

Report of the Secretary 2025 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly

The Synod Council of the Northwest Washington Synod will have met five times since the May 2024 Synod Assembly. The Executive Committee of the Synod has met six times. The actions of these two bodies are summarized below.

Calls Issued

Rev. Thomas Voelp	Our Redeemer's, Ballard	4 March 2024
Rev. Mark Fischer	Bethlehem, Marysville	28 April 2024
Rev. Deb Squires	Our Saviors, Everett	21 July 2024
Rev. William Walles	Hope, Lk. Stevens	20 October 2024
Rev. Heidi Calhoun	Living Hope, Renton	23 January 2025
Rev Kathleen Ierien	Phinney Ridge, Seattle	23 March 2025

Synod Calls Issued:

Rev. Kari Lipke	Adult Services Clinician at Sound Mental Health on Capitol Hill, Seattle	5/17/2024
Rev. Marc Hander	LCSNW, Bethlehem, Skagit & Whatcom Conferences, Central Lutheran	5/17/2024
Rev. Pam Karas	Faith Lutheran, Everett (renewed)	5/17/2024
Rev. Jenna Bergeson	Churchwide Regional Representative	7/21/2024
Rev. Joseph Li	Ministry to Chinese Student Scholars (SAOM)	9/21/2024*
Rev. Ivar Hillestad	Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, Olympia	11/16/2024
Rev. Caitlyn Melillo	Director of Spiritual Care, Bethany of the Northwest	11/16/2024
Rev. Glen Aaberg	Chaplain, AccentCare Hospice	1/18/2025*
Rev. Bobbi Cyr (Deacon)	Luther's Table, Renton	1/18/2025
Rev. Elizabeth Colver (Deacon)	Transition Minister	1/18/2025
Rev. Luke Allgyer (Deacon)	Palliative Care Chaplain, Fred Hutch Cancer Center, Seattle	1/18/2025
Rev. Wendy Cheung	Love of Christ and Grace Chinese, Sammamish	1/18/2025

Granted Retirement:

Rev. David Parks	Our Savior's, Everett	23 June 2024
Rev. John Vaswig	Interim – Southwestern Washington Synod	1 January 2025
Rev. Robert Todd Wright	Bethany of the Northwest	1 January 2025
Erik Wilson-Weiberg	Ballard First, Seattle	11 May 2025

Full-Communion Partner Invitations to Extended Service:

Rev. Christopher Johnson (Presbyterian, PCUSA)	Shepherd of the Valley, Maple Valley	1 June 2024
Rev. Wilma Reyes (United Methodist, UMC)	Bethlehem, Sedro Wooley	18 September 2024
Rev. Leigh DeVries (Presbyterian, PCUSA)	Christ, Ferndale	20 October 2024
Rev. Zulma Tifre (United Methodist, UMC)	El Camino de Emaus, Burlington	2 November 2024
Rev. Joshua ChanFoo Ng (Episcopal)	Grace Chinese, Seattle	17 November 2024
Rev. Erin Grayson (Presbyterian, PCUSA)	Bethany, Bainbridge	1 January 2025

Granted or Extended On Leave From Call (OLFC):

Rev. Paul Kacynski	Roots of the Table, Renton	2 May 2024 – 2 May 2025
Rev. Anja Helmon	OLFC Extension	17 May 2024 – 17 May 2025
Dcn. Eva Schulte	OLFC Extension	21 September 2024 – 21 September 2025
Rev. Glen Aaberg	OLFC Extension	21 September 2024 – 21 September 2025
Rev. Anja Helmon	Changed to OLFC (Family)	21 September 2024 – 21 September 2026
Rev. Anne Lohrmann	Phinney Ridge, Seattle	1 October 2024 – 1 October 2025
Rev. Patrick Meagher (Deacon)	Phinney Ridge, Seattle	16 December 2024 – 16 December 2025
Rev. Dave Thomas	Cross of Christ, Bellevue	12 January 2025 – 12 January 2026
Rev. John Swanson	Navy Chaplain	24 February 2025 – 24 February 2026

Removed from the Roster:

Rev. Matthew Zelig	2 May 2024
--------------------	------------

PLU Corporate Delegate Appointments:**7 August 2024****Terms expired in 2024**

Missy Maxson, Morning Star Lutheran, Monroe

Rev. David Schoeld, Sammamish Hills Lutheran, Sammamish

Liz Wallace, Edison Lutheran, Bow

Terms expiring in 2025

Rev. Tim Feiertag, Trinity Lutheran, Everett

Rev. Marjorie Lorant, Whatcom County

Susan Berg, First Lutheran, Bothell

Terms expiring in 2026

Carmen Unti, St. Matthews Lutheran, Renton

Rev. Erik Kindem, Peace Lutheran, West Seattle

David Johnson, First Lutheran, Mt. Vernon

Terms expiring in 2027

Missy Maxson, Morning Star Lutheran, Monroe

Mark Hatlen, First Lutheran, Bothell

Rev. Julie Blum, Maple Leaf Lutheran, Seatt

Personnel Committee Appointment:

- **21 September 2024**
 - Dan Squires, Synod Council Representative

Bishop Call Process Committee Appointments:

- **12 June 2024**
 - Rev. Gail Rautmann, Chairperson
- **21 September 2024**
 - Rev. Paul Eldred
 - Rev. Kristy Daniels
 - Rev. Janet Cederberg (Deacon)
 - Kasey Shultz
 - Bill Salen
 - John Bumanglag

Finance Committee Appointment:

- **18 January 2025**
 - Dan Clements (term expires in 2029)

2025 Synod Assembly Appointments:

- **16 November 2024**
 - **Assembly Planning Team Chair** – Courtney Stepp
 - **Parliamentarian** – Rev. Wm. Chris Berger
 - **Registrar** – Josh Judd-Herzfeldt
 - **Elections Committee Co-Chairpersons** – Rev. Paul Stumme-Diers and Rev. Sara Funkhouser
 - **Reference & Counsel Committee** – Rev. Tor Berg
 - **Display Coordinator** - Kathy Fisher
- **13 February 2025**
 - **Usher Committee Chairperson** - Cheri VerMuriën
- **10 April 2025**
 - **Reference and Council Committee** – Rev. Tor Berg, Chair, Linda Siebert, Rev. Mark Griffith, Rev. Lara Forbes, Pam Russell, and Rev. Liz Colver (Deacon)

Summary of Synod Council Actions since the 2024 Synod Assembly:

17 May 2024, Dumas Bay Centre, Federal Way

- **SC2024.05.17.01** to approve the agenda as presented.
 - The following items were requested to be removed from the Consent Agenda:
 - Approval of Synod Calls for Rev. Marc Hander and Rev. Kari Lipke
 - The Bishop's Report
 - The Synod Website Policy recommended to be rescinded
- **SC2024.05.17.02** to rescind the website policy approved by Synod Council September 21, 2002.
- **SC2024.05.17.03** to extend synod calls to Rev. Marc Hander to serve as Community Engagement Manager for Lutheran Community Services NW in Bellingham; Transition Facilitator for Bethlehem Lutheran, Sedro Wooley; and Legacy Facilitator, Central Lutheran, Bellingham and to Rev. Kari Lipke to serve as an Adult Services Clinician at Sound Mental Health on Capitol Hill, Seattle.
- **SC2024.05.17.04** to approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda consisting of:

- Approval of the minutes of the March 16, 2024 Synod Council Meeting
 - Reception of the following written staff reports as presented, including any addendums:
 - Report of the Assistant to the Bishop – Andy Yee
 - Report of the Treasurer – Bart Broston
 - Report of the Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) – Judy Brennan
 - Report of the Director of Formation and Learning – David Hahn
 - Report of the Director of Properties – Jay Edgerton
 - Reception of the following written committee report as presented:
 - Policy Review
 - Recension of the following outdated communications policies with the intention of replacing them with new, more accurate ones (per Policy Review Committee recommendation)
 - Synod Addresses
 - Synod Publications
 - Approval of the following roster actions:
 - On Leave from Call (OLFC):
 - Rev. Jenna Bergeson (3/17/2024)
 - Rev. Anja Helmon (4/5/2024)
 - Retired:
 - Rev. Verlon Brown (3/1/2024)
 - Rev. David Parks (6/23/2024)
 - Synod Call:
 - Rev. Pam Karas, Faith Lutheran, Everett (4/7/2024) - renewal
 - Reception of the following roster notifications:
 - Called:
 - Sr. Jessica Zimmerle, St. John United (2/1/2024)
 - Rev. Mark Fischer, Bethlehem (4/28/2024)
 - Death:
 - Rev. Chris Berry
 - Transfer in:
 - Rev. Thomas Voelp (3/4/2024) from SWCA
 - Transfer out:
 - Dcn. Clara Griffin (3/18/2024) to SWCA
 - Rev. Roger Claxton (5/6/2024/) to SE Iowa
 - Resigned from the roster:
 - Matt Zeile
-
- **SC2024.05.17.05** to approve the following as NWWA Active Coaches, so that they might be provided liability insurance through the Synod's Insurance Policy with Church Mutual Insurance: Kevin Bates, Kay Edgerton, Misi French, Sara Funkhouser, Hector Garfias-Toledo, Marc Hander, Callie Moothart, Cindy Myatt, Jim Myers, Harriet Platts, Jane Prestbye, Gary Rothenberg, Erik Samuelson, Kasey Shultz, Deb Squires, Cara Tanis, and Jade Yi.
 - **SC2024.05.17.06** to authorize Ivar Hillesland to complete the Reconciling in Christ survey on behalf of the synod.
 - **SC2024.05.17.07** to recognize and receive Hope Church, Lake Stevens, as a new congregation of the NWWA Synod and the ELCA.
 - **SC2024.05.17.08** to approve \$5000 from the NWWA Synod's Renewing Congregations Fund for the Youth Energizing Snohomish (YES) Outreach Program for 2024.**
[**\$5,000 is also requested from the ELCA Churchwide offices.]
 - **SC2024.05.17.09** to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

21 September 2024, Synod Office, Seattle

- **SC2024.09.21.01** to approve the agenda as presented.
- **SC2024.09.21.02** to approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda consisting of:
 - Approval of the minutes of the May 17, 2024 Synod Council Meeting
 - Approval of the minutes of the May 18, 2024 Synod Assembly
 - Receipt of the following written staff reports as presented, including any addendums:
 - Report of the Bishop – Shelley Bryan Wee
 - Report of the Assistant to the Bishop – Andy Yee
 - Report of the Treasurer – Bart Broston
 - Report of the DEM – Judy Brennan
 - Report of the Director of Properties – Jay Edgerton
 - Appointments:
 - Appointed the following people to the Bishop Call Process Task Force (Chair, Gail Rautman)
 - Paul Eldred
 - Kristy Daniels
 - Janet Cederberg
 - Kasey Shultz
 - Bill Salen
 - John Bumanglag
 - Grant Approvals:
 - Approved a Gloria Dei Endowment grant of \$1000 for Children’s Ministry at The Gathering (Zion Lutheran and Pathways Joint Venture).
 - Approved the following roster actions:
 - On Leave from Call (OLFC):
 - Paul Kacynski (5/2/2024)
 - Changed Pr. Anja Helmon’s leave from OLFC to Family Leave
 - Ratified the following actions taken by the Executive Committee since the last meeting of the full council:
 - Approval of the formation of the "NWWA Synod Lake Stevens LLC" so that we can hold and lease the church facility in Lake Stevens formally owned by Holy Cross Lutheran.
 - PLU Corporation Appointments: David Johnson (2-year term), Missy Maxson, Mark Hatlen, Rev. Julie Blum (3-year terms).
 - Approved requesting extension of On Leave from Call status for the following people:
 - Glen Aaberg
 - Eva Schulte
- **SC2024.09.21.03** to approve the NWWA Synod Ministry Site 2025 Compensation Guidelines.
- **SC2024.09.21.04** to approve the Personnel Committee’s Sabbatical Policy for Synod Staff as amended to include the following sentence added at the end of the first paragraph: *A request for a sabbatical outside the parameters of this policy will be considered on an individual basis by the Bishop and the Executive Committee.*
- **SC2024.09.21.05** to approve the NWWA Gift Policy with the following amendments:
 - Insert in Section II – Committee Guidelines - as point B: *Restricted Funds given with the intent to create a new designated fund must be a minimum of \$25,000;*
 - In Section VIII – Gift Policy Review – add the word, ‘Council’ after the word, ‘Synod;’ and
 - In Exhibit B, Restriction and Release Form, delete the last sentence in the first paragraph under “Donor Release” which reads: *“The gift or contribution along with any remainder, unused portion, accumulated interest, or growth will then begin the unrestricted gift process as outlined in this Synod’s Gift Policy.”*

- **SC2024.09.21.06** to accept the Bishop Election Process and Timeline proposed by the Bishop Nomination and Election Task Force.
- **SC2024.09.21.07** to call a special meeting of the 2025 SA in 2026 in which the 2025 voting members from the synod's congregations would participate via Zoom. The primary purpose of this meeting will be to elect people to the positions of Vice President and Secretary.
- **SC2024.09.21.08** to approve an invitation to extended service to Pr. Zulma Tifre as part-time Mission Developer at El Camino de Emaús in Burlington.
- **SC2024.09.21.09** to appoint Bobbi Cyr as temporary, Interim Mission Developer for Roots of the Table through the remainder of this year.
- **SC2024.09.21.10** to approve that the NWWA Synod officially transition 'Ministry to Chinese Student Scholars' as a Synod Authorized Outreach Ministry and designates as their ministry leader Rev. Joseph Li effective 9/21/2024.
- **SC2024.09.21.11** to approve the formation of the Synod Grants Task Force with the outlined duties as follow: 1) come up with a "Plan" for raising funds to support ministries of the NWWA Synod; 2) offer criteria for evaluating current ministry commitments and near-future requests (FY2025); and 3) make recommendations to Council regarding our funding structure.
- **SC2024.09.21.12** to begin paying synod staff according to synod guidelines as of October 14.
- **SC2024.09.21.13** to adjourn the meeting at 2:26 p.m.

16 November 2024, Zoom

- **SC2024.11.16.01** to approve the *NWWA Synod Contact Sharing Policy* forwarded by the Policy Review Committee.
- **SC2024.11.16.02** to approve a synod call for Pastor Ivar Hillesland to serve in a position at the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia.
- **SC2024.11.16.03** to approve an Invitation to Extended Service to Rev. Joshua Ng to Grace Chinese Lutheran Church, Seattle.
- **SC2024.11.16.04** to acknowledge and express our appreciation to Pastor Caitlyn Melillo for her service as Interim Director of Pastoral Care at Bethany NW in addition to her current responsibilities as chaplain at that facility and at Seattle Children's Hospital.
- **SC2024.11.16.05** The Northwest Washington Synod Council officially authorizes Love of Christ Lutheran Church in Bellevue, WA as a Synod Authorized Worshiping Community (SAWC) and designates as their servant leader Pastor Wendy Cheung.
- **SC2024.11.16.06** The Northwest Washington Synod officially authorizes Luther's Table in Renton, WA to be a Synod Authorized Outreach Ministry (SAOM) pending Churchwide approval of their grant. Upon approval, the Synod Council also designates as their servant leader Bobbi Jo Cyr.
- **SC2024.11.16.07** The Northwest Washington Synod affirms the strategy of the Cultivate Sacred Spaces team pending Churchwide approval of their grant. (Funding approval will be requested at a later time.)
- **SC2024.11.16.08** to affirm the merger of Cross and Crown Lutheran Church and Nativity Lutheran Church into Living Hope Lutheran Church.
- **SC2024.11.16.09** to approve "Woven into God's Story," based on Galatians 3:26-27, for the 2025 Synod Assembly theme.
- **SC2024.11.16.10** to approve the voting member allocation for the 2025 Synod Assembly
- **SC2024.11.16.11** to approve the Synod Assembly budget as proposed.
- **SC2024.11.16.12** to appoint Rev. Chris Berger as Parliamentarian, Rev. Paul Stumme-Diers and Rev. Sara Funkhouser as Elections Committee Co-chairs, Tor Berg as Reference and Counsel Chair, Josh Judd-Herzfeldt as Registrar, Kim Unti and Pam Kluth as Décor Team, and Kathy Fisher as Display Coordinator for the 2025 Synod Assembly.
- **SC2024.11.16.13** to adjourn the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

18 January 2025, Synod Office, Seattle

- **SC2025.01.18.01** to approve the consent agenda consisting of:
 - Approval of the minutes of the November 16, 2024 Synod Council Meeting
 - Receipt of the following written reports as presented:
 - Report of the Bishop – Shelley Bryan Wee
 - Report of the Assistant to the Bishop – Andy Yee
 - Report of the Treasurer – Bart Broston
 - Report of the DEMs – Judy Brennan
 - Report of the Policy Review Committee – Netsie Griffith
 - Approval of the following housing allowances:
 - Pr. Andy Yee: \$45,000
 - Bp. Shelley Bryan Wee: \$40,000
 - Pr. David Hahn: \$10,000
 - Appointment of:
 - Dan Clements to a 4-year term on the Finance Committee
 - Approval of the following roster actions:
 - On Leave from Call (new)
 - Dave Thomas (1/12/2025)
 - Patrick Meagher (12/16/24)
 - On Leave from Call (renewal)
 - Gretchen Mertes (10/16/24)
 - Authorization of the following ministries as Synod Authorized Worshiping Communities (SAWCs)
 - Bethel Ethiopian Church
 - Echoes
 - El Camino de Emmaus
 - Emmaus Table
 - Grace Chinese Lutheran of South King County
 - Grace Chinese Sammamish Hills
 - Love of Christ Lutheran Church
 - North Cascades Wild Church
 - Seattle Covenant Community Fellowship
 - Authorization of the following as Synod Authorized Outreach Ministries (SAOM)
 - Luther's Table
 - Ministry to Chinese Students and Scholars (UW International Students Ministry)
 - Authorization of the following as a Synod Vitality Program (SVP)
 - Cultivate Sacred Spaces/Fresh Expressions
 - Designation of the following congregations to continue as Strategic Ministries of the NWWA Synod in FY 2025
 - Grace Chinese Seattle
 - St. Matthew's Lutheran, Renton
 - Columbia City Church of Hope
 - Closure of the following ministries:

- Family and Friends Gathering (SAWC)
- Roots of the Table (SAWC)
- **SC2025.01.18.02** to change Dcn. Luke Allgeyer's Synod Call to Palliative Care Chaplain at Fred Hutch Cancer Center's outpatient clinics in Seattle.
- **SC2025.01.18.03** to divide the offering in five ways between the four synod emphases* and Lutheran Disaster Response.
 - *1) LiVE Project, 2) the Bishop's Caring Fund 3) Candidacy/Call Processes, and 4) the Emerging and Strategic Ministries Fund (for outreach and new ministries)
- **SC2025.01.18.04** to combine the two funds, "New Congregations" (02-371-10002) and "Renewing Congregations" (02-371-20002), into one new fund titled the "Emerging and Strategic Ministries Fund."
- **SC2025.01.18.05** to include the new "Emerging and Strategic Ministries Fund" in the synod budget beginning with the 2026 budget.
- **SC2025.01.18.06** that the Synod Council or Synod Council Executive Committee will approve funding allocations from the "Emerging and Strategic Ministries Fund" and the "Long-Term Accompaniment Fund" with recommendations from the Director for Evangelical Mission and/or the Evangelism and Outreach (EO) Team.
- **SC2025.01.18.07** to approve that the annual distribution from the Mission in Washington Endowment Fund would include the "Emerging and Strategic Ministries Fund" beginning with the 2025 distribution.
- **SC2025.01.18.08** to approve the *NWWA Synod Policy for Synod Council Members' Costs* as amended
- **SC2025.01.18.09** to approve the *NWWA Synod Communication Guidelines* as amended.
- **SC2025.01.18.10** to issue a Synod Call to Bobbi Cyr as Mission Developer to Luther's Table, a Synod Authorized Outreach Ministry (SAOM).
- **SC2025.01.18.11** to issue a Synod Call to Pr. Glen Aaberg serving as Chaplain/Spiritual Care Counselor at AccentCare Hospice in Renton, WA.
- **SC2025.01.18.12** to reauthorize a Synod Call to Pr. Wendy Cheung to mission development, now serving Grace Chinese, Sammamish Hills and Love of Christ Lutheran, Bellevue.
- **SC2025.01.18.13** to issue a synod call to Dcn. Elizabeth (Liz) Colver as a Transition Minister.
- **SC2025.01.18.14** to discontinue our work with Crossroads and to join Organizing for Mission to work with them to fulfill our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Assessment commitment as instructed by the 2022 Synod Assembly.
- **SC2025.01.18.15** to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 grant request of \$5,000 for Snohomish King Youth (SKY).
- **SC2025.01.18.16** to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) grant requests for all categories of outreach ministries in the Northwest Washington Synod totaling \$216,750.*
[*See breakdown on attached amendment.]
- **SC2025.01.18.17** to approve that \$11,257.50 be issued to First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach from the Synod's unrestricted surplus balance to cover the remaining balance on the debt of Emmaus Table @ 7400 Woodlawn. [Currently the balance in the unrestricted surplus is \$342,158 as of 12/31/2024.]
- **SC2025.01.18.18** to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

15 March 2025, Zoom

- **SC2025.03.15.01** to approve the agenda with additional action items from the Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM), Judy Brennan.
- **SC2025.03.15.02** to approve the consent agenda consisting of:
 - Approval of the minutes of the January 18, 2025 Synod Council Meeting
 - Receipt of the following written staff reports as presented including any addendums:
 - Report of the Bishop – Shelley Bryan Wee
 - Report of the Assistant to the Bishop – Andy Yee
 - Report of the Treasurer – Bart Broston
 - Report of DEM – Judy Brennan
 - Approval of the following roster actions:
 - On Leave from Call (new)
 - John Swanson (2/24/2025)
 - Retired
 - John Vaswig (1/1/2025)
 - Robert Todd Wright (1/1/2025)
 - Receive the following notifications of roster changes:
 - Called
 - Heidi Calhoun – Start Date: 1/23/2025
 - Kathleen Ierien – Start Date: 3/23/2025
 - Churchwide Call:
 - Jeanna Bergeson (Regional Representative for Southeast Asia) – 7/21/2024
 - Death
 - Lowell Knutson – 1/31/2025
 - Transfer In:
 - Kathleen Ierien – Delaware/Maryland
 - Transfer Out
 - Gretchen Mertes – Indianan/Kentucky
 - Robert Todd Wright – Indiana/Kentucky
 - Anna Rieke – Grand Canyon
 - Editing of the Synod Assembly Offering Designation as follows:
 - Assembly Offering Designation to be split FOUR ways: Lutheran Disaster Response AND three areas of emphasis during assembly: Bishop's Caring Fund, LiVE Project, and Emerging and Strategic Ministries.
 - Recognition of the following as Coach NW Active Status Coaches
 - Gary Rothenberg, Jane Prestbye, Jade Yi, Hector Garfias-Toledo, Cara Tanis, Kasey Shultz, Jim Myers, Kevin Bates, Erik Samuelson, Deb Squires, Misi French, Cindy Myatt, Sara Funkhouser, Harriet Platts
- **SC2025.03.15.03** to approve the Standing Rules for the 2025 Synod Assembly as presented.
- **SC2025.03.15.04** to make the SC Executive Committee the Committee for the Mission in Washington Endowment Fund Policy and to accept the changes pertaining to the committee's work as presented in the revised policy.

- **SC2025.03.15.05** to authorize appropriate Synod officials and staff to convert the real estate contract pertaining to Glendale Lutheran Church to a conventional sale with carry-back financing and payments at a minimum to cover the interest.
- **SC2025.03.15.06** that SC create a restricted line-item fund within the property fund titled "Property Held Glendale" until the final sale is completed and all expenses to the synod are reimbursed before final, legacy distributions are made.
- **SC2025.03.15.07** to approve offering Trueliving a discount for early prepayment of the loan amount as outlined on p. 3 of Jay's memorandum to the SC.
- **SC2025.03.15.08** to pay for acquisition expenses from the Synod's reserve account to be paid back from Trueliving's installment payments.
- **SC2025.03.15.09** to approve the \$10,000 Congregational Outreach Ministry Grant from the Emerging and Strategic Ministries Fund to Grace Lutheran Church, Des Moines in their commitment to Latino and multicultural ministry. [The ELCA is providing a matching grant of \$10,000 to this ministry as well.]
- **SC2025.03.15.10** to approve the transfer of funds from the Fe Y Esperanza Tutoring Program, administered by Gloria Dei Lutheran, Lynnwood, to the synod's Latinx Ministries Fund (02-346-02002).
- **SC2025.03.15.11** to acknowledge significant, legacy gifts from Central, Bellingham and Holy Cross, Bellevue and empower the Synod Council Secretary to send a thank you on SCs behalf.
- **SC2025.03.15.12** to make changes to the NWWA Synod Constitution in articles S12.01.01 and S12.01.02 to reflect the change from 'cluster' to 'conference' terminology.

15 May 2025, Trinity Lutheran Church, Everett

- Actions from this meeting not yet available when this report was printed

Summary of Executive Committee Actions since the 2024 Synod Assembly:

12 June 2024, Zoom

- **EC2024.06.12.01** to approve the 10 April 2024 Executive Committee minutes as presented.
- **EC2024.06.12.02** to approve Pr. Gail Rautman to serve as chair of the Bishop's Election Committee.
- **EC2024.06.12.03** that the NWWA Synod Council invites Pr. Leigh DeVries to extended service as pastor at Christ Lutheran Church, Ferndale, WA.
- **EC2024.06.12.04** that the NWWA Synod Council invites Pr. Wilma Reyes to extended service as pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sedro Wooley, WA pending approval of a contract on 6/23/2024 by the congregation and approval of compensation by the NWWA Synod Bishop and the UMC Bishop.
- **EC2024.06.12.05** to approve a sabbatical grant of \$2000 for Dcn. Patrick Meagher at the request of the Gloria Dei Endowment Fund Committee.
- **EC2024.06.12.06** to approve adding the following sentence to the Gloria Dei Endowment Fund bylaws at the end of Roman Numeral 6 (VI):
In the event that the Gloria Dei Endowment Fund grant is not spent in the time frame named in the application, the money must be returned to the Gloria Dei Endowment Fund.
- **EC2024.06.12.07** to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 pm.

7 August 2024, Zoom

- **EC2024.08.07.01** to approve the 12 June 2024 Executive Committee minutes as presented.
- **The report of the Assistant to the Bishop was received without objections.**
- **The report of the Treasurer was received without objections.**

- **EC2024.08.07.02** to affirm the decisive, favorable vote of the Executive Committee taken by email prompted by a July 18 email message from Assistant to the Bishop, Andy Yee, to approve the formation of a Northwest Washington Synod LLC to hold and lease a church facility located at 9613 20th St. SE in Lake Stevens, WA.
- **EC2024.08.07.03** to appoint the following members of the Northwest Washington Synod to serve on the Pacific Lutheran University Corporation:
 - David Johnson, First Lutheran in Mount Vernon (2-year term – completing vacated spot; term ending in 2026); Missy Mason, Morning Star in Monroe (2nd 3-year term; term ending in 2027); Mark Hatlen, First Lutheran in Bothell; term ending in 2027); Rev. Julie Blum, Maple Leaf Lutheran in Seattle; term ending in 2027)
- **EC2024.08.07.04** to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 pm.

10 October 2024, Zoom

- **EC2024.10.10.01** to approve the 7 August 2024 Executive Committee minutes as presented.
- **The report of the Bishop was received without objections.**
- **The report of the Assistant to the Bishop was received without objections.**
- **The report of the Treasurer was received without objections.**

12 December 2024, Zoom

- **EC2024.12.12.01** to approve the 10 October 2024 Executive Committee minutes as presented.
- **The report of the Bishop was received without objections.**
- **The report of the Assistant to the Bishop was received without objections.**
- **The report of the Treasurer was received without objections.**
- **EC2024.12.12.02** to distribute the total annual amount* owed from the Maritime Ministries Endowment to Mission to Seafarers.

13 February 2025, Zoom

- **The Minutes of the 12 December 2024 Executive Committee were approved by acclamation.**
- **The report of the Bishop was received without objections.**
- **The report of the Assistant to the Bishop was received without objections.**
- **The report of the Treasurer was received without objections.**
- **EC2025.02.13.01** to appoint Cheri VerMurién as the Usher Committee Chairperson for the 2025 Synod Assembly.

10 April 2025, Zoom

- **The Minutes of the 13 February 2025 Executive Committee meeting, as corrected, were approved by acclamation.**
- **The report of the Bishop was received without objections.**
- **The report of the Assistant to the Bishop was received without objections.**
- **The report of the Treasurer was received without objections.**
- **EC2025.04.10.01** to appoint Rev. Tor Berg, Chair, Linda Siebert, Rev. Mark Griffith, Rev. Lara Forbes, Pam Russell, and Rev. Liz Colver (Deacon) to the Reference and Council Committee for the 2025 Synod Assembly.
- **EC2025.04.10.02** to approve the 2026 NWWA Synod Budget as presented for forwarding to the Synod Assembly.
- **EC2025.04.10.03** to approve the 2025 NWWA Synod Assembly Agenda as presented.

- **EC2025.04.10.04** to approve the recommendation of the Mission in Washington Endowment Fund Committee to distribute the 2024 accessible amount of \$17,562.15 equally* between 1) Coach NW, 2) the New and Renewing Congregations Fund [recently renamed the Emerging and Strategic Ministries Fund], and 3) the Bishop's Caring Fund.
[*This means each entity will receive \$5,854.05.]

Factual Information from the ELCA Office of the Secretary

Transfers to NWWA:

Rev. Thomas Voelp	3/4/2024	Southwestern California
Rev. Mark Fischer	4/28/2024	SE Michigan
Rev. Margaret "Renee" Lier	5/23/2024	Rocky Mountain
Rev. Karl Pishaw	6/14/2024	Oregon
Rev. Al Berg	7/11/2024	Southwestern Washington
Rev. Kathleen Ierien	3/23/2025	Delaware-Maryland
Rev. Tim Bender	3/24/2025	Michigan
Rev. Barbara Bender	3/24/2025	Michigan
Rev. Richard Lehmann	3/24/2025	SE Iowa

Transfers from NWWA:

Rev. Roger Claxton	5/6/2024	SE Iowa
Rev. Anna Rieke	8/11/2024	Grand Canyon
Rev. JT Burk	11/3/2024	Southwestern Washington
Rev. Todd Wright	4/15/2025	Indiana-Kentucky

Ordained:

Rev. Bobbi Cyr (Deacon)	Luther's Table	8 March 2025
-------------------------	----------------	--------------

Deaths:

Rev. Fred Vonderlage	21 October 2023
Rev. Paul Feiertag	02 July 2024 *
Rev. Ed Markquart	3 September 2024
Rev. Paul Wietzke	17 September 2024
Rev. Lowell Knutson	31 January 2025
Rev. Jack Hustad	15 February 2025

Congregational Anniversaries:

Celebration Lutheran, Anacortes	25 years
Freeborn Lutheran, Stanwood	125 years

New Congregations:

Hope Lutheran, Lake Stevens	17 May 2024
Living Hope Lutheran, Renton (Merger of Cross and Crown and Nativity)	16 November 2024

New Synod Authorized Worshiping Communities:

Love of Christ Lutheran, Bellevue	16 November 2024
-----------------------------------	------------------

New Synod Authorized Outreach Ministry:

Luther's Table, Renton	16 November 2024
------------------------	------------------

Congregations Closed:

None

Congregations Leaving the ELCA:

None

*revisions made May 6, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Netsie N. Griffith,
Northwest Washington Synod Council Secretary