

Minutes from the
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
of the Central States Synod
May 15, 2026
Virtual Meeting

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

CALL TO ORDER

Nancy called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm with a land acknowledgment. Bishop Donna led the group in reflection and prayer.

SECRETARY REPORT

SEC 26.05.15.A20 It was MSC to accept minutes as presented with appreciation to Rich Gates for corrections to motion notations.

BISHOP REPORT

Bishop Donna highlighted Conference Gatherings and discussions of the Synod. Bishop shared the details of Synod Assembly preparations. The Executive Committee expressed appreciation for the planning of the Synod Assembly, especially to Tim Anderson.

TREASURER REPORT

Financial Status as of 4/30/2026, after 3 months of the fiscal year, ending January 31, 2027.

Income from congregations

- \$251,589 received
- The amount received is \$48,411 less than what was anticipated in our revised spending budget, a -19.2% variance
- The amount received is \$27,320 less than received last year, a -10.9% variance

ELCA Churchwide Contribution

- \$125,650 contributed to Churchwide
- This is \$24,350 less than anticipated in the revised spending budget, a -19.4% variance
- The amount contributed is \$12,859 less than last year, a -10.2% variance

Synod Expenditures

- \$171,593 spent
- The amount spent is \$19,532 less than budgeted, an -11.4% variance
- This is also \$20,297 more than spent last year, an 11.8% variance

Total Support & Revenue vs. Total Expenditures

- \$254,099 received in Total Support & Revenue, \$87,026 less than anticipated and \$30,270 less than last year
- \$297,243 in Total Expenditures, \$43,882 less than anticipated, but \$7,438 more than last year
- Net deficit of \$43,144 as compared to a \$5,436 deficit last year

BISHOP ASSOCIATE REPORT

The Executive Committee expressed gratitude for Chad's work and for sharing the details in his report.

MINISTRY TRANSFORMATION TASK FORCE UPDATE

Bishop Donna shared that Conference Gathering conversations are providing opportunities for information sharing and gathering. The Task Force will meet following the Synod Assembly to examine emerging priorities for ministry transformation.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Synod staff continues to assemble members for the Audit Committee.

DIRECTOR OF EVANGELICAL MISSION REPORT

SEC 26.05.15.A21 It was MSC to designate St. Philip Evangelical Lutheran Church (Saint Louis, MO) and St. Mark Hope and Peace Lutheran Church (Kansas City, MO) as strategic ministries of the Central States Synod.

DIEPENBROCK BEQUEST

SEC 26.05.15.A22 It was MSC to purchase a vehicle to support Synod Staff with the Linda K. Diepenbrock Bequest.

2026 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

SEC 26.05.15.A23 It was MSC to accept voting member waivers as presented.

- American, Smith Center KS (two males)
- Trinity, Topeka KS (two females)

ROSTER REPORT

SEC 26.05.15.A24 It was MSC to recommend approval of extension of on-leave status for Bethany Rutten-Kempees beginning September 16, 2026, and to make this request for approval to the Conference of Bishops.

SEC 26.05.15.A25 It was MSC to grant to Alfi Wyatt renewal of on-leave status for one year beginning May 14, 2026.

SEC 26.05.15.A26 It was MSC to approve the relocation of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church from St. Ann to Bridgeton, Missouri; St. Paul Lutheran Church (Wichita, KS) to West Heights UMC, and the worship services of Salem Lutheran Church (Overland Park/Lenexa) to Atonement (Overland Park, KS).

CONGREGATION CONSTITUTIONS

SEC 26.05.15.A27 It was MSC to accept the congregational constitution for St. Thomas/Holy Spirit as recommended.

CONSTITUTION TASK FORCE

SEC 26.05.15.A28 It was MSC to authorize Bishop to appoint to the 2026 Central States Synod Constitution Task force one member each from the Osage, Central Kansas, and Western Kansas Conferences and someone from a historically underrepresented group.

OTHER BUSINESS

SEC 26.05.15.A29 It was MSC to approve Synod to purchase a table for the KIFA Annual Dinner, June 2, 2026, for up to \$800.00 from the Council Discretionary Fund.

Bishop Donna led the group in a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 3:22.

UPCOMING DATES

- **Synod Assembly – June 6, 2026 virtual**
- **Synod Executive Committee Meeting – June 12, 2026 1pm**
- **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