

Minutes from the
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
of the Central States Synod
November 19, 2025
Virtual Meeting

Present: Bishop Donna Simon, Nancy Nagel (Vice President), Scott Schulte (Treasurer), Alesia Roccia (Secretary), Julie Barstow, Tullia Hamilton

Absent: Rev. David Frerichs

CALL TO ORDER

Nancy called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm, and Bishop Donna led the group in prayer.

PURPOSE

Forming of the Ministry Transformation Fund Team: Nancy shared that the purpose of the Ministry Transformation Fund Team is to develop a process to steward reserve synod funds to carry out the Central State Synod's mission and priorities.

BACKGROUND

Scott Schulte reported that the funds are a result of the sale of properties from the former Gathering Table in KCMO and Bethany in Webster Groves, MO. The total from these sources is \$732,396.96.

Resolution SA.25.01 was adopted at Synod Assembly, June 6, 2025, to reserve \$100,000 for the **development of new ministries – congregations, Synod Authorized Worshiping Communities and Synod Authorized Outreach Ministries**

SEC 25.11.19.A90. It was MSC to direct the Synod Treasurer to move the funds to an interest-bearing account of the Treasurer's choosing.

FUND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

A discussion was held on adding members to the Team. Nancy and Bishop Donna will reach out to prospective members.

FUNDING SYNOD PRIORITIES

Ministry Transformation Fund Listening Posts will be held to gather thoughts, ideas, and listen to the Holy Spirit inspire the Team for the use of the funds.

Tues., Feb. 3, 7pm

Wed., Feb. 11, 2pm

Thurs., Feb. 12, 7pm

1. Open with Synod Mission Statement: **United with Christ in Baptism. Traveling the way of Jesus. Joining God's reign of justice and radical love in the world.**

Unpacking the Mission Statement:

United with Christ in Baptism. Traveling the way of Jesus. Joining God's reign of justice and radical love in the world.

1. United with Christ – In the waters of our baptism, we are united to Christ and to one another. This is the reality and truth which continually transforms us and is the defining lens for our actions and behaviors.
2. Traveling the way of Jesus – The way of Jesus is not a static concept we are invited to affirm, but an active way of living and moving into and through this world. Traveling this way invites us even deeper into a love of God and love of neighbor.
3. Joining God's reign of justice and radical love in the world – God's reign has broken into our world calling us beyond acts of charity to justice for our neighbor to participate in God's radical love which challenges the status quo to bring about reconciliation and a new way of being.

Vision:

The Central States Synod would be a place that:

- Witnesses to the centrality of faith as individuals and communities embrace and actively live the way of Jesus.
- Empowers ministries and congregations to participate in God's reign of justice, loving neighbor through acts of charity and the work of advocacy.
- Nurtures engagement in spiritual practices that deepened faith and courageous acts of love for the neighbor.
- Invites others into this transforming way of Jesus.

2. Share what the Fund Team is thinking about how to use these funds. Invite questions.

3. Collect feedback and ideas

TIMELINE

- Fund Team meets via Zoom on December 8, 2025, 6-7pm
- Fund Team makes recommendations to Synod Council at Council Meeting on March 13-14, 2026
- Synod Executive Committee finalizes Synod Assembly presentation May 2026
- Fund Team reports plan to Synod Assembly 2026

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

SEC 25.11.19.A90. It was MSC to update S10.06 as suggested for the Synod vote.

No person related to a synod staff member shall be eligible for nomination to or membership on the Synod Council or the following synod committees: Executive Committee, Consultation Committee,

Committee on Discipline, Audit Committee. For this purpose, a related individual is one who, with respect to the synod employee, is a spouse, parent, child, sibling, sibling of a parent, child of a sibling, grandparent, grandchild, including corresponding members of blended families and in-laws (parent, child, or sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a sibling) and any persons residing in the same household as the synod employee.

UPCOMING DATES

- Budget Committee - January 29, 2026 6:00 pm (Zoom)
- Executive Committee – January 30, 2026 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm (Zoom)
- Synod Council - March 13-14. 2026 Fri eve-Sat morning (Zoom)
- Executive Committee – May 16, 2026 1:00 pm (Zoom)
- Synod Council – June 4, 2026
- Synod Assembly – June 5-6, 2026 virtual

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm

Respectfully submitted,

Alesia Roccia
Central States Synod Secretary

Explanation of Motion Notation:

- **SEC 25.08.15.A53** 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"
 - **25** the year: 2025
 - **08** the month: August
 - **15** the day: 15th
 - **A** stands for "Action"
 - **53** means that this is the 53rd action of the year by the organization
 - **MSC** stands for "moved, seconded, and carried" which means that the motion passed