

,Minutes from the

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
of the Central States Synod
June 12, 2026
Virtual Meeting

Present: Bishop Donna Simon, Nancy Nagel (Vice President), Scott Schulte (Treasurer), Alesia Roccia (Secretary), Tullia Hamilton, Rev. David Frerichs, Rev. Rich Gates

Absent: Julie Barstow

CALL TO ORDER

Bishop Donna led the group in reflection and prayer.

Nancy called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm with a land acknowledgment.

SECRETARY REPORT

SEC 26.06.12.A30 It was MSC to accept minutes of May 15 Executive meeting and to postpone the approval of Synod Assembly minutes until next meeting August 21, 2026.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DATE

The Committee discussed the need to move CSS Assembly away from first weekend in June.

SEC 26.06.12.A31 It was MSC to hold CSS Assembly Thursday May 20 – Saturday, May 22, 2027, with the recommendation that the Council revisit the date every year.

2026 SYNOD ASSEMBLY COUNCIL ACTION

- B5. To direct the Lutherans Restoring Creation Mission Table of the Central States Synod to explore and identify any additional resources they might need to guide, support, and organize congregations in their renewable energy initiatives and to report any related requests to the Synod Council by March, 2027.

The committee requests the LRC bring any budget requests for review to the October 17, 2026, Council Meeting. Bishop will communicate this request to LRC.

- B7. To direct the Central States Synod Council to request that the ELCA Church Council implement the Churchwide budgetary, staffing, and fund-raising goals identified in the Lutherans Restoring Creation resolution and the solar panel encouragement of the Ryan Bose, Craig Nesson, and Wartburg Seminary Ecojustice Students resolution

The committee recommends the LRC panel review the following statement and the Executive Committee will review at the August 21, 2026, meeting before requesting of ELCA Church Council.

In response to Central States Synod Assembly Action SA26.06.06.A11, the Central States Synod Council requests the Church Council to:

- devote additional funds and staffing to lead the church in this kairos moment

identified within the World Council of Church's Ecumenical Decade of Climate Justice Action;

- help all expressions of the ELCA participate actively in the WCC's Ecumenical Decade of Climate Justice Action;
- launch a fund-raising campaign "Climate Justice Action for the Life of the World," (in concert with the appropriate ELCA churchwide offices), as a means to strengthen awareness, commitment, and advocacy across all congregations, synods, and ELCA churchwide;
- raise at least \$1 million for concrete programs dedicated to greenhouse gas reduction and other efforts to address Earth's climate crisis in response to God's urgent call for decisive action in this kairos moment; and,
- encourage synods, seminaries, congregations, and other ELCA ministries to install solar panels both for energy savings and as a witness to their communities about loving God's people and creation as our neighbor.

- C3. To direct the Synod Council, in consultation with Hearts across the Heartland, to identify and allocate resources that will enable strengthening partnerships with ReconcilingWorks, Kansas Interfaith Action, and PROMO Missouri with goals toward training and equipping the synod for public witness concerning diversity

The following related action items of the assembly may further inform consideration of the above:

C4. To request congregations and congregation members of the Central States Synod speak out against policies and language harmful to people of the LGBTQIA2S+ community wherever encountered

C5. To request synod committees, teams, tables, and other units to seek input and guidance from LGBTQIA2S+ leaders when developing policy, advocacy plans, or other proposals for action within the synod.

The committee recommends Bishop Donna reach out to members of Hearts across the Heartland to discuss their recommendations. Representatives from Hearts across the Heartland are invited to the August 21, 2026, Executive Committee meeting to discuss recommendations.

Bishop Donna led the group in a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 1:50pm.

UPCOMING DATES

- **Synod Executive Committee Meeting – August 21, 2026 1-4pm**
- **Synod Council Meeting – October 16 and 17 In-Person**

Respectfully submitted,

Alesia Roccia
Central States Synod Secretary

Explanation of Motion Notation:

- **SEC 26.05.15.A1** It was **MSC** to approve the minutes from the Synod Council meeting on **June 5, 2025**. The motions are in **bold** so they are easier to spot in the minutes.
- **SEC** stands for “Synod Executive Committee”
- **26** the year: 2026
- **05** the month: May
- **15** the day: 15th
- **A** stands for “Action”
- **1** means that this is the 1st action of the year by the organization
- **MSC** stands for “moved, seconded, and carried” which means that the motion passed