



Synod Council
Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Rock Island, Illinois

We have audited the financial statements of the Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (the Synod) as of and for the year ended January 31, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated June 13, 2023. We have previously communicated to you information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit in our engagement agreement dated February 27, 2023. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant audit findings or issues

Qualitative aspects of accounting practices

Accounting policies

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Synod are described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

During the year ended January 31, 2023, the Synod changed accounting policies related to leases by adopting Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification Topic 842, *Leases*.

During the year ended January 31, 2023, the Synod also adopted ASU 2020-07, *Presentation and Disclosure by Not-for-Profit Entities for Contributed Nonfinancial Assets*.

We noted no transactions entered into by the entity during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. There were no accounting estimates affecting the financial statements which were particularly sensitive or required substantial judgments by management.

Financial statement disclosures

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Significant unusual transactions

We identified no significant unusual transactions.

Difficulties encountered in performing the audit

We encountered no difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Uncorrected misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management did not identify and we did not notify them of any uncorrected financial statement misstatements.

Corrected misstatements

Management did not identify and we did not notify them of any financial statement misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures.

Disagreements with management

For purposes of this communication, a disagreement with management is a disagreement on a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. No such disagreements arose during our audit.

Management representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the attached management representation letter.

Management consultations with other independent accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the entity's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors' opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts.

Significant issues discussed with management prior to engagement

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to engagement as the entity's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our engagement.

Supplementary information in relation to the financial statements as a whole

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, on which we were engaged to report in relation to the financial statements as a whole, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period or the reasons for such changes, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves. We have issued our report thereon dated June 13, 2023.

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This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Synod Council and management, of the Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Peoria, Illinois
June 13, 2023

June 13, 2023

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
301 SW Adams St, Suite 1000
Peoria, Illinois 61602

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of The Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which comprise the statement of financial position as of January 31, 2023, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, for the purpose of expressing an opinion on whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to misstatements that are material. Misstatements, including omissions, are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, as of June 13, 2023, the following representations made to you during your audit.

Financial Statements

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement agreement dated February 27, 2023, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
2. We acknowledge and have fulfilled our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
3. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
4. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control over the receipt and recording of contributions.
5. We have identified all accounting estimates that could be material to the financial statements, including the key factors and significant assumptions used in making those estimates, and we believe the estimates (including those measured at fair value) and the significant assumptions used in making those accounting estimates are reasonable.
6. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of U.S. GAAP.

7. No events have occurred subsequent to the financial statement date and through the date of this letter that would require adjustment to, or disclosure in, the financial statements.
8. We have not identified or been notified of any uncorrected financial statement misstatements.
9. We are not aware of any pending or threatened litigation, claims, or assessments or unasserted claims or assessments that are required to be accrued or disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and we have not consulted a lawyer concerning litigation, claims, or assessments.
10. Material concentrations have been properly disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Concentrations refer to individual or group concentrations of contributors, grantors, clients, customers, suppliers, lenders, products, services, fund-raising events, sources of labor or materials, licenses or other rights, or operating areas or markets for which events could occur that would significantly disrupt normal finances within the next year.
11. Receivables recorded in the financial statements represent valid claims against debtors for sales or other charges arising on or before the financial statement date and have been reduced to their estimated net realizable value.
12. We have implemented ASU 2016-02, *Leases* (Topic 842) during the audit period. We have implemented the new accounting standard in accordance with the transition guidance prescribed in the ASU. We have sufficient and appropriate documentation supporting all estimates and judgments underlying the amounts recorded and disclosed in the financial statements.
13. We have no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets, liabilities, or net asset balances.
14. We have reviewed long-lived assets and certain identifiable intangibles to be held and used for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances have indicated that the carrying amount of assets might not be recoverable and, when necessary, have appropriately recorded the adjustment.
15. Designations of net assets, or reclassifications of net assets, have been properly authorized, approved, and reflected in the financial statements.

Information Provided

1. We have provided you with:
 - a. Access to all information, of which we are aware, that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements such as records (including information obtained from within and outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers), documentation, and other matters.
 - b. Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit.
 - c. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

- d. Complete minutes of the meetings of the governing board and related committees, or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
2. All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
3. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
4. We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the entity and involves:
 - a. Management;
 - b. Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - c. Others when the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
5. We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others.
6. We have no knowledge of any instances of noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with laws and regulations and provisions of contracts and grant agreements, or waste or abuse whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
7. We are not aware of any pending or threatened litigation, claims, or assessments, or unasserted claims or assessments, that are required to be accrued or disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and we have not consulted a lawyer concerning litigation, claims, or assessments.
8. There are no other material liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
9. There are no known related-party relationships or transactions which need to be accounted for or disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
10. The entity has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets, nor has any asset been pledged as collateral, except as made known to you and disclosed in the financial statements.
11. We are responsible for compliance with the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to The Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church; and we have identified and disclosed to you all laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements that we believe have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts or other financial data significant to the audit objectives.

12. We have complied with all restrictions on resources (including donor restrictions) and all aspects of contractual and grant agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance. This includes complying with donor requirements to maintain a specific asset composition necessary to satisfy their restrictions.
13. The Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church is an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Any activities of which we are aware that would jeopardize the entity's tax-exempt status, and all activities subject to tax on unrelated business income or excise or other tax, have been disclosed to you. All required filings with tax authorities are up-to-date.
14. We are responsible for determining whether we have received, expended, or otherwise been the beneficiary of any federal awards during the period of this audit. No federal award, received directly from federal agencies or indirectly as a subrecipient, was expended in an amount that cumulatively totals from all sources \$750,000 or more. For this representation, "award" means financial assistance and federal cost-reimbursement contracts that non-federal entities receive directly from federal awarding agencies or indirectly from pass-through entities. It does not include procurement contracts, user grants, or contracts used to buy goods or services from vendors.
15. Our interpretation of the laws governing restrictions on net appreciation of donor-restricted endowments is based on the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act. Consequently, all unappropriated endowment fund earnings are considered with donor restrictions until authorized by the board or the spending rate policy.
16. We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the supplementary information in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and we believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with U.S. GAAP. The methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information have not changed from those used in the prior period, and we have disclosed to you any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the supplementary information. If the supplementary information is not presented with the audited financial statements, we will make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date we issue the supplementary information and the auditors' report thereon.
17. As part of your audit, you prepared the draft financial statements, related notes, and supplementary information. We have designated an individual who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, and/or experience to understand and oversee your services; have made all management judgments and decisions; and have assumed all management responsibilities. We have evaluated the adequacy and results of the service. We have reviewed, approved, and accepted responsibility for those financial statements, related notes, and supplementary information. We have also ensured that the entity's data and records are complete and received sufficient information to oversee the service.

Signature: _____ DocuSigned by:
Jennifer Beamsley
1E22B812FCB7424... Title: Assistant to the Bishop

Signature: _____ DocuSigned by:
Stacie Fiddler
7E974A7B38CF4B2... Title: Bishop