

Minutes from the  
**SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING**  
**March 13-14, 2026**  
Virtual Meeting

*Present: Bishop Donna Simon, Nancy Nagel (Vice President), Scott Schulte (Treasurer), Alesia Roccia (Secretary), Rev. Richard Ashley, Julie Barstow, Robert Corrothers, Vickie Donnell, Rev. David Frerichs, Tullia Hamilton, Joanne Hickey, Richard Jensen, Sarah Paul, Rev. Tina Reyes*  
*Absent: Rev. Zac Sturm and Bethany Hill*

*Also present: Rich Gates (Synod Administrator)*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Call to Order with Land Acknowledgement

*We respectfully acknowledge that we are on the traditional ancestral lands of the Osage, Kickapoo, and Kaskaskia Nations. The process of knowing and acknowledging the land we stand on is a way of honoring and expressing gratitude for the ancestral people who were on the land before us.*

Nancy Nagel led the Council in opening prayer.

**LISTENING POST CONCERNING MINISTRY TRANSFORMATION TASK FORCE**

These notes reflect a dynamic conversation among the Council members of the Listening Post for Ministry Transformation Task Force.

Questions to ponder:

1. What are the mission priorities that should guide our allocation of the rest of the money from the sale of two properties?
2. What uses would have the most impact on our ministries?

Bishop Donna reminded the Council that \$25,000 has been restricted to Oasis and \$100,000 to new congregations, Synod Authorized Worshiping Community (SAWC), and/or Synod Authorized Outreach Ministry (SAOM), leaving a balance of just over \$600,000.

Common themes from the conversation:

1. Invest in new start congregations.
2. Invest in congregations to train leaders and members to tell the story of being a Lutheran Christian.
3. Invest in raising up leaders from among us.
4. Invest in discovering ministering to the community in different ways as we travel the way of Jesus.

Bishop Donna led a closing prayer.

The Council is in recess until Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

**SATURDAY MARCH 14, 8:30 AM - NOON**

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Alesia presented the minutes from the Synod Executive Committee meeting on January 30, 2026

- **SC 26.03.14.A8. It was MSC to approve the minutes from the January 30, 2026, Synod Executive Committee meeting.**

**BISHOP'S REPORT**

Bishop Donna reported the most recent activities, including highlights from the Bishop's Conference.

**IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE**

Bishop Donna shared that the focus of the task force is to provide training for congregations when engaging with ICE, training for involvement and support of the immigrant community, and welcoming a stranger.

**ASSOCIATE TO THE BISHOP'S REPORT**

Report provided in meeting materials

**DIRECTOR FOR EVANGELICAL MISSION REPORT**

Report provided in meeting materials

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Financial Status as of 1/31/2026, after 12 months of the fiscal year ending January 31, 2026.**

Income from congregations received is \$1,335,202

The amount received is \$160,202, more than what was anticipated in our revised spending budget, a 12.0% variance. The amount received is \$4,098 more than received last year, a 0.3% variance

ELCA Churchwide Contribution

CSS contributed \$666,548 to Churchwide. This is \$79,048 more than anticipated in the revised spending budget, an 11.9% variance. The amount contributed is \$996 more than last year, a 0.1% variance

Synod Expenditures

\$647,281 spent. The amount spent is \$70,319 less than budgeted, a -10.9% variance. This is also \$35,248 less than spent last year, a -5.4% variance

Total Support & Revenue vs. Total Expenditures

\$1,389,185 received in Total Support & Revenue, \$84,085 more than anticipated but \$15,832 less than last year. \$1,313,829 in Total Expenditures, \$8,729 more than anticipated, but \$34,252 less than last year. Net surplus of \$75,356 as compared to a \$56,746 surplus last year.

## **PROPOSED BUDGET**

**SC 26.03.14.A9. It was MSC to recommend the proposed budget to Synod Assembly.**

## **ROSTER REPORT**

- Patricia Reep (Word and Sacrament) accepted the Synod Council Call to Interim Ministry extended by the Synod Executive Committee at its meeting in January. She is transferring to the Central States Synod from the Central/Southern Illinois Synod and now resides in Wichita.
- Scott Musselman (Word and Sacrament, retired) has entered into a covenant of interim ministry with Trinity Lutheran Church in Russellville, Missouri. The covenant currently extends to February 1, 2027.
- Del Strecker (Word and Sacrament, retired) has extended his covenant of interim ministry with Redeemer Lutheran Church in Salina, Kansas, through March 1, 2027.
- Carolyn Wilson (Word and Service) died on February 18, 2026.

## **SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

- Nomination Slate for Synod Council Positions: Secretary (*S9.06. The Synod Council shall nominate at least one person for secretary; additional nominations may be made from the floor.*)
- Central KS (Julie Barstow – 2nd term eligible; Nominating Committee)
- Border (Zac Sturm – 2nd term eligible; Nominating Committee)

## **SYNOD ASSEMBLY OFFERING**

**SC 26.03.14.A10. It was MSC that received offering of Synod Assembly be designated to the seven campus ministries in CSS.**

## **SYNOD COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO FILL COMMITTEE VACANCIES**

**SC 26.03.14.A11. It was MSC to elect Chuck Redeker to the Resolutions Committee (S7.11.H18.2) and 4) Eastern Missouri for a new 3-year term to begin March 15, 2026.**

The Council reviewed the following Committee vacancies:

- Synod Discipline Committee (**†S11.03.c.**) Lay (final 3 years of 6-year term) and Clergy (final year of 6-year term)
- Consultation Committee (Note: there is no bylaw for filling vacancies) Lay (final year of 6-year term)
- Nominating Committee (**S9.03. and S9.03.01.**) Five members (one member from each conference) shall be appointed by the Synod Council to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. One of the members will serve as chair of the Nominating Committee.

## **VOTING MEMBER WAIVERS**

**SC 26.03.14.A12.** It was MSC to approve and accept voting member waiver requests.

## **SYNOD CONSTITUTION**

**SC 26.03.14.A13.** It was MSC to amend Continuing Resolution S7.11.H18. (Resolutions Committee) as recommended.

**SC 26.03.14.A14.** It was MSC to accept the proposal amending Continuing Resolution S13.01.A18 to remove Gloria Dei, Lucas, KS from the Western Kansas Conference.

**SC 26.03.14.A15.** It was MSC to direct the Executive Committee to appoint a Constitution Task Force at the May 15, 2026, meeting.

## **CSS AUDITS**

**SC 26.03.14.A16.** It was MSC to appoint an Audit Committee of four members, consisting of 2 Council members and two members at large.

**SC 26.03.14.A17.** It was MSC to elect Rob Corrothers and Tullia Hamilton to serve as council members on the Audit Committee

*†S11.05. The Audit Committee of this synod shall consist of three to six persons, none of whom is a member of the synod staff. Up to half of the committee members may be Synod Council members. The Audit Committee members shall be elected by the Synod Council for a term of three years and be eligible for re-election to a second consecutive three-year term. The terms of the Audit Committee members shall be staggered. The Audit Committee shall be responsible for assisting the Synod Council in fulfilling its general oversight of the synod's accounting, financial reporting, internal control systems, and external audit processes as provided in †S15.31.*

*†S15.31. This synod shall arrange to have an annual audit of its financial records conducted by a certified public accountant firm recommended by the synod Audit Committee and approved by the Synod Council. The audited annual financial report shall be submitted by this synod to the churchwide Office of the Treasurer and to the congregations of this synod.*

**It was recommended that the final audits be posted on the CSS website.**

## CONGREGATION CONSTITUTIONS

**SC 26.03.14.A18. It was MSC to reject the constitution from St. Paul, Cole Camp, MO with concerns the constitution is in conflict with the bylaws.**

**SC 26.03.14.A19. It was MSC to accept the presented constitutions with the expectation that noted provisions would be addressed by the congregations.**

Bishop Donna recognized the CSS staff members for their contributions and dedication to the work of the Church. The Council acknowledged the value and appreciation for Synod Staff members.

## ADJOURNMENT

Bishop Donna closed the meeting in prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

*Next meetings:*

- *Synod Executive Committee Meeting by Zoom, Friday, May 15, 1-4 pm*
- *Synod Council Meeting by Zoom — TBD, June 5 or date to follow synod assembly?*
- *Synod Executive Committee Meeting by Zoom — TBD, August*
- *Synod Council Meeting in person — TBD, October*

Respectfully submitted,

Alesia Roccia  
Central States Synod Secretary

*Explanation of Motion Notation:*

**SC 26.03.14.A8 It was MSC to go into Executive Session.**

The motions are in **bold** so they are easier to spot in the minutes.

- **SC** stands for “Synod Council”
- **26** the year: 2026
- **03** the month: March
- **14** the day: 14<sup>th</sup>
- **A** stands for “Action”
- **8** means that this is the 8<sup>th</sup> action of the year by the Synod Council
- **MSC** stands for “moved, seconded, and carried” which means that the motion passed