



Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Report of the Synod Council

May 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024

2023 Synod Officers:

The Rev. Stacie Fidler, Bishop (2028)
Ms. Minette Scott, Vice President (2027)
The Rev. Luanne Cantrell, Secretary (2027)
Ms. Nancy Lillevold, Treasurer (2024) filling an incomplete term

Synod Council:

The Rev. Joy Alsop (2026)
Mr. Alex Chenoweth (2024)
Ms. Janice Forrest (2025)
Mr. Brandon Graves (2026)
The Rev. Brad Haugen (2024)
Ms. Leann Heimerdinger (2024) filling an incomplete term
Ms. Christina King (2026)
The Rev. Shellie Knight (2025)
Mr. Dave Kromphardt (2024) filling an incomplete term
The Rev. Frank Langholf (2025)
Ms. Katie Mehlretter (2026)
Ms. Rhonda Copeland (2026)
Mr. George Sanchez (2025)
Mr. Jim Spring (2024)
The Rev. Andy Tyrrell (2024)

Executive Committee:

Bishop Stacie Fidler
Ms. Minette Willard
The Rev. Lu Cantrell
Ms. Nancy Lillevold
Mr. George Sanchez
The Rev. Andy Tyrrell
Ms. Lori Whalen, Ex-Officio

Finance Committee:

Bishop Stacie Fidler
Ms. Rhonda Copeland (2026)
Ms. Janice Forrest (2026)
Ms. Christina King (2025)
Ms. Nancy Lillevold, Treasurer (2024)
The Rev. Ryan Mackey (2025)

Mr. Doug Murray (2026)
The Rev. John Pederson (2026)
Ms. Minnette Willard, Vice-President
Ms. Joan Brooks, Bookkeeper, Ex-Officio
The Rev. Julie Monnard, Assistant to the Bishop, Ex-Officio
Ms. Lori Whalen, Assistant to the Bishop, Ex-Officio

Meeting Dates and Locations:

5/13/2023 via Zoom
9/9/2023 Faith Lutheran Church, Rochelle
10/23/2023 via Zoom (Special Meeting)
1/13/2024 via Zoom
4/13/2024 via Zoom

A Summary of Administrative Actions:

1. Received the bishop's report at each meeting – including reports from the bishop's staff.
2. Received and approved Synod Council minutes at each meeting.
3. The 2024 Synod Compensation Guidelines were approved for 2023 Synod Assembly.
4. The General ballot for 2023 Synod Assembly was approved.
5. Approval for Bishop Fidler to extend specialized calls on behalf of the synod until the Synod Council next meets.
6. Approved appointments to NIS Standing Committees, Synod Council, Synod Council Committees, Task Forces, and Synod Assembly Committees.
7. Approved the SAWC in Oswego and to call Rev. Fish was approved.
8. Approved the 2024 Synod Assembly Offering to Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) and ELCA World Hunger in celebration of their 50th Anniversaries.
9. Approved the Rules of the 2024 Synod Assembly.
10. Approved The Rev. Andrew Kayes appointment to serve as 2024 Synod Assembly Parliamentarian.
11. Approval of new Congregations' Constitutions and Bylaws
 - a. St. Barnabas, Cary
 - b. St. John's, Sterling
 - c. New Life, Bolingbrook
 - d. Grace, Woodstock
 - e. Living Waters, Crystal Lake
 - f. First, Freeport
 - g. St. Mark's, Polo
 - h. St. John's, Peru
 - i. Zion, Belvidere
 - j. All Saints, Byron
 - k. Cross and Crown, Roscoe
 - l. Alleluia!, Naperville
 - m. First, Geneseo (C12.05.01 and model updates)
 - n. Becoming, Oswego (initial SAWC constitution)
12. Approved Congregation Closing
 - a. Gloria Dei, Rockford

13. Approved partnership with ELCA Foundation for the Synod Development Pilot Project.

A Summary of Budget and Finance Actions

1. Regularly received and reviewed the reports of the treasurer, subject to audit.
2. Received the audit report.
3. Received the updated Personnel Policy for Rostered Ministers and Lay Assistants.
4. Approved the amended budget for FY24, ending January 31, 2024.
5. Approved to rescind the Synod Council actions of 2/7/20.
6. Approved to rescind Synod Council actions of 11/15/21.
7. Approved the transfer of the balance from fund 31044 to fund 34052.
8. Approved the establishment of fund 31110 Bishop Transition Fund.
9. Approved including the following within the Notes to the Financial Statements for the audit report, under the Property and Equipment heading – software depreciation is provided using the straight-line method over a 3-year period.
10. Approved the updated name of the Fund 31105 from International Partnerships to Bishop Jeff Clements Fund for International Partnerships.
11. Approval the allocation of up to \$1,000 from the Bishop Jeff Clements Fund for International Partnerships for 2024 Companion Visits.

A Summary of Personnel Actions

1. Appointment/Specialized Ministry Committee-Executive Committee
 - a. On Leave from Call-Extended/Status Renewal
 - The Rev. David Petersen (5/29/2023 - 5/28/2026)
 - The Rev. Thomas Ekstrand (9/1/2020 - 8/31/2025) Two-Year Renewal
 - The Rev. Kimberly Riebe (8/14/17-8/13/25) Two-Year Renewal
 - The Rev. Peter Bredlau (07/31/2023 – 07/30/2026)
 - The Rev. Tom Rogers (9/1/2022-8/31/2025) Renewal
 - Dn. Karin Graddy (9/1/2022-8/31/2025) Renewal
 - The Rev. Karen Tews (1/1/2022-12/31/2024) Renewal
 - The Rev. David Turner (10/21/22 – 10/20/25)
 - The Rev. Carol Baumgartner (3/14/24 – 3/13/25)
 - b. Extend/Renew Interim/Term Call through Synod Council
 - The Rev. Elizabeth Martin, Transition Pastor (8/7/23 – 8/6/24)
 - The Rev. Gwen Sefrhans-Murphy, Transition Pastor (10/1/23 – 9/30/24)
 - The Rev. Dawn Rouka, Transition Pastor (10/1/23 – 9/30/24)
 - The Rev. Don Wink, Transition Pastor (12/1/23 – 11/30/24)
 - The Rev. Patrick Fish, SAWC Mission Developer (11/01/23 – 10/31/24)
 - The Rev. Mark Juliot, Transition Pastor (04/10/24 – 04/09/25)
 - The Rev. Keith Johnson, Interim Pastor (3/24/24 – 3/23/25)
 - The Rev. Megan Vaughan, Interim Pastor (3/1/24 – 3/1/25)
 - c. Rostered Call from Synod Council
 - Rev. Thomas Ekstrand, Hospice Chaplain (9/10/23 – 9/9/26)
 - d. Invitation to Extended Service – Renewal

The Rev. Carrie Carnes (rostered United Methodist)-Trinity, Galesburg
The Rev. Maureen O'Connor (rostered Episcopal)-Light of Christ,
Algonquin

2. SAWC renewal
 - San Jose Obrero, Moline – Rev. Jose Pilar Alvarez Cabrera
 - Becoming, Oswego – Rev. Patrick Fish
3. Approval of Committee Appointment
 - Dean of Northwest Conference – Rev. Robin Luckey
4. Approve Retirement Status:
 - The Rev. Pat Esker (June 1, 2023)
 - Deacon Martha Bein (August 15, 2023)
 - The Rev. Jill Flynn (January 1, 2024)
 - The Rev. Kenneth Gibson (January 1, 2024)
 - Deacon Carol Ostrom (January 14, 2024)
 - The Rev. Paul Gebo (March 14, 2024)
 - The Rev. Janet Wold (effective July 1, 2024)
5. Review of Retired Rostered Minister Status:
 - The Rev. Alfred K Beck
 - The Rev. Dennis L. Heaney
 - The Rev. Wendy Popp
 - The Rev. Lee H. Heibke
 - The Rev. Gerald M. Peterson
 - The Rev. Randall Willer
 - The Rev. Joseph N. Robb
 - The Rev. Christine Stienstra
 - The Rev. William S. Waxenberg
 - The Rev. Ronald Larson
 - The Rev. Gary Wollersheim
 - The Rev. Jeffrey Clements
 - The Rev. Gary Erickson
 - Deacon Cheryl Erdmann
 - The Rev. David Hedlin
 - The Rev. Marilyn Hanson
 - The Rev. Roger V. Asplund
 - The Rev. Arthur Halbardier
 - The Rev. Denver W. Bitner
 - The Rev. Neville B. Kretzmann
 - The Rev. Vicki L. Sauter
 - The Rev. Roger W. Schneider
 - The Rev. John R. Seraphine
 - The Rev. Kenneth Stork
 - The Rev. David J. Ufkes
 - The Rev. William L. Welk
 - The Rev. Timothy Kenyon
 - The Rev. Jane Perkolup
 - Deacon Judith Rooney

The Rev. C. Frank Samuelson
Deacon Carla Vanatta
The Rev. Marcia B. Strahl
The Rev. Dorothy Wilcox
Deacon Jean Anderson
The Rev. Diane Trudy Foote
The Rev. Mark P. Helge
The Rev. Wayne Melaas-Swanson
The Rev. Paul Uhl
The Rev. Cordell Strug
The Rev. Mary Carol Strug
The Rev. Terri Wilder

6. Approve Rostered Ministers and SAMs requesting to be excused from 2023 Synod Assembly

The Rev. Kendall Koenig
The Rev. Maureen O'Connor
The Rev. Kenn Stork
The Rev. Ken Gibson
The Rev. JoAnna Patterson
The Rev. Amanda Dahlseng-Monroe
The Rev. Eric Lemonholm
The Rev. Nord Swanstrom
The Rev. Zach Baer
The Rev. Josh Ehrler
The Rev. David Kaul

7. Approve Rostered Ministers and SAMs requesting to be excused from 2024 Synod Assembly

The Rev. Chelsey Weech
The Rev. Rob James
The Rev. Christine Schoon
The Rev. Sarah Wilson
The Rev. Rakel Evenson

8. Resignation from the ELCA Roster Recognition:

The Rev. Keith Forni

9. Approval of Committee Nominations for Synod Assembly

Credentials Committee

Rev. Chris Lee First, Rock Island (West Conference)
Rev. Elizabeth Martin Zion, Belvidere (North Conference)
Ms. Mary Noe Grace, Woodstock (Northeast Conference)
Rev. Julie Monnard, Synod Staff Liaison

Election Committee

Rev. Phillip Potaczek (chair) Trinity Lutheran, Ottawa (South Conference)
Mr. Jonathan Adams, St. John, Joliet (East Conference)
Ms. Barb Stark, First, Mt. Carroll (Northwest Conference)
Ms. Beth Nelson Chase, St. James, Forreton (Central Conference)

Rev. Jennifer Beamsley, Synod Staff Liaison

Minutes Review Committee

Rev. Denise Rode, Immanuel, Earlville (South Conference)

Mr. Brandon Graves Salem, Sycamore (Northeast Conference)

Rev. Julie Monnard, Synod Staff Liaison

Resolutions Committee

Ms. Denise Norman (chair) St. John, Sterling (Central Conference)

Rev. Ben Ingelson Resurrection, Channahon (East Conference)

Ms. Deb Keaschall Immanuel, Rock Falls (Central Conference)

Ms. Barb Kromphardt St. John's, Peru (South Conference)

Rev. Andrew Kayes (Parliamentarian) Emmanuel, Oregon (Central Conference)

Ms. Lori Whalen, Synod Staff Liaison

10. Additional Personnel Items

Housing Allowance Approved

Bishop Stacie Fidler

The Rev. Jennifer Beamsley

The Rev. Julie Monnard

The Rev. Mack Patrick

The Rev. Patrick Fish

Approval of Portico Benefits Plan Selection—Gold+

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Luanne K. Cantrell, Secretary