

## REPORT OF THE SYNOD SECRETARY

I am so honored to serve as your Synod Secretary. I am grateful to be able to serve the congregations of Southeast Michigan.

During the preceding year, I have performed the office of Synod Secretary as outlined in the Synod Constitution. Included in those duties are assisting in the creation and distribution of the minutes of the Synod Assembly, keeping the minutes of all Synod Council meetings, and all Synod Executive Committee meetings. In consultation with the Office of the Secretary of the ELCA, I have the Synod Constitution and Bylaws up to date, incorporating changes made following the 2025 Churchwide Assembly, and provided for all necessary amendments. I have worked with Synod staff in the compilation and organization of all important documents and papers, and provided for storage and archiving of appropriate documents. I have also given proper notice of all meetings as required by the Constitution and Bylaws and have made arrangements for the taking and distribution of minutes of this assembly.

As Chairman of the Synod Constitution Review Committee, Pastor Andrew Chavanak and I have reviewed the Constitutions of many congregations of this Synod at their request to ensure they follow the requirements of the ELCA and assisted them with the revision process.

I have answered questions from many congregations regarding their constitution and other legal matters.

Attached are a list of council actions that took place during the 2025-2026 Council Year. Not included in this list are actions to approve agendas, grant voice without vote, approve minutes, approve reports and roster changes including Synod calls.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sonja M. Markwart, Secretary

5/5/2026

Actions of Synod Council from June 2025 to May 2026

<b>Motion Number</b>	<b>Action</b>
SC25.07.19	Appoint Ray Merrill to the Synod Council seat from Conference 1, and William Lane to At-Large Synod Council seat #2, for full, 3-year terms which will expire at the conclusion of the 2028 Synod Assembly. At that time both members will be eligible to be re-elected or re-appointed to Synod Council and may serve one additional full, 3-year term.
SC25.08.22	Receive and approve the final report of the Auditor for Fiscal Year 2025
SC25.08.26	Approve the expenditure of no more than \$35,000 for the purchase of a new vehicle for Bishop Kreiss
SC25.08.30	Create the Synod Staff Compensation Subcommittee for the purpose of annually reviewing and making recommendation for synod staff compensation
SC25.11.36	Designate the following ministries that are continuing as strategic ministries in 2026: <i>Genesis Lutheran Church in Detroit</i> <i>Love Rising Lutheran Church in Detroit</i>
SC25.11.37	Authorize the following ministries that are continuing as Synod Authorized Worshiping Communities in 2026: <i>All.together Campus Ministry in Dearborn</i> <i>Micah 6 in Pontiac</i> <i>Mother of the Savior in Dearborn</i> <i>FedUp Ministries in Washtenaw County</i> <i>Living Red in Dexter, MI</i> <i>Zoe Campus Ministry at Oakland University and Oakland County</i> <i>Grace-In-Action in Southwest Detroit</i>
SC25.11.38	Deauthorize Christ the King Lutheran Church in Lapeer from our roster of Synodically Authorized Worship Communities. We give thanks for this ministry and the gospel witness shared with the surrounding community.
SC25.11.39	SC.11.05.A25 Continuing Resolution Approval for Fund for Mission Management and advisory board
SC25.11.41	Appoint Pastor Jack Eggleston, Pastor Sharon Smith, Patricia Alsup and Pastor Andrew Chavanak to the Resolutions Committee
SC25.11.42	Authorize Bishop Kreiss to negotiate and sell the building, the former St. Paul building in Detroit, for \$5,000 to \$25,000
SC26.02.05	Approve and recommend the Proposed Operating Budget for adoption at Synod Assembly.
SC26.02.06	Approve and recommend the Proposed Fund for Mission Budget for adoption at Synod Assembly.
SC26.02.09	Set up a Bishop's Car Purchase Fund, with \$40,000, and this would be moved from the current cash surplus.

SC26.02.10	Set up a Bishop Transition Fund with \$25,000, out of the current cash surplus.
SC26.02.12	Approve and recommend the Rules of Procedure for adoption at Synod Assembly.
SC26.02.13	For the Bishop to appoint a 3 to 5 person Justice Ministry Funding Task Force. The task force will consult with staff and make a proposal based on current synod assets and the mission of supporting justice ministries in the SEMI Synod. The task force will bring a proposal to the August 2026 Synod Council meeting
SC26.04.20	Approve and recommend adoption of the changes to the Synod Constitution sections S8.01.01, S11.01.02, S10.01.01 and S10.01.02
SC26.04.20	Approve and recommend adoption of the non-required changes as recommended following the 2025 Churchwide Assembly, modifying S7.26 for capitalization of Synod-Authorized Ministers.