventcenter1

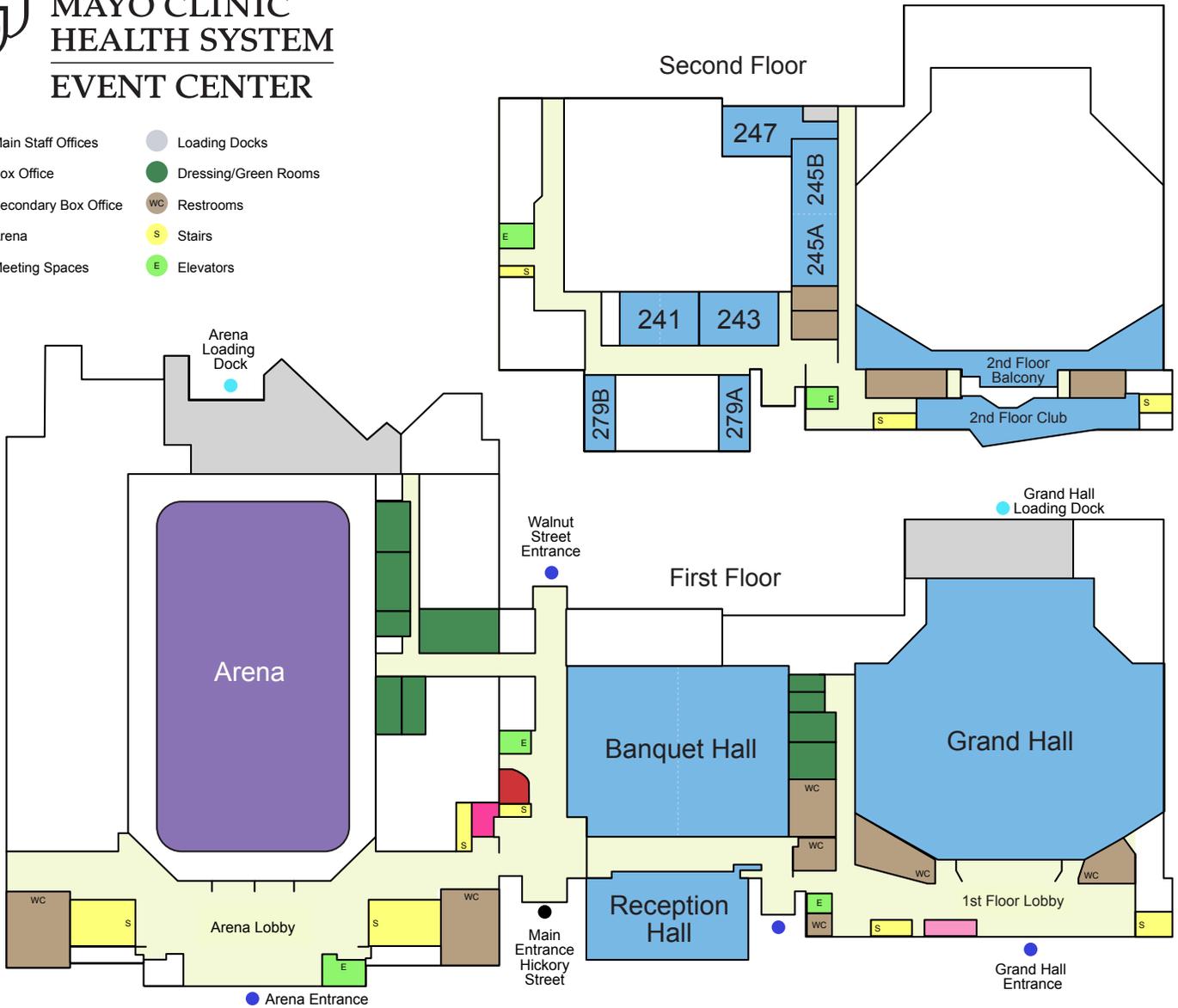
Password: mchs405

# Venue Maps



## MAYO CLINIC HEALTH SYSTEM EVENT CENTER

- Main Staff Offices
- Box Office
- Secondary Box Office
- Arena
- Meeting Spaces
- Loading Docks
- Dressing/Green Rooms
- WC Restrooms
- S Stairs
- E Elevators



# General Information

## **WELCOME**

Welcome to the 35th annual Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly, Flourish, like trees planted by streams of water, May 6, 2023. As an assembly of congregations, we gather together to worship, learn, and participate in the decision-making business of the church.

## **ABOUT**

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is a faith community of 165 congregations and two Synod Authorized Worshipping Communities as well as related institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is one of 65 synods that make up the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Its geographic area includes 15 counties in the southeastern corner of Minnesota. The synod is divided into five conferences, each one named after rivers in the area:

1. Root River Conference
2. Zumbro River Conference
3. Blue Earth River Conference
4. Minnesota River Conference
5. Cannon River Conference

The Office of the Bishop is located in Assisi Heights, the congregational center for the order of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in Rochester, Minnesota.

## **REGISTRATION**

On-site registration begins Saturday at 8 AM.

## **MEALS**

The registration fees include a continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Your name badge is your meal ticket. Please wear it at all times.

## **SPECIAL NEEDS**

We want to make sure you have what you need to make the assembly experience meaningful. Please let us know of any special needs before the event by calling the Office of the Bishop at 507-280-9457.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

Thank you for working together to minimize our environmental footprint from this event. Please help recycle by returning all name badges, voting cards, unwanted paper, and completed evaluation forms to the appropriate boxes upon leaving the assembly. Also, please bring your own beverage mug. Look for containers available for general recycling.

## **DISPLAYS**

Be sure to visit the displays from our synod tables, teams, committees, ministry partners, and others.

# Rules of the Assembly

## ASSEMBLY RULES

Voting Members of the Synod Assembly shall be designated by congregations and otherwise determined in accord with Chapter 7 of the Constitution, By-Laws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. See S7.21-.32.

## VOTING MEMBER CREDENTIALS

Voting privileges are extended only to voting members of the Assembly and may not be transferred.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

The adoption of the Synod Assembly agenda, with necessary changes, shall become the order of business for the assembly.

## QUORUM

Fifty percent (50%) of the registered voting members shall constitute a quorum.

## DECORUM & ETIQUETTE

Respect, dignity, civility, and courtesy shall be guidelines for the tone and content of all assembly discussion. Behavior outside these guidelines and which continues after warning shall be grounds for the assembly chair to restrict any further privilege of the floor.

## PRIVILEGE OF THE ASSEMBLY FLOOR

- Voting members of the assembly shall have prior right to the assembly floor.
- Officers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA shall be entitled to the privilege of the floor at all times.
- Voting members addressing the assembly during the discussion of a pending motion or resolution shall identify themselves by name and congregation.
- Unless otherwise determined by a majority vote of the assembly, all speeches during discussion of motions

or resolutions shall be limited to two minutes each.

- A person who has addressed the assembly on the pending motion or resolution may not speak to that pending motion or resolution again unless all others wishing to speak have done so.

## VOICE GRANTED

Pastors not on the Southeastern Minnesota Synod roster serving as interim pastors in the synod shall have voice on the assembly floor. S7.23.

## BUDGET IMPACT

Any resolution that adds money to the spending plan for mission and ministry should show a reduction of an equal amount in that same budget, or provide a proposal as to how the additional funds would be acquired. Any proposed amendments must be submitted by noon, Saturday, May 6, 2023.

## VISITOR SEATING

Visitors are welcome at the assembly. All visitors sit in a designated area.

## VOTING PROCEDURES

To be eligible to vote, a voting member must be seated in the assembly. No proxy or absentee voting is permitted. Voting members seated in the visitor's section will not have ballots collected or votes counted. Exceptions to this rule include officers and voting members seated on the stage or head tables and voting members serving as pages, ushers, or camera operators. A two-thirds vote is required for adoption of amendments to the constitution and by-laws of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. A majority vote is required for approval of the synod budget, resolutions, and other actions as specified in **Robert's Rules of Order**. In all elections by the Synod Assembly, other than for the bishop, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.

# Rules of the Assembly

## RESOLUTIONS

A resolution for consideration at the Synod Assembly must be submitted to the Committee on Reference and Counsel no later than March 15, 2023. Resolutions may be submitted by:

- by majority vote of a congregation of the synod at a regular or special meeting of the congregation
- by approval of a two-thirds vote of a congregation council
- by majority vote of a committee of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod
- by majority vote of a conference assembly
- by a group of at least ten members of congregations of the Southeastern Minnesota synod elected to serve as voting members of the forthcoming synod assembly

Minutes showing adoption of such proposed resolutions from a meeting of a congregation, Congregation Council, committee of the synod, or conference assembly must accompany the submitted resolution. The signatures, typed names, and telephone numbers must be provided by voting members (of the forthcoming synod assembly) submitting a resolution. (S7.34.A05).

Late resolutions will not be accepted.

## NOMINATIONS

Nominations for synod vacancies will be made available before the Assembly at [semnsynod.org/nominations](https://semnsynod.org/nominations). Nominations will not be read to the assembly as part of the assembly agenda. Additional nominations for any vacancies can be made until noon, Saturday, May 6, 2023, by completing the 2023 Nomination Form. Nomination forms will be available at the head table on the assembly floor or at <https://semnsynod.org/resources-for-congregations-and-leaders/nominations>. Additional nominations will be announced. Ballots will be in voting member packets.

## DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

Materials produced by the Office of the Bishop staff, teams, and committees may be distributed to voting members and visitors at the assembly as long as such materials are relevant to the overall work of the synod. Synod ministry partners may distribute materials produced by their organizations as long as such materials are directly related to the work of the synod.

## SYNOD CONSTITUTION

Our synod constitution is available on the website at [semnsynod.org/constitutions](https://semnsynod.org/constitutions).

# Communication about Business Agenda Changes

Over the course of this past year, and in conversation with key leaders in various ministry areas, the Synod Council facilitated important process updates in advance of the 2023 Synod Assembly. These shifts were and are intended to increase informed engagement by the people of the synod. These changes impacted:

- 1) the spending plan
- 2) the resolutions that come before the assembly and
- 3) the minimum compensation guidelines.

## **REGARDING THE SPENDING PLAN**

Each year, the Synod Council is responsible for recommending the draft spending plan that comes before the assembly. This year, we've moved the timeline up in order to create more on-ramps for engagement. We approved the draft spending plan at our February 25 meeting. The draft spending plan was made available for you on March 1 on the synod's website. We invited folks to give feedback and ask questions. All were invited to a budget caucus held on March 30. All of the input shared by the people of the synod was reviewed by the Synod Council at their April 15 meeting, and the Synod Council then approved the proposed spending plan that comes before you at the 2023 SEMN Synod Assembly.

## **REGARDING RESOLUTIONS**

Resolutions must be received by March 15 each year for the Committee on Reference and Counsel to engage the review process for each resolution. The process for submitting a resolution for consideration by the assembly can happen in a number of ways which you can find on the SEMN Synod website. The various pathways will also be highlighted by the chair, Rev. Dr. Scott Olson, during the assembly.

No resolutions were received by the March 15 deadline, so the April caucus was canceled. No resolutions are scheduled to come before the assembly this year

## **REGARDING THE SEMN SYNOD MINIMUM COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS GUIDELINES**

In order to put forth a Minimum Compensation and Benefit Guideline that better reflects the economic reality in which the guidelines are in effect, the synod council has discerned the following process:

January of each year: The task force is named and will include the following: One rostered minister member, one lay member, one synod council member (either rostered or lay), and one synod staff liaison

February through September: the task force will review the current guidelines and update as needed while awaiting the announcement of the next year's COLA.

October, after the COLA for the following year is announced, the task force will develop the proposed base salary portion of the guidelines. The proposed guidelines will be made available to rostered leaders and congregation leadership for public comment for a duration of 2 weeks.

The proposed compensation guidelines will then be presented to the Synod Council for approval after which time they will be made public on the SEMN Synod Website as congregations work on their budget proposals for upcoming annual meetings.

You will note that the Minimum Compensation Guidelines will no longer be presented at the SEMN Synod Assembly as a resolution but will be approved by the Synod Council with input from leaders throughout the synod in a timeframe that allows for a better sense of the current economic realities.

We hope this is helpful in your understanding of the business we will attend to during the 2023 SEMN Synod Assembly.

# Report of the Secretary

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Each year at the Synod Assembly, a report is presented by the synod's secretary. Our Synod Secretary, Rev. Josh Enderson, will be presenting the report on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The report before the assembly will focus on several proposed changes to the SEMN Synod Constitution. These changes highlight non-required amendments which align our Constitution with the Model Constitution for Synods, which were approved by the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Also included in this report are changes to Continuing Resolutions made by the Synod Council. Secretary Enderson will present these changes in his report in two parts, which are detailed in the following pre-assembly report. Each part of the report reflects a different set of proposed or presented changes.

These proposed changes can be found in the table on the following pages. They are color coded within each part. Also, if an item is ~~struck through~~ and highlighted, it will be deleted; if it is underlined, it will be added.

## PART 1

*Non-Required Amendments adopted by the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:* Part 1 of the report reflects non-required, but recommended, amendments that align our Constitution with the ELCA Model Constitution for Synods. These changes are highlighted in **yellow** within the following table. Proposed amendments can be adopted at a Synod Assembly by a majority vote of the members present and voting.

Provision	Amended Provision Words inserted are <u>underlined</u> . Words removed are <del>struck out</del>
S7.14.	<del>One-half</del> <u>One-third</u> of the members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.
S7.21.01.	Voting members shall begin serving with the opening of a regular Synod Assembly and shall continue serving until <del>voting members are seated at the</del> <u>opening of</u> 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, <u>provided that such processes not result in fewer than 60% of the voting members of the Synod Assembly being laypersons in contravention of</u> <del>consistent with</del> <u>†S7.21.e.</u> 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.
S7.24.	Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the rosters of this synod. Lay members of the Synod

# Report of the Secretary

	<p>Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until <b>the opening of the next regular synod assembly, or unless</b> replaced by the election of new members <b>for a special synod assembly,</b> or until they have been disqualified by termination of <b>congregation membership.</b> <del>Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.</del></p>
S7.26.	<p>This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit <b>lay</b> 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.</p>
S7.27.	<p>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 <b>of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</b> 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.</p>
S8.42.	<p>The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for: [...] c. Receipt and acknowledgment of offerings, contributions, and bequests made to this synod, collecting interest and income from its invested funds, and paying regular appropriations and orders on the several accounts as approved and directed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall transmit each month to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the funds received by this synod for the general work of this church <b>as well as any funds to support restricted programs of this church.</b> [...] f. <b>Obtaining a fidelity bond in the amount determined by the Synod Council for persons handling synod funds, which bond shall be in the custody of the secretary. The premium for the bond shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.</b></p>
<b>S.11.10.</b>	<b>General Provisions</b>
S14.13.	<p>The pastor</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. shall keep accurate <b>parochial</b> records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation,</li> <li>b. shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod, and</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>

# Report of the Secretary

S14.15.	Each minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of <del>his or her</del> 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 <del>his or her</del> ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

## PART 2

*Constitutional Changes From Synod Council:* Part 4 of the report presents changes to Continuing Resolutions that were approved by the Synod Council on April 15, 2023. These changes are highlighted in green. Changes to Continuing Resolutions are amended by the synod council and are effective immediately following approval by the synod council, needing no further action by the assembly. These are presented for your information only.

Provision	Amended Provision Words inserted are <u>underlined</u> . Words removed are <del>struck out</del>
S7.34.02.C05.	The Synod Assembly may allow an exception to the submission deadline of S7.34.02.B08 provided: <del>a. any late resolution shall be submitted to the Committee on Reference and Counsel by 3:00 p.m. on the first day of the Synod Assembly, and</del> b. the Synod Assembly, by motion passed by majority vote, specifically orders that such late resolution be placed on the Synod Assembly agenda.
S12.01.S18.	Congregations by Conference and Physical Address [...] <del>Bethany, Frost</del> [...] <del>South Blue Earth, Bricelyn</del> [...] <del>United, Frost</del> [...] <del>Connections Shelter Church, Mankato</del> [...] <del>Medo, Mapleton</del> [...] <del>St. Paul ELCA/UCC Evangelical Church, Lewiston</del> [...] <del>Rochester House Church, Rochester</del>

# Report of the Vice President

The Synod Council serves as the synod's board of directors and its interim legislative authority between meetings of the synod assembly. The Executive Committee consists of four synod officers and two persons elected annually by the synod council from its membership. The Synod Constitution outlines the full functions of the Synod Council, which range from preparing a preliminary budget for the assembly's approval to issuing letters of call to appointing representatives to boards and committees when not elected by the Synod Assembly

We gathered in the fall to hear participants of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly share about the experience and action the churchwide body took. Synod staff provided an orientation of the purpose of the synod council, the staff roles and responsibilities, and ways those roles intersect for the ministry of the synod. During our meetings, we spend time reviewing/approving the financial reports of the synod, constitutional changes, and personnel changes of rostered members of the synod, such as calls to service and requests for on leave from call.

I am grateful to our synod's lay and rostered members who offer their time and talents as council members. The role requires taking time away from family and other commitments to attend meetings, whether in-person or on Zoom, and to review materials beforehand. Considering the busy schedules we all have, I am thankful they chose to take the time to be leaders for our church.

We are all church together. We all have strengths and gifts we can use to support our members, congregations, and pastoral staff. Take a moment to consider how your gifts could benefit others.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa M. Dierks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "M".

**Lisa Dierks**

Vice President of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

# 2023 Synod Minimum Compensation/ Benefits Guidelines Taskforce Report

The Synod Council has discerned a new process for approving the SEMN Synod Minimum Compensation and Benefit Guidelines.

The previous process required the bulk of the work of the task force to be done more than a year before the guidelines were to be in effect. The Synod Council realized this timeline required the task force to complete their work without a key piece of information: The Social Security Administrations determined Cost of Living Adjustment for the year the guideline would be in effect. This adjustment is determined in the third quarter of each year for the following year.

In order to put forth a Minimum Compensation and Benefit Guideline that better reflects the economic reality in which the guidelines are in effect, the synod council has discerned a process that makes space for that.

January of each year: the task force is named. The 2023 Task Force is:

One rostered minister member–

*Reverend Jay Dahlvang*

One lay member–

*Ron Peterson*

One synod council member, either rostered or lay–

*Reverend Kris Ferkin*

One synod staff liaison–

*Reverend Barb Streed*

February through September: the task force will review the current guidelines and update as needed while awaiting the announcement of the next year's COLA.

October: after the COLA for the following year is announced, the task force will develop the proposed base salary portion of the guidelines.

The proposed guidelines will be made available to rostered leaders and congregation leadership for public comment

for a duration of 2 weeks. In this comment period folks may review the guidelines and are invited to direct concerns, questions, or affirmations to a task force member. Synod membership will be made aware of this comment period through our website and targeted emails.

The proposed compensation guidelines will then be presented to the Synod Council for approval after which time they will be made public on the SEMN Synod Website as congregations work on their budget proposals for upcoming annual meetings.

Our hope and vision for this new process is two-fold:

1. To present and approve a more economically accurate Minimum Compensation and Benefit Guideline.
2. To offer opportunity for both rostered ministers and congregations to engage thoroughly and wisely with the Minimum Compensation and Benefit Guideline.

# Roster & Candidacy Updates

*April 1, 2022 through March 15, 2023*

## ORDINATIONS

**Ms. Hannah DeLaine Olson**, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ. to Mayo Clinic Chaplain-04/03/2022

**Ms. Jackie Short**, Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, IA. to Solo Pastor at Evanger, Sargeant with St. John's, Elkton, Contracting-08/14/2022.

**Ms. Sarah Krolak**, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, IL. to Solo/2 Point Pastor at North Waseca, Waseca & Faith, Janesville-008/20/2022.

**Ms. Kira Anderson**, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. to Solo Pastor at St. Ansgar's, Cannon Falls-08/21/2022.

**Ms. Joy Knoppel**, The University of Chicago, IL to Associate Pastor at First, Albert Lea-09/17/2022.

**Ms. Lisa Hawe**, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. to Associate Pastor of Generational Ministry at Bethel, Rochester-12/05/2022.

**Mr. David Reedstrom**, Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, IA. to Solo Pastor at Calvary, Mankato-12/18/2022.

**Deacon Billie Jo Wicks**, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. to Solo/2 Point Pastor at St. Paul, Meriden & Zion, Ellendale-01/14/2023.

**Mr. Dustin Haider**, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. to Solo/2 Point Pastor at Dale & Holden, Kenyon-02/18/2023.

## NEW CALLS WITHIN THE SYNOD

**Deacon Amanda Sabelko**, Faith Formation at St. John, Kasson to CYF Director at Gloria Dei, Rochester-06/01/2022.

**Rev. Timothy Mc Dermott**, Interim at St. Ansgar's, Cannon Falls to Interim at Spring Garden, Cannon Falls-08/15/2022.

**Rev. Troy Nelson**, Reinstated to the Roster of the ELCA to St. Paul, Le Center-09/13/2022.

**Rev. Peter J. Johnson**, Pastor at Moscow & Oakland, Austin & Albert Lea to Pastor at Moscow, Austin-09/18/2022.

**Rev. John Weisenburger**, Senior Pastor at Our Savior's, Owatonna to Senior Pastor at St. John, Kasson-10/06/2022.

**Rev. Joseph Smith**, Interim at Grace, Fairmont to Interim at Good Shepherd, Wells-10/16/2022.

**Rev. Scott Olson**, Interim at Good Shepherd, Wells to Interim at Christ, Preston-10/16/2022.

**Rev. Jacie Richmond**, Associate Pastor at St. John, Owatonna to Associate Pastor at Bethlehem, Mankato-10/23/2022.

**Rev. Andrew Yackel**, Solo Pastor at Urland, Cannon Falls to Associate Pastor at Our Savior's, Faribault-10/30/2022.

**Rev. Jessica Bakken-Busch**, Associate Pastor at Saint Paul, Pine Island to Solo Pastor at Faith, Dodge Center-11/01/2022.

**Rev. Mary Iverson**, Interim at Trinity, New Richland to Pastor at Trinity, New Richland-11/13/2022.

**Rev. Dale Svendsen**, Interim at Glenville Area Lutheran Parish to Interim at Deer Creek Valley-12/01/2022.

**Rev. Jeff Forbes**, Interim at Cross of Christ, Houston to Interim at Cross of Christ, Houston-Renewed-12/01/2022-01/31/2023.

**Deacon Robert Tewes, Jr.**, Grace, Albert Lea, to Bridge Interim Pastor at Bear Creek, Grand Meadow-01/02/2023.

**Rev. William Luke Hollander**, Associate Pastor at Mount Olive to Solo Pastor at First English, Cannon Falls-01/16/2023.

**Rev. Michael Zaske**, Interim at First English, Cannon Falls to Interim at First, Red Wing-01/16/2023.

**Rev. Kristen Anderson**, Bridge Interim Pastor at Trinity, Hayfield to Solo Pastor at Trinity, Hayfield-01/29/2023.

# Roster & Candidacy Updates

*April 1, 2022 through March 15, 2023*

**Rev. Dana Jackson**, On Leave from Call to Solo Pastor at Cross of Christ, Houston-02/14/2023.

**Rev Kristi Mitchell**, Pastor at Redeemer, Alden to Solo Pastor at Concordia Pickerel Lake & Redeemer Parish, Albert Lea & Alden-03/01/2023.

## **SYNODICALLY AUTHORIZED LAY MINISTRY (SAM) – Renewed Yearly**

**Larry Iverson, SAM-09/08/2022 to 12/31/2022.**

## **THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOR EMERGING MINISTRIES (TEEM)**

*no changes*

## **CONTRACTED ROSTERED LEADERS FOR PASTORAL MINISTRY TO CONGREGATIONS**

**Rev. Judy Thompson-Reitz**-Retired, Northeastern Minnesota Synod to Contracted Pastor at First, Le Sueur-Renewed-06/01/2022.

**Rev. Daphne Hamborg**-Retired to Contracted Pastor at Salem, Albert Lea-05/01/2022

**Mr. Dustin Haider**- First Call-to Contracted Lay Pastor at Dale & Holden, Kenyon-05/14/2022.

**Rev. William Klavetter**-Retired, Contracted Pastor at St. Paul's, Red Wing-07/01/2022.

**Rev. Byron Meline**-Retired, Contracted Pastor at Bethel, Rochester-07/01/2022.

**Rev. Jackie Short**, First Call, Called to Evanger Sargeant and Contracted Pastor at St. John, Elkton-08/22/2022.

**Ms. Marcia Pedersen**, First Call, to Contracted Lay Pastor at Cross of Glory & West Freeborn, Hartland-09/06/2022.

**Rev. Susan Li**, Full Communion Partner to Contracted Interim at Our Savior's, Owatonna-10/02/2022.

**Rev. Dana Jackson**, On Leave from Call, Contracted Pastor at Central, Winona-10/06/2022.

**Rev. David Wall**, -Retired, SWMN Synod to Contracted Pastor at Faith, Winona-11/01/2022.

**Rev. Judy Thompson-Reitz**, Retired to Contracted Pastor at Urland, Cannon Falls-12/01/2022.

**Rev. Jon Mapa**, Retired-Nebraska Synod to Contacted Pastor at 2-Point Parish of Jackson Lake, Amboy& Faith, Delavan-01/02/2022.

**Rv. Chris Meester**, Reformed Church in America, to Letter of Invitation to Extended Service as Associate Pastor at Trinity, Owatonna-02/13/2023.

## **CONTRACTED CONGREGATIONS FOR PASTORAL MINISTRY TO CONGREGATIONS**

**Pontoppidan, Ellendale**, Contracted with St. John's, Owatonna-Holds the Letter of Call- Rev. David Klawiter-09/01/2022.

**Peace, Eyota**, Contracted with Faith, St. Charles-Holds the Letter of Bridge to Settle Call-Rev. Shawn Brooks-10/11/2022.

**Deer Creek Valley, Glenville**, Contracted with First, Glenville-Holds the Letter of Agreement-Rev. Dale Svendsen-12/01/2022.

**Bethlehem, Glenville**, Contracted with First, Glenville-Holds the Letter of Agreement-Rev. Dale Svendsen-12/01/2022.

**Oakland, Albert Lea**, Contracted with Grace, Austin-Holds the Letter of Call-Rev. Patrick Ziems-01/01/2023.

**Salem, Albert Lea**, Contracted with Ascension, Albert Lea-Holds the Letter of Call-Rev. Mark Boorsma-01/01/2023.

# Roster & Candidacy Updates

*April 1, 2022 through March 15, 2023*

**Henrytown, Canton**, Contracted with Mabel First, Mabel-Holds the Letter of Agreement-Rev. Carla Tappert Reiersen.

**Scheie, Mabel**, Contracted with Mabel First, Mabel-Holds the Letter of Agreement-Rev. Carla Tappert Reiersen.

## ON LEAVE FROM CALL

**Rev. Dana Jackson**-05/22/2022.

**Rev. Cynthia Fisher- Broin**-07/01/2022.

**Rev. Peter Johnson**-07/13/2022.

**Rev. Katherine Chatelaine-Samsen**-08/15/2022.

**Rev. Dean Aponte-Safe**-08/31/2022.

**Rev. Jenna Couch**-09/12/2022.

**Rev. Cheryl Indehar**-10/01/2022.

**Deacon Robert Tewes**-12/01/2022.

**Rev. Kristen Schlauderaff**-12/18/2022.

## ROSTERED LEADER REINSTATED TO THE ELCA ROSTER

**Rev. Troy Nelson**-05/19/2022.

## TRANSFERRED INTO THE SYNOD

**Rev. Kary Jonas**, La Crosse Area Synod to Interim Pastor at First, Lake City-04/04/2022.

**Rev. Sarah Deutsch**, Western Iowa Synod to Solo Pastor at Epiphany Lutheran Church-05/15/2022.

**Rev. Judy Thompson-Reitz**, Retired-Northeastern Minnesota Synod to Retired-Southeastern Minnesota Synod-05/26/2022.

**Rev. William Klavetter**, Retired-Southwestern Minnesota Synod to Retired-Southeastern Minnesota Synod-07/01/2022.

**Rev. Alma Gast Bucu**, LaCrosse Area Synod to Bridge Interim Pastor at Elstad & Highland Prairie, Peterson-07/01/2022.

**Rev. Allison Cobb**, LaCrosse Area Synod to Senior Pastor at Grace, Fairmont-09/18/2022.

**Rev. Samuel Mailleue**, North Carolina Synod to Solo Pastor at First, Le Sueur-09/25/2022.

**Rev. Charles Boettcher**, Northeastern Minnesota Synod to Solo/2Pt Pastor at Cross of Christ & Cannon River, Welch-10/01/2022.

**Rev. Shawn Brooks**, Western Iowa Synod to Bridge Interim Pastor at Faith, St. Charles-10/01/2022.

**Rev. Peter C. Schattauer**, Minneapolis Area Synod to Associate Director of the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, & Community, St. Olaf College, Northfield-11/28/2022.

**Rev. Dean Lundgren**, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin to Solo Pastor/ Part-Time at Grace, Nerstrand-01/15/2023.

**Rev. Gregory Schaefer**, Sierra Pacific Synod to Bridge Interim Pastor at Faith, Winona-02/01/2023.

**Rev. Paul Miller**, Southwestern Texas Synod to Pastor at First, Lake City-03/09/2023.

## TRANSFERRED OUT OF THE SYNOD

**Rev. Steve Pannkuk**, On Leave from Call to the Saint Paul Area Synod- 04/18/2022.

**Rev. Scott Hagen**, US Army Chaplain to Retired-Florida- Bahama Synod-08/03/2022.

**Rev. Daniel Bredberg**, Solo Pastor at Christ, Preston to Northwestern Ohio Synod-08/12/2022.

**Rev. Ronald Myers**, On Leave from Call to Southeastern Iowa Synod-12/01/2022.

**Rev. Jason Burggraff**, Associate Pastor at Bethel, Rochester to South Dakota Synod-01/01/2023.

# Roster & Candidacy Updates

April 1, 2022 through March 15, 2023

## DISABILITY

*no changes*

## RETIREMENTS:

Rev. Nancy Edwardson-05/01/2022.

Rev. Steven Schwartz-06/01/2022.

Rev. Luther Mathsen-06/01/2022.

Rev. Nicholas Fisher-Broin-07/01/2022.

Rev. Heather Hammond-07/01/2022

Rev. Dr. Craig Koester-07/01/2022.

Mr. Larry Iverson, SAM (Synodically Authorized Minister)-01/01/2023.

Rev. Arthur Sharot-01/01/2023.

Rev. Jeffrey Forbes-02/01/2023.

## DECEASED

Rev. Robert Boda-04/14/2022.

Rev. Lauren "Bud" Egdahl-04/19/2022.

Rev. Curtis Fox-04/26/2022.

Rev. John (Jack) Nordgaard-07/06/2022.

Rev. Edward Nieman-07/04/2022.

Rev. Theodore Vinger-09/11/2022.

Rev. Otto Reitz-09/13/2022.

Rev. Kip Groettum-10/07/2022.

Rev. Eldon Person-12/16/2022.

Rev. Troy Nelson-01/21/2023.

Rev. Gerhard Knutson-03/03/2023.

## ROSTERED LEADERS REMOVED FROM THE ELCA ROSTER

*no changes*

## ROSTERED LEADERS RESIGNED FROM THE ELCA ROSTER

Nathan Luong-06/02/2022.

## CONGREGATIONS REMOVED FROM THE ELCA/SYNOD

*none*

## CONGREGATIONS WHICH CLOSED

*none*

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### Advisory for Call Process:

Rev. Barbara Streed,  
Assistant to the Bishop-Call Process

### Support Staff for Call Process:

Cheryse L. Brenno,  
Call Process & Roster Administrator

# Global Ministry Funds Report

## **Global Ministry Table Fund –** Fiscal Year (FY) 2022: \$9,000

The Global Ministry Table Fund is a line in the annual Synod budget that is funded through general mission support from congregations. This line funds:

- the operational costs of the Global Ministry Table which includes the work of five teams - AMMPARO, Colombia Accompaniment, Hunger, Medical Ministry, Tanzania Accompaniment
- ministry partners beyond the Synod's global and local ministry companions, including Mwangaza Education for Partnership (Tanzania), Global Health Ministries, and Young Adults in Global Mission;
- emergent SEMN ministries, such as seed money for SEMN congregations welcoming new immigrants; local SEMN Food Ministry grants.

## **Global Ministry Designated Funds –** FY 2022: \$86,400

The Global Ministry Designated Funds come from special gifts given by individuals and congregations. Guided by covenants and best practices, funds were distributed to the following ministry partners in FY2022:

Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO)  
Funds supported inner-city ministries for women and girls; rural congregations affected by the pandemic; four Lutheran K-12 schools; and other community ministries.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania– Central Diocese (ELCT-CD)  
Funds supported education scholarships for children; pastor and evangelist training; rural health care and palliative care services through Iambi Lutheran Hospital; rural parishes impacted by drought and the pandemic; and other specialized ministries throughout the Diocese.

AMMPARO (A Welcoming Ministry)  
Funds supported Synod congregations that are welcoming new immigrants into local communities; local ministry partners such as Hispanic Outreach of Goodhue County;

local SEMN Synod Food Ministry grants; as well as partner ministry organizations at the U.S./Mexico borderlands.

South Sudanese Ministries  
Funds supported local South Sudanese Ministries; scholarship support for a Seminary student; and expenses for hosting ELCA Missionary Rev. Wal Reat.

Southeastern Minnesota Synod Food Ministry Grants  
Funds supported nine grants to Synod congregations engaged in local food ministry.

Global ministries expand our vision of God's mission in the world – and provides a way for us to join that mission by walking with our neighbors near and far. Financial support from congregations and individuals in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod is making an impact on the lives of people in both global and local communities through our connections and relationships with ministry partners.

You and your congregation can support the Synod's Global Ministries by making a financial gift through:

- General mission support of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod; and
- Designated gift for a particular global ministry - Tanzania, Colombia, AMMPARO, South Sudanese, SEMN Hunger Grants, Global Ministries (general)

Give online at [semnsynod.org/giving](https://semnsynod.org/giving) or send a check to the Synod office (1001 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW #300, Rochester, MN 55901).

Kathy Chatelaine, Assistant to the Bishop for Global Ministry, is available to visit with you and your congregation as you discern how God may be inviting you to participate in global accompaniment ministry – along with other ways of supporting this ministry. Contact Kathy by calling the Synod Office (507-280-9457) or email her at [chatelaine@semnsynod.org](mailto:chatelaine@semnsynod.org).

# Proposed Spending Plan for Mission + Ministry 2024-25

1	Income				
2		Mission Support	Account Number		Notes
3			400100	Mission Support	\$1,575,000.00
4		Total Mission Support			\$1,575,000.00
5					
6		Other Income			
7			400390	Annual Fund	\$40,000.00
8			400300, 400302	Event Offerings	\$40,000.00
9			800520	Witmer CE Fund	\$7,500.00
10		Total Other Income			\$87,500.00
11					
12		Program Fees			
13			400204	Synod Assembly	\$60,000.00
14			400200	Theological Conference	\$20,000.00
15			400205, 400208	Events - Other	\$3,000.00
16			400202	Candidacy	\$4,500.00
17			400210	First Call Theological Education	\$5,000.00
18		Total Program Fees			\$92,500.00
19					
20		Total Income			\$1,755,000.00
21					
22	Expense				
23		ELCA Mission Support			
24			500002	ELCA Mission Support	\$677,250
25		Total ELCA Mission Support			\$677,250
26					
27		Personnel			
28			500100	Salaries & wages	\$484,920.54
29			500120	Continuing Education	\$8,500.00
30			500130	Book Allowance	\$1,500.00
31			500140	Payroll Tax Expense	\$18,188.33
32			500150	Employee Benefits - Portico	\$175,000.00
33			500225	Staff Development	\$5,000.00
34			500226	Staff Sabbatical	\$0.00
35			500230	Tharan Leopold, ELCA Regional Gift Officer	\$10,000.00
36		Total Personnel			\$703,108.87
37					

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# Proposed Spending Plan for Mission + Ministry 2024-25

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# Proposed Spending Plan for Mission + Ministry 2024-25

38	<b>Ministry Partners</b>				
39		500300	Campus Ministry: Winona & Mankato	\$50,000.00	
40		500302	Luther Seminary	\$15,000.00	
41		500305	Good Earth Village	\$10,000.00	
42		500304	Minnesota Council of Churches	\$5,000.00	
43		500308	Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota	\$2,000.00	
44		500310	Region 3 Archives	\$9,000.00	
45		500537	Continuous Growth Pathways	\$15,000.00	
46	<i>Total Ministry Partners</i>			<b>\$106,000.00</b>	
47					
48	<b>Synod Ministry Programs</b>				
49		500570, 500572, 500574	Synod Assembly	\$55,000.00	
50		500532	Theological Conference	\$20,000.00	
51		500543	New to Synod Gatherings	\$1,000.00	
52		500544	Retired Minister Gatherings	\$1,500.00	
53		500514	Candidacy	\$10,000.00	
54		500541	First Call Theological Education	\$4,000.00	
55		multiple	Tables/Teams	\$3,000.00	
56		500535	Faith Formation	\$500.00	
57		500450	Rostered Leader Development	\$7,000.00	
58		500403	New Ministry Initiatives	\$15,000.00	
59	<i>Total Synod Ministry Programs</i>			<b>\$117,000.00</b>	
60					
61	<b>Global Partners Discretionary Table</b>				
62		500503	Global Ministry Table Discretionary	\$5,000.00	<i>A decrease from \$9k to \$5k</i>
63	<i>Total Global Partners Table Discretionary</i>			<b>\$5,000.00</b>	
64					
65	<b>Governance</b>				
66		500500	Executive Committee	\$500.00	
67		500507	Synod Council	\$1,500.00	
68		500538	Conference of Deans	\$200.00	
69		500546	Endowment Committee	\$200.00	
70			Bishop Transition	\$5,000.00	
71	<i>Total Governance</i>			<b>\$7,400.00</b>	
72					
73	<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
74		500400	Rent	\$25,000.00	<i>Change from \$48-50k in previous budgets</i>

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# Proposed Spending Plan for Mission + Ministry 2024-25

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# Proposed Spending Plan for Mission + Ministry 2024-25

75		500402	Contracts & Repairs	\$15,000.00	
76		500410	Postage	\$4,000.00	
77		500412	Office Supplies	\$12,000.00	
78		500418	Phone & Internet	\$6,000.00	
79		500416	Audit & Legal Services	\$10,000.00	
80		500417	Accounting Service	\$18,000.00	
81		500420	Insurance	\$10,000.00	
82		500424	Bank Fees	\$500.00	
83		500425	Credit Card Processing	\$2,500.00	
84		500426	Office Equipment	\$5,000.00	
85		500427	Miscellaneous Expense	\$1,000.00	
86		500428	Communication	\$5,000.00	
87		500224:225	Staff Travel: Synod	\$15,000.00	<i>Increase of \$2k for increased mileage rate</i>
88		500224:226	Staff Travel: Domestic	\$5,000.00	
89		500224:227	Staff Travel: Global	\$10,000.00	
90	<i>Total Operating Expense</i>			<i>\$144,000.00</i>	
91					
92	<b>Total Expense</b>			<b>\$1,759,758.87</b>	
93					
94				<b>- \$4,758.87</b>	<b>NET TOTAL (TOTAL INCOME - TOTAL EXPENSE)</b>

**Note:**

Previous year spending plans are available on the website at: [semnsynod.org/pages/spending-plans](http://semnsynod.org/pages/spending-plans).

# Sample Ballot

## **Synod Council At-Large (Lay)**

*Vote for no more than 9 for a 2-year term.*

- Karen Myers – 2<sup>nd</sup> term (2023-2025)
- Ramona Skare – 2<sup>nd</sup> term (2023-2025)
- Carolyn Solberg – 2<sup>nd</sup> term (2023-2025)
- Ed Taylor – 1<sup>st</sup> term (2023-2025)
- Brian Scott – 1<sup>st</sup> term (2023-2025)

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## **Synod Council At-Large (Rostered)**

*Vote for no more than 9 for a 2-year term.*

- Rev. Shelley Cunningham – 2<sup>nd</sup> term (2023-2025)
- Rev. Dr. Kristen Venne – 2<sup>nd</sup> term (2023-2025)
- Rev. John Weisenburger – 2<sup>nd</sup> term (2023-2025)
- Rev. Collette Broady Grund – 2<sup>nd</sup> term (2023-2025)
- Rev. Marla Rotman – 1<sup>st</sup> term (2023-2025)
- Deacon Amanda Sabelko – 2<sup>nd</sup> term (2023-25)

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## **Synod Council At-Large Youth Member**

*(Confirmed – age 17 when elected)*

*Vote for no more than 2 for a 1-year term.*

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## **Synod Council At-Large Young Adult Member**

*Vote for no more than 2 for a 2-year term.*

- Marshall Laidlaw – 2<sup>nd</sup> term (2023-2025)

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## **Committee on Consultation (Lay)**

*Vote for no more than 2 for a 6-year term.*

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## **Committee on Consultation (Rostered)**

*Vote for no more than 1 for a 6-year term.*

- Rev. Jolene Knudson-Hanse, RR - 1<sup>st</sup> term (2023-'29)

## **Committee on Discipline (Lay)**

*Vote for no more than 2 for a 6-year term.*

- Nikki Weber-Knutson, BER - 1<sup>st</sup> term (2023-'29)
- Katherine Sukalski, ZR - 1<sup>st</sup> term (2023-2029)

## **Committee on Discipline (Rostered)**

*Vote for no more than 3 members for a 6-year term.*

- Rev. Shane Koepke, BER - 1<sup>st</sup> term (2023-2029)
- Rev. David Krinke, CR - 1<sup>st</sup> term (2023-2029)

## **Augsburg University Corporation Board**

*Vote for no more than 6 for a 2-year term.*

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## **Nominating Committee (Rostered)**

*Vote for no more than 3 rostered members for a 3-year term.*

- Rev. Matthew Griggs, BER - 1<sup>st</sup> term (2023-'26)
- Rev. Maureen Hagen, CR - 1<sup>st</sup> term (2023-2026)
- Deacon Robert Tewes, ZR - 1<sup>st</sup> term (2023-'26)

# Nominations

Each year at the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly, voting members vote for individuals to serve in different leadership capacities on council, tables, and teams.

Those who were nominated were invited to submit responses to these two questions:

1. List three current or past congregational, synodical, or churchwide service activities.
2. Describe your sense of God calling you into mission and service in Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you could bring to the work?

## **Synod Council - Layperson**

Vote for up to 9.

### **Karen Myers**

1. Past Zion WELCA president, current Synod council member, past SWO member and treas.
2. In the past I've worked with the synodical women, but being on the synod council these last couple years has been very insightful and a great learning experience. This past year has been very trying for me and my faith has been my strength through it. I feel continued service on the synod council is where God is leading me at this time.

### **Ramona (Mona) Skare**

1. I have served on the Synod Council these past 2 years. In my congregation I am a member of the church council and also have been elected president of our WELCA.
2. Having been grounded in our faith since I was a child I have been involved in sharing my God-given talents and skills for much of my life - first in singing in church choirs and as a leader in Luther League and later as a Sunday School teacher of preschool children, as a member of our church council in various positions, as a participant in circle and WELCA, and as a Bible study leader. I try to be an active listener and an

encourager of others in sharing their gifts.

### **Carolyn Solberg**

1. Current Synod council member, past congregational council member, Altar Guild member
2. I have served on SEMN ELCA Synod Council for the past two years. I am self-nominating to continue in this roll to be a voice for the Root River Conference, an area consisting of several small congregations who sometimes get overlooked in the grand scheme of things. I have served as a council member at Christ Lutheran in Preston on and off since 2014. I am involved in my church in many areas including lay ministry, Altar Guild, Women of Christ Bible Study, and co-leader of the November Service Group. You'll find me participating in activities at church several days a week.

## **Synod Council - Rostered**

Vote for up to 9.

### **Rev. Collette Broady Grund**

1. Director of Connections Shelter in Mankato 2017 to present, Synod Nominating Committee 2017-2020, Community Accompaniment Table 2016-2020.
2. I have enjoyed my time serving on synod council for the last three years and the widened perspective it has given me of the synod and all the moving parts therein. I am happy to continue serving in this capacity, learning and asking good questions as we make prayerful decisions for the sake of the church.

### **Pastor Marla Rotman**

1. 2022/2023 Synod Assembly Planning Team (ELCA), 2016-2018 Synod President (Reformed Church in America), 2013-2018 Cultivating Generous Congregations (ELCA / RCA)

# Nominations

2. It would be an honor to serve on the Synod Council Team - thank you for the invitation. I bring to the table experience in the areas of healthy personal relations and self-awareness, call process, stewardship, and student examination. Working on a team is a high value for me; I strongly believe that each of us have something incomparable to add to each and every conversation, and contribute a fresh perspective worth considering. I am committed to the success of our synod and would work hard to protect the mission and vision of the synod.

## **Rev. Shelley Cunningham**

1. Synod council, committee on reference and counsel, continuous growth pathway advisory board
2. As the church -- both at the congregational, synodical, and national level -- continues to adapt and evolve it needs leaders willing to ask questions, imagine new possibilities, make difficult decisions, pray like crazy, respect tradition while encouraging transformation, and love Jesus and neighbor in ways big and small. With patience, grace, curiosity, and humility -- as well as solid constitutional, oversight, and systems training -- I would be honored to support the SEMN Synod Council and staff as one of these leaders.

## **Rev. John Weisenburger**

1. Synod Council, Global Mission Table, Sudanese Community Mentor
2. I've been around the block

## **Rev. Dr. Kristen Venne**

1. Synod Council; Synod Council, BEREC Vice; Dean, Churchwide Assembly
2. I have been on Synod Council for one term. At each meeting I sense God's call to serve in this capacity. I am aware of how my experiences and educational background have prepared me to work with others and the council. I am able to

listen to other perspectives and add my perspective as we work towards a decision. After serving one term, I feel I know processes and procedures and am ready to serve for another term.

## **Deacon Amanda Sabelko**

1. Synod Council - Rostered, At Large Member (2021 - current); Faith Formation Table - Zumbro River Conference Rep (2021 - current); Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Rochester - Deacon of CYF Ministries (2022 - current)
2. Over the last 15 years, I have served in CYF ministries in North Dakota and Minnesota. I've spent most of my time in ministry equipping parents and caring adults in sharing faith. For example, over the past couple of years, I have been doing a lot of advocacy work and learning in regards to people with disabilities within communities I have served. My oldest child lives with disabilities which lead me to learning how to make sure he was able to participate in activities we offer as a congregation. With these experiences, I'm excited to have another opportunity to serve our Synod.

## **Synod Council - Young Adult**

Vote for up to 2.

## **Mr. Marshall Laidlaw**

1. Member of the ELCA Youth Core Leadership Team (2018-2020); Serve on the College Ministries' Council for Faith and Life at Luther College (2022 - present); Young Adult Representative on SEMN Synod Council (2021 - present)
2. Spirituality is an incredibly important area of my life, and I see the most meaningful way to practice faith is through community. I see our role as the church in the SEMN Synod is about building connective community through each of our congregations and

# Nominations

worshiping communities. I believe my communication skills, willingness to learn and listen, passion for theological studies, and perspectives as a young adult are valuable to help create a better, more inclusive and affirming church that reflects the wondrous diversity of the body of Christ.

## **Committee on Discipline**

Vote for up to 1 per conference.

### **Nikki Weber-Knutson**

1. 2nd year serving on church council, participating as lector multiple services, assisting with some Sunday School activities
2. I joined our faith community as an adult, being baptized when I chose to do so nearly 6 years ago. In that time, our church family and growing my faith has been so special to me. I have worked 22 years for a Fortune 300 company in Human Resources roles. I have handled discipline meetings including terminations. I also have managed teams of employees and have completed performance reviews and constructive feedback/discipline opportunities. I am professional and am able to handle difficult situations well. I'm happy to help serve with these HR skills.

### **Katherine A Sukalski**

1. Church Council (2018-present). Internship Committees: David Adams St. Mark's Lutheran Grand Forks ND 2015-2016; Nicole Rockne Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 2017-2018; Council and 2 term council president, St. Mark's Lutheran Grand Forks
2. I am a retired faculty member of the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the University of North Dakota. During my faculty career I was responsible for coaching faculty and students in living up to expected standards of professional conduct. I participated in

hearings and remediation activities for those who fell short of standards. I am a life-long Lutheran with significant leadership responsibilities within my local congregation. At this point in my life, I feel called to offer my expertise as it can be applied within the context of church discipline.

## **Nominating Committee**

Vote for up to 3 total (1 per conference).

### **Rev. Matthew K. Griggs**

1. Pastor of Faith United Lutheran Church of Iron, Minnesota (2002-2008); Pastor of Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church of Hanley Falls, Minnesota (2000-2002); Volunteer Teacher in Tisovec and Kosice, Slovakia through YGAM (1994-1995)
2. I believe there is no solitary Christian. We are baptized into a Christian Community. When we read, study and hear the word we are receiving the counsel of followers who have struggled and confessed our common faith. Synod work and ministry is more than a mere ministry in competition with other needs. It is our congregation's voice magnified to our world's needs local, national and international. As a former YGAM volunteer, I have seen the branches of our church's mission. Through the Body of Christ, we have a vast community of believers who walk with us.

# Worship

Prelude

“Mercy, Mercy, Mercy”

Band

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Litany

**L: God, we gather today in a world of uncertainty, but you promise to continue to do a new thing.**

C: Help us have eyes to see the life and world you are creating among us.

**L: You have called us to walk with and serve your people. Give us the courage to do so with joy and the comfort of your promises.**

C: Give us strength to lead well, listening ever closer to your guidance and joining in the abundant life you promise to all of us.

**L: As trees planted by streams of water, you have nurtured your people that we may flourish, bringing new life into being with you.**

C: Help us to remember the promise of your presence among us, that we might bear the fruit of peace, justice, and love.

Gathering Song

“Guide My Feet”

Pg. 32 (ACS #987)

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Kyrie (S147 p147)

Band

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord have mercy.**

*Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.*

**Amen.**

# Worship

**Canticle of Praise** (S148 p148)

Band

***Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.***  
*Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
In the glory of God the Father, Amen.*

**Prayer of the Day**

[ELW for 2 Easter]

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Reading**

Psalm 1

**Sermon**

Rev. Kimberly Vaughn

**Hymn of the Day**

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

Pg. 33 (ELW #679)

**Prayers of the People**

*With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. Each petition will end with "Lord, in your mercy," please respond, "**hear our prayer.**"*

...Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Peace**

**Offering/Offertory**

**Great Thanksgiving** (S152 p152)

Band

***The Lord be with you. And also with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

# Worship

## **Holy, Holy, Holy** (s153 p153)

Band

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

## **Words of Institution**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus continues to teach us:

**Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins  
As we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
Now and forever. Amen.**

## **Communion Instructions and Welcome**

### **Communion Distribution**

"Let Us Break Bread Together" (ELW #471), pg. 34

"Just A Closer Walk With Thee" (ELW #697), pg. 35

### **Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

### **Closing Blessing**

***May the Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine upon you, and be gracious to you.  
May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.  
Amen.***

# Worship

## Closing Song

## “When The Saints Go Marching In”

- 1 Oh, when the saints go marching in,  
oh, when the saints go marching in,  
O Lord, I want to be in that number  
when the saints go marching in.
- 2 Oh, when the Lord in glory comes,  
oh, when the Lord in glory comes,  
O Lord, I want to be in that number  
when the Lord in glory comes.
- 3 Oh, when the new world is revealed,  
oh, when the new world is revealed,  
O Lord, I want to be in that number  
when the new world is revealed.
- 4 Oh, when they gather round the throne,  
oh, when they gather round the throne,  
O Lord, I want to be in that number  
when they gather round the throne.
- 5 And on that hallelujah day,  
and on that hallelujah day,  
O Lord, I want to be in that number  
on that hallelujah day.

## Opening of a Synod Assembly

*The assembly stands.*

Text: African American spiritual

As in one body we have many members,

**so we, who are many, are one body in Christ.**

Where two or three are gathered in my name, says the Lord,

**I am there among them.**

Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

with all humility and gentleness,

making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit

in the bond of peace.

**Let us pursue what makes for justice and peace,  
and for mutual upbuilding.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people  
by sending into us your Holy Spirit.

Direct us by the light of that Spirit,

that we may have a right judgment in all things

and rejoice at all times in your peace,

through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

I declare this assembly to be in session

in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Postlude

## “Strasbourg/St. Denis”

Band

# Hymns

## Guide My Feet



1 Guide my feet  
2 Hold my hand  
3 Stand by me while I run this race.  
4 I'm your child  
5 Search my heart



Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race,  
I'm your child  
Search my heart



Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race,  
I'm your child  
Search my heart



for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: GUIDE MY FEET, African American spiritual

# Hymns

## For the Fruit of All Creation



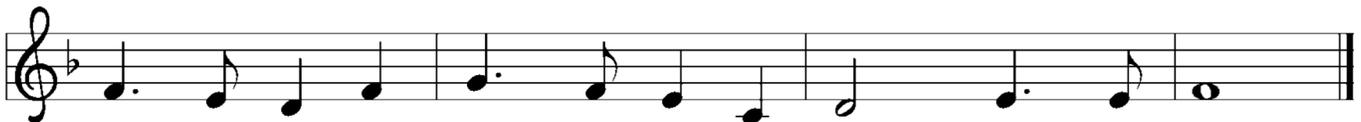
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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# Hymns

## Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

# Hymns

## Just a Closer Walk with Thee



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

Text: North American traditional  
Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

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# A Closing Blessing

Inspired by the holy wisdom proclaimed in this place,  
**may we flourish.**

Sustained by the nourishment of authentic community,  
**may we flourish.**

Transformed by your living presence among us,  
**may we flourish.**

Renewed by this network of encouragement,  
**may we flourish.**

Compassionate God, we desire to be a people  
**who walk together proclaiming your good news.**

May the flourishing of this synod - all people, congregations, and ministry partners -  
**contribute to the flourishing of all creation.**

Grant us openness.

**Grant us courage.**

Grant us conviction.

**Grant us hope.**

In Jesus' name, we pray.

**Amen.**

*By Rev. Emily Carson*

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hereby granted to all ministries within this synod.*

# Thank you!

To all who make this Synod Assembly Possible.

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