2023 Assembly
Bishop’s Report
Walking Together Into Courageous Love
As with Moses and Miriam, Ruth and Naomi, Peter and Paul, we walk into an unfolding horizon, trusting in the presence of a living and liberating God to guide and ground our steps.
WHAT WILL OUR COMPASS BE?

OUR VALUES
MUTUAL ACCOMPANIMENT
AGENCY AND DIGNITY
INTEGRITY
WISDOM FROM THE EDGES
HONESTY AND HUMILITY
What gives me hope?
Over 700 people in the Oregon Synod are involved in cohorts, classes and leadership development, rural, urban, suburban.

“Outside” giving to the Oregon Synod is up by more than 50% two years running.

More grants than ever from Lutheran World Hunger have come in to help us build bridges with all people in Oregon.

Racial justice work has been lifted up, including Reckoning with Racism cohorts, Inclusive Call Process changes and Land Back intentional invitations, helping us engage with many.

Numerous other synods and denominations are requesting to partner with us because of the creative faithfulness of what we are doing.
- Disaster and Climate Resilience work continues and also supports other initiatives
- Oregon Synod Ecumenical Advisory Team formed to help us see and counter White Privilege
- More Deacons, BIPOC Pastors and LGBTQIA leaders are involved and excited to be in the Oregon Synod
- More Lutherans from rural Oregon are involved in the work of the Synod, together
- Many congregations are reporting high levels of vitality as families and individuals reconnect or connect for the first time after lock-down
Spiritual Friendship

I no longer call you servants...
but I have called you friends.

John 15:15
Synod means “On the Road Together”
Bishop’s Office Staff
How do we spend your mission support?
Where does the money go?

- Larger church: 39%
- Faith formation: 21%
- Direct congregation support: 16%
- Telling the Story: 24%
Mission Support to the ELCA

We give 42% of all mission support (39% of the total budget) to the Churchwide Office for our collective ministries across the nation and world.

We also have received grants back from the Churchwide Offices totalling over $300,000 this year.
Agency & Social Ministry gifts & grants

Camp Lutherwood Oregon

U of O Campus Ministry Good Soil

Lutheran Community Services Northwest

OSU Campus Ministry Luther House

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

ELCA
Leadership Development and Faith Formation

Community Vitality through Sacred Organizing

Reckoning with Racism

Spiritual and Theo. MA

Campus Ministries

Rural Vitality Cohorts

Lay Education Classes
Leadership and Faith Formation

Candidates for Ministry
Cabinet of Deans
Leaven Land & Housing Coalition
Synod Council
Quarterly Meetings
Endowment Committee
Lay Education Classes

Oregon Synod Lay Education Course: Finding Liturgy in Life and Life in Liturgy
Beginning January 11, 2022

Oregon Synod Lay Education Course: Engaging Conflict for Growth
In Ourselves, Relationships, and Communities

Oregon Synod Lay Education Course: Discernment: In Solitude and Community

Oregon Synod Lay Education Course: Invitations into Liberation:
The Reformation, Lutheran Theology, and Beyond

Oregon Synod Lay Education Course: Death and Dying: Preparing for Our Own, Caring for Others

Oregon Synod Lay Education Course: Parables as Invitation
Sunday Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8 pm, beginning March 29
Synod Stewardined Ministries

Where do they touch down on the ground and who do they impact?

- Community Vitality and Innovation Cohorts
  - Reckoning with Racism, Sacred Organizing, Climate Resiliency (over the last three years)
- Transformational Transitions
  - Spanning 2022-23/current
- Candidacy, SALM, Lay Ed., STMA
- Conflict & Crisis
- Current Mission Development/New Ministries
- Visits, Speaking, Events, & Celebrations
- Leadership Accompaniment & Pastoral Care
Telling the Story

Your Creative Ministries for God’s Future Church

Mid-Willamette Valley Latino Ministry
Storydwellling
Storyline
Queer Enough
Your Creative Ministries for God’s Church of the Future

Together Lab
Cully Neighborhood Engagement
Disaster and Climate Resilience
SE Portland Thriving
Communities
Congregational Support
Pastoral support for pastors
Holy Closure

Local ministries 35%

Land back 10%

Church of the Future 54%

Archives 1%
Jesus looked at them and said, “With humans this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Matthew 19:26
If trends continue…

7% gap
Thankfully...
Preserving our reserves

- 2017: $300,000
- 2018: $300,000
- 2019: $500,000
- 2020: $200,000
- 2021: $0
- 2022: $100,000
Synod Fundraising from Other Sources
Horizon & Courageous Love Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$3,454</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>$66,620</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>$103,101</td>
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