

Hunger Team 2025 Report to Synod Assembly

Pastor Anna Taylor-McCants is the current Chair of the Hunger Team, as her previous co-chair, Pastor Sara Freudenburg, has stepped down to serve the synod in new ways. In 2023 the Hunger Team hosted a workshop about Food Policy Councils at the first annual Justice Summit. We invited a presenter from the Detroit Food Policy Council to speak about what they do and how to get involved in food justice work politically.

In February of this year Pastor Anna attended the ELCA World Hunger Gathering in Houston where she was fortunate to learn about and get more connected to the ways the ELCA is holistically working to end hunger worldwide. ELCA World Hunger is in close relationship with Lutheran Disaster Relief and AMMPARO, our migrant accompaniment arm of the ELCA. This year Pr. Anna plans to deepen the relationships she made with other hunger leaders in Region 6 by hosting an online meet up. Some of those leaders brought members of their synod to our second annual Justice Summit back in April. We are looking forward to the ways we can grow our ministries in the coming months.

In the fall of 2024 Pastor Anna and Asst. to the Bishop Robin McCants will host a session for our hunger ministry leaders to learn more about turning their feeding ministries into food hubs. Food hubs address the root causes of hunger in our local communities and do the upstream organizing work that our social action ministries need in order to accompany people out of poverty. The Hunger Team wants to help our SEMI Synod hunger ministries become eligible for more grant opportunities to continue doing their amazing work and addressing root causes of poverty and hunger are one way to increase funding.

This year, ELCA World Hunger celebrates 50 years of ministry! This is a time to give thanks for the work that has been done by countless Lutherans and our partners over the years. As we look backward, we must not forget to also look forward and continue to work for a just world where all are fed.