

Minutes from the
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
of the Central States Synod
January 30, 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. Rich Gates

Visitor: Keith Hall, IFFT & CO

CALL TO ORDER

Nancy called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm with land acknowledgment. Bishop Donna led the group in reflection and prayer.

SECRETARY REPORT

The minutes were received as prepared and presented. (Minutes attached with meeting materials)

TREASURER REPORT

Scott presented the Treasurer's report, including the audit and budget.

Notable findings indicate that income from congregations is expected to meet the goal. Restricted funds were not used this year. The Annual Appeal raised the highest amount ever, with over \$38,000.

Keith Hall, IFFT & CO, presented the audit ending in 2023.

SEC 26.01.30.A1. It was MSC to accept the findings of the audit as presented.

Scott presented the revised 2026 Budget. The Budget was reviewed and revised by the Budget Committee.

SEC 26.01.30.A2. It was MSC to accept the revisions to the 2026 Budget

The 2027 Budget was presented.

SEC 26.01.30.A3. It was MSC to accept the proposed 2027 budget for presentation at the March CSS Council meeting for approval for the 2026 Churchwide Assembly.

BISHOP REPORT

Bishop Donna expressed her gratitude for the incredible CSS Staff, noting a smooth transition and extensive travel to visit congregations. Bishop shared details of her trip to the Holy Land. Bishop shared her focus in the coming months is on lay ministry formation and supporting the clergy of the CSS.

2026 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Discussion was held regarding the theme, proposed cost of registration, nomination slate, and assembly offering designation. Please send ideas for offering to Bishop Donna. No other action is required.

Nomination Slate of Synod Council
Secretary (Alesia Roccia appointed)
Central KS (Julie Barstow – 2nd term eligible)
Border (Zac Sturm – 2nd term eligible)

SYNOD CONSTITUTION – Additional Recommended Amendments (from 2016 Churchwide Assembly)

Rich informed the SEC of recommended language for the Synod constitution that was apparently overlooked at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. No action is required.

MINISTRY TRANSFORMATION TASK FORCE UPDATE –

The Task Force is engaged in a discussion of the use of funds from the sale of properties. Bishop Donna will conduct Listening Posts - Feb 3 at 7 pm, Feb 11 at 2 pm, Feb 12 at 7 pm

ROSTER REPORT

SEC 26.01.30.A4 It was MSC to grant to Rev. Patricia Reep a one-year call to synod interim ministry effective January 1, 2026, with possibility for regular call to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kansas.

CONGREGATION CONSTITUTIONS

SEC 26.01.30.A5 It was MSC to accept congregational constitutions as recommended:

Peace, Joplin MO
Trinity, McPherson KS
Zion, Ferguson MO
Overland Park, Overland Park KS
Family of Christ, Imperial MO

OTHER BUSINESS

SEC 25.01.30.26.A6 It was MSC to go into Executive Session for Bishop Donna's evaluation.

SEC 25.01.30.26.A7 It was MSC to exit Executive Session.

Nancy led the group in a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 4:12.

UPCOMING DATES

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

Respectfully submitted,

Alesia Roccia
Central States Synod Secretary

Explanation of Motion Notation:

- **SEC 26.01.30.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
 - **01** the month: January
 - **30** the day: 30th
 - **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