



# 2022 HANDBOOK

Rocky Mountain Synod  
Assembly  
May 9-11 – Embassy Suites  
Loveland, CO

# ■ THE ASSEMBLY: RHYTHM OF THE SAINTS: FINDING THE BEAT FOR MINISTRY AND SERVICE IN POST-COVIDIAN TIMES

We gather to “equip the saints for the work of service,” not for maximum productivity, but for the sake of renewal and encouragement to continue the work of ministry.

The plenary sessions will provide space for reflection and learning in the areas of:

- Classic Church – Church Becoming
- Normalizing the Unexpected
- Courageous–Resilient–Faithful
- Vital Right-Shaped Ministry
- Generosity and a Mindset of Abundance

We will gather for worship and fellowship to grieve the losses of these past two years and to celebrate one another in the Spirit that has kept us moving!

**“Oh, I love to hear the song of creation,  
The wind and the rhythm of the rain,  
Oh the thunder it speaks of your power,  
But there’s something in the sound of the saints!”**

## ■ WHAT TO BRING

We ask that you bring the following items with you to the assembly:

- Phone, tablet, or computer for accessing documents and voting (we will have a voting station available for those who do not have their own device)
- Water bottle, if you desire
- Offerings (as noted below) by check, cash, or online
- Bag/Tote for assembly materials

## ■ SCHEDULE

### Monday, May 9

11:00 a.m.	Exhibit Set-up (Hallway)
1:00 p.m.	Registration Opens (Registration Desk) New to the Synod (River Birch B)
2:00 p.m.	<b>Opening Worship</b> - Healing Worship (Mountain Holly/Pinyon Pine) Rev. Stephanie Lord - preacher Bp. James Gonia Bp. Kym Lucas, Episcopal Diocese of Colorado Bp. Karen Oliveto, Mountain Sky Conference, UMC
3:30 p.m.	Break
4:00 p.m.	Opening of Assembly (Mountain Holly/Pinyon Pine) Opening Business Adopt Rules of Procedure Reference & Counsel Staff Synod Council Guests

New to the Synod  
 Nominations from the floor  
 Bishop's Opening Reflections  
 4:45 p.m. Synod Council Officer Reports (Mountain Holly/Pinyon Pine)  
 Secretary  
 Treasurer - Budget Presentation  
 5:00 p.m. Plenary - "Church Becoming" (Mountain Holly/Pinyon Pine)  
 6:00 p.m. Churchwide Report - Vance Blackfox (Mountain Holly/Pinyon Pine)  
 6:30-7:00 p.m. Manager's Reception (hotel guests complimentary - Atrium)  
 6:30 p.m. Dinner (Aspen Daisy/Elderberry/Goldenglow/Snowberry)  
 Interest Groups/Meal Conversations  
 RMS Faith Formation (River Birch A)  
 3E (River Birch B)  
 Advocacy (River Birch C)  
 Candidacy (Canyon Maple C)  
 EiL (Canyon Maple B)  
 7:45 p.m. Plenary - "Normalizing the Unexpected" (Mountain Holly/Pinyon Pine)



***Tuesday T-shirt Tapestry of Color Day!***  
**ASSEMBLY T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE FOR \$20**

As we celebrate our life together as the Rocky Mountain Synod, Tuesday will be "**T-shirt Tapestry of Color Day!**" Purchase a T-shirt that signifies words you are passionate about, ministries you care about, or simply your favorite color! T-shirts are available at the registration desk!



## Tuesday, May 10

- 6:00-9:00 a.m. Breakfast (hotel guests complimentary - Atrium)
- 7:00 a.m. Electronic Voting Open
- 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer - Vance Blackfox (Mountain Holly/Pinyon Pine)
- 8:50 a.m. Business (Mountain Holly/Pinyon Pine)  
Bishop's Report  
Vice President's Report  
Budget Vote  
Resolutions & Memorials  
Closing Business
- 10:30 a.m. Electronic Voting Closes/Break
- 11:00 a.m. Plenary - "Courageous, Resilient & Faithful Leaders" (River Birch A, B, C and Canyon Maple B, C - Mountain Holly/Pinyon Pine)
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch (Aspen Daisy/Elderberry/Goldenglow/Snowberry)  
Interest Groups/Meal Conversations  
Lutheran Campus Ministry (River Birch A)  
3E (River Birch B)  
Indigenous Ministries & Tribal Relations – Vance Blackfox (River Birch C)  
Global Refugees & Displaced Persons – Global Missions (Canyon Maple C)  
Advocacy (Canyon Maple B)
- 1:30 p.m. Election Report/Follow-up Election
- 2:00 p.m. "Perspectives"  
Marshal Fire/Disaster Response (Mountain Holly/Pinyon Pine)
- 3:00 p.m. Plenary - "Vital Right-Shaped Ministry" (Mountain Holly/Pinyon Pine)
- 4:00 p.m. Plenary - "Generosity and a Mindset of Abundance" (Mountain Holly/Pinyon Pine)
- 5:00 p.m. Reception - sponsored by LFS (River Birch C)
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner (Pinyon Pine/Mountain Holly)  
Kutandara Performance, Anniversary Celebrations, pew auction, and collective festivities

## Wednesday, May 11

- 6:00-9:00 a.m. Breakfast (hotel guests complimentary - Atrium)
- 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Lori Bode, Sky Ranch (Mountain Holly/Pinyon Pine)
- 8:50 a.m. Election Report
- 9:00 a.m. Break-outs (River Birch A, B, C, Goldenglow, Snowberry)
- 10:00 a.m. Plenary - "Rhythm of the Saints" (Mountain Holly/Pinyon Pine)
- 11:00 a.m. Closing Worship (Mountain Holly/Pinyon Pine)  
Installations  
Concordia Irvine Handbell Choir  
Sending

## ■ CHAPEL

- Chapel (Canyon Maple A) - Open for individual reflection, prayer, and guided meditation  
Monday, May 9 from 3:30-9:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, May 10 from 7:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

## ■ CHILDCARE

Childcare (Hospitality Suite)

Monday 5/9 3:00-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday 5/10 8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. and 1:30-5:00 p.m.,

Wednesday 5/11 8:30-11:00 a.m.

## ■ OFFERINGS

Betela Seminary in Madagascar and RMS Disaster Response Fund



For many years, the Rocky Mountain Synod and the Lutheran synods in northern Madagascar have accompanied one another in deepening relationships, prayer, and ministry together as Companion Synods. The funds sent to Madagascar will be designated for Betela Regional Seminary for the training of Lutheran leaders. The RMS Disaster Response Fund provides immediate funding for disasters that occur in the region. Currently these funds are being used for the individuals and congregations affected by the Marshall Fire.

Offerings may be designated specifically for each ministry. Undesignated offerings will be divided equally between the two ministries. Cash, check, and online donations are all welcome – Thank you for your generosity!

Never scanned a QR code? Aim your phone camera at the code, and tap on the screen.

## ■ PLENARY SESSIONS

**Classic Church – Church Becoming** presented by Bishop Jim Gonia and members of the Congregational Ministries Board.



**Church Becoming** describes the truth that the Church of Jesus is never a static reality, but always a work in progress. Across many centuries the Church has always been on a journey of **becoming** led by the Holy Spirit, so that in every time and context the mission and ministry of Christ's Body might more fully reflect God's intent and desire for the

Church. When the institutional church resisted the Spirit's leading, the shape of **church becoming** was re-formation – not once, but time and time again.

Our plenary on **Classic Church – Church Becoming** will provide an opportunity to explore contrasts between our life in the church as we know it (and often prefer it!) and our life as a church that is still being shaped by the Holy Spirit.

**Normalizing the Unexpected** panelists will share their stories and experience of unexpectedness in the ELCA



“The human brain is a remarkable achievement in evolution. Unfortunately, the brain activity that kept the human species alive for millions of years is the same brain activity that keeps us from achieving equality today.” – Valerie Alexander

More often than not, the dissonance and discomfort experienced when engaging with “the other,” whomever we consider “the other” to be, are a result of expectations deeply rooted in our implicit biases.

**Normalizing the Unexpected** will serve as a *slow wade* into conversations and engagement that will assist participants in recognizing biases and truly embracing Jesus’ command to “**love one another** as I have loved you.”

**Courageous-Resilient-Faithful** presented by the Excellence in Leadership Team



Leading in today’s world takes courage, resiliency, and faithfulness.

There are no easy answers, silver bullets or simplistic “how to” programs. Leading takes **courage** because we have to be willing to consider ourselves honestly. Leading takes **resiliency** because we have to be willing to start again and again. Leading takes **faithfulness** because we have to learn how to see the world through God’s eyes. We have to learn how to love with God’s steadfast love. Excellence in Leadership (EiL) wants to have this discussion with you.

**Vital Right-Shaped Ministry** presented by Pastor Dana Peterson



Vital Right-Shaped Ministry (VRSM) is an opportunity for congregations and other ministries in the Rocky Mountain Synod to consider the current reality of the ministry (the good, the bad, and the ugly) and envision what is possible: “**How can your ministry “shape itself” for the future?**”

**What does vitality look like in your ministry?**

VRSM fits into our understanding of **Church Becoming** by asking congregations and leaders to become self-aware and adapt for a thriving future. **VRSM** provides tools for congregations and rostered ministers to review their congregational life, set a course for their future, and strengthen both rostered ministers and those with whom they serve for their journey ahead.

## Generosity and a Mindset of Abundance presented by Tina Kvitek and members of the Generosity Network



When we choose to intentionally journey toward purpose, meaning, and belonging in community and in who God is calling us to be . . . a mindset of abundance becomes the map, the path, and the prize!

Explore key abundance principals and opportunities to shift our culture from prosperity to generosity!

## ■ ASSEMBLY GUESTS

### Bishop Kym Lucas, Episcopal Church in Colorado



The Rt. Rev. Kimberly Lucas was ordained and consecrated as the eleventh bishop of Episcopal Church in Colorado on May 18, 2019. Lucas is the first woman bishop as well as the first African American bishop in the diocese's 132-year history.

She previously served as Rector of St. Margaret's E.C., Washington D.C. and Ambrose E.C., Raleigh, NC.

Bishop Lucas grew-up in Spring Lake, NC and is an alumnus of Wake Forest University and Union Theological Seminary.

The Episcopal Church is one of our full communion partners and Bishop Lucas will lead the Assembly in Opening Worship.

### Bishop Karen Oliveto, Mountain Sky Conference, The United Methodist Church



The Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto serves as leader of the Mountain Sky Area of The United Methodist Church which includes 378 congregations in Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, and one church in Idaho. Oliveto was elected to the area after serving as the first woman pastor of the 12,000-member Glide Memorial U.M.C., San Francisco, CA. An alumnus of Drew University and Pacific School of Religion, Oliveto has served in rural and urban settings as well as parish and campus settings in New York and California. She is the author of several books, including *Our Strangely Warmed*

*Hearts: Coming Out Into God's Call* and *Together at the Table: Diversity Without Division in the United Methodist Church.* The United Methodist Church is one of our full-communion partners and Bishop Oliveto will lead the Assembly in Opening Worship.

## Vance Blackfox, Director of Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations, ELCA



Mr. Vance Blackfox, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, is the ELCA Churchwide Representative for this Assembly. He will present an Interest Group on Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations, and he will lead the Assembly in Morning Prayer. An alumnus of Texas Lutheran University and the LSTC, Blackfox has served the ELCA in multiple capacities, from a post as National President of the Lutheran Youth Organization to later working for the Women of the ELCA, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, California Lutheran University, ELCA Youth Gathering, and LSTC's Youth in Mission.

Vance Blackfox will be a featured leader at this summer's RMS Youth Gathering as the director of Other+Wise, a multi-site cultural immersion program for youth.

## ■ VOTING MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Study the pre-assembly materials.
2. Attend all sessions of the assembly.
3. Participate in all legislative actions. Vote. If the issue is not clear, ask the chair for clarification.
4. Share the information and actions of the assembly with your congregation! Teach your congregation what you learned, and help your congregation to know about their work of ministry beyond your local parish

## ■ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The following information will assist each voting member in the discharge of responsibility. Some material is taken from the Constitution and Bylaws of the Rocky Mountain Synod and will be identified by the symbol: "RMSC."

### **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

The church was constituted on January 1, 1988 from the previous church bodies of The American Lutheran Church, Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and Lutheran Church in America. Spanning the United States and the Caribbean, the ELCA consists of 65 synods. The Rocky Mountain Synod is one of five synods in Region 2.

### **ELCA Regions**

The ELCA is divided into nine regions, which are points of connection and ministry for each of the synods in the various regions. Regions work together, especially in terms of the call process for rostered leaders.

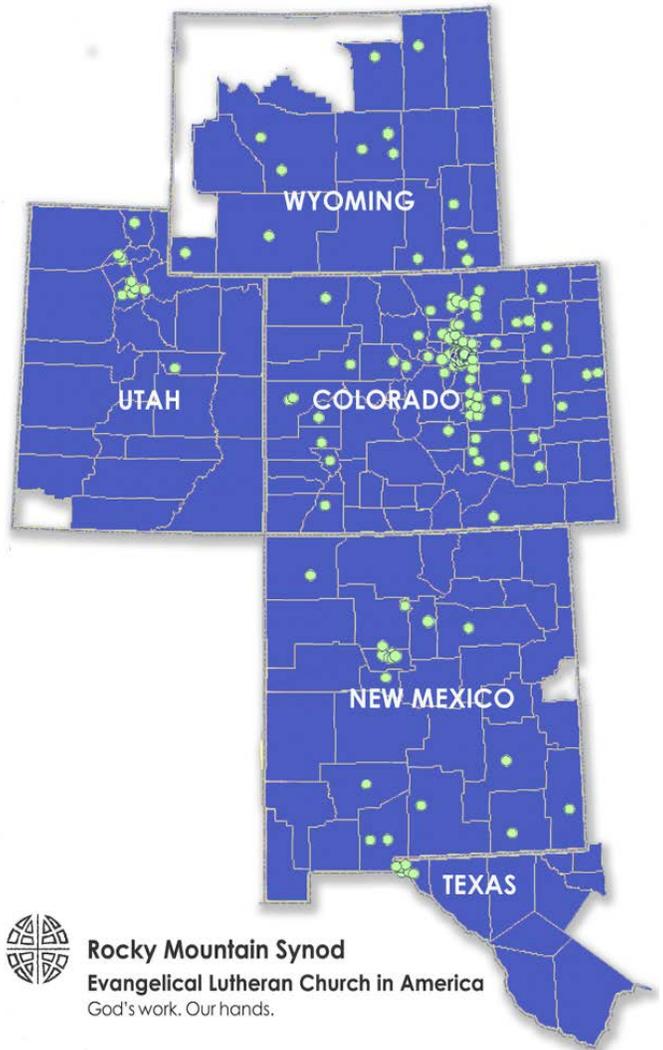
## The Synod

The Rocky Mountain Synod is comprised of 158 congregations. The territory of the Rocky Mountain Synod is the states of COLORADO; NEW MEXICO, excluding Curry county; UTAH excluding Washington county; WYOMING, excluding the counties of Big Horn, Lincoln, Park, Sheridan, Teton, and Washakie; and including in TEXAS only the counties of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Loving, Presidio, Reeves, Ward, and Winkler.

## Purpose of the Synod

To participate in God's mission, this synod as a part of the church shall:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs.
4. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.
5. 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.
6. 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. (RMSC S6.02)



## Synod Council Functions

- Be the Board of Directors of the synod and serve as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of the synod.
- Recommend program goals and budgets to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.
- Provide for an annual review of the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament (Pastor) and Ministers of Word and Service (Deacon) and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the actions in this regard.

- Issue letters of call to pastors and deacons who are serving in specialized ministry, as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA.
- Promote the interests of the ELCA.
- Provide oversight and coordinate the work of the Boards, Commissions, Committees and all other synodical entities.
- Determine the time and place for each Synod Assembly and oversee the agenda and program.
- Elect the representatives of the synod, who are to serve, in addition to the bishop, ex-officio, on the governing bodies of institutions and agencies to which this synod relates.
- Elect the representatives to the Regional Council. (RMSC S10.03.0)

## ■ GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### ELCA TERMS

**1517 Media** • 1517 Media is a nonprofit corporation that provides pastors, educators, worship planners and members of the ELCA with products and services that communicate the Gospel, enhance faith and enrich the life of the Christian community from a Lutheran perspective.

**Conference of Bishops** • The 65 bishops of the ELCA meeting for prayer, deliberation, and discernment.

**Church Council** • The governing board of the ELCA, entrusted with the business of the ELCA between triennial churchwide assemblies.

**Churchwide** • Term referring to any ministry, process, or emphasis carried out across the entire ELCA. The term is also used to refer to the headquarters of the ELCA in Chicago, Illinois, which is housed in the ELCA Lutheran Center near O'Hare airport.

**ELCA** • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Denominational title), formed by the 1988 merger of the American Lutheran Church (ALC), the Lutheran Church in America (LCA), and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC). The three expressions of this church body are the congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization headquartered in Chicago. The ELCA has approximately 3.14 million members in 8,894 congregations (2020 statistics)

**Full Communion** • A relationship between Christian denominations in which each fully accepts the validity of the other's ministry and sacraments.

**Full Communion Partners** • In the ELCA this term refers to those denominations with which we enjoy full-communion relationships: Episcopal Church USA, United Methodist Church USA, Moravian, Presbyterian Church USA, Reformed, and United Church of Christ.

**Portico** • Portico, a nonprofit corporation based in Minnesota, provides retirement, health and related benefits and services to enhance the well-being of nearly 50,000 pastors, deacons, employees and their families. The vision of Portico is for those they serve to lead healthy lives and achieve financial security.

**Presiding Bishop** • The pastor elected by the churchwide assembly to lead the ministry of the entire ELCA; currently serving is Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

**Region 2** • One of 9 regions of the ELCA and includes 5 synods.



## **SYNOD TERMS**

**Bishop** • The pastor elected by the Synod Assembly to lead a synod of the ELCA; currently serving the RMS is Bishop James Gonia.

**Conference** • A geographical grouping of congregations within the synod. Ten in the RMS: Wyoming, Utah, North Colorado, Boulder-Broomfield, Metro East, Metro West, Metro South, Southeast Colorado, North New Mexico, and Border.

**DEM** • Director for Evangelical Mission who is called by churchwide to serve in the Rocky Mountain Synod; currently serving the RMS is Pastor Dana Peterson.

**Executive Committee** • Four officers and four at-large members of the Synod Council.

**Office of the Bishop** • Located in Denver, Colorado, where the bishop and staff facilitate our ministry together. The Office of the Bishop is on the campus of the **RMS Lutheran Center** at 7375 Samuel Drive, Denver, CO 80221.

**RMS** • Rocky Mountain Synod

**Synod** • In the ELCA, one of 65 geographical units or expressions of the church.

**Synod Council** • The elected leaders of a synod, including laity and clergy, the vice president, secretary, treasurer, and bishop.

## **LEADERSHIP TERMS**

**Candidacy** • The process by which those discerning a call to ministry are supported and guided through the process of Entrance, Endorsement, and Approval as they prepare for ministry vocations as rostered ministers.

**Deacon** • A rostered minister called and ordained to the ministry of Word and Service.

**Dean** • A rostered minister chosen to lead one of the conferences within a synod.

**Interim** • A rostered minister who is serving a ministry between two called persons.

**Intern** • A candidate for ministry who is on staff of a ministry as part of their candidacy process.

**Lay Person** • A person who is not ordained

**Officers** • The officers of the synod are the Bishop, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

**On Leave From Call** • rostered pastors and deacons who are currently without a call to a ministry.

**Pastor** • A rostered minister called and ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

**Roster, Rostered** • The Roster is the official list of all the pastors and deacons in the ELCA. A leader who appears on this list is said to be “rostered.”

**Transition Ministry** • The process of matching the gifts of rostered leaders with a new ministry opportunity.

## **RELATED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

**Seminary** • The theological educational institutions that train rostered ministers and ministry professionals in the ELCA. There are 9 Lutheran Seminaries in the US.

**PLTS** • Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (Berkeley, CA) is the Seminary in the territory of Region 2

**CLU** • California Lutheran University is the one ELCA university in Region 2, one of 27 ELCA Colleges and Universities nationwide.

**Wartburg West** • Wartburg College is a college of the ELCA in Waverly, Iowa, with the Wartburg West Urban Semester located for more than 30 years in Denver, Colorado.

## **ASSEMBLY TERMS**

**Memorial** • A document which is considered by the voting members of a Synod Assembly, asking the Churchwide Assembly to take a position or initiate an action related to a specific issue. Memorials are adopted, or they fail.

**Plenary** • A full session of all voting members in which business is conducted and reports are heard.

**Reference and Counsel** • This committee reviews all resolutions and memorials prior to their consideration at an assembly.

**Resolution** • Requests for actions, priorities, or positions are brought before the assembly in the form of a resolution. Resolutions are adopted, or they fail.

**Visitor** • Any person who attends an assembly to observe, not as a voting member.

**Voting Member** • At an assembly of this church, an individual elected to listen, discern, and decide on behalf of the whole church. (The term, “delegate” is not used in relation to assemblies.)

## ■ RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. To the extent consistent with these rules of procedure, Robert's Rules of Order latest edition shall govern.
2. The voting members of the assembly shall include:
  - A. 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, normally one of whom shall be male and one of whom shall be female.
  - B. In addition, based upon baptized membership records for the previous year
    - (1) Congregations having membership of 650 to 1,199 baptized members shall be allowed one additional lay voting member (male or female).
    - (2) Congregations having membership of 1,200 or more baptized members shall be allowed two additional lay voting members (one male and one female).
  - C. In the selection of voting members, congregations are urged to be aware of the matter of inclusiveness of persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
  - D. All ordained ministers under call or on leave from call on the roster of the Rocky Mountain Synod.
  - E. All ordained ministers from church bodies with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established...shall have voice and vote during the period of the ordained ministers' service in a congregation of this synod.
  - F. Ten percent of the retired pastors on the roster of the Rocky Mountain Synod as well as ten percent of the retired deacons.
  - G. All retired pastors on the roster of this synod who are currently serving as interim pastors and all pastors on leave from call on the roster of this synod who are currently serving as interim pastors and who are in attendance at the assembly.
  - H. All deacons under call or on leave from call, of the official Word and Service roster of this synod shall be voting members.
  - I. The lay officers of the synod and the lay members of the Synod Council shall be voting members.
  - J. Retired rostered ministers on the roster of this synod other than those selected to represent the ten percent representation (see F above), shall have the privilege of voice but not vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly. The Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in meetings of the Synod Assembly. Ordained clergy on other denominational rosters with whom

there is no full communion partnership who are serving in shared ELCA ministries in the Rocky Mountain Synod shall have voice but not vote in meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly shall from time to time designate.

3. The Privilege of the Floor

- A. The Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in meetings of the Synod Assembly.
  - B. Ordained clergy on other denominational rosters serving in shared ELCA ministries in the Rocky Mountain Synod shall have voice but not vote in meetings of the Synod Assembly.
  - C. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly shall from time to time designate. Like privileges shall be accorded to persons in connection with their reports, such as chairpersons of synodical committees, representatives of the institutions and agencies related to or officially recognized by this synod and the president of the Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA.
- 4. The Chairperson of the Synod Assembly shall be the Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod.
  - 5. The Secretary of the Synod Assembly shall be the secretary of the Rocky Mountain Synod.
  - 6. The bishop, in consultation with the Synod Council, shall appoint a Committee on Reference and Counsel to review all proposed changes or additions to the Constitution and bylaws and other items submitted which are not germane to items contained in the stated agenda of the Synod Assembly
  - 7. Other committees to serve the Synod Assembly shall be appointed by the bishop.
  - 8. With the consent of the Assembly, the chairperson shall have the authority to call items of business before the Assembly in whatever order he or she considers most expedient for the conduct of the Assembly's business
  - 9. In the elections to be held at this Assembly, a majority of votes cast shall be necessary for election.
  - 10. Candidates nominated from the floor may complete the standard Application for Nomination form. A biography abstracted from the Application can be distributed. No other documents from the candidates will be permitted to be distributed. Due to the shortened nature of this assembly, nominees from the floor must have Nomination form ready to submit immediately upon nomination.
  - 11. 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 require a two-thirds vote of the assembly for adoption. (RMSC S7.32.14)
  - 12. Speeches during debate on any items before this assembly shall be limited to three minutes.

13.

## ■ GUIDELINES FOR THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

The assembly is meant to be a meaningful experience for all. Everyone should feel free to participate. Good order at an assembly is not intended to restrict participation but to protect the rights of each voting member. The following guidelines (from Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised) are to help in understanding the business proceedings. The Bishop hopes they will be of assistance in enabling you to participate in the necessary business.

**Obtaining the Floor** - Prior to a voting member speaking in the assembly, whether to make a motion or to engage in debate, it is necessary to obtain the floor. When no one else "has the floor," the voting member may address the chairperson saying, "Bishop Gonia." If recognized by the chair, the voting member is then entitled to speak, first stating his/her name and congregation.

**Making a Motion** - When presenting a motion to the assembly, a copy must be written out and given to the secretary.

**Amendments to Motions** - When a motion brought before an assembly does not meet with ready acceptance by all the voting members, and if it can be made more suitable or acceptable in an altered form, a proposal to modify the wording can be introduced by making a motion to amend.

**"Previous Question"** - To move the "previous question" is to bring the assembly to an immediate decision as to whether debate on a motion should cease. It is not debatable. If adopted, the assembly proceeds, without further debate, to vote at once on the pending question(s). A two-thirds vote is required to close debate.

## ■ SPECIFICS FOR 2022 ELECTIONS

**Red and green cards** are provided in your assembly packet. Please hold ONE card high as you are voting for or against an assembly action. Do not lift the two cards together, as that is visible from the rear of the hall and gives a false vote impression.

**Assembly Voting Members will use a cell phone, tablet, or computer** to vote for positions on boards, committees, and synod council. Please bring a device. If you do not have one, a voting table will be available. Voting members will receive an email with instructions and a link to click on to access the ballot. The link appear with your name on the top of the ballot and you will follow the specific instructions for each nomination. Once you have completed voting you will click on CONFIRM.

Nominations from the floor will be received. Prior to coming to the microphone, the nomination paper on each table must be completed and then submitted at that time. Then, anyone who is nominated must complete the online bio form prior to 6 p.m. on the first day of the assembly.

On Tuesday morning at 7:00 a.m. each voting member will receive an email with the link to click on to begin voting. At 9:30 a.m. another email reminder will be sent to all voting members who have not voted, as a reminder that voting closes in thirty minutes.

## ■ SYNOD OFFICERS AND SYNOD COUNCIL

### **Synod Officers**

Rev. James Gonia, Bishop, 2024

Ms. Ruth Hoffman, Vice President, 2025

Ms. Susan Mitchell, Secretary, 2023

Ms. Kris Adams, Treasurer

## **Synod Council**

Ms. Terry Cole, 2022  
Mr. Ray Ferry, 2022,  
Mr. Jeff Fairfax, 2022  
Ms. Jody Brammer-Hoelter, 2024  
Ms. Susan Sharkey, 2024  
Mr. Wyatt Smith, 2024  
Mr. Kenny LaJoy, 2024

Mr. Jim Wasseen, 2024  
Rev. Chris Hjelmstad, 2024  
Rev. Julie Brooks, 2024  
Rev. Matthew Weber, 2022  
Rev. Eric Allert, 2024  
Rev. Dan Tisdell, 2024  
Rev. Debra Jimenez, 2022

## **■ PEOPLE**

### **Reference and Counsel Committee**

Rev. Michael Mortvedt, chair  
Mr. Kurt Rager, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry- NM  
Mr. Peter Severson, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-CO  
Rev. Stephanie Kopsch  
Deacon Jan Krakow

### **Parliamentarian**

Mr. Kirby Glad, PRP

### **Board and Committee Chairs or Staff Liaisons**

3E – Rev. Michael Tassler  
Campus Ministry Committee –  
Candidacy Committee – Rev. Laura Bostrom  
Congregational Ministries Board – Bishop Jim Gonia  
Disaster Response RMS – Bishop Jim Gonia  
Excellence in Leadership Board – Rev. Louise Johnson  
Finance Committee – Mr. Gary Philpy  
Global Church Committee – Rev. Diana Linden-Johnson  
Companion Synod Committee– Rev. Brad Doty  
Hunger Network – Ms. Carol McDivitt  
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Policy Committees –  
Ms. Terri Christiansen (NM); Ms. Holly Massie (CO)  
Lutheran Men in Mission – Mr. Herb Hergott  
Messiah Mountain Retreat Center – Rev. Kent Mueller  
Mission Outreach Board – Rev. Dana Peterson  
Rocky Mountain Synod Women’s Organization – Ms. Julie Elmquist

### **RMS Ministry Partners**

Border Servant Corps – Ms. Kari Lenander  
Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center – Ms. Shelly Griffith  
Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp – Mr. Dave Jarvis  
Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp – Ms. Lori Bode  
Urban Servant Corps – Ms. Krista Kilgus  
Veteran Servant Corps – Ms. Vicki Daub

## **New to the Synod since last Assembly**

Deacon Mary Gardner, Christ the King, Durango, CO  
Rev. Alicia Harker, Lutheran Medical Center, Wheat Ridge, CO  
Rev. Kimberlee Law, Episcopal Congregations, Glenwood Springs, CO  
Deaconess Colleen Teeuwe, Grace, Casper, WY  
Rev. Stephen Helmreich, Trinity, Hobbs, NM  
Rev. Erin Dunlavy, First, Alt, CO  
Rev. Brittany Baurle Kooi, Holy Love, Aurora, CO  
Rev. Anne Knighten, St. Lukes, Buffalo, WY  
Rev. Kelsey Fauser, Grace, Colorado Springs, CO  
Rev. Aly Kohlmeyer, Cross of Christ, Broomfield, CO  
Rev. Carmen Retzlaff, Camino da Vida, Albuquerque, NM  
Rev. Joe Natwick, Bethel, Windsor, CO  
Rev. Monica Butler, Immanuel/Campus Ministry, Greeley, CO  
Rev. Sam Melton-Hill, Highlands, Denver, CO  
Rev. Wylie Cook, House for All Sinners and Saints, Denver, CO  
Rev. Kate Davidson, Lord of the Mountains, Dillon, CO  
Rev. Pam Challis, Trinity, Boulder, CO  
Rev. Juan de Dios Lopez, Cristo Rey, El Paso, TX  
Rev. Stephani Shumaker, Atonement, Boulder, CO

## **Rostered Minister Anniversaries**

### **Five Years**

Rev. Debra Jimenez

### **Ten Years**

Deacon Jennifer S. Viegut  
Rev. Alison M. George  
Rev. Bradley L. Doty  
Rev. Brigette D. Weier  
Rev. Carmen L. Retzlaff  
Rev. Christine E. Higuera-Street

Rev. Gordon L. Sandquist  
Rev. Kristofor L. Trahnstron  
Rev. Margaret Renne Lier  
Rev. Nicole Raddu Ferry  
Rev. Paul B. Schick  
Rev. Valarie C. Carlson

### **Fifteen Years**

Deacon Rosalie Fesser  
Rev. Alena M. Lamirato  
Rev. Eric J. W. Allert  
Rev. Karen N. Gibson  
Rev. Lydia N. Ziauddin

Rev. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni  
Rev. Ruby K. Narucki  
Rev. Stephanie F. Lord  
Rev. Timothy P. Orłowski

### **Twenty Years**

Rev. Alicia A. Harker  
Rev. Kevin S. Y. Cho

Rev. Patricia A. Mohr-Kelly  
Rev. Ruth Ann Loughry

### **Twenty-five Years**

Rev. Julie A. M. Brooks  
Rev. Vera Guebert-Steward

**Thirty Years**

Rev. Barbara Berry-Bailey  
Rev. Penelope R. Walsh  
Rev. Sue B. Svanoe

**Thirty-five Years**

Deacon Barbara M. Hanst  
Rev. John E. Knutson  
Rev. John S. Petty  
Rev. Michael J. Lundgren

Rev. Peter E. Morin  
Rev. Sally Ponfick  
Rev. Timothy J. Bettger  
Rev. William L. Davis

**Forty Years**

Deacon Bonnie J. Yockstick  
Deacon Dorothy L. Stenman  
Deacon Janet L. Krakow  
Rev. Claire L. Cassell

Rev. Daniel L. Barwinski  
Rev. David A. Pederson  
Rev. Jeffry D. Louden  
Rev. Michael A. Mortvedt

**Forty-five Years**

Rev. James A. Hytjan  
Rev. James D. Saunders  
Rev. Richard J. Thompson

**Fifty Years**

Rev. Benjamin Larzelere III  
Rev. Donald G. Marxhausen  
Rev. Edward G. Smith

**Fifty-five Years**

Rev. Howard D. Corry  
Rev. Jares A. Brown

Rev. Kenneth M. Vogler  
Rev. Vaughn R. Neshiem

**Sixty Years**

Rev. Dean B. DeSelms  
Rev. George E. Jacobson  
Rev. Gordon W. Ward Jr.

Rev. Lawrence T. Baietti  
Rev. LeRoy A. Miltner  
Rev. Warren F. Salvesson

**Seventy Years**

Rev. Donald A. Schmidt  
Rev. Graham T. Rinehart

Rev. Luther C. Bergeland  
Rev. William W. Stremel

**Deceased Rostered Ministers**

Rev. Timothy Gamelin  
Rev. Robert Lorenz  
Rev. George Lund  
Rev. Marvin Huth  
Rev. David W. Peters

Rev. Lew Meissner  
Rev. Edward Strebe  
Rev. Donald Groskreutz  
Rev. Richard Froehlig

## **Office of the Bishop Staff**

\*denotes part time staff members

Rev. Jim Gonia, Bishop

Rev. Ron Beckman, Director – Next Faithful Step Campaign\*

Rev. Barbara Berry-Bailey, Special Assistant for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion\*

Deacon Sarah Bjernebo, Director of Events\*

Rev. Quirino Cornejo, Minister for Multicultural Witness\*

Mr. Jon Johnson, Finance Manager

Ms. Kinna Kemp, Faith Formation Coordinator\*

Ms. Tina Kvitek, Director for Development and Lutheran Center Manager

Rev. Diana Linden-Johnson, Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy, First Call, Roster Support and Global Church\*

Rev. Kent Mueller, Assistant to the Bishop for Administration and Communication\*

Mr. Andrew Nakatani, Communications Assistant\*

Rev. Dana Peterson, Director for Evangelical Mission

Rev. Michael Vinson, Campus Ministry and Young Adult Ministry Strategy Coordinator\*

Ms. Yvonne Wilken, Administrative Assistant for Leadership

Mr. Kurt Rager, Director of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry, New Mexico

Mr. Peter Severson, Director of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry, Colorado

### **Transitions Ministry**

Deacon Janice Zimbelman, Transition Ministry Director\*

Ms. Rachel Line, Transitions Administrator\*

Ms. Janice Ladd-Horkey, Associate for Candidate Identification\*

Rev. Mandy Achterberg, Transition Coach\*

Rev. Will Johnson, Transition Coach\*

Rev. Pam Stofferahn, Transitions Coach\*

Mr. Flip Wilson, Transitions Coach\*

### **Excellence in Leadership**

Rev. Sarah Moening, Director of Excellence in Leadership\*

Ms. Dana Anderson, Program Manager of Excellence in Leadership\*

### **3E Lilly Grant**

Rev. Michael Tassler, Program Director of the 3E Lilly Grant\*

Ms. Deb Elstad, Associate Director of Stewardship for the 3E Lilly Grant\*

Ms. Julie Nelson, Associate Director of the Ministerial Excellence Fund for the 3E Lilly Grant\*

### **Messiah Mountain Retreat Center Site Managers in Residence**

Ms. Jen Engquist and Mr. Matt Bishop, MMRC Site Managers



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

*“And [Jesus] said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to all creation”  
(Mark 16:15).*

Dear siblings in Christ,

When I talk about our goal of engaging a million new, young, diverse people I get asked a lot, “I’m not new, young, or diverse. Am I not important to the church anymore?” My answer is always the same, “You’ve never been more important.”

When we committed to our new goal, we identified our purpose as “Activate each of us so more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love.” This goal does not happen without the people who are already part of this church. Theresa of Avila talked about the church as the hands and feet of Christ in the world, the very way God will work to engage new people.

Those aren’t easy things to do and certainly not ones that only a few of us can do alone. God has blessed us with so many resources to do this work: nearly 3.6 million people, 65 synods, and 350 CWO staff, plus colleges, universities, seminaries, social ministry organizations, and other affiliated organizations, and our separately incorporated ministries. We truly are a church of abundance.

So, what can you do right now?

- Pray. For our church. For one another. For those whom we have yet to meet.
- Find time to listen to people who are new to the ELCA, young, and/or diverse. Share the story of Jesus with them.

Along the way, don’t forget: You are important.

Grace and peace,



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

*“[Jesús] les dijo: ‘Vayan por todo el mundo y anuncien las buenas nuevas a toda criatura’”  
(Marcos 16:15).*

Estimados hermanos en Cristo:

Cuando hablo de nuestra meta de atraer a un millón de personas nuevas, jóvenes y diversas, me preguntan mucho: —No soy nuevo(a), joven ni diverso(a). ¿Ya no soy importante para la iglesia?— Mi respuesta siempre es la misma: —Nunca has sido más importante.

Cuando nos comprometimos con nuestra nueva meta, identificamos nuestro propósito como “Activar a cada uno de nosotros para que más personas conozcan el camino de Jesús y descubran la comunidad, la justicia y el amor”. Esta meta no se alcanza sin las personas que ya son parte de esta iglesia. Teresa de Ávila habló de la iglesia como las manos y los pies de Cristo en el mundo, la misma forma en que Dios trabajará para atraer a nuevas personas.

Esas no son cosas fáciles de hacer, y ciertamente no son cosas que unos cuantos de nosotros podemos hacer solos. Dios nos ha bendecido con tantos recursos para hacer esta obra: casi 3.6 millones de personas, 65 sínodos y 350 miembros del personal de la Oficina Nacional de la Iglesia, además de universidades, seminarios, organizaciones de ministerio social y otras organizaciones afiliadas, y nuestros ministerios incorporados por separado. Realmente somos una iglesia de abundancia.

Entonces, ¿qué puede hacer usted ahora mismo?

- Orar. Por nuestra iglesia. El uno por el otro. Por aquellos que aún tenemos que conocer.
- Saque tiempo para escuchar a las personas que son nuevas en la ELCA, jóvenes y/o diversas. Comparta con ellas la historia de Jesús.

A lo largo del camino no olvide esto: Usted es importante.

Gracia y paz,