

Synod Assembly

Held via Zoom and simulcast on Facebook from Community Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, Nevada June 12, 2021

Minutes

Preliminaries

June 11, 2021

Diakonia Worship and Graduation

On Friday evening, June 11, 2021, a graduation, celebration, and worship event was held for the 2021 Diakonia class.

A welcome and happy hour through breakout rooms was held on Friday evening.

Preliminaries

June 12, 2021

At 8:00 a.m. the Zoom meeting was launched and voting members entered the virtual waiting room. As registrations were confirmed, voting members were entranced to the main Zoom meeting.

At 9:02 a.m. Bishop Deborah Hutterer and vice-president Mr. Paul Gryniewicz welcomed the voting members, participants, and visitors on the Facebook live feed to the assembly. Rev. David Brandfass, secretary, was also present¹ at Community Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, Nevada (NV).

Rev. Don Lorfing led an opening devotion and prayer based on the assembly theme, "Freed in Christ." A thirty-eight-person virtual choir under the direction of Mr. Bruce Ewing offered "Jesus Loves Me."

 $^{^1}$ Roberts Rules 48:4.4 "The minutes should contain the following information:" \dots "4. the fact that the normal chairman and secretary were present..."

Plenary Session I

Saturday, June 12, 2021

Call to Order

Bishop Deborah Hutterer called the thirty-third assembly of the Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, under the theme, "Freed in Christ," to order "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," on June 12, 2021, at 9:13 a.m.

Greetings

Rev. Robert Trejo, president of Iglesia Luterana Mexicana (ILM) brought greetings to the Grand Canyon Synod (GCS). Bishop Deborah Hutterer then welcomed those participating in the assembly, and recognized the GCS staff, and ELCA mission partners.

Newly ordained rostered leaders were recognized: Rev. Nanette Christofferson, Rev. Pam Reynolds, and Rev. Elizabeth Gallen.

New rostered leaders who have become part of the GCS since our last assembly were recognized: Rev. Ben Bergren, Rev. Rebecca Boardman, Rev. Scott Hackler, Rev. Kari Williamson, Rev. Andrew Schlecht, and Rev. Thaddeus Book.

Gratitude was expressed for the Synod Council, the Executive Committee, and the Conference Deans all of whom increased the frequency of their meetings and/or their activity to support congregations and ministry sites through the pandemic period.

Words of gratitude were spoken for the pastors, members, and staff of Community Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, NV. The GCS is grateful for their gracious hospitality and technical expertise in hosting the 2021 Assembly.

Credentials Report

It was reported that 292 voting members have registered and received log-in codes for this online assembly, broken down as follows:

Category	Number
Active rostered minister	96
Retired rostered minister	6
Lay Female	112
Lay Male	78
Total Voting Members	292

Mr. Erik Rehms, Synod Treasurer and chair of the assembly's Credentials Committee, reported the following in attendance as of 9:25 am.

Plenary I Credentials Report	Number
Active rostered minister	78
Retired rostered minister	8
Lay Female	104
Lay Male	74
Total Voting Members	264
Visitors, no vote	3
Total Non-Voting	3
Total Registered	267

The Credentials report shows a quorum present; therefore, the thirty-third assembly of the GCS (ELCA) is duly constituted.

Adoption of Rules of Procedures

Bishop Deborah Hutterer, as chair of the assembly, offered a brief overview of the Rules of Procedure for the 2021 Assembly. The Rules of Procedure are attached to these minutes as **Exhibit 1**.

Rev. David Pasevic moved

MSP² SA21.06.01³ to adopt the Rules of Procedure for the 2021 Grand Canyon Synod Assembly

 $^{^{2}}$ MSP = "Moved, seconded, and passed" Note: "The name of the maker of the main motion should be entered into the minutes, but the name of the seconder should not be entered unless ordered by the assembly." – *Roberts Rule Order, Newly Revised, 12th Edition, 48:5.1.*

³ In the coding of actions, "SA" refers to Synod Assembly, "21" to the year of the assembly (2021), "06" to the month in which the assembly took place (June), and "01" and sequentially, the number of the action of this assembly.

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Victor Page moved

MSP SA21.06.02 to adopt the published agenda of the 2021 Grand Canyon Synod Assembly.

Reference and Counsel

Bishop Deborah Hutterer recognized the Chair of the Committee on Reference and Council, Rev. Stephen Springer. No memorials or resolutions were received prior to 30 days before the assembly.

2020-2021 Treasurer's Report

Mr. Erik Rehms reported on the financial results for the fiscal year ending Jan 31, 2021. In this year of many uncertainties, individuals and congregations were very generous. Income was above plan, and expenses were below plan. The results were very good for fiscal year 2020-2021. The 2020-2021 Treasurer's Report is attached to these minutes as **Exhibit 2**

2022-2023 Mission Spending Plan

Mr. Erik Rehms gave an overview of the 2022-2023 Mission Spending Plan which is attached to these minutes as **Exhibit 3**.

The assembly was informed that adoption of the 2022-2023 Mission Spending Plan will take place after the lunch break, and that if anyone wishes to propose revisions to the spending plan, they will need to give notice to the Synod Council prior to noon.

It was clarified that the budgeted support for the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission (NELM) for the proposed 2022-2023 plan and current 2021-2022 plan are both \$5,000. Due to congregational generosity and support, a total of \$10,000 was sent to NELM during the 2020-2021 fiscal year which was \$5,000 over the plan.

The \$25,000 on the line item, "Income, Congregational Support, Other" is a conservative estimate of potential legacy or bequest gifts. The line item titled "Income, Restricted Contributions" includes funds received for the current year, and projected receipts for the Growing Generosity appeal.

Break

Bishop Deborah Hutterer declared the assembly to be in recess at 10:00 a.m. Bishop Deborah Hutterer called the assembly back to order at 10:13 a.m. Rev John Biggs, Saved By Grace Lutheran Church, Pahrump, NV offered prayer as the assembly came back to order.

Credentials Report

Three voting members were entranced during the break. The updated credential numbers are:

Plenary I Credentials Report	Number
Active rostered minister	80
Retired rostered minister	8
Lay Female	105
Lay Male	74
Total Voting Members	267
Visitors, no vote	3
Total Non-Voting	3
Total Registered	270

Nominations

Mr. Roger Bailey provided an overview of the nominations process with thanksgiving for those who are willing to serve the church and our synod. Nominating Committee members were Mr. Roger Bailey, Mr. Paul Gryniewicz, Rev. Tina Mills, and Mr. Glenn Austad. The slate of nominees, including short biographies, was posted on the synod website leading up to the assembly. Nominations closed on April 23, 2021. Thanks was expressed to the nominating committee for their hard work.

Elections – Synod Council

Bishop Deborah Hutterer was assisted by Mr. Erik Rehms in presiding over the election process. Rev. Jeremy Nausin, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, NV, invoked the Holy Spirit to guide the assembly as votes were cast. The voting results follow:

Synod Vice-President

Synod Vice-President:	Number of Votes
Ms. Barbara Carl	128
Ms. Laura Musfeldt	124
Total:	252

Voted SA21.06.03 to elect Ms. Barbara Carl to the position of Synod-Vice-President.

Synod Council Young Adult Representative

Synod Council – Young Adult Representative:	Number of Votes
Ms. Hannah Manzanares	258

Voted SA21.06.04 to elect Ms. Hannah Manzanares to the position of Synod Council – Young Adult Representative.

Synod Council Male At large Representative:

Synod Council – Male At Large Representative:	Number of Votes
Mr. John Hughes	97
Mr. Mark Myers	156
Total:	253

Voted SA21.06.05 to elect Mr. Mark Myers to the position of Synod Council – Male At Large Representative.

Synod Council Female At large Representatives:

Note: the assembly is filling three vacant positions.

Synod Council – Female At large Representatives	Number of Votes
Ms. Heather Burgett	183
Ms. Sue Jensen	194
Ms. Myrna Wells-Ulland	146
Ms. Taylor Welch	172

Voted SA21.06.06 to elect Ms. Heather Burgett, Ms. Sue Jensen, and Ms. Taylor Welch to the position of Synod Council – Female At Large Representative. Synod Council Rostered Leader At Large Representative:

Note: the assembly is filling three vacant positions for Rostered Leader At Large Representatives on the Synod Council.

Synod Council – Rostered Leader At Large Representative (3)	Number of Votes
Rev. Mary Louise Frenchman	244
Rev. Tina Mills	253
Rev. William Timm	228

Voted SA21.06.07 to elect Rev. Mary Louise Frenchman, Rev. Tina Mills and Rev. William Timm to the positions of Synod Council – Rostered Leader At Large Representatives.

Synod Council Conference Representatives:

Voted SA21.06.08 to elect by ratification Ms. Laura Musfeldt as Northeast Valley Conference Representative to the Synod Council, and Ms. Lisa Parrish as Rio Salado Conference Representative to the Synod Council.

Conferences unable to put forward candidates for ratification will elect their Synod Council Conference Representatives for ratification by the Synod Council at a future date.

Elections – Churchwide Assembly Voting Members (CWAVM)

CWAVM – Person of Color / Primary Language other than English

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CWAVM – Person of Color / Primary Language other than English:	Number of Votes
Rev. Abel Arroyo Traverso	105
Rev. Charles Newman	148
Total:	253

Voted SA21.06.09 to elect Rev. Charles Newman. to the position of Churchwide Assembly Voting Member Person of Color / Primary Language other than English

CWAVM - Youth or Young Adult

CWAVM – Youth or Young Adult:	Number of Votes
Ms. Hannah Manzanares	138
Ms. Mackenzie Mitchell	48
Ms. Taylor Welch	81
Total:	267

Voted SA21.06.10 to elect Ms. Hannah Manzanares to the position of Churchwide Assembly Voting Member Youth or Young Adult.

CWAVM - Lay Male (Electing Two Candidates)

CWAVM – Lay Male (2):	Number of Votes
Mr. Glenn Austad	141
Mr. Roger Bailey	133
Mr. John Hughes	106
Mr. Mark Myers	117

Voted SA21.06.11 to elect Mr. Glenn Austad and Mr. Roger Bailey to the position of Churchwide Assembly Voting Member Lay Male.

CWAVM – Lay Female (2):	Number of Votes
Ms. Laura Hollengreen	183
Ms. Cheryl Jones	112
Ms. Sarah Morris	189

Voted SA21.06.12 to elect Ms. Laura Hollengreen and Ms. Sarah Morris to the position of Churchwide Assembly Voting Member Lay Female.

CWAVM – Rostered Leaders (Electing Three Candidates)

CWAVM – Rostered Leaders (3):	Number of Votes
Rev. David Brandfass	126
Rev. Craig Corbin	84
Rev. Jeff Gallen	95
Rev. Mike Johnson	109
Rev. Matthew Metevelis	134
Rev. Christine Stoxen	200

Voted SA21.06.13 to elect Rev. Christine Stoxen, Rev. Matthew Metevelis, and Rev. David Brandfass to the position of Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Rostered Leader.

Elections – Committees

Committee on Discipline (Electing Four Candidates)

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Committee on Disciple (4)	Number of Votes
Rev. Scott Hackler	244
Ms. Mary Beth Barron	249
Ms. Janet Santiago	249
Mr. Jerry Zaddack	245

Voted SA21.06.14 to elect Rev. Scott Hackler, Ms. Mary Beth Barron, Ms. Janet Santiago, and Mr. Jerry Zaddack to the Committee on Discipline.

Consultation Committee (Electing Four Candidates)

Consultation Committee (4)	Number of Votes
Rev. Paul Block	247
Rev. Linda Hanus	249
Mr. Paul Gryniewicz	247
Ms. Taylor Welch	245

Voted SA21.06.15 to elect Rev. Paul Block, Rev. Linda Hanus, Mr. Paul Gryniewicz, and Ms. Taylor Welch to the Consultation Committee.

In Memoriam

Rev. Stephen Springer acknowledged the holy closures of Desert Streams Lutheran Church, Surprise, Arizona (AZ) and Faith Lutheran Church, Safford, AZ this past year. The assembly gave thanks for the mission and ministry accomplished by these congregations through the years.

In prayer the assembly gave thanks for the lives of these saints who have gone before us: Rev. Robert Duea; Rev. Carol Reed; Rev. Henry Roufs; Rev. Paul Halvorson; Rev. Lincoln Leer; Presiding Bishop Emeritus Herbert Chilstrom; Rev. Richard Duerr; Rev. Ervin Langholtz; Rev. Robert Neubauer; Rev. David S. Reid; Rev. Daniel Defassio; Rev. Franklyn Caron; Rev. Wayne Viereck; Rev. Scott Stein; Rev. Robert C. Madsen; Rev. Dick Hamlin; and Rev. David Edward Halmers.

Break

Bishop Deborah Hutterer declared the assembly to be in recess at 11:04 a.m. Rev. Phil Shuart, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, NV led a prerecess prayer. Bishop Deborah Hutterer called the assembly back to order at 11:14 a.m. Ms. Hannah Manzanares led the prayer bringing the assembly back together.

Report of the Bishop & Synod Council

Bishop Deborah Hutterer shared that the assembly theme "Freed in Christ" was chosen because 2020 was the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's treatise, *Freedom of a Christian*. Working under the direction of the GCS strategic plan to (1) Communicate Jesus, (2) Connect People, and (3) Create Possibilities, the ministry of the synod was presented to the assembly.

An appeal titled *Growing Generosity* was approved by the Synod Council with the goal of raising \$500,000 for new growth in our synod. With the full participation of the *Growing Generosity* leadership team, the entire Office of the Bishop staff, and all serving members of the Grand Canyon Synod Council, and with support of individuals and congregations, we are already over halfway to the goal with \$281,656 in gifts and pledges.

Bible Study

Rev. Albert Starr, Jr, Director, Multi-Ethnic Ministry Development, Christian Community and Leadership Unit at the churchwide organization led a bible study on Galatians 5:14 "For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The study included time in Zoom breakout rooms for in-depth discussion.

Lunch Break

Bishop Deborah Hutterer declared the assembly to be in recess at 12:23 p.m. Rev. Jason Adams, Reformation Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, NV led prayer before lunch.

Plenary Session II

Saturday, June 12, 2021

Bishop Deborah Hutterer called the assembly back to order at 1:02 p.m. Pastor John Biggs, Saved By Grace Lutheran Church, Pahrump, NV led the prayer bringing the assembly back together.

Mr. Erik Rehms, Synod Treasurer and chair of the assembly's Credentials Committee, reported the following in attendance as of 1:00 pm.

Plenary II Credentials Report	Number
Active rostered minister	64
Retired rostered minister	8
Lay Female	101
Lay Male	68
Total Voting Members	241
Voice, no vote	2
Total Non-Voting	2
Total Registered	243

Adopt Treasurer's Report

Mr. Scott Hagen moved

MSP SA21.06.16 to approve the financial report of the Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the period of February 1, 2020, through January 31, 2021, as presented in preassembly materials.

It was clarified that the reason the number announced as committed to the Growing Generosity campaign is larger than what appears in the financial reports ending January 31, 2021, is that the amount committed includes pledged commitments for future giving and funds received between February 1, 2021, and the beginning of this assembly.

Adopt 2022-2023 Mission Spending Plan

Synod Council moved

MSP SA21.06.17 to adopt the Mission Spending Plan of the Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the period of February 1, 2022, through January 31, 2023, with total revenue of \$2,095,000 and a net loss of \$33,000.

Report of the Churchwide Organization

Rev. Albert Starr provided a verbal report to the assembly on the ministry of the churchwide organization during the pandemic. The GCS was thanked for its robust support of the churchwide organization.

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton provided a Luther-gram that recognized the church as resilient and creative during the pandemic. The tenacity, generosity, and faithfulness are our powerful witnesses to being church together for the sake of the world.

Report of the Director of Evangelical Mission

Rev. Miguel Gomez-Acosta provided a video report that gave thanks for the generosity, adaptability and new forms of powerful collaboration taking place during this pandemic time. Because of this we can celebrate God's Spirit moving and leading the church through this time.

Milestones

Rostered minister and congregation milestones were shared with the assembly. The milestones will also be posted on the GCS website.

Those who retired in the past year were recognized since many were unable to have onsite and in-person celebrations for their years of dedicated ministry.

Recess

Bishop Deborah Hutterer declared the assembly to be in recess at 1:49 p.m. Bishop Deborah Hutterer called the assembly back to order at 1:59 p.m. Ms. Shannon Anwar led the prayer bringing the assembly back together.

Aligning with Future Church

Rev. Jacqueline Pagel and Rev. Karn Carroll led a presentation on "Future Church Design." The purpose is to activate each of us so more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice, and love. The most exciting new area is called the Innovation Home Area which will champion and drive an innovative culture, encouraging the development of new and useful things.

For deeper discussion the assembly broke out into smaller breakout rooms to share and report back on new and innovative ideas.

Appreciations

Bishop Deborah Hutterer recognized the outgoing synod council members and those who have helped make this online assembly a reality.

Mr. Paul Gryniewicz, outgoing synod vice-president, was recognized for his faithful service during the past four years.

Closing of the Assembly

Bishop Deborah Hutterer declared the assembly closed "in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" at 2:50 p.m.

An uplifting worship service followed the closing of the assembly.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. David W. Brandfass Secretary Grand Canyon Synod



Freed in Christ 2021 Grand Canyon Synod Assembly

June 11-12, 2021

Rules of Procedure

General Note

The Grand Canyon Synod is incorporated in California (as are all ELCA synods) which allows for electronic meetings.

Constitutional Provisions:

- **S7.14.** One-half of the members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.
- ***S7.31.** Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of the Synod Assembly.
- **S7.32.** *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly, unless otherwise ordered by the assembly.

Adoption of Agenda and Rules of Procedure

The agenda and the rules of procedure will be adopted during the first plenary session of the synod assembly. Once adopted, neither document may be amended except by a two-thirds majority vote of the assembly.

Online Participation

For credentialing purposes, voting members will need to "check-in" via Zoom to each plenary session. The waiting room will open one hour prior to the start of each session. Voting members will be admitted on a first-come-firstserved basis. The plenary session will be called to order at the designated time and only after all voting members in the waiting room at the time set for the plenary session to begin have been admitted.

Once a plenary session has been called to order, no additional voting members will be admitted to that particular plenary session.

Visitors are welcome to participate through the Grand Canyon Synod (GCS) <u>Facebook page</u>.

Zoom Etiquette

Each Voting Member will receive a unique link to join the meeting. Each unique link can only be used on one device at a time. Do not share your link with anyone.

If you are unable to locate your link, please contact Theresa Thornburgh via <u>email</u> or at (602) 957-3223 before June 8, 2021.

Mute yourself at all times when not called on to speak. This helps ensure a quality experience for all.

The chat feature is reserved for official assembly business – requesting speaking privileges, ask clarifying questions, making motions, etc.

Both the Zoom chat function and the video will be archived for the purposes of generating accurate assembly minutes.

General Guidelines

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.

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. During this digital assembly, voting members can obtain the floor by making a request in the chat feature. If/when recognized by the chair, the voting member is then entitled to speak, first stating his/her name and congregation.

References Roberts Rules of Order Quick Reference <u>Chart of Ranking Motions</u>

Voting

Voting will be conducted using Zoom reactions and Zoom polling.

Zoom Reactions

For a quick vote, those in favor of the question shall select the "yes" green check circle found under "reactions" and those opposed shall select the "no" red "x" circle found under reactions. Care shall be taken by the chair to ensure all members have been able vote, and only then shall the voting be closed, and vote indications cleared.

Zoom Polling

For elections, and issues unable to be resolved using Zoom reactions, a Zoom poll or ballot will be set up by a member of the assembly support team, and voting will be conducted by the poll. Care shall be taken by the chair to ensure all members have been able vote, and only then shall the voting be closed.

Abstentions

Abstentions do not represent votes and thus are not counted (Robert's Rules, Section 44:7-8). If a voting member wishes to have her or his abstention on a question recorded by name, he or she privately may request that the secretary do so in the published minutes of the assembly by emailing the <u>synod secretary</u> by the time the assembly adjourns.

Making a Motion

If a voting member wishes to make a motion (including any motions to amend a pending matter or refer a pending matter) the motion must be submitted in writing via the "chat" feature in Zoom.

The maker of the motion must provide their name, congregation and city followed by the motion. The Zoom moderator will forward the motion to the chair of the assembly and the secretary. When recognized by the chair, the maker of the motion should identify themselves and state the motion using: "I move that...."

The chair shall then announce whether the motion requires a second. After it is moved (and seconded) the chair shall restate the motion and, if appropriate, ask for discussion.

For motions longer than a short phrase, the synod secretary will use the screen share function of Zoom to display the motion for the voting members to view.

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.

Resolutions

Synod Council or Bishop Resolutions

Resolutions submitted by the Synod Council or the Bishop shall be presented directly to the Assembly as a motion made and seconded.

Other resolutions

Resolutions from congregations, conferences, or voting members shall be submitted to the Committee of Reference and Counsel for presentation to the Assembly.

Resolution Deadline

The deadline for resolutions from congregations, conferences, or voting members shall be April 30, 2021.

Urgent Matters

Any resolution submitted on an urgent matter that did not exist before the deadline shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the assembly to schedule it in the agenda.

Reference and Counsel

In addition to the preparation and presentation of resolutions submitted prior to the assembly, the Committee of Reference and Counsel shall serve in an advisory capacity to the assembly. Motions or assembly business may be referred to the Committee for recommendations or options, at the discretion of the chair.

Debate

Debate on any single resolution shall be limited to 20 minutes. That time limit may be extended once for 10 minutes by majority vote of the assembly before the vote on a resolution.

During debate, no person shall speak more than twice for no more than two minutes on the same motion. The Chair will not recognize a member who wishes to speak for a second time on a motion unless all others who wish to speak have been heard. A person speaking to a question during debate may not—at the conclusion of the statement—move to close debate on the matter under discussion.

Review

The Committee of Reference and Counsel shall receive, review, and prepare resolutions, in consultation with the submitters of resolutions, for presentation to the Synod Assembly, and may edit or consolidate resolutions for clarity and procedural purposes.

A voting member of the Assembly may move to substitute the original resolution in place of the revised version of the resolution submitted by the Committee of Reference and Counsel.

Consideration

A resolution submitted to the Committee of Reference and Counsel by a voting member who is not present to speak to the resolution at the time of its consideration by the Assembly will be considered only after decisions on all other resolutions have been completed and as time allows.

Balloting

At the discretion of the Chair, a request for a written ballot on any resolution may be taken.

Orders of the Day

At the discretion of the Chair, the agenda may be adjusted for circumstances, except that a change in an Order of the Day, as listed in the adopted agenda, shall require – upon recommendation of the Chair – a majority vote of the assembly.

Referral

Any duly submitted resolution that is not considered during the course of the assembly due to time limitations will be referred automatically to the Synod Council for the council's consideration at its next regular meeting.

Mission Plan

Anyone wishing to revise the proposed Mission Plan for 2022–2023 (February 1, 2022-January 31, 2023) must give notice to the Synod Council prior to the end of the Second Plenary Session of the assembly.

The Chair will give notice to the assembly at the next plenary session of the intent to revise the Mission Plan.

The person(s) proposing a revision shall meet with designated members of the Synod Council and explain the proposed change.

The Synod Council will report a recommendation regarding the proposed revision to the Assembly.

A revision to the Mission Plan that increases spending without the endorsement of the Synod Council requires a two-thirds vote of the Assembly.

A revision to the Mission Plan that does not have the endorsement of the Synod Council but does not increase total expenditures may be approved by a majority vote of the Assembly.

Elections (other than as specified in the bylaws for the election of officers)

A separate ticket shall be established for each position for which an election is to take place with the requirements for nomination and election designated on that ticket (e.g., lay female, lay male, clergy).

A majority of the votes cast in relation to each ticket shall be required for election. If no election occurs on the first ballot, the two persons receiving the greatest number of votes on that ballot shall be presented on the second ballot with a majority required for election.

Technical Notes¹

Technical requirements and malfunctions

Each voting member is responsible for his or her audio and Internet connections; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting.

Forced disconnections

The chair may cause or direct the disconnection or muting of a member's connection if it is causing undue interference with the meeting. The chair's decision to do so, which is subject to an undebatable appeal that can be made by any member, shall be announced during the meeting and recorded in the minutes.

¹ From *Robert's Rules of Order*, 12th edition (2020), appendix on electronic meetings.

Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

(a non-profit religious corporation) Financial Statements January 31, 2021



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Council of Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (a non-profit religious corporation), which comprises the statement of financial position as of January 31, 2021, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as of January 31, 2021, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



Other Matter

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The schedule of financial support on page 13 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Mietzy Associated PUC

Phoenix, Arizona June 8, 2021

Statement of Financial Position January 31, 2021

Assets

Current Assets Cash and cash equivalents Investments Accounts receivable Prepaid expenses	\$	1,624,123 1,489,734 20,285 4,673
Total Current Assets		3,138,815
Property and Equipment Less: Accumulated depreciation	_	26,923 (13,914)
Net Property and Equipment		13,009
Other Assets Investments – with donor restrictions Deposits	_	600,589 3,158
Total Other Assets	_	603,747
Total Assets	\$	3,755,571
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities Payable to ELCA Accounts payable and accrued expenses Payroll Protection Program Ioan Funds held for others Total Current Liabilities	\$	87,091 30,850 29,275 114,433 261,649
Net Assets Without donor restrictions With donor restrictions	_	2,089,932 1,403,990
Total Net Assets	_	3,493,922
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$	3,755,571

Statement of Activities

Year Ended January 31, 2021

Changes in net assets without donor restrictions: Support and revenue		
Congregational and designated giving Grants Other income Investment income	\$	1,837,315 4,000 104,062 86,017
Total support and revenue without donor restrictions Net assets released from restrictions Total support and revenue without donor restrictions and net assets released from restrictions	-	2,031,394 231,096 2,262,490
Expenses: Program services Management and general Fundraising	_	1,778,228 234,623 29,889
Total expenses	_	2,042,740
Increase in net assets without donor restrictions	_	219,750
Changes in net assets with donor restrictions: Congregational and designated giving Grants Other income Investment income Net assets released from restrictions	_	86,883 43,846 31,965 80,222 (231,096)
Increase in net assets with donor restrictions	_	11,820
Change in net assets		231,570
Net assets at January 31, 2020	_	3,262,352
Net assets at January 31, 2021	\$	3,493,922

Statement of Functional Expenses Year Ended January 31, 2021

	Program Services						Support Service	es				
	Leadership Support & Development	Congregational Support & Development	Support of God's Work in God's World		Total Program Services		Management and General	Fundraising	_	Total Support Services		Total Expenses
Mission support-ELCA	\$ 306,219	306,219	306,219	\$	918,657	\$	0	0	\$	0	\$	918,657
Mission support -Reg II/I&A	7,749	11,494	270,757		290,000		0	0		0		290,000
Grants	0	173,954	24,616		198,570		0	0		0		198,570
Personnel	88,171	66,897	48,709		203,777		141,148	19,237		160,385		364,162
Professional fees and services	32,397	24,580	17,897		74,874		51,862	7,069		58,931		133,805
Communication	1,908	1,447	1,054		4,409		3,054	416		3,470		7,879
Postage & supplies	1,128	856	627		2,611		1,806	246		2,052		4,663
Administrative	0	0	0		0		15,387	0		15,387		15,387
Equipment and software	1,880	1,426	1,039		4,345		3,009	410		3,419		7,764
Occupancy	9,319	7,071	5,149		21,539		14,919	2,033		16,952		38,491
Travel	2,335	3,396	1,062		6,793		1,486	212		1,698		8,491
Program services	21,563	16,360	11,912		49,835		0	0		0		49,835
Depreciation	1,219	925	674		2,818	-	1,952	266	-	2,218	-	5,036
Totals	\$ 473,888	614,625	689,715	\$	1,778,228	\$	234,623	29,889	\$	264,512	\$	2,042,740

Statement of Cash Flows Year Ended January 31, 2021

Cash flows from operating activities: Change in net assets Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities: Depreciation	\$	231,570 5,036
Realized loss on sale of investments Unrealized gain on investments Net change in operating assets and liabilities:		142,282 (229,993)
Accounts receivable Prepaid expense Payable to ELCA Accounts payable and accrued expenses Funds held for others	_	(1,585) 891 (24,456) (6,157) 52,009
Net cash provided by operating activities		169,597
Cash flows from investing activities: Sales of investments Purchase of investments		1,137,764 (1,130,168)
Net cash provided by investing activities		7,596
Cash flows from financing activities: Proceeds from Payroll Protection Program loan		29,275
Net cash provided by financing activities	_	29,275
Net increase in cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash		206,468
Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash at beginning of year		1,417,655
Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash at end of year	\$	1,624,123

Notes to Financial Statements January 31, 2021

NOTE A – NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Nature of Activities – The Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (the Synod) was incorporated in 1986 as a non-profit religious corporation. Its purpose is to promote the Christian religion according to the tenets of faith set forth in the Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Synod is comprised of approximately 100 congregations in Arizona and southern Nevada. The officers and members of the Synod Council are elected by the Synod Assembly. The Synod Assembly is comprised of ordained ministers, associates in ministry, diaconal ministers and congregational lay members.

Basis of Accounting – The accounts of the Synod are maintained, and the financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting. Accordingly, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

Basis of Presentation – Financial statement presentation follows the recommendation promulgated by the Financial Accounting Standard Board (FASB), collectively GAAP. Accordingly, the Synod is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to two classes of net assets: without donor restrictions and with donor restrictions. Net assets, revenue, and expenses are classified as without donor restrictions and with donor restrictions based upon the following criteria:

<u>Without Donor Restrictions</u> represent expendable funds available for operations, which are not otherwise limited by donor restrictions.

<u>With Donor Restrictions</u> consists of contributed funds, subject to specific donor imposed restrictions, contingent upon specific performance of future events or a specific passage of time before the Synod may spend the funds.

Use of Estimates – The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and revenue and expenses during the period reported. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Concentrations of Credit Risk – Financial instruments which potentially subject the Synod to concentrations of credit risk include cash deposits maintained in excess of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") and Securities Investor Protection Corporation ("SIPC") limits throughout the year. The Company maintains mutual fund balances included in cash and cash equivalents. These funds are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. At January 31, 2021, the Synod's uninsured cash balances totaled \$920,310.

Property and Equipment – Property and equipment is recorded at cost, or if donated, at estimated fair value at donation date. Repairs, maintenance, and minor replacements are expensed as incurred. For financial reporting purposes, depreciation is computed using the straight line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets, which range from five to ten years. The Synod capitalizes its property and equipment in excess of \$3,000.

Revenue Recognition – Contributions that are restricted by the donor are reported as increases in net assets without donor restrictions if the restrictions expire in the year in which the contributions are recognized. All other donor-restricted contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions depending on the nature of the restrictions. When a restriction expires, net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions.

Notes to Financial Statements January 31, 2021

NOTE A – NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Compensated Absences – The Synod allows full-time employees to receive compensation for vacation and sick leave. Employees are allowed to carry forward five days of vacation into the following calendar year. Upon termination, earned but unpaid vacation time shall be paid as of the last full pay period before the termination. The accrued vacation liability at January 31, 2021 is \$23,068 and is included in accrued expenses.

Donated Services – No amounts have been reflected in the financial statements for donated services requiring specific expertise. However, many individuals volunteer their time and perform a variety of tasks that assist the Synod with specific programs, fund solicitations, and various committee assignments.

Income Tax Status – The Synod is an exempt religious organization under the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) and is covered by a group exemption letter issued to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and, accordingly, there is no provision for income taxes included in the financial statements.

Cash and Cash Equivalents – For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Synod considers all highly liquid investments available for current use with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Investments – Investments in marketable securities with readily determinable fair values and all investments in debt securities are reported at their fair values in the statement of financial position. Unrealized gains and losses are included in the change in net assets. Investment income and gains restricted by a donor are reported as increases in unrestricted net assets if the restrictions are met in the reporting period in which the income and gains are recognized.

Investments are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is least reasonably possible that changes in risks in the near term could materially affect account balances and the amounts reported in the accompanying financial statements.

Estimates – The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Functional Allocation of Expenses – Expenses are charged to programs and supporting services on the basis of periodic time and expense studies as well as estimates made by the Synod's management. General and administrative expenses include those expenses that are not directly identifiable with any other specific function but provide for the overall support and direction of the Synod.

Notes to Financial Statements January 31, 2021

NOTE B – FAIR VALUE ESTIMATES

The Synod's investments are reported at fair value in the accompanying statement of financial position. The methods used to measure fair value may produce an amount that may not be indicative of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Synod believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

GAAP provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under GAAP are described as follows:

Level 1 Fair Value Measurements

Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Synod has the ability to access.

Level 2 Fair Value Measurements

Inputs to the valuation methodology include:

- quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets
- quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets
- inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability
- inputs that are derived principally from, or corroborated by, observable market data by correlation or other means

If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 Fair Value Measurements

Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques maximize the use of relevant observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at January 31, 2021.

Mutual Funds - Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Synod are open-end mutual funds that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily Net Asset Value (NAV) and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Synod are deemed to be actively traded.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Synod's assets at fair value as of January 31, 2021.

	 Assets at Fair Value			
	 Total		Level 1	
Mutual funds	\$ 2,090,323	\$	2,090,323	
Total assets at fair value	\$ 2,090,323	\$	2,090,323	

Notes to Financial Statements January 31, 2021

NOTE C – PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment consists of the following as of January 31, 2021:

		Estimated Useful Lives
Automobiles Furniture	\$ 25,178 1,745	5 years 10 years
	26,923	
Accumulated depreciation	 (13,914)	
Property and Equipment, net	\$ 13,009	

Depreciation expense for the year ended January 31, 2021 was \$5,036.

NOTE D - FUNDS HELD FOR OTHERS

Funds held for others consist of the following at January 31, 2021:

Fund for Leaders Golf Native American urban ministry	\$ 21,997 57.438
Retired pastors' retreat	13,760
Others	 21,238
	\$ 114,433

NOTE E - NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Net assets with donor restrictions at January 31, 2021 represent amounts restricted for various purposes as listed below:

Latino mission support	\$ 36,897
Scholarships for potential and current seminarians	318,468
Faith formation	185,653
Outreach for new and redeveloping congregations	60,521
Haiti educational programs	53,236
New congregations-Southern Arizona	19,899
Appeal Fund	75,990
West Valley churches and programs	6,305
Advocacy ministry	42,448
Generosity project	3,984
Endowment	600,589
	\$ 1,403,990

The endowment funds were established to support congregational assistance. Contributions to the endowment fund are subject to donor restrictions that stipulate the original principal of the gift is to be held and invested by the Synod indefinitely. Income from the fund is to be expended for congregational assistance program services. As required by GAAP, net assets associated with endowment funds are classified and reported based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

Notes to Financial Statements

January 31, 2021

NOTE F - INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENSES

Investment income and expenses were as follows for the year ended January 31, 2021:

Change in fair market value of investment Dividends and interest	\$ 87,711 78,528
	\$ 166,239

NOTE G – RETIREMENT PLAN

The Synod contributes to a pension plan, which is maintained by the Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, for the benefit of all Synod employees. All employees are eligible to participate immediately upon employment. The pension cost is 10% to 12% of each employee's defined compensation. The pension plan expense that was included in personnel expenses was \$21,098 for the year ended January 31, 2021.

NOTE H – OPERATING LEASE

The Synod entered into an office lease, categorized as an operating lease for accounting purposes, on September 1, 2013. The lease has minimum monthly payments ranging from \$2,786 to \$2,861 and the rent is adjusted annually. The operating lease agreement expires August 31, 2021. Future minimum payments under the amended lease agreement are as follows:

Year ending January 31,

Occupancy expense under the lease for the year ended January 31, 2021 was \$38,491.

Notes to Financial Statements

January 31, 2021

NOTE I - LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY

The following reflects the Synod's financial assets as of the statement of financial position date, reduced by amounts not available for general use because of contractual or donor-imposed restrictions within one year of the statement of financial position date.

Financial assets, at year end	\$ 3,734,731
Less those unavailable for general expenditures within one year, due to: Donor-imposed restrictions:	
Restricted by donor with purpose restrictions Funds held for others	 (1,403,990) (114,433)
Financial assets available to meet cash needs for general expenditures within one year	\$ 2,196,023

Financial assets available for general expenditure, that is, without donor or other restrictions limiting their use, within one year of the statement of financial position date, comprise the following:

Cash and cash equivalents Investments Accounts receivable	\$ 1,624,123 1,489,734 20,285
	\$ 3,134,142

NOTE J – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Synod evaluates events occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements in determining the accounting for and disclosure of transactions and events that affect the financial statements. On May 19, 2021, the Payroll Program Protection loan amount of \$29,275 was forgiven in full. Subsequent events have been evaluated through June 8, 2021, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

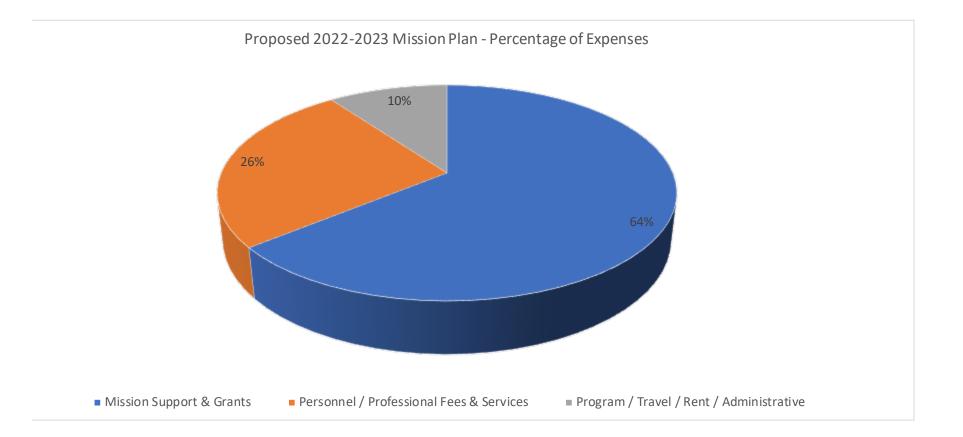
Schedule of Financial Support For the Year Ended January 31, 2021

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest	\$	55,000
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary		41,000
Campus Ministry, University of Arizona		37,000
Campus Ministry, Northern Arizona University		37,000
Campus Ministry, Arizona State University		37,000
Lutheran Social Services of Nevada		17,000
Iglesia Luterana Mexicana Parsonage		15,000
Native American Urban Ministries		13,000
Spirit in the Desert		10,000
Region 2		10,000
Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission		10,000
Lutheran Engagement Advocacy in Nevada		5,000
California Lutheran University		2,000
Arizona Faith Network	_	1,000
	\$	290,000

Grand Canyon Synod of the ELCA Proposed 2022 - 2023 Mission Plan

	Unaudited Actual	Approved Mission Plan	Proposed Mission Plan
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Congregation Support - Pledged	1,837,315	1,822,000	1,874,000
Congregation Support - Other	47,747	0	25,000
Other Gifts	35,938	16,000	25,000
Grant Income	4,000	0	0
Restricted Contributions	162,694	0	150,000
Other Income	20,377	39,000	21,000
Total Income	2,108,072	1,877,000	2,095,000
Expense			
Personnel	364,162	388,000	402,000
Professional Fees/Services	133,805	178,400	179,000
Communication	7,879	8,000	10,000
Postage and Supplies	4,668	9,000	8,000
Administrative	15,386	29,000	27,000
Equipment and Software	7,764	11,000	10,000
Building	38,491	38,000	40,000
Travel	8,491	50,000	50,000
Mission Support - ELCA	918,657	911,000	937,000
Mission Support - Other	290,000	273,000	290,000
Grants	198,570	200,000	210,000
Program	49,835	78,600	80,000
Total Expense	2,037,709	2,174,000	2,243,000
Net Ordinary Income	70,363	(297,000)	(148,000)
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
Restricted Investment Income (Loss)	80,221	100,000	82,000
Other Investment Income (Loss)	86,018	20,000	38,000
Total Other Income	166,239	120,000	120,000
Other Expense			
Restricted Release - Net Assets	231,095	297,000	148,000
Net Assets Released	(231,095)	(297,000)	(148,000)
Depreciation & Other	5,036	6,000	5,000
Total Other Expense	5,036	6,000	5,000
Net Other Income	161,203	114,000	115,000
Net Income	231,566	(183,000)	(33,000)

	Unaudited Actual	Approved Mission Plan	Proposed Mission Plan
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Mission Support - Other			
Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest	55,000	50,000	50,000
Lutheran Social Services of Nevada	17,000	15,000	15,000
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary	41,000	35,000	35,000
California Lutheran University	2,000	12,000	12,000
ASU Campus Ministry	37,000	37,000	37,000
ASU Polytech - Campus Ministry	0	0	5,000
NAU Campus Ministry	37,000	37,000	37,000
UArizona Campus Ministry	37,000	37,000	37,000
Native American Urban Ministry	13,000	0	15,000
Border Ministry - Cruzando Fronteras	0	10,000	12,000
Iglesia Luterana Mexicana (ILM) / Lutheran Church of Senegal	15,000	0	10,000
Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center	10,000	10,000	9,000
Advocacy/Lutheran Engagement & Advocacy in Nevada	5,000	15,000	5,000
Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission	10,000	5,000	5,000
ELCA Region 2 Program Support	10,000	9,000	5,000
Arizona Faith Network	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total Mission Support - Other	290,000	273,000	290,000





Grand Canyon Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work, Our hands,

Where does my congregation's mission support go?

Communicate Jesus 🌑

- Funds the work of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Arizona (LAMA) and Lutheran Engagement and Advocacy in Nevada (LEAN), and supports Arizona Faith Network (AFN)
- Contributes funds to <u>Pacific Lutheran Theological</u> <u>Seminary, California Lutheran University</u>, and supports <u>3 Lutheran Campus Ministries (UofA, ASU,</u> <u>NAU</u>)
- Expands ministry and resources to serve the poor and provide basic needs to 70,000+ through partnership with Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest (LSS-SW) and Lutheran Social Services of Nevada (LSSN)
- Nurtures companion synod relationship (Senegal) and explores new synodical relationships (Mexico)
- Funds 10 **project grants** for congregations and organizations to better Communicate Jesus, Connect People, and Create Possibilities
- Supports <u>Lutheran Disaster Response</u> and <u>Lutheran</u> <u>World Relief</u>
- Supports ELCA membership in the Lutheran World Federation: 145 members for ecumenical work and world service relief and development

Connect People

- Shares mission support dollars with <u>ELCA</u> (churchwide) and <u>Region 2</u> (Southwest Region)
- Provides a ministry of presence for congregations and pastors during crisis and transition
- Leads Convocation of rostered leaders (active and retired pastors/deacons) for theological discussion and fellowship, and supports the retired pastors' retreat
- Supports and helps lead youth faith formation camp
- Organizes <u>Synod Assembly</u> meeting and voting based on congregational identity
- Participates in <u>Churchwide Assembly, ELCA Youth Gathering</u>, and <u>Rostered Ministers Gathering</u> every 3 years
- Funds Diakonia lay leadership program, 4 cohorts
- Supports the work of **Phoenix Fusion** (collaborating initiative)

Create Possibilities

37%

33%

30%

- Supports & oversees 4 congregational renewals and 10 new starts across the synod
- Organizes candidacy process supporting 14 candidates in the process for ordination
- · Supports pastors and deacons in mobility and leadership
- Supports 10 congregations in transition
- · Funds ministry grants for 11 congregations under development and renewal
- Works in collaboration with Rocky Mountain Synod on <u>Lilly 3E program</u> (Stewardship for all Seasons, <u>Ministerial Excellence Fund</u>, <u>Vital Right-Shaped</u> <u>Congregations</u>)