

Minutes for the
2023 CENTRAL STATES SYNOD ASSEMBLY
June 3, 2023

Held via Zoom
with Kaw Prairie Community Church serving as the host

The Synod Assembly this year is designed to be a worship service, offering thanks and praise to God as we do our regular business. There are five movements in this worship service: Gathering, Word, Offering, Meal, and Sending.

Gathering

OPENING WORSHIP

Bishop Susan Candea opened the assembly at 9:00am. We began with some readings from scripture celebrating the Day of Pentecost, including Mark 1:14-20. Bishop Candea offered some brief reflections on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit, and the Way of Jesus. We continued with prayers and the official opening of the 2023 Central States Synod Assembly.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Candea welcomed everyone to the assembly and gave instructions for how to do the voting.

Rev. Chad Langdon offered a credentials report. At the 2023 Central States Synod Assembly, there are:

- 226 Total Registered Voting Members
 - 113 women
 - 111 men
 - 2 non-binary
- 137 are lay (60.6%)
- 89 are rostered persons (39.4%)
- 183 are active on the Slido voting platform giving us a quorum

SYNOD CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

At the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, several changes were made to the required provisions in the model synod constitutions. In October 2022 the Synod Council went through these changes, including making decisions where we were left with some options. These amendments to the synod constitutions were properly publicized and were properly put before the assembly, including these more substantive changes:

Change #1 was made to address the ability to have online assemblies. We deliberately kept an annual assembly:

S7.11.01. A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held annually. The ~~time and place~~ time, place, and format of the synod assembly shall be determined by the synod council.

Change #2 was recommended by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly and made so that it is easier to have a quorum for Synod Assemblies:

S7.14. ~~One-half~~ One-third of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, as defined by †S7.21., S7.24., S7.27., shall constitute a quorum.

Change #3 was made to combine the following two provisions into one, ensuring that all rostered ministers (retired, on disability, and on leave from call) may attend the Synod Assembly as voting members:

~~**S7.22.01.** All retired ministers, and those designated as disabled on the rosters of this synod shall serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly. All registration fees (not including housing and meals) will be waived for all retired ministers on the rosters of this synod. In the event at least 60 percent of the assembly membership is not lay, the retired ministers of word and sacrament together with the ministers of word and sacrament on leave from call will caucus and elect the appropriate representation.~~

~~**S7.22.02.** All rostered ministers on the roster of the synod who are on leave from call, may serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. In the event at least 60 percent of the assembly membership is not lay, the retired ministers of word and sacrament together with the ministers on leave from call will caucus and elect the appropriate representation.~~

S7.22.01. All retired ministers, those designated as disabled on the rosters of this synod, and all rostered ministers who are on leave from call may serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21. All registration fees (not including housing and meals) will be waived for all retired ministers on the rosters of this synod. In the event at least 60 percent of the assembly membership is not lay, the retired ministers, those designated as disabled on the rosters of this synod, and the rostered ministers on leave from call will caucus together and elect the appropriate representation.

Change #4 recognizes a change in the required provision coming from the 2022 Churchwide Assembly. The required provision struck the words “proclaiming God’s love for the world” and replaced them with a broader description of what might look like. We felt it was important however, to keep the words “proclaiming God’s love for the world” so we added them back in as an additional statement.

The required provision change:

†S14.12. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:

[...]

8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, ~~calling for justice and proclaiming God’s love for the world~~ advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations.

Our addition to the required provision:

9) proclaim God’s love for the world.

Change #5 recognizes a change in the required provision coming from the 2023 Churchwide Assembly, but seeks to make the same correction listed above in Change #4. Whereas Change #4 addresses the duties of a minister of Word and Sacrament, this change addresses the duties of a minister of Word and Service. Again, we felt it was important to keep the words “proclaiming God’s love for the world” so we added them back in as an additional statement.

The required provision change:

†S14.32. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:

[...]

c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God’s love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations;

Our addition to the required provision:

j. proclaim God’s love for the world.

What it should’ve read (in red):

Change #4 recognizes a change in the required provision coming from the 2022 Churchwide Assembly. The required provision struck the words “proclaiming God’s love for the world” and replaced them with a broader description of what that might look like. We felt it was important however, to keep the words “proclaiming God’s love for the world” so we added them back in as an additional statement.

Change #4a: The required provision change:

†S14.12. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

b. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:

[...]

8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, ~~calling for justice and proclaiming God’s love for the world~~ advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations.

Change #4b: The proposed new by-law:

S14.12.01 As part of the responsibilities of ministers of Word and Sacrament, this synod affirms that every minister of Word and Sacrament shall, consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Church in America, proclaim God’s love for the world.

Change #5 recognizes a change in the required provision coming from the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, but seeks to make the same correction listed above in Change #4. Whereas Change #4 addresses the duties of a minister of Word and Sacrament, this change addresses the duties of a minister of Word and Service. Again, we felt it was important to keep the words “proclaiming God’s love for the world” so we added them back in as an additional statement.

Change #5a: The required provision change:

†S14.32. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:

[...]

c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations;

Change #5b: *The proposed new by-law:*

S14.32.01 As part of the responsibilities of ministers of Word and Service, this synod affirms that every minister of Word and Service shall, consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Church in America, proclaim God's love for the world.

- **SA 23.06.03.A1** **It was MSC to adopt these amendments to the synod constitution as presented.**
 - The proposed amendments to the constitution needed a 2/3 vote to pass. The results of the vote were:
 - in favor 168 (93.3%)
 - opposed 11 (6%)
 - abstain 1 (0.5%)

NOMINATIONS REPORT

Pat Bjuland gave a report from the Nominations Committee. She presented the following nominations:

- Synod Officers (4-year terms)
 - Vice President: Nancy Nagel
 - Treasurer: Scott Schulte
 - Secretary: Rev. Chad Langdon
- Council Members (3-year terms)
 - Central Kansas Conference: Julie Barstow
 - Border Conference: Rev. Zac Sturm
 - Youth Male: NONE
- Consultation Committee (6-year terms)
 - Lay Member: Rosalind Thorpe
 - Clergy Member: Rev. Kristen Koch
- Discipline Committee (6-year terms)
 - Lay Member: Pat Bjuland
 - Lay Member: Cathy Hohl
 - Lay Member: Dennis Kemper
 - Clergy: Rev. Steven Cauley
 - Clergy: NONE

The nominations were closed.

- **SA 23.06.03.A2** **It was MSC to elect as a group the following people to these positions:**
 - **Synod Officers (4-year terms)**
 - **Vice President: Nancy Nagel**
 - **Treasurer: Scott Schulte**

- **Secretary: Rev. Chad Langdon**
- **Council Members (3-year terms)**
 - **Central Kansas Conference: Julie Barstow**
 - **Border Conference: Rev. Zac Sturm**
- **Consultation Committee (6-year terms)**
 - **Lay Member: Rosalind Thorpe**
 - **Clergy Member: Rev. Kristen Koch**
- **Discipline Committee (6-year terms)**
 - **Lay Member: Pat Bjuland**
 - **Lay Member: Cathy Hohl**
 - **Lay Member: Dennis Kemper**
 - **Clergy: Rev. Steven Cauley**
- The results of the vote were:

▪ in favor	183
▪ opposed	0
▪ abstain	3

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS - PARTNERSHIPS

We watched a short video highlighting some of our ministry partnerships throughout the synod.

BETHANY VILLAGE ANNUAL MEETING

The Synod Assembly recessed at 9:55am to move into the Bethany Village board meeting, led by Rev. Amy Truhe. She offered a brief update and report on what Bethany Village has been doing, including calling a new pastor, Rev. Mandy Todd.

The Bethany Village elected the following people to terms of office:

- Bill Brock to a 3-year term
- Chris Baker to a 3-year term

The Bethany Village meeting adjourned at 10:10am.

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Nancy Nagel offered a brief Vice President’s report. She gave an overview on the role of the Synod Council and recognized its members. She also highlighted:

- Work being done around the synod due to synod endowment grants
- Hearts Across the Heartland
- Collaboration in the Eastern Missouri Conference
- Campus Ministry
- A community center at the site of the former Resurrection Lutheran Church in St. Louis

The assembly took a brief break from 10:20 – 10:35am.

Word

*We watched a short video from Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services.
We read Matthew 13:31-34.*

CHURCHWIDE REPORT

Rev. Kristen Opalinski joined us as the representative from Churchwide. She is the Manager of Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations and highlighted the work that we are engaged in as a global church. She shared a video from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

It was moved and seconded to reopen the discussion on the constitutional amendments. This motion failed 108 – 67.

BISHOP'S REPORT

Bishop Candeia offered a report to the Synod Assembly. She highlighted:

- The struggle and difficulties with following the way of Jesus today.
- The toll that post-pandemic trauma is taking on all our lives.
- The sense of call and hope and good news that she knows Jesus still has for the world.
- She played the song, “Don’t Be Afraid,” from the new *All Creation Sings* hymnal.
- Following the way of Jesus means walking in love.
- She called us to keep the gospel of Jesus central in our lives.
- She called us to keep the gospel central together.
- She called us to keep the gospel central together with joy.
- She closed by playing the song, “For Such a Time as This,” from the new *All Creation Sings* hymnal.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS – MINISTERS OF WORD AND SERVICE

We watched a video that introduced us to some of the deacons that serve in our synod.

Offering

We read Mark 12:41-44.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Scott Schulte presented a written Treasurer’s Report for 2022. Verbal highlights included:

- Total Support & Revenue vs. Total Expenditures
 - In 2022, we received \$1,613,315 in Total Support & Revenue, which was \$67,000 less than anticipated and \$21,362 less than last year. We released \$40,474 of temporarily restricted funds.
 - In 2022, we spent \$1,613,315 in Total Expenditures, which was \$67,000 less than budgeted, and \$16,693 less than last year.
 - In 2022, we received \$1,454,148 in congregational support, which was \$99,658 less than last year, a 6.9% decrease.
 - This led to a year-end net surplus of \$0 as compared to a \$4,669 surplus last year.

- He gave an update on the current year, highlighting how far behind we already are, including:
 - Congregational support is \$70,000 lower for the 1st quarter, which represents a decrease of 23.3% from the previous year.
- He provided some steps that we are taking in light of the decreased revenue, including:
 - A decrease in spending of \$28,500, which largely represents a decrease in our contribution to Churchwide
 - Synod Council has further revised the budget to reflect the decrease in giving
 - A call to action for all congregations

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2024 (FYE 1/31/25)

Scott Schulte presented about the Proposed Budget for 2024 using a narrative form, including:

- How the synod receives our revenue, anticipating:
 - Congregation support \$1,450,000
 - Annual appeal & donations \$15,000
 - Temp. Restricted Funds & Interest \$40,000
 - Grants, Reimbursements \$50,000

In 2024, our anticipated total revenue is \$1,555,175
- He highlighted different things that we are planning to spend money on, including:
 - Churchwide contribution \$725,000
 - Ministry Entrusted to the Synod \$26,500
(camps, advocacy, leadership development, etc.)
 - Ministry of Oversight and Pastoral Care \$667,264
(salary, campus ministry, call process, continuing education, etc.)
 - Ministry of ELCA Partnerships \$53,125
(seminaries, Bethany College, Planned Giving, etc.)
 - Ministry of Place and Property \$74,000
(office rent & operations)
 - Ministry of Leadership and Outreach \$9,286
(Synod Council & deans’ meetings, bishop’s transition fund, technical enhancements for outreach, communications & evangelism)

We read Luke 9:10-17 as a mealtime scripture.

At 12:20, we took a break for lunch.

Meal

ANNIVERSARIES

We watched a video celebrating milestone anniversaries for pastors and congregations.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2024 (FYE 1/31/25) continued

Scott Schulte presented the 2024 Proposed Budget and it was properly before the floor. Verbal highlights & discussion included:

- There was a question about how the percentage given to churchwide is determined and if it can be changed. Scott addressed this question.
- There was a question about the interest and rate of return on some of our funds. Scott answered this question.
- There was a question about staffing costs and why they have changed a couple times over recent years. Scott and Bishop Candeia answered this.
- There was a question about how much money we have in reserve to use as temporarily restricted funds. Scott answered about \$100,000.
- There was a question about how the DEMs are paid. Bishop Candeia answered this question.
- There was a question about why we send money to Churchwide only to get it back. Bishop Candeia addressed this.
- There was a question about the impact on Leadership Training since we are removing this line from the budget. Bishop Candeia addressed this.
- **SA 23.06.03.A3 It was MSC to adopt the Proposed Budget for 2024 (FYE 1/31/25).**
 - The results of the vote were:

▪ in favor	170
▪ opposed	3
▪ abstain	2

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS – FEEDING MINISTRIES

We watched a video highlighting some of the feeding ministries around the synod.

Sending

We read John 13:1-9, 12 -17 and shared a prayer.

COMPENSATION GUIDELINES

Rev. Dave Whetter, Bishop’s Associate, presented the 2024 Compensation Guidelines. These guidelines were worked on and updated by the Compensation Guidelines Committee. He highlighted two big changes the committee made to the policies and guidelines:

- Family & Medical Leave Policy – They changed the paid leave time from 6 weeks to 8 weeks, and allowed for it to be extended another 4 weeks of unpaid time. They also updated the language to include circumstances other than just the birth of a child (i.e. caring for an elderly parent).
- An increase in pulpit supply rate from \$165 to \$170.

They also made several changes to the worksheet for compensating rostered ministers. This included:

- They added a worksheet for Synod Authorized Ministers.
- Using the US Inflation Calculator, they adjusted the baseline pay (Line 10) and increased it by 8%.
 - The Executive Committee had moved to lower this to 3%, which shows up in the written assembly materials.

- After the Compensation Guidelines Hearing, the Synod Council moved to change the baseline, Line 10 back to 8%. This is not reflected in the written assembly materials.
- The 8% increase is what will be properly before the assembly.
- The language in the guidelines has changed from “pastor” to “minister” to be more inclusive of some of our categories of ministry.

Discussion included:

- Rev. Jealaine Marple spoke in favor of these compensation guidelines, especially the changes to Family & Medical Leave policy.
- **SA 23.06.03.A4 It was MSC to adopt the 2024 Compensation Guidelines.**
 - The results of the vote were:

▪ in favor	165
▪ opposed	6
▪ abstain	4

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS – ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

We watched a video highlighting some of our ecumenical relationships and how these benefit our ministries.

RESOLUTIONS

Rev. Dave Whetter, on behalf of the Resolutions Committee, presented the resolutions before the assembly. These resolutions come properly before the assembly and have already been moved and seconded.

SA 23.01 Resolution to Encourage Development of Mission Partnership Support “One Body Together in Mission”

The resolution was opened for discussion.

- Rev. Aimee Appell spoke in favor of the resolution.
- Rev. Roy Christell spoke in favor of the resolution.

The final form of the resolution before the assembly reads:

- **Therefore, be it resolved: The constituents of the Central States Synod seek to build up the Body of Christ through the development of ways to strengthen their participation in relationships with other mission partners across the synod to support and assist existing SAWCs, as well as other SAWC explorations. Possible ways to encourage the development of Mission Partnership Support could include the following:**
 - Remembering existing and exploratory SAWCs in congregational and individual prayers;
 - Including SAWC developers in your own personal prayers;
 - Contacting a specific SAWC and inquiring what their specific ministry needs are;
 - Planning a mission trip to a SAWC to learn more about its ministry;
 - Inviting a member from a SAWC to speak to your congregation in an effort to learn more about the SAWC’s mission;

- Joining with other individuals and congregations to provide financial support to a SAWC;
- Participating in a synod-wide mission support effort to raise additional mission support of the synod’s SAWCs; and
- Donating funds from Congregational Endowment Funds and Congregational Memorial Gifts to support the mission of SAWCs;
- **Be it further resolved: The Central States Synod Mission Table will provide resources to congregations and others to assist them with the implementation of plans to develop and strengthen relationships with their mission partners.**
- **SA 23.06.03.A5 Resolution SA.23.01 was adopted.**
 - The results of the vote were:
 - in favor 158
 - opposed 4
 - abstain 3

SA 23.02 A Season of Global Awareness

The resolution was opened for discussion.

- Rev. Gary Teske spoke in favor of this resolution.

The final form of the resolution before the assembly reads:

- **Be it resolved that the Epiphany Season be designated as a “Season of Global Awareness” for congregations within the Central States Synod and that congregations intentionally lift up the church around the world through prayer, song, educational events and in any way appropriate to the context of the congregation. The focus would be not only on our Companion Synods in Papua New Guinea and Russia, but also the Global Ministry we share in and through the Global Mission Arm of the ELCA such as Missionary Sponsorship, Young Adults in Global Mission, and our support of Projects that promote the witness of the Gospel, works of compassion and Justice ministry around the world.**
- **Be it also resolved that Sunday, October 8th, 2023 shall be designated as the Sunday to remember, lift up and celebrate our companion church relationship with the “Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Urals, Siberia and Far East” (ELCUSFE) with a special focus on the Far Eastern Deanery. (This date was chosen because the first Sunday in October is widely observed by the churches in Russia as a harvest Sunday when they give thanks and celebrate the completion of the fall harvest).**
- **Be it also resolved that Sunday, April 7th, 2024 be designated as the Sunday to remember, lift up and celebrate our companion church relationship with the Kote District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG). We chose this Sunday because the Gospel lesson is John 20:19-31 which includes John’s version of Jesus commissioning the disciples to share the Gospel with everyone, everywhere with the words, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” It also includes the account of Jesus encountering the disciples at a time and place and in a manner that they least expected. This is a common**

occurrence in our interactions with our companion Siblings in Papua New Guinea and Russia.

- The Central States Synod Companion Synod Team will provide resources for mission education and worship for the Epiphany Season, and additionally, prayer requests, recent news and communications from our Companion Churches prior to the two Companion Synod Sundays to help us to “accompany one another” in our journey as followers, servants and witnesses to Jesus Christ in our respective parts of God’s world.

- **SA 23.06.03.A6 Resolution SA.23.02 was adopted.**
 - The results of the vote were:
 - in favor 166
 - opposed 4
 - abstain 1

SA 23.03 Creation of a Synod Campus Ministry Team

The resolution was opened for discussion.

- Mary Mertz asked how this team will be funded. Bishop Candea answered that this team is not looking for any funds.
- Rev. Dan Baldwin spoke in favor of the resolution.
- Rev. Andrew Patty spoke in favor of the resolution.
- Rev. Peter Rehwaldt spoke in favor of the resolution.

The final form of the resolution before the assembly reads:

- **Therefore, be it resolved, the Central States Synod take the following actions:**
 - Approve the creation of the Synod Campus Ministry Team to help provide vision, advocacy, and develop partnerships beneficial for our ministry with young adults.
 - Invite the Synod Campus Ministry Team to work cooperatively in finding ecumenical partners and incorporating them into the work of ecumenical campus ministry.
 - Empower the Synod Campus Ministry Team to advocate to the congregations the importance of campus ministries to the future of the church.
 - Encourage the Synod Campus Ministry Team to work with congregations and community partners in finding opportunities for new ministries that reach young adults.

- **SA 23.06.03.A7 Resolution SA.23.03 was adopted.**
 - The results of the vote were:
 - in favor 176
 - opposed 0
 - abstain 1

SA 23.04 Bethany Village Chaplaincy Endowment Support

The resolution was opened for discussion.

- Rev. Amy Truhe spoke in favor of this resolution.

The final form of the resolution before the assembly reads:

- **Therefore, be it resolved, the Central States Synod designates the second Sunday in November as Bethany Village Sunday, requesting that each congregation collect an offering to strengthen and support the Chaplaincy Endowment funds of Bethany Village to ensure the ongoing spiritual care of our residents. Congregations will send their offerings to Bethany Village: Chaplaincy Endowment, 321 N. Chestnut St, Lindsborg, KS 67456.**
- **SA 23.06.03.A8 Resolution SA.23.04 was adopted.**
 - The results of the vote were:
 - in favor 144
 - opposed 24
 - abstain 6

SA 23.05 Thanksgiving for Ministry

The resolution was opened for discussion.

- Rev. Michael Kern asked that we add Rev. Melvin Peterson to the list of the deceased.

The final form of the resolution before the assembly reads:

- Baptized, we welcome one another as fellow members of the Body of Christ and workers with us in the reign of God. Our merciful God gives us particular companions to know and to love in our pilgrimage here on earth. Since the last assembly, the following rostered ministers, whom we remember with thanksgiving and reverence, have died:
 - The Rev. Paul Bauermeister, St. Louis, MO (9/11 2022)
 - Marianne Wilkinson, Deacon, Lawrence, KS (11/18/2022)
 - The Rev. Bill Horn, Wichita, KS (1/21/2023)
 - The Rev. Steve Little, Blanchard, OK (4/17/2023)
 - The Rev. Melvin Peterson
- The following persons have served the Church faithfully, using their gifts and abilities to build up the Body of Christ, and have now retired from active ministry on the roster of the Church since the last Central States Synod Assembly:
 - The Rev. James Brandt, from specialized ministry, Lenexa, KS (7/1/2022)
 - The Rev. Barry Hong, from specialized ministry, St. Louis, MO (7/1/2022)
 - The Rev. Noni Strand, from specialized ministry, Salina, KS (7/1/2022)
 - The Rev. Austra Reines, from synod council call, Springfield, MO (8/1/2022)
 - The Rev. Dinah Dutta, from specialized ministry, Lawrence, KS. (10/1/2022)
 - The Rev. Jerry Reynolds, from On Leave from Call, Manhattan, KS (10/1/2022)
 - The Rev. Keith Hohly, from On Leave from call, Overland Park, KS (1/1/2023)
 - The Rev. Susan Langhauser, from Advent Lutheran Church, Olathe, KS (1/1/2023)

- The Rev. William Neuman, from Good Neighbor Parish, Herrington/Hebron, KS (1/1/2023)
- The body of Christ gathers as congregations to proclaim the gospel, share the means of grace, and is empowered to carry out God’s mission in the world. The following congregation(s) disaffiliated from the ELCA, discerning that they were called to participate in God’s mission through other denominations:
 - Hillside Community Lutheran Church, Spring Hill, KS took their second vote to disaffiliate on 9/1/2022.
 - Peace Lutheran, Sullivan, MO took their second vote to disaffiliate on 12/11/2022.
 - Friends Home Lutheran Church, Savonburg, KS took their second vote to disaffiliate on 2/19/2023.
- After many years of faithful ministry, the following congregation(s) closed, trusting that in the midst of death, there is always resurrection, and the mission of the church continues:
 - Immanuel Oromo Christian Church, Kansas City, MO (6/30/2022)
 - Zion Lutheran Church, Hollenburg, KS (7/10/2022)
 - Blue Ridge Trinity Lutheran Church, Raytown, MO (7/21/2022)
 - Bethany Lutheran Church, Webster Groves, MO (10/1/2022)
 - United Lutheran Church in Cole Camp, MO (12/31/2022)
 - Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Ness City, KS (4/30/2023)
- **Therefore, be it resolved that this Assembly recognizes and gives thanks for the ministry of these ministers and these congregations.**
- **SA 23.06.03.A9 Resolution SA.23.05 was adopted and Bishop Candea led us in a thanksgiving prayer.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

- There are upcoming online webinars being offered by the synod in September.
- There is a Faithful Innovation workshop being offered in June.
- First quarter giving statements have been sent out along with a new quarterly newsletter.
- The 2023 edition of Walking Together will be available soon on our website.
- The Fall Theological Conference will be happening in October. It will be held in the Kansas City area.
- The 2024 Central States Synod Assembly will be held in person, in Olathe, KS June 6-8, 2024.

CLOSING WORSHIP

- Rev. Dave Whetter led us in a short closing worship focusing on Matthew 22:34-40 and the call to love like Jesus did.
- Bishop Candea officially closed the 2023 Central States Synod Assembly at 2:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Chad Langdon

Rev. Chad Langdon

Central States Synod Secretary