



Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Report of the Ministry Support Committee

Ministry Support Committee Mission Statement: Enabling Christians of the Northern Illinois Synod to realize their call to ministry as both lay and professional workers. To accomplish this mission, we provide resources, support, and continuing education within our synod, in cooperation with other synods, agencies, and institutions within the ELCA and the Church.

The members of the Ministry Support Committee for the 2023-2024 year are: Marianne Barstow, Julie Eshleman, Kay Johnson, Pastor Andrew Kayes, Pastor Vince Marolla, Randy Mullin, Bill Nelson, Chris Patterson, Pastor Sharon Rogers, Pastor David Russell, Barb Stark, and Pastor Karen Tews. Pastor Jen Beamsley is the Committee's staff liaison. We thank them all for their service!

The Ministry Support Committee strives to support those who are invested in ministry, both as lay professionals and as rostered ministers (RMs) or synod authorized ministers (SAMs). To both set and achieve specific goals in this area, the committee members work within working groups that are set at the beginning of the service year. For the 2023-2024 year, the two working groups are Compensation Guidelines Team, and Resources and Communications Team.

The Compensation Guidelines Team has continued the work of developing, updating, and submitting the 2025 Compensation Guidelines. These guidelines address compensation, benefits, expenses, and variations on housing allowances, shared ministry scenarios, interim ministry, and the many other nuances of compensation for a variety of ministry contexts. Discussions have also begun to develop compensation guidelines for SAMs, but there are many complexities to this topic. This work will proceed in the future with continued input and involvement from the synod office.

The Resources and Communications Team has been focused on the work of discerning the needs and priorities of the Synod's ministers and lay professionals as congregations adjust to post-pandemic realities. To that end, they have developed information sheets and referral lists for anyone who may be seeking Spiritual Direction or Coaching resources. These resources were first presented at CRE in March, and are expected to be available on the committee's web page before Synod Assembly.

The Ministry Support Committee greatly appreciates the faithful work of the Synod staff, Synod Council, and Bishop's Office who provide guidance, leadership, and assistance, and we're glad to play a role in supporting the vocational calling of the members of the Northern Illinois Synod and its congregations!

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Eshleman, Chair