

1. Welcome and Devotions

Call to Order – Time: 9:01

Devotion & Prayer - Carol Carpenter of St. Mark's BG opened our meeting with sharing about some of the services St. Mark's provides and their Free Furniture Pantry. Then lead us in prayer.

Roll Call: (check those in attendance)

- ☒ Bishop Daniel Beaudoin
- ☒ Nancy Yunker
- ☒ Michelle Schaffer
- ☒ Shea McGrew
- ☒ Wendy Bauer
- ☐ Caitlin Brink
- ☐ Rev. Tucker O'Leary
- ☐ Rev. Melanie Haack
- ☒ Christine Reasoner
- ☒ Kathy Jurrus
- ☒ Rev. Melodi Hagen
- ☒ Clark Price
- ☒ Rev. Ashley Rosa-Ruggieri
- ☒ Beth Kieffer
- ☒ Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt
- ☒ Kevin Swagler
- ☒ Jerusha Walker
- ☒ Kelly Weber
- ☒ Rodney West Estell
- ☒ Josh Billnitzer
- ☒ Rev. Tanyce Addison
- ☒ Rev. Aaron Baughman

Staff: (check those in attendance)

- ☒ Deacon Sherry Krieger
- ☐ Rev. Sarah Schaaf
- ☒ Cassie Mugler
- ☒ Calla Gilson Burns
- ☐ Cheryl Sondergeld
- ☐ Jillian Russell
- ☒ Dave Seitz
- ☐ Jacob Henry

Guests:

__None__

Quorum Established:

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion made by Kevin Swagler to approve the agenda.

Second made by Pastor Tanyce Addison.

☒ Approved

3. Approval of Synod Council Minutes: January 31, 2026

Motion was made by Clark Price to approve the minutes for the Synod Council Minutes for January 31, 2026.

Second was made by Kathy Jurrus.

☒ Approved

4. Bishop Daniel Teaching Time and Update

- Bishop Daniel gave a brief overview of what the administration had been up to and of the upcoming Synod Assembly.
- Reviewed the new Bible Study "The Way of Love." Council received a copy.

5. Synod Council Roster and Parish Actions

Action SC26.07 Constitution Updates

"Synod Council approves the constitutional updates for Grace, Elmore and Faith, Metamora."

Motion was made by Kevin Swagler to approve Action SC26.07 Constitution Updates.

Second was made by Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt.

☒ **Approved**

Action SC26.08 Appointment of Synod Authorized Minister (SAM)

"At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the appointment of Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt to serve at St. John's, Sandusky and Zion, Huron through December 31, 2026:

Motion was made by Kathy Jurrus to approve Action SC26.08 Appointment of Synod Authorized Minister (SAM)

Second made by Wendy Bauer.

☒ **Approved**

Action SC26.09 Approval of On Leave from Call (OL)

"At the recommendation of the Bishop, Synod Council approves the renewal of on leave status of Rev. Dan Gutman, 5/26/2024 (3/6 years)."

Motion was made by Pastor Ashly Rosa-Ruggeri to approve Action SC26.09 approval of On Leave from Call (OL)

Second was made by Pastor Melodi Hagen

☒ **Approved**

Action SC26.10 Approval of all 2026 Synod Assembly Actions

Appointment of Credentials Committee.

"Synod Council appoints the following individuals to serve on the 2026 Synod Assembly Credentials Committee: Diane Ninke, and Rev. Alan Fuhrhop."

Approval of the Assembly Proposed Order of Business and Rules of Procedures

"Synod Council approves the Proposed Order of Business for the 2026 Synod Assembly and recommends the 2026 Synod Assembly adopt the Order of Business and Proposed Assembly Rules of Procedure."

Approval of Recommended Assembly Actions

"Synod Council recommends the Assembly approve the following: 2027/28 Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers of the NWOS; constitutional additions/updates to S8.52, S1.21, S9.02, S11.04, S7.26, S9.04, S10.05, S10.06, S10.07, S10.07.01, S10.08, S10.08.01, S10.08.02, S10.08.03, S10.08.04, S10.09, S13.40, and S13.41 of the synod constitution; and the Mission Spending plan for 2027-28."

(The draft Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers of the NWOS can be found on pages 84-113. Draft constitutional updates can be found on pages 13-15. Draft Mission Spending Plan for 2027-28 can be found on page 77 in the 2026 Assembly Business Materials Packet)

****If needed, synod staff may make editorial changes and the Executive Committee may make substantive changes to these recommended actions.****

Motion was made by Christine Reasoner to approve Action SC26.10 Approval of all 2026 Synod Assembly Actions.

Second was made by Kevin Swagler.

☑ Approved

Action SC26.11 Approval of a Synod Council Continuing Resolution

"The synod council approves the continuing resolution to codify the synod council's formula to provide additional lay representation at the Synod Assembly."

S7.21.A26 In accordance with S7.21, congregations with 0 to 750 baptized members are permitted 2 lay, 1 youth or young adult voting members in the Synod Assembly; congregations with 751-1,500 baptized members are permitted 3 lay, 1 youth or young adult, voting members in the Synod Assembly; congregations with 1,501 or more baptized members are permitted 4 lay, 2 youth or young adult voting members in the Synod Assembly.

Motion was made by Kathy Jurrus to approve Action SC26.11 Approval of a Synod Council Continuing Resolution.
Second made by Pastor Tanyce Addison.

☒ **Approved**

Action SC 26.12 Approval of a Synod Council Continuing Resolution

"Synod council approves the continuing resolution to codify the status of Synod Authorized Ministers as voting members of the Synod Assembly."

S7.21.B26 Congregations served by a duly appointed Synod Authorized Minister (SAM) are permitted one additional lay voting member in the Synod Assembly provided this additional lay voting member is the SAM.

Motion was made by Christine Reasoner to approve Action SC26.12 Approval of a Synod Council Continuing Resolution.

Second was made by Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt.

☒ **Approved**

Action 26.13 Approval of a Synod Council Continuing Resolution

"Synod council approves the continuing resolution in the Synod Constitution to allow Synod Authorized Ministers and/or lay representatives of Synod Authorized Worshipping Communities (SAWCs) to be voting members at the Synod Assembly.

~~**S7.26.A20** Worshipping communities duly authorized by the Synod Council under ELCA bylaw 10.01.04 shall be permitted as voting members of the Synod Assembly consistent with S7.21.~~

New Continuing Resolution for Synod Council

S7.26.A26 In accordance with S7.26, persons currently serving as synod-authorized ministers and/or lay representatives of authorized worshipping communities and/or outreach ministries of the synod, duly authorized by the Synod Council under ELCA bylaw 10.01.04 shall be permitted as voting members of the Synod Assembly consistent with S7.21.

Motion was made by Rodney West-Estell to approve Action 26.13.

Second was made by Shea McGrew.

☒ **Approved**

6. Vice President's Report

- Nancy shared that Synod Vice presidents are now officially a group and meet monthly.
- ELCA Innovation Lab provides tools and small grants (youth, interest) more information can be found at ELCA.com Sarah Weaver.
- The group is still forming rules.
- Encouraged all to support the Synod Annual Campaign.

7. Financial Reports

- Shea introduced the Financial Committee members, Dave Seitz, Clark Price and Jim Deer.
- Clark Price gave us an overview of the giving trend of Synod.
- Shea gave an overview of the financial report.

8. Administrative Updates

None

9. For the Good of the Order/Announcements

Michelle- St. Peter calling a new pastor.

Pastor Aaron shared their Fresh Expression event went well.

Deacon Sherry – Toledo Hub- Nurturing New Community Networking. New Ministry Journey is evolving. There are 17 SAMS on the list, more entering seminary. Cool things happening.

Cassie- Synod Assembly things to know.

Carolyn- Ready for "Day Camp" at St, John/Zion. 50 children enrolled, teamed with Hopewood.

Wendy-Trinity Good Friday Service Day handed out 100 food boxes.

Pastor Melodi-Care Giver Retreat, Thanked the Synod for the support working on constitution updates.

Pastor Ashley- will attend Youth led service May 3.

Rodney- prayers for St. Paul.

Jerusha-Trinity Galion-new members, confirmation, young people. Update garden area.

Clark- new service-FCA Sunday contemporary

Kevin- Community in Christ 18-month Vicar has ended. New youth leader, Brice.

Kathy- Epiphany several nonmembers at euchre event.

Christine-Trinity Findlay, Blessings & Blooms-all abilities program-summer program

Josh- St. Mark BG, Holy Spirit is very active, Hand Bell Program April 26 at 3.

Beth- Midweek services during Lent meal were brought back, Easter Sunrise and VBS with St. John Bellevue.

Dave Seitz-Good Hope Arlington-Pastor Ramsey retiring. Cottage meetings set for fall. 13 confirmations and 11 new members.

Nancy- Pastor Milner retiring. Maintain & grow small groups-Meditation Walk
Bishop Daniel shared how other Synod Assemblies were meeting and new Bishops elected.

10. Closing/Sending Blessing

Adjournment – time: 11:35

Bishop Daniel gave a closing Blessing.

Motion made by Pastor Ashley Rosa-Ruggieri to adjourn.

Second was made by Christine Reasoner

☒ **Approved**

11. Future Meetings

- a. May 30, 2026, Synod Assembly at St. Mark's, BG
- b. September 19, 2026, Good Hope, Arlington
- c. December 12, 2026, St. Paul, Jenera