

Report of the Synod Council

May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021

Synod Officers:

The Rev. Jeffrey Clements, Bishop (2022)
The Rev. Donald Knowles, Secretary (2022)

Ms. Minnette Scott, Vice President (2023)
Ms. Tammie Farley, Treasurer (2023)

Synod Council:

Ms. Madi Casteel (2021)
Ms. Monique Castillo (2021)
The Rev. Cathy Daharsh (2021)
The Rev. Robert Franek (2022)
The Rev. Brad Haugen (2021)
Ms. Nancy Lillevold (2021)
Mr. Ryan Mackey (2021)

Mr. George Sanchez (2022)
Mr. Jim Spring (2021)
Ms. Carol Swenson (2021)
The Rev. Andy Tyrrell (2021)
Ms. Taylor Ufkin (2021)
Deacon Carla Vanatta (2022)
The Rev. Janet Wold (2022)

Synod Staff:

The Rev. Denver Bitner, Assistant to the Bishop for North and Northwest Conferences
The Rev. Michel Clark, Assistant to the Bishop for the West and Southwest Conferences
Ms. Nancy Corey, Office Manager, Administrative Assistant
Deacon Cheryl Erdmann, Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy and Special Events
The Rev. Gary Erickson, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission
The Rev. Pat Esker, Assistant to the Bishop for Operations and Governance
Deacon Karin Graddy, Assistant to the Bishop for Communication and Technology
The Rev. Marilyn Hanson, Assistant to the Bishop, Call Process Coordinator
Ms. Julie Lewis, Executive Secretary to the Bishop

Executive Committee:

The Rev. Jeffrey Clements, Bishop
The Rev. Pat Esker, Ex-Officio
Ms. Tammie Farley
The Rev. Donald Knowles

Ms. Nancy Lillevold
Ms. Minnette Scott
Mr. Jim Spring

Finance Committee:

The Rev. Jeffrey Clements, Bishop
The Rev. Pat Esker, Ex-Officio
The Rev. Gary Erickson, Ex-Officio
Ms. Minnette Scott, Vice President
Ms. Tammie Farley, Treasurer
The Rev. William Callister (2023)

Ms. Christina King (2022)
Ms. Carol Swenson (2023)
The Rev. Andy Tyrell (2021)
The Rev. Janet Wold (2022)
Mr. Russell Zeskey (2021)

Appointment/Specialized Ministry Committee:

The Rev. Jeffrey Clements, Bishop
The Rev. Pat Esker, Ex-Officio
Ms. Tammie Farley
The Rev. Donald Knowles

Ms. Nancy Lillevold
Ms. Minnette Scott
Mr. Jim Spring

Synod Council Meeting Dates and Locations:

May 16, 2020	Virtual Meeting <i>via</i> Zoom
September 12, 2020	Virtual Meeting <i>via</i> Zoom
January 16, 2021	Virtual Meeting <i>via</i> MS Teams
April 10, 2021	Virtual Meeting <i>via</i> MS Teams

A Summary of Administrative Actions

1. Received the bishop's report at each meeting – including reports from the bishop's staff.
2. Received and approved Synod Council minutes at each meeting.
3. Approved changes to the constitutions and/or bylaws of the following congregations:
 - a) Shepherd of the Prairie, Huntley
 - b) First, Geneseo
4. Approved appointments to NIS Standing Committees, Synod Council, Synod Council Committees, Task Forces, and Synod Assembly Committees.
5. Approved a continuing resolution to extend terms those elected at Synod Assembly until a successor is elected.
6. Approved a grant proposal from the Social Ministry Committee for Covid-19 related ministries.
7. Received reports from the NIS WELCA.
8. Approved synodical expectations for anti-racism training.
9. Approved the removal of St. John's, Creston from the ELCA.
10. Approved the NIS Revised Constitution to be presented to the 2021 Synod Assembly.
11. Denied a request to become a partner with the ELCA Foundation.
12. Approved the 2022 Synod Compensation Guidelines to be presented to the 2021 Synod Assembly.
13. Received reports from representatives of the synod standing committees.

A Summary of Budget and Finance Actions

1. Regularly received and reviewed the reports of the treasurer, subject to audit.
2. Received the audit report.
3. Approved the 2021 audit contract.
4. Approved a 2021 Revised Budget and the 2022 Proposed Budget.
5. Designated the 2021 Synod Assembly offering be divided between seminary scholarships for female identifying students and the International Women's Scholarship Fund of the ELCA.

A Summary of Personnel Actions

1. Approved, renewed or reviewed "On Leave from Call" status to the following:
 - a. The Rev. Kimberly Riebe
 - b. The Rev. Wendy Popp
 - c. The Rev. Susan Davenport
 - d. The Rev. Robert Franek
 - e. The Rev. Nathan Feig
 - f. The Rev. Wayne Melaas-Swanson
 - g. The Rev. Tom Eckstrand
 - h. Deacon. Marti Bein

- i. The Rev. David Turner
 - j. The Rev. Karyn Kost
 - k. The Rev. Paul Gebo
2. Accepted the Rev. Peter Vethanayagamony (LSTC) to the roster of the Northern Illinois Synod
3. Renewed/Invited Calls to Extended Service
 - a. The Rev. Beth Hamilton
 - b. The Rev. Carrie Carnes
 - c. The Rev. Maureen O'Connor
4. Reviewed the NIS Roster
5. Extended term calls to Deacon Karin Graddy, the Rev. Marilyn Hanson, and the Rev. Pat Esker.
6. Approved retirement requests of rostered ministers
 - a. The Rev. Randall Willers
 - b. The Rev. Sharon Rogers
 - c. The Rev. Richard Priggie
 - d. The Rev. Mark Hagen
 - e. Deacon Carla Vanatta
 - f. The Rev. Wayne Melaas-Swanson
 - g. The Rev. Wendy Popp
7. Reviewed and renewed roster status of retired pastors.
8. Appointed/elected/called the following:
 - a. The Rev. Melinda Pupillo (Chaplain, Augustana College)

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Donald L. Knowles, Secretary of the Synod