



DALE HORKEY

In preparation for the Bishop Election in April of 2012, this document provides an overview of the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, including its purpose, structure, and current realities. Synod members are encouraged to use this information to inform their conversations about their vision for the synod and their expectations for the next Bishop.

Synod Stats

Every person, every congregation, every ministry, boldly serving God's mission in Christ.

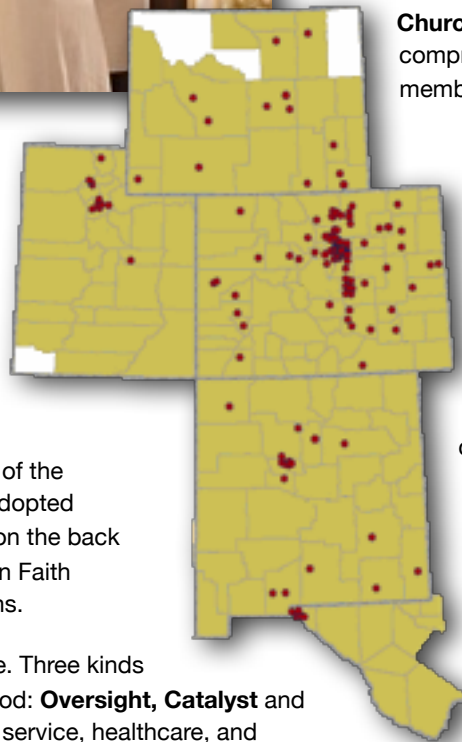
Rocky Mountain Synod Purpose

■ **Synod Priorities:** Vision, Passion, Action (VPA) is the name of the strategic planning initiative launched in 2005 resulting in the adopted purpose statement (above) and goals and guiding principles (on the back page). Since 2009 the synod's coordinated effort is focused on Faith Formation, Healthy Congregations & Leaders, and Connections.

■ **Ministry Teams:** In 2010 the synod reorganized its structure. Three kinds of **Ministry Teams** play a role in the overall mission of the synod: **Oversight, Catalyst** and **Self-Organizing**. In addition, **Ministry Partners** in education, service, healthcare, and outdoor ministries join in our mission and ministry together. For details and to download a Ministry Map in color or black & white visit www.rmselfca.org/ministryteams.

■ **The Office of the Bishop:** Currently includes the Bishop, three Assistants to the Bishop, one Director for Evangelical Mission (ELCA deployed staff), one Director for Administration and Communication, and three Administrative Staff. Four of these positions are part-time. Assistants to the Bishop are co-terminus with the Bishop. The configuration and responsibilities of staff members are determined primarily by the Bishop. A new Bishop is expected to establish a team to address the priorities of the synod while operating within budgetary allowances.

■ **Governance:** The RMS is governed by the annual **Synod Assembly** with the **Synod Council** serving as the Rocky Mountain Synod board of directors and as the interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. Synod Council members are elected to assure geographic representation.



■ The **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)** is comprised of about 4.5 million members in 10,348 congregations.

■ The **Rocky Mountain Synod (RMS)** is one of 65 synods in the ELCA. The synods are organized into nine regions, and the RMS is part of Region 2.

■ About **70,000 members** comprise 167 RMS congregations in Colorado [115], New Mexico [21], El Paso, Texas [5], Utah [11], and Wyoming [15].

■ **Congregations** are grouped into 10 geographic conferences. Each conference has a Dean.

■ **Offerings from Congregations** to the RMS were \$2.5 million in 2010. Half stays in the RMS and half supports ELCA Churchwide.

■ **The Office of the Bishop** is located in Denver, Colorado, a mile south of downtown at 455 Sherman Street, Suite 160, Denver, Colorado 80203. Videoconferencing and WebEx are used to bridge the geographic distances.



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GOALS

Identity

We understand and articulate our Lutheran/Christian identity and have an intentional plan to live it out.

Discipleship

We have a transformed culture that considers faith formation and discipleship to be for all ages.

Evangelism

We have a transformed culture around evangelism that says, "We have something to share."

Congregational Health

We are healthy and able to go through transition and conflict in ways that lead to positive growth.

Connections

We increase synodical capacity to do God's work by strengthening connections between and within all expressions of our church.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We are Lutheran

Grace-centered in Christ.

Biblically and confessionally grounded.

Our faith is renewed constantly in experience of the living Word through Baptism, the Lord's Supper, the cross and resurrection.

We are Church

Our primary unifying practice is weekly worship around Word and Sacrament and a grateful response of personal giving, service and hospitality.

As the Body of Christ, our interdependence is a gift of God that we are called to live out.

Our stories, worship, service and gifts are regularly magnified beyond us through collaborative partnerships that are local, synodical, national and global through the ELCA and beyond.

We are Evangelical

By the work of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit we can be open, gracious, strong and forgiving toward everyone.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is not a possession to be safeguarded, but a means of grace and blessing to be flung into a broken world like seeds scattered to the earth.

Effectiveness in any ministry is measured by how far we extend the reach of the Gospel and the reconciling love of God beyond our walls.

We are Empowered

God is working in each of us for a more faithful future. Every gathering in grace and every ministry has more capacity to reach beyond itself than we know and more capacity for change than we have imagined.

Cultivating leadership that dares to increase our collective wisdom and facilitates needed change.

The Mission and Vision is not ours, but God's. We discern what God is doing in our midst and join God through our actions.



Rocky Mountain Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

rmselca.org

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