



The Stories
We Tell

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD ASSEMBLY

2021 HANDBOOK

Rocky Mountain Synod

2021 Assembly

April 29-May 1, 2021

■ THE ASSEMBLY: THE STORIES WE TELL

*In 2020, we explored the theme “church becoming”. This year’s assembly will invite us to engage together in a particular aspect of **church becoming** by framing our conversations around racial justice with a specific set of questions: **What stories do we tell?** About ourselves? Our nation? Our history? Our church? God? The stories we tell matter. They shape our understanding of reality and determine how we engage the world around us. As **church becoming**, the time is right to examine the stories we tell, trusting that God’s Spirit will continue to write the story that ultimately matters, including the part we can yet play as members of Christ’s Body.*

■ PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Thursday, April 29, 2021

1:00pm: Opening Worship

2:30pm: Plenary 1

Assembly Business, Community Conversations, Nominations, & Financial Report

4:45pm: Dinner Break

6:00pm: Plenary 2

Keynote 1: Dr. Edward Antonio; Evening Prayer

Friday, April 30

9:00am: Morning Prayer: Rachel Bass- Guennewig

9:30am: Plenary 3: Keynote 2

10:30am: Break

10:45am: Plenary 4

Churchwide Report, Resolutions, Community Conversation

11:45am: Lunch Break

12:30am: Mission Partner Moments

12:45pm: Plenary 5

Elections & Budget Adoption

2:15pm: Break

3:30pm: Plenary 6

Keynote 3

Panel Conversation

5:30pm: Dinner Break

6:30pm: Anniversary Reception and Concert

Saturday, May 1

9:00am: Morning Prayer

9:30am: Plenary 7: Keynote 4, Resolutions, Panel Conversation

11:45am: Closing Worship

■ HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN ASSEMBLY

If it feels safe to gather with 3-5 people, gather with masks spread out in a room. If it's nice, open windows and eat meals outside. While the content will be digital, congregations and ministries are encouraged to attend assembly together. All plenary and worship will take place via ZOOM, while also being streamed to Facebook. Voting members will be required to participate via ZOOM using a computer or tablet. Calling in via phone is not an option. There will be a lot of time for small group conversation, but instead of using breakout rooms on Zoom, you will talk face-to-face with folks from your congregation! If it is determined this is not a good/safe way for you to gather, alternative options are listed below. Visitors, Retired Rostered Ministers, On-Leave From Call, and those in specialized ministry are encouraged (as is safe) to join a congregation's gathering.

For Gathering as a small group in person:

- Set up a room with a screen/tv and computer to participate in the ZOOM sessions. It is important for a microphone to be set up for participants to speak to assembly business items. We will also be utilizing the chat feature for requesting to speak.
- Each congregation will receive a packet with assembly materials for voting members, as well as fun things that will be used throughout the event. A gift card will be included to purchase snacks and needed materials that are hard to mail.
- Organize snacks and meals ahead of time:
 - Use the gift card to purchase snacks and morning coffee
 - Organize a potluck with voting members or assign each person a meal
 - Invite the congregation to participate by providing meals for assembly attendees
- Create a retreat atmosphere: make sure snacks and beverages are readily available in the room; gather all supplies ahead of time, add some fabric, candles, and comfy chairs to set a welcoming atmosphere!
- Voting will be done via electronic voting platform. It is easiest if each voting member has their own device, but the voting window will be long enough to allow for device sharing if needed.

For gathering individually:

- If you determine to not gather as a small group, rostered ministers should ensure each voting member is comfortable with the zoom platform and has a tablet/ipad/mobile device for participating in the voting.
- All materials will be sent to the congregation, so you will need to divide up and distribute materials to each voting member.
- The rostered minister will need to fill out the online form posted on the website to inform the Office of the Bishop that your congregation will require a breakout room for the small group times.

■ OFFERINGS

Betela Seminary in Madagascar and Four Winds American Indian Council

For many years, the Rocky Mountain Synod and the Lutheran synods in northern Madagascar have accompanied one another in deepening relationships, prayer, and ministry together as Companion Synods. Half of the offering gathered throughout assembly is designated for Betela Regional Seminary, for its mission of training leaders theologically for work in the Malagasy Lutheran Church. The offering will be shared with Four Winds American Indian Council in Denver.

■ ASSEMBLY GUESTS



Dr. Edward Antonio

Edward P. Antonio is currently Chief Diversity Officer and Professor of Humanities at Concordia College in Minnesota. He has held many administrative positions. For twelve years, he served as Diversity Officer and as Associate Dean of Diversities at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. While there he also served as the Chief Title IX Coordinator, as well as the Director of the Master of Arts in Social Justice. He was Director of the Justice and Peace Program, and Coordinator of the Identity, Power, and Difference Curriculum at Iliff. He received a BA from the National Council for Academic Awards in London, a BD from Luther Rice Seminary, an MLitt degree from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, and a Ph.D. from Cambridge University. With a background and training in journalism, religion, and theology, he is particularly interested in the pathways that bring together secular and religious realms to resolve conflict. Dr. Antonio's deep knowledge of peace and conflict began intimately while growing up under three different systems of colonialism. Under British rule, Portuguese rule, and the system of Apartheid, what characterized reality for everyone was conflict.

Before becoming a theologian, Dr. Antonio covered the wars of liberation in Zimbabwe and Mozambique as a journalist, where he developed immediate connections with the politicians engaging in diplomacy and negotiations. In addition to these foundational experiences, he also credits his scholarship to both his uncle, a diviner who taught him the centrality of humanity in divination, and his father, who would host members of different religious groups weekly for tea, bread, and debate.



Rachel Bass-Guennewig, Daily Bread Yoga

Rachel has been teaching yoga classes and retreats through this thing called Daily Bread Yoga since about 2010. Although she has been teaching yoga since 2007, her background is as a Lutheran pastor. That is the how/when/why she got into yoga. She was burning out as a parish pastor and found relief and rejuvenation, physically, mentally and spiritually, through her practice of yoga. Yoga made sense to her. She was quickly drawn to learn more about yoga, deepen her practice, and teach yoga herself. She currently leads multiple yoga classes a week (currently on ZOOM), as well as yoga retreats.



**Christine Mangale
Program Director, Lutheran Office for World Community**

Christine Mangale is the Program Director at the Lutheran Office for World Community in New York representing the Lutheran World Federation and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at the United Nations. With over 15 years of experience, Christine provides global leadership on matters relating to international development, socio-cultural affairs, and women’s rights. She engages in monitoring, reporting, influencing, and advocating at major United Nations human rights forums. She has addressed the UN General Assembly High-level Forum on the ‘Culture of Peace’, focusing on Education, and the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on gender justice and sustainable development. Christine co-creates and facilitates an annual joint Faith-Based Organization’s (FBOs) training which coincides with a session of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in Geneva. Prior to her current role, she served as the youth secretary for the Lutheran Communion in Eastern and Central Africa, and as the youth liaison at the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church. She has worked with youth on peer education, poverty eradication, HIV/AIDS, peace, and development. Christine earned her degree in Political Science from the City University of New York - Lehman College. She is currently completing her Master of Science in International Affairs at the New School in New York.

■ VOTING MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Study the pre-assembly materials.
2. Attend all sessions of the assembly.
3. Participate in all legislative actions. Vote. If the issue is not clear, ask the chair for clarification.
4. Share the information and actions of the assembly with your congregation. This can be done by verbal or written report, or both. Help your congregation to know about their work of ministry beyond your local parish

■ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The following information will assist each voting member in the discharge of responsibility. Some material is taken from the Constitution and Bylaws of the Rocky Mountain Synod and will be identified by the symbol RMSC.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The church was constituted on January 1, 1988 from the previous church bodies of The American Lutheran Church, Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and Lutheran Church in America. Spanning the United States and the Caribbean, the ELCA consists of 65 synods. The Rocky Mountain Synod is one of five synods in Region 2.

ELCA Regions

The ELCA is divided into nine regions, which are points of connection and ministry for each of the synods in the various regions. Regions work together, especially in terms of the call process for rostered leaders.

The Synod

The territory of the Rocky Mountain Synod is the states of COLORADO; NEW MEXICO, excluding Curry county; UTAH excluding Washington county; WYOMING, excluding the counties of Big Horn, Lincoln, Park, Sheridan, Teton, and Washakie; and including in TEXAS only the counties of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Loving, Presidio, Reeves, Ward, and Winkler.

Purpose of the Synod

To participate in God's mission, this synod as a part of the church shall:

- Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.

- Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier of all.
- Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs.
- Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.
- Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
- Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives. (RMSC S6.02)

Synod Council Functions

- Be the Board of Directors of the synod and serve as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of the synod.
- Recommend program goals and budgets to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.
- Provide for an annual review of the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament (Pastor) and Ministers of Word and Service (Deacon) and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the actions in this regard.
- Issue letters of call to pastors and deacons who are serving in specialized ministry, as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA.
- Promote the interests of the ELCA.
- Provide oversight and coordinate the work of the Boards, Commissions, Committees and all other synodical entities.
- Determine the time and place for each Synod Assembly and oversee the agenda and program.
- Elect the representatives of the synod, who are to serve, in addition to the bishop, ex-officio, on the governing bodies of institutions and agencies to which this synod relates.
- Elect the representatives to the Regional Council. (RMSC S10.03.01)

■ GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ELCA TERMS

1517 Media • 1517 Media is a nonprofit corporation that provides pastors, educators, worship planners and members of the ELCA with products and services that communicate the Gospel, enhance faith and enrich the life of the Christian community from a Lutheran perspective.

Conference of Bishops • The 65 bishops of the ELCA meeting for prayer, deliberation, and discernment.

Church Council • The governing board of the ELCA, entrusted with the business of the ELCA between triennial churchwide assemblies.

Churchwide • Term referring to any ministry, process, or emphasis carried out across the entire ELCA. The term is also used to refer to the headquarters of the ELCA in Chicago, Illinois, which is housed in the ELCA Lutheran Center near O'Hare airport.

ELCA • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Denominational title), formed by the 1988 merger of the American Lutheran Church (ALC), the Lutheran Church in America (LCA), and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC). The three expressions of this church body are the congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization headquartered in Chicago. The ELCA has over 4.2 million members in about 10,000 congregations (2010 figures).

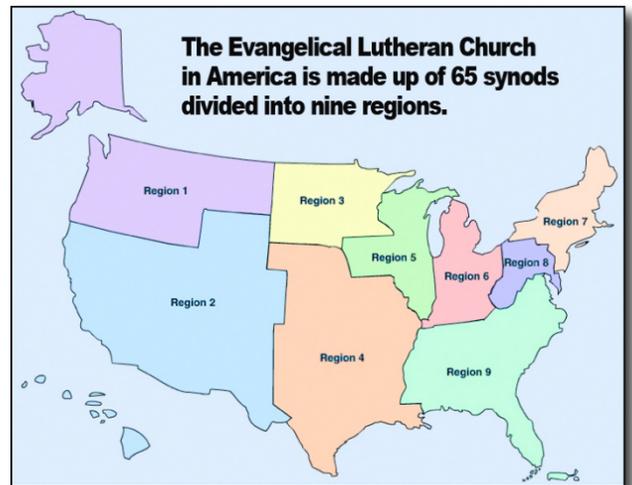
Full Communion • A relationship between Christian denominations in which each fully accepts the validity of the other's ministry and sacraments.

Full Communion Partners • In the ELCA this term refers to those denominations with which we enjoy full-communion relationships: Episcopal Church USA, United Methodist Church USA, Moravian, Presbyterian Church USA, Reformed, and United Church of Christ.

Portico • Portico, a nonprofit corporation based in Minnesota, provides retirement, health and related benefits and services to enhance the well-being of nearly 50,000 pastors, deacons, employees and their families. The vision of Portico is for those they serve to lead healthy lives and achieve financial security.

Presiding Bishop • The pastor elected by the churchwide assembly to lead the ministry of the entire ELCA; currently serving is Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

Region 2 • One of 9 regions of the ELCA and includes 5 synods.



SYNOD TERMS

Bishop • The pastor elected by the Synod Assembly to lead a synod of the ELCA; currently serving the RMS is Bishop James Gonia.

Conference • A geographical grouping of congregations within the synod. Ten in the RMS: Wyoming, Utah, North Colorado, Boulder-Broomfield, Metro East, Metro West, Metro South, Southeast Colorado, North New Mexico, and Border.

DEM • Director for Evangelical Mission who is called by churchwide to serve in the Rocky Mountain Synod; currently serving the RMS is Pastor Dana Peterson.

Executive Committee • Four officers and four at-large members of the Synod Council.

Office of the Bishop • Located in Denver, Colorado, where the bishop and staff facilitate our ministry together. The Office of the Bishop is on the campus of the **RMS Lutheran Center** at 7375 Samuel Drive, Denver, CO 80221.

RMS • Rocky Mountain Synod

Synod • In the ELCA, one of 65 geographical units or expressions of the church.

Synod Council • The elected leaders of a synod, including laity and clergy, the vice president, secretary, treasurer, and bishop.

LEADERSHIP TERMS

Candidacy • The process by which those discerning a call to ministry are supported and guided through the process of Entrance, Endorsement, and Approval as they prepare for ministry vocations as rostered ministers.

Deacon • A Rostered Minister called to the ministry of Word and Service.

Dean • A rostered minister chosen to lead one of the Conferences within a synod.

Interim • A rostered minister who is serving a ministry between two called persons.

Intern • A candidate who is on staff of a ministry in training for concluding their formation and preparation for rostered ministry.

Lay Person • A person who is not rostered.

Officers • The officers of the synod are the Bishop, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

On Leave From Call • rostered pastors and deacons who are currently without a call to a ministry.

Pastor • A Rostered Minister called to the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

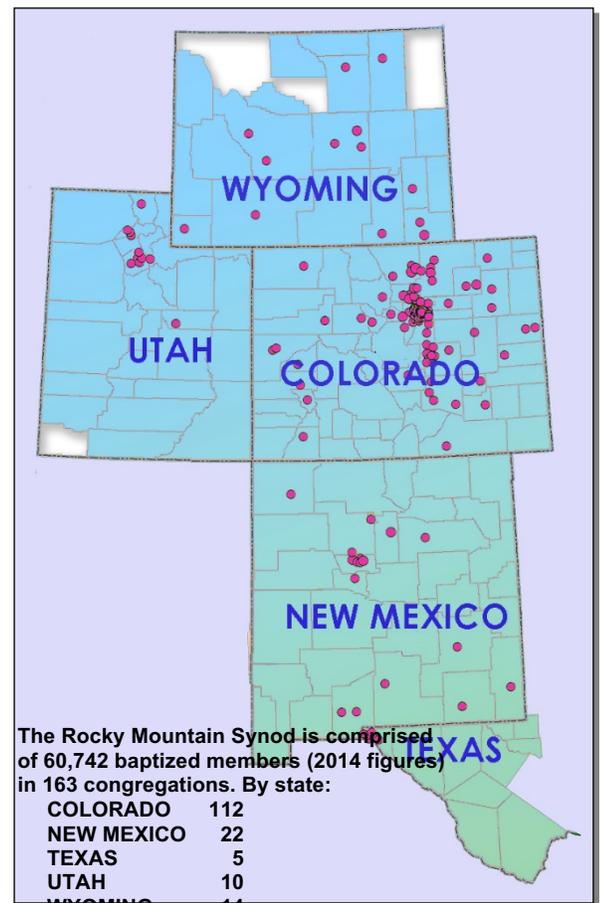
Roster, Rostered • The Roster is the official list of all the pastors and deacons in the ELCA. A leader who appears on this list is said to be “rostered.”

Transition Ministry • The process of matching the gifts of rostered leaders with a new ministry opportunity.

RELATED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Seminary • The theological educational institutions that train rostered ministers and ministry professionals in the ELCA. There are 9 Lutheran Seminaries in the US.

PLTS • Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (Berkeley, CA) is the Seminary in the territory of Region 2



CLU • California Lutheran University is the one ELCA university in Region 2, one of 27 ELCA Colleges and Universities nationwide.

Wartburg West • Wartburg College is a college of the ELCA in Waverly, Iowa, with the Wartburg West Urban Semester located for 30 years in Denver, Colorado.

ASSEMBLY TERMS

Memorial • A document which is considered by the voting members of a Synod Assembly, asking the Churchwide Assembly to take a position or initiate an action related to a specific issue. Memorials are adopted, or they fail.

Plenary • A full session of all voting members in which business is conducted and reports are heard.

Reference and Counsel • This committee reviews all resolutions and memorials prior to their consideration at an assembly.

Resolution • Requests for actions, priorities, or positions are brought before the assembly in the form of a resolution. Resolutions are adopted, or they fail.

Visitor • Any person who attends an assembly to observe, not as a voting member.

Voting Member • At an assembly of this church, an individual elected to listen, discern, and decide on behalf of the whole church. (The term, “delegate” is not used in relation to assemblies.)

■ RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. To the extent consistent with these rules of procedure, **Robert's Rules of Order** latest edition shall govern.
 - A. The Assembly will meet using the Zoom conference software. The procedures for claiming the floor for speaking or motions, and other technical features of the Zoom platform will be announced at the meeting and discussed at training opportunities before the Assembly.
2. The voting members of the assembly shall include:
 - A. A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with 175 or more baptized members. Voting members should be of different genders (male, female, or gender non-binary). The voting members of assembly should be at least 45% male and 45% female, allowing for 10% gender non-binary voting members.
 - B. In addition, based upon baptized membership records for the previous year

- (1) Congregations having membership of 650 to 1,199 baptized members shall be allowed one additional lay voting member (male, female, gender non-binary).
 - (2) Congregations having membership of 1,200 or more baptized members shall be allowed two additional lay voting members of different genders.
- C. In the selection of voting members, congregations are urged to be aware of the matter of inclusiveness of persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
 - D. All ordained ministers under call or on leave from call on the roster of the Rocky Mountain Synod.
 - E. All ordained ministers from church bodies with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established...shall have voice and vote during the period of the ordained ministers' service in a congregation of this synod.
 - F. Ten percent of the retired pastors on the roster of the Rocky Mountain Synod as well as ten percent of the retired deacons.
 - G. All retired pastors on the roster of this synod who are currently serving as interim pastors and all pastors on leave from call on the roster of this synod who are currently serving as interim pastors and who are in attendance at the assembly.
 - H. The lay officers of the synod and the lay members of the Synod Council shall be voting members.
 - J. Retired rostered ministers on the roster of this synod other than those selected to represent the ten percent representation (see F above), shall have the privilege of voice but not vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly. The Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in meetings of the Synod Assembly. Ordained clergy on other denominational rosters with whom there is no full communion partnership who are serving in shared ELCA ministries in the Rocky Mountain Synod shall have voice but not vote in meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly shall from time to time designate.

3. The Privilege of the Floor

- A. The Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- B. Ordained clergy on other denominational rosters serving in shared ELCA ministries in the Rocky Mountain Synod shall have voice but not vote in meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- c. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly shall from time to time designate. Like privileges shall be accorded to persons in connection with their reports, such as chairpersons of synodical

committees, representatives of the institutions and agencies related to or officially recognized by this synod and the president of the Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA.

4. The Chairperson of the Synod Assembly shall be the Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod.
5. The Secretary of the Synod Assembly shall be the secretary of the Rocky Mountain Synod.
6. The bishop, in consultation with the Synod Council, shall appoint a Committee on Reference and Counsel to review all proposed changes or additions to the Constitution and bylaws and other items submitted which are not germane to items contained in the stated agenda of the Synod Assembly
7. Other committees to serve the Synod Assembly shall be appointed by the bishop.
8. With the consent of the Assembly, the chairperson shall have the authority to call items of business before the Assembly in whatever order he or she considers most expedient for the conduct of the Assembly's business
9. In the elections to be held at this Assembly, a majority of votes cast shall be necessary for election.
10. Candidates nominated from the floor may complete the standard Application for Nomination form. A biography abstracted from the Application can be distributed. No other documents from the candidates will be permitted to be distributed.
11. Any proposal to appropriate funds, whether by amendment to the budget or otherwise, which is presented to a meeting of the Synod Assembly without the approval of the Synod Council, shall require a two-thirds vote of the assembly for adoption. (RMSC S7.32.14)
12. Speeches during debate on any items before this assembly shall be limited to three minutes.

■ GUIDELINES FOR THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

The assembly is meant to be a meaningful experience for all. Everyone should feel free to participate. Good order at an assembly is not intended to restrict participation but to protect the rights of each voting member. The following guidelines (from Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised) are to help in understanding the business proceedings. The Bishop hopes they will be of assistance in enabling you to participate in the necessary business.

Obtaining the Floor - Prior to a voting member speaking in the assembly, whether to make a motion or to engage in debate, it is necessary to obtain the floor. When no one else "has the floor," the voting member may address the chairperson saying, "Bishop Gonia." If recognized by the chair, the voting member is then entitled to speak, first stating his/her name and congregation. Specific instructions on how to obtain the floor during a ZOOM meeting will be shared during the opening plenary session.

Making a Motion - When presenting a motion to the assembly, a copy must be written out and given to the secretary.

Amendments to Motions - When a motion brought before an assembly does not meet with ready acceptance by all the voting members, and if it can be made more suitable or acceptable in an altered form, a proposal to modify the wording can be introduced by making a motion to amend.

"Previous Question" - To move the "previous question" is to bring the assembly to an immediate decision as to whether debate on a motion should cease. It is not debatable. If adopted, the assembly proceeds, without further debate, to vote at once on the pending question(s). A two-thirds vote is required to close debate.

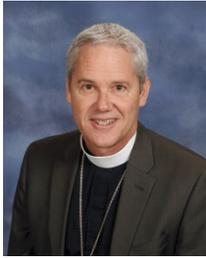
■ SPECIFICS FOR 2021

Known items of business for this assembly are listed below. Other items may yet arise from Executive Committee recommendation, Synod Council recommendation, or from the Committee on Reference and Counsel.

1. **Elections: An election will take place for the 2022 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members and Synod Vice President**
2. **Adoption of the Budget for 2021 and 2022: Time is set aside for the consideration and discussion of the budget prior to the time set for adoption. The budget shows the interdependence that exists between congregations, the synod, and churchwide agencies.**
3. **Resolutions: Resolutions received after the deadline will be reviewed by the Reference and Counsel Committee and presented to the assembly for consideration.**
4. **Other business matters pertaining to items brought before the assembly; motions germane to the specific issue under discussion are made and acted upon.**
5. **Business not related to the agenda can come to the assembly through the Committee on Reference and Counsel, RMSC S7.32.11 states: A Reference and Counsel Committee . . . shall review all proposed changes or additions to the constitution and bylaws and other items submitted which are not germane to items contained in the stated agenda of the Synod Assembly.**

■ SYNOD OFFICERS & SYNOD COUNCIL

Synod Officers



Jim Gonia
Bishop and
Presiding Officer



Earline Bohling
Vice President



Susan Mitchell
Secretary



Julie Reusser
Treasurer

Synod Council

Thom Edward
The Rev. Daniel Tisdell
Terry Cole
Jody Brammer-Hoelter
Susan Sharkey
The Rev. Julie Brooks
Debra Frank Dew
Ray Ferry

Jeff Fairfax
The Rev. Matthew Weber
The Rev. Debra Jimenez
The Rev. Eric Allert
Kenny LaJoy
Deacon Mary Stoneback
Wyatt Smith (Youth Rep)

■ PEOPLE

Reference and Counsel Committee

The Rev. Michael Mortvedt, chair
Kurt Rager, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry- NM
Peter Severson, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-CO
The Rev. Stephanie Kopsch
Deacon Jan Krakow

Parliamentarian

Kirby Glad, PRP

Board and Committee Team Leaders

Candidacy Committee – The Rev. Laura Bostrom
Congregational Ministries Board
Part Time Ministry Team – Janet Iona
Healthy Leaders Team
Global Mission Committee
Companion Synod Committee– The Rev. Brad Doty
Hunger Network – Carol McDivitt
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry -Terri Christiansen (NM); Holly Massie (CO)
Lutheran Men in Mission – Jim Monkman
Women of the ELCA – Julie Elmquist

Bishop



Rev. Jim Gonia

Rocky Mountain Synod Directory

Personnel



Rev. Barbara Berry-Bailey
Special Assistant for Diversity,
Equity, and Inclusion



Rev. Ron Beckman
Director,
Next Faithful Step Campaign



Rev. Quirino Cornejo
Minister for Multicultural Witness
(shared position with the Episcopal
Church in Colorado)



Deniese Estrada
Finance Administrator



Tina Kvitek
Director for Development
and Lutheran Center Manager



Kristen Lee
Executive Administrator



Rev. Kent Mueller
Assistant to the Bishop,
Leadership Support



Andy Nakatani
Communications Assistant



Rev. Leslie O'Callaghan
Assistant to the Bishop,
Candidacy and Faith Formation



Rev. Dana Peterson
Director for Evangelical Mission



Deacon Erin Power
Assistant to the Bishop, Synodical Life

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry



Kurt Rager
Director, New Mexico



Peter Severson
Director, Colorado

3E Lilly Grant (Educate, Equip, Enact)



Michael Tassler
Program Director



Deb Elstad
Associate Director,
Stewardship



Julie Nelson
Associate Director,
Ministerial Excellence Fund

Messiah Mountain Retreat Center Site Managers



Jen Engquist & Matt Bishop

Excellence in Leadership



Rev. Sarah Moening
Director



Dana Anderson
Program Manager

Congregational Transition



Rev. Sarah Moening
Director (in collaboration with Grand
Canyon Synod)



Rev. Doris Nolan
Transitions Administrator
(in collaboration with Grand Canyon
Synod)



Janice Ladd-Horkey
Associate for
Candidate Identification



Rev. Mandy Achterberg
Transition Coach



Rev. Will Johnson
Transition Coach



Rev. Pam Stofferahn
Transition Coach



Flip Wilson
Transition Coach

New to the Rocky Mountain Synod since last Assembly

From Candidacy

- The Rev. Alicia Harker, Chaplain, Centura Health – St. Anthony, Littleton, CO
- The Rev. Amanda Achterberg, Pastor, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Northglenn, CO
- The Rev. Nic Leither, Pastor, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Aurora, CO
- Deacon Katie Kline, Education and Family Minister, Trinity Lutheran Church, Fort Collins, CO
- The Rev. Chelsea Achterberg, Pastor, All Saints Lutheran Church, Aurora, CO

From Other Synods

- The Rev. Daren Erisman, Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church and Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry, Greeley, CO, from Pacifica Synod
- The Rev. Michael Vinson, Lead Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Monument, CO, from Indiana-Kentucky Synod
- The Rev. Ryan Jerome, Associate Pastor, Joy Lutheran Church, Parker, CO, from Eastern North Dakota Synod
- The Rev. Bill Dohle, Pastor, King of Kings Lutheran Church, Pueblo, CO, from Central/Southern Illinois Synod
- The Rev. Dione Stepanek, Senior Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Boulder, CO, from East-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Congregation Anniversaries

25 Lord of the Hills Lutheran Church, Centennial, CO

50 Faith Lutheran Church, Lander, WY

125 Zion Lutheran Church, Idaho Springs, CO
Trinity Lutheran Church, Boulder, CO

Holy Closures

Mount Hope Lutheran Church, El Paso, TX (March 7, 2021)

Deceased Rostered Ministers since the last Assembly

The Rev. Robert Ove deceased 8/4/2020

The Rev. Edwin Swenson deceased 9/12/2020

The Rev. Earl Matson deceased 10/20/2020

The Rev. Neil Kvern deceased 12/25/2020

Rostered Minister Anniversaries 2020

Word & Service

25

Melissa Bonser 3/1/1995

30

Anada Guse 11/4/1990

Judith Lounsberry 1/13/1990

35

Beverly Johnson 4/5/1985

Mark Filbert 5/14/1985

Word & Sacrament

25

Debra Enquist 7/9/1995

Jeffrey Carlson 4/23/1995

Paul Carlson 7/9/1995

30

Ann Hultquist 1/13/1990

Jason McSpadden 9/30/1990

Milton Jensen 11/10/1990

Paul Ziegler 1/1/1990

Sandra Hanawalt 7/15/1990

Walter "Tyg" Taylor II 12/26/1990

35

Anne Morawski 2/23/1985

Brian Bergum 9/28/1985

Carol West 6/30/1985

Christa von Zychlin 10/13/1985

Christopher Berry 12/15/1985

David Brock 9/22/1985

Michael Lemke 2/17/1985

Philip Wangberg 8/18/1985

Robert Moss 9/23/1985

Ronald Bockhaus 12/9/1985

Scott Beebe 6/16/1985

Wayne Nieminen 12/1/1985

40

Barbara Linder 7/27/1980

Bonita Bock 10/26/1980

John "Jack" Damien 11/9/1980

Mark Twietmeyer 7/27/1980

Nathan Doerr 6/29/1980

Richard Mayfield 1/20/1980

Susan Gamelin 8/10/1980

Timothy Gamelin 8/10/1980

45

Robert McNamara 7/13/1975

Donald Thurn 6/29/2975

George Tinker 5/15/1975

John Pederson 10/12/1975

50

Don Fahrenbrink 6/7/1970

Duane Ferchen 6/14/1970

Ervin Hesterberg 2/8/1970

Keith Long 7/19/1970

Larry Sydow 5/31/1970

Paul Dirks 8/9/1970

Thomas Lange 9/13/1970

Thomas Lee 6/28/1970

55

Bruce Berquist 6/20/1965

Harold Nilsson 6/9/1965

James Engel 6/20/1965

James Wiberg 6/20/1965

Jay Spoonheim 6/27/1965

Paul Gilbertson 6/27/1965

Robert Tyce 6/5/1965

Ronald Beckman 6/13/1965

60

Benjamin Elger 1/1/1960

Edwin Swenson 6/10/1960

Paul Schairer 9/21/1960

Robert Vogel 8/28/1960

William Behrens 7/10/1960

William Hershey 6/15/1960

65

Frederick Castor 1/1/1955

Dwight Ellefson 5/29/1955

Lloyd Lorensen 7/6/1955

Victor Hoops 7/24/1955

William Puder 9/4/1955

Rostered Minister Anniversaries 2021

Word & Service

20

Terri McMaster 3/18/2001

Winilue Klein 3/18/2001

30

Alice Wolf 2/17/1991

Cynthia Biddlecomb 5/26/1991

Word & Sacrament

20

Bruce Bennett 9/29/2001

Daniel Hays 6/17/2001

Emily Cardin 2/17/2001

Jeremy Gamelin 9/22/2001

Karen O'Malia 6/1/2001

Martin Lettow 7/27/2001

Matthew Powell 8/5/2001

Sara Wirth 7/14/2001

Sonja Pancoast 9/30/2001

25

Julie Britsch 6/16/1996

Laurie O'Shea 11/10/1996

Daren Erisman 9/14/1996

Susan Kent 8/4/1996

Wesley Dunbar 10/13/1996

30

Jeffrey Hanson 11/2/1991

Laurel Thorstensen 12/29/1991

35

Jose Abe Gonzalez 11/16/11986

Bruce Kolasch 11/23/1986

Daniel Holt 6/15/1986

Laurie Jeddelloh 7/6/1986

Maria Wette 5/7/1986

Patricia Johnson 10/11/1986

Paul Judson 7/20/1986

Rebecca Johnson Aardahl 8/3/1986

40

Jeffrey Swanson 6/14/1981

Constance Grogan 2/15/1981

Darlene Muschett 9/19/1981

Woody Carlson 8/23/1981

Ronald Glusenkamp 5/29/1981

Thomas Shelly 6/14/1981

45

Daniel Bollman 8/15/1976

Dennis Koch 6/20/1976

Joseph Holub 6/27/1986

Mark Will 10/17/1976

Randal Pabst 7/11/1976

Rodney Hansen 12/26/1976

Ronald Booker 12/5/1976

Russell Sorensen 6/6/1976

Timothy Thorstenson 11/28/1976

50

Carl Walker 1/1/1971

Carlos Schneider 7/25/1971

Charles Exley 4/23/1971

John Sandstrom 6/20/1971

Keith Knoff 9/26/1971

Keith Hedstrom 7/11/1971

Mark Crates 6/20/1971

Wayne Josephson 6/20/1971

55

Delbert Grauerholz 6/19/1966

James Davis 6/26/1966

Larry Wright 5/29/1966

Milbern Goetz 6/12/1966

Paul Peel 6/5/1966

Peter Swan 6/12/1966

Philip Erlander 7/10/1966

60

Donald Groskreutz 7/23/1961

George Lund 5/20/1961

Ronald Swenson 6/18/1951

70

Eugene Brueggermann 8/12/1951