

**GRAND CANYON SYNOD TRANSITION TEAM**  
**REPORT TO THE GRAND CANYON SYNOD ASSEMBLY**  
**JUNE 9-10, 2023**

Mid-way through our third year guiding congregations through times of transition, we continue to rely on the Holy Spirit to lead us. We seek to **Be Bold** and innovative as the number of openings for rostered leaders increase and the number of candidates to fill those openings decrease. The Call Process is more of a challenge without a surplus of rostered leaders, but we continue to be surprised by the way God works. We invite you to pray with us for new leaders for God's church.

The good news is that rostered leaders are being called to our congregations. The past two years have brought rostered leaders into the Synod from other Synods with new ideas on how to be church together. We have celebrated four ordinations for first call pastors serving congregations within the Synod this year and we also celebrated four ordinations last year. God is good.

Our Transition Coaches, Rev. Pat Reed and Rev. Glenn Zimbelman, walk with congregations through the call process from the time a rostered leader leaves until a new rostered leader comes. Coaches are resources for how the process works both practically and spiritually. Prayer and discernment are important always, but especially during times of transition. Deacon Janice Zimbelman, Director of Congregation Transitions in the Grand Canyon and Rocky Mountain Synods, also relies on prayer and discernment as she identifies potential candidates for call to recommend to Bishop Hutterer, who approves the possible matches between congregations and candidates (also with prayer and discernment).

We continue to receive positive feedback about the Call Process as the tie between the Synod Office and Synod Congregations is strengthened. Our joint Transition Manual with the Rocky Mountain Synod, *Congregations in Transition: Moving Boldly into the Future*, was updated in November. It's posted on the GCS website (Congregational Resources tab) along with a list of Congregations in Transition (CIT). See the manual if you are about to enter a time of transition or if you are curious as to how the call process works. The manual has grown as we adapt and adjust to the different needs of congregations seeking rostered leaders.

This past year Dr. Jerry Kingston stepped down after serving for many years with several Bishops as the Synod's Associate for Candidate Identification. Thank you, Jerry.

The lists (in alphabetical order) of Congregations with Newly Called Leaders and Current Congregations in Transition are below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Rev. Glenn Zimbelman ([gzimbelman@gcsynod.org](mailto:gzimbelman@gcsynod.org))

**GCS Congregations with a New Rostered Leader June 2022 - May 2023**

<b>American</b> , Sun City, AZ	Pastor Scott Klimke
<b>Community of Grace</b> , Peoria, AZ	Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care Jose Valenzuela
<b>Desert Hills</b> , Green Valley, AZ	Associate Pastor Craig Larson
<b>Faith/La Fe</b> , Phoenix, AZ	Pastor Jonathan Linman
	Associate Pastor Veronica Alvarez
<b>Faith</b> , Yuma, AZ	Pastor Doug Moffatt
<b>Holy Trinity</b> , Chandler	Associate Pastor Luis Ochoa
<b>Good Samaritan/The Lakes</b>	
Las Vegas, NV	Pastor Jason Adams
<b>Mount of Olives</b> , Phoenix, AZ	Pastor Tim Perlick
<b>New Spirit</b> , Tucson, AZ	Pastor Greg Hartman
<b>Resurrection</b> , Oro Valley, AZ	Associate Pastor Erin Morris
<b>St. John's</b> , Glendale	Associate Pastor of Outreach Daniel Potaznick GCS Director of Generosity and Strategic Planning

**Current GCS Congregations in Transition**

<b>American</b> , Sun City, AZ:	Seeking Associate Pastor
<b>Christ the Lord</b> , Carefree, AZ:	Call Committee Formed; Bridge Pastor Lowell Nelson
<b>Community of Grace</b> , Peoria, AZ	Ministry Site Profile (MSP) Complete
<b>Esperanza</b> , Phoenix, AZ	Interim Pastor Sarah Stadler
<b>Gloria Christi</b> , Phoenix, AZ	Seeking Pastor
Federated with Presbyterian Church	
<b>Gloria de Christo</b> , Yuma, AZ	Pastor Bill Timm to Retire Ministry Site Profile (MSP) Complete
<b>Grace</b> , Kingman, AZ:	Interviewing
<b>Grace</b> , Phoenix, AZ: I	Interim Pastor Phil Gustafson
<b>Mount Cross</b> , Payson, AZ:	Ministry Site Profile (MSP) Complete
<b>Mountain View</b> , Phoenix, AZ:	Pastor Glenn Zorb to Retire Interviewing
<b>Northern Arizona University (NAU)</b>	
Flagstaff, AZ (Lutheran - Episcopal)	Ministry Site Profile (MSP) Complete
<b>Our Saviour's</b> , East Mesa/ Gold Canyon, AZ	Interim Pastor Nancy Milleville
<b>Resurrection</b> , Oro Valley	Interviewing for Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Outreach
<b>Sierra Evangelical</b> , Sierra Vista, AZ	Interim Pastor Patsy Koeneke
<b>Tanque Verde</b> , Tucson, AZ	Call Committee Formed for Associate Pastor