

Southwest California Synod Assembly 2023

“Caring for the Body of Christ”

California Lutheran University

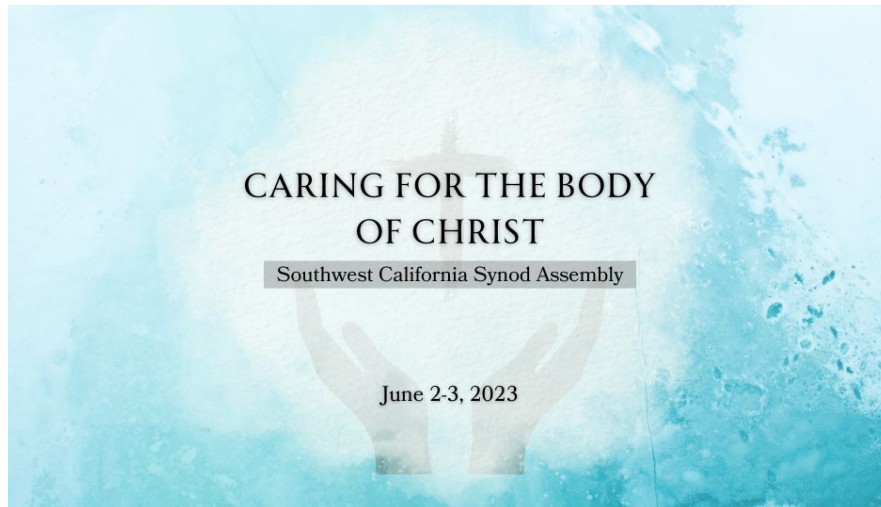
Friday, June 2, 2023

8:00 am	Registration Opens	Gilbert Sports Center
9:30 am	Orientation for voting members and use of voting app	
10:00 am	Opening of the Assembly, adoption of agenda and rules, Bishop's Report	Gilbert Sports Center
11:30 am	Workshop Session #1	Gilbert Sports Center
12:30 pm	Lunch & Workshops	
1:15 pm	Workshop Session #2	Gilbert Sports Center
2:30 pm	Business Session	Gilbert Sports Center
3:30 pm	Break	
4:00 pm	Business Session & Keynote Speaker- Bishop Craig Satterlee	Gilbert Sports Center
4:30 pm	Resolutions	
5:30 pm	Break/Mixer	

	6:00 pm	Dinner	Patio
	7:30 pm	Evening Prayer/Vespers	

Saturday, June 3, 2023

	9:00 am	Festival Worship	Samuelson Chapel
	10:45 am	Business Session & Appeal of Synodical Preservation	Gilbert Sports Center
	12:00 pm	Resolutions & Election	
	12:30 pm	Lunch, Clarence Anderson Award, & Justice Discussions	Gilbert Sports Center
	2:00 pm	Business Session, Resolutions, & Installation	
		Closing Worship & Dismissal	



The theme of our Synod Assembly, “Care for the Body of Christ” originates from a conversation between Bishop Bos, Pastor Abel Arroyo, and leadership from the Lutheran Church of El Salvador had at the Encounter of Sister Churches in El Salvador. During this conversation, we discussed how to care for the church, and how nuanced and intentional this conversation must be for the health of the church. Caring for the body of Christ doesn’t start with bylaws, theological, social, or political statements, or with having a clear institutional hierarchy, but rather caring for the people of the church, the body of Christ.

As confessional Lutherans, we believe this to be a part of our tradition, history, and legacy. To care for the people of God first and foremost.

This year's Synod Assembly aims to renew and reinforce this message in our hearts, minds, and vocations. By caring for our siblings, we serve, thank, worship God, and confess our faith. So, what does this look like? One way to start is by reconsidering how we provide access to worship spaces, Christian education, and Christian community life. We should not only welcome individuals but create safe, accessible spaces that enhance people's lives. This is how we can fulfill our universal vocation as servants of all, bearers of witness to a kingdom accessible to all, and proclaimers of a God who accepts us as we are and calls us beloved.



The goals of the Southwest California Synod of the ELCA:

- a. Communicating the gospel powerfully and clearly;
- a. Shaping the faith of the baptized through education and support in all phases of life;
- a. Fostering congregations in becoming healthy communities;
- a. Creating opportunities for rostered and lay leaders to thrive;
- a. Investing time and money to develop area ministry strategies;
- a. Establishing clusters of congregations around similar ministries; and,
- a. Surrounding vulnerable communities with financial and spiritual support



Southwest California Synod 2023 Assembly Rules of Procedure

Legislative Authority

This synod shall have a Synod Assembly, which shall be its highest legislative authority. (Constitution S7.01).

Seat, E-Seat, Vote, and Voice

The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60% of the voting membership shall be composed of laypersons, shall be constituted as follows: (Constitution S7.21)

1. All ministers of Word and Sacrament under call on the roster of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members. 2. All ministers of Word and Service, under call, on the rosters of this synod shall be voting members in the Synod Assembly.
3. A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with 175 or more baptized members related to the synod, typically one of whom shall be a man and one of whom shall be a woman, shall be voting members. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of number of baptized members in the congregation. The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that, at least 45 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be women and at least 45 percent shall be men. Each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members may elect one additional voting member who is a youth (under 18) or young adult (18-30). A congregation with more than 175 baptized members may elect two additional voting members who are youth or young adults, one of whom shall be a woman and one shall be a man. (Constitution S7.21.A.12)

Voting membership shall include the officers of the synod and lay persons serving on the Synod Council who are not serving as voting members from their congregation. (Constitution S7.21.d and S.7.28)

The Bishop of this Synod shall present to the Synod Secretary and Synod Council a listing of all those Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service who are on the roster of this Synod but who are currently: on leave from call; disabled; retired; or persons who are serving in synod-approved or synod appointed pastoral capacities (i.e., TEEM candidates) in congregations or in other ministries of this synod. Those listed above may be voting members at this Synod Assembly (Constitution S7.26 & S7.27), with the exception that, as the synod constitution mandates that at least 60% of assembly voting membership be composed of laypeople, registration of on leave from call; disabled; or retired rostered leaders may be limited at the discretion of the council secretary. If any on leave from call; disabled; or retired rostered leader is unable to register as a voting member due to S7.26 & S7.27, they may register as an assembly member having voice but not vote. Congregations under development or authorized worshiping communities must be in good standing with this Synod prior to the Call to Order of each Synod Assembly. Providing that such persons are in good standing with this Synod at the time of the assembly, such persons shall automatically be granted both voice and vote at the assembly. (Continuing Resolution - S7.22.A21)

This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of congregations under development and authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under Evangelical Lutheran Church in America bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with S7.21. (Constitution S7.26)

The Bishop of this Synod shall present to the Synod Secretary and the Synod Council a listing of all congregations under development and authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under Evangelical Lutheran Church in America bylaw 10.01.04., prior to the Call of Order of each Synod Assembly. Providing that such congregations under development and authorized worshiping communities are in good standing with the Synod at the time of the assembly, such congregations under development and authorized worshiping communities shall automatically be granted both

voice and vote at the assembly consistent with S7.21 (Continuing Resolution - S7.26.A21)

This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant a Minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister's service in a congregation of this church. (Constitution S7.27)

Other persons on the rosters of this synod as defined by ELCA bylaw 10.41.01b., shall be voting members.

The Secretary of the Synod shall be responsible for the certification of all clergy and lay voting members and shall maintain a record of their attendance at this assembly.

The ELCA representative and any other such official representative(s) of the Church shall have seat and voice in the assembly. Like privilege shall be accorded to non-voting members of the Synod Staff; to the chairpersons of the synod Mission Teams, Ethnic Coalitions, and Conferences; the president of the Synodical Women's Organization; the coordinator of Lutheran Men in Mission; and the chief executive officer (or their appointee) of the officially recognized institutions and agencies of the Synod. (Constitution S7.23)

In-person and E-floor Seating

This shall be a hybrid assembly; seating of voting members on the assembly floor shall be both in-person and virtual by window display using the Synod Council's approved e-platform. All vote counting, whether oral, by hand or designated e symbol(s), ballot or electronic device(s), will be directed by the assembly with the appropriate instructions. The assembly may be viewed by those who are not voting members via livestream.

Bulletin of Reports

All reports published in the Bulletin of Reports shall be received by the assembly without vote.

Speeches

Each person granted voice by the rules of this assembly, when recognized by the chair, shall state their name and congregation or institution represented before beginning to speak. No person shall speak more than two minutes nor more than twice on the same subject, unless the voting members, by a majority vote, waive the provisions of this rule; provided, however, that this rule shall not apply to messages and reports by agencies and officers of the synod, or to guest speakers to whom special time has been allotted.

Appropriation of Funds

Any proposal to appropriate funds, whether by amendment to the budget or otherwise, which is presented to a meeting of the Synod Assembly without the prior approval of the Synod Council shall be referred to the Executive Committee for a report and recommendation prior to action by the Synod Assembly and shall require a two-thirds majority vote by the assembly for adoption. (Constitution S10.04)

Motions and Resolutions

Any voting member may make a motion from the floor, which is germane to any pending question. Motions and resolutions of a general character that are not germane to a pending question must be processed through the Committee on Reference and Counsel in the following manner:

1. Resolutions or motions prescribing action, from any institution, agency, synod mission team, coalition, congregation, or individual, must bear the signatures of at least five people who are members of the Southwest California Synod. The resolutions shall be given in writing to the Committee on Reference and Counsel by 60 days prior to the start of the Assembly.
2. All other resolutions or motions that are not received by the Committee on Reference and Counsel 60 days prior to the start of the Assembly shall be placed on the assembly agenda as new business only and require a two thirds vote of the voting members requesting the resolution be placed before the assembly before it may be considered.
3. Resolutions not considered by the Synod Assembly will be referred to the Synod Council for consideration.

Nominations

Those who wish to be considered for open council and committee positions who are not included in the Report of the Nominating Committee must be nominated from the floor of the assembly. Nominees must be endorsed by the signatures or e-signatures of at least ten voting members of the assembly, and biographical information must be available for distribution to the voting members and submitted via email to the nominating committee no later than noon on Friday, June 2, 2023. No nominations shall be made from the floor for any Conference Representative to the Synod Council (**S10.07.04**).

Displays and Exhibits

Displays and exhibits, and for placing posters, announcements, etc., at Assemblies of the Southwest California Synod shall be limited to those agencies or groups who are organically within the structure of the Synod or the ELCA, or are direct beneficiaries of the synodical or Churchwide budget. Such displays and exhibits shall be presented as part of the virtual platform and in keeping with available time within the assembly. The selling of goods or services is allowed only by approval of the Synod Council and must occur through e-channels.

Distribution of Materials

All materials for distribution to voting members at the Synod Assembly shall be delivered to the Synod Office electronically by May 26, 2023 and is subject to approval. The synod secretary is responsible for distribution of all materials. After the assembly is in session, permission to distribute materials *must* be secured from the Committee on Reference and Counsel.

Robert's Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedures of the Synod Assembly, except where it conflicts with these or other special rules of procedure, in which case the adopted rules or procedure shall prevail. (Constitution S7.32)

Voting Member Guide

What is a Synod Assembly?

Just as a congregation has an annual meeting, so each year the synod has an annual meeting when representatives from all the congregations of the synod come together to form the Voting Membership of a Synod Assembly. The purpose of the assembly is to hear reports of work done over the past year on our collective behalf, to elect people to serve in synod and churchwide leadership capacities, to deliberate issues, and to consider and approve a synod budget.

Who attends a Synod Assembly?

The voting membership of the assembly includes laypersons from each congregation, clergy (pastors and deacons), under call in this synod, a 10% representation of the retired clergy on the synod roster, and the Synod Council. As constituted, at least 60% of the voting members of the assembly are laypersons.

Other assembly participants include representatives from the ELCA churchwide offices, synod staff, representatives from the synod program units and related agencies and institutions, special guests and visitors.

Assembly Vocabulary

The words "assembly" and "voting members," rather than convention and delegates, were chosen deliberately to reflect the understanding of the church that members gather in worship, carry out service and assemble occasionally for governance decisions and elections. Assembly participants do not come from a given caucus as politicized delegates to a party convention; rather they assemble as duly selected members of this church with voting responsibilities.

Assembly Program

Interspersed with the business, an assembly program committee plans opportunities for assembly participants to be inspired, grow in understanding and experience a deepening of faith. These opportunities come in the forms of worship, speakers, discussion, workshops, forums, and fellowship.

Assembly Participation

Become a full participant in the Synod Assembly. Attend business sessions, hearings and workshops, join in worship and share in discussions. Meet new people and renew old acquaintances. You will be blessed and others will be blessed by your presence.

May the assembly experience strengthen your faith and broaden your understanding; and may it further equip and encourage you as a witness to the gospel and servant of the Lord.

Orientation

Participation

The Synod Assembly is the highest legislative body of the synod. As a voting member of the assembly, you play an important role in making decisions that shape and affect our ministry together. Participation in all of the assembly—hearings, plenary sessions, and workshops—can help you to consider difficult issues.

Study Materials

- This Assembly Notebook is prepared for registered assembly participants. It contains the official assembly documents. Voting Members are asked to read and review these materials before the assembly begins.
- Bylaw and constitution changes, resolutions and legislative matters are important items of business.
- Robert's Rules of Order govern parliamentary procedures at the assembly.

Attend Plenary Sessions

Plenary (business) sessions are sometimes prolonged. Important decisions, however, often come near the end of a session. Therefore, it is important for all Voting Members to attend every business session and stay until a session is recessed or adjourned.

Participate in Other Opportunities

Along with the business of the synod, the assembly also provides participants with other unique experiences:

Worship—In addition to gathering for two worship services, the assembly also begins each business session with Bible study to worship and glorify God.

Knowledge and Growth—Reports, presentations, workshops, and displays offer opportunities to:

- Gain new or broader understanding of the mission and ministry for the whole church.
- Grow in faith, be renewed in spirit and refreshed for service.

Community-Building—Organized fellowship opportunities, meal times and interaction with assembly participants from other parts of the church help to build community and strengthen the Body—the Church.

Procedures for Conducting Business

Voting Members, and only Voting Members, are to be seated at tables designated "Voting Member." You must sit at a "Voting Member" table in order to vote or to be counted in a quorum.

Floor microphones are placed on the assembly floor at strategic locations. Voting Members and Voice-Only Members are allowed to speak on the assembly floor.

To do so you must:

- 1) Approach the microphone nearest your table.
- 2) Wait to be recognized by the Chair (usually the Bishop).
- 3) State your name and congregation, organization, or capacity, which entitles you to speak.

If you wish to make a motion or amendment to a motion (other than one of a procedural nature), you must first give a written copy to the Secretary. Forms for making a motion or amendment to a motion are available at the Secretary's Table.

What Can Be Done with a Motion?

You may debate an issue which has been properly placed before the assembly. The maker of a motion is entitled to speak first.

Form of Making Motions by Voting Members

MAIN MOTION

I move

I move the adoption of this report

I wish to present the following resolution _____ I move its adoption

I move the adoption of the proposition in the letter read

POSTPONE INDEFINITELY

I move to postpone this matter indefinitely

AMEND

I move to amend the motion by inserting _____ between _____ and

I move to amend the motion by adding _____ after _____

I move to amend the motion by striking out _____

I move to amend the motion by striking out _____ and inserting

I move to amend by striking out the motion and substituting this motion (read or state substitute motion)

COMMIT or RE-COMMIT

I move that this matter be referred to a committee of _____ to be named by _____ with instruction _____

POSTPONE TO A SET TIME

I move that this matter be postponed to _____

I move that this matter be postponed to meeting at (name time) and be made A Special Order of Business (2/3 vote required)

PREVIOUS QUESTION

I call for (or move) the previous question (2/3 vote)

TABLE

I move that this matter be laid on the table (no debate)

TAKE FROM THE TABLE

I move that the motion be taken from the table (no debate—motion made when no business is pending)

APPEAL

I appeal from the decision of the Chair (in order only after the chair has made a decision or ruling)

OBJECTION TO CONSIDERATION OF A QUESTION

I object to the consideration of this question (2/3 vote)

SUSPEND THE RULES

I move that we suspend the rules for the purpose of _____

WITHDRAW A MOTION

I ask leave to withdraw my motion (no second required—only maker of motion may ask leave)

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE (Personal or General Privilege)

I rise to a question of privilege (state your question)

I rise to a parliamentary inquiry (state your inquiry)

I rise to a point of order (state your point)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

I move we return to the orders of the day

READING PAPERS

I move that the paper be read or re-read

TO FIX THE TIME TO WHICH TO ADJOURN

I move that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet _____

ADJOURN

I move that we adjourn (no debate)

RESCIND

I move to rescind the action taken, which was _____ (2/3 vote)

I give notice that I shall move to rescind _____ (no second required at the next meeting—at the next meeting, offer the Motion to Rescind)

Language for Introducing Motions

For clarity and consistency, voting members should use the standard language of parliamentary procedure when introducing motions on the floor of the assembly. The chart below offers standard phrases used when introducing motions for various purposes.

<i>If you wish to...</i>	<i>You say...</i>
Close the meeting.	I move to adjourn.
Take a break.	I move to recess for [<i>specify time duration</i>] OR until [<i>time certain</i>].
Register a complaint.	I rise to a question of privilege.
Require the assembly to return to its agenda.	I call for the orders of the day.
Lay a matter aside temporarily.	I move to lay the question on the table.
Close debate.	I move the previous question.
Limit or extend debate.	I move that the debate be limited to...
Postpone to a certain time.	I move to postpone the motion to [<i>time certain</i>].
Refer the motion to a committee.	I move to refer the motion to [<i>committee name</i>].
Modify wording of the motion.	I move to amend the motion by...
Kill the main motion.	I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely.
Bring business before the assembly.	I move that... OR I move to...

<i>If you wish to...</i>	<i>You say...</i>
Enforce the rules.	Point of order.
Submit a matter to the assembly after a ruling from the chair.	I appeal the decision of the chair.
Suspend the rules.	I move to suspend the rules.
Avoid a main motion all together.	I object to the consideration of...
Divide a motion.	I move to divide the question.
Demand a rising vote.	I move for a rising vote.
Ask a parliamentary law question.	Parliamentary inquiry.
Request for information.	Point of information.
Take a matter from the table.	I move to take from the table...
Reconsider a motion.	I move to reconsider...
Cancel a previous action.	I move to rescind...

GLOSSARY OF ELCA ACRONYMS AND TERMS

GENERAL ELCA TERMS

ELCA – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Denominational name).

Region 2 – One of 9 regions of the ELCA composed of 5 synods (Southwest California, Pacifica, Sierra Pacific, Rocky Mountain and Grand Canyon).

Churchwide – A term referring to the entire ELCA.

Churchwide Offices – ELCA denominational headquarters in Chicago.

Luther Center – The name for the facility in Chicago that houses the ELCA Churchwide offices.

Presiding Bishop – The elected clergy responsible for the entire ELCA Churchwide; currently serving is Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

SYNOD

Synod – A geographical group of congregations that are a part of the ELCA. There are 65 synods in the ELCA.

SoCalSynod – Southwest California Synod (www.socalsynod.org)

Conference – A geographical group of congregations of the synod:

1. **Central Coast** – 8 congregations located between Solvang and Templeton;
2. **Channel Islands** – 13 congregations between Goleta and Agoura Hills;
3. **Foothill** – 13 congregations in the foothills area between Glendale and Monrovia;
4. **Greater Long Beach** – 12 congregations in Long Beach and surrounding communities;
5. **LA Metro** – 20 congregations including the city of Los Angeles and Santa Monica area;
6. **San Gabriel Valley** – 11 congregations in the San Gabriel Valley;
7. **South Bay** – 16 congregations within a fifteen-mile distance from the coast;
8. **Tehachapi** – 4 congregations in the Lancaster, Palmdale, Frazier Park and Bakersfield areas;
9. **Twin Valleys** – 15 congregations in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys.

Equipping Leaders for Mission (ELM) – School of Lay Ministry designed to educate and equip lay people for enhanced participation in congregational and synodical life through personal spiritual development, biblical enhancement and life-long learning. ELM is a two-year program.

SYNOD LEADERSHIP

Synod Council – 25-member elected board of directors of the synod.

Bishop – The clergy elected by the Synod Assembly to lead a synod of the ELCA

Vice-President – An elected lay volunteer.

Executive Committee – 4 officers and 4 at-large members of the Synod Council, elected by the Council.

Mission Teams – Five (5) Committees of the Synod:

- 1. Mission Team for Evangelical Outreach** helps the synod and its congregations implement the Synod's Mission Goals of "intentional outreach to the diverse populations of our synod," "the development of new congregations, the transformation of congregations," and "the re-rooting of congregations in their neighborhoods." This team assists in implementation of the ELCA's Evangelism Strategy as well as assists in implementation of ethnic strategies adopted by the Synod.
- 2. Mission Team for Rostered Leadership** provides opportunities to identify and support clergy and lay rostered ministers. This team promotes participation in Conference Collegiums and Continuing Education and relates to the Candidacy Committee assisting those preparing for ministry including those enrolled in the TEEM program and First Call Theological Education.
- 3. Mission Team for Lay Leadership** provides opportunities to identify and support lay leaders as they witness and serve in their congregation and in daily life. This team helps the synod and its congregations to implement the Mission Goals of the synod of "intentional outreach to children, youth and young adults" and provides oversight and support for Equipping Leaders for Mission (ELM). This Team relates to the Lutheran Youth Organization, the Young Adult Task Force, the Synodical Women's Organization, Men's Ministry, Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences (LRCC) and Campus Ministries.
- 4. Mission Team for Justice** helps the synod and its congregations, institutions and agencies address issues of justice in public life from Christian perspectives while being guided in their public witness by the Social Statements of the ELCA. This team works closely with the Lutheran Office of Public Policy and the California Council of Churches in matters of advocacy.
- 5. Mission Team for Global Partnerships** helps the synod and its congregations establish connections with the global Christian community by supporting growth in Companion Synod relationships, creating partnerships with congregations in other parts of the world, learning about issues of globalization, and by lifting up opportunities to accompany global churches in their mission. We have 3 Companion Synods in Hong Kong, Ethiopia and El Salvador.

Mission and Ministry (Endowment) Committee – administers the Mission and Ministry Fund and is responsible for the investment of the First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund (FLLAF).

First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund (FLLAF) – created from the sale of the former First, Los Angeles property. Disbursement from two-thirds of the income is designated for four purposes: planting and support of new congregations, support of congregations in transition and/or transformation, support of candidates for rostered ministry from this Synod preparing for

ministry at one of the ELCA's seminaries or colleges and support of existing or new agencies and institutions that are deemed important for the ongoing life and mission of Christ as lived out through the Southwest California Synod.

CLERGY/ROSTERED TITLES

The Rev. – The Reverend (ordained minister of Word and Sacrament)

Pr. – Pastor (ordained minister of Word and Sacrament)

The Rev. Dr. – The Reverend Doctor (ordained minister of Word and Sacrament who has a doctoral degree)

MISS – Minister in Specialized Setting (rostered Minister person who serves in a ministry other than a congregation, such as a hospital or military chaplain.)

Assistant to the Bishop – Synod Staff who assist the bishop in carrying out responsibilities (there are 2 Assistants to the Bishop in the Southwest California Synod)

DEM – Director for Evangelical Mission who is called by churchwide to serve in the Southwest California Synod.

DEAC – Deacon (Consecrated Minister of Word and Service)

OLFC – On Leave from Call (a rostered Minister who is currently without a call to a ministry.)

INTERIM – A rostered person, usually called to serve a congregation by the Synod Council, who is serving a ministry in between two called persons.

INTERN – A seminary student who is on staff of a ministry, in training as part of his/her theological education.

RELATED AGENCIES

Lutheran Office of Public Policy (LOPP) - California – Public issues advocacy ministry in California.

Mission Investment Fund Investment (MIF) – Investment fund of the ELCA to financially assist congregations.

ELCA Foundation – sustains and grows ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Through its nationwide network of professional gift planning staff, it assists members in their call to live as faithful and generous stewards. It also supports and strengthens the ministry of congregations, agencies, and institutions through financial education, resources, support and investment management services.

RELATED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Seminary – The theological educational institutions that train clergy, Diaconal Ministers, Deaconesses and AIMs. There are 9 Lutheran Seminaries in the US.

PLTS – Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (Berkeley, CA)

CLU – California Lutheran University (Thousand Oaks, CA). The one ELCA university in our region. There are 27 ELCA colleges and universities nationwide.

OTHER SYNOD MINISTRIES

Men In Mission – Men's ministry of the ELCA.

WELCA – Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (women's ministry of the ELCA).

SWO – Synodical Women’s Organization (women’s ministry of the synod).

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Voting Member – active participant elected by a congregation to exercise prayerfully her/his judgment concerning matters to come before the assembly for a vote. Such matters include budget, elections, resolutions and memorials.

Memorial – a motion made by the synod in assembly requesting action by the Churchwide Assembly on a broad policy issue. Following passage of a memorial by the synod in assembly, the memorial is sent to the Memorials Committee of the ELCA where it is reviewed and recommendations made to the next Churchwide Assembly.

Resolution – a request from the Synod Assembly for action that is concrete, specific and within the power of the assembly to implement.

Reference and Counsel – the committee that advises the assembly on resolutions and memorials that have been brought to the Synod Assembly. This committee receives resolutions and memorials, and reviews, catalogues and prepares them for distribution to the assembly for action. Reference and Counsel may offer comments relative to constitutional, administrative or practical considerations.

Plenary – session at which all are present.

Parliamentary Motions Guide

Based on *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (10th Edition)*

The motions below are listed in order of precedence. Any motion can be introduced if it is higher on the chart than the pending motion.

YOU WANT TO:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§21 Close meeting	I move to adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§20 Take break	I move to recess for	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§19 Register complaint	I rise to a question of privilege	Yes	No	No	No	None
§18 Make follow agenda	I call for the orders of the day	Yes	No	No	No	None
§17 Lay aside temporarily	I move to lay the question on the table	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§16 Close debate	I move the previous question	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§15 Limit or extend debate	I move that debate be limited to ...	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
§14 Postpone to a certain time	I move to postpone the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§13 Refer to committee	I move to refer the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§12 Modify wording of motion	I move to amend the motion by ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§11 Kill main motion	I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
§10 Bring business before assembly (a main motion)	I move that [or "to"] ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

Jim Slaughter, Certified Professional Parliamentarian-Teacher & Professional Registered Parliamentarian
336-378-1899(W) 336-378-1850(F) P.O. Box 41027, Greensboro 27404

web site: www.jimslaughter.com

Side 1

Parliamentary Motions Guide

Based on *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (10th Edition)*

Incidental Motions - no order of precedence. Arise incidentally and decided immediately.

YOU WANT TO:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§23 Enforce rules	Point of order	Yes	No	No	No	None
§24 Submit matter to assembly	I appeal from the decision of the chair	Yes	Yes	Varies	No	Majority
§25 Suspend rules	I move to suspend the rules which ...	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§26 Avoid main motion altogether	I object to the consideration of the question	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
§27 Divide motion	I move to divide the question	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§29 Demand rising vote	I call for a division	Yes	No	No	No	None
§33 Parliamentary law question	Parliamentary inquiry	Yes (if urgent)	No	No	No	None
§33 Request for information	Point of information	Yes (if urgent)	No	No	No	None

Motions That Bring a Question Again Before the Assembly - no order of precedence. Introduce only when nothing else pending.

§34 Take matter from table	I move to take from the table ...	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§35 Cancel or change previous action	I move to rescind/ amend something previously adopted ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3 or maj. w/ notice
§37 Reconsider motion	I move to reconsider the vote ...	No	Yes	Varies	No	Majority

Jim Slaughter, Certified Professional Parliamentarian-Teacher & Professional Registered Parliamentarian
 336-378-1899(W) 336-378-1850(F) P.O. Box 41027, Greensboro 27404

web site: www.jimslaughter.com

7/2010
Side 2

Guide to Assembly Roles, Southwest California Synod of the ELCA

Updated March 31, 2023

The information below is intended to guide you to the role an individual may serve for the synod assembly. Please note that the constitution of each synod of the ELCA determines assembly roles.

LEGEND		
Role	Privileges	
	Voice?	Vote?
Voting Member	Y	Y
Voice without Vote	Y	N
Visitor	N	N

<u>If you are a rostered leader and...</u> <i>(Minister of Word and Sacrament/Pastor or Minister of Word and Service/Deacon)</i>	Role:	Notes
Actively serving a congregation	Voting Member	
Interim under call	Voting Member	
Interim not under call, serving a congregation under synod contract	Voting Member	
Serving a specialized ministry call (including the bishop and Assistants to the Bishop)	Voting Member	
Clergy rostered in a denomination with a relationship of full communion with the ELCA who is serving a congregation under call or synod contract	Voting Member	S7.27.
Retired, Disabled, or On Leave from Call and serving as an elected member of Synod Council	Voting Member	S7.28.
Retired, Disabled, or On Leave from Call registering before S7.26 & S7.27 are invoked	Voting Member	S7.22. <i>May not be elected by congregation.*</i>
Retired, Disabled, or On Leave from Call registering after S7.26 & S7.27 are invoked	Voice without Vote	S7.22. <i>May not be elected by congregation.*</i>

**Retired rostered leaders cannot be elected to serve as a voting member by their congregation because voting members elected by congregations are required to be laypeople. (S7.26 & S7.27)*

<p style="text-align: center;">If you are a <u>layperson</u> and... <i>(Layperson: a person who is not a Pastor or Deacon of the ELCA)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Role :</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Notes</p>
A member of your congregation or a SAWC and elected to be a voting member (including additional Youth and Young Adult members as allowed by S7.21.A12.)	Voting Member	S7.26.A21.
Not elected as a voting member for your congregation (and not meeting any criteria below)	Visitor	
An elected member of Synod Council (members-at-large, conference representatives, youth representative) including officers of this synod (vice-president, secretary, treasurer)	Voting Member	S7.28.
A member of the Assembly Planning Team and not an elected member of council or elected by your congregation to be a voting member	Visitor	
A pastoral intern and not an elected member of council or elected by your congregation to be a voting member	Visitor	
A representative from a SWCA/ELCA ministry team, agency, or partner and not an elected member of council or elected by your congregation to be a voting member	Voice without Vote	S7.23 <i>Rules of Procedure</i>
A TEEM candidate serving a congregation under synod contract	Voting Member	S7.22.A21
A TEEM candidate not serving a congregation under synod contract and not an elected member of council or elected by your congregation to be a voting member	Visitor	
The elected Chairperson of a synod conference and not an elected member of council or elected by your congregation to be a voting member	Voice without Vote	S12.13.B93
A non-elected member of or representative to Synod Council and not elected by your congregation to be a voting member	Visitor	
Office of the Bishop staff member not elected by your congregation to be a voting member	Voice without Vote	S7.23 <i>Rules of Procedure</i>

<p style="text-align: center;">Additio nally ...</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Reference</p>
The presiding bishop of the ELCA and other official representatives of the churchwide organization designated by the presiding bishop shall have voice without vote .	†S7.23

SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES 2023

CONGREGATIONS:

75 Years – Established 1948

- St Luke Lutheran Church, Woodland Hills
- Lutheran Church in the Foothills, La Canada Flintridge
- Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bakersfield
- Community Lutheran Church, Los Angeles
- Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Oxnard
- Ascension Lutheran Church, Thousand Oaks

50 Years – Established 1973

- New Hope, Agoura Hills

MINISTER OF WORD &

SACRAMENT:

Ordained 65 Years

- The Rev Ronald C Bennett
- The Rev. Ronald E Kragthorpe

Ordained 60 Years:

- The Rev Donald J. Dallmann

Ordained 50 Years:

- The Rev Philip A Demers
- The Rev D Thomas Ford, Jr

Ordained 45 Years

- The Rev Kenneth R Simon
- The Rev Lynn Y Bruer

Ordained 40 Years

- The Rev D Barrett Vail
- The Rev Dale E Krumland
- The Rev Lawrence D Becker
- The Rev Thomas K Johnson

Ordained 35 Years

- The Rev Jon R Christenson
- The Rev Newman Chusheng Chiu

Ordained 30 Years

- The Rev James R Mericle
- The Rev Kenneth A Gesch

Ordained 25 Years

- The Rev Timothy C Delkeskamp

Ordained 20 Years

- The Rev Carl F Bernal
- The Rev Nancy H Hamm
- The Rev Samuel D Nieva

Ordained 15 Years

- The Rev Rebecca E Iverson

Ordained 10 Years

- The Rev Julie E McCain
- The Rev Marcos M Panahon Jr
- The Rev Nichole L Fielder

Ordained 5 Years

- The Rev Aaron T Smith
- The Rev Changan Yu
- The Rev Toni Castaneda Carrera
- The Rev Maria E Montalvo
- The Rev Sharon M R Richter
- The Rev Tracy Williams
- The Rev. Roderick E. Hines

MINISTER OF WORD & SERVICE

60 Years

- Alan L Feddersen

ROSTER CHANGES SINCE LAST ASSEMBLY
May 2022-May 2023

ORDINATIONS

Rev. Diana Washington 02/18/2023

LETTERS OF CALL

Rev. Marc Marius at Trinity Santa Barbara as Pastor 10/16/2022

Rev. Steve Simpson at New Hope Agoura Hills as Pastor 12/01/2022

Rev. Diana Washington at Peace Lompoc as Pastor 01/01/2023

Rev. Joshua McGuffie at The Church of Hope in Canyon Country as Pastor 02/26/2023

Rev. Misael Fajardo-Perez at Christ West Covina as Pastor 05/07/2023

SYNODICAL LETTERS OF CALL

Rev. Albert Starr at Mount Olive, Santa Monica as Interim Pastor 05/21/2022

Rev. LB Tatum at Emmanuel, North Hollywood as Interim Pastor 05/21/2022

Rev. Rebecca Iverson at Dignity Health Hospital as Chaplain 05/21/2022

Seminarian Jill Disbro Director of Admissions PLTS 09/24/2022

Candidate Diana Washington at Peace Lompoc as Mission Developer 10/31/2022

Rev. Abel Arroyo Traverso SWCA as ATTB for Faith Formation 11/01/2022

Rev. Dan Gibson at Trinity, Hawthorne as Interim Pastor 04/17/2023

Rev. Laurie Arroyo at Christ, Long Beach as Interim Pastor 05/01/2023

Deacon Candidate Natalie Larkin as Spiritual Director for Synod 05/13/2023

TRANSFERS INTO SYNOD

Rev. Robert Grimm from Florida-Bahamas Synod 09/09/2022

Rev. William Embree from Sierra Pacific Synod 09/11/2022

Rev. Doris Nolan from Grand Canyon Synod OLCF 04/25/2023

Rev. Misael Fajardo-Perez from Pacifica Synod 05/06/2023

TRANSFERS OUT OF SYNOD

Rev. Garry Mohr 07/31/2022

Rev. Robyn Provis Schmitz to Northwestern Ohio Synod 08/16/2022

Rev. Dr. Anna-Kari Johnson to Metro Chicago Synod 09/24/2022

Rev. David Beard to Sierra Pacific Synod 12/11/2022

Rev. Brian Hiortdahl to Sierra Pacific Synod 12/12/2022

ON LEAVE FROM CALL

Rev. Brian Hiortdahl 09/30/2022

Rev. Amy Beveridge 11/17/2022

Rev. Marc Mohr 12/17/2022

Rev. Thomas Voelp 12/17/2022

REMOVED FROM ROSTER

Mr. Dana Hanson resigned

06/30/2022

RETIRED

Deacon Martha Santrizos

05/18/2022

Deacon Karen Taylor

05/29/2022

Rev. Christopher Lindstrom

NECROLOGY

THE REV. HOWARD “HOWIE” WENNES

JANUARY 9, 1939 – JULY 12, 2022

THE REV. DR. HAROLD GEORGE BANKS

MARCH 15, 1945 – JULY 18, 2022

ELCA Churchwide Representative



Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda, warmly known as Pastor Nic, is a born and raised New Yorker. Pastor Nic graduated Wagner College with a BA in History and Sociology with a minor in Gender Studies.

Before heading to Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia for her MDIV with a concentration in Black Church Studies, she completed her MBA in Business Management. Before settling down in Chicagoland, Pastor Nic did a horizon internship in Grand Bourg, Argentina. Since returning to the states, she has been a chaplain resident, program director for DOOR Network, a pastor at First Lutheran Church of the Trinity, and currently the

Program Director for ELCA African Descent Ministries.

In 2022, Pastor Nic released the Black History Month Series, *Talks at the Desk*, featuring the distinct voices of African Descent leaders, congregations, and communities across the ELCA. The series was recently acknowledged by the Church Press Awards. Pastor Nic is also the illustrator for the Beaming Books title *God's Holy Darkness* available wherever books are sold.

Outside of her churchwide role Pastor Nic is also the Creative Expressions Manager of the ELCA Youth Gathering, a featured artist for Sanctified Arts advent resources, one of the main stage speakers for the Western States Youth Gathering, a racial justice workshop facilitator, and a mother to Mahalia, Dahlia, Penne Pablo, and Rigatoni Braxton.

Keynote Speaker - Craig Alan Satterlee

Craig Alan Satterlee is bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Prior to being called to the office of bishop, Craig served as the Axel Jacob and Gerda Maria (Swanson) Carlson Professor of Homiletics at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Dean of the ACTS Doctor of Ministry in Preaching program, and adjunct professor at the University of Notre Dame. His most recent teaching appointment was as the 2019 John S Marten Faculty Fellow in Homiletics and Visiting Associate Professor in the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame.

Ordained in 1987, Bishop Satterlee served congregations in Upstate New York and Michigan before teaching at LSTC. While a seminary professor, Bishop Satterlee served as interim or consulting pastor in Chicago area congregations. He is known for regularly leading continuing education events throughout the church. Firmly grounded in parish ministry, Bishop Satterlee names as a priority of his ministry preaching and presiding in congregations of the synod as a tangible expression of the unity of the church.

Bishop Satterlee received the B.A. (political science and rhetoric) from the University of Michigan, M.Div. and S.T.M. (pastoral care) from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, and M.A. and Ph.D. in homiletics and liturgical history from the University of Notre Dame.

Bishop Satterlee is the author or co-author of 10 books and numerous articles in both scholarly and ecclesiastical journals. Dr. Satterlee's scholarly interests include the intersection of preaching and areas of congregational life and mission, including liturgy, spirituality, evangelism, stewardship, mission, and leadership. He also studies patristic preaching, most notably that of Ambrose of Milan, and the worship of the early church.

As a scholar, Dr. Satterlee has been described as belonging "to the relatively small group of working homileticians whose work can justifiably be said to have changed the agenda of the discipline." His books are "superb examples of practical theology, remaining fully theological while engaging on-the-ground realities in the life of the church."

Dr. Satterlee is past president of the North American Academy of Liturgy, and a member of Societas Liturgica, Societas Homiletica, and the Academy of Homiletics.

As a person who is legally blind, Dr. Satterlee has a passion for ministry with persons with disabilities and a unique perspective on the Christian faith, church, and world.

The following Southwest California Synod citation will be relevant for our discussion in Plenary #4 on Saturday morning:

S13.24 The Synod Council, itself or through trustees appointed by it, may take charge and control of the property of a congregation of this synod to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of this synod, if any of the following apply:

a. The congregation has disbanded, ceased to worship, or otherwise ceased to exist as a congregation.

b. The congregation has abandoned its property.

c. The remaining members of the congregation decide that it is no longer possible to function as a congregation or that they are unable to provide required governance.

d. The Synod Council determines that the membership of a congregation has become so scattered or so diminished in numbers that it cannot provide required governance or that it has become impractical for the congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized.

e. The Synod Council determines that it is necessary for this synod to protect and preserve the congregation's property from waste and deterioration. The congregation shall have the right to appeal any such decision to the next Synod Assembly.

Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop Income Statement
February 2022 through January 2023

	Feb '22 - Jan 23
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
5000 · Revenue	
5001 · Mission Support	782,476.86
5002 · Interest	12,627.93
5003.1 · Other Revenue	203,153.69
5004 · Investment Disbursement	
5004.1 · Endowment Distribution	89,468.52
5004.6 · Legacy Gifts Congregations	300,000.00
Total 5004 · Investment Disbursement	389,468.52
Total 5000 · Revenue	1,387,727.00
Total Income	1,387,727.00
Gross Profit	1,387,727.00
Expense	
6000 · Mission Support	
6001 · Churchwide	357,066.27
6002 · PLTS/CLU	39,674.02
Total 6000 · Mission Support	396,740.29
6200 · Payroll Expenses	
6201 · Bishop	
6201.01 · Bishop Compensation	103,472.12
6201.02 · Bishop Retirement	12,402.00
6201.03 · Bishop Health	27,084.13
Total 6201 · Bishop	142,958.25
6202 · Senior Staff	
6202.01 · Senior Staff Compensation	129,289.03
6202.02 · Senior Staff Retirement	13,354.91
6202.03 · Senior Staff Health	10,542.09
Total 6202 · Senior Staff	153,186.03
6203 · Support Staff	
6203.01 · Support Staff Compensation	202,815.91
6203.02 · Support Staff Retirement	23,033.02
6203.03 · Support Staff Health	40,167.79
Total 6203 · Support Staff	266,016.72
6204 · Property	
6204.01 · Property Compensation	0.00
6204.02 · Property Retirement	0.00
6204.03 · Property Health	0.00
Total 6204 · Property	0.00
6205 · Demographic Specific Ministries	
6205.11 · Latino Ministry Retirement	1,457.07
6205.12 · Latino Ministry Health	63.98
6205.30 · Youth	692.31
Total 6205 · Demographic Specific Ministries	2,213.36
6206 · Mission Developers Staff	
6206.10 · Mission Developers Compensation	0.00
6206.20 · Mission Developers Retirement	0.00
6206.30 · Mission Developers Health	1,374.83
Total 6206 · Mission Developers Staff	1,374.83
6211.1 · Payroll Taxes	55,853.68
6213 · Continuing Ed	412.40

Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop Income Statement
February 2022 through January 2023

	Feb '22 - Jan 23
6200 · Payroll Expenses - Other	2,080.44
Total 6200 · Payroll Expenses	624,095.71
6220 · Staff Expense	
6220-1 · Vehicle Fund	2,314.23
6221 · Bishop	3,755.28
6223 · Lay & Youth Ministry	68.88
6225 · Dir Latino Ministry	0.00
6229 · All Staff Expense	153.75
6220 · Staff Expense - Other	12,467.63
Total 6220 · Staff Expense	18,759.77
6230 · Administration	
6231 · Office Supplies	8,230.81
6232 · Insurance	
6232.1 · Workers Compensation	11,169.82
6232.2 · Auto	(722.29)
Total 6232 · Insurance	10,447.53
6233 · Auditing & Legal	
6233.2 · Legal	5,896.87
6233.3 · Outside Accounting	33,490.00
Total 6233 · Auditing & Legal	39,386.87
6234 · Hospitality	3,881.89
6235 · Postage & Delivery	2,563.54
6236 · Copier Lease	11,392.72
6237 · Maintenance & Repair	4,422.92
6239 · Telephone	2,846.36
6242 · Archives	1,500.00
6243 · Professional Services	
6243.1 · Office Staff	3,681.12
6243.2 · ELCA Endowment Planner	10,000.00
6243 · Professional Services - Other	14,624.95
Total 6243 · Professional Services	28,306.07
6244 · Information Technology	51,481.09
6247 · Bank & Finance Charges	6,156.52
6250 · Bishop's Transition	
6250.1 · Events	122.50
6250 · Bishop's Transition - Other	122.50
Total 6250 · Bishop's Transition	245.00
6230 · Administration - Other	70.43
Total 6230 · Administration	170,931.75
6239.10 · Travel	
6239.20 · Auto Expense	1,407.37
6239.10 · Travel - Other	7,911.29
Total 6239.10 · Travel	9,318.66
6260 · Other Event Registration Fees	190.00
6310 · Synodical Ministries	
6311 · Meeting	2,043.88
6312 · Worship	2,178.92
6313 · MLK Service	3,765.18
6314 · Region 2	1,416.17
6318 · Chrism Mass	1,963.67
6319 · Communications	17,847.42
6323 · Bishop's Colloquy	2,335.19

Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop Income Statement
February 2022 through January 2023

	Feb '22 - Jan 23
Total 6310 · Synodical Ministries	31,550.43
6330 · Mission Team for Justice	
6331 · Meeting	54.68
Total 6330 · Mission Team for Justice	54.68
6350 · Mission Team / RosteredLeadersh	
6351 · Meetings	5,396.94
6352 · Continuing Ed	1,269.38
6353 · Boundary Training	2,392.00
6354 · Theoasis	3,151.94
6359 · Candidacy	8,160.04
6369 · Program	100.00
6350 · Mission Team / RosteredLeadersh - Other	(1,198.17)
Total 6350 · Mission Team / RosteredLeadersh	19,272.13
6360 · Mission Team for Lay Ministries	
6361 · Lutheran Education	15,187.91
Total 6360 · Mission Team for Lay Ministries	15,187.91
6370 · Mission Team for EvangOutreach	
6371 · Meetings	103.04
6373.1 · Ethnic - African Descent	27.44
6375 · New Starts & Redevelopment	400.00
Total 6370 · Mission Team for EvangOutreach	530.48
6400 · Council	
6401 · Synod Council	1,238.63
6402 · Executive Committee	32.76
6405 · Budget & Finance Meeting	412.80
6406 · Reference & Counsel	1,965.48
6408 · Consultation Committee	291.33
Total 6400 · Council	3,941.00
6450 · Assembly	
6451 · Registration	(30,298.10)
6452 · General Expense	34,041.23
6453 · Catering	5,546.24
6454 · Program	2,881.66
6455 · Worship	750.00
6456 · Printing	575.00
6457 · Media	20,529.44
6458 · Offerings	0.00
Total 6450 · Assembly	34,025.47
Total Expense	1,324,598.28
Net Ordinary Income	63,128.72
Net Income	63,128.72

**Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop Budget vs. Actual
February 2022 through January 2023**

	Feb '22 - Jan 23	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
5000 · Revenue				
5001 · Mission Support	782,476.86	800,000.00	(17,523.14)	97.8%
5002 · Interest	12,627.93	12,000.00	627.93	105.2%
5003.1 · Other Revenue	203,153.69	10,000.00	193,153.69	2,031.5%
5004 · Investment Disbursement				
5004.1 · Endowment Distribution	89,468.52	72,000.00	17,468.52	124.3%
5004.5 · Bookkeeping Services	0.00	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	0.0%
5004.6 · Legacy Gifts Congregations	300,000.00	339,065.16	(39,065.16)	88.5%
Total 5004 · Investment Disbursement	389,468.52	416,065.16	(26,596.64)	93.6%
Total 5000 · Revenue	1,387,727.00	1,238,065.16	149,661.84	112.1%
Total Income	1,387,727.00	1,238,065.16	149,661.84	112.1%
Gross Profit	1,387,727.00	1,238,065.16	149,661.84	112.1%
Expense				
6000 · Mission Support				
6001 · Churchwide	357,066.27	360,000.00	(2,933.73)	99.2%
6002 · PLTS/CLU	39,674.02	40,000.00	(325.98)	99.2%
Total 6000 · Mission Support	396,740.29	400,000.00	(3,259.71)	99.2%
6200 · Payroll Expenses				
6201 · Bishop				
6201.01 · Bishop Compensation	103,472.12	103,350.00	122.12	100.1%
6201.02 · Bishop Retirement	12,402.00	13,840.00	(1,438.00)	89.6%
6201.03 · Bishop Health	27,084.13	25,104.00	1,980.13	107.9%
Total 6201 · Bishop	142,958.25	142,294.00	664.25	100.5%
6202 · Senior Staff				
6202.01 · Senior Staff Compensation	129,289.03	82,000.00	47,289.03	157.7%
6202.02 · Senior Staff Retirement	13,354.91	11,644.00	1,710.91	114.7%
6202.03 · Senior Staff Health	10,542.09	6,000.00	4,542.09	175.7%
Total 6202 · Senior Staff	153,186.03	99,644.00	53,542.03	153.7%
6203 · Support Staff				
6203.01 · Support Staff Compensation	202,815.91	262,900.00	(60,084.09)	77.1%
6203.02 · Support Staff Retirement	23,033.02	31,548.00	(8,514.98)	73.0%
6203.03 · Support Staff Health	40,167.79	50,452.00	(10,284.21)	79.6%
Total 6203 · Support Staff	266,016.72	344,900.00	(78,883.28)	77.1%
6204 · Property				
6204.01 · Property Compensation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6204.02 · Property Retirement	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6204.03 · Property Health	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total 6204 · Property	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6205 · Demographic Specific Ministries				
6205.11 · Latino Ministry Retirement	1,457.07			
6205.12 · Latino Ministry Health	63.98			

**Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop Budget vs. Actual
February 2022 through January 2023**

	Feb '22 - Jan 23	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
6205.30 · Youth	692.31	24,000.00	(23,307.69)	2.9%
Total 6205 · Demographic Specific Ministries	2,213.36	24,000.00	(21,786.64)	9.2%
6206 · Mission Developers Staff				
6206.10 · Mission Developers Compensation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6206.20 · Mission Developers Retirement	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6206.30 · Mission Developers Health	1,374.83	0.00	1,374.83	100.0%
Total 6206 · Mission Developers Staff	1,374.83	0.00	1,374.83	100.0%
6211.1 · Payroll Taxes	55,853.68	36,126.50	19,727.18	154.6%
6213 · Continuing Ed	412.40	3,000.00	(2,587.60)	13.7%
6200 · Payroll Expenses - Other	2,080.44			
Total 6200 · Payroll Expenses	624,095.71	649,964.50	(25,868.79)	96.0%
6220 · Staff Expense				
6220-1 · Vehicle Fund	2,314.23			
6221 · Bishop	3,755.28			
6223 · Lay & Youth Ministry	68.88			
6225 · Dir Latino Ministry	0.00			
6229 · All Staff Expense	153.75	35,000.00	(34,846.25)	0.4%
6220 · Staff Expense - Other	12,467.63			
Total 6220 · Staff Expense	18,759.77	35,000.00	(16,240.23)	53.6%
6230 · Administration				
6231 · Office Supplies	8,230.81	10,000.00	(1,769.19)	82.3%
6232 · Insurance				
6232.1 · Workers Compensation	11,169.82	8,000.00	3,169.82	139.6%
6232.2 · Auto	(722.29)	1,000.00	(1,722.29)	(72.2)%
6232 · Insurance - Other	0.00	2,500.00	(2,500.00)	0.0%
Total 6232 · Insurance	10,447.53	11,500.00	(1,052.47)	90.8%
6233 · Auditing & Legal				
6233.1 · Auditing	0.00	27,000.00	(27,000.00)	0.0%
6233.2 · Legal	5,896.87	6,000.00	(103.13)	98.3%
6233.3 · Outside Accounting	33,490.00			
Total 6233 · Auditing & Legal	39,386.87	33,000.00	6,386.87	119.4%
6234 · Hospitality	3,881.89	4,000.00	(118.11)	97.0%
6235 · Postage & Delivery	2,563.54	5,000.00	(2,436.46)	51.3%
6236 · Copier Lease	11,392.72	10,500.00	892.72	108.5%
6237 · Maintenance & Repair	4,422.92	2,500.00	1,922.92	176.9%
6239 · Telephone	2,846.36	5,500.00	(2,653.64)	51.8%
6240 · Printing	0.00	2,500.00	(2,500.00)	0.0%
6242 · Archives	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	100.0%
6243 · Professional Services				
6243.1 · Office Staff	3,681.12			
6243.2 · ELCA Endowment Planner	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	100.0%
6243 · Professional Services - Other	14,624.95			
Total 6243 · Professional Services	28,306.07	10,000.00	18,306.07	283.1%
6244 · Information Technology	51,481.09	12,000.00	39,481.09	429.0%

**Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop Budget vs. Actual
February 2022 through January 2023**

	Feb '22 - Jan 23	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
6247 · Bank & Finance Charges	6,156.52	1,600.00	4,556.52	384.8%
6249 · Office Equipment	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	0.0%
6250 · Bishop's Transition				
6250.1 · Events	122.50			
6250 · Bishop's Transition - Other	122.50			
Total 6250 · Bishop's Transition	245.00			
6230 · Administration - Other	70.43			
Total 6230 · Administration	170,931.75	110,600.00	60,331.75	154.5%
6239.10 · Travel				
6239.20 · Auto Expense	1,407.37			
6239.10 · Travel - Other	7,911.29			
Total 6239.10 · Travel	9,318.66			
6260 · Other Event Registration Fees	190.00			
6310 · Synodical Ministries				
6311 · Meeting	2,043.88	500.00	1,543.88	408.8%
6312 · Worship	2,178.92	1,000.00	1,178.92	217.9%
6313 · MLK Service	3,765.18	4,000.00	(234.82)	94.1%
6314 · Region 2	1,416.17	5,000.00	(3,583.83)	28.3%
6318 · Chrism Mass	1,963.67			
6319 · Communications	17,847.42	12,000.00	5,847.42	148.7%
6322 · Ecumenical	0.00	500.00	(500.00)	0.0%
6323 · Bishop's Colloquy	2,335.19	2,500.00	(164.81)	93.4%
Total 6310 · Synodical Ministries	31,550.43	25,500.00	6,050.43	123.7%
6330 · Mission Team for Justice				
6331 · Meeting	54.68			
6330 · Mission Team for Justice - Other	0.00	1,500.00	(1,500.00)	0.0%
Total 6330 · Mission Team for Justice	54.68	1,500.00	(1,445.32)	3.6%
6350 · Mission Team / RosteredLeadersh				
6351 · Meetings	5,396.94			
6352 · Continuing Ed	1,269.38			
6353 · Boundary Training	2,392.00			
6354 · Theosis	3,151.94			
6359 · Candidacy	8,160.04			
6369 · Program	100.00			
6350 · Mission Team / RosteredLeadersh - Other	(1,198.17)	1,500.00	(2,698.17)	(79.9)%
Total 6350 · Mission Team / RosteredLeadersh	19,272.13	1,500.00	17,772.13	1,284.8%
6360 · Mission Team for Lay Ministries				
6361 · Lutheran Education	15,187.91			
6360 · Mission Team for Lay Ministries - Other	0.00	1,500.00	(1,500.00)	0.0%
Total 6360 · Mission Team for Lay Ministries	15,187.91	1,500.00	13,687.91	1,012.5%
6370 · Mission Team for EvangOutreach				
6371 · Meetings	103.04			
6373.1 · Ethnic - African Descent	27.44			
6375 · New Starts & Redevelopment	400.00			

**Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop Budget vs. Actual
February 2022 through January 2023**

	Feb '22 - Jan 23	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
6370 · Mission Team for EvangOutreach - Other	0.00	1,500.00	(1,500.00)	0.0%
Total 6370 · Mission Team for EvangOutreach	530.48	1,500.00	(969.52)	35.4%
6380 · Mission Team/Global Partnership	0.00	1,500.00	(1,500.00)	0.0%
6400 · Council				
6401 · Synod Council	1,238.63			
6402 · Executive Committee	32.76			
6405 · Budget & Finance Meeting	412.80			
6406 · Reference & Counsel	1,965.48			
6408 · Consultation Committee	291.33			
6400 · Council - Other	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	0.0%
Total 6400 · Council	3,941.00	1,000.00	2,941.00	394.1%
6450 · Assembly				
6451 · Registration	(30,298.10)			
6452 · General Expense	34,041.23			
6453 · Catering	5,546.24			
6454 · Program	2,881.66			
6455 · Worship	750.00			
6456 · Printing	575.00			
6457 · Media	20,529.44			
6458 · Offerings	0.00			
6450 · Assembly - Other	0.00	15,000.00	(15,000.00)	0.0%
Total 6450 · Assembly	34,025.47	15,000.00	19,025.47	226.8%
Total Expense	1,324,598.28	1,244,564.50	80,033.78	106.4%
Net Ordinary Income	63,128.72	(6,499.34)	69,628.06	(971.3)%
Net Income	63,128.72	(6,499.34)	69,628.06	(971.3)%

Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop Balance Sheet
As of January 31, 2023

	Jan 31, 23
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1000 · Cash Accounts	
1001 · Cash Accounts Unrestricted	
1001.1 · MAIN CHECKING ACCU 4935	155,454.88
1001.2 · Petty Cash	624.12
Total 1001 · Cash Accounts Unrestricted	156,079.00
1002 · Cash Accounts Restricted	
1002.10 · ACCU	
1002.11 · DESIGNATED FUNDS 4919	6,516,644.81
1002.12 · FLLAF 5214	76,672.84
1002.14 · Mission & Ministry 2612	293,283.01
1002.15 · Bishop's Discretionary 2719	36,011.58
1002.16 · WARNER TRUST 4922	22,245.22
1002.17 · VAN NUYS SALE TD 8419	335,276.68
Total 1002.10 · ACCU	7,280,134.14
1002.20 · MIF	
1002.21 · MIF - Synod Loan Program	250,000.00
1002.22 · Pfundstein	17,829.38
1002.23 · BLP Enhancement	84,819.28
Total 1002.20 · MIF	352,648.66
Total 1002 · Cash Accounts Restricted	7,632,782.80
1003 · Cash Accts Investment	
1003.10 · ELCA ENDOWMENT A	
1003.11 · First Lutheran LA (FLLAF) -1519	6,062,013.77
1003.12 · Mission & Ministry -0245	1,808,266.76
1003.13 · Mission & Ministry Disc -0246	679,789.09
1003.14 · Warner Trust - 0244	178,191.96
Total 1003.10 · ELCA ENDOWMENT A	8,728,261.58
Total 1003 · Cash Accts Investment	8,728,261.58
Total 1000 · Cash Accounts	16,517,123.38
Total Checking/Savings	16,517,123.38
Accounts Receivable	
1200 · Accounts Receivable	320,662.51
Total Accounts Receivable	320,662.51
Other Current Assets	
1011.00 · Interfund Receivables	
1011.12 · AR to Property	190,931.40
1011.9 · Temp Rest. Fund Loan Rec. GenFu	226,437.27
1021.3 · 1st LA fund Loan Receivable GF	285,253.34
1021.4 · Desg Fund Loan Receivable GF	1,592,072.63
1021.5 · Temp Restr. Fund Loans Rec	1,786.03
Total 1011.00 · Interfund Receivables	2,296,480.67
1021 · Loans Receivable	
1021.11 · PAYROLL ADVANCE 2020	5,753.12
Total 1021 · Loans Receivable	5,753.12
Total Other Current Assets	2,302,233.79
Total Current Assets	19,140,019.68
Other Assets	
1041 · Equipment	

Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop Balance Sheet
As of January 31, 2023

	Jan 31, 23
1041.1 · Accum Depr Equipment	(142,996.12)
1041 · Equipment - Other	145,787.11
Total 1041 · Equipment	2,790.99
1042 · Auto	
1042.1 · Accum Depr Autos	(34,555.00)
1042 · Auto - Other	34,555.00
Total 1042 · Auto	0.00
1043 · Leasehold Improvements	
1043.1 · Accum Depr L/H Impr	(403,647.82)
1043 · Leasehold Improvements - Other	406,756.21
Total 1043 · Leasehold Improvements	3,108.39
1044 · Synod Owned Prop-Lutheran Centr	5,900,000.00
1050 · Real Estate from Disbanded Cong	10,885,000.00
1060 · Loans to Congregations	
1060.1 · Fe y Esperanza - loan	45,000.00
1060.2 · Our Saviour's Oxnard	149.27
1060.3 · Good Shepherd LA - loan	8,341.26
1060.4 · 1stLA Loan to GenFund	3,408.28
1060.5 · MM-Loans receivable	117,164.00
1060.6 · Trinity - San Gabriel	2,467.80
Total 1060 · Loans to Congregations	176,530.61
Total Other Assets	16,967,429.99
TOTAL ASSETS	36,107,449.67
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
2000 · *Accounts Payable	68,176.98
Total Accounts Payable	68,176.98
Credit Cards	
2200 · Credit Card	
2200.04 · Bos 2036	4,842.86
2200.06 · Metzger 5442	3,123.28
2200.08 · Nuzzo 5467	250.03
Total 2200 · Credit Card	8,216.17
2200.09 · Chryll Crews 5699	827.46
2200.10 · Taylor Dariarow 5715	2,914.94
2200.12 · Joseph Toni Carrera 5707	83.22
Total Credit Cards	12,041.79
Other Current Liabilities	
2001.00 · Interfund Payables	
2001.4 · Loan Payable to FLLAF	3,408.28
2001.8 · Loan Payable to MM-Disc	117,164.00
2001.9 · GenFund Loan Payable to TempFun	226,437.27
2422 · Designated Fund Payable to Gen	1,592,072.63
2425 · GenFund Loan Payble to 1st LA	285,253.34
2429 · Permanent Fund Loan Pay to Temp	1,786.03
Total 2001.00 · Interfund Payables	2,226,121.55
2100 · Payroll Liabilities	
2101 · FIT Payable	140.00
2102 · FICA Payable	32.82
2103 · SIT Payable	1,348.04

Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop Balance Sheet
As of January 31, 2023

	Jan 31, 23
2104 · SDI Payable	4,945.18
2105 · Employee Deductions	
2105.01 · FSA Medical Payable	(877.55)
2105.02 · 403(b) Payable	(10,201.60)
2105.03 · 403(b) Payable - Kim	551.92
2105.05 · Enhanced Vision Care	(38.99)
2105.06 · Supplemental Life Payable	(281.44)
2105.07 · Health Buy Up	(451.41)
Total 2105 · Employee Deductions	(11,299.07)
2109 · Accrued Vacation Time	45,016.54
2100 · Payroll Liabilities - Other	812.44
Total 2100 · Payroll Liabilities	40,995.95
2110 · Direct Deposit Liabilities	18.69
2423 · Agency Fund Account Liability	2,407.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	2,269,543.19
Total Current Liabilities	2,349,761.96
Total Liabilities	2,349,761.96
Equity	
3000 · Opening Bal Equity	(3,604.61)
3001 · Property & Equipment	5,899.38
3010 · RE Disbanded Congregation Fund	10,784,999.96
3015 · Lutheran-Center	5,667,672.46
3100 · MS Designated/Passthrough	
3101 · ELCA Funds	16,099.04
3102 · Outside Funds	974.75
3103 · Lutheran Agencies	
31031 · Lutheran Retreats (LRCC)	1,675.48
31032 · Lutheran Social Services	3,334.62
31033 · SoCal Lutherans	25.00
31034 · Pac. Luth. Theol. Sem.	1,205.45
31035 · Calif. Luth. University	500.00
31036 · Lutheran Homes	216.81
31037 · LIRS	1,000.00
31039 · Miscellaneous Agencies	13,536.56
Total 3103 · Lutheran Agencies	21,493.92
3104 · Mission Partners	
3104001 · IL Fe Y Esperanza	2,249.00
3104002 · New City Parish	1,048.20
3104003 · IL Pueblo De Dios	940.00
3104004 · Glory Lutheran Torrance	9,200.00
3104005 · El Salvador	(25.00)
Total 3104 · Mission Partners	13,412.20
3118 · Other Designated Gifts	2,963.90
3119 · ATA Hold	19,232.24
3130 · Campus Ministry	47,578.32
3199 · Missionary Sponsorship	1,432.00
Total 3100 · MS Designated/Passthrough	123,186.37
3200 · Designated Funds	
3201 · Mission Developers	
3201001 · Adore	25,473.24
3201002 · IL Santa Cruz	69,966.69
3201003 · Fruit Of The Spirit	30,495.93
3201004 · Bethlehem Chinese	(15,581.35)
3201005 · Trinity Faith Lutheran Ministry	3,056.84
3201006 · IL Redimidos	1,257.37

Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop Balance Sheet
As of January 31, 2023

	Jan 31, 23
3201007 · Paz Lompoc	(26.92)
Total 3201 · Mission Developers	114,641.80
3202 · Ministry in Aging	6,241.21
3203 · Rostered Ministries	
3203.1 · Seminary Scholarships	464.46
3203.2 · FCTE 1st Call Theol. Ed.	(1,115.03)
3203.3 · Continuing Ed - Pastors	2,283.59
3203.4 · Special Needs Retirement Fund	(4,586.73)
3203.5 · Candidacy Applications	2,675.00
3203 · Rostered Ministries - Other	(2,597.39)
Total 3203 · Rostered Ministries	(2,876.10)
3204 · Burnford Worship Fund	755.60
3205 · ADLA Trout Chapel	5,000.00
3206 · LC/LA Peace&Justice Award	4,300.00
3208 · Authentic Diversity Fund	(1,289.99)
3209 · DEM Support Fund	25,882.74
3210 · EOMT	13,000.00
3211 · African Descent Strategy	(2,419.90)
3213 · Labyrinth	1,495.90
3214 · Sabbatical	2,250.00
3215 · Bishop's Mission Fund	
3215.4 · Mission Fund	1,750.44
3215.5 · Bishops Discretionary	(27,543.92)
3215 · Bishop's Mission Fund - Other	(250.00)
Total 3215 · Bishop's Mission Fund	(26,043.48)
3218 · Events	(1,600.50)
3219 · Church of Finland	
3219.1 · CoF Salary Support	(322,225.13)
3219.2 · CoF Travel & Reimb Fund	(26,168.92)
3219 · Church of Finland - Other	348,404.05
Total 3219 · Church of Finland	10.00
3220 · Hunger & Global Missions	
3220.1 · World Hunger Grant	3,577.88
3220.3 · Ethnic - SynodAssemblyOffering	4,102.26
3220.4 · Hong Kong	724.25
3220 · Hunger & Global Missions - Other	25.00
Total 3220 · Hunger & Global Missions	8,429.39
3229 · Justice Funds	
3229.2 · Justice Team	7,930.80
3229 · Justice Funds - Other	50.00
Total 3229 · Justice Funds	7,980.80
3230 · Lay Ministries	
3230.1 · Adult Education	5,644.73
3230.2 · Book of Faith	363.12
3230.3 · Latino Lay Mission School(ELCA)	4,512.00
3230.5 · Assembly Offering Lay Min	9,466.40
3230.6 · ELCA Mental Health Grant	35.00
Total 3230 · Lay Ministries	20,021.25
3234 · Good Samaritan Fund	404.32
3235 · Young Adult	
3226 · Youth	55.96
3235.2 · Young Adult Project	1,297.57

Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop Balance Sheet
As of January 31, 2023

	Jan 31, 23
Total 3235 · Young Adult	1,353.53
3238 · Vehicle Fund	44,999.84
3239 · Bishop's fund	(1,992.86)
3242 · Proceeds from Sales/Properties	61,883.59
3246 · BLP Enhancement Temp	3,188.94
3250 · Western States Youth Gathering	82,451.81
3200 · Designated Funds - Other	(23.47)
Total 3200 · Designated Funds	368,044.42
3216 · Stengthening Vital Ministry	(168,063.00)
3240 · Bishop's Installation Donations	2,914.00
3260 · Permanent Funds	
3247 · Pfundstein Campership Fund	17,829.38
3265 · Lutheran Health Ministries	50,344.43
3850.1 · Barbara L Price Enhancement	81,630.34
Total 3260 · Permanent Funds	149,804.15
3300 · Proceeds	
3301 · Van Nuys	
3301.03 · Van Nuys1/3	87,961.23
3301.04 · Van Nuys 2/3	1,017,847.62
Total 3301 · Van Nuys	1,105,808.85
3302 · North Hollywood	
3302.03 · North Hollywood 1/3	473,438.71
3302.04 · North Hollywood 2/3	1,459,659.89
Total 3302 · North Hollywood	1,933,098.60
3303 · Pasadena	
3303.02 · Pasadena Management	100,000.00
3303.03 · Pasadena 1/3	875,582.16
3303.04 · Pasadena 2/3	1,751,164.33
Total 3303 · Pasadena	2,726,746.49
3304 · Chatsworth	
3304.01 · Chatsworth ELCA Tithe	256,610.81
3304.02 · Chatsworth Management	184,759.79
3304.03 · Chatsworth 1/3	708,245.85
3304.04 · Chatsworth 2/3	1,416,491.69
Total 3304 · Chatsworth	2,566,108.14
3386 · First - Compton	22,700.00
Total 3300 · Proceeds	8,354,462.08
3800 · Endowment Funds	
3810 · Mission and Ministry	
3810.1 · Mission & Ministry Endowment	
3810.15 · Mission & Ministry Gain/Loss	97,054.58
3810.1 · Mission & Ministry Endowment - Other	1,664,889.33
Total 3810.1 · Mission & Ministry Endowment	1,761,943.91
3810.2 · Mission & Ministry Disbursement	282,356.55
Total 3810 · Mission and Ministry	2,044,300.46
3820 · M & M Discretionary (Bishops)	
3820.10 · M & M Discretionary Endowment	
3820.15 · M & M Discretionary Gain/Loss	(33,139.32)
3820.10 · M & M Discretionary Endowment - Other	817,082.51
Total 3820.10 · M & M Discretionary Endowment	783,943.19

Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop Balance Sheet
As of January 31, 2023

	Jan 31, 23
3820.2 · M & M Discretionary Disbursement	111,790.75
Total 3820 · M & M Discretionary (Bishops)	895,733.94
3830 · First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund	
3830.1 · FLLA F Endowment	
3830.15 · FLLAF Gain/Loss	379,620.20
3830.1 · FLLA F Endowment - Other	6,027,282.98
Total 3830.1 · FLLA F Endowment	6,406,903.18
3830.2 · FLLAF Disbursement	
3830.20 · FLLAF 2/3 Disbursement	
3830.21 · FLLAF EOMT	(299,791.67)
3830.22 · FLLAF Candidacy Support	(91,000.00)
3830.23 · FLLAF Institutions	(103,600.00)
3830.20 · FLLAF 2/3 Disbursement - Other	531,129.64
Total 3830.20 · FLLAF 2/3 Disbursement	36,737.97
3830.2 · FLLAF Disbursement - Other	214.40
Total 3830.2 · FLLAF Disbursement	36,952.37
Total 3830 · First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund	6,443,855.55
3840 · Warner Trust	
3840.1 · Warner Trust Endowment	
3840.15 · Warner Trust Gain/Loss	23,232.00
3840.1 · Warner Trust Endowment - Other	139,083.56
Total 3840.1 · Warner Trust Endowment	162,315.56
3840.2 · Warner Trust Disbursement	23,053.42
Total 3840 · Warner Trust	185,368.98
Total 3800 · Endowment Funds	9,569,258.93
3900 · Retained Earnings	(1,160,015.15)
Net Income	63,128.72
Total Equity	33,757,687.71
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	36,107,449.67

Southwest California Synod Property

Income Statement

05/23/23

February 2022 through January 2023

Cash Basis

	Feb '22 - Jan 23
Income	
400000 · Rental Income	
40000 · Lutheran Center	152,096.55
41000 · Pasadena	367,389.46
43000 · Compton	66,470.60
45000 · Chatsworth	174,037.44
48000 · South Gate	61,240.00
Total 400000 · Rental Income	821,234.05
50000 · Misc Income & Reimb	21.66
Total Income	821,255.71
Expense	
60000 · Lutheran Center	
60005 · Supplies	311.98
60010 · Utilites	44,802.83
60020 · Janitorial & Gardener	49,090.59
60030 · Repairs & Maintenance	93,494.42
60040 · Insurance	9,316.18
60050 · Legal Expenses	7,109.50
60060 · Property Taxes	24,745.63
60080 · Mortgage Interest	4,034.99
Total 60000 · Lutheran Center	232,906.12
61000 · Pasadena	
61010 · Utilities	7,829.69
61020 · Janitorial & Gardener	3,600.00
61030 · Repairs & Maintenance	25,571.01
61040 · Insurance	9,316.19
61060 · Property Taxes	31,260.96
Total 61000 · Pasadena	77,577.85
62500 · Mojave	
62550 · Legal	3,758.40
62560 · Property Taxes	1,915.34
Total 62500 · Mojave	5,673.74
63000 · Compton	
63010 · Utilities	7,472.34
63020 · Janitorial & Gardener	1,300.00
63030 · Repairs & Maintenance	39,604.01
63040 · Insurance	9,316.19
63050 · Legal	4,000.00
63060 · Property Taxes	16,175.77
Total 63000 · Compton	77,868.31
64000 · Lake Los Angeles	
64050 · Legal	2,500.00
Total 64000 · Lake Los Angeles	2,500.00
65000 · Chatsworth	
65010 · Utilities	16,034.87
65020 · Janitorial & Gardener	5,400.00
65030 · Repairs & Maintenance	33,527.74
65040 · Insurance	9,316.19
65050 · Legal	17,035.00
65060 · Property Taxes	46,427.78
Total 65000 · Chatsworth	127,741.58
66000 · Bakerfield Land	
66050 · Legal	2,600.00

**Southwest California Synod Property
Income Statement
February 2022 through January 2023**

	<u>Feb '22 - Jan 23</u>
66060 · Property Taxes	1,118.18
Total 66000 · Bakerfield Land	3,718.18
68000 · South Gate	
68010 · Utilities	6,675.66
68020 · Janitorial & Gardener	5,240.00
68030 · Repairs & Maintenance	60,684.06
68040 · Insurance	9,316.20
68050 · Legal	23,168.65
68060 · Property Taxes	8,118.77
68080 · Mortgage Interest	2,350.50
68000 · South Gate - Other	79.81
Total 68000 · South Gate	115,633.65
70000 · Region-2 Archives	-4,370.00
Total Expense	639,249.43
Net Income	<u>182,006.28</u>

Southwest California Synod Property

Balance Sheet

05/23/23

As of January 31, 2023

Accrual Basis

	<u>Jan 31, 23</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 · Bank Accounts	
10001 · Wells Fargo	400.40
10002 · ACCU Checking -7776	184,463.77
Total 10000 · Bank Accounts	<u>184,864.17</u>
Total Checking/Savings	184,864.17
Accounts Receivable	
11000 · Accounts Receivable	21,475.75
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>21,475.75</u>
Total Current Assets	206,339.92
Other Assets	
18605 · Loan Recvble-The Connection LB	317,045.83
Total Other Assets	<u>317,045.83</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>523,385.75</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 · Accounts Payable	231,400.93
Total Accounts Payable	<u>231,400.93</u>
Other Current Liabilities	
21000 · Payable to Synod	190,931.40
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>190,931.40</u>
Total Current Liabilities	422,332.33
Long Term Liabilities	
27000 · Loan Payable	
27260 · MIF Lutheran Center Loan Payble	94,807.24
27268 · MIF South Gate Loan Payable	36,338.06
Total 27000 · Loan Payable	<u>131,145.30</u>
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>131,145.30</u>
Total Liabilities	553,477.63
Equity	
32000 · Retained Earnings	-347,992.29
32001 · RE - Lutheran Center	-176,904.94
32002 · RE - Pasadena	250.00
32003 · RE - Lake Los Angeles	4,868.00
32004 · RE - Lake Balboa	34,783.15
32005 · RE - Bakersfield	-22.46
32006 · RE - Chatsworth	39.59
32007 · RE - Compton	2,019.88
32008 · RE - North Hollywood	-44,901.68
32009 · RE - Long Beach	325,000.00
Net Income	172,768.87
Total Equity	<u>-30,091.88</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>523,385.75</u>

Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop
Proposed Budget
Fiscal Year 2024

	Budget FY 2024	Budget FY 2024
Income		
5000 · Revenue		
5001 · Mission Support		800,000.00
5002 · Interest		9,000.00
5003.1 · Other Revenue		33,643.50
5004 · Investment Income		
5004.4 · Distribution from FLLAF Fund		85,000.00
Total 5004 · Investment Disbursement		85,000.00
5005 · Proceeds from Real Estate		936,003.54
Total 5000 · Revenue		1,863,647.04
Total Income		1,863,647.04
 Expense		
6000 · Mission Support		
6001 · Churchwide		360,000.00
6002 · PLTS/CLU		40,000.00
Total 6000 · Mission Support		400,000.00
 6200 · Payroll Expenses		
6201 · Bishop		
6201.01 · Bishop Compensation		118,972.00
6201.02 · Bishop Retirement		14,276.64
6201.03 · Bishop Health		28,290.00
Total 6201 · Bishop		161,538.64
6202 · Senior Staff		
6202.01 · Senior Staff Compensation		306,420.00 *1
6202.02 · Senior Staff Retirement		36,770.40
6202.03 · Senior Staff Health		35,000.00
Total 6202 · Senior Staff		378,190.40
6203 · Support Staff		
6203.01 · Support Staff Compensation		307,400.00 *2
6203.02 · Support Staff Retirement		36,888.00
6203.03 · Support Staff Health		30,740.00
Total 6203 · Support Staff		375,028.00
6205 · Synod Specific Ministries		
6205.10 · Senior		40,280.00
6205.30 · Youth		21,200.00
Total 6205 · Synod Specific Ministries		61,480.00
 6210 · FICA Allowance		

Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop
Proposed Budget
Fiscal Year 2024

6211.1 · Payroll Taxes	50,000.00
6213 · Continuing Ed	7,000.00
Total 6200 · Payroll Expenses	1,033,237.04
6220 · Staff Expense	
6220 · Staff Expense	37,100.00
Total 6220 · Staff Expense	37,100.00
6230 · Administration	
6231 · Office Supplies	16,000.00
	16,000.00
6232 · Insurance	
6232.1 · Workers Compensation	8,060.00
Total 6232 · Insurance	8,060.00
6233 · Outside Professional Expenses	
6233.1 · Audit	25,000.00
6233.2 · Legal	10,000.00
6233.3 · HR Consulting	14,400.00
6233.4 · Accounting	35,000.00
6233.5 · Staff Leadership Development	10,000.00
Total 6233 · Auditing & Legal	94,400.00
6234 · Hospitality	16,360.00
6235 · Postage & Delivery	5,670.00
6236 · Copier Lease	11,130.00
6237 · Maintenance & Repair	2,840.00
6239 · Telephone	3,240.00
6240 · Printing	5,300.00
6242 · Archives	1,590.00
6244 · Information Technology	13,620.00
6247 · Bank & Finance Charges	1,700.00
6249 · Office Equipment	4,250.00
Total 6230 · Administration	184,160.00
6310 · Synodical Ministries	
6311 · Meeting	5,000.00
6312 · Worship	1,500.00
6313 · MLK Service	5,000.00
6314 · Region 2	5,000.00
6319 · Communications	20,000.00
6319.1 · Translation Services	20,000.00
6322 · Ecumenical	5,000.00

Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop
Proposed Budget
Fiscal Year 2024

6323 · Bishop's Colloquy	5,000.00
6324 · Stewardship	5,000.00
6325 · Education	10,000.00
6326 · Senior	5,000.00
6327 · Youth	28,000.00
6328 · Anticipated Programming	15,000.00
6239 Transition Coaching	18,000.00
Total 6310 · Synodical Ministries	147,500.00
6330 · Mission Team for Justice	
6330 · Mission Team for Justice	2,000.00
Total 6330 · Mission Team for Justice	2,000.00
6350 · Mission Team / Rostered Leadersh	
6350 · Mission Team / Rostered Leadersh	2,000.00
Total 6350 · Mission Team / Rostered Leadersh	2,000.00
6360 · Mission Team for Lay Ministries	
6360 · Mission Team for Lay Ministries	2,000.00
Total 6360 · Mission Team for Lay Ministries	2,000.00
6370 · Mission Team for Evang Outreach	
6378 · Mission Team for Evang Outreach	2,000.00
Total 6370 · Mission Team for Evang Outreach	2,000.00
6380 · Mission Team/Global Partnership	
6380 · Mission Team/Global Partnership	2,000.00
Total 6380 · Mission Team/Global Partnership	2,000.00
6385 · Mission Team/Anti Racism	
6385 · Mission Team/Anti Racism	2,000.00
Total 6385 · Mission Team/Anti Racism	2,000.00
6395 · Mission Team/Disability	
6395 · Mission Team/Disability	2,000.00
Total 6395 · Mission Team/Disability	2,000.00
6400 · Council	
6400 · Council	2,650.00
Retreat and Professional Development	15,000.00
Total 6400 · Council	17,650.00
6450 · Assembly	
6451 · Registration	(40,000.00)
6457 · General Expense	60,000.00
6450 · Assembly - Other	10,000.00
Total 6450 · Assembly	30,000.00

Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop
Proposed Budget
Fiscal Year 2024

Total Expense	1,863,647.04
----------------------	---------------------

Net Ordinary Income	0.00
----------------------------	-------------

FOOTNOTES

***1: Postions in this category.**

Asst to the Bishop for Leadership Development and Authentic Diversity

Asst to the Bishop for Faith Formation and In-House Theologian

Asst to the Bishop for Finance and Administration

Asst to the Bishop for Congregational Care

Director of Evangelical Mission

***2: Postions in this category.**

Executive Assistant and Office Manager

Roster Administrative Assistant

General Administrative Assistant

Bookkeeper

Program Manager Candidacy and Mobility

**Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop**

	Budget FY 2023	Budget FY 2023
Income		
5000 · Revenue		
5001 · Mission Support		850,000.00
5002 · Interest		9,000.00
5003.1 · Other Revenue		33,643.50
5003.1 · Synod Specific Ministry Donation		50,000.00
5004 · Investment Disbursement		
5004.4 · Distribution from FLLAF Fund		85,000.00
5004.6 · Income from Real Estate		656,178.58
Total 5004 · Investment Disbursement		741,178.58
Total 5000 · Revenue		1,683,822.08
Total Income		1,683,822.08
Expense		
6000 · Mission Support		
6001 · Churchwide		382,500.00
6002 · PLTS/CLU		42,500.00
Total 6000 · Mission Support		425,000.00
6200 · Payroll Expenses		
6201 · Bishop		
6201.01 · Bishop Compensation		111,600.00
6201.02 · Bishop Retirement		13,392.00
6201.03 · Bishop Health		26,861.28
Total 6201 · Bishop		151,853.28
6202 · Senior Staff		
6202.01 · Senior Staff Compensation		272,740.00
6202.02 · Senior Staff Retirement		32,728.80
6202.03 · Senior Staff Health		35,000.00
Total 6202 · Senior Staff		340,468.80
6203 · Support Staff		
6203.01 · Support Staff Compensation		290,000.00
6203.02 · Support Staff Retirement		34,800.00
6203.03 · Support Staff Health		29,000.00
Total 6203 · Support Staff		353,800.00
6205 · Synod Specific Ministries		

	Budget FY 2022	Budget FY 2022
Income		
5000 · Revenue		
5001 · Mission Support		800,000.00
5002 · Interest		12,000.00
5003.1 · Other Revenue		10,000.00
5004 · Investment Disbursement		
5004.4 · Distribution from FLLAF Fund		72,000.00
5004.5 · Bookkeeping Services		5,000.00
5004.6 · Legacy Gifts Congregations		339,065.13 ^{*1}
Total 5004 · Investment Disbursement		416,065.13
5005 · Fiscal Agent Payroll Reimb		
Total 5000 · Revenue		1,238,065.13
Total Income		1,238,065.13
Expense		
6000 · Mission Support		
6001 · Churchwide		360,000.00
6002 · PLTS/CLU		40,000.00
Total 6000 · Mission Support		400,000.00
6200 · Payroll Expenses		
6201 · Bishop		
6201.01 · Bishop Compensation		103,350.00
6201.02 · Bishop Retirement		13,840.00
6201.03 · Bishop Health		25,104.00
6201 · Bishop - Other		0.00
Total 6201 · Bishop		142,294.00
6202 · Senior Staff		
6202.01 · Senior Staff Compensation		82,000.00 ^{*2}
6202.02 · Senior Staff Retirement		11,644.00
6202.03 · Senior Staff Health		6,000.00
6202 · Senior Staff - Other		0.00
Total 6202 · Senior Staff		99,644.00
6203 · Support Staff		
6203.01 · Support Staff Compensation		262,900.00 ^{*3}
6203.02 · Support Staff Retirement		31,548.00

**Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop**

Budget FY 2023	Budget FY 2023
6205.10 · Senior	24,000.00
6205.30 · Youth	35,400.00
Total 6205 · Demographic Specific Ministries	59,400.00
6210 · FICA Allowance	
6211.1 · Payroll Taxes	50,000.00
6213 · Continuing Ed	7,000.00
Total 6200 · Payroll Expenses	962,522.08
6220 · Staff Expense	
6220 · Staff Expense	37,450.00
Total 6220 · Staff Expense	37,450.00
6230 · Administration	
6231 · Office Supplies	15,000.00
	15,000.00
6232 · Insurance	
6232.1 · Workers Compensation	11,000.00
6232.2 · Auto	0.00
Total 6232 · Insurance	11,000.00
6233 · Auditing & Legal	
6233.1 · Audit	25,000.00
6233.2 · Legal	10,000.00
Total 6233 · Auditing & Legal	35,000.00
6234 · Hospitality	6,000.00
6235 · Postage & Delivery	5,350.00
6236 · Copier Lease	10,500.00
6237 · Maintenance & Repair	2,675.00
6239 · Telephone	5,885.00
6240 · Printing	5,000.00
6242 · Archives	1,500.00
6244 · Information Technology	12,840.00
6247 · Bank & Finance Charges	1,600.00

Budget FY 2022	Budget FY 2022
6203.03 · Support Staff Health	50,452.00
6203 · Support Staff - Other	0.00
Total 6203 · Support Staff	344,900.00
6204 · Property	
6204.01 · Property Compensation	0.00 *4
6204.02 · Property Retirement	0.00
6204.03 · Property Health	0.00
Total 6204 · Property	0.00
6205 · Demographic Specific Ministries	
6205.10 · Latino Ministry	0.00 *5
6205.11 · Latino Ministry Retirement	0.00
6205.12 · Latino Ministry Health	0.00
6205.20 · African Descent Ministry	0.00
6205.30 · Youth	24,000.00
6205.40 · Authentic Diversity	0.00
6205.41 · Authentic Diversity Retirement	0.00
6205.42 · Authentic Diversity Health	0.00
Total 6205 · Demographic Specific Ministries	24,000.00
6206 · Fiscal Agent Staff	
6206.10 · Fiscal Agent Compensation	0.00 *6
6206.20 · Fiscal Agent Retirement	0.00
6206.30 · Fiscal Agent Health	0.00
Total 6206 · Fiscal Agent Staff	0.00
6210 · FICA Allowance	0.00
6211.1 · Payroll Taxes	36,127.13
6212.1 · Pension/Benefits	3,500.00
6213 · Continuing Ed	3,000.00
Total 6200 · Payroll Expenses	653,465.13
6220 · Staff Expense	
6221 · Bishop	
6224 · Assist Rosterd Leadership	
6229 · All Staff Expense	
6220 · Staff Expense - Other	35,000.00

**Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop**

	Budget FY 2023	Budget FY 2023
6249 · Office Equipment		4,000.00
Total 6230 · Administration		116,350.00
6310 · Synodical Ministries		
6311 · Meeting		5,000.00
6312 · Worship		1,500.00
6313 · MLK Service		5,000.00
6314 · Region 2		5,000.00
6319 · Communications		45,000.00
6322 · Ecumenical		500.00
6323 · Bishop's Colloquy		5,000.00
6324 · Stewardship		5,000.00
6325 · Education		45,000.00
6326 · Senior		5,000.00
6327 · Youth		7,500.00
Total 6310 · Synodical Ministries		129,500.00
6330 · Mission Team for Justice		
6330 · Mission Team for Justice		1,500.00
Total 6330 · Mission Team for Justice		1,500.00
6350 · Mission Team / RosteredLeadersh		
6350 · Mission Team / RosteredLeadersh		1,500.00
Total 6350 · Mission Team / RosteredLeadersh		1,500.00
6360 · Mission Team for Lay Ministries		
6360 · Mission Team for Lay Ministries		1,500.00
Total 6360 · Mission Team for Lay Ministries		1,500.00
6370 · Mission Team for EvangOutreach		
6378 · Mission Team for EvangOutreach		1,500.00
Total 6370 · Mission Team for EvangOutreach		1,500.00
6380 · Mission Team/Global Partnership		
6380 · Mission Team/Global Partnership		1,500.00
Total 6380 · Mission Team/Global Partnership		1,500.00
6400 · Council		
6400 · Council		2,500.00

	Budget FY 2022	Budget FY 2022
Total 6220 · Staff Expense		35,000.00
6230 · Administration		
6231 · Office Supplies		10,000.00
		<u>10,000.00</u>
6232 · Insurance		
6232.1 · Workers Compensation		8,000.00
6232.2 · Auto		1,000.00
6232 · Insurance - Other		2,500.00
Total 6232 · Insurance		11,500.00
6233 · Auditing & Legal		
6233.1 · Audit		27,000.00
6233.2 · Legal		6,000.00
6233.3 · Outside Accounting		0.00
Total 6233 · Auditing & Legal		33,000.00
6234 · Hospitality		4,000.00
6235 · Postage & Delivery		5,000.00
6236 · Copier Lease		10,500.00
6237 · Maintenance & Repair		2,500.00
6239 · Telephone		5,500.00
6240 · Printing		2,500.00
6242 · Archives		1,500.00
6244 · Information Technology		12,000.00
6247 · Bank & Finance Charges		1,600.00
6249 · Office Equipment		1,000.00
Total 6230 · Administration		100,600.00
6310 · Synodical Ministries		
6311 · Meeting		500.00
6312 · Worship		1,000.00
6313 · MLK Service		4,000.00
6314 · Region 2		5,000.00
6319 · Communications		12,000.00

**Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop**

	Budget FY 2023	Budget FY 2023
Total 6400 · Council		2,500.00
6450 · Assembly		
6451 · Registration	(37,000.00)	
6457 · Media	30,000.00	
6450 · Assembly - Other	10,000.00	
Total 6450 · Assembly		<u>3,000.00</u>
Total Expense		<u><u>1,683,822.08</u></u>
Net Ordinary Income		0.00

FOOTNOTES

*1: Postions in this category.

Asst to the Bishop for Leadership Development and Authentic Diversity

Asst to the Bishop for Faith Formation and In-House Theologian

Asst to the Bishop for Finance and Administration

Asst to the Bishop for Congregational Care

*2: Postions in this category.

Accountant

Executive Assitant and Office Manager

Roster Administrative Assistant

General Administrative Assistant

	Budget FY 2022	Budget FY 2022
6322 · Ecumenical		500.00
6323 · Bishop's Colloquy		2,500.00
Total 6310 · Synodical Ministries		<u>25,500.00</u>
6330 · Mission Team for Justice		
6330 · Mission Team for Justice		1,500.00
Total 6330 · Mission Team for Justice		<u>1,500.00</u>
6350 · Mission Team / RosteredLeadersh		
6350 · Mission Team / RosteredLeadersh		1,500.00
Total 6350 · Mission Team / RosteredLeadersh		<u>1,500.00</u>
6360 · Mission Team for Lay Ministries		
6360 · Mission Team for Lay Ministries		1,500.00
Total 6360 · Mission Team for Lay Ministries		<u>1,500.00</u>
6370 · Mission Team for EvangOutreach		
6378 · Mission Team for EvangOutreach		1,500.00
Total 6370 · Mission Team for EvangOutreach		<u>1,500.00</u>
6380 · Mission Team/Global Partnership		
6380 · Mission Team/Global Partnership		1,500.00
Total 6380 · Mission Team/Global Partnership		<u>1,500.00</u>
6400 · Council		
6400 · Council		1,000.00
Total 6400 · Council		<u>1,000.00</u>
6450 · Assembly		
6450 · Assembly - Other		15,000.00
Total 6450 · Assembly		<u>15,000.00</u>
Total Expense		<u><u>1,238,065.13</u></u>

Net Ordinary Income

0.00

NOTES: *1: Proceeds from the sale of synod owned properties as needed.

*2: Senior Staff are the Assitants to the Bishop: Pr Castenada-Carrera.

*3: Support Staff are the office staff: Robin Lujan, Taylor Dairow, Claudia lao, Adrienne Griffin and additional staff as may be needed.

*4: Property staffing is paid for out of property revenue.

**Southwest California Synod
Office of the Bishop**

Budget FY 2023	Budget FY 2023
----------------	----------------

Budget FY 2022	Budget FY 2022
----------------	----------------

- *5: Please see Bishops vision for office staffing. Authentic Diversity assigned to Pr Casteneda Carrera.

- *6: This section should be zero net. Fiscals Agents are paid for by various funding sources including CW and Synodical grants.

- *7: Net operating deficit: this deficit would be covered by procedes from the NOHO property.

2023 SWCA Synod Assembly Nominations Report:

Updated (5/26/2023)

-----Synod Vice-President-----

The Synod Vice President position must be filled by a layperson. As chairperson of the synod council and executive committee, the vice president is expected to be present at all meetings and to report the actions of the Synod Council to the Synod Assembly. The term of office is 3 years with one reelection. The vice president will need a vision of the mission of the church, a record of leadership in their local congregation, and a commitment to Christ expressed in the stewardship of one's gifts. They must be able to share openly in the decisions concerning the policies and mission of the church, and be ready to assist the bishop of the synod in working with the agencies, institutions, conferences, and congregations in implementing the work of the synod. The Synod Vice President serves as the principal lay leader of the synod.

Term: 3 years

Layperson

Name: Nicole R. Kippen

Southwest California Synod Congregation (Name and City):

Shepherd of the Valley - Simi Valley

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

I am currently serving on the call committee. I just finished a two year term on our church's council, one of which I served as the secretary.

Community service, currently and within the past three years:

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

I was the youth delegate to Synod Assembly in 2021 and a delegate in 2022.

Sense of calling to serve in this specific capacity or capacities:

I feel called to a greater level of service, specifically in our synod. Our synod is doing such amazing work and I am excited for the possibility of being a part of it all. I firmly believe that the acceptance and radical inclusion of queer folks will make our church thrive. The more we do to change our practices, policies, and language to include the LGBTQIA+ community, the better the Church will be. I also believe that getting young people involved will not only strengthen their faith, but change our communities for the better. While that is not a radical idea, how we include the youth might need to change to engage the youth of today. Having people of all ages grow together in faith might be the way forward.



Name: John Halbert

Southwest California Synod Congregation (Name and City):

Hope Lutheran Hollywood

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

I am currently serving as president of our church council; previously I was vice president. I was chair of our Communications Committee. I have taught Bible study for the last year. I was on our recent Call Committee. I served as de facto office administrator while we searched for a new one.

Community service, currently and within the past three years:

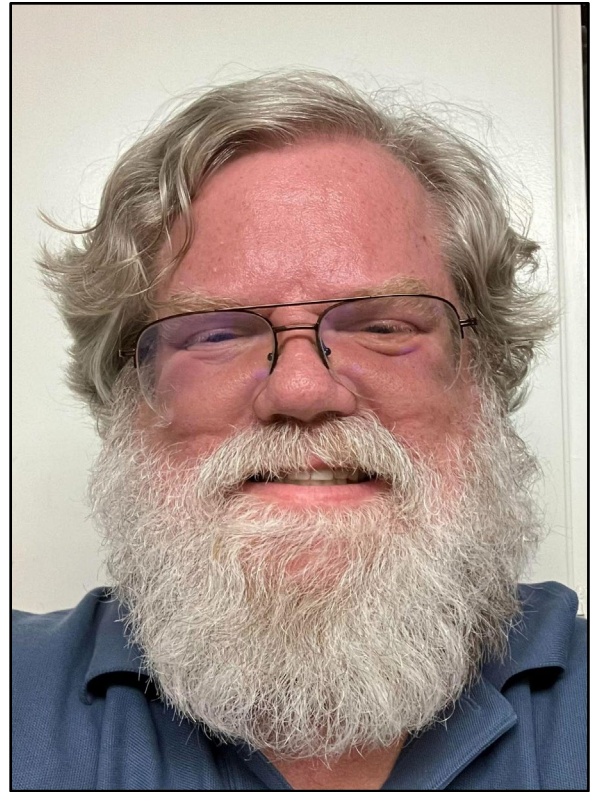
I visited an elderly member of our congregation every week during the pandemic. I am on the Policy Council of the Lutheran Office of Public Policy. I volunteered on a friend's successful campaign for Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees. I am a judge in a competition for sustainable/socially responsible business plans.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

I am on Synod Council, secretary of the Synod Justice Team, and I am chair of the Metropolitan Conference.

Sense of calling to serve in this specific capacity or capacities:

I have a very wide range of experience, personally, professionally, and in terms of social justice activism. I've worked for some of the largest organizations in the world, and some of the smallest. The church is facing substantial challenges at every level - from individual congregations, to the conferences, to the Synod, to the ELCA, to Christianity itself. Earning a degree in philosophy taught me to think deeply, and to see the big picture. Working in environments like restaurants, film sets, and numerous offices taught me the importance of paying attention to fine details. In this time of challenge I see great opportunity. Martin Luther took advantage of the new technology of the printing press to spread his interpretation of the gospel. But he also changed how the church was organized. Our new technologies provide us with similar opportunities, but those same technologies challenge us to change how we think about organizing the church and sharing our message. I have a number of ideas about how we can collectively rise to these challenges, and I believe that serving as vice president of the Southwest California Synod would provide me with an ideal platform to share those ideas and develop plans of action appropriate to meet those challenges.



-----Conference Representatives-----

Conference Representatives are Synod Council members who are elected at a meeting of their conference, usually a Spring Assembly. They serve a 3 year term. The voting membership of the Synod Assembly does not nominate or elect them individually, but votes to affirm them (usually en bloc). Names of and information about Conference Representatives are included in the Report of the Nominating Committee. Nominations for this position can't be brought from the assembly floor - only the conference can elect or appoint this position.

Tehachapi Conference Rep

Term: 3 years

(Vacant, No conference election)

Twin Valleys Conference Rep

Term: 3 years

Name: Karen Tomlinson

Southwest California Synod Congregation (Name and City):

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Van Nuys

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

I have had many years of experience as a lay leader at St. Andrew's in several capacities. Most recently I have been serving as the secretary of the Twin Valleys Lutheran Parish Board.

Community service, currently and within the past three years:

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

Sense of calling to serve in this specific capacity or capacities:

South Bay Conference Rep

Term: 3 years

Name: Margarita C. Gonzalez

Southwest California Synod Congregation (Name and City):

First Lutheran Church, Torrance

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

As South Bay Conference representative, I have assisted the Dean in his commitment to maintain an active involvement with the congregations to better serve or listen to the needs of each one. For instance, all the pastors of the South Bay Conference (including me) are invited to the virtual weekly text study; this moment provides an opportunity to share and to communicate the needs and projects of their communities.

Community service, currently and within the past three years:

As a board member of the FirstServe Community Services of the South Bay, Inc., a non-profit organization that offers programs of caring for people of all age groups, I have had the opportunity to engage in some of the programs focusing more directly on programs for elders such as “Hope Circle” Support Group, a monthly online support group. This group includes presentations of life issues that many of us face. For instance, I have benefited from this group in sharing my feelings of grieving for the recent loss of my husband. I also have contributed and supported the El Salvador Scholarship program sponsored by members of First Lutheran Church in Torrance and other congregations in the South Bay area. Also, as a member of the Rotary e-Club of Puerto Rico & Las Americas I have helped in supporting community services to the people in need in the island and working with the recent scholarship program named “Everardo y Margarita Gonzalez” for high school students.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

As a current Synod Council member-at-large, I have been involved in the following committees: Executive Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, and the Discipline Committee.

Sense of calling to serve in this specific capacity or capacities:

I have had the opportunity to currently serve as the Synod Council Member-at-large, and I feel the call to continue to serve and support the Synod and congregations in my conference. I am bilingual (Spanish, English proficient) and feel that I can serve and support the Latino communities in communicating their needs.



-----Council Members At-Large-----

Members-at-Large are expected to be present at council meetings, to attend Synod Assembly, and to volunteer on Mission Teams, Task Forces and Committees. The term of office is 3 years with one reelection

Synod Council Member At Large #1

Term: 3 years

Layperson - Female/Non-Binary

Name: Lisa Curtis

Southwest California Synod Congregation (Name and City):

St. Luke Lutheran Church, Woodland Hills

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

I am the volunteer choir director at St. Luke, Woodland Hills, and I lead the women's weekly bible study

Community service, currently and within the past three years:

I help lead the women's non-denominational bible study in Malibu.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

I was elected to a two year Synod Council term in 2020, which has flown by! It has been a meaningful and amazing learning experience. I am currently heading up the mutual ministry committee which supports and encourages the synod staff, and having served on EOMT, the evangelical outreach mission team, I am now co-chair of this group that supports the D.E.M, and helps define strategic ministries for our synod, and determine synod funding for these ministries.



Sense of calling to serve in this specific capacity or capacities:

Having served for just two years, I feel like I am now deeply involved and have a much better understanding of the role the synod council plays in the life of the church. I enjoy the process of listening and asking questions that help us think critically and deeply about the issues being faced and needs that need meeting . I get to witness so many people working so hard with limited resources and it is a joy to better understand, support and celebrate what we are doing together as our Synod community to serve God's people. Having taken on a leadership role with the EOMT and with the Mutual Ministry team, I feel like I am just getting started! I would be honored to continue serving on the Synod Council.

Synod Council Member At Large #2

Term: 3 years

Layperson - Female/Non-Binary

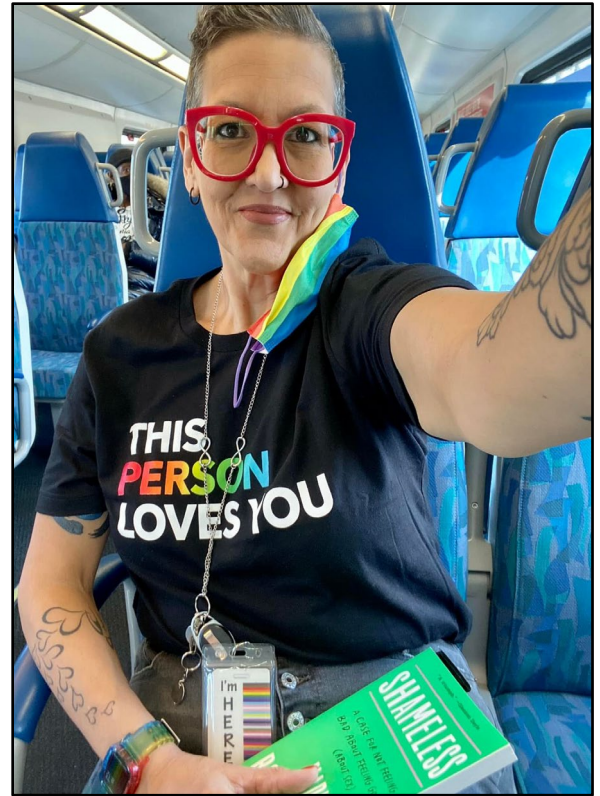
Name: Vivian Vega

Southwest California Synod Congregation (Name and City):

American Lutheran Church, Burbank

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

I joined ALC Burbank in October of 2021, shortly after moving to the area. I was welcomed into the community in a way that I had not experienced in my spiritual journey before. Shortly after joining, I was invited to read poems, and prayer, and scripture from the pulpit during Sunday Services. I felt seen! From the first time up at the pulpit, I felt driven to share my passion for gender equality, racial and social justice --guided by the Divine Light that is Christ Jesus. In January of 2022 I was elected as Council Secretary. I also became a pretty constant figure in ALC-B's midweek "midrash" meetings and book club, where the topics near and dear to me are discussed. I felt encouraged to share my personal stories and struggles as a refugee to this country, and as a queer female person of color. It has been a journey, and there is so much more to do, but I am excited to be a part of my congregation's future and the future of ELCA.



Community service, currently and within the past three years:

I have worked closely with Students Deserve Justice, the National Education Association's LGBTQIA+ committee, and the LA Teachers Equity and Racial Justice Committees since working for United Teachers Los Angeles for the last 11 years -- since moving to California.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

I attended my first Synod Assembly last year, so I do not have much experience. I am eager to learn more!

Sense of calling to serve in this specific capacity or capacities:

Since joining the Lutheran community, I have felt a passion for discipleship. A passion to share God's message of grace and compassion, of acceptance, empathy, and peace... but most importantly, love. I feel called to do more.

Synod Council Member At Large #3

Term: 3 years

Layperson - Male/Non-Binary

Name: Robert E. Siemer

Southwest California Synod Congregation (Name and City):

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Long Beach

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

Church Council, Secretary, 2021 to Present; Website/Tech Admin, 2021 to present; Constitution/Bylaws, 2021 to present; Property, 2023 to present

Community service, currently and within the past three years:

Homeowners Association, Vice-President, 2020 to present; Long Beach Yacht Club, RVers, Chair, 2020 to 2022; Community Legal Aid of Southern California, Volunteer Attorney, 2020 to present

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

Consultation Committee, Member, 2021 to present; Churchwide, Representative, 2022



Sense of calling to serve in this specific capacity or capacities:

The body needs the gifts of many even to merely function. My limited and self-perceived gift is the ability to assist organizations function ethically, efficiently and effectively, honed on years of observation, successes and mistakes. After 18 years of service in my Congregation, my participation on the Consultation Committee and participation in Churchwide Assembly, leads me to seek a position on Synod Council.

Synod Council Member At Large #4

Term: 3 years

Rostered Leader - Male/Non-binary

Name:

Southwest California Synod Congregation (Name and City):

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

Community service, currently and within the past three years:

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

Sense of calling to serve in this specific capacity or capacities:

(no nominations)

Synod Council Member At Large #5

Term: 3 years

Rostered Leader - Female/Non-Binary

Name: Deacon Nancy J. Ackerman

Southwest California Synod Congregation (Name and City):

Emmanuel, North Hollywood

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

Within my congregation I've served on the Foundation board, Finance Committee, and as organist.

Community service, currently and within the past three years:

I am currently a member of FirstServe Community Services and President of the Greater San Fernando Valley Chapter, Association of Fundraising Professionals. I have also served with the North Central Pennsylvania Dialysis Center; HillSides; the Lutheran Credit Union of America; and the Lutheran Planned Giving Partnership of Southern California and Hawaii.. She was Volunteer of the Year in the Families with Children Category for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

I currently serve the Synod as a member of the Budget & Finance and Endowment Committees. I've served previously on the Synod Council, Executive Committee and as an Assistant to the Bishop.

Sense of calling to serve in this specific capacity or capacities:

As a deacon, I'm called to further the mission of organizations that serve God's people. In 2021, I was named CEO of California Lutheran Homes , a NPO that provides funding and other assistance to those in need of housing and human services through partnerships with church congregations, community organizations, and local agencies. My experience in corporate operations, including fiduciary stewardship, ethical practice, financial management, fund development, governance, board development, policy administration, personnel management, strategic planning and execution, and property management position me to be effective in the boardroom in meeting the needs of individuals, congregations and organizations.



Name: Rev. Megan Hunt-Fryling (incumbent)

Southwest California Synod Congregation (Name and City):
Bethlehem Lutheran Church & School, Granada Hills

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:
I'm the pastor of Bethlehem in Granada Hills where I've been serving for almost 9 years. During that time, the congregation has faced a number of challenges and changes along with joys and excitement.

Community service, currently and within the past three years:
I currently volunteer my time on the PTA board at my children's school in LAUSD and I am involved in a Boy Scout troop. I've also a foster parent.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:
For the past few years I've been on Synod Council.

Sense of calling to serve in this specific capacity or capacities:
I have been honored to have the opportunity to serve on the synod council for the last few years and I feel called to continue serving in this role.



Name: Rev. Amie Barsch Odahl

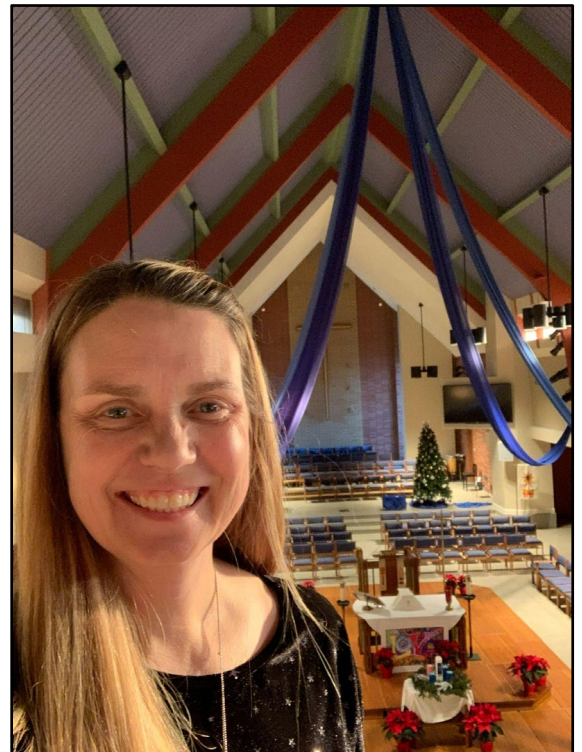
Southwest California Synod Congregation (Name and City):
Salem Lutheran Church, Glendale

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:
I am the Lead Pastor and Head of School at Salem Lutheran Church.

Community service, currently and within the past three years:
For 5 years, I have been active in the National Charity League - volunteering with my daughter at dozens of Glendale and Burbank charities. I am a current puppy raiser for Guide Dogs of America and Tender Loving Canines.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:
I am an active participant in our monthly Foothill Conference meetings. I am an active supporter and advocate for LRCC.

Sense of calling to serve in this specific capacity or capacities:
It is my time to start serving not only my church but the synod as well. Because my children are grown, I have more time to be involved in the work of the synod.



-----Youth Representative-----

Synod Council Youth Representative

Term: 2 years

10th or 11th Grade

(No Nominations)

-----Committee Positions-----

Consultation Committee (1)

Term: 6 years

Lay Person

The primary responsibility will be to hear the issues of all parties involved in cases related to ordained ministers, officers, congregations, and members of congregations and recommend whether or not disciplinary action should be taken. It will consist of at least six persons and not more than twelve persons, of whom half shall be ordained ministers and half shall be lay persons, who shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. This position is a voluntary one and will meet on an "as needed" basis. Each person must be a voting member of an ELCA congregation. Persons serving on the Consultation Committee must have an ability to listen to the opinions of many persons and process them into a recommendation, which will be fair to all parties involved. They must be able to share openly in discussions of very sensitive matters and must know the policy and mission of the church and be willing to uphold the integrity of the church and individuals to which the church ministers.

Name: Leila Mahmoudi Mader

Southwest California Synod Congregation (Name and City):

New Hope Lutheran Church, Agoura Hills

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

I had been attending at New Hope Lutheran church in Agoura Hills for the last 9 years.

Community service, currently and within the past three years:

I had been the chair of the fellowship committee for about the last 6 years at New Hope Lutheran church in Agoura hills.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

I think I've never been involved with the Synod.

Sense of calling to serve in this specific capacity or capacities:

It sounds exciting for the new experience and being involved with the Synod.



Discipline Committee (1)

Term: 6 years

Lay Person

The responsibility of the Discipline Committee is to act on the recommendations of the Consultation Committee. It will consist of twelve persons, of whom half shall be ordained ministers and half shall be lay persons, who shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. This position is a voluntary one and will meet on an "as needed" basis. Each person must be a voting member of an ELCA congregation. Persons serving on the Discipline Committee must have an ability to process input from many persons in reaching a consensus of opinion. Persons must be able to share openly in discussions of very sensitive matters. Persons serving on the Discipline Committee must know the policy and mission of the church. They must be compassionate with a commitment to fairness and justice.

(No Nominations)

Floor Nominations for Council & Committee Positions

Nominations made from the floor must be endorsed by the signatures of at least ten (10) VOTING members of the Synod Assembly. The agreement of the nominee to serve if elected must have been secured, and biographical information must be available in writing for distribution to the voting members. This information, together with the list of those endorsing the nominee AND their email addresses, must be sent to communications@socalsynod.org no later than **6:00 PM on Friday, June 2, 2023**. Required biographical information is as follows:

- A. The name and (rostered status of the nominee, if applicable),
- B. The name of the position the candidate is being nominated for,
- C. Contact information for the nominee (email and phone number),
- D. A photo of the nominee (a selfie is acceptable),
- E. The nominee's answers to the following:

Southwest California Synod Congregation (Name and City):
Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:
Community service, currently and within the past three years:
Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:
Sense of calling to serve in this specific capacity or capacities:

Paper forms are available at the registration table

Online form can be accessed here: <https://forms.gle/us3hpYRcFam8qdXAA>



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

Dear siblings in Christ,

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

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

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

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

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

In Christ,



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



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

Queridos(as) hermanos(as) en Cristo:

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

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

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

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

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

En Cristo,

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



「耶穌進前來，對他們說：『天上地下所有的權柄都賜給我了。所以，你們要去，使萬民作我的門徒，奉父、子、聖靈的名給他們施洗，凡我所吩咐你們的，都教導他們遵守。看哪，我天天與你們同在，直到世代的終結。』」（馬太福音 28:18-20）

親愛的主內弟兄姊妹們，

我們知道福音改變生命，上帝的能力和恩典是真實的，並且至今仍在做工。我們蒙召一起向全世界傳播上帝創造和救贖的聖言。如果我們能讓更多人認識上帝會怎樣？對於從未聽說過耶穌的孩子？對於試圖理解世界的年輕人？對於經常感到寂寞和孤立的老年人？

我們的目的——「激勵我們每個人去讓更多的人認識耶穌的道，發現社區、公義和愛」——表達了我們的呼召和我們渴望幫助他人在基督耶穌裡了解上帝的愛。我們通過敬拜和服事，在我們的會眾和社群中，通過我們個人的職業呼召、和我們作為教會集體作工來實現我們的目標。

你們當中的許多人都想知道，為什麼我們設定了一個「觸及一百萬新進的、年輕、多元化的人」的目標。我們相信，我們每個人都是按照上帝的形象造的，被耶穌在十字架上救贖，並被聖靈充滿。我們對年輕人和多元化群體的關注並非是排斥其他群體，而是承認我們的教會座椅上和聚會中不成比例地缺少更年輕和更多元化的人。我們正在挑戰彼此去跨越各種差異，以與我們的鄰舍相遇。

設定與一百萬人互動的目標，是我們了解我們正在作的工是否真的接觸到新人的一種方式。它鼓勵我們一起努力成為一個關心我們周圍世界的教會，並有效和忠實地回應上帝的呼召。

加入我們這個以未來為中心的旅程，以擴大我們歡迎他人的程度範圍，並破除阻擋人們與教會接觸的障礙。我們可以一起幫助人們體驗上帝在基督裡的恩典和慈愛對所有人和受造物所帶來的不同。

在基督裡，

以利沙伯伊頓 牧師 (The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton)

總監督 (總主教 Presiding Bishop)

美國福音信義會 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Bishop's Report – Synod Assembly 2023

In my role of bishop, I realize I ask a lot of questions. I ask questions of God, certainly. I ask questions of congregations and their leaders. I ask questions of my staff and I ask questions of myself. A key question I ask is “What does it mean to be a Lutheran in Southern California?”

In the spring of this year, the bishops of Region 1 and 2 of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America met to discuss what it meant to be Lutheran in the Western United States. These bishops care for ELCA congregations from Alaska to Texas, and we believe we have a unique perspective. We cited our deep commitment to the land, with our coastlines and mountains. We have national parks, we have big cities, we have wide open spaces. Much of the region has spectacular weather. Our connection to God is deeply tied to our connection to nature.

Another thing which makes Lutheranism in the West, and more specifically in Southern California, is our diverse culture. When a Southern Californian travels to other parts of the country, we may marvel at the homogeneity of places so different from our hometown. I delight in hearing several languages a day if I walk down our streets or shop in our stores. I love the different stories I hear when I ask about ancestors. I celebrate the rainbow flags I see in shop windows all year round, and the military heroes and first responders celebrated on street banners. I know wide swaths of Southern California struggle with poverty, and others have immense wealth, sometimes within city blocks of each other. Of course we still live with xenophobia, anti-Asian hate and other forms of racism, classism and transphobia, but, thanks be to God, we are fortunate to live in a part of the world where few people feel like “the only one” in their community, and we have the resources and will to support people from a variety of walks of life.

So what does it mean to be Lutheran in Southern California? Our neighborhoods and our theology call us to care deeply for a neighbor who may not be the same as us. Our congregations and agencies excel when they become experts on the people who live next door, when we hear their needs and respond to them. This is hard work. We have to abandon the idea that we know things and agree our neighbor is the one who has the wisdom we are missing. Then we have to change our services and our outreach to respond.

In the past year, the synod staff and council has focused on the needs of the communities of faith. We understand the people in the pews and in the street are the hands and feet of God. This is where we need to send our resources.

I have already reported the sale of two buildings, the former Messiah Lutheran in Pasadena, and the former Holy Shepherd in Chatsworth. Those two buildings, plus San Pablo in North Hollywood, which was sold in the previous fiscal year, have netted almost \$6 million. We will be hiring an investment firm to manage this money carefully and faithfully, aligning with our values. The plan is for the income from our investments to be a key funder of future ministry.

I wrote in a quarterly report about \$300,000 being allocated to synod-owned properties at Fe Y Esperanza in South Gate and Pueblo de Dios in Compton, repairing roofs and cleaning up serious rain damage. We had a lot of deferred maintenance at those sites and this is the first place the synod's money was sent. \$50,000 from the sale of Messiah Pasadena was awarded to homeless ministries at Trinity, Pasadena, as a request from Messiah before they closed. Emmanuel North Hollywood tithed \$185,000 from the sale of a property, and Hope Hollywood and Shepherd of the Valley Simi Valley both tithed from bequests they received. Yes, tithing is a faithful thing to do, but it is also courageous in light of the economic challenges so many of our congregations face. We celebrate this brave generosity and pray God's blessings to all who share in this mission. These gifts will make a significant impact on our bottom line, and most importantly, free up other funds to be used in direct service for our communities.

I will also be proposing some of the proceeds are available for large projects, such as new starts and creative ways to fund experimental ministries. Across the country, and across denominations, congregations are shrinking, and some are closing. This is a trend which has been happening for decades. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to harm some communities of faith. Some have found ways to become strengthened and revitalized, with a deeper sense of mission to neighbors. A key change is the economy. It is harder than ever to offer a living wage to pastors and deacons in Southern California. Therefore, we are having a harder time filling our ministerial vacancies. Of course God is able, but we are having to think about combining calls between congregations. Two-point parishes and circuit rider models are happening all over the country. In fact, we are one of the few synods who does not utilize this frequently. Pastor Toni Casteneda Carrera, Pastor Chryll Crews, Pastor Tracy Williams and our support staff spends a great deal of time working on regional strategies and will continue to do so.

We also need to lift up and revitalize lay leadership. Again, this is a solution utilized throughout the ELCA. This fall we will be re-starting lay leadership training, with the intention of equipping leaders to lead congregations who cannot afford an ordained minister, even on a part-time basis. Some of these leaders may seek ordination, others may not. We could wring our hands about the lack of ordained pastors and deacons, or we can get out of the Holy Spirit's way as new ways to be church continue to emerge. We have very powerful leaders in our midst and I truly believe God is pointing us in this direction. Pastor Abel Arroyo Traverso is working on adapting curriculum used throughout the country to the specific needs of Southern California churches, and the diverse candidates we will lift up.

We do have ordinations to celebrate in the past year. I was delighted to ordain Elizabeth Denton to St. Timothy's in Lakewood and Diana Washington to Peace in Lompoc. We expect to ordain several other candidates in the coming months, as several people have recently completed their candidacy requirements. Our staff is also working with a variety of candidates. A few years ago there was only one traditional path to ordination: a 4 year Masters of Divinity program. Now our seminaries offer over 20 different ways to be educated and to gain the experience the ELCA needs for qualified candidates.

Special education events were offered, including two gun violence prevention workshops, worship workshops at Bishop's Colloquy, a rostered leaders gathering at Serra Retreat on trauma, two workshops on grief and Theosis, offered in tandem with Pacifica Synod, on trauma and preaching. Boundaries training and training for Congregational Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers was offered.

Peace Lompoc opened a parallel development with Paz, Lompoc, a new start with the hopes of bringing Music and Arts to the Spanish-speaking community in Lompoc. Pastor Chryll Crews ushered this community forward with Mission Developer/Pastor Diana Washington. Our Evangelism and Mission Outreach Team approved additional grants for our mission starts and strategic ministries. We are committed to strengthening our vulnerable congregations and hope to offer several programs in the coming year. Pastor Crews will work on a few other new starts in 2023-2024.

One last area we have focused upon in the past year is congregational care. The trauma of COVID, the stress of diminished resources, past conflicts which have not been resolved have all weighed upon the lives of our people. Our staff meets regularly with congregations, seniors, young people and rostered leaders to provide hope and healing. This is a critical part of the synod's mission.

Now we need to move into stewardship, marketing and visioning. Lisa Higginbotham, our ELCA Gift Planner, has already had several successful meetings with congregations, helping people discover their goals and a way forward. Pastor Marj Funk-Pihl offers Living the Resurrection workshops. Our Spring Conference Assemblies focused on Fundraising in Uncertain Times with Regina Biddings-Muro, the VP of University Advancement at CLU. We know financial stability is a key part of any healthy organization, including the synod itself.

Youth Ministry Coordinator and Organizer Tyra Dennis produced worship blogs for Advent. Assistant to the Bishop for Senior Adult Ministries Deacon Dr. Cecelia Travick Jackson consulted with several senior ministries throughout the synod and is forming a Senior Ministries Task Force to determine the needs of our most seasoned Lutherans.

There is a large group working together, including synod support staff Taylor Dariarow, Warren Ani, Claudia Iao, Robin Lujan, TaSh Elzie, Samantha Henderson, Holly Ann Walker, Bill Nuzzo and Juan Mansilla. Our synod council is passionate and focused. A special thank you to Vice President Sarah Stegemoeller who has pushed my own professionalism and called the council to high standards of excellence. Her one term was impactful.

Our focus and resources will continue to move toward our communities as you are the heart of our work. God is present. God is moving. God is calling us to love our neighbor intentionally. The Office of the Bishop is committed to strengthening your ministry and equip your leaders, possibly leaders you did not realize were among you, to answer the call to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

ACTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD COUNCIL (SC) AND SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) FROM MAY 2022 THROUGH MARCH 2023

“MSC” means a resolution or action was moved, seconded and after a vote was carried.

EC 5.10.22

MSC – to list the Chatsworth property with Emil Akopian with a deadline for Letters of Intent of June 15 at a price of 2.75 million.

MSC – to request the Synod Council to grant the following Synodical Letters of Call: Pr. Rebecca Iverson (serving as a Hospital Chaplain for Dignity Health); Pr. Albert Staff (serving as Interim Pastor at Mt. Olive, Santa Monica); and, Pr. LB Tatum (serving as Interim Pastor at Emmanuel, North Hollywood).

MSC – to request that the Synod Council adjust the Housing Allowance of Bishop Brenda Bos to \$40,000.

SC 5.21.22

MSC –to grant the following Synodical Letters of Call: Pr. Rebecca Iverson (serving as a Hospital Chaplain for Dignity Health); Pr. Albert Starr (serving as Interim Pastor at Mt. Olive, Santa Monica); and Pr. LB Tatum (serving as Interim Pastor at Emmanuel, North Hollywood); and,

MSC – to adjust the Housing Allowance of Bishop Brenda Bos to \$40,000; and,

MSC - to set the following meeting dates:
Synod Council Orientation Retreat, August 20 in-person
Synod Council Meeting, September 24 in-person; and,

MSC – to approve the following Roster Changes thus far for 2022:

LETTERS OF CALL

- Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson to serve at Mount Cross, Camarillo as Deacon 11/21/2021
- Rev. Stephanie Jaeger to serve at Saint Matthew’s, North Hollywood as Pastor 11/21/2021

ORDINATION

- Deacon Cecelia Travick-Jackson, Mount Cross, Camarillo 12/12/2021

DECEASED

· Rev. Paul Nakamura 11/11/2021

ON LEAVE FROM CALL

- Deacon Megan Hogstad 01/01/2022
- Rev. Albert Starr 01/20/2022
- Rev. Jeff Kallevig, *date is last day in call, on leave date 02/28/2022 (details to be determined)*

RETIRED

- Rev. Robyn Provis 12/31/2022
- Rev. James Phillips 02/20/2022

TRANSFER OUT OF SYNOD

- Rev. Elizabeth Radtke
- Rev. Pam Challis, called to Rocky Mountain Synod 03/01/2022

MSC – to recommend the Proposed 2023-2024 Budget to the Synod Assembly as printed for approval.

EC 6.1.22

MSC – to direct Bill Nuss to explore security options for Fe y Esperanza, South Gate, including the Lincoln House, and report back to the Executive Committee on July 5.

MSC – to allocate up to \$2500 (20 hours contracted) to utilize the HR consultant to search for a new Synod Accountant.

SC 6.16.22

MSC – to approve Resolution 22-05: Adoption of Gender-Inclusive Language.

WHEREAS, The Churchwide Assembly voted to accept the response to memorials about Gender Identity (Churchwide 2019 Assembly Action CA19.02.09 per Category 4: Gender Identity)

WHEREAS, That we thank the Churchwide Assembly for accepting the Memorial from the Sierra Pacific Synod in 2019 and requesting “that the Church Council consider authorizing development of a social message on gender identity and gender expression.” (pg. 48)

WHEREAS, The Memorials and Resolutions Report of 2019 (adopted above) requested “the Office of the Presiding Bishop provide materials to facilitate education among ELCA members so as to

build awareness of the broad varieties of gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation among God's people, as well as to provide pastoral care insights regarding concerns and issues of the transgender experience and gender nonconformity.”

WHEREAS, In the ELCA Social Statement “Faith, Sexism, and Justice” (adopted in 2019) the ELCA commits to use inclusive language (all genders) for humankind and inclusive and expansive language (other than human) for God. (pg 8, paragraph 27)

WHEREAS, Some demographic requirements and data collection remains rooted in binary gender norms.

WHEREAS, Nonbinary and gender expansive lay leaders of our church deserve the use of inclusive language to determine where they are eligible to serve in synod roles.

RESOLVED, That the Southwest California Synod in Assembly memorialize the Churchwide Assembly to adopt gender-inclusive language across all governance documents, forms and reports by the end of 2022; specifically including options for “gender nonbinary” and “other” for all demographic data gathering regarding gender.

RESOLVED, That the Southwest California Synod in Assembly memorialize The ELCA Church Council to adopt a social message on gender identity and gender expression to be applied throughout ELCA official forms, documents, and resources by 2025.

MSC – to approve Resolution 22-06: Review of Conference of Bishops’ Relational Agreement.

WHEREAS, The ELCA Constitution (8.11) states, “This church shall seek to function as people of God through congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, all of which shall be interdependent. Each part, while fully the church, recognizes that it is not the whole church and therefore lives in an interdependent relationship with the others.”

WHEREAS, The ELCA Constitution (10.81.01) outlines that, among other duties, the Conference of Bishops shall “respond to referrals from the Church Council.”

WHEREAS, The ELCA Constitution (10.81.A16.a) states that one of the duties of the Conference of Bishops is “be a forum in which goals, objectives, and strategies may be developed and shared concerning pastoral leadership, care, and counsel for the synods.”

WHEREAS, The Relational Agreement adopted by the Conference of Bishops, nor other official documents, does not provide a clear process for accountability between synods.

RESOLVED, That the Southwest California Synod in Assembly memorialize The ELCA Church Council and the Office of the Presiding Bishop to initiate a review process for the “Bishop’s Relational Agreement” for the Conference of Bishops.

RESOLVED, That the Southwest California Synod in Assembly memorialize the ELCA Church Council to refer recommended changes of the “Bishop’s Relational Agreement” to the Conference of Bishops for increased accountability when the actions of one Bishop or Synod may harm other Bishops and Synods.

MSC – to approve Resolution 22-08: ELCA Name Change.

WHEREAS the word “evangelical” appears in the name of our denomination (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: ELCA) and our primary worship book (Evangelical Lutheran Worship: ELW), and

WHEREAS the constituting members of the ELCA and the Commission for a New Lutheran Church which led into the ELCA’s formation held to the historic view and value of the word “evangelical” as meaning “pertaining to the Gospel,” and

WHEREAS the word “evangelical” was hoped to be maintained in its historic usage and sense at the time of the ELCA’s formation, and

WHEREAS the word “evangelical” has become culturally synonymous in the U.S. with a religious expression and belief that is not compatible with the ELCA, and

WHEREAS the word “evangelical” in the U.S. now culturally refers to fundamentalist Christianity including many forms of exclusion which we find to be contrary to the “evangel” (gospel) including the ordination of women and LGBTQ persons, and

WHEREAS the word “evangelical” is now representative of a narrow swath of conservative Christian denominations and sects rather than a broad notion of being Gospel-centric and inclusive of all persons, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the word “evangelical” be discontinued in use and stricken from the name of our denomination and future books of worship, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ELCA Church Council determine the nature of the transition in the use of the word “evangelical” in our denominational title leading up to the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southwest California (and Pacifica Synods) memorialize the ELCA 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to discontinue the use the use of the word “evangelical” in our denomination name and to adopt a new name for the denomination which more faithfully reflects its identity in the U.S.

EC 6.28.22

MSC – to accept the offer from TG on the Chatsworth property with Lutheran Social Services of Southern California serving as a possible back up if escrow falls through with TG.

EC 7.5.22

MSC (by unanimous vote) – The Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the Synod Council of the Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, determines that the membership of Faith, San Dimas “has become so scattered or so diminished in numbers that it cannot provide required governance and that it has become impractical for the congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized;” and furthermore, the Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the Synod Council, “determines that it is necessary for this synod to protect and preserve the congregation’s property from waste and deterioration.” (S13.24)

MSC – to begin State Unemployment Insurance for all Synodical Employees; and, to begin State Disability Insurance for all Synodical Employees (unless contraindicated by Portico Benefits); and, to recommend the same for all rostered leaders in the next edition of the Compensation Guidelines.

EC 9.13.22

MSC – to offer the proposed buyer a forty-five day extension on the current sales contract for the Chatsworth property coupled with a requirement of a \$20,000” release from escrow” from the buyer; while also sending a thirty day notice to vacate to the current tenant coupled with a cash incentive of \$10,000 (in 5 days).

EC 9.19.22

MSC – to instruct Realtor Emil Akopian to respond to the purchase offer for Orange Grove from Tai Ji Men Academy with a counter-offer of \$3.6 million.

SC 9.24.22

MSC – to approve the following Roster Changes thus far for 2022:

TRANSFER OUT OF SYNOD

+ Pr. Lisa Dahill – Transferred to New England Synod to a new position at Hartford International in Connecticut – April 7, 2022

+ Pr. Anna Kari Johnson – Transferred to Metro Chicago Synod

RESIGNED FROM ROSTER

+ Pr. Dana Hanson – Disaffiliated – June 30, 2022

DECEASED

+ Pr. Howard Wennes – Deceased – July 13, 2022

+ Pr. Harold Banks – Deceased – July 18, 2022

ON LEAVE FROM CALL

+ Pr. John Yu – On Leave from Call (Disability) – April 2022

+ Pr. Garry Mohr – On Leave from Call – July 31, 2022

CALLS TO SPECIALIZED MINISTRY

+ Pr. Abel Arroyo – Assistant to the Bishop for Faith Formation (subject to approval by the Conference of Bishops)

+ Sem. Jill Disbro – Director of Admissions of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (subject to approval by the Conference of Bishops leading to ordination)

MSC – to appoint Prs. Jennifer Chrien and Caleb Crainer to Co-Chair the Nominating Committee.

MSC – to approve the dates of June 2-3, 2023 for the 2023 Synod Assembly with housing to be determined.

MSC – to amend the proposed Compensation Guidelines to include the following language: “to credit each year of prior experience, up to 10 years, by multiplying that experience x .5.”

MSC – to amend the proposed Compensation Guidelines to clarify that those who are invited to provide pulpit supply even if not presiding, should receive the full honorarium recommended by the Guidelines.

MSC – to approve the Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Leaders for 2023.

MSC – to add Taylor Dariarow as an authorized signer on the Synod’s checking accounts at America’s Christian Credit Union.

MSC – to nominate Pr. Libby Denton and Todd Honda as Convocators for California Lutheran University.

MSC – to approve the recommendation of the Evangelical Outreach Mission Team to allocate \$20,000 from the First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund per year for the mission redevelopment at Peace, Lompoc prorated for the remainder of the fiscal year.

MSC – to accept the dates for the upcoming Synod Council meetings as outlined with an assumed 9AM beginning and a close based on the Chair’s discretion when preparing the Agenda:

SC September 24 (Zoom); EC October 25 (Zoom – 5PM); EC November 22 (Zoom – 6PM); EC December 13 (Zoom – 6PM); SC December 17; EC January 24 (Zoom – 6PM); EC February 7; EC March 7; SC March 11; EC April 11; EC May 9 (Zoom – 6pm); SC May 13; Synod Assembly June 2-3; EC June 20; EC July 18; EC August 15.

MSC – to affirm the Bishop’s desire to create two new Synod Mission Teams (Anti-Racism Team and Senior Ministries) with language for the Continuing Resolutions to be developed by the Bishop.

EC 10.25.22

MSC – to contract Green Accounting as the new Synod accounting firm.

MSC – to cover with Synod funds Pastor Marta Moscoso’s benefit payments and other “essential” bills when Fe y Esperanza, South Gate does not have the funds, and to pay all benefits bills on a timely basis. Related fiscal responsibilities will be clarified by June 2023.

MSC – to approve En Bloc to place Dn. Martha Santrizos on “Retired” roster status; to issue a Synodical Letter of Call to Pr. Abel Arroyo Traverso to serve as Assistant to the Bishop for Faith Formation and Theologian In Residence; to appoint Diana Washington to serve as Mission Developer at Peace, Lompoc; to place Pr. Brian Hiortdahl “On Leave From Call” in anticipation of his transfer to another Synod

SC 10.31.22

MSC - To extend a synodical letter of call to Rev. Abel Arroyo Traverso to serve as Assistant to the Bishop for Faith Formation and In-House Theologian. Pastor Abel will serve in a half-time capacity;

AND to extend an appointment to Diana Washington to serve as a Mission Developer at Latinx Pax Lutheran Music and Worship Community in Lompoc, CA;

AND to approve Mik Spann of Green Accounting having access to our on-line banking and investment accounts in his role of accountant for the Southwest California Synod.

EC 11.22.22

MSC – the Executive Committee moves to invoke S13.24.d and S13.24.e with the Bishop and the Synod’s legal counsel informing Faith, San Dimas of the decision to place the congregation under Synodical Preservation.

MSC – to correct Robin Lujan’s compensation from the previous months of her disability to level it out to full payment without overpayment.

MSC – to empower the Officers of the Synod to negotiate the sale of the Chatsworth property in a timely manner with a minimum sales price of \$2.5 million dollars.

EC 12.12.22

MSC – to begin the process to transfer the deed to the property of Holy Cross, Ojai to the Synod after officially closing the Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community located at the site.

MSC – to recommend to the Synod Council that Pastor James Phillips and Deacon Martha Santrizos be transferred to the Retired roster of the Synod and of the ELCA.

MSC – to recommend to the Synod Council to approve the optional changes to the Synod Constitution from the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.

SC 12.17.22

MSC – to approve EN BLOC as printed (with two abstentions):

1. To transfer Pastor James Phillips and Deacon Martha Santrizos to the Retired roster of the Synod and of the ELCA.
2. To approve the optional changes to the Synod Constitution from the 2022 Churchwide Assembly:

S7.14. One-half *One-third* of the members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.

S7.22. This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those designated as disabled *granted disability status*, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, *provided that such processes not result in fewer than 60% of the voting members of the Synod Assembly being laypersons in contravention of consistent with* †S7.21.c. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered

ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

S7.24. Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the rosters of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until *the opening of the next regular synod assembly, or unless replaced* by the election of new members *for a special synod assembly*, or until they have been disqualified by termination of *congregation* membership. ~~Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.~~

S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit *lay* representatives of congregations under development and authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under Evangelical Lutheran Church in America bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.

S7.27. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant an minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly ~~of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America~~ the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister's service in a congregation of this church.

S8.42.01. The treasurer shall be responsible for:

- a. Management of the monies and accounts of this synod, its deeds, mortgages, contracts, evidence of claims and revenues, and trust funds, holding the same at all times subject to the order of this synod.
- b. Investment of funds upon the authorization of the Synod Council.
- c. Receipt and acknowledgment of offerings, contributions, and bequests made to this synod, collecting interest and income from its invested funds, and paying regular appropriations and orders on the several accounts as approved and directed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall transmit each month to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the funds received by this synod for the general work of this church *as well as any funds to support restricted programs of this church*.
- d. Maintenance of a regular account with each congregation of this synod and informing the congregation, at least quarterly, of the status of this account.
- e. Rendering at each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly a full, detailed, and duly audited report of receipts and disbursements in the several accounts of this synod for the preceding fiscal year, together with the tabulation, for record and publication in the minutes, of the contributions from the congregations.
- f. Giving of corporate surety in the amount determined by the Synod Council, which shall be in the custody of the secretary, and the premium therefore shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a

fulfillment of this requirement.

~~S11.10.~~ General Provisions

S14.13. The pastor shall:

- a. keep accurate ~~parochial~~ records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation;

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

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

MSC – to approve the following Roster Changes:

- 1) To transfer Rev. Christopher Lindstrom to the retired roster of the Synod and of the ELCA as of 1/1/2023;
- 2) To place the following rostered persons “on leave from call:”
Rev. Brian Hiortdahl
Rev. Thomas Voelp
Rev. Amy Beveridge
Rev. Marc Mohr

MSC – to accept the report of the Evangelical Mission Outreach Team and to approve its recommended funding formula for 2023.

MSC – to amend Continuing Resolution S11.30.D18 by striking the phrase, “Anti-Racism;” and, to approve the following Continuing Resolutions under S11.30. regarding Mission Teams:

S11.30.F22 The Mission Team for Anti-Racism shall be responsible for helping the synod and its congregations, institutions and agencies work to name and disrupt racist systems and structures within the denomination and its agencies. This team will advise the bishop and other leaders on current trends, education and legislation regarding

anti-racist practices. This team will work closely with the bishop and any synod staff tasked with diversity and/or anti-racism goals.

S11.30G22 The Mission Team for Senior Ministries shall be responsible for monitoring demographic trends within the senior population of our synod and providing information to congregations, synod and our institutions for the needs of seniors, specifically persons over the age of 55, retirees, widow/ers, caregivers, homebound and infirmed. This team will work closely with the bishop and any synod staff tasked with Senior Ministry.

S11.30H22 The Mission Team for Mental Health shall be responsible for helping the synod and its congregations, institutions and agencies remove stigma around mental illness, offer resources and education about mental health services and assist the Office of the Bishop in finding and distributing mental health grants.

MSC – to focus the 2023 Synod Assembly on accessibility issues gathering around the theme: “Caring for the Body of Christ.”

EC 1.24.23

MSC – to engage the services of RHW Consulting for Staff Development Training at a cost of \$40,000 with funds to be derived from the 1/3 of property sale proceeds designated for Synod operations from recent property sales (or other available Synod funds) if separate grant funding should be unavailable.

EC 2.7.23

MSC – that the proceeds from the sale of Synod owned properties in Chatsworth, North Hollywood and Pasadena earmarked for Synod management fees in the sum of roughly \$340,000 be designated for use of emergency repairs which are immediately needed related to roof and storm damage (as well as electrical and HVAC and related repairs) at Fe Y Esperanza, South Gate and Pueblo De Dios, Compton without either congregation incurring any further debt to the Synod; and, to approve the current HVAC and carpeting work at the Lutheran Center, Glendale.

EC 3.7.23

MSC – to recommend to the Synod Council the adoption of the revised Synod Goal’s as outlined by Bishop Brenda Bos.

MSC – to recommend to the Synod Council to issue a one-half time Letter of Call to Dn. Cecilia Travick-Jackson to serve as the Assistant to the Bishop (ATTB) for Senior Adult Ministries with the increase in compensation to be covered financially from already funds already appropriated for staffing

MSC – to recommend to the Synod Council to approve the following Roster Changes:

- To transfer Pr. Misael Perez to the Synod from the Pacifica Synod.
- To transfer Prs. Kevin and Amber Bergeson from the Synod to the St. Paul Area Synod.
- To transfer Pr. Brian Hiortdahl to the Sierra Pacific Synod.

MSC – to recommend the Synod Council approve the Congregational Constitutions of: St. Mark’s, Hacienda Heights; and, St. Timothy’s, Lakewood.

MSC – to approve a compensation increase of 8.6% for the Bishop for fiscal year 2023 as recommended by the 2023 Rostered Leaders Compensation Guidelines Workbook.

SC 3.11.23

MSC – to approve EN BLOC as printed:

1. To adopt the revised Synod Goal’s as outlined by Bishop Brenda Bos:
 - a. Communicating the gospel powerfully and clearly;
 - b. Shaping the faith of the baptized through education and support in all phases of life;
 - c. Fostering congregations in becoming healthy communities;
 - d. Creating opportunities for rostered and lay leaders to thrive;
 - e. Investing time and money to develop area ministry strategies;
 - f. Establishing clusters of congregations around similar ministries; and,
 - g. Surrounding vulnerable communities with financial and spiritual support
2. To issue a one-half time Letter of Call to Dn. Cecilia Travick-Jackson to serve as the Assistant to the Bishop for Senior Adult Ministries with the increase in compensation to be covered financially from funds already appropriated for staffing.
3. To approve the following Roster Changes:
 - a. to transfer Pr. Misael Perez to the SWCA Synod from the Pacifica Synod;

- b. to transfer Prs. Kevin and Amber Bergeson from the SWCA Synod to the St. Paul Area Synod; and,
 - c. to transfer Pr. Brian Hiortdahl from the SWCA Synod to the Sierra Pacific Synod.
4. To approve the Congregational Constitutions of: St. Mark's, Hacienda Heights and St. Timothy's, Lakewood.

MSC – to recommend the Synod Assembly adopt the Rules of Procedure as printed with commentary to be offered in registration materials welcoming persons of various gender expressions as well as with the addition of a footnote clarifying that male/female language shall be understood to include non-binary, gender non-conforming, and transgender persons.

MSC – to accept the Charter of the Mutual Ministry Committee as printed.

**Synod Assembly Report from the Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership Development and Authentic Diversity,
the Reverend Toni Castañeda Carrera, MPP**

April 2023

Dearest God, hold us tightly in your care and help us hold ourselves lightly as your church is transformed. Center us to know your will and lead us discerning the power of your Grace for today. Create ready hearts in us and our communities to endure and innovate. We ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

In October 2022, Julia Morales was hired as Project Manager of Candidacy, First Call Theological Education, Mobility, and Authentic Diversity. Pastor Toni and Julia collaborate to address high level strategy and day-to-day follow up of the shared work, providing more thorough care and intervention into areas of need.

Candidacy

- Southwest California Synod continues to collaborate with Pacifica Synod to coordinate the Combined Candidacy Committee and oversee candidate's progress through candidacy.
- Supported candidates on internship and those completing the educational requirements for ordination.
- Met and support interested laity in exploring rostered leadership, including the application process and understanding various routes to ordination.

First Call Theological Education

- Met with first call Rostered Leaders three times for theological education, covering the following topics: community organizing, Bowen Family Systems Theory, and Imago Dialogue Communication Dialogue.
- Each first call theological education topic dovetailed with the next, ensuring that the roster leaders have knowledge of dynamics present in knowledge, skills in avoiding identified obstacles, and communication techniques to facilitate their congregational leaders.
- FCTE currently has seven rostered leaders active.

Mobility

- 33 of Southwest California Synod's 106 congregation are in pastoral transition.
- Most congregations in transition are unable to move into a traditional call process, and instead discern available options for moving forward in God's ministry. The options are collaborating with other organizations, including other ELCA Congregation in vicinity, full communion partner congregations, and community-based organizations.
- Collaborated with lay leadership to identify and arrange interim solutions for congregations in transition.
- Evaluated and continued to refine the synod's Transition Coach project to provide thorough and holistic interim support for congregations.

- Provided pastoral support to many rostered leaders who are discerning vocation and call to ministry, including support in refining Rostered Minister Profiles.
- Met with dozens of rostered leaders throughout the national church to discuss synod's open Ministry Site Profiles and identify fit for congregations, matching leaders with call committees for interviews.
- Redesigned Mobility Process and Structures and currently implementing and creating tools to communicate with congregational leaders.

Authentic Diversity

- Created a Authentic Diversity/Accessibility Committee for Synod Assembly to ensure strong inclusion and justice practices.
- Presented initial Authentic Diversity Training to Synodical Council at retreat.
- Provided pastoral care to rostered leaders struggling with diversity-related conflict and partnered to create innovative and care-centered solutions to move forward.
- Supported and advised Bishop Bos and synod team with diversity issues and long-term interventions with ethnic-specific congregations and leaders.
- Served on national Strategy Team for Authentic Diversity Task.
- Began convening synodical Authentic Diversity Officers to amplify impact and facilitate collaboration.

Deep and sincere thanks for the companionship of the synod in my life, transition, work and the explorative journey forward. Let's keep going.

**Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM)
Southwest California Synod
Synod Assembly 2023 Report
Submitted by: Rev. Chryll D. Crews, M.Div., JD**

New Starts/SAWCs (Synod Authorized Worshipping Community)/Parallel Developments:

AdoreLA, Hollywood

Former Teem Pastor, Ed Ramirez, completed their service at AdoreLA, Hollywood. As of April 14, 2023, AdoreLA and Hollywood Lutheran do not have a permanent pastor. Hollywood has used supply pastors, specifically, Rev. Marc Mougeot Mohr, Pastor Toni, and myself.

I am in the process of coordinating a Ministry Review with churchwide about this ministry and leadership. In addition to seeking permanent leadership, we are seeking guidance on compensation for AdoreLA's administrator. Flaff Synod grant money and Churchwide's SAWC grant have been secured in the amount of \$38,000.

Another Level Ministries, Los Angeles, CA

Teem Pastor Maurice Ingram attended Mission Developer Training in Chicago, IL, September 2022. Pastor Maurice is the Mission Developer for Another Level and the pastor of Chapel of Peace, a parallel/development ministry.

During Another Level's Ministry review they discussed the strong desire to have their own building. They believe the ministry is stifled, especially during the weekdays, because of limited remaining space after other tenants. Another Level received \$36,000 for 2023.

Finnish Ministry, Santa Monica (St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Parallel Church and Fiscal Agent)

Pastor Toni and I hosted, Bishop Kaisamari Hinntikka, Bishop of the Diocese of Espoo in Finland, at the Synod office. Pastor Tarkki wanted, Bishop Hinntikka, to get a good idea of his ministry here in CA and a tour of the Synod office. Pastor Tarkki was also using the bishop's visit to support his request for continued support from ELCF (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland).

Pastor Tarkki requested earlier in the calendar year that EOMT (Evangelism, Outreach, and Mission Team) consider the Finnish Ministry as a future Strategic Ministry. I forgot his request and would like the new revised/structured EOMT to consider his request. This ministries' funding is from the ELCF and monies were anticipated to begin decreasing this year.

Fruit of the Spirit, Torrance, CA (Parallel at Christ the King Lutheran Church)

Pastor Hongsun Kim, Japanese and LGBTQIA+ Ministry:

Pastor Kim serves the Southwest California Synod and the Pacifica Synod (Resurrection, Huntington Beach).

I am in the final step of completing Pastor Kim's change of Fiscal Agent request. The final step is uploading the new banking information into the churchwide portal. The new treasurer needs to give me a voided check or bank statement and the transfer is complete. The new Fiscal agent is Saint Paul's, Santa Monica.

Fruit of The Spirit was awarded \$34,000.

Iglesia Luterana Cruz, Santa Maria, parallel with Bethel Lutheran Church, non- ELCA congregation

TEEM Pastor Estaban Salazar

Bethel Lutheran Church, almost a year ago, requested Iglesia Luterana Cruz Church to be housed somewhere else. However, Iglesia Luterana Cruz is still housed at Bethel. We were recently contacted by Bethel requesting, again, that Iglesia Santa Cruz find a new location. We once thought they could yoke with St. Peter's Episcopal Church, both in Santa Maria. I am presently coordinating time and schedules with Bishop Bos and the leaders at each church to discuss a new location.

The heavy rains brought challenges to this ministry and the migrant congregants. I began the application for disaster relief from churchwide. I need more information and assessment from the Salazars to complete. Bishop and I are planning a site visit in May plus, if we are successful in relocating this ministry, there needs may change.

Iglesia Santa Cruz 2023 funding: \$30,000.

Latinx Paz Lutheran Music & Worship Community, Lompoc, CA (Parallel, Peace Lutheran Church)

Thanks to the leadership of retired Interim Pastor, Bruce Wollenberg, and his service to Peace Lutheran Church.

Diana Washington was ordained and installed on February 18, 2023. Diana is the pastor of Peace Lutheran and as Mission Developer of Latinx Paz Lutheran Music & Worship Community.

2023 funding: 49,000 (Synod and Churchwide); Peace Lutheran: \$50,000

Redimidos, Oxnard, CA (parallel, Our Savior Lutheran Church

Pr. Jade Ortiz serves as pastor and mission developer.

Pastora Jade completed her TEEM certificate at PTLs. She began her internship. Pastor Julie Morris of Mount Cross Lutheran Church has agreed to be her supervisor. I know that Pastora

Jade met recently with Candidacy and she has some essays to complete. I anticipate an ordination service for Pastora Jade soon.

2023 funding: \$24,000.

**Trinity Faith, Monterey Park (parallel with St. Paul's)
Chinese Ministry**

TEEM Pastor David Lin.

Pastor Lin and his wife Grace recently attended Mission Developer training in Chicago. Pastor Lin was the only Mission Developer to not attend formal training. He was enrolled in CPE at the time of the last training. The Lins had a chance to meet and network with other Pacific Islander colleagues. Additionally, it gave us some quality time to meet and worship together.

I am currently working with them, our treasurer, and Portico to help Pastor Lin have a better understanding of his and Trinity's finances. The synod serves as their fiscal agent.

Trinity's total funding for year 2023 is \$26,000.

Strategic Ministries

Central Lutheran, Van Nuys, Pastor Marsha Harris

Pastor Harris supervises TEEM student, Mary Ann Harrison. I'm also the Academic Mentor for Mary Ann and attended the TEEM fall Theological Conference in Berkeley, CA.

Pastor Tracy, Pastor Toni, Bishop, and myself have been praying and conferring with each other in placement for Mary Ann as she moves to a position on par with other TEEM pastors. We are hoping for a placement soon.

I tried to make sure Pastor Harris received her grant funding as soon as possible, since she had other critical maintenance issues. Total funding for 2023: \$22,000.

Fe Y Esperanza, Southgate:

Pastor Marta Moscoso

Pastor Moscoso's contract was renegotiated by Bishop Bos this year. Additionally, Fe will share in the monies for repairs with Pueblo after the heavy rains. Synod Council and EOMT are needed to discuss what happens to the parsonage, since the tenants have vacated the property.

Fe's leaders received budget and administrative training at the beginning of the year. Additionally, during Ministry Reviews, Fe expressed the need for a copier machine to further promote their health ministry. They received last week a printer donated by the Finland

Consulate. Pastor Tarkki at pastor Diana's installation in Lompoc asked me if I knew of any ministries that needed a copier. I remembered Fe's request. Thank you to our Property Manager, Bill Nuzzo for working with me to get the printer delivered and installed. It is a Canon product and fairly new, valued at \$5,000.

Fe's funding for 2023: 40,000.

Pueblo de Dios, Compton

Pastor Samuel Nieva

I have been to Pueblo with our property manager, Bill. The roof has been repaired.

Pastor Nieva's Ministry Review brought out that they desire a new truck. When they are transporting items for their feeding program, the truck has broken down often. I have some ideas I intend to share with EOMT.

Pueblo's funding for 2023 is 40,000.

Sharing Hands, St Matthews Noho

This ministry serves those who are deaf. It is part of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in NoHo. Pastor Stephanie Jaeger is the primary contact.

I had a wonderful visit with Pastor Jaegar and the members of Sharing Hands. They received \$1,000 recently, but they requested more funding to hire someone to work as an administrator or hire a more advanced interpreter for their weekly gatherings. Their funding for 2023 is 4,000.

St John's, Gardena:

Pastor Maria Paiva

I worshipped with Pastor Paiva and spent some quality time with her during TheOasis and most recently in Minnesota at the Assistant to the Bishop Conference. I had a chance to learn more about Candidacy and mobility with both Pastors Tracy, Toni and Maria as they serve on the Candidacy Committee.

2023 funding: \$24,000.

I will spend the remainder of the year doing site visits prior to Ministry Reviews in the fall and I'm excited about working with EOMT in the future as we vision and plan beyond just the grant decisions and distributions. I thank all those who served and helped me to increase funding for all of our ministries.

A present SAWC goal I am working on is an Arab speaking ministry with a potential site in Altadena. This will be a combined ministry with the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, CA.

Assistant to the Bishop for Faith Formation and In-House Theologian

Southwest California Synod

Synod Assembly 2023 Report

Blessings in the name of God, who leads us to freedom and resurrection.

This year my call as Assistant to the Bishop has led me to many places of opportunity that have both challenge and empower me to continue serving the people of this synod, the ELCA, and the Church.

This year afforded me the opportunity to accompany pastors as a kind of theological consultant, which is an unexpected role, but it makes absolute sense that the synod's theologian is available for pastors in the synod for consultation. I hope I can further lend my expertise to the people of the synod.

This year I was also part of the delegation that participated in the Encounter of Sister Churches hosted by the Lutheran Church of El Salvador. This trip was a great opportunity to not only witness international Lutheran collaboration, but also gain a greater awareness on how we as the synod and ELCA can participate in this kind of relationships with other Lutheran bodies honoring their self-determination and vision.

I also had the opportunity to participate in the healing of the church as a member of the Investigation Team called by the Sierra Pacific Synod to investigate cases of racism and abuse of power. Seeing this facet of the church, rather than being discouraging, has been an opportunity to learn and recognize where our growing edges as a denomination. Acknowledging that there is injustice happening in our denomination is not a reason to despair, but to continue trusting in the God who calls us to be prophetic voices in a broken world that God continues to love.

Bishop's Colloquy was a great opportunity to get together with colleagues around the synod to learn, refresh, and recommit ourselves to the crafting of liturgy and liturgical arts that speak not only to our congregations but to our larger contexts.

By instruction of the Bishop, I started researching options for lay leadership education. The synod office is aware of many of the needs of our worshipping communities, and we are committed to training our leaders to continue the holy work of proclaiming the Gospel in our communities.

One of the roles I get to fulfill in my position as In-House Theologian of the synod is to stay in prayerful dialogue with Bishop Bos every time, she needs to create a statement or pastoral letter. This role has afforded me a particular insight into our Bishop's compassionate pastoral heart.

This year in the synod and our denomination has been filled with challenges, but because of them, it has also had plenty of places where I have been able to witness God's power of reconciliation and restoration at work.

In my prayers as we continue to find God in unexpected places.

Yours in Christ.

The Rev. Cesar Abel Arroyo Traverso

Assistant to the Bishop for Faith Formation and In-House Theologian.

Theological consultant for the bishop



It is both a privilege and a pleasure to share with you the first report from the Senior Adult Ministry. The year has gone so quickly, I find that much has been accomplished and yet there is so much more to do. My first real introduction to the Southwest California Synod came on June 11, 2022, at the synod assembly where I did a short sermon on Seniors or the Gray Hairs based on Proverbs 20:29 "The glory of youths is their strength, but the beauty of the aged is their gray hair." (NRSV).

I have had the opportunity to attend several worship services throughout the synod, representing senior adult ministry where I have met with church members, adult forums, attended Bible Study, attended luncheons, watched, listened, participated in food distribution, and met with church council representatives to discuss senior adult ministry, and its impact on worship attendance and participation. I always feel honored when a pastor or church members ask me for new ideas about senior ministry or various ways to engage and encourage adult seniors.

I helped put together a four-part series on grief where I worked closely with my synod colleague Pastor Abel Arroyo Traverso. Of course, I regularly attend staff meetings, retreats, workshops, special programs, conference colloquy, and one-on-one meetings with the bishop, synod staff, and synod colleagues.

In the wider church, I remain active in Deacon Dialogues and other programs that focus on the ministry of, for, and by deacons. I became a board member of California Lutheran Homes (St John's Lutheran Church) Glendale, Arizona.

I am currently part of the Synod Assembly Planning team, and TheOasis Planning Team. I was asked to deliver the message at our Chrism Mass, I willingly obliged preaching from Luke 4:14-21 equating the gospel to a modern *Jubilee Journey*. I submitted a proposal to the Rostered Ministers Gathering. It was accepted. In July I will lead a 75-minute roundtable workshop titled *Perks, Quirks, and Possibilities* discussing the concerns of congregations with aging populations. At the writing of this Synod Assembly Report, I was asked to write an endorsement for an upcoming publication from Fortress Press on dementia and the church, which I enthusiastically wrote.

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord and Savior,

I have been working as the Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational Care for about nine months. Since coming on staff, I have worked with about eight churches. I work with the churches in conflict, transition, grief, or any other issues they encounter in their church. The churches are:

- The Church of Hope – Santa Clarita
- Eagle Rock – Los Angeles
- Emmanuel – No. Hollywood
- Lauren Hall School – No. Hollywood
- Ascension – Los Angeles
- Hope Lutheran – Hollywood
- Holy Trinity – Inglewood
- Community – Los Angeles

It has been my pleasure to work alongside these wonderful congregants and pastors as they come to a place of hope and peace. Some of the work with many is on going and about three have come to resolutions and able to move forward.

I have also worked independently/ confidentially with some pastors. Most of the pastors were dealing with conflict with councils and hurt from various issues, as we spent time together in conversation, prayer, and discernment, they look to Christ to help build working relationships in the churches.

I am happy to say that I spent time with the bishop and staff in confidential conversation to help ease tension while work alongside their colleagues. We have had some very open and candied conversations that has brought some peace and new insight as we work together in ministry.

We had a staff retreat in which I had the opportunity to facilitate. There were several issues brought forth and we were able to resolve some. There are many different areas as a staff that need to be resolved and I trust these issues will be resolved with our consultant. As a staff everyone is committed to the work and ministry of the bishop's office, and we will always come together to serve our pastors and congregations of the Southwest Synod and the ELCA church.

We recently had a book signing and talk with the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Wheeler, regarding his book, *“US, The Resurrection Of American Terror.”* I was responsible for planning and hosting with the help of the staff.

The event was well attended, the conversation was stimulating as Rev. Wheeler challenged us. We closed with a wonderful luncheon and the signing of his book. The Trout dedication of the chapel was beautiful and well attended. There was a closing service in honor of Dr. Trout at Community on Sunday afternoon where I am the interim pastor. It was our honor to host this ending celebration.

In addition, I am the Pastor of Holy Redeemer in Bellflower, which I am proud to serve with these people of God in ministry. I am happy to be working with Holy Trinity in Inglewood and Community in Los Angeles assisting in various ways as well as preaching.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Tracy Williams

Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational Care

Pastor Holy Redeemer, Bellflower, CA

Assisting Ministries, Holy Trinity, and Community

Synod Youth Director Report 2022-2023

In August 2022, the role of Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator and Organizer was designed with the following goals in mind:

- to give increased attention to the revitalization of youth ministry work across our synod.
- to strengthen connections between youth ministry groups and our synodical partners (such as LRCC, CCL divisions – Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, YAGM, etc...and more)
- to continue connecting youth ministries in our synod to opportunities in the wider ELCA (such as the YCLT and its Summit, ELCA Youth Gathering, Western States Youth Gathering, Advocacy Campaigns, etc...and more).

In an effort to start the process of revitalizing youth ministry, the Youth Ministry Coordinator and Organizer (who will be referred to as YMCO for the remainder of this document) teamed up with LA Metro Conference Pastor (and predecessor) Matthew Keadle and ADLA -LA President, Mrs. Carolyn Foster, to host a movie outing to see the Marvel Comic sensation- Black Panther: Wakanda Forever. Together, we welcomed 17 groups from various organizations and congregations from all over our synod. We spoke to the young people about what they were looking for and from there, more planning and implementation began. After listening to what youth ministry was like in various contexts of our synod, and asking how the synod could be supportive, the Youth Symposium concept came to life.

The Youth Symposium is a direct response to listening to high school and middle school students express what they needed to hear from the church and what they wanted to discuss with the church. A worship concert with conversations and training around some difficult topics in a space designed to be brave for high school students to bring their full selves, seek refuge in Christ and be reminded that through it all, they are loved no matter what.

We had 2 high school students attend this years ELCA YCLT Youth Leadership Summit in Nebraska at one of our Lutheran Camps: Carol Joy Holling. They served and they served well. These 2 young people are Karin Gargus (First Lutheran, Torrance) and Dieedra Welch (St. Mark's Lutheran, Los Angeles). Each year, 2 high school students and 1 adult leader are asked to attend the summit to learn how to do peer leadership, advocacy and faith formation through an ELCA Lutheran Theological lens. We hope to see one of your high schoolers there this coming fall.

There are some people that have been asked to help spread the work of youth ministry out beyond the synod office walls as this is a very large synod and YMCO is on a very quarter time basis for work. These individuals have been extremely helpful. One of those individuals is Bryan Honda. He was recently appointed as the ELCA Youth Gathering Synod Champion. Stay tuned and connected to get his updates on the Gathering.

Moving forward, it is the hope and work of the YMCO to work with the Pacifica Synod and revitalize our Synod Youth Team. We will be looking for adult volunteers that will be willing to assist in it's return and operations. As always, you can reach the YMCO via youthministry@socalsynod.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Tyra Dennis – SWCA Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator and Organizer

Lay Leadership Mission Team

April 17, 2023

The Lay Leadership Mission Team has not met. I continue to attempt to recruit team members. Once I have a team in place, we will review the Synod Constitution to determine the purpose of the Lay Leadership Mission Team. Please let me know if you are interested in serving on the LLMT.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L Moyer

Karen L Moyer

Chair of the Lay Leadership Committee

Mission Team for Rostered Leaders

Southwest California Synod

Report to Synod Assembly 2023

The Mission Team for Rostered Leaders had one big project in the last year, which we plan to repeat. We had a retreat for Rostered Leaders on Trauma and Recovery. This process began in the fall of 2022 as we discussed the trauma that we were all still feeling the shut-down. For pastors and deacons, our work is among people and COVID made that nearly impossible. We suffered, and our congregations suffered, and we are all still struggling. We worked with Kevin Connors, MFT who is a trauma specialist and is a consultant to the Hecht Trauma Institute.

While the enrollment was small, the retreat was exceptionally presented by Mr. Connors and well received by the participants. We believe many more of our Rostered Leaders will take advantage of another offering in Fall, 2023.

Pastor Ruth Sievert, Chair

Pastor Jim Bessey

Bishop Brenda Bos

Deacon Lynn Bullock

Pastor Ryan Chadwick

Pastor Megan Hunt Fryling

Mr. Michael Nelson



WWW.PLTS.EDU



This spring more than 50 students are studying at PLTS to be capable, equipped leaders in the modern church. Of those students, 33 students are in a Master of Divinity pathway, four students are working on their Certificate of Advanced Theological Studies, and three are earning a common MA with the Graduate Theological Union.

THE CENTER FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE & FAITH

The PLTS Center for Climate Justice and Faith (CCJF) launched their Spanish-language Certificate in Climate Justice and Faith this February. The inaugural cohort of this program includes 24 students from 14 countries throughout North America, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Spain. The course was developed with Seminario Luterano Augsburg (SEMLA) in Mexico, Universidad Luterana Salvadorena, Instituto para la Pastoral Contextual of the Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Unida of Argentina and Uruguay, and the ELCA.

A total of 60 students representing 26 different countries are currently enrolled in the CCJF's programs, which also include Community Organizing for Climate Justice as Love in Action. These programs were developed in collaboration with Lutheran World Federation and ELCA World Hunger. CCJF also held a hybrid screening of the film *The Ants and the Grasshopper* in February. More than 200 people tuned into the program which included a Q&A with the film's director, Raj Patel. Visit the QR code to get updates on upcoming application deadlines and other educational opportunities.



Pr. Shede Habila (left) leads a tree planting activity as part of a three-day seminar on Climate Justice he organized in Yola, Nigeria. Pastor Habila is a 2022 graduate of the Certificate in Climate Justice and Faith.

MASTER OF ARTS IN SPIRITUALITY & SOCIAL CHANGE

The 2022-2023 Academic Year is the first time that PLTS has offered a Master of Arts in Spirituality and Social Change. The curriculum is designed to prepare students to serve in a wide variety of faith-based leadership roles in diverse contexts, including rostered deacons, chaplains, community organizers, non-profit leaders, and much more. Use the QR code on the left to learn more about the Master of Arts in Spirituality and Social Change.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOR EMERGING MINISTRIES

The PLTS TEEM cohort gathered in person in Berkeley this winter for a week of instruction, worship, and community. There are 31 TEEM students in the 2022-23 academic year; these are students training as pastors in their local contexts and congregations. In May, four students are expected to graduate with a TEEM certificate and continue in ministry. The summer session for the PLTS cohort will be June 5th-9th at Luther Seminary. You can learn more about TEEM by scanning the QR code at the left.



TEEM students in the Berkeley cohort studying with Dr. Dan Peterson.



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



Updates from the ELCA Foundation

Synod Assemblies 2023

The vision of the ELCA Foundation is to be a thriving ministry that develops a culture of intentional generosity and financial stewardship to expand the work of the ELCA. Our mission is to support and sustain ELCA ministries by enhancing gifting capacity and stewarding resources.

As a ministry of the ELCA, we serve individuals, congregations and worship communities; synods; the churchwide organization; and institutions, agencies and other related ELCA organizations.

The ELCA Foundation exists to:

- Provide gift planning, administration and processing.
- Manage endowment funds and offer investment management services as an acknowledged fiduciary.
- Engage individuals and organizations in thoughtful planning to pass on philanthropic values and support ministry passions.

In 2022 the ELCA Foundation's gift planning network walked alongside 200 donors/families in developing their gift plans, which resulted in \$76.5 million in future planned-gift commitments. Nearly \$26 million of this will go to provide direct support to individual ELCA congregations. The network generated \$116.1 million in total gifts and investment assets. This includes new planned-gift commitments, \$10.3 million in current gifts, including funded trusts, gift annuities and individual endowments, and \$29.3 million in new assets invested in the Ministry Growth Fund (previously known as Fund A). Thank you for the opportunity to work in your synod, for trusting your endowment dollars to the ELCA Foundation and for allowing us to work alongside your ministries.

The ELCA Foundation and your regional gift planner are here to support your ministry through shared expertise with endowments, gift acceptance policies and practices to promote planned giving. We also work with individual donors to ease the complexity of estate plans, planned gifts, trusts and noncash gifts. Our services are free of charge to your congregation and its members. A local representative from our network of regional gift planners is available to work with you. Learn more about the ELCA Foundation by watching "[ELCA Foundation: Make a Plan. Change the World.](#)" visiting our updated website at foundation.elca.org or contacting your regional gift planner to help your congregation grow its culture of giving today.

Contact your regional gift planner:

Lisa Marie Higginbotham
lisa.higginbotham@elca.org
(805) 910-5048
foundation.elca.org

Helping Members Refill Their Cup with Responsive Benefits

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

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

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



The Rev. Jeff Thiemann
President & CEO

Meeting the Need in 2022

232

Podcast Plays

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

16,002

Total Pounds Lost

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

591

Retired

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

1,132

Webinar Views

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

3,080

Medical Visits via Text Based Care

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

9.75%

Increase in Net Membership

Over the past 5 years.

3,952

Health & Fitness Classes Completed

On Portico's online Bernalong platform.

Over \$2M

Debt Paid Off

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

86%

Very Satisfied

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

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

60-302 (2/2023)

Helping Members Refill Their Cup with Responsive Benefits

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

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

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

Meeting the Need in 2022

<p>232 Podcast Plays Of the “Creative Approaches to Innovative Ministry” episode of Being Here last year.</p>	<p>16,002 Total Pounds Lost Through the Omada prevention program since it launched in 2018, with 2,643 pounds lost in 2022.</p>	<p>591 Retired With Portico’s bundled benefits program — Congratulations to these faithful servants!</p>
<p>1,132 Webinar Views Of the annual Retirement Readiness Series (live and on-demand).</p>	<p>3,080 Medical Visits via Text Based Care Through 98point6, our virtual primary health care service.</p>	<p>9.75 % Increase in Net Membership Over the past 5 years.</p>
<p>3,952 Health & Fitness Classes Completed On Portico’s online Burnalong platform.</p>	<p>Over \$2M Debt Paid Off By plan members working with LSS of Minnesota Financial Counseling since the partnership began.</p>	<p>86% Very Satisfied With our Customer Care Center, certified for excellence since 2015.</p>

Data as of Dec. 31, 2022; sources available upon request. Availability of and eligibility for benefits will vary. 60-302 (2/2023)

California Lutheran University

As your partner in education as the ELCA university within Region Two, we educate leaders for a global society who are strong in character and judgment, confident in their identity and vocation, and committed to service and justice.



Forward Thinking

A future-focused university is purposely planned by the hands, hearts, and heads of many. We are implementing year-one initiatives of the [Strategic Plan](#), readying a [Campus Plan](#), and launching a [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Plan](#).



University Pastor

Rev. Scott Hamilton Adams and the [Campus Ministry](#) staff are committed to making Beloved Community a reality for the university, this space where we come together in an interdependent relationship of care grounded in the love of God.



Rooted Values

Lutheran educational values emerge from our identity and ground the campus culture and ethos: Grace, Generosity, Inclusion, and Service to neighbor so that all may flourish.



All of Us

We are committed to an inclusive environment for [all of us](#) that values individual differences and respects each person's dignity.



Lutheran Student Scholarships

In addition to the Congregational Partners in Education (CPE) Award, ELCA Partners in Ministry Award, and the Convocators Scholarships, many [scholarships](#) are available to make a Cal Lutheran education affordable.

- 2401 Undergraduates
- 41 Majors
- 43 Minors
- 1102 Graduates
- 32 Graduate programs
- 1 Lutheran Seminary
- 38 Faith backgrounds
- 59 Countries represented
- 39 States represented
- 22 Athletic teams
- 7 Performing + Visual Arts programs
- 15 Average class size
- 4 Years to graduate
- 98% Grads employed or in school within 9 months
- 500+ Student internships
- 95 Clubs + Organizations
- 8 Religious clubs
- 15 Suite-style residences
- 33 Study Abroad programs
- 98% Receive Financial Aid
- \$39k Average financial aid package

Thank you for praying for, supporting, and telling others about Cal Lutheran. We welcome you to learn more about Cal Lutheran at CalLutheran.edu.



The Mission Investment Fund: Your financial partner

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



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

Why is MIF the right choice?

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

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

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

MIF at work in the Southwest California Synod (as of December 31, 2022):

- 15 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of \$4,661,067
- \$14,441,841 in Mission Investment Fund investment obligations

For more information about MIF capabilities, please visit our website, mif.elca.org or contact your Regional Manager Joel S. Wudel: 773-682-1765 joel.wudel@elca.org



ELCA Federal Credit Union

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



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

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

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

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

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

Why choose the ELCA Federal Credit Union?

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

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

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

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California Ministry Report

I bring you greetings again from Lutheran Social Services of Southern California. Unfortunately, we remain in the midst of the world's largest pandemic. On one hand we are inhibited by the characteristics of COVID 19 and on the other hand, the disease and its consequences have heightened the demand for our services even further. Despite this, we continue to do extraordinary things in less than an ordinary environment.

Below is an annual update on last year's LSSSC experience. While we have had to change some of our hours, some of operation delivery systems and develop myriad infection precautions, we remain steadfastly available to the marginalized and struggling women, men and children throughout our service areas in Southern California.

We cannot do this without your prayers collaboration and support. We don't yet know what 2023 will bring us, but we plan to continue to have a positive impact on the communities we serve and continue to fulfill our vision of sharing the love of Christ, and forming a community where the vulnerable are safer and stronger, the dependent are self-sustaining, the isolated dwell in the community and the weary are given hope.

San Bernardino County

Much is happening and progressing at our CCLM site in San Bernardino. We recently announced our intentions to expand and build a Community Wellness Campus on our existing site. Meanwhile our existing men's shelter, which was and is significantly impacted by the pandemic, is existing at a reduced capacity. While the goal is to provide temporary shelter for homeless men seven days a week, the need is exceeding our temporarily reduced capacity. We have recorded at least fifty new clients.

We have also provided sixteen new clients with permanent supportive housing and provided 250 new clients with transportation on 2118 trips to and from necessary medical and other appointments.

Our Integrated Training Program, tasked with acclimating those with intellectual and developmentally disabilities into their communities helped twenty-three new clients in the program despite onerous COVID restriction.

Education and counseling services to residents in San Bernardino saw 64 new clients and 339 counseling sessions while logging more than 1800 minutes of counseling.

Throughout Rural San Bernardino, we provided mental health services through telehealth therapeutic services. In 2020, our adult and children's mental health and child abuse survivor therapy along with a new youth sexual perpetrator prevention and treatment program, assisted more than 17000 individuals and families.

Orange County

Orange County continues to re-level to pre-COVID service volumes. The number of clients presenting for the food and emergency services like rent/mortgage/security deposits have grown. More than 50 clients were aided and six placed in permanent housing. Expanding services and client convenience have necessitated a move from Garden Grove to Fullerton.

Long Beach

The LSSSC team in Long Beach continues with a myriad of services designed for those in crisis and need. Programs include those for Benefits Entitlement; Comprehensive Emergency Assistance Program; Intensive Case Management Services; Permanent Supportive Housing Program. In the Emergency Assistance Program alone, more than 1600 clients were served with 1187 new client encounters.

Riverside County

Riverside County continues to offer homeless prevention and rapid rehousing assistance to clients in the community. Also, continuing case management continues to be offered. Showers of Hope, introduced last year, allows women and men the chance to bathe. This place on the campus of Trinity Lutheran Church in Riverside.

San Diego County

San Diego County has continued the Talent Search/Upward Bound programs that mentors and supports over a hundred secondary and post secondary students per month. The program has a remarkable high school graduation and college acceptance rate. In fact, one of the outstanding students has just been accepted to Yale, demonstrating the value of this program to the young and motivated. Her story as an example of the excellent circumstances the program can produce.

Meantime, our Senior Companion program in Clairemont Mesa continues to make home visits and phone calls regularly, checking up on our frail older adult clients to provide companionship and help them remain independent in their home.

Housing Counseling

Our new Housing Counseling Program assists individuals across all our sites in all aspects of home ownership. So far this year, the Housing Counseling program has assisted over 100 Homeowners save their homes from Default/Foreclosure.

THE GREATER LONG BEACH CONFERENCE

The Greater Long Beach Conference has 12 congregations and serves parts of Los Angeles county such as Long Beach, Lakewood, Bell, Bellflower & Downey. These congregations include:

Grace, Bell	Rev. Maria Elena Montalvo
Holy Redeemer, Bellflower	Rev. Tracy Williams
Christ, Downey	Rev. Nancy Hamm
St. Timothy's, Lakewood	Rev. Libby Denton
Gloria Dei, Long Beach	Rev. Steve Beckham (Retiring June 2023)
Christ, Long Beach	Rev. Laurie Arroyo (Interim)
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church	Rev. Scott Fritz
Resurrection Lutheran Church, Long Beach	Aaron Tidwell (Long-Term Pulpit Supply)
St. Luke's, Long Beach	Mark Witte (Long-Term Pulpit Supply with Rev. Kenny Bowen appointed Interim)
Trinity Lutheran Church	Rev. Kenneth Davis (Pulpit Supply)
St. John's, Norwalk (CLOSED?)	
Iglesia Luterana Fe y Esperanza, South Gate	Rev. Marta Moscoso Salazar

There have been a series of transitions and retirements within the Conference this year. Rev. Gary Mohr retired from St. Luke's in Long Beach and Rev. Steve Beckham will retire June 30, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Scott Fritz
Dean of the Conference

Synod Mission Team for Justice Report to Synod Assembly

April 18, 2023

Our Synod Mission Team for Justice continues to meet monthly on Zoom. Several of our committees and task forces meet at other times during the month and we hear reports of their activities at our meetings on the second Tuesdays. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings. We have nearly 100 email addresses in our database, and they receive notices of the monthly meetings, copies of meeting minutes, and announcements and reports of justice items as they come to me. We begin each of our Justice Team meetings with a Land Acknowledgement Statement concerning the Native American lands we inhabit. We also take turns giving an opening devotion.

Robert McDuff chairs our committee on Healthcare. The California bill working for a single payer plan is still in the California legislature. Hopefully, it will be brought forth next year.

John Halbert chairs our Prison Ministry and Death Penalty Committee. He reported that the death penalty is being used quite often in several states, but not in California. One state is considering a return to a firing squad for executions.

The Green Faith group planned a great event for World Water Day on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at noon on Zoom. There was a Land Acknowledgement statement given. Many speakers gave brief presentations, including Bishop David Nagler of Pacifica Synod. The event ended with a question and answer period with Vance Blackfox, Director for Indigenous People for the ELCA

Bishop Emeritus Dean Nelson chairs the Southern California Lutheran Palestine Israel Network (P.I.N.). He also chairs the ecumenical group (P.I.E.N). The ecumenical group held a webinar meeting on October 1, 2022 with the theme: Challenging Zionism, Intra-Christian ecumenism, i.e. encouraging conservative Christian supporters of Israel to listen to Christians on the other side of the Zionism question. The webinar is on YouTube. A fundraiser was held the same day by Bright Stars of Bethlehem. They raised \$350,000 for Opportunity Palestine who gives scholarships to elementary students in Palestine.

The Rev. Dr. Alexia Salvatierra no longer chairs our Immigration Committee. However, she is mentoring the new coordinator of Welcoming Congregations, Priscilla Merlo. A grant from AMMPARO was given to our synod to hire a very part-time person to work with this program that assists immigrants waiting for asylum hearings.

A new Anti-Racism Committee has formed in our synod. We are looking forward to working with this group.

We have worked with David Gist, Regional Organizer for Bread for the World (BFW). We encourage our congregations and individuals to write letters to our federal elected officials to encourage funding for hunger programs. These programs are included in the Farm Bill, and this bill is renewed only every five years. This is the topic of the BFW Offering of Letters Campaign this year.

I am very appreciative of the Justice Team members who faithfully attend our monthly meetings. Many others read the materials sent to those in our database, and when asked, take action. Advocacy with our elected officials does make a difference. Thank you to everyone.

Sharon Heck, Mission Team for Justice Chair

Los Angeles Metropolitan Conference

Southwest California Synod Assembly

Synod Assembly Report, 2023

This year has been a difficult climb for many LA Metro congregations. Out of our 21 LA Metro Congregations and Ministries, 9 are currently in transition (meaning they have supply preaching, an interim minister, or are vacant), and at least 7 of the rest could be in transition in the near future. This is roughly the same as last year. As the dean, I've been in conversation with the Synod and our conference leaders about this situation. Each congregation is handling their circumstances in a unique way, and there are important successes to celebrate along the way as we continue to adjust to new realities. ELCA Congregations in the LA Metro conference remain deeply committed to their faith and to living out the Gospel every day. God is with us in the wilderness and we trust that Jesus' ministry will continue in the city.

FAITH EMBODIED

- St. Paul's is proud to have their newest Vicar, Natalie Benson, who has helped them progress in their effort to live into their Reconciling In Christ calling through anti-racism discussions.
- Hope Hollywood had a fancy Easter with homemade hats and a fantastic celebration of Christ's Resurrection!
- Angelica had a terrific Festival of Saint Valentine for Valentine's Day!
- Church of the Master celebrated the return of their handbell choir!
- Grace Lutheran Church hosted an After School Program for local students and continued their food ministry through Grace Diner.
- Ascension continued to partner with My Friend's House giving out an astounding amount of food every week!
- Chapel of Peace hosted a Fall Jazz benefit concert featuring Paul McDonald's big band music!
- Messiah Lutheran continued to advocate for justice and racial equity in their neighborhood and our city!
- St. Mark's celebrated their L.I.T. (Lutherans In Training) Confirmation Class and Youth Group by inviting them to preach the good news on Sunday!

CHURCH TOGETHER

-Adore LA partnered with Hollywood Lutheran and Mt. Hollywood UCC in an ecumenical service and toy drive in November

-St. Andrew's went on several congregational "field trips" to explore the local connections between justice, history, and environmental stewardship. They visited Mission San Fernando Rey de Espana, Will Rogers State Park, and Kuruvungna Springs in Brentwood.

-Community hosted the African Descent Lutheran Association's Worship Celebration with the Trout Family on the occasion of the dedication of Trout Memorial Chapel.

-Holy Trinity welcomed an outstanding series of guest speakers throughout the year.

FORWARD TOGETHER

-The heavy rains exposed roof leaks at Bethel Lutheran, they hosted a Comedy Fundraiser night to help with repairs.

-Village Lutheran Church is proud to be in the final stages of their facility improvement grant, they are being served by monthly supply preaching.

-Ascension hosted a collaborative Good Friday service featuring outstanding preachers from our Synod!


-Mt. Olive said goodbye to their beloved Pastor Eric Shafer and welcomed the fabulous leadership of Rev. Albert Starr, as their interim pastor.







Save the Date



ADLA ELCA

The African Descent Lutheran Association, Los Angeles Chapter
and The Southwest California Synod -ELCA

Save The Date

for the Dedication and Chapel Naming to the Rev. Dr. Nelson W. Trout Chapel

Save the Date on Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 1PM
at the Lutheran Center
1300 E. Colorado St., Glendale, CA 91205-1406

& Save the Date
Worship Service with the Trout Family
on Sunday, February 26, 2023, 2PM
at Community Lutheran Church
650 E. 135th St., Los Angeles, CA. 90059

Dr. Trout was the First African-American Bishop in the American Lutheran Church
(now the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

For additional information please contact ADLA at adla.losangeles@gmail.com







Channel Islands Conference

Changes in calls that we hold in prayer:

- Pastor Steve Simpson started at New Hope, Agoura.
- Pastor Mark Marius started at Trinity, Santa Barbara.
- Pastor Amanda Berg started as interim associate at Shepherd of the Valley, Simi Valley.
- Cal Lutheran seeks to call an ELCA Minister to serve as the Associate Vice President for Mission & Identity following Melissa Maxwell-Doherty's retirement.

Foothill Conference Assembly Report

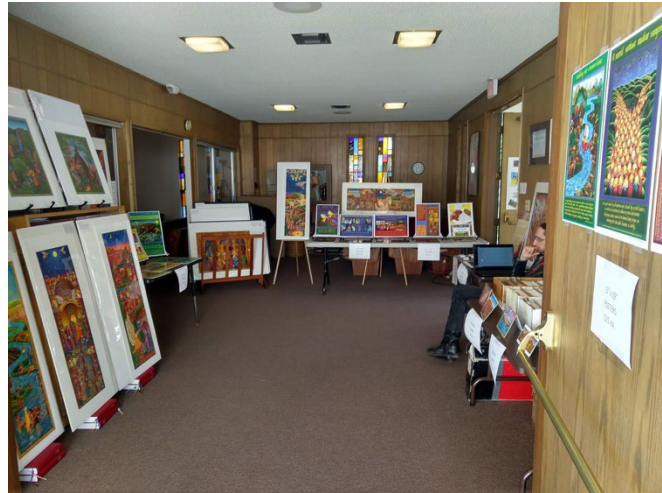
The Foothill Conference represents 13 congregations, stretching from Glendale to Pasadena. Two of our congregations are currently served by interim pastors and are in the interview stage. Our congregations are recovering well from the pandemic.

New ministries in 2022 includes the restarting of a food bank at Eagle Rock Lutheran Church, with help from a synod grant and in association with the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. At Trinity Pasadena, a grant from proceeds of the sale of Messiah/Reformation Pasadena is helping to fund renovations to bathrooms and showers and the addition of laundry for homeless ministry.



At Salem Glendale, the congregation has been working with Turning West consulting to develop new ministries. They are seeking to raise \$30,000 and 500 volunteers from several congregations to stage a mobile food packing event with Feed My Starving Children in the 2023-24 school year.

At Mt. Olive La Crescenta, the congregation held its first Mt. Olive Holiday Arts Festival in November 2022, and plans its next one for December 2 this year.



St. Matthews in Glendale celebrated its 75th



anniversary in September, with Bishop Bos preaching and presiding. St. Matthews Filipino Ministry is also celebrating its 10th anniversary.

RESOLUTIONS AND MEMORIALS
FOR
2023 SYNOD ASSEMBLY
OF THE
SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD

Southwest California Synod Resolution Ending Private Immigration Detention Centers

WHEREAS, The United States government maintains the world's largest immigration detention system, made up of a network of approximately 200 jails across the country – 79 percent of people in ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) custody are held in privately owned or operated facilities,

AND WHEREAS, ICE currently holds over 20,000 persons in detention facilities and detained a total of over 300,000 individuals in fiscal year 2022, at an average cost of \$2 million dollars a month for private prison companies to maintain,

AND WHEREAS, 56 percent of ICE detainees have no criminal record and many more have only minor offenses, including traffic violations, and includes persons seeking asylum from threats to their lives in their home countries and persons seeking to navigate the complex U.S. immigration system who should be able to do so with their loved ones and in community, not behind bars in immigration detention

AND WHEREAS, privately managed detention centers have little accountability to the persons they detain or to the public or to publicly created standards and are managed to produce a profit over the care of those in detention

AND WHEREAS, substantial documentation of instances of abuse, neglect, denial of access to lawyers or medical care, and separation of and from families within private detention facilities, particularly against Black and Indigenous migrants, have been noted by congress, media, and independent reports,

AND WHEREAS, President Joe Biden issued an executive order in January 2021 to phase out federal private prisons, but it failed to include privately operated ICE detention centers, and private prisons are able to circumvent the order by entering intergovernmental service agreements with counties receiving federal funding for immigration,

AND WHEREAS, ICE maintains a privately operated detention center in Adelanto, CA and the ICE processing facility in Bakersfield, CA,

AND WHEREAS, our historic strong Lutheran tradition of welcoming the foreigner and stranger calls us to honor and respect immigrants and seek humane treatment for those seeking refuge and safety, seeing in them the refugee Holy Family and Jesus himself, and seeking to treat immigrants as we would want to be treated.

Therefore, be it RESOLVED that the Southwest California Synod of the ELCA calls for the canceling of all contracts for private companies managing detention centers,

AND RESOLVED that the Southwest California Synod call on the federal government and ICE to call on states which manage state operated detention centers to follow this same course.

AND RESOLVED that the Southwest California Synod calls on our representatives in Congress and the leadership of U.S. immigration agencies to pursue community-based case management services as true alternatives to detention collaboration with service providers equipped to provide migrants with a warm welcome and reception, which has proven to be more humane, efficient, and cost-effective,

AND RESOLVED that the Southwest California Synod Bishop communicate these actions to appropriate officials in the government and immigration agencies,

AND RESOLVED that the Southwest California Synod encourage each congregation of the Synod to engage their members in study of this issue and encourage individual members to communicate this action of the Synod with their federal and state representatives.

SIGNATORIES

The Rev. Eric C. Shafer, Retired Pastor, Southwest California Synod

The Rev. Albert Starr, Interim Pastor, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Santa Monica, CA

The Rev. Jim Boline, Pastor, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Santa Monica, CA

The Rev. Caleb Crainer, Pastor, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA

Samantha Ladue, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Santa Monica, CA

The Rev. Peg Schultz-Akerson, Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Master, Los Angeles, CA

The Rev. Roderick Hines, Pastor, Messiah Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA

Jaffa Castaneda Carrera, ADORELA, Hollywood, CA

The Rev. Drew Stever, Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA

John Halbert, President, Church Council, Hope Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA

The Rev. Jennie Chrien, Shepherd of the Valley, West Hills

Deacon Tempie Beaman, Ascension, Los Angeles, CA

a) What is the financial impact of this resolution on our synod budget? If expenditures are required, what are the sources of income anticipated to accomplish the purpose of the resolution?

Estimated less than five hours for bishop and staff to investigate proper recipients, research and craft letter and send correspondence.

b) What are the personnel implications within our synod—or churchwide? Who will be responsible for implementation of the resolution?

No personnel implications.

c) How does this resolution enhance and forward the mission of the church and our synod?

This resolution takes a courageous stand for justice and fair immigration policies in solidarity with marginalized populations.

Southwest California Synod Resolution - Support of Afghan Adjustment Act

WHEREAS, In the aftermath of the U.S. troop withdrawal and the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban in August 2021, over 80,000 vulnerable Afghans were evacuated who had assisted the U.S. efforts there, and later that year 76,000 of those evacuees were transferred into the U.S.. In addition, the U.S. continues evacuation and protection efforts for vulnerable Afghans left behind in Afghanistan.

AND WHEREAS, most of those evacuees were processed under “humanitarian parole” legal processes because other immigration processes were too slow, leaving them in a status which is limited and is a temporary condition with no clear path to permanent status.

AND WHEREAS, both the U.S. House and Senate have introduced bipartisan bills to provide a path to permanent status for Afghan evacuees (HR8685 and S4787) which have yet to be enacted,

AND WHEREAS, there are current efforts to re-introduce these bills in the new session of Congress,

AND WHEREAS, these bills in both the House and Senate seek to establish a special task force to give care to issues of eligibility, vetting, security and relocation,

AND WHEREAS, amongst champions of the bill are the US Chamber of Commerce, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Veterans for Foreign Wars, American Legion, With Honor Action, Association of Wartime Allies, top military commanders, including Joint Chiefs of Staff, Generals, and Admirals of the Afghanistan war.

AND WHEREAS, the bill has been endorsed by the editorial boards of The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Bloomberg, The Washington Post, Maine’s The Bangor Daily News, and Greensboro’s News & Record. Hundreds of articles, interviews, and op-eds – many penned by veterans themselves, including Afghanistan veteran Jack McCain, the son of former Senator John McCain – have called for the passage of the AAA as part of fulfilling America’s promise to its allies. Last year as Ranking Member of the Senate Veteran Affairs Committee Senator Moran put it, “For two decades countless Afghans stood by our servicemembers and risked their lives and their families’ lives to support our troops in Afghanistan. Veterans of the Afghan War are now calling for Congress to provide safety and certainty for their allies and friends who assisted them.

AND WHEREAS, nearly every U.S. ambassador assigned to Afghanistan since 2002 signed a letter urging Congress to include the Afghan Adjustment Act in the omnibus spending bill besides the Polling that showed three in every four Americans want to see Congress act to provide permanent protection to Afghan evacuees by passing the Afghan Adjustment Act (S.4787/H.R. 8685), known as the “triple A”.

AND WHEREAS, the Lutheran church and the ELCA have strong traditions of welcoming immigrants and assisting in their resettlement, and the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services has played a major role in receiving and relocating these particular Afghan evacuees, and

AND WHEREAS, one of the largest concentrations of these Afghan evacuees in our country is in the territory of the Southwest California Synod,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest California Synod of the ELCA go on record as supporting these Afghan evacuees in their effort to achieve paths to permanent status in the U.S., and

AND RESOLVED that the Southwest California Synod instructs our Bishop to communicate to our appropriate representatives in the U.S. House and Senate our endorsement of the Afghan Adjustment Act and our hope that such legislation is enacted swiftly, and

AND RESOLVED that the congregations of the Southwest California Synod commit to informing their members of this issue and pending legislation, and encourage members to directly communicate this support and urgency to their federal representatives.

SIGNATORIES

The Rev. Eric C. Shafer, Retired Pastor, Southwest California Synod
The Rev. Albert Starr, Interim Pastor, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Santa Monica, CA
The Rev. Jim Boline, Pastor, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Santa Monica, CA
The Rev. Caleb Crainer, Pastor, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA
Samantha Ladue, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Santa Monica, CA
The Rev. Peg Schultz-Akerson, Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Master, Los Angeles, CA
Jaffa Castaneda Carrera, ADORELA, Hollywood, CA
John Halbert, President, Church Council, Hope Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA
Deacon Tempie Beaman, Ascension, Los Angeles, CA

a) What is the financial impact of this resolution on our synod budget? If expenditures are required, what are the sources of income anticipated to accomplish the purpose of the resolution?

Estimated less than five hours for bishop and staff to investigate proper recipients, research and craft letter and send correspondence.

b) What are the personnel implications within our synod—or churchwide? Who will be responsible for implementation of the resolution?

No personnel implications.

c) How does this resolution enhance and forward the mission of the church and our synod?

This resolution takes a courageous stand for justice and fair immigration policies in solidarity with marginalized populations.

Resolution Regarding Non-Disclosure Agreements

WHEREAS The 2022 Southwest California synod approved the **Memorial Regarding Non-Disclosure Agreements** (22-02);

AND WHEREAS The 2022 Churchwide Assembly received with gratitude this memorial along with memorials from the Delaware-Maryland and Northwestern Ohio synods concerning separation agreements;

AND WHEREAS These memorials were approved by a vote of 776 to 27 as Assembly Action CA22.03.14;

AND WHEREAS The Church Council was directed to update the “Churchwide Organization Personnel Policies” to appropriately limit the use of non-disclosure agreements consistent with these memorials’;

AND WHEREAS synods, congregations, agencies, institutions, and other parts of the ELCA were urged to limit the use of non-disclosure agreements to the small minority of cases in which they are truly necessary to protect confidential and sensitive materials related to donors, personnel, legal, information technology and similar categories;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED;

That the Southwest California Synod separates the satisfaction of severance packages from considerations outlined in separation agreements (Non-disparagement agreements, non-disclosure agreements, and others).

AND RESOLVED, That the Southwest California Synod adopts provisions in guiding documents that provide independent legal counsel to individuals from Synod staff being asked to sign Non-Disclosure Agreements.

AND RESOLVED, That the Southwest California Synod encourages Congregations to adopt provisions in guiding documents that provide independent legal counsel to individuals being asked to sign Non-Disclosure Agreements.

Signers,

Pastor Caleb Crainer (author), St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, Los Angeles

Jaffa Castaneda Carrera, ADORELA, Hollywood, CA

Pastor Rod Hines, Messiah, Los Angeles, CA

Deacon Tempie Beaman, Ascension, Los Angeles, CA

The Rev. Drew Stever, Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA

John Halbert, President, Church Council, Hope Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA

The Rev. Jennie Chrien, Shepherd of the Valley, West Hills, CA

Renee Brandt, Lutheran Church in the Foothills, La Canada Flintridge

a) What is the financial impact of this resolution on our synod budget? If expenditures are required, what are the sources of income anticipated to accomplish the purpose of the resolution?

No financial impact unless synod chooses to pursue NDA agreements in which case the synod would need to provide funds for independent legal council.

b) What are the personnel implications within our synod—or churchwide? Who will be responsible for implementation of the resolution?

This resolution applies to personnel within our synod. The Churchwide Personnel Policies are currently being revised.

c) How does this resolution enhance and forward the mission of the church and our synod?

This resolution advocates for transparent and equitable employment practices, setting a model for congregations to follow when considering NDA agreements.

Southwest California Synod Resolution Providing for Ordination of Candidates Serving as Interim Pastors

WHEREAS, the Southwest California Synod regularly provides opportunities for candidates who are approved for ordination to serve congregations as interim pastors, and

WHEREAS, an approved candidate serving in this capacity is to serve as a pastor with all responsibilities and duties expected of an ordained pastor, and

WHEREAS, a candidate called to serve a congregation in an interim should be given the opportunity to be rostered in order to receive the benefits that come with rostered status such as compensation in line with the current synod guidelines, healthcare and pension, and

WHEREAS, current ELCA policy regarding ordination and congregational Call prohibits ordination for such pastors requiring these servants to assume duties without benefit of ordination, and

WHEREAS, congregations are often confused as to the status of the person serving as their pastor, and

WHEREAS, it is important that a candidate asked to serve as an interim be given the authority and legitimacy that the title "pastor" bestows on the position when doing the important work of interim ministry, and

WHEREAS, the incentive for the person serving in this capacity is to be in search of a regular Call in order to receive ordination, and

WHEREAS, congregations in transition are already in a place of heightened anxiety and deserve the full commitment of the person serving as pastor, and

WHEREAS, interim ministry may be considered "specialized" ministry, but is still in a congregational setting as a regular first call would be, therefore it should be exempt from the standard three-year requirement of congregational work before a pastor goes into specialized ministry. It should be considered a legitimate first call, which means it qualifies a candidate for rostered status, and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Candidacy manual recognizes that the path to ordination is a process and that "The church invites all who engage in any aspect of the candidacy process to center on God throughout the process and to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit." (commentary on manual cover art). Further, the manual states (7.2) that the First Call marks the final step of the candidate's public confirmation of their personal call to rostered ministry, their candidacy journey ... and allows for the Holy Spirit to be at work," and

WHEREAS, the wider church recognizes the need for a revision of the roster process and the 2022 Churchwide assembly directed the Church Council to establish a process for examining constitutional provisions and policies and procedures as they relate to interim, transition, bridge, specialized, non-parish-based, and innovative calls.

THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest California Synod of the ELCA calls for Bishop and the Synod Council to fully honor the important work of interim ministry, and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest California Synod Bishop and the Synod Council to determine that serving as an interim pastor constitutes a call, and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest California Synod provides a means of ordination for first call candidates serving as interim pastors, and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest California Synod memorialize the church wide national office to change the current policy and allow first call candidates assigned or called to interim ministries be allowed to be ordained.

SIGNATORIES

The Rev. Nancy Switzler, Our Redeemer,

Oxnard The Rev. Erik Goehner, Holy Trinity,

Thousand Oaks The Rev. Erin Martinson,

Trinity Lutheran, Ventura

The Rev. Emily M.M. Ebert Holy Trinity, Thousand

Oaks The Rev. Julie Morris, Mt. Cross Lutheran,

Camarillo

The Rev. Steve Herder, Ascension Lutheran, Thousand

Oaks The Rev, Julie McCain, Ascension Lutheran,

Thousand Oaks

The Rev. Mark A Marius, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Santa

Barbara The Rev. Dr, Tim Delkeskamp, Ascension Lutheran, Thousand

Oaks

The Rev. Dr. Colleen Windham-Hughes, PhD, MDiv, Associate Dean for

Interdisciplinary Programs and Community Outreach, College of Arts & Sciences,

Professor and Co-Chair, Religion Department / Wilbert & Darlene Carlson

Endowed Chair in Youth & Family Ministry, California Lutheran University

The Rev. Dr. Brooks Schramm, Christ Lutheran,

Goleta The Rev. Lynn Jungkans Enloe

The Rev. Emily Ebert. Holy Trinity, Thousand

Oaks The Rev. Ivan E. Larsen, Retired

The Rev. Dr. Jack T. Ledbetter, Retired

The Rev. Steve Simpson, New Hope, Agoura

The Rev. Nicki Fielder, Shepherd of the Valley, Simi Valley

a) What is the financial impact of this resolution on our synod budget? If expenditures are required, what are the sources of income anticipated to accomplish the purpose of the resolution?

No financial cost.

b) What are the personnel implications within our synod—or churchwide? Who will be responsible for implementation of the resolution? Would require coordination with Synod staff and Council.

c) How does this resolution enhance and forward the mission of the church and our synod? Would result in more just treatment of candidates approved for ordination to be recognized in their Call

Memorial in Support of the Transgender Community

WHEREAS, Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Individuals (TGNCI) are beloved children of God, created in God's image.

AND WHEREAS, The Human Rights Campaign has tracked a record 17 anti-Transgender bills passed into law in 2022. [Trans Legislation Tracker](#) has recorded over 465 anti-Transgender bills introduced in 44 state legislatures in 2023. 2023 is the [fourth consecutive year](#) of record numbers of anti-transgender legislation across the country.

AND WHEREAS, proposed and passed legislation targets trans adults and trans youth, and the families, educators, and medical professionals who care for them;

AND WHEREAS, this legislation bans or restricts gender-affirming healthcare, in opposition to the standards of care of [more than two dozen major medical organizations](#), and such bans are driven by hatred rather than medical evidence;

AND WHEREAS, other legislation attempts to restrict access to basic educational materials in schools and trans people's access to public places;

AND WHEREAS, trans people are deserving of the [same human rights as all people](#), including liberty, equal protection under the law, health and wellbeing, education, and the ability to form families;

AND WHEREAS, The ELCA's social message "Gender Based Violence" (2015) says "The U.S. social system also functions in ways that devalue people according to age, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status and ethnicity." (Page 9)

AND WHEREAS, The ELCA's social message "Gender Based Violence" (2015) says "This church has an opportunity to step forward to honestly recognize and name gender-based violence under such guises as "submission," or prostitution, or derogatory talk about people who are gender non-conforming. This church will be committed to careful work to identify sources in both church and society that foster, encourage, or tacitly support gender-based violence and to root out these sources by, for example, naming them in sermons or discussing them in educational settings." (Page 13)

AND WHEREAS, The ELCA's social message "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action" (2019) says "For a woman of color, sexism in the workplace is compounded by the discriminatory effects of racism. If someone is also transgender, data show staggering levels of discrimination and violence." (Page 26)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest California Synod, in Assembly, memorializes the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly publicly affirm that all people, including TGNCI (Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Individuals), are made in the image of God and are worthy of dignity in church and society.

AND RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod, in Assembly, memorializes the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to denounce Anti-Transgender legislation in a public statement.

AND RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod, in Assembly, memorializes the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to direct the Churchwide Office of the ELCA to revise the governing documents so that TGNCI (Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Individuals) may serve as voting members of assemblies or other committees for which participation has previously been defined by a male/female binary.

AND RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod, in Assembly, memorializes the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to commit to reviewing ELCA policies and procedures for bias, especially in regard to TGNCI (Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Individuals).

**A Special Thank you to Rev. Nicole Garcia’s article “[The Humanity of Transgender and Nonbinary People](#)” in the Journal of Lutheran Ethics (August/September 2022) for her personal insights and policy references.*

**A Special Thank you to Isabel Ray for helping to compile legislative information.*

SIGNATORIES

Pastor Jennie Chrien (co-author), Shepherd of the Valley, West Hills, CA
Pastor Caleb Crainer (co-author), St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA
Pastor Peg Schultz-Akerson, Lutheran Church of The Master, Los Angeles, CA
Jaffa Castaneda Carrera, ADORELA, Hollywood, CA
The Rev. Drew Stever, Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA
John Halbert, President, Church Council, Hope Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA
Deacon Tempie Beaman, Ascension, Los Angeles, CA

a) What is the financial impact of this resolution on our synod budget? If expenditures are required, what are the sources of income anticipated to accomplish the purpose of the resolution?

No financial cost.

b) What are the personnel implications within our synod—or churchwide? Who will be responsible for implementation of the resolution?

No personnel implications.

c) How does this resolution enhance and forward the mission of the church and our synod?

This resolution takes a courageous stand for justice in solidarity with marginalized populations.

Southwest California Synod Memorial the ELCA to take action on ending the practice of privately run for-profit immigration detention centers.

WHEREAS the Southwest California Synod in its June 2023 Gathering adopted the resolution entitled “Ending Private Immigration Detention Centers”,

AND WHEREAS the Southwest California Synod has a particular interest in seeing this change of policy for the detention center in our territory, yet there are some 200 immigration centers across the U.S., many of which are run by private for-profit companies, to which it is appropriate and needed for our national church to address this issue.

Therefore be it RESOLVED that the Southwest California Synod Assembly memorialize the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to call for the end of the U.S. government practice of contracting management of U.S. immigration detention centers out to private for-profit companies, and that the ELCA urge the appropriate legislative authorities and agencies to cease this practice.

SIGNATORIES

The Rev. Eric C. Shafer, Retired Pastor, Southwest California Synod

The Rev. Albert Starr, Interim Pastor, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Santa Monica, CA

The Rev. Jim Boline, Pastor, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Santa Monica, CA

The Rev. Caleb Crainer, Pastor, St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA

Samantha Ladue, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Santa Monica, CA

The Rev. Peg Schultz-Akerson, Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Master, Los Angeles, CA

Jaffa Castaneda Carrera, ADORELA, Hollywood, CA

The Rev. Drew Stever, Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA

John Halbert, President, Church Council, Hope Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA

The Rev. Jennie Chrien, Shepherd of the Valley, West Hills

Deacon Tempie Beaman, Ascension, Los Angeles, CA

a) What is the financial impact of this resolution on our synod budget? If expenditures are required, what are the sources of income anticipated to accomplish the purpose of the resolution?

No financial cost.

b) What are the personnel implications within our synod—or churchwide? Who will be responsible for implementation of the resolution?

No personnel implications.

c) How does this resolution enhance and forward the mission of the church and our synod?

This resolution takes a courageous stand for justice and fair immigration policies in solidarity with marginalized populations.

CARING FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

Southwest California Synod Assembly
Workshop Offerings
Friday, June 2nd, 2023
Sessions 1 & 2

Session 1 – 11:30 AM

**All workshops will be in the Gilbert Sports Center unless noted otherwise*

Crippling the Space

Rev. Ryan Chaddick

Noted Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel once noted that words create worlds — reflecting on God’s acts of creation in Genesis 1. How might we, as faithful followers of Christ, use our words to cultivate space that is inclusive and welcoming of the disability community? This is more than simply being politically correct. This is about faithfully working together — abled and disabled — to curate accessible spaces, and understanding that words have some kind of architectural power. And yes, that might even include reclaiming the word cripple. Join Pastor Ryan, an autistic and disabled pastor, as we together discuss the power of language.

About the Speaker:

Rev. Ryan Chaddick is a disabled and autistic pastor who passionately organizes and advocates within disability organizations. Prior to serving as a pastor in the greater Los Angeles area, he worked as a high school teacher within at-risk and incarcerated populations. Curating and designing accessible spaces is his lifetime ministry and call.

California Public Policy, Disability, And the Church

Regina Banks

Want to know what is currently happening in California public policy surrounding disability and accessibility? Want to know how you or your congregation can get involved in advocacy justice for people with a wide range of disabilities? Then Join Regina Banks, Chief Executive of the Lutheran Office of Public Policy California for conversation.

About the Speaker:

Regina Q. Banks, JD joined the Lutheran Office of Public Policy – California as director on January 2, 2019. Banks has served as Policy and Legislative Director for both statewide memberships organizations and within the California Assembly. Her skills and relationships will support LOPP-CA’s expansion goals.

Ms. Banks is a proud alumna of Valparaiso University School of Law, where she was a Jurist Scholar, and Lincoln University of MO.

Lunch Workshop – Upstairs Art Studio

Planned Giving Best Practices for Congregations & How to Link them to Stewardship

Lisa Higginbotham

A focused conversation on planned giving avenues of approach that you may not have considered, but bring creativity and efficiency to the mission and ministries you love!

About the Speaker:

Lisa Higginbotham, CFRE, Regional Gift Planner, ELCA Foundation Lisa has served our Synod faithfully for five years as our Regional Gift Planner. Formerly a financial advisor, she helps our congregations discuss funding mission and ministry through planned giving concepts and endowment best practices. Lisa is available to work with your congregation free of charge. She also hopes to inspire generosity and work individually with donors supporting the mission and ministries they love.

Session 2 – 1:15 PM

Perks, Quirks, and Possibilities: Aging in the Southwest California Synod Deacon Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson

“We need more young families”. “My grandchildren don’t come to church?” “I raised my children in the church, and they refuse to come on Sunday mornings.” I am sure that you have heard statements like these. Statements of frustration, anger, and confusion. Church doesn’t look the way it did, 75, 50, or even 25 years ago. Should we just lock our sanctuary doors and open them again as beautiful museums of a bygone era? This workshop is for congregations whose membership is aging. We will address such concerns as What are we currently doing in our churches? Who are the adult seniors? What should adult seniors be called or named—Gray power people, seasoned saints, keen agers, wheels of steel, silver citizens? How do we as church leaders minister to this special group of people? How do we engage our senior population? What are some of the challenges? Has zoom made seniors lazy on Sunday morning? We will leave the workshop with ideas and practices to be tried in our home congregations as we are called to engage and minister to our aging population.

About the Speaker:

Deacon Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson is Assistant to the Bishop for Senior Adult Ministries in the Southwest California Synod ELCA. Dr. Travick Jackson was ordained as a Minister of Word and Service in December 2021 and is serving Mt. Cross in Camarillo. Before being ordained, Dr. Travick Jackson was an Associate Professor of Education at California Lutheran

University. She has travelled extensively throughout the world and lived from coast to coast in the United States.

Creating Space for Accessibility

Rev. Paul Walters

Why are there so many stairs in churches? Why is the lighting so dim? Why are the bathrooms so small? We want to be welcoming people, but sometimes no matter how gracious we are our building tell folks, “This is not a place for you.” Learn how to evaluate your building for accessibility and make plans for opening up your space to all people. Then discover how life-giving and hopeful the process of funding the project can be.

About the Speaker:

Paul Walters is an ELCA pastor and consultant with GSB Fundraising. An author of a number of books he has a passion for helping congregations fulfill the mission God is calling them to. When not in the States he’s likely leading another Holy Land pilgrimage. Paul is an avid cyclist, a Knight of Sufferlandria, and a Moth Story Slam winner. His wife Brandy is a lactation consultant and together they are the proud parents of three sons, fast becoming men.

Caring for the Body of Christ Assembly Bible Study

When we read the healing stories found in the New Testament, we carry with us certain biases that can influence how we interpret these stories. The western world's understanding of health and healing is very different from how people in the time of Jesus understood health and healing. These biases can also influence how society understands and relates to people with disabilities.

People with disabilities often find the healing texts in the New Testament troubling for various reasons, including western bias on health and healing, albeit disability being seen as something that is a sickness that needs to be “cured,” and how people with disabilities have been treated or ignored by the Church.

During our Synod Assembly Bible Study, we will come to learn and understand some of the western bias of biomedicine that shapes and forms how we understand health and healing in society and in scripture. We will explore the challenges that these healing stories present to people with disabilities. Finally, we will learn about how we can change our perspectives on these healing texts, both as the Church and society, in order to help us become more accessible to the entire body of Christ.

About the Presenter:

The Rev. Zachary W. Johnson is the pastor of Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church ELCA in Pasadena, CA. Pastor Zach received his M.Div. from LSTC and was ordained in 2012. Pr. Zach

has previously served congregations in Minnesota and Iowa before being called to serve in southern California. Pr. Zach lives in Santa Clarita, CA with his spouse Kristin, two daughters, and their dog Snickers.

In October of 2020, Pr. Zach was diagnosed with a rare disease known as Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (CIDP). This disease has caused physical impairment in Pr. Zach's legs/feet and arms/hands. This physical impairment transformed his life to the daily challenges of living with a disability. It also made him more aware to the social structures and systems that can oppress people with disabilities. Pr. Zach feels called by God to make people aware of the challenges people with disabilities face; to help the Church and society understand the need for accessibility; and to present a different approach to understanding the healing stories in the gospels.

Friday Evening Worship Opportunities



Shandra and Pastor Rod Hines

Worship Experience: Praise + Daily Bread

Brief Description: Join Pastor Rod and Shandra will lead an evening of praise music and singing out. The musical session will be followed by communion at table, so you can receive your daily bread.

Location: Samuelsson Chapel

Pastor Rod and Shandra are both from Southern California. Pastor Rod has served a call at Messiah Lutheran Church in Los Angeles, and Shandra has worked alongside as a worship leader. Shandra's gift in music has led to many opportunities. Working as a Worship Pastor for over 10 years. She is also a sought-after lead vocalist. Shandra worship style is one of inclusion. She loves leading multiethnic and generational services. Rod and Shandra began their musical collaboration in worship over 25 years ago as worship leader and musical director of Lifeline Ministries Youth Praise. Rod's gift as a pianist, vocalist and teacher has taken him all over the world.

Rod and Shan have been married for seventeen years. She is also a caterer and has a passion for creating experiences through food. Rod has a passion for creating music and loves movies. Rod and Shan feel blessed to share their lives together and their love for God with others.

Natalie Larkin, Deacon (Upcoming Ordination)

Worship Experience: Walking the Labyrinth

Brief Description: Step into this ancient pathway of Christian meditation. Explore the labyrinth as a sacred space to remember, release, receive and return. Find your own rhythm to connect with Spirit as you follow the paths with unexpected twists and turns as you listen for God's guidance and wisdom within.

Location: Labyrinth (Behind Samuelson Chapel)



Natalie Larkin grew up in a Lutheran Camp in Ohio where her father was the director/pastor... She studied at Wittenberg University, CLU, PLTS and Fuller. Natalie has been a Spiritual Director for 20 years and a faculty member on the staff of Stillpoint: the Art of Spiritual Direction. She enjoys bringing the arts into spiritual formation and expression. She has also taught at-risk and mentally ill youth in alternative settings including an incarceration center. Deacon Natalie was extended a Synod Call as a Deacon in May 2023.



Rev. Matt Keadle, Pastor

Worship Experience: Remember Your Baptism

Brief Description: On this Holy Trinity weekend, be immersed in the promises of baptism with a variety of interactive, hands-on prayer stations inspired by the ELW's Affirmation of Baptism liturgy.

Location: Soiland Recreation Center

Matt Keadle grew up in Chicago and studied in Indiana, Mexico City, and Seattle before he was called to St. Mark's in 2011. In addition to leading St. Mark's, Pastor Matt also serves as the Lutheran Campus Pastor at the University of Southern California. Pastor Matt finds the greatest joy in co-creating spaces where diverse children of God of all ages can discover and claim their voice. At St. Mark's, this looks like baptizing children of all ages, building relationships and partnerships in the community, drawing on the tools of community organizing, advocating at City Hall, lighting campfires, blessing bicycles, agitating leaders, learning new songs, creating art, visiting the sick, burying the dead, and being immersed again and again in the ancient stories of faith, hope, and love.

**Constitution and Bylaws
of the Southwest California
Synod**

of the

**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

As adopted by the Constituting Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (April 30, 1987) and amended by subsequent Churchwide Assemblies and Church Councils of the ELCA, and Synod Assemblies and Synod Councils of the Southwest California Synod.

Edition current as of May 25, 2023

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

Revised and adopted by the Constituting Convention, August 2016

Introduction

Placement together of those constitutional provisions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions that pertain to the same matter is recommended. Each is separately codified, but all are preceded by the letter “S” denoting that they are part of the synodical constitution

Constitutional provisions are codified by two sets of numbers, as in S9.08. or †S10.01.

- a. A bylaw related to S9.08. would be codified as S9.08.01., and to †S10.01.as S10.01.01. A bylaw under a required provision would not carry the dagger “†” that designates a required constitutional provision.
- b. Continuing resolutions also are codified by three sets of numbers, except that the third set is preceded by a capital letter. Thus, a continuing resolution might be numbered †S6. to designate the chapter; †S6.04. to designate the subject matter within the chapter; and the third set might be numbered B09. in the codification †S6.04.B09. to indicate by the “B” that it is the second continuing resolution regarding that subject and by the “09” that it was adopted in 2009.

Types of constitutional provisions

Three types of constitutional provisions are found within each synod’s constitution.

- a. Required provisions are designated by a dagger “†”. Such required provisions:
 1. may only be adopted or amended by the Churchwide Assembly.
 2. may not be altered or amended by the Synod Assembly; and
 3. are to be introduced “at once” into the synod’s constitution upon notification of the amendment or adoption of the provision (†S18.11.).
- b. Recommended provisions are provided in this *Constitution for Synods*, as approved by the Churchwide Assembly. Such recommended provisions may be adopted by majority vote at one meeting of the Synod Assembly (†S18.12.).
- c. Other provisions may be initiated in and adopted by each respective synod (†S18.13.), but such provisions may not conflict with required constitutional provisions or with churchwide constitutional provisions and bylaws. Synodical constitutional amendments become effective upon ratification by the Church Council or Churchwide Assembly.

CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

PREAMBLE

Convinced that the Holy Spirit is calling us to renewed expressions of organic unity in the body of Christ, and sending us as messengers of the gospel to unite people, tongues and nations in Christ, we adopt this constitution in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 1:

NAME AND INCORPORATION

- †S1.01. The name of this synod, as determined by the Churchwide Assembly, shall be the Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †S1.02. For the purposes of this constitution and accompanying bylaws, the Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is hereafter designated as “this synod” or “the synod”.
- †S1.11. This synod shall be incorporated. Amendments to the articles of incorporation of this synod shall be submitted to the Church Council for ratification before filing.
- †S1.21. The seal of this synod is a five petal rose outlined behind a cross formed of four trumpets with the image of a dove superimposed at its center. The name of this church and this synod and the year of its constituting convention form the outer edge of the seal.

Chapter 2:

STATUS

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

Chapter 3:

TERRITORY

- †S3.01. The territory of this synod, as determined by the Churchwide Assembly, shall be: Kern, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties in the State of California.
- †S3.02. “Determined by the Churchwide Assembly,” as stipulated by †S3.01., is understood to include the reported changes in synod relationship made by any congregation in a border area agreed under ELCA bylaws 10.01.01. and 10.01.03.

Chapter 4: CONFESSION OF FAITH

- †S4.01. This synod confesses the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- †S4.02. This synod confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.
- a. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.
 - b. The proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in the history of Israel, and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
 - c. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.
- †S4.03. This synod accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith and life.
- †S4.04. This synod accepts the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of this synod.
- †S4.05. This synod accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confessions as a true witness to the Gospel, acknowledging as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.
- †S4.06. This synod accepts the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord, namely, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles and the Treatise, the Small Catechism, the Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord, as further valid interpretations of the faith of the Church.

- †S4.07. This synod confesses the Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the Church for God's mission in the world.

Chapter 5: NATURE OF THE CHURCH

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

Chapter 6 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- †S6.01. This Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.
- †S6.02. To participate in God's mission, this synod as a part of the Church shall:
- a. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.
 - b. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.
 - c. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for

peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, and standing in solidarity with the poor and oppressed and committing itself to their needs.

- d. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness and service.
- e. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
- f. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.

†S6.03. This synod, in cooperation with the churchwide organization, shall bear primary responsibility for the oversight of the life and mission of this church in its territory. In fulfillment of this role and consistent with policies and procedures of this church, the synod shall:

- a. Provide for pastoral care of congregations and rostered ministers in the synod;
- b. Plan for, facilitate, and nurture the mission of this church through congregations;
- c. Strengthen interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and foster relationships with agencies and institutions affiliated with or related to this church as well as ecumenical partners.
- d. Interpret the work of this church to congregations and to the public on the territory of the synod.

†S6.03.01. The responsibilities of the synod include the following:

- a. providing for pastoral care of congregations, ministers of Word and Sacrament, and ministers of Word and Service in the synod, including:
 - 1) approving candidates for rostered ministry in cooperation with the appropriate seminaries of this church, which may be done through multi-synod committees;
 - 2) authorizing ordinations and ordaining rostered ministers on behalf of this church;
 - 3) consulting in the call process for rostered ministers.
- b. providing for leadership recruitment, preparation, and support in accordance with churchwide standards and policies, including:
 - 1) nurturing and supporting congregations and lay leaders;
 - 2) seeking and recruiting qualified candidates for the rostered ministries of this church;
 - 3) making provision for pastoral care, call review, and guidance;

- 4) encouraging and supporting persons on the rosters of this church in stewardship of their abilities, care of self, and pursuit of continuing education to undergird their effectiveness of service; and
- 5) supporting recruitment of leaders for this church's colleges, universities, seminaries, and social ministry organizations.
- c. providing for discipline of congregations, ministers of Word and Sacrament, and ministers of Word and Service; as well as for termination of call, appointment, adjudication, and appeals consistent with Chapter 20 of this church's constitution.
- d. providing for archives in conjunction with other synods.

- †S6.03.02. In planning for, facilitating, and nurturing the mission of this church through congregations, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:
- a. developing of new ministries, redevelopment of existing ministries, and support and assistance in the conclusion, if necessary, of a particular ministry;
 - b. leading and encouraging of congregations in their evangelism efforts
 - c. assisting members of its congregations in carrying out their ministries in the world;
 - d. encouraging congregations to respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and the suffering, and participate responsibly in society;
 - e. providing resources for congregational life;
 - f. grouping congregations in conferences, clusters, coalitions, or other area subdivisions for mission purposes.

- †S6.03.03. In strengthening interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and in fostering relationships with agencies and institutions affiliated with or related to this church as well as with ecumenical partners, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:
- a. promoting interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and entering into relationships with other synods in the region;
 - b. fostering organizations for youth, women, and men, and organizations for language or ethnic communities;
 - c. developing relationships with social ministry organizations and ministries, participating in their mission planning, and providing supportive funding;
 - d. supporting relationships with and providing supportive funding on behalf of colleges, universities, and campus ministries;
 - e. maintaining relationships with and providing supportive funding on behalf of seminaries and continuing education centers;
 - f. fostering supporting relationships with camps and other outdoor ministries;
 - g. fostering supporting relationships with preschools, elementary schools, and secondary schools operated by congregations of the synod;
 - h. fostering relationships with ecumenical and global companions
 - i. cooperating with other synods and the churchwide organization in creating, using, and supporting regions to carry out those functions of the synod which

can best be done cooperatively with other synods and the churchwide organization.

- †S6.03.04. In interpreting the work of this church on the territory of the synod, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:
- a. encouraging financial support for the work of this church by individuals and congregations;
 - b. participating in churchwide programs;
 - c. interpreting social statements in a manner consistent with the interpretation given by the churchwide unit or office which assisted in the development of the statement, and suggestion of social study issues;
 - d. providing ecumenical guidance and encouragement.
- †S6.04. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, the Synod Council shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of the synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; and that, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent of the lay members of assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be women and, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent shall be men; and that, where possible, the representation of rostered ministers shall include both men and women. This synod shall establish processes that will enable it to reach a minimum goal that 10 percent of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
- †S6.04.01. It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term “young adult” means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.
- †S6.05. Each assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body of this synod or any synod units shall be conclusively presumed to have been properly constituted, and neither the method of selection nor the composition of any such assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body may be challenged in a court of law by any person or be used as the basis of a challenge in a court of law to the validity or effect of any action taken or authorized by any such assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body.
- †S6.06. References herein to the nature of the relationship between the three expressions of this church— congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization—as being

interdependent or as being in a partnership relationship describe the mutual responsibility of these expressions in God's mission and the fulfillment of the purposes of this church as described in this chapter, and do not imply or describe the creation of partnerships, co-ventures, agencies, or other legal relationships recognized in civil law.

**Chapter 7:
SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

- †S7.01. This synod shall have a Synod Assembly, which shall be its highest legislative authority. The powers of the Synod Assembly are limited only by the provisions in the Articles of Incorporation, this constitution and bylaws, the assembly's own resolutions, and the constitutions and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- S7.01.A20. This synod may hold meetings (e.g., synod assemblies) by remote communications, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically. (ADOPTED SC20.12.04)
- S7.01.01. To extend permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Council, Synod Assembly and its committees may be held electronically or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically
- †S7.11. A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held at least triennially.
- S7.11.01. The time and place of the Synod Assembly shall be determined by the Synod Council. The time and place for the next regularly scheduled assembly normally shall be announced two months prior to the assembly.
- S7.12. Special meetings of the Synod Assembly may be called by the bishop with the consent of the Synod Council and shall be called by the bishop at the request of one-fifth of the voting members of the most recent Synod Assembly.
- a. The notice of each special meeting shall define the purpose for which it is to be held. The scope of actions to be taken at such a special meeting shall be limited to the subject matter(s) described in the notice.
 - b. If the special meeting of the Synod Assembly is required for the purpose of electing a successor bishop because of death, resignation, or inability to serve, the special meeting shall be called by the Synod Council after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- S7.13. Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be given by the secretary of this synod as provided in the bylaws.

- S7.13.01.** Notice of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be written and mailed to all rostered ministers on the synod roster and each congregation related to this synod, not later than sixty days prior to the date of the meeting. In cases of extreme emergency, the length of notice may be shortened by a two-thirds vote of the Synod Council.
- S7.14.** One-third of the members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.
- †S7.21.** The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60 percent of the voting membership shall be composed of lay persons, shall be constituted as follows:
- a. All rostered ministers under call on the roster of this synod shall be voting members of the Synod Assembly.
 - b. A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with 175 or more baptized members related to this synod, typically one of whom shall be a man and one of whom shall be a woman, shall be voting members. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of the number of baptized members in the congregation. The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be women and, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent shall be men.
 - c. Voting membership shall include the officers of this synod.
- S7.21.01.** Voting members shall begin serving with the opening of a regular Synod Assembly and shall continue serving until the opening of the next regular Synod Assembly.
- †S7.21.02.** If a special Synod Assembly is called and voting members at the previous assembly are unable to serve as voting members, where permitted by state law, the congregation through the Congregation Council may elect new members who shall continue to serve until the next regular Synod Assembly.
- S7.21.A12.** In order to implement †S6.04.02. each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members may elect one additional voting member who is a youth or young adult. A congregation with more than 175 baptized members may elect two additional voting members who are youth or young adults, one of whom shall be female and one of whom shall be male.
- S7.22.** This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those granted disability status, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, provided that such processes not result in fewer than 60% of the voting members of the Synod Assembly being laypersons in contravention of †S7.21.c. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

- S7.22.A21.** The Bishop of this Synod shall present to the Synod Secretary and Synod Council a listing of all those Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service who are on the roster of this Synod but who are currently: on leave from call; disabled; retired; or persons who are serving in synod-approved or synod-appointed pastoral capacities in congregations and other ministries of this synod (i.e., TEEM candidates) (Constitution S7.26 & S7.27). Providing that such persons are in good standing with this Synod at the time of the assembly, such persons shall automatically be granted both voice and vote at the assembly. (ADOPTED SC21.05.05. AMENDED SC23.05.04)
- S7.22.01.** Retired ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who are serving as Interim Pastors in a congregation of this synod at the time of the Synod Assembly shall be voting members to the Synod Assembly.
- †**S7.23.** The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of the churchwide organization as may be designated by the presiding bishop, shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.
- S7.24.** Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the rosters of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until the opening of the next regular synod assembly, or unless replaced by the election of new members for a special synod assembly, or until they have been disqualified by termination of congregation membership.
- S7.24.A12.** Challenges to congregational representation shall be settled by rule of the Chair after consultation with the Assembly Credentials Committee.
- †**S7.25.** Except as otherwise provided in this constitution or in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, each voting member of the Synod Assembly shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.
- S7.26.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit lay representatives of congregations under development and authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under Evangelical Lutheran Church in America bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.
- S7.26.A21.** The Bishop of this Synod shall present to the Synod Secretary and the Synod Council a listing of all congregations under development and authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under Evangelical Lutheran Church in America bylaw 10.01.04., prior to the Call of

Order of each Synod Assembly. Providing that such congregations under development and authorized worshipping communities are in good standing with the Synod at the time of the assembly, such congregations under development and authorized worshipping communities shall automatically be granted both voice and vote at the assembly consistent with S7.21. (ADOPTED SC21.05.06)

- S7.27.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant a minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister's service in a congregation of this church.
- S7.28.** Duly elected voting members of the Synod Council who are not otherwise voting members of the Synod Assembly under †S7.21. shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote as members of the Synod Assembly.
- †**S7.31.** Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of the Synod Assembly.
- S7.32.** Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly, unless otherwise ordered by the Assembly.
- S7.33.** "Ex-officio" as used herein means membership with full rights of voice and vote unless otherwise expressly limited.
- S7.34.** Procedures for conducting the business of the Synod Assembly, including the method for processing resolutions, shall be established by the Synod Council.
- S7.34.01.** The synod budget shall be adopted by the Synod Assembly.
- S7.34.A87.** Regular meetings of the Synod Assembly may provide a time on the agenda for voting members to voice issues of conscience to the Assembly according to guidelines established by the Synod Council.

Chapter 8: OFFICERS

- †**S8.01.** The officers of this synod shall be a bishop, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.
- S8.10. Bishop**
- †**S8.11.** The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The bishop shall be a minister of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

- †S8.12. As this synod's pastor, the bishop shall:
- a. Preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church.
 - b. Have primary responsibility for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this synod and its congregations, providing pastoral care and leadership for this synod, its congregations, its ministers of Word and Sacrament, and its ministers of Word and Service.
 - c. Exercise solely this church's power to ordain (or provide for the ordination by another synodical bishop of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for the office of ministry of Word and Sacrament (and as provided in the bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).
 - d. Ordain (or provide for the ordination of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as ministers of Word and Service.
 - e. Attest letters of call for persons called to serve congregations in this synod, letters of call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons on the rosters of this synod called by the Church Council.
 - f. Install (or provide for the installation of) rostered leaders whose calls the bishop has attested.
 - g. Exercise leadership in the mission of this church and in so doing:
 - 1) Interpret and advocate the mission and theology of the whole church;
 - 2) Lead in fostering support for and commitment to the mission of this church within this synod;
 - 3) Coordinate the use of the resources available to this synod as it seeks to promote the health of this church's life and witness in the areas served by this synod;
 - 4) Submit a report to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly concerning this synod's life and work; and
 - 5) Advise and counsel this synod's related institutions and organizations.
 - h. Practice leadership in strengthening the unity of the Church and in so doing:
 - 1) Exercise oversight of the preaching, teaching, and administration of the sacraments within this synod in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church;
 - 2) Be responsible for administering the constitutionally established processes for the resolution of controversies and for the discipline of rostered ministers and congregations of this synod;
 - 3) Be the chief ecumenical officer of this synod;
 - 4) Be a member of the Conference of Bishops and consult regularly with other synod bishops;
 - 5) Foster awareness of other churches throughout the Lutheran world communion and, where appropriate, engage in contact with leaders of those churches;
 - 6) Cultivate communion in faith and mission with appropriate Christian judicatory leaders functioning within the territory of this synod; and
 - 7) Be ex officio a member of the Churchwide Assembly.

- i. Oversee and administer the work of this synod and in so doing:
 - 1) Serve as the president of the synod corporation and be the chief executive and administrative officer of this synod, who is authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to sign deeds or other instruments and to affix the seal of the synod;
 - 2) Preside at all meetings of the Synod Assembly and provide for the preparation of the agenda for the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, and the council's Executive Committee;
 - 3) Ensure that the constitution and bylaws of this synod and of the churchwide organization are duly observed within this synod, and that the actions of this synod in conformity therewith are carried into effect;
 - 4) Direct and guide the work of the other officers;
 - 5) Exercise supervision over the work of all synod staff members;
 - 6) Appoint all committees for which provision is not otherwise made;
 - 7) Be a member of all committees and any other organizational units of the synod, except as otherwise provided in this constitution;
 - 8) Provide for preparation and maintenance of synod rosters containing the names and addresses of all rostered ministers of this synod and a record of the calls under which they are serving or the date on which their retired or disability status took effect;
 - 9) Annually bring to the attention of the Synod Council the names of all rostered ministers on leave from call or engaged in approved graduate study in conformity with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church and pursuant to prior action of this synod through the Synod Council;
 - 10) Provide for prompt reporting to the secretary of this church of:
 - a) additions to and subtractions from the rosters of this synod;
 - b) the issuance of a certificate of transfer for rostered ministers in good standing who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested, regular letter of call under the jurisdiction of another synod;
 - c) the entrance of the names of such persons for whom proper certificates of transfer have been received;
 - 11) Provide for preparation and maintenance of a roster of the congregations of this synod and the names of the laypersons who have been elected to represent them; and
 - 12) Appoint a statistician of this synod, who shall secure the reports of the congregations and make the reports available to the secretary of this church for collation, analysis, and distribution of the statistical summaries to this synod and the other synods of this church.

S8.12.A21. The Bishop's compensation is to be based on the annually approved Rostered Leaders Fair Compensation and Benefits Workbook-Ministers of Word and Sacrament scale as offered by the Synod Administration and approved by the Synod Council. Credit for years of service is to be based at 75 points for size of congregation/receipts (with Assistants to the Bishop at no more than 50 points).

The term of the Bishop typically commences on September 1st. (ADOPTED SC21.04.06)

- S8.12.B19.** A performance appraisal of the Office of the Bishop is to occur with each compensation adjustment to include at a minimum: the status of congregational parochial reporting, marriage/baptism/ and catechism documentation and record-keeping by congregation, mission support intervention and goal achievement, budget stability, synod council engagement and pastoral shepherding. (ADOPTED SC19.12.05)
- †**S8.13.** The synod bishop may appoint an attorney, admitted to the bar within the territory of the synod or the state where the synod is located, to be Synod Attorney. The appointment must be approved by the Synod Council and reported to the Synod Assembly and to the secretary of this church. The appointment continues until resignation or until a successor is appointed. The Synod Attorney provides legal advice and counsel to the synod officers and the Synod Council. The Synod Attorney is expected to be familiar with the governing documents and policies of the synod and, as necessary, to attend meetings of the Synod Council. The Synod Attorney serves without salary but may be retained and compensated for specific legal services requested by the synod.
- S8.14.** The synodical bishop may have such assistants as this synod shall from time to time authorize.
- †**S8.15.** The presiding bishop of this church, or the appointee of the presiding bishop, shall install into office, in accord with the policy and approved rite of this church, each newly elected synod bishop.
- †**S8.16. Conflicts of Interest**
- †**S8.16.01.** The following procedures shall govern matters of potential conflicts of interest for synod bishops:
- a. Whenever a synod bishop determines that a matter of the kind described in †S8.16.01.b. may require the bishop's determination or action with respect to a related individual as defined in †S8.16.01.c., the synod bishop shall withdraw from personal involvement in such matter and shall so notify the presiding bishop. The presiding bishop shall then appoint another synod bishop from the same region to handle the matter to conclusion. In dealing with such matter, the appointed bishop shall exercise all of the functions and authority to the same extent as if the appointed bishop were the elected bishop of the withdrawing bishop's synod.
 - b. Matters include any proceedings under Chapter 20, proceedings under provisions 7.46. and 7.75. of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (†S14.18. and †S14.43.), candidacy, reinstatement, and similar matters where determinations or actions by the synod bishop could change, limit, restrict, approve, authorize,

or deny the related individual's ministry on one of the official rosters of this church.

- c. A related individual is one who, with respect to the synod bishop, is a spouse, parent, son, daughter, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, including corresponding members of blended families and in-laws (parent, son, daughter, or sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a sibling).

S8.20. Vice President

†S8.21. The vice president shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The vice president shall be a lay person. The vice president shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The vice president shall not receive a salary for the performance of the duties of the office.

S8.22. The vice president shall chair the Synod Council and represent the synod in required meetings.

S8.30. Secretary

†S8.31. The secretary shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The secretary shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The secretary may be either a layperson or a rostered minister.

†S8.32. The secretary shall:

- a. Keep the minutes of all meetings of the Synod Assembly and Synod Council, be responsible for the distribution of such minutes, and perform such other duties as this synod may from time to time direct.
- b. Be authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to attest all instruments which require the same, and which are signed and sealed by the bishop.
- c. In consultation with the bishop, classify and arrange all important papers and documents and deposit them in the archives of this synod.
- d. Submit to the secretary of this church at least nine months before the Churchwide Assembly a certified list of the voting members elected by the Synod Assembly.

S8.40. Treasurer

†S8.41. The treasurer may be elected by the Synod Assembly or may be appointed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The treasurer may be either a layperson or a rostered minister.

S8.42. The duties of the treasurer shall be specified in the bylaws.

S8.42.01. The treasurer shall be responsible for:

- a. Management of the monies and accounts of this synod, its deeds, mortgages, contracts, evidence of claims and revenues, and trust funds, holding the same at all times subject to the order of this synod.
- b. Investment of funds upon the authorization of the Synod Council.
- c. Receipt and acknowledgment of offerings, contributions, and bequests made to this synod, collecting interest and income from its invested funds, and paying regular appropriations and orders on the several accounts as approved and directed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall transmit each month to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the funds received by this synod for the general work of this church as well as any funds to support restricted programs of this church.
- d. Maintenance of a regular account with each congregation of this synod and informing the congregation, at least quarterly, of the status of this account.
- e. Rendering at each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly a full, detailed, and duly audited report of receipts and disbursements in the several accounts of this synod for the preceding fiscal year, together with the tabulation, for record and publication in the minutes, of the contributions from the congregations.
- f. Giving of corporate surety in the amount determined by the Synod Council, which shall be in the custody of the secretary, and the premium therefore shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.

S8.50. General Provisions

- †**S8.51.** The terms of office of the officers of this synod shall be as follows:
- a. The bishop of this synod shall be elected to a term of six years and may be reelected.
 - b. The vice president and secretary of this synod shall be elected to a term of three years and may be re-elected. The officer shall serve until a successor takes office.
 - c. The treasurer of this synod shall be elected to a term of 3 years and may be re-elected. The treasurer shall serve until a successor takes office.
- S8.51.01.** The vice president and secretary of the synod shall be eligible for one re-election.
- †**S8.52.** The term of the officers shall begin on the first day of the third month following election or, in special circumstances, at a time designated by the Synod Council.
- †**S8.53.** Each officer shall be a voting member in a congregation of this synod, except that the bishop need not be a member of a congregation of this synod at the time of election.
- †**S8.54.** Should the bishop die, resign, or be unable to serve, the vice president, after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall convene the Synod Council to arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the bishop until an election of a new bishop can be held or, in the

case of temporary disability, until the bishop is able to serve again. Such arrangements may include the appointment by the Synod Council of an interim bishop, who during the vacancy or period of disability shall possess all of the powers and authority of a regularly elected bishop. The term of the successor bishop, elected by the next Synod Assembly or a special meeting of the Synod Assembly called for the purpose of election, shall be six years with the subsequent election to take place at the Synod Assembly closest to the expiration of such a term and with the starting date of a successor term to be governed by constitutional provision S8.52

- S8.55.** Should the vice president, secretary, or treasurer die, resign, or be unable to serve, the bishop, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, shall arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the officer until an election of a new officer can be held or, in the case of temporary disability, until the officer is able to serve again. The term of the successor officer, elected by the next Synod Assembly, shall be three years. If the treasurer is appointed by the Synod Council, the Synod Council shall appoint a new treasurer to a three-year term.
- †**S8.56.** The Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall determine whether an officer is unable to serve; the officer may appeal the decision of the Executive Committee by requesting a hearing before the Synod Council. A meeting to determine the ability of an officer to serve shall be called upon the request of at least three members of the Executive Committee and prior written notice of the meeting shall be given to the officer in question at least ten calendar days prior to the meeting.
- †**S8.57.** The recall or dismissal of an officer and the vacating of office may be effected for willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church; for such physical or mental disability as renders the officer incapable of performing the duties of office; or for such conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action as a rostered minister or as a member of a congregation of this church.
- a. Proceedings for the recall or dismissal of a synod bishop shall be instituted by written petition by:
 - 1) the Synod Council on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its elected members present and voting;
 - 2) the Synod Assembly on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its members present and voting;
 - 3) at least 10 synod bishops; or
 - 4) the presiding bishop of this church.
 - b. Proceedings for the recall or dismissal of an officer of a synod, other than the synodical bishop, shall be instituted by written petition by:
 - 1) the Synod Council on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its elected members present and voting;
 - 2) the Synod Assembly on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its members present and voting; or
 - 3) the synodical bishop.

- c. The petition shall be filed with the chair of the Committee on Appeals (in care of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois 60631) and shall set forth the specific charge or charges.
- d. Upon the filing of a written petition, the Executive Committee of the Synod Council may temporarily suspend the officer from service in the synod without prejudice, but with continuation of compensation, including benefits, if the officer is a salaried employee of the synod.
- e. In the case of alleged physical or mental incapacity of an officer of the synod, the procedures outlined in †S8.56. shall be followed, and such officer shall comply with the decision of the Synod Council. If such officer fails or refuses to comply, the Synod Council may proceed to petition for recall or dismissal as follows:
 - 1) the Synod Council will submit a written report of their findings and the basis of their decision to the Committee on Appeals.
 - 2) the Committee on Appeals, exclusive of any members who are disqualified, shall review the findings and decision of the Synod Council and by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting may adopt the findings and grant the petition.
- f. If the synod officer is a minister of Word and Sacrament, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.22.01. and as defined under the process described in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.21. and 20.22. as grounds for discipline. If the officer is a minister of Word and Service, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.23.01. and as defined under the process described in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.21. and 20.22. as grounds for discipline.
- g. If the officer is a layperson, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.41.01. as grounds for discipline.
- h. If the case of alleged willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions or of alleged conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action, the following procedures shall apply:
 - 1) the petition shall be referred to the Committee on Appeals, which shall function as the discipline hearing committee that shall conduct a hearing in accordance with the rules provided for in ELCA bylaw 20.22.14. except to the extent that those rules are in conflict with the provisions of this bylaw; and
 - 2) the members of the Committee on Appeals, other than those who are disqualified, may grant the petition by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting.
- i. Written notice of a decision by the Committee on Appeals that the charges have been sustained shall be given to the affected officer and to the Synod Council, and the office shall be vacated.

†S8.58. If the bishop is to be temporarily absent from the synod for an extended period not to exceed 90 days, the bishop, after consultation with the presiding bishop and with the consent of the Synod Council, may appoint as acting bishop for such period a

minister of Word and Sacrament of this church. Except as limited by action of the Synod Council, an acting bishop shall possess all of the powers and authority of a regularly elected bishop other than authority to ordain or to authorize the ordination of properly approved candidates for ordination.

Chapter 9: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- †**S9.01.** The Synod Assembly shall elect such officers of this synod and such other persons as the constitution and bylaws may require, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws. The Synod Assembly shall elect members of the Churchwide Assembly in accordance with bylaw 12.41.11. of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- S9.01.A08.** The Synod Council Executive Committee shall provide for background checks for persons nominated for synod office prior to the Synod Assembly at which the election will take place or as soon as possible after the Synod Assembly for newly elected officers nominated from the floor who were not identified as nominees prior to the assembly. The process shall be as follows:
- a. Prior to the Synod Assembly appropriate notice of the background check requirement and protocol will be provided to voting members, potential nominees, and others as directed by the Synod Council.
 - b. Nominees and newly elected officers are required to provide written consent to a background check and all information necessary to complete a background check, which should be completed prior to the Synod Assembly with respect to nominees and prior to installation for newly elected officers, if possible.
 - c. The Synod Council's Executive Committee shall designate one Executive Committee or Synod Council member to obtain the background checks.
 - d. All background checks for nominees and newly elected officers will entail a criminal background check. A financial background check will be completed for nominees for treasurer. The Executive Committee shall decide whether additional types of Background checks are appropriate for each officer position.
 - e. The background check results shall be provided to that nominee or elected officer and to the Synod Council's Executive Committee. Further disclosure of the results may be determined by the Executive Committee.
 - f. The Executive Committee may adopt other procedures or protocols as are necessary to provide for background checks for nominees and newly elected synodical officers and shall report such actions to the Synod Council.
- †**S9.02.** In all elections by the Synod Assembly, other than for the bishop, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.
- S9.03.** The Synod Council will appoint the Nominating Committee Chairperson to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. The Nominating Committee shall

serve at the pleasure of the Synod Council. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating committee's composition is delineated in S11.23.A18.

- S9.04.** The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot.
- S9.04.01.** The procedure to elect a bishop shall be as follows. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the four persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fifth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the fourth ballot, and a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The sixth ballot shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot, and a majority of the legal votes cast shall constitute an election.
- S9.04.02.** Prior to each Synod Assembly at which an election of a bishop is to be held, the Synod Council shall appoint a task force which shall solicit names of potential nominees for bishop from members and congregations of this synod.
- a. Persons whose names are submitted shall be requested to supply biographical information on a form provided by the task force or be allowed to have their names removed from this process.
 - b. The biographical information forms shall be collated by the task force in random order, duplicated and distributed without comment to the Synod Assembly voting members at least 30 days prior to the meeting of the Assembly at which the election is to take place.
 - c. The first ballot in the election shall not be limited to the names included in this process. Voting members to the Synod Assembly who intend to vote on the first ballot for a candidate who has not been included in this process may, on the first day of the Assembly, submit to the task force a completed copy of the approved biographical information form for duplication and distribution to the voting members prior to the second ballot.
- S9.04.03.** Other means of organized advocacy or of circulating information about potential nominees for the office of bishop before or during the Synod Assembly shall not be permitted.
- S9.05.** The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for vice president. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

- S9.06.** The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for secretary. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.
- S9.07.** If the treasurer is elected, the Synod Council shall nominate at least one person for treasurer. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.
- S9.08.** In all elections, except for the bishop, the names of the persons receiving the highest number of legal votes, but not elected by a majority of the legal votes cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot to the number of two for each vacancy unfilled. On any ballot when only two names appear, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.
- S9.09.** The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced in detail to the assembly.
- S9.09.A12.** The number of votes cast for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes of the secretary.
- †**S9.10.** The Nominating Committee shall nominate persons who are members of congregations in this synod to fill the voting member positions allocated to this synod for the Churchwide Assembly as provided in 12.41.11. of the constitution and bylaws of this church. The Synod Assembly shall elect voting members of the Churchwide Assembly.
- †**S9.12.** Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated as synodical officers prior to their election, if possible, or as soon as practical after their election. The specific procedures and timing of background checks and screening shall be determined by the Synod Council.

Chapter 10:
SYNOD COUNCIL

- †**S10.01.** The Synod Council consisting of the four officers of the synod, 10 to 24 other members, and at least one youth and at least one adult shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. Conference Representatives are elected by their conferences and are ratified by Synod Assembly vote (S10.07.04).
- a. Each person elected to the Synod Council shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, with the exception of ministers on a roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod. The process for election and the term of office when not otherwise provided shall be specified in the bylaws. A member of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, unless otherwise elected as a voting member of the Synod Council, may serve as an advisory member of the Synod Council with voice but not vote.

- b. The term of office of members of the Synod Council, with the exception of the officers and the youth member, shall be three (3) years.

S10.01.01. Except for the bishop, members of the synod staff may serve only in an advisory capacity to the Synod Council.

S10.01.02. Except for the Treasurer and youth position all members of the Synod Council shall be elected to a term of three (3) years and are eligible for one reelection.

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

S10.03. The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:

- a. Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of this synod.
- b. Recommend program goals and budgets to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- c. Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.
- d. Receive an annual review of the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament and the roster of ministers of Word and Service, receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's actions in this regard.
- e. Issue letters of call to rostered ministers as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- f. Fill vacancies until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly except as may otherwise be provided in the constitution or bylaws of this synod, and determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of this synod.
- g. Report its actions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- h. Prepare and distribute an official roster of all SWCA congregations annually.
- i. Perform such other functions as are set forth in the bylaws of this synod, or as may be delegated to it by the Synod Assembly.

S10.04. Any proposal to appropriate funds, whether by amendment to the budget or otherwise, which is presented to a meeting of the Synod Assembly without the approval of the Synod Council, shall be referred to the Executive Committee for a report and recommendation prior to action by the Synod Assembly and shall require a two-thirds majority vote by the Assembly for adoption.

S10.05. No elected member of the Synod Council shall receive monetary compensation for such service. Normal authorized expenses are reimbursable.

- S10.06.** If a member of the Synod Council ceases to meet the requirements of the position to which she or he was elected, the office filled by such member shall at once become vacant.
- S10.07.** The composition of the Synod Council, the number of its members, and the manner of their selection, as well as the organization of the Synod Council, its additional duties and responsibilities, and the number of meetings to be held each year shall be as set forth in the bylaws.
- S10.07.01.** To the extent permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees may be conducted virtually. Notice of any meetings may be provided electronically.
- S10.07.02.** In addition to the officers and youth position, there shall be nineteen members of the Synod Council, nine elected as Conference Representatives by the Synod Assembly and ten elected as Members-at- Large by the Synod Assembly.
- S10.07.03.** Each Conference shall nominate its representative to the Synod Council in a rotating sequence approved by the Synod Council.
- S10.07.04.** Election of the Conference Representatives shall take place at the first meeting of the Conference Assemblies in a calendar year and the Conference Chairperson shall report the results of the nominations immediately to the Synod Nominating Committee. The Conference electorates shall be ratified at the Synod Assembly by a yes/no vote. No nominations shall be made from the floor for any Conference Representative to the Synod Council.
- S10.07.05.** Members-at-Large on the Synod Council shall be nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee in a manner that will fulfill the provisions of S6.04. and ensure that at least 40% of the Synod Council is male and at least 40% is female.
- S10.07.A12.** The Nominating Committee shall nominate two persons for each Member-at-Large position and arrange the ballot so that both persons for each position are either ordained ministers or lay male or lay female or persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
- S10.07.A18.** Nominations from the floor for Members-at-Large on the Synod Council shall be listed on the ballot in a way that has nominees running against peers in harmony with S10.07.A12.
- S10.07.C87.** Nominations made from the floor must be endorsed by the signatures of at least ten members of the Synod Assembly, the agreement of the nominee to serve if elected must have been secured, and biographical information must be available in writing for distribution to the voting members.
- S10.07.D87.** (STRICKEN BY SYNOD COUNCIL ACTION SC21.02.05)

- S10.07.06.** The Nominating Committee shall present at least two nominees for the youth position on the Synod Council each of whom will be either a Sophomore or Junior in high school upon entering office. The term of office shall be for two years.
- S10.07.07.** The synodical organization for Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may provide an advisory member to the Synod Council with voice but not vote.
- S10.07.08.** The Synod Council shall meet at least three times each year, normally during the quarters of the year when the Synod Assembly does not meet.
- S10.07.09.** Members of the Synod Council are encouraged to serve on at least one synod team or conference leadership team. The Council makes such appointments to specific teams and conference leadership teams, or as specified in the constitution, by-laws, and continuing resolutions of the synod.

Chapter 11: COMMITTEES

- †**S11.01.** There shall be an Executive Committee, a Consultation Committee, a Committee on Discipline, a Mutual Ministry Committee, an Audit Committee and such other committees as this synod may from time to time determine. The duties and functions of such committees, or any other organizational units created by this synod, and the composition and organizational structure of such units, shall be set forth in this constitution or in the bylaws or continuing resolutions, and shall be subject to any applicable provisions or requirements of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †**S11.02.** The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of at least six persons and not more than 12 persons, of whom half shall be rostered ministers and half shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection. The functions of the Consultation Committee are set forth in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and in Chapter 17 of this constitution. The size of the Consultation Committee, in accord with this provision, shall be defined in this synod's bylaws.
- †**S11.03.** The Committee on Discipline of this synod shall consist of 12 persons of whom six shall be rostered ministers and six shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection.
- a. The functions of the Committee on Discipline of this synod are set forth in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

- b. The Synod Council shall fill vacancies on the Committee on Discipline for any unexpired term.

†S11.04. The Mutual Ministry Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Synod Council to provide support and counsel to the bishop.

†S11.05. The Audit Committee of this synod shall consist of three to six persons, none of whom is a member of the synod staff. Up to half of the committee members may be Synod Council members. The Audit Committee members shall be elected by the Synod Council for a term of three years and be eligible for re-election to a second consecutive three-year term. The terms of the Audit Committee members shall be staggered. The Audit Committee shall be responsible for assisting the Synod Council in fulfilling its general oversight of the synod's accounting, financial reporting, internal control systems, and external audit processes as provided in †S15.31.

†S11.11. This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to ensure that the members of its committees and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of †S6.04. With the exception of ministers on the rosters of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a committee of this synod, or any other organizational unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.

S11.11.A18. The Synod is supported in its actions by Mission Teams that shall be formed to address specific areas of ministry for which the synod has identified as missional, and which corresponds with its synod council adopted goals. These Mission Teams shall involve conference representation, whenever possible and shall be supported by the synod both in program and budget. Mission Teams report and are accountable to the Synod Council.

S11.11.B18. The Nominating Committee of this synod and its Conferences when making nominations and the Synod Council when making appointments shall seek candidates with the relevant knowledge and competence necessary for effective service.

S11.22.A18. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the officers of the Synod and four other members of the Synod Council identified by the Executive Committee and appointed by it, including at least one person of color and/or person whose primary language is other than English. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to act on its behalf between meetings of the Council. The Executive Committee shall normally meet at least four times each year.

S11.23.A18. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of up to seven members. The Nominating Committee Chairperson will be appointed by the Synod Council

(S9.03.), and committee members may be selected by the Chair from the Council and/or synod at large.

- S11.30.A18.** The Mission Team for Evangelical Outreach shall be responsible for helping the Synod and its congregations visualize, reimagine and implement new ways of being connected with their surrounding communities that are in keeping with the Synod's Strategic Goals. Staff support shall be provided to this team by the Director for Evangelical Mission.
- S11.30.B18.** The Mission Team for Rostered Leadership shall be responsible for providing opportunities to identify and support clergy and lay rostered ministers through formal instruction and continuing education and training. Staff support shall be provided to this team by the Assistant for Rostered Mission Leadership.
- S11.30.C18.** The Mission Team for Lay Leadership shall be responsible for providing opportunities to identify and support lay leaders as they witness and serve in their congregation and in daily life.
- S11.30.D18.** The Mission Team for Justice shall be responsible helping the synod and its congregations, institutions and agencies address issues of justice in public life from Christian perspectives while being guided in their public witness by the Social Statements of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in areas such as: Environment; Criminal Justice; Peacemaking; Immigration; Sexual Minorities; Justice for Women; Hunger; etc. (AMENDED SC22.12.17)
- S11.30.E12.** The Mission Team for Global Partnerships shall be responsible to help the synod and its congregations establish connections with the global Christian community.in areas such as: Companion Synod; Missionary Sponsorships; World Hunger; etc.
- S11.30.F22.** The Mission Team for Anti-Racism shall be responsible for helping the synod and its congregations, institutions and agencies work to name and disrupt racist systems and structures within the denomination and its agencies. This team will advise the bishop and other leaders on current trends, education and legislation regarding anti-racist practices. This team will work closely with the bishop and any synod staff tasked with diversity and/or anti-racism goals. (ADOPTED SC22.12.17)
- S11.30.G22.** The Mission Team for Senior Ministries shall be responsible for monitoring demographic trends within the senior population of our synod and providing information to congregations, synod and our institutions for the needs of seniors, specifically persons over the age of 55, retirees, widow/ers, caregivers, homebound and infirmed. This team will work closely with the bishop and any synod staff tasked with Senior Ministry. (ADOPTED SC22.12.17)
- S11.30.H22.** The Mission Team for Mental Health shall be responsible for helping the synod and its congregations, institutions and agencies remove stigma around mental illness, offer resources and education about mental health services and assist the Office of

the Bishop in finding and distributing mental health grants. (ADOPTED SC22.12.17)

- S11.40.A18.** The Budget and Finance Committee shall be responsible for developing the Budget, reviewing and recommending revisions to the Spending Plan, and encouraging and reviewing congregational giving to Mission Support while receiving and reviewing reports from the synod's Treasurer and the ELCA Endowment Fund (including funds from real estate holdings.) Four members of the Synod Council, plus the synod Treasurer, and up to three to four non-council appointees shall serve on this Committee.
- S11.40.B18.** The Budget and Finance Committee, in the absence of an appointed Audit Committee, can perform the role of the Audit Committee if aided by outside contractual assistance. This Synod must maintain the assistance of outside audit consultation.
- S11.40.C18.** The Synod's Budget and Finance Committee shall prepare and obtain Synod Council approval for its Spending Plan, annually. The Spending Plan will be used to help manage the approved budget throughout the year.

**Chapter 12:
CONFERENCES, CLUSTERS, COALITIONS, AREA SUBDIVISIONS, AND
NETWORKS**

- †**S12.01.** This synod may establish conferences, clusters, coalitions, area subdivisions, and networks as appropriate within its territory and in collaboration with other synods and entities as specified in the bylaws and continuing resolutions. The purpose of such groupings shall be to foster interdependent relationships for missional purposes among congregations, synods, the churchwide organization and other affiliates.
- S12.10. Conferences**
- S12.11.01.** This synod shall have Conferences, each of which is a geographic subdivision composed of all members of the synod's congregations within its territory. No congregation can belong to more than one conference.
- S12.11.A18.** Congregations of the synod shall be grouped into nine conferences as follows representing: (1) Central Coast, (2) Tehachapi, (3) Channel Islands, (4) Twin Valleys, (5) Foothill, (6) San Gabriel, (7) LA Metropolitan, (8) South Bay, and (9) Greater Long Beach. A roster will be published annually by the synod listing all Southwest California Synod congregations.
- S12.11.03.** Each Conference shall be designated by a name selected by the Conference and ratified by the Synod Council.

- S12.11.04.** Changes in the alignment of congregations in Conferences may be made by mutual agreement between the Conferences affected and a majority vote of the Synod Council.
- S12.11.05.** The functions of the Conference shall be:
- a. to identify and provide leadership persons for the mission and ministry of the conference and synod.
 - b. to provide training and resources for the ministry of congregational leaders.
 - c. to provide support for rostered ministers serving under call within the conference.
 - d. to provide programs that will nurture and strengthen the ministry of laypersons in daily life.
 - e. to provide programs of fellowship and celebration.
 - f. to establish and maintain inter-congregational or Area Ministry Strategies (e.g., regional strategies); for outreach and service in the Conference; and
 - g. to be a channel of information, interpretation and cooperation between the congregations of the Conference and the synod.
- S12.12.01.** The organization of the Conference shall include an Assembly, a Rostered Leaders Collegium and such other committees or task forces as the Conference may deem necessary, including the use of a Leadership Team.
- S12.12.02.** Each conference shall meet in assembly in the spring of each year. The agenda of these assemblies shall be determined by the Bishop in consultation with the Conference Deans and include elections. The voting members at conference assemblies shall be those members of Conference congregations in attendance. All congregational members and rostered persons serving under call in the Conference are invited to participate.
- S12.12.03.** The Conference Assembly may meet semi-annually.
- S12.12.A18.** The agenda of the Spring Conference Assembly shall be coordinated with the bishop and include elections.
- S12.12.D96.** The agenda for the Fall Conference Assembly will focus on programs of inspiration, information and instruction dealing with the mission and ministry of the church and its members.
- S12.13.01.** The Conference Leadership Team may be composed of a Chairperson; Secretary/Treasurer; Conference Mission Interpreter; and/or Conference Representative to the Synod Council [ex officio]; and Dean [ex officio].
- S12.13.02.** No elected member of the Leadership Team shall receive compensation for such service.

- S12.13.03.** The Chairperson, Secretary/Treasurer, and Conference Mission Interpreter shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be elected by the Conference Assembly.
- S12.13.A12.** The Conference Chairperson shall be a layperson who shall preside over all meetings of the Conference Assembly and Leadership Team.
- S12.13.B93.** The Conference Chairperson shall have seat and voice at all Synod Assemblies but may not vote unless otherwise elected as a voting member.
- S12.13.C12.** The Dean shall be an ordained minister on the active roster who shall be elected for a term of three years by the rostered leaders serving under call within a conference. The Dean shall preside at all meetings of the Rostered Leaders Collegium and at the request of the bishop assist in fulfilling the duties of the bishop within the Conference. The duties are described in the document, “The Role of the Conference Dean.” The Conference Deans will meet as determined by the Bishop.
- S12.13.D12.** The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep minutes of the Conference Assembly and Leadership Team meetings and be accountable for any Conference treasury.
- S12.13.F12.** The Conference Mission Interpreter shall communicate the mission and ministry of the synod and churchwide organization to the congregations of the Conference.
- S12.13.G12.** The Leadership Team shall meet at least three times a year and include the following among its duties:
- a) to plan the meetings of the Conference Assemblies with regard to business and programs;
 - b) to reflect on the mission needs in the territory of the Conference and recommend appropriate programs to the Mission Teams of the synods and/or Conference Assembly;
 - c) to carry out the actions of the Conference Assembly;
 - d) to oversee the conduct and quality of Conference programs.
- S12.14.01.** The Conference shall have a Nominating Committee composed of three persons appointed by the Leadership Team from outside its membership and a synod staff person. They shall present nominations for Conference Assembly elections for all elected members of the Leadership Team, except for the Dean.
- S12.14.A12.** The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of nominees for each position open for election. Nominations may be made from the floor.
- S12.14.B18.** The Dean shall be elected to a three-year term by the rostered ministers under call using a nominating ballot. A two-thirds majority shall be required for election on the first ballot. The second ballot shall be limited to the four candidates who receive the highest number of votes on the first ballot and a two-thirds majority shall be required to elect. Each subsequent ballot shall eliminate the candidate who

received the least number of votes on the preceding ballot. The third ballot shall require a sixty percent majority and the fourth ballot a simple majority for election.

S12.15.01. The Conference Rostered Leaders Collegium shall meet at least six times annually and shall be composed of all rostered leaders on the rosters of the Synod who are serving under call in the conference. The collegium shall have as its purposes: personal support; peer evaluation of ministry; education for ministry; mission support goal setting and results reporting, as well as intra-ministry collaboration.

S12.15.B87. The Collegium shall meet at least bi-monthly.

Chapter 13: CONGREGATIONS

- †**S13.01.** Each congregation, except those certified as congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the uniting churches, prior to being listed in the roster of congregations of this synod, shall adopt the Model Constitution for Congregations or one acceptable to this synod, which is not in contradiction to the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- a. **New congregations.** A congregation newly formed by this church and any congregation seeking recognition and reception by this church shall:
 - 1) Accept the criteria for recognition and reception as a congregation of this church, fulfill the functions of the congregation, and accept the governance provisions as provided in Chapter 9 of the constitution and bylaws of this church.
 - 2) Adopt governing documents that include fully and without alterations the Preamble, Chapter 1, where applicable, and all required provisions of Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 in the Model Constitution for Congregations consistent with requirements of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church. Bylaws and continuing resolutions, appropriate for inclusion in these chapters and not in conflict with these required provisions in the Model Constitution for Congregations, the constitution of this synod, or the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be adopted as described in Chapters 16 and 18 of the Model Constitution for Congregations.
 - 3) Accept the commitments expected of all congregations of this church as stated in *C6.01., *C6.02., and *C6.03. of the Model Constitution for Congregations.
 - b. **Congregations from another church body.** If a congregation is a member of another church body, the leadership of the congregation first should consult with the appropriate authorities of that church body before taking action to leave its current church body. After such consultation, leaders of the congregation should contact the ELCA synod bishop or staff where the congregation is located. The synod bishop or synod staff where the transferring

or independent congregation is located shall confer with the congregation to assure its understanding and acceptance of commitment to and affiliation with this church.

- c. **Recognition and reception.** Recognition and reception into this church of transferring or independent congregations by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is based on the judgment of the synod and action by the synod through the Synod Council and Synod Assembly. The synod bishop shall provide for prompt reporting of such additions to the secretary of this church for addition to the roster of congregations.

- †S13.02. It shall be the responsibility of each congregation of this synod to elect from among its voting members laypersons to serve as members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. Normatively, congregations should hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. The number of persons to be elected by each congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by this synod.
- S13.11. When a rostered minister resigns, the Congregation Council shall receive the letter of resignation, report it to the congregation, and at once notify the bishop of this synod.
- S13.12. A congregation under financial obligation to its former rostered minister shall make satisfactory settlement of the obligation before calling a successor.
- †S13.20. A congregation considering a relocation shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is affected.
- †S13.21. A congregation considering development of an additional site to be used regularly for worship shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.
- †S13.22. Each congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America within the territory of this synod, except those which are in partnership with the Slovak Zion Synod, shall establish and maintain a relationship with this synod.
- †S13.23. Provision 9.71. of the constitution of this church shall govern the relationship of this synod and a congregation of this synod regarding the property of the congregation. This synod may transfer or convey property to a congregation of the synod, subject to restrictions accepted by the congregation, including provision that if the Synod Council, in its sole and exclusive discretion, determines (1) that the property is not being used to serve the mission and ministry needs of this church, or (2) that the congregation has transferred, encumbered, mortgaged, or in any way

burdened or impaired any right, title, or interest in the property without the prior approval of the Synod Council, then title to the property shall revert to the synod, and the congregation, upon written demand, shall reconvey the property to the synod.

- †**S13.24.** The Synod Council, itself or through trustees appointed by it, may take charge and control of the property of a congregation of this synod to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of this synod, if any of the following apply:
- a. The congregation has disbanded, ceased to worship, or otherwise ceased to exist as a congregation.
 - b. The congregation has abandoned its property.
 - c. The remaining members of the congregation decide that it is no longer possible to function as a congregation or that they are unable to provide required governance.
 - d. The Synod Council determines that the membership of a congregation has become so scattered or so diminished in numbers that it cannot provide required governance or that it has become impractical for the congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized.
 - e. The Synod Council determines that it is necessary for this synod to protect and preserve the congregation's property from waste and deterioration. The congregation shall have the right to appeal any such decision to the next Synod Assembly

S13.24.01 Property is defined by the ELCA as long-term assets comprising real estate holdings, cash or cash equivalents, endowments or other similar assets accumulated for the expressed intent of preserving the ministry. These resources shall be used for no other reason.

S13.25. This synod may temporarily assume administration of a congregation upon its request or with its concurrence.

S13.30. Discipline

†**S13.31.** Congregations and members of congregations are subject to discipline in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The synod's involvement in and responsibility for such disciplinary processes shall be as set forth in that chapter.

S13.40. Synod-authorized Worshiping Communities

S13.41. Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.

S13.41.01. The Synod may authorize non-incorporated ministries referred to as (1) infant ministries, (2) sacrament ministries, (3) house churches, and/or (4) non-military chaplaincies when it is determined that these worshipping communities will seek leadership guidance from the Synod/Bishop or Bishop's designee. These synod council approved ministries are expected to move towards Synod-authorized Worshiping Community status.

Chapter 14: ROSTERED MINISTERS

†S14.10. Ministers of Word and Sacrament

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

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

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

- S14.13.** The pastor shall:
- a. keep accurate records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation;
 - b. submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod;
 - c. become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- S14.14.** Whenever members of a congregation move to such a distance that regular attendance at its services becomes impractical, it shall be the duty of the pastor to commend them, upon their consent, to the pastoral care of a Lutheran congregation nearer to their place of residence.
- S14.15.** Each minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- †**S14.16.** When a congregation of this church desires to call a pastor or a candidate for the ministry of Word and Sacrament of this church:
- a. Each congregation of this synod shall consult the bishop of this synod before taking any steps leading to the extending of a call to a prospective pastor.
 - b. For issuance of a letter of call to a pastor or candidate by a congregation of this synod in accord with ELCA constitutional provision 7.41., a two-thirds vote shall be required of voting members of the congregation present and voting at a meeting regularly called for the purpose of issuing such a call.
 - c. When the congregation has voted to issue a call of a prospective pastor, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.
- S14.17.** No minister of Word and Sacrament shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Sacrament shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.
- †**S14.18.** The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Sacrament and a congregation shall be as follows:
- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by the pastor's death or, following consultation with the synod bishop and for any of the following reasons:
 - 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;

- 2) resignation of the pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
 - 3) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in that congregation in view of the local conditions;
 - 4) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in view of disability or incapacity of the pastor;
 - 5) suspension of the pastor through discipline for more than three months;
 - 6) resignation or removal of the pastor from the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church;
 - 7) termination of the relationship between this church and the congregation;
 - 8) dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement;
or
 - 9) suspension of the congregation through discipline for more than six months.
- b. When allegations of disability or incapacity of the pastor under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
- 1) the bishop, who has sole discretion, may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
 - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the congregation council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.
- c. In case of alleged disability or incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the pastor on the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament with disability status. Upon resumption of the ability to conduct the office effectively the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
- d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the pastor and then to the congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee must address whether the pastor's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be taken by the congregation and by the pastor, if appropriate. If the pastor and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.
- e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the pastor's call, the congregation may dismiss the pastor only at a

legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.

- f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

†S14.19. Ministers of Word and Sacrament shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited to do so by the pastor, or if there is no duly called pastor, then by the interim pastor in consultation with the Congregation Council.

†S14.21. The records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members transferred or dismissed, members who have become inactive, or members excluded from the congregation shall be kept accurately and permanently. They shall remain the property of each congregation. At the time of the closure of a congregation, such records shall be sent to the regional archives. The secretary of the congregation shall attest to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in the secretary's hands in good order by a departing pastor before:

- a. installation in another call, or
- b. approval of a request for change in roster status.

†S14.22. The pastor shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:

- a. installation in another call, or
- b. approval of a request for change in roster status.

†S14.23. During service to a congregation, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in the congregation of a regularly called pastor. The interim pastor may delegate the same in part to an interim supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of this synod. The interim pastor and any rostered minister who may assist shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor. Upon completion of service, the interim pastor shall certify to the bishop of this synod that the congregation records, for the period for which the interim pastor was responsible, are in order.

†S14.24. With the approval of the synodical bishop expressed in writing, which sets forth a clear statement of the purpose to be served by such a departure from the normal rule of permanency of the call as expressed in †S14.18., a congregation may call a pastor for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop of this synod or a representative of the bishop shall meet with the pastor and

representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of †S14.18.

S14.25. All ministers of Word and Sacrament under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the pastors of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, collegium or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.

†S14.30. Ministers of Word and Service

†S14.31. The time and place of the ordination of those persons properly called to ministry in this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.

S14.31.A18. All persons serving under call on the lay rosters of this Synod (i.e., deacons) shall attend the meetings of the Conference to which they relate. They shall participate in the election process set forth in † S7.21.b. of this constitution.

†S14.32. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every Minister of Word and Service shall:

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

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

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

- †S14.41. When a congregation of this church desires to call a minister of Word and Service or a candidate for the ministry of Word and Service of this church:
- a. Each congregation of this synod shall consult the bishop of this synod before taking any steps leading to the extending of a call to a prospective minister of Word and Service.
 - b. For issuance of a letter of call to a minister of Word and Service or candidate by a congregation of this synod in accord with ELCA constitutional provision 7.71., a two-thirds vote shall be required of members of the congregation present and voting at a meeting regularly called for the purpose of issuing such a call.
 - c. When the congregation has voted to issue a call to a prospective minister of Word and Service, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.
- S14.42. No minister of Word and Service shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Service shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.
- †S14.43. The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Service and a congregation shall be as follows:
- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a minister of Word and Service, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for any of the following reasons:
 - 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
 - 2) resignation of the minister of Word and Service, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
 - 3) inability to conduct the office effectively in that congregation in view of local conditions;
 - 4) inability to conduct the office effectively in view of disability or incapacity of the minister of Word and Service;
 - 5) suspension of the minister of Word and Service through discipline for more than three months;
 - 6) resignation or removal of the minister of Word and Service from the roster of ministers of Word and Service of this church;
 - 7) termination of the relationship between this church and the congregation;
 - 8) dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
 - 9) suspension of the congregation through discipline for more than six months.

- b. When allegations of disability or incapacity of the minister of Word and Service under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the ministry of Word and Service under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
 - 1) the bishop, who has sole discretion, may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
 - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.
- c. In case of alleged disability or incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the minister of Word and Service's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant and the minister of Word and Service shall be listed on the roster of ministers of Word and Service with disability status. Upon resumption of the ability to conduct the office effectively, the bishop shall take steps to enable the minister of Word and Service to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
- d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the minister of Word and Service and then to the congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee address whether the minister of Word and Service's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by the congregation and by the minister of Word and Service, if appropriate. If the minister of Word and Service and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.
- e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the minister of Word and Service's call, the congregation may dismiss the minister of Word and Service only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.
- f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

- †S14.44. Ministers of Word and Service shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited to do so by the Congregation Council.
- †S14.45. The minister of Word and Service shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:
- a. installation in another call, or
 - b. approval of a request for change in roster status.
- †S14.46. With the approval of the synod bishop expressed in writing, which sets forth a clear statement of the purpose to be served by such a departure from the normal rule of permanency of the call as expressed in †S14.43, a congregation may call a minister of Word and Service for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop of this synod or a representative of the bishop shall meet with the minister of Word and Service and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of †S14.43.
- S14.47. All ministers of Word and Service under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the ministers of Word and Service of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.

Chapter 15: FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

- c. Should the Synod Assembly not approve the proportionate share of mission support determined in consultation with the churchwide organization, a new consultation with the churchwide organization shall take place. The Synod Council is authorized to amend the budget adopted by the Synod Assembly to reflect the results of this consultation.

- †S15.12. The annual budget of this synod shall reflect the entire range of its own activities and its commitment to supportive funding with other synods and the churchwide organization.
- S15.13. On the basis of estimated income, the Synod Council shall authorize expenditures within the budget for the fiscal year. Expenditure authorizations shall be subject to revision, in light of changing conditions, by the Synod Council.
- S15.14. Except when such procedure would jeopardize current operations, a reserve amounting to no more than 16 percent of the sum of the amounts scheduled in the next year's budget for regular distribution to synod causes shall be carried forward annually for disbursement in the following year in the interest of making possible a more even flow of income to such causes. The exact number of dollars to be held in reserve shall be determined by the Synod Council.
- S15.21. No appeal to congregations of this or any other synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the raising of funds shall be conducted by congregations or organizations related to or affiliated with this synod without the consent of the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council.
- †S15.31. This synod shall arrange to have an annual audit of its financial records conducted by a certified public accountant firm recommended by the synod Audit Committee and approved by the Synod Council. The audited annual financial report shall be submitted by this synod to the churchwide Office of the Treasurer and to the congregations of this synod.
- †S15.32. This synod shall maintain adequate, continuous insurance coverage in accordance with standards recommended by the churchwide organization. Insurance programs offered or endorsed by the churchwide organization shall be deemed to fulfill this obligation.
- S15.40. **Mission and Ministry Fund**
- S15.41. This synod shall have an endowment fund named the Mission and Ministry Fund (hereafter referred to as the Fund). It shall not be a separately incorporated entity but shall be a separate fund of this synod.
- S15.41.01. The Fund's purpose shall be to receive undesignated gifts and bequests to be used for the mission outreach of the Southwest California Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and their successor bodies.

- S15.41.02.** The Fund shall be held in two accounts: Discretionary and Endowment. Disbursements of income from the Discretionary account are at the discretion of the Bishop, while disbursements of principal from the Discretionary account, and disbursements of income and principal from the Endowment account, are at the discretion of the Endowment Committee.
- S15.41.03.** Undesignated gifts and bequests shall be allocated one-third (1/3) to the Discretionary account and two-thirds (2/3) to the Endowment account. Designated gifts shall be allocated to the account designated.
- S15.41.04.** Both the principal and income from gifts and bequests are to be used for the purposes, projects, and programs consistent with the general purpose for which this Fund has been established.
- S15.41.05.** Gifts and bequests that have special terms or conditions, or contain limitations or directions, may be accepted, provided such gifts and bequests are compatible with the vision for mission of the synod. The acceptance of such gifts must be agreed upon by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Endowment Committee members voting.
- S15.41.06.** Gifts and bequests of tangible assets that are not immediately useful in or for the ministry of the synod are to be sold, liquidated, converted to cash, or returned to the donor or the donor's estate.
- S15.41.07.** When gifts and bequests of real property are offered, the Endowment Committee is restricted to accept them conditionally to avoid governmental violations until the following criteria are met:
- a. The donor must provide a certified appraisal that established the market value of the property within 90 days of the gift date.
 - b. If the appraisal does not include an environmental impact evaluation, one must be done separately, and provided by the donor.
 - c. In the rare instance where an environmental impact study by a qualified engineer is called for, it must be done at the expense of the donor.
- S15.42.** The Fund shall continue in existence and shall be used as hereinafter provided, (unless earlier revoked) so long as the synod shall continue to exist. If the synod should cease to exist, then the assets of the Fund shall become the property of a successor synod. If there is no successor synod, then the assets of the Fund become the property of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor body. Furthermore, should the synod dissolve, it shall, at the time of dissolution, have the right to determine, in consultation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a successor synod that qualifies as an exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code.
- S15.43. The Endowment Committee**

- S15.43.01.** The Endowment Committee shall administer the Fund. It shall be composed as follows:
- a. The Bishop or the Bishop's designee.
 - b. The Treasurer of the synod.
 - c. Six (6) members elected by the Synod Assembly for terms of three years on a rotating basis. An elected member shall be eligible for one reelection.
 - d. The chair of the Endowment Committee shall be elected by the Endowment Committee from among its members.
- S15.43.02.** The Endowment Committee shall receive and consider recommendations from the Investment Committee for investment management of the Fund, from the Marketing Committee for promotion of the Fund, and from the Allocation Committee for disbursements from the Fund. The Treasurer of the synod shall be responsible for all financial records of the Fund and make disbursements from the Fund when directed by the Endowment Committee to do so. Written financial reports shall be submitted at least annually by the treasurer to the Synod Council and the Endowment Committee. The Endowment Committee may also serve in the capacity of the Investment Committee (in its absence) for the purposes of the Mission and Ministry Fund in order to appropriately fulfill the duties as outlined (S15.40).
- S15.43.03.** Whenever possible, the Endowment Committee will act upon the need or needs that arise concerning acceptance of gifts and bequests, investment of funds, and disbursement of funds, at regular noticed meetings. Should the need for action be deemed so necessary as to deviate from this practice, the Endowment Committee may call a special meeting.
- S15.43.04.** Whenever the Endowment Committee takes action concerning matters of the Fund, a quorum shall consist of members present in person and via teleconference provided all members were duly notified of the time and place of the meeting. A majority vote shall carry any motion or resolution concerning the Fund, unless otherwise provided in these bylaws. Actions taken that do not comply with this provision will be deemed illegal and void.
- S15.43.05.** The Endowment Committee may establish written rules and regulations as may be necessary for the conduct of the business of the Fund. It may adopt standards and goals for guidelines in dealing with expenditures of the income/or principal from the Fund. These guidelines may be amended, added to, or deleted at any time by the Endowment Committee provided it is consistent with the constitution and stated purpose of the Fund.
- S15.43.06.** The Synod Council shall be responsible for maintaining the accounts and authorizing financial institutions to hold the assets of the Fund. All checks and other documents transferring or expending any funds or assets in the Fund shall be signed by persons authorized by the Synod Council to do so. Records of transactions are to be held not less than 15 years.

- S15.43.07.** All persons with check-signing authority shall be covered by a corporate fidelity bond or the equivalent, at the expense of the synod, in an amount to be determined from time to time by the Synod Council.
- S15.43.08.** The Endowment Committee may seek advice from others and may employ, at the expense of the Fund, such professional counseling on investments and legal matters as it deems necessary in the best interest of the Fund.
- S15.43.09.** Members of the Synod Council, the Endowment Committee, its sub-committees and its advisors, shall refrain from any self-dealing transactions of the Fund, and/or conduct where personal interest, or that of a relative or friend, could be construed to be in conflict with the best interest or integrity of the Fund.
- S15.44.01.** For tax accounting, distribution of Fund earnings, or other purposes, the fiscal year of the Fund shall be the same as that of the synod.
- S15.44.02.** The synod shall arrange an annual audit of the Fund's financial records conducted by a certified public accountant firm selected by the Synod Council.
- S15.44.03.** Gifts and bequests to the Fund may be received, acknowledged, and receipts issued at any time during the year, so long as they meet the criteria established as stated in S15.41.06.
- S15.44.04.** All assets of the Fund shall be accounted for and documented in separate, distinct, and independent accounts from those assets that otherwise belong to the synod. The Synod Council or Endowment Committee shall not be required to place or maintain funds in separate accounts but may instead set up and maintain separate accounting records for each account within the Fund.
- S15.45. The Investment Committee**
- S15.45.01.** The functions of the Investment Committee are relegated to the ELCA Endowment Fund manager for which the Southwest California Synod has on deposit its principal long-term endowment assets. Quarterly reports are received by the synod from the ELCA and are available to the Endowment Committee for review.
- S15.45.02.** The Investment Committee shall be composed as follows:
- a. The Committee shall have no more than 9 members.
 - b. The Committee members shall be appointed by the Endowment Committee based on experience, skill and expertise, and may include members of the Endowment Committee.
 - c. The Chair of the Investment Committee shall come from its members. The Chair shall be appointed by the Endowment Committee.
 - d. The Committee members shall serve at the pleasure of the Endowment Committee.

- S15.45.03.** The Investment Committee, shall have the following powers and authority:
- a. All assets of the Fund shall be managed to yield reasonable income and protect principal through socially responsible investments. Investments that would be considered high risk or speculative by a prudent and experienced investor must be avoided. All or any part of the Fund may be invested with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Mission Investment Fund with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Foundation.
 - b. Whenever the synod, its agencies and/or institutions, or a member congregation is in need of borrowed funds in order to purchase tangible assets or repair of tangible assets, the Investment Committee may recommend that Fund income or principal be loaned to the synod, its agencies and/or institutions, or member congregation at the current market rate of interest being charged by the banking enterprise with whom the congregation does business on a regular basis.
 - c. In the event that a donation of real property adjacent to or remote from the territory of the synod could be beneficial to the synod in providing ministry activities, such property may be retained provided the Synod Council approves any such retention.

S15.46. The Marketing Committee

- S15.46.01.** The Marketing Committee, a sub-committee of the Endowment Committee, shall be responsible for advising the Synod on its philanthropic endeavors in ways that help promote the Fund and its associated ministries.
- S15.46.02.** The Marketing Committee shall be composed as follows:
- a. The Committee shall have no more than 9 members, plus the local representative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Foundation as an ex-officio member.
 - b. The Committee members shall be appointed by the Endowment Committee based on experience, skill and expertise, and may include members of the Endowment Committee. The Chair of the Marketing Committee shall come from its members. The Chair shall be appointed by the Endowment Committee.
 - c. The Committee members shall serve at the pleasure of the Endowment Committee.
 - d. The Marketing Committee may have a relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Foundation for annuities and charitable trust administration.
- S15.46.03.** The Marketing Committee, shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
- a. The Committee shall create and disseminate written materials, and host participatory events, that promote the Fund to synod congregations and members.

- b. The Committee shall arrange for synod members to meet with professional counselors in the areas of charitable giving, wills, trusts, bequests, insurance, and other options that may serve the goals of the Fund.
- c. The Committee shall provide the means for the acknowledgment of gifts and bequests. The receipt of each shall be recorded in the synod's records and published in an appropriate manner for distributions to its members.

S15.47. Income and Principal of the Fund

S15.47.01. The Endowment Committee shall determine what is principal and income of the Fund according to accepted accounting procedures. Income may include realized and unrealized capital gains in the portfolio.

S15.47.02. Annually the Endowment Committee shall declare the amount constituting the prior year's income. It may alternately declare the prior year's income to be a maximum of 5 percent of the Fund's year-end value.

S15.47.03. Income from the Fund shall be distributed annually and at such other times as deemed necessary and/or feasible to strengthen the ministry of this synod.

S15.48. The Allocation Committee

S15.48.01. The Allocation Committee, a sub-committee of the Endowment Committee, shall be responsible for advising the Endowment Committee on allocations and expenditures, both grants and loans, from the Endowment portion of the Fund.

S15.48.02. The Allocation Committee shall be composed as follows:

- a. The committee shall have no more than 9 members appointed by the Endowment Committee, one of whom shall be the Bishop or the Bishop's designee.
- b. The Chair of the Allocation Committee shall come from its members. The Chair shall be appointed by the Endowment Committee.
- c. The Committee members shall serve at the pleasure of the Endowment Committee.

S15.48.03. The Allocation Committee shall review all requests for grants and loans from the Endowment portion of the Fund and make recommendations to the Endowment Committee.

S15.48.04. Any grant or loan recommended by the Allocation Committee must be approved by a majority of voting Endowment Committee members if from Fund income, and by a two-thirds majority of voting Endowment Committee members if from Fund principal.

S15.48.05. Undisbursed Discretionary account income at the end of the year shall be retained for disbursement by the Bishop the following year.

- S15.48.06.** Principal of the Discretionary account may be invaded only if requested by the Bishop and approved by a two-thirds majority of the voting members of the Endowment Committee.
- S15.48.07.** If, in the judgment of the Allocation Committee, causes and programs for disbursement do not seem sufficient to utilize total funds available, not all funds are required to be disbursed. Undisbursed Endowment account income at the end of the year shall be retained in the Endowment account and available for future disbursement by the Endowment Committee.
- S15.50. Legacy Real Estate Gifts**
- S15.51.A18.** The treasurer of the synod shall maintain the funds from the proceeds of the sale of congregation properties in accordance with synod established covenants obtained with each congregation experiencing “holy closure” and/or for whom said property has been secured by the synod as outlined in provision S13.24.
- S15.51.B12.** Investment of the First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund (FLLAF) would rest with the synod’s Mission and Ministry Endowment Committee. (AMENDED SC23.05.04)
- S15.51.C18.** All disbursements from the income generated by Legacy Gifts must be considered by the Executive Committee and be approved by the Synod Council. Disbursements of the designated principal from Legacy Gifts are not favored and may be made only with the recommendation of the Executive Committee and with the approval of a two-thirds majority of the voting members of the Synod Council present and voting.
- S15.51.D18.** The Synod Council shall approve an overall disbursement formula for proceeds received from real estate sales as undesignated, designated, or restricted, proportionate to any established synod covenants.
- S15.51.E18.** Disbursements from the First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund (original Legacy Gift) are designated as one-third to synod operations and services and two-thirds for the three following purposes:
- a. The planting and support of new congregations within the territory of the synod as determined by the synod’s Outreach Committee, Mission Director and Bishop. Support could include such things as: contributions towards the mission developer’s salary and/or benefits, purchase of equipment, and the rental or purchase of property for housing the new ministry; and the support of congregations in transition and/or transformation, and who in the estimation of the synod’s Outreach Committee, Mission Director and Bishop would be viable communities of faith as a result of this support. Such support could include support for a new or full-time pastor, and resources that would support new ministry and outreach;

- b. The support of candidates for rostered ministry from this synod preparing for ministry at one of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's seminaries or colleges.
- c. The support of existing or new agencies and institutions that are deemed important for the ongoing life and mission of Christ as lived out through the Southwest California Synod.

S15.51.F12. All applications for disbursement of income will be made to the Executive Committee. The Evangelical Outreach Mission Team would make applications for purposes one; Rostered Leaders Mission Team for purpose two; and the synod Bishop for purpose three.

S15.51.G12. Income from the remaining third of the First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund (FLLAF) would be designated for the purpose "to meet mission needs in the synod" (S15.48.05). The Executive Committee will make recommendations regarding the disbursement of this income to the Synod Council for their consideration and approval. (AMENDED SC23.05.04)

S15.52. Distribution of Proceeds Received from Sale of Real Property

S15.52.A11. In the occasion that the Synod Council determines that real property received from a congregation(s) shall be sold, sale proceeds shall be disbursed according to the following schedule:

S15.52.B11. all indebtedness, and sale costs shall be paid and

S15.52.C11. a tithe shall be sent to the churchwide expression of the ELCA.

S15.52.D11. The Synod shall receive an 8% management fee to offset expenses related to property management throughout the sale process.

S15.52.E11. One-third (1/3) of the remainder shall be gifted to this Synod for the operational expenses of the Synod.

S15.52.F11. The remaining two-thirds (2/3) shall fund new, transitional, and renewal synod ministries. The Synod's Mission Team for Evangelical Outreach, Mission Director and Bishop shall determine those which would be viable communities of faith as a result of this support.

S15.52.G11. All disbursements from the proceeds must be considered by the Executive Committee and be approved by the Synod Council.

S15.52.H11. The Endowment Committee and the Endowment Fund shall not receive any sale proceeds unless otherwise determined by the Synod Council and set forth in a continuing resolution. (ADOPTED SC11.03.07)

Chapter 16: INDEMNIFICATION

- †S16.01. Subject to the limitations and duties imposed by law, each person who is or was made or threatened to be made a party to any proceeding by reason of the present or former capacity of that person as a Synod Council member, officer, employee, or committee member of this synod shall be indemnified against all costs and expenses incurred by that person in connection with the proceeding. Indemnification of any person by reason of that person's capacity as a director, officer, employee, or committee member of any other organization, regardless of its form or relationship to this synod, is subject to the provisions of †S16.02.
- a. The term “proceeding” means a threatened, pending, or completed lawsuit, whether civil or criminal, an administrative or investigative matter, arbitration, mediation, alternative dispute resolution, or any other similar legal or governmental action. Except as otherwise required by law, the term “proceeding” does not include (a) any action by this synod against the individual seeking indemnification, or (b) subject to †16.04., a disciplinary hearing or related process described in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - b. The term “indemnification” includes reimbursement and advances of costs and expenses for judgments, penalties, fines, settlements, excise taxes, reasonable attorneys’ fees, disbursements, and similar required expenditures.
- †S16.02. Whenever a person who, while a Synod Council member, officer, committee member, or employee of this synod, is or was serving at the request of this synod as (or whose duties in that position involve or involved service in the capacity of) a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or agent of another organization, is or was made or threatened to be made a party to a proceeding by reason of such capacity, then such person shall be entitled to indemnification only if (a) the Synod Council has established a process for determining whether a person serving in the capacity described in this section shall be entitled to indemnification in any specific case, and (b) that process has been applied in making a specific determination that such person is entitled to indemnification.
- †S16.03. This synod may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of itself or any person entitled to indemnification pursuant to this chapter against any liability asserted against and incurred by this synod or such other person in or arising from a capacity described in †S16.01. or †S16.02.
- †S16.04. When written charges against a rostered minister of this church are made in disciplinary proceedings under Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the synod bishop or when written charges against a congregation are made in disciplinary proceedings by the Synod Council or the synod bishop, and the discipline hearing committee determines that no discipline shall be imposed, then if

such determination is not reversed or set aside on appeal, indemnification shall be made by the synod to the accused for reasonable attorney's fees and other reasonable expenses related to the defense of the charges. The determination of the reasonableness of such fees and expenses shall be made by the Synod Council.

Chapter 17:
CONSULTATION AND ADJUDICATION

- †S17.01. The synod bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall be available to give counsel when disputes arise within this synod.
- †S17.02. The synod bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall receive expressions of concern from rostered ministers of this church, congregations, and organizations within this synod; provide a forum in which the parties concerned can seek to work out matters causing distress or conflict; and make appropriate recommendations for their resolution. When a concern relates directly to the synod bishop, the synod vice president will lead the Executive Committee's efforts at resolving the matter. When the matter at issue cannot be resolved in this manner, applicable procedures for investigation, decision, appeal and adjudication shall be followed. Allegations or charges that could lead to the discipline of a rostered minister of this church shall not be addressed by the Executive Committee but shall be resolved through the disciplinary process set forth in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †S17.03. When there is disagreement between or among congregations of this synod on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, the council of an affected congregation may petition the synod bishop for a consultation after informing the other affected congregation(s) of its intent to do so. If this consultation fails to resolve the issue, the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation Committee's efforts fail to resolve the issue(s), the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the council deems necessary. The decision of the Synod Council shall be final.
- †S17.04. When conferences, clusters, coalitions, or area subdivisions of this synod have a disagreement on a substantive issue that they cannot resolve, the aggrieved party or parties may petition the synod bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council requesting a consultation after informing the other affected parties of their intent to do so. In this case the decision of the Executive Committee shall prevail, except that, upon the motion of a member of the Synod Council, the decision shall be referred to the Synod Council for final action.
- †S17.10. **Adjudication in a Congregation**

†S17.11. When there is disagreement between or among factions within a congregation on a substantive issue which cannot be resolved by the parties, members of the congregation may petition the synod bishop for consultation after informing the president of the Congregation Council of their intent to do so. The synod bishop shall seek a timely resolution of the dispute. If the issue relates directly to the pastor, the bishop may begin the process in †S14.18.d. In all other matters, if the bishop's consultation fails to resolve the issue, the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation Committee's efforts fail to resolve the dispute, the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the council deems necessary. The Synod Council's decision shall be final.

Chapter 18: AMENDMENTS, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

†S18.10. Amendments to Constitution

†S18.11. Certain sections of this constitution incorporate and record therein required provisions of the constitution and bylaws of this church. If such provisions are amended by the Churchwide Assembly, corresponding amendments shall be introduced at once into this constitution by the secretary of this synod upon receipt of formal certification thereof from the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

†S18.12. Whenever the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially informs this synod that the Churchwide Assembly has amended the Constitution for Synods, this constitution may be amended to reflect any such amendment by a majority vote at any subsequent meeting of the Synod Assembly without presentation at a prior Synod Assembly. An amendment that is identical to a provision of the Constitution for Synods shall be deemed to have been ratified upon its adoption by this synod. The Church Council, through the secretary of this church, shall be given prompt notification of its adoption.

†S18.13. Other amendments to this constitution may be adopted by this synod through either of the following procedures:

- a. Introduced with the support of at least 20 voting members and having been approved by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly, an amendment may be adopted unchanged by a two-thirds vote at the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- b. The Synod Council may propose an amendment, with notice to be sent to the congregations of this synod at least six months prior to the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Such an amendment shall require for adoption a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at such a

regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. All such amendments shall become effective upon ratification by the Churchwide Assembly or by the Church Council.

†S18.20. Amendments to Bylaws

†S18.21. This synod may adopt bylaws not in conflict with this constitution nor with the constitution and bylaws of the churchwide organization. This synod may amend its bylaws at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a two-thirds vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting. Newly adopted bylaws and amendments to existing bylaws shall be reported to the secretary of this church.

†S18.30. Amendments to Continuing Resolutions

†S18.31. This synod may adopt continuing resolutions not in conflict with this constitution or its bylaws or the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of the churchwide organization. Such continuing resolutions may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Synod Assembly or by a two-thirds vote of the Synod Council. Newly adopted continuing resolutions and amendments to existing continuing resolutions shall be reported to the secretary of this church.