

Hunger Team – 2026 Synod Assembly Report

Pastor Anna Taylor-McCants continues to serve as Chair of the Hunger Team, leading our growing community of ministry partners committed to ending hunger with dignity and inclusion.

In September 2025, Pastor Anna, Retired Deacon Helen Harms, and FedUp employee Miah Laster had the privilege of representing our synod at the ELCA World Hunger Gathering in Columbus, Ohio. Our delegation presented a workshop and hosted a table at the Ministry Fair featuring an interactive activity called "Build a Just Plate" — an experience that invited attendees to design culturally appropriate, inclusive meals that honor food restrictions and personal food preferences. It was a beautiful reminder that feeding people well means truly seeing them.

Our synod is home to some extraordinary feeding ministries leading the way in this work — FedUp in Washtenaw County, the Diabetic Food Pantry in Oakland County, Jubilee in Wayne County, and many more. These ministries are not just distributing food; they are serving meals that honor the cultural, religious, and dietary identities of the people they serve. We are truly blessed to be a synod where so many communities are showing up for those living on the margins.

Deacon Harms led a project to survey each of the Synod Conferences to identify the vast variety of food-related ministries and their special focuses we have within our congregations.

Looking ahead, the Hunger Team is energized and growing! We look forward to continued gatherings, deepening partnerships, and expanding our collective impact in the year to come. If you feel called to join us, please reach out to Pastor Anna or Assistant to the Bishop Robin McCants to be added to our email list and join us at an upcoming meeting. There is a seat at the table for you.

-Respectfully submitted on March 21, 2026 by Pastor Anna Taylor-McCants