FINANCIAL STATEMENTS JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

WITH INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



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#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Synod Executive Committee

Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Moorhead, Minnesota

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of **Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** (a non-profit corporation), which comprise the statements of financial position as of January 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of activities and changes in net assets, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of **Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** as of January 31, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of **Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### Responsibilities of Management 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, and for 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about **Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's** ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are issued.



#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about **Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's** ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

#### Emphasis of Matter – Change in Accounting Principle

As discussed in Note 1 of the financial statements, **Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** adopted new accounting guidance by implementing the provisions of Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") ASU No. 842, Leases, which represents a change in accounting principle. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

#### Supplementary Information

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The schedule of activity for donor restricted net assets for a specific purpose and the schedule of partners in ministry support are 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 or to 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.

Fargo, North Dakota May 17, 2023

#### STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

ASSETS		2023	_	2022	
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents, without donor restrictions	\$	556,532	\$	455,642	
Cash and cash equivalents, with donor restrictions	-	238,995	-	338,856	
Total current assets		795,527		794,498	
INVESTMENTS, net		247,166		249,977	
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, net		17,022		26,307	
RIGHT OF USE ASSET	_	35,337	_		
Total assets	\$ _	1,095,052	\$ _	1,070,782	
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS					
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Current portion of long-term debt	\$	7,068	\$	6,778	
Current portion of lease liability		27,518		-	
Accounts payable		-		725	
Accrued expenses		105,574		95,657	
Donor pass through payables	-	52,911	_	56,380	
Total current liabilities		193,071		159,540	
LONG-TERM DEBT, less current maturities		14,401		21,471	
LEASE LIABILITY, less current portion	-	7,819	_		
Total liabilities	-	215,291	_	181,011	
NET ASSETS					
Without donor restrictions					
Undesignated		88,216		164,975	
Synod designated		442,295		293,849	
With donor restrictions	_	349,250	_	430,947	
Total net assets	_	879,761	_	889,771	
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ <u>_</u>	1,095,052	\$ _	1,070,782	

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023

	V	Without Donor Restrictions	_	With Donor Restrictions	_	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT						
Mission support	\$	1,358,399	\$	-	\$	1,358,399
Contributions		-		250,130		250,130
Grants		120,995		-		120,995
Net investment return		(1,354)		(6,474)		(7,828)
Events						
Synod assembly		32,401		-		32,401
First call theological education		20,742		-		20,742
Other events		30,584		-		30,584
Lutheran Youth Organization		17,588		-		17,588
Designated support		155,767		-		155,767
Miscellaneous income		5,559		-		5,559
Net assets released from restrictions		325,353	-	(325,353)	-	
Total revenue and support		2,066,034	-	(81,697)	-	1,984,337
EXPENSES						
Program services expense						
Broader church and evangelical outreach		1,110,842		-		1,110,842
Leadership development		311,628		-		311,628
Congregational vitality		113,516		-		113,516
Synod governance and vitality		204,185		-		204,185
Management and general		254,176	-		-	254,176
Total expenses		1,994,347	-		-	1,994,347
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		71,687		(81,697)		(10,010)
NET ASSETS, Beginning of year		458,824	_	430,947	-	889,771
NET ASSETS, End of year	\$	530,511	\$	349,250	\$	879,761

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2022

	Without Donor Restrictions			With Donor Restrictions		Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT	_				-	
Mission support	\$	1,351,710	\$	-	\$	1,351,710
Synod support		13,542		-		13,542
Contributions		-		288,950		288,950
Grants		33,124		-		33,124
Net investment return		10,604		8,576		19,180
Events						
Synod assembly		37,419		-		37,419
Theology for mission conference		18,732		-		18,732
First call theological education		7,518		-		7,518
Other events		5,029		-		5,029
Designated support		12,610		-		12,610
Miscellaneous income		265		-		265
Net assets released from restrictions	_	124,243		(124,243)	-	
Total revenue and support	_	1,614,796		173,283	-	1,788,079
EXPENSES						
Program services expense						
Broader church and evangelical outreach		887,478		-		887,478
Leadership development		250,090		-		250,090
Congregational vitality		86,618		-		86,618
Synod governance and vitality		157,899		-		157,899
Management and general	_	209,358			-	209,358
Total expenses	_	1,591,443			-	1,591,443
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		23,353		173,283		196,636
NET ASSETS, Beginning of year	_	435,471		257,664	-	693,135
NET ASSETS, End of year	\$ _	458,824	\$	430,947	\$	889,771

### STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023

			Pro	gram							
	Broader C Evange Outre	elical	Leadership Development		ngregational Vitality	_	Synod Governance & Vitality	Management and General		_	Total
Salaries	\$ 23	3,159	\$ 73,337	\$	50,178	\$	111,935	\$	127,374	\$	385,983
Benefits	13	3,709	43,412		29,703		66,260		75,400		228,484
Boards and committees		-	1,505		-		2,794		-		4,299
Candidacy background checks											
and psych evaluations		-	8,836		-		-		-		8,836
Cohort ministries	4	,324	-		-		-		-		4,324
Contract for services gift planner	5	5,000	-		-		5,000		-		10,000
Depreciation		-	-		-		-		9,285		9,285
ELCA churchwide mission											
support	638	3,437	-		-		-		-		638,437
Sustaining rural ministries			7,800		-		-		-		7,800
Equipment/maintenance	3	3,155	3,155		3,155		3,155		3,155		15,775
Evangelism	289	,875	· -		´-		´-		-		289,875
Event expenses											,
Great Synod get together	11	,066	_		_		_		-		11,066
Region 3		_	1.184		_		_		_		1,184
Stewardship		781	781		_		_		_		1,562
First call colleague program											,
and theological education		-	17,535		5,845		_		_		23,380
Health and wellness		_	200		-		200		_		400
Insurance	1	.395	1,395		1,395		1,395		1,395		6,975
Interest expense	-	-	-		-		-		1,057		1,057
Legal and audit services		_	_		_		_		18,865		18,865
Lutheran Youth Organization	5	5,048	10,097		5,048		_		-		20,193
Ministries, missions and		,0.0	10,077		2,0.0						20,175
other services	20	,247	_		_		_		_		20,247
Occupancy		3,412	3,412		3,412		3,412		3,412		17,060
Partners in ministry		,417	109,252		5,112		-		-		145,669
Postage and shipping		,113	1,113		1,113		1,113		_		4,452
Retired rostered leaders and		,113	1,113		1,113		1,113				7,732
spouses events		_	191		_		_		_		191
Staff travel	Δ	,746	9,493		4,746		_		_		18,985
Subscriptions and publications		,510	4,510		4,510		4,510		4,510		22,550
Supplies and materials	-	-	4,510		7,510		4,510		6,950		6,950
Synod assembly	2	2,773	2,773		2,773		2,773		2,773		13,865
Synod designated disbursements		),037	10,009		2,773		2,773		2,773		50,046
Telephone		,638	1,638		1,638		1,638		-		6,552
rerephone	1	,030	1,030	_	1,030	-	1,036	_		_	0,332
Total expenses by function	\$	),842	\$311,628	\$	113,516	\$_	204,185	\$	254,176	\$_	1,994,347

# STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2022

		Prog	gram			
	Broader Church Evangelical	& Leadership	Congregational	Synod Governance	Management	
	Outreach	Development	Vitality	& Vitality	and General	Total
Salaries Benefits	\$ 17,606 10,641	\$ 55,752 33,697	\$ 38,146 23,056	\$ 85,095 51,433	\$ 96,833 58,527	\$ 293,432 177,354
Boards and committees Candidacy background checks	-	615	-	1,141	-	1,756
and psych evaluations	-	3,836	-	-	-	3,836
Cohort ministries	7,563	-	-	-	-	7,563
Contract for services gift planner	5,000	-	-	5,000	-	10,000
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	9,285	9,285
ELCA churchwide mission						
support	635,304	-	-	-	-	635,304
Equipment/maintenance	2,660	2,660	2,660	2,660	2,660	13,300
Evangelism	115,075	-	-	-	-	115,075
Event expenses						
Clergy spouses retreat	-	568	568	-	-	1,136
Great Synod get together	20	-	-	-	-	20
First call theological education	-	4,520	1,507	-	-	6,027
Health and wellness	-	45	-	45	-	90
Insurance	1,202	1,202	1,202	1,202	1,202	6,010
Interest expense	-	-	-	-	1,335	1,335
Legal and audit services	-	-	-	-	27,078	27,078
Lutheran Youth Organization	14	28	14	-	-	56
Ministries, missions and						
other services	24,770	-	-	-	-	24,770
Occupancy	3,412	3,412	3,412	3,412	3,412	17,060
Partners in ministry	40,673	122,018	-	-	-	162,691
Postage and shipping	910	910	910	910	-	3,640
Staff travel	2,370	4,740	2,370	-	-	9,480
Subscriptions and publications	2,464	2,464	2,464	2,464	2,464	12,320
Supplies and materials	-	-	-	-	3,692	3,692
Synod assembly	2,870	2,870	2,870	2,870	2,870	14,350
Synod designated disbursements	13,257	3,314	-	-	-	16,571
Telephone	1,667	1,667	1,667	1,667	-	6,668
Theology for ministry						
conference		5,772	5,772			11,544
Total expenses by function	\$ 887,478	\$\$	\$ 86,618	\$157,899	\$ 209,358	\$1,591,443

#### STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

		2023		2022
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	· <u></u>		_	
Change in net assets	\$	(10,010)	\$	196,636
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net				
cash provided by operating activities				
Depreciation		9,285		9,285
Net investment return		21,100		(19,180)
Changes in assets and liabilities				
Accounts payable		(725)		(9,299)
Accrued expenses		9,917		(9,961)
Donor pass through payables		(3,469)	_	1,446
Net cash provided by operating activities	_	26,098	_	168,927
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Purchase of investments		(18,289)		(11,129)
Proceeds from the sale of investments			_	8,771
Net cash used in investing activities	_	(18,289)	_	(2,358)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Principal payments of long-term debt	_	(6,780)	_	(6,500)
NET CHANGE IN CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS,				
AND RESTRICTED CASH		1,029		160,069
CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS, AND RESTRICTED				
CASH, Beginning of year		794,498	-	634,429
CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS, AND RESTRICTED				
CASH, End of year	\$ _	795,527	\$ =	794,498
SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF CASH				
FLOW INFORMATION				
Cash paid for interest	\$ _		\$ _	1,335
Right-of-use assets obtained in exchange for lease liabilities	\$	49,651	\$	_
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#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

#### NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Nature of Operations

Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ("Synod"), in partnership with the church-wide organization, bears responsibility for the oversight of the life and mission of this church in the territory of this Synod, which is the northwest section of the state of Minnesota. The Synod area includes 230 congregations. The Synod operates under the bylaws, policies and regulations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ("ELCA"). The Synod, at times, is exposed to the risks associated with the economy of the geographical area due to the support from congregations in the limited geographic area.

#### Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Synod have been prepared on the accrual basis. The significant accounting policies by the Synod are described below to enhance the usefulness of the financial statements to the reader. The Synod is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to two classes of net assets: net assets without donor restrictions and net assets with donor restrictions.

#### Basis of Presentation

The financial statements of the Synod have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("US GAAP"), which require the Synod to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to the following net asset classifications:

*Net assets without donor restrictions*: Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the organization. These net assets may be used at the discretion of the Synod management and the board of directors.

Net assets with donor restrictions: Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors, and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by the actions of the Synod or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, where by the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity. Donor restricted contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires, net assets are reclassified from net assets with donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions in the statement of activities.

#### Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Restricted Cash

For the purposes of the statements of cash flows, the Synod considers all highly liquid investment accounts with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Restricted cash is considered to be all funds held by the Synod that are restricted by the donor for a specific purpose.

#### Concentration of Credit Risk

The Synod maintains cash balances at certain financial institutions. The accounts at each institution are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"). At January 31, 2023 and 2022, the Organization's uninsured cash balance totaled \$559,765 and \$524,085, respectively.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

The Synod also maintains cash balances with the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA. Accounts at this institution are not insured by the FDIC.

#### Investments

The Synod's investments consist of money market investments with the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA ("MIF") as well as an ELCA pooled investment fund. The funds held with MIF are used to provide financing or refinancing for buildings and site acquisitions to congregations, organizations, and institutions that are related to the ELCA. Ordinary income from the ELCA pooled investment fund is accounted for in net assets with donor restrictions and net assets without donor restrictions based on the percent of the Synod's investment balance that is donor restricted. Investment fees in the ELCA pooled investment fund is charged from the change in market value. The investments are not insured by the FDIC, Securities Investor Protection Corporation ("SIPC") or any other federal or state regulatory agency.

#### **Property and Equipment**

Property and equipment are stated at cost. Donated equipment is valued at estimated cost at the time of the donation. It is the policy of the Synod to provide depreciation based on the useful life of the assets, using the straight-line method. The estimated useful life of the assets ranges from 5 to 40 years. The Synod's policy is to capitalize any purchase determined to be property or equipment over \$2,000 and with useful lives greater than three years.

#### Sweep Agreement

The Synod has entered into a checking account sweep agreement with a financial institution. The agreement provides for the financial institution to make daily automatic fund transfers between the checking account and savings account.

#### Donor Pass Through Payables

The donor pass through payables account represents contributions collected and held at the end of the year for other organizations and missions. The Synod's policy is to recognize the contributions received and deposited as a liability until paid to the beneficiaries. Donor pass through payables are remitted to the ELCA on a monthly basis.

#### Revenue Recognition

The Synod's primary source of revenue is from contributions. Due to contributions being both voluntary and nonreciprocal, they do not fall under ASU No. 2014-09, "Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)". However, revenue recognized in the form of event registration is subject to special consideration under Topic 606. The Synod has analyzed the provisions of Topic 606, including the five-step approach to evaluating contracts, and has concluded that no changes are necessary to conform with the new standard. Revenue for such events is recognized at a point in time when the event has occurred. Additionally, there is no registration revenue at year end January 31, 2023 and 2022 which has not been earned.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

#### **Contributions**

Contributions are recognized when the donor makes a promise to give to the Synod that is, in substance, unconditional. Contributions that are restricted by the donor are reported as increases in net assets without donor restriction if the restrictions expire in the fiscal year in which the contributions are recognized. All other donor-restricted contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restriction, depending on the nature of the restrictions. When a restriction expires, net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified as net assets without donor restrictions.

#### Income Taxes

The latest determination letter issued by the Internal Revenue Service indicates the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is exempt from federal income tax under provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as a religious organization, and therefore no provision is made for federal and state income taxes.

#### Sabbatical Leave

The sabbatical leave policy states, for those employees for whom it can be demonstrated that the leave will increase their value to the Synod, sabbatical leave may be requested. Approval is required by the Bishop and Executive Committee. For non-rostered employees, leave can range from one to three months and may be requested after six years of service. Upon completion of leave the employee shall be committed to a minimum of one year of full-time employment. Rostered employees are encouraged to take a minimum of one to three months every five to seven years.

#### Functional Expenses

Functional expenses have been allocated between one or more programs and supporting functions based on an analysis of effort and space utilized, payroll and benefits are allocated based on estimated personnel time devoted to various activities. In fiscal years 2023 and 2022, there were no fundraising expenses.

#### **Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liability at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### Adoption of Lease Standards

In 2023, the Synod adopted FASB Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 842, Leases, which requires lessees to recognize assets and liabilities for all leases. The Synod adopted Topic 842 using the optional transition method that allows entities to forgo the comparative reporting requirements under the modified retrospective transition method.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

#### Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated subsequent events through the date of the auditor's report, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued. The Synod believes that there has not been an event subsequent to year end where disclosure is necessary.

#### NOTE 2 – LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY

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:

	_	2023	_	2022
Cash and cash equivalents without donor restrictions MIF demand account	\$	556,532 21,652	\$	455,642 21,553
Total	\$ _	578,184	\$ _	477,195

The Synod's endowment funds consist partly of donor-restricted endowments as well as Synod designated funds. The designated portion of the endowment fund are available to the Synod as designated by the Synod Council, if necessary. The designated portion is not included in the total available assets as the intent is not to spend these funds. Income and dividends from endowments are available for purposes determined by management and the Synod council and are disbursed on a quarterly basis.

#### **NOTE 3 – INVESTMENTS**

Investments are stated at their fair values and consisted of the following at January 31:

		2023				2022			
	_	Cost Fair Value			_	Cost		Fair Value	
ELCA Next Generation Pooled Endowment Fund Money market fund	\$_	211,210 21,652	\$	225,514 21,652	\$_	193,018 21,553	\$	228,424 21,553	
	\$ _	232,862	\$	247,166	\$ _	214,571	\$	249,977	

Investment earnings are comprised of the following at January 31:

	_	2023	_	2022
Investment income Interest income Change in unrealized gains on investments	\$	8,699 4,573 (21,100)	\$	7,678 1,205 10,297
Net investment return	\$	(7,828)	\$ _	19,180

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

#### NOTE 4 – PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

	_	2023	_	2022
Equipment and vehicles Accumulated depreciation	\$	90,866 (73,844)	\$	95,685 (69,378)
	\$ _	17,022	\$ _	26,307

#### NOTE 5 – FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The three levels of fair value hierarchy in accordance with ASC 920 Fair Value Measurements are described below:

- Level 1: Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets in active markets.
- **Level 2**: Inputs to the valuation methodology include quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active or inactive markets and inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability.
- Level 3: Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value.

Money Market Funds – Valued at the net asset value ("NAV") of shares held by the Synod at year-end. Money market funds held by the Synod are open-end funds that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily NAV and transact at that price. The money market funds held by the Synod are deemed to be actively traded.

**ELCA Pooled Investment Fund** — Valued based on NAV until price adjusted periodically to reflect the investment results under the investment fund, which approximates fair value. Fair value is determined based on the underlying value of investments held within the pooled investment fund. The Synod's interest in the account is the cumulative record of the number of units credited to the fund and the number of units allocated or withdrawn from the fund.

The valuation methods described above may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Synod believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The Synod's fair value measurement policies and procedures are reviewed annually to determine if the valuation techniques are still appropriate.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Synod's investments at fair value reported on a recurring basis as of January 31, 2023:

	Fair Value	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Money market funds Total assets in the fair	\$21,652	\$\$ 21,652 \$	·	\$
value hierarchy	21,652	21,652	-	-
Investments measured at net asset value	225,514			
Total assets	\$247,166	\$\$	·	\$

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Synod's investments at fair value reported on a recurring basis as of January 31, 2022:

	<u>_ F</u>	air Value	Level 1	_	Level 2	_	Level 3	
Money market funds	\$	21,553	\$	21,553	\$_		\$_	
Total assets in the fair value hierarchy		21,553		21,553		-		-
Investments measured at net asset value		228,424			_		_	
Total assets	\$	249,977	\$	21,553	\$ _		\$ _	-

Amendments to Subtopic 820-10, *Fair Value Measurement and Disclosures-Overall* of the FASB Accounting Standards Codification permit, as a practical expedient, a plan holding investments in certain entities that calculate NAV per share, or its equivalent, for which the fair value is not readily determinable, to measure the fair value of such investments on the basis of that NAV per share, or its equivalent, without adjustment. Pursuant to these amendments, the Synod does not categorize investments for which fair value is measured at NAV per share, or its equivalent, using the practical expedient within the fair value hierarchy. The following is a summary of the Synod's investments which report using NAV:

	_	2023 Fair Value	_	2022 Fair Value	 Infunded mmitments	Redemption Frequency	Redemption Notice Period
ELCA Next Generation Pooled Endowment Fund	\$	225,514	\$	228,424	\$ -	Daily	Within ten

The ELCA Pooled Investment Fund seeks to provide a stable, quarterly stream of distributable investment income comprised of interest, dividends and capital gains realized by the fund. The fund allocates holdings in a diversified portfolio of investment pools consisting principally of global equities and fixed income securities.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

#### NOTE 6 – DESIGNATED NET ASSETS

The following net assets are recorded as Synod designated as of January 31:

	 2023	_	2022
Continuing education staff	\$ 9,612	\$	10,230
Estate - Minerva Olson	5,296		5,296
Health & Wellness	7,603		13,882
Insurance proceeds & restitution	4,700		3,598
Next Generation fund	203,057		203,057
Pastor to Pastor	1,147		1,147
Staff meetings/team building	1,200		1,200
Staff transition fund	63,597		43,597
Strategic initiatives	134,241		-
Synod assembly reserve	10,055		10,055
Synod programs	 1,787	_	1,787
	\$ 442,295	\$	293,849

#### NOTE 7 – NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

The following net assets are recorded as donor restricted as of January 31:

The following het assets are recorded as donor restricted as of sandary 51.	2023		2022
Subject to expenditure for a specific purpose		_	
Accompaniment team	\$ 48	\$	48
Anti-racism training	2,115		-
Candidacy grants & retreats	64		64
Companion Synod - general	9,366		8,613
Discovering vitality - small ELCA cong	9,000		9,000
Domestic Hunger Grant	10,000		-
Easter appeal	907		907
ELCA Next Generation Fund - endowment earnings	4,131		15,147
Evangelism	34,053		22,732
Farm Relief	500		500
Fostering Vibrant Faith	25,040		25,040
Give MN	-		4,637
Give At Home MN	-		2,683
Give to the Max 2020	-		8,041
Give to the Max 2021	-		78,255
Give to the Max 2022	41,596		-
Giving Hearts Day 2021	-		38,220
Giving Hearts Day 2022	-		50,725
Giving Hearts Day 2023	24,642		-
Harold Lohr Memorial Fund	435		435
Hunger Grant	3,411		3,411

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

	2023	2022
Lilly III Grant Funds	-	10,441
Macedonia Project	-	5,380
Make Known Loved Project	421	-
Memorial for Survivors of Sexual Assault and Abuse	-	3,525
Native Neighbors Table	9,865	11,692
Office furnishings & equipment	33	33
Parish Nurse Program	500	-
Power & boundary training	3,028	2,557
Racial equity	66	19,850
Red River leadership	-	492
Resilient Communities Grants	-	735
Rural internships - Horizon	100	100
Rural Revival Fund	24,223	-
SAM Training Fund	3,486	3,311
School of Lay Ministry (GIFTS Grant)	647	647
Seminary Student Scholarship	34	34
Spouse of Rostered Ministers Retreat	2,136	1,657
Spring appeal 2023	125	-
Stewardship SOLI Grant	2,210	1,215
Sustaining Rural Ministry	8,369	8,229
Synod assembly offering	1,000	500
Synod Storm Relief	16,776	-
Women's resiliency	668	
Total purpose restrictions	238,995	338,856
Endowment		
Subject to endowment spending policy		
ELCA Next Generation fund	110,255	92,091
Total net assets with donor restrictions	\$ 349,250 \$	430,947

#### **NOTE 8 – ENDOWMENTS**

The Synod's endowment consists of donor-restricted funds as well as Synod designated funds. As required by generally accepted accounting principles, net assets associated with endowment funds are classified and reported based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

#### Interpretation of Relevant Law

The Synod has interpreted the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act ("UPMIFA") as requiring the preservation of the fair value of the original gift as of the gift date of the donor-restricted endowment funds absent explicit donor stipulations to the contrary. As a result of this interpretation, the Synod classifies as permanently restricted net assets (a) the original value of gifts donated to the permanent endowment, (b) the original endowment made in accordance with the direction of the applicable donor gift instrument at the time the accumulation is added to the fund. The remaining portion of the donor-restricted endowment fund that is not

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

classified in permanently restricted net assets is classified as temporarily restricted net assets until those amounts are appropriated for expenditure by the Synod in a manner consistent with the standard of prudence prescribed by UPMIFA.

In accordance with UPMIFA, the Synod and its Synod Endowment Committee considers the following factors in making a determination to appropriate or accumulate donor-restricted endowment funds:

- a) The duration and preservation of the fund;
- b) The purposes of the Synod and the donor-restricted endowment fund;
- c) General economic conditions;
- d) The possible effect of inflation and deflation;
- e) The expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments;
- f) Other resources of the Synod; and
- g) The investment policies of the Synod.

#### Funds with Deficiencies

From time to time, the fair value of assets associated with individual donor-restricted endowment funds may fall below the level that the donor or applicable state law requires the Synod to retain as a fund of perpetual duration.

In accordance with U.S. GAAP, deficiencies of this nature are reported in net assets with donor restrictions. There were no such deficiencies as of January 31, 2023 and 2022.

#### Return Objectives and Risk Parameters

The Synod has adopted investment and spending policies for endowment assets to achieve growth in principal value while seeking to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment assets. Endowment assets include those assets of donor-restricted funds that the Synod must hold in perpetuity or for a donor-specified period(s). The Synod expects its endowment funds, over time, to provide a reasonable level of current income to support the spending policy authorized by the Synod Council and to grow equity assets. Actual returns in any given year may vary from this amount.

#### Strategies Employed for Achieving Objectives

The assets will be managed on a total return basis. While the Synod recognizes the importance of preservation of capital, it also adheres to the principle that varying degrees of investment risk are generally rewarded with compensating returns. It is not a breach of fiduciary responsibility to pursue riskier investment strategies if such strategies are in the Synod's best interest on a risk-adjusted basis. Risk management of the investment program is focused on understanding both the investment and operational risks to which the Synod is exposed. The objective is to minimize operational risks and require appropriate compensation for investment risks which the Synod is willing to accept.

#### Spending Policy and How the Investment Objectives Relate to Spending Policy

It is the Synod's policy to withdraw quarterly distributions of earnings and dividends from the endowment's market value. It is understood that the total return basis for calculating spending is sanctioned by UPMIFA, under which guidelines the Synod is permitted to spend an amount in excess of the current yield (interest and dividends earned), including realized or unrealized appreciation.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

Changes in the Synod's endowment are as follows for the years ended:

		thout Donor estrictions		With Donor Restrictions	-	Total
Balance, January 31, 2021 Contributions Net appreciation	\$	115,556 - 5,384	\$ _	91,441 11,130 4,913	\$	206,997 11,130 10,297
Balance, January 31, 2022 Contributions Net appreciation	_	120,940 - (9,812)	_	107,484 18,190 (11,288)	-	228,424 18,190 (21,100)
Balance, January 31, 2023	\$	111,128	\$_	114,386	\$	225,514

#### NOTE 9 – PENSION AND BENEFIT PLAN

The Synod participates in a pension and benefit plan through Portico. This is a defined contribution plan which covers all employees who work a minimum of 20 hours a week for six months or more per year. Contributions are the following percentages of the total salary and housing allowance: 10% for the Bishop and 12% for pastoral and support staff. Contributions totaled \$45,469 and \$33,211 for the years ended January 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

#### **NOTE 10 – RELATED PARTY**

The Synod is related to the ELCA through common management and religious affiliation. The Synod's policy is to give the ELCA 47% of its mission support revenue each year. Contributions to the ELCA, including pass-through payments, for the years ended January 31, 2023 and 2022 totaled \$638,437 and \$635,304, respectively, with a year-end payable balance of \$154,437 and \$145,923, respectively.

The Synod is one of the nine ELCA Synods that comprise Region 3 ELCA. Contributions to Region 3 ELCA for the years ended January 31, 2023 and 2022 totaled \$6,643 and \$6,278, respectively.

#### **NOTE 11 – LEASES**

A lease is defined as a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to control the use of identified property, plant or equipment over a contracted period in exchange for payment. The Synod evaluates if an arrangement is a lease as of the commencement date of the lease agreement. Right-of-use ("ROU") assets and lease liabilities are recognized based on the present value of future minimum lease payments over the lease term. Lease liabilities are classified between current and long-term liabilities based on their payment terms. The Synod's leases may include renewal options, and those renewal options are included in the lease term when it is concluded that it is reasonably certain the Synod will exercise that option. Lease expense for operating leases is recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term. Variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate, such as the Synod's proportionate share of actual costs for utilities, common area maintenance, insurance, and property taxes, are excluded from the measurement of the lease liability, unless subject to fixed minimum requirements and are recognized as variable lease cost when the obligation for that payment is incurred.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

As the Synod's leases do not provide the lease implicit rates, the Synod has elected to use the risk-free rate of return as the discount rate. The risk-free rate used approximates the lease term at the commencement date of the lease agreement.

The Synod leases operating facilities and equipment with varying rental payment and maturity dates. A summary of the Synod's lease information is as follows as of January 31, 2023:

		_	2023
	Balance Sheet Location		
Assets			
Right-of -use asset	Assets	\$	35,337
Liabilities			
Current lease liability	Current liabilities		27,518
Long-term lease liability	Long-term liabilities		7,819
Total lease liability		\$	35,337
Other information			
Cash paid for amounts included measurement of lease liabili			
Operating cash flows from o	operating leases	\$	25,402
ROU assets obtained in excl	nange for new		
operating lease liabilitie	s	\$	40,233
Weighted average remaining lea	ase term (in years)		
operating leases	•		1.98
Weighted average discount rate			
operating leases			3.70%

Minimum annual rental commitments of non-cancelable operating leases at January 31, 2023, are as follows:

2024	\$ 27,518
2025	2,729
2026	1,956
2027	1,956
2028	2,567
	36,726
Less: present value discount	(1,389)
	\$ 35,337

#### **NOTE 12 – COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

The Synod was a party to litigation in the ordinary course of business. In 2023 this pending litigation was closed. There was no financial loss from the Synod as a result of this litigation.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

# SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITY FOR DONOR RESTRICTED NET ASSETS FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023

	Balance 1/31/22	(	Revenue, Grants, and Support		Transfers	Net Assets Released from Restrictions		Balance 1/31/23
Subject to expenditure for a specific purpose				-				
Accompaniment team \$	48	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$	48
Anti-Racism Training	-		2,717		-	602		2,115
Candidacy grants & retreats	64		-		-	-		64
Companion Synod - general	8,613		1,500		_	747		9,366
Discovering vitality - small ELCA cong	9,000		-		_	-		9,000
Domestic Hunger Grant	-		10,000		_	-		10,000
Easter appeal	907		-		_	-		907
Easter appeal - 2022	_		13,070		_	13,070		_
Endowment earnings	15,147		(11,016)		_	-		4,131
Evangelism	22,732		22,538		_	11,217		34,053
Fall theological offering	-		1,425		_	1,425		-
Farm relief	500		-,		_	-,		500
Fostering vibrant faith	25,040		_		_	_		25,040
Give MN	4,637		_		(4,637)	_		,
Give At Home MN	2,683		_		(2,683)	_		_
Give to the Max 2020	8,041		_		(8,041)	_		_
Give to the Max 2021	78,255		_		(78,255)	_		_
Give to the Max 2022	-		52,765		(225)	10,944		41,596
Giving Hearts Day 2021	38,220		52,765		(37,774)	446		-
Giving Hearts Day 2022 Giving Hearts Day 2022	50,725		21,925		(71,057)	1,593		_
Giving Hearts Day 2022 Giving Hearts Day 2023	50,725		25,500		(71,037)	858		24,642
Harold Lohr Memorial Fund	435		23,300		-	-		435
Hunger Grant	3,411		_		_	_		3,411
Lilly III grant funds	10,441		_		(10,441)	_		5,411
Lutheran Campus Ministry	-		200		(10,441)	200		_
Macedonia project	5,380		-		(5,380)	-		-
Made Known Loved Project	-		600		(3,300)	179		421
Memorial for Survivors of Sexual Assault and Abuse	3,525		-		-	3,525		421
Middle School Gathering Offering	3,323		1,554		-	1,554		-
Native Neighbors Table	11,692		475		-	2,302		9,865
Office furnishings & equipment	33		473		-	2,302		33
Parish Nurse Program	-		500		-	-		500
					-			
Power & boundary training	2,557 19,850		472 3,773		-	1 23,557		3,028 66
Racial equity					-			00
Red River Leadership	492		-		(725)	492		-
Resilient Communities Grants	735		-		(735)	-		-
Rural internships - Horizon	100		-		-	-		100
Rural Revival Fund	-		38,918		-	14,695		24,223
SAM Training Fund	3,311		375		-	200		3,486
School of Lay Ministry (GIFTS Grant)	647		-		-	-		647
Seminary Student Scholarship	34		-		-	-		34
Spouse of Rostered Ministers Retreat	1,657		3,145		-	2,666		2,136
Spring appeal 2023	-		125		-	-		125
Stewardship SOLI Grant	1,215		2,756		-	1,761		2,210
Sustaining Rural Ministry	8,229		17,386		37,289	54,535		8,369
Synod assembly offering	500		500		-	-		1,000
Synod storm relief	-		17,276		-	500		16,776
Women's resiliency		_	2,977	-		2,309	_	668
Total purpose restrictions \$	338,856	\$ _	231,456	\$	(181,939)	\$ 149,378	\$ _	238,995

# SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITY FOR DONOR RESTRICTED NET ASSETS FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2022

	<b>Balance</b> 1/31/21		Revenue, Grants, and Support		Net Assets Released from estrictions		Balance 1/31/22
Subject to expenditure for a specific purpose		_	~ -FF			_	
	\$ -	\$	48	\$	_	\$	48
Candidacy grants & retreats	64		_	7	-	-	64
Companion Synod - general	7,14	4	1,469		-		8,613
Discovering vitality - small ELCA cong	10,000	)	1,500		2,500		9,000
Easter appeal	_		44,603		43,696		907
Endowment earnings	10,05	5	5,091		-		15,147
Evangelism	16,060		31,885		25,213		22,732
Farm relief	500	)	· -		-		500
Fostering vibrant faith	25,040	)	_		-		25,040
Give MN	4,63		_		-		4,637
Give At Home MN	2,98		_		300		2,683
Give to the Max 2020	8,44		_		400		8,041
Give to the Max 2021	_		78,255		-		78,255
Giving Hearts Day 2021	10,886	5	49,010		21,676		38,220
Giving Hearts Day 2022	_		50,725		´-		50,725
Harold Lohr Memorial Fund	_		435		-		435
Hunger Grant	3,41	1	_		-		3,411
Lilly III Grant Funds	10,44		_		-		10,441
Macedonia project	5,43		-		54		5,380
Memorial for Survivors of Sexual Assault and Abuse	_		4,000		475		3,525
Native Neighbors Table	12,96	3	1,650		2,921		11,692
Office furnishings & equipment	3:		_		´-		33
Power & boundary training	2,71	8	2,251		2,412		2,557
Racial equity	25,000		_		5,150		19,850
Red River Leadership	2,97		_		2,480		492
Resilient Communities Grants	3,13		_		2,400		735
Rural Internships - Horizon	100		_		´-		100
SAM Training Fund	3,31	1	-		-		3,311
School of Lay Ministry (GIFTS Grant)	64		-		-		647
Seminary Student Scholarship	34	4	-		-		34
Spouse of Rostered Ministers Retreat	3,040	)	-		1,383		1,657
Stewardship SOLI Grant	1,21:		-		´-		1,215
Sustaining Rural Ministry	654		7,575		-		8,229
Synod assembly offering	500		-		-		500
Women's resiliency	119		3,896	_	4,015	_	
Total purpose restrictions	\$ 171,53	<u>8</u> \$	282,393	\$	115,075	\$_	338,856

# SCHEDULE OF PARTNERS IN MINISTRY SUPPORT FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023 AND 2022

	2023	_	2022
Region 3 Support \$	6,643	\$	6,278
Lutheran Campus Ministry - BSU	26,586		27,529
Lutheran Campus Ministry - MSUM	26,586		27,529
Companion Synod Relationship	(610)		1,469
Minnesota Council of Churches	9,309		9,634
Lutheran Advocacy Minnesota	2,792		2,890
Parish Nurse Program	486		908
Synod Outreach Ministries	-		9,250
Luther Seminary	63,814		66,072
ELCA Colleges	2,840		2,998
Oak Grove Lutheran School	988		1,414
Racial equity		_	20
Total support to Partners in Ministry \$	139,434	\$ _	155,991