



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

A YEAR-IN-REVIEW OF HOW WE PROCLAIMED AND
EMBODIED GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE TOGETHER.

20
25



¡Dios está aquí! God is here.



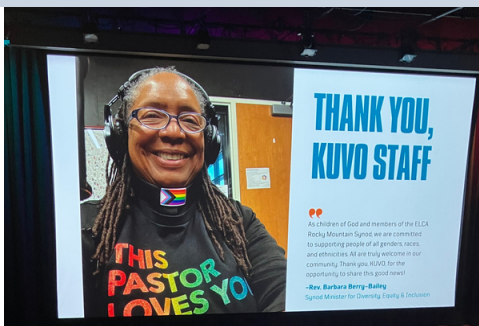
The Rocky Mountain Synod is a community of 150 congregations across Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and El Paso—gathered in Christ for the sake of the world. “Synod” literally means “on the way together”—on the way of Jesus together. **With gratitude, we celebrate how your mission support strengthened our shared ministry in 2025 as we Relate + Connect + Support + Equip one another to be Christ’s hands and feet in every community.**

In 2025, we gathered for Synod Assembly in Albuquerque, New Mexico (May 22–24, 2025) under the theme “Dios está aquí. God is Here.”—worshiping, voting, learning, and listening for where the Spirit is leading next.

In her report to the 2025 Synod Assembly, Bishop Meghan Johnston Aelabouni reflected on Exodus 3—God meeting Moses on the way, calling him to “remove the sandals” and recognize holy ground. **That same holy ground exists across our synod: in congregations, in grief and celebration, in advocacy and accompaniment, and in the everyday work of living out our faith and welcoming neighbors—especially those who are vulnerable and afraid.**

In 2025, the Rocky Mountain Synod advanced one memorial and three resolutions:

- **Memorial (to the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly):** Advocacy for human rights, justice, and peace for Palestinians and Israelis, including policy actions and prayerful accompaniment.
- **Resolutions (synod-wide commitments):**
 - **Honoring Indigenous Peoples Through Faith, Respect and Action**
 - **Renewing Our Welcome:** Strengthening Our Reconciling in Christ Commitment
 - **Campus Ministry:** Affirming campus ministry as vital to young adult faith formation and leadership





MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Rocky Mountain Synod Ministers

Bishop Meghan Johnston Aelabouni, the fourth bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod, elected in 2024, now shepherds our collective ministry with heart, vision, and a deep commitment to walking alongside leaders and congregations in every context. In 2025, the Rocky Mountain Synod officially completed its synod staff team of ten—a roster of leaders called, appointed, and ready to serve congregations and ministries across Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico, Colorado and El Paso. With this gifted team of rostered ministers and lay leaders now fully in place, the Rocky Mountain Synod is well-positioned to:

- Strengthen congregational life by resourcing transitions, transition teams, and intentional ministry planning.
- Equip leaders, both lay and rostered, for faithful ministry in evolving contexts.
- Advance justice and advocacy and nurture generosity and stewardship, so congregations can share in collective mission support and gospel work.
- Tell our story together, aligning communication and amplifying what Christ is up to in our midst across synod ministries.

Together in 2025

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ +

- * Well of Hope (Castle Rock) + Holy Closures: We welcomed Well of Hope into the ELCA and honored ministries that faithfully concluded.
- * Prairie Parish formation: Rural congregations partnered to share pastoral leadership and strengthen mission together.
- * Synod Border Immersion: Participants learned at the border through stories, worship, service and accompaniment.
- * The Synod Office moved from the Lutheran Center to Iliff Seminary.
- * Synod Staff Retreat in Wyoming: Committed to be among the people, Synod staff gathered in Casper for renewal, planning, and congregation visits.
- * “Mama Bears” Pride Week screening: We hosted a Pride-week kickoff film screening and community conversation.
- * Synod website redesign: We launched a refreshed site with updated look, navigation, and content.

120

Congregations & ministry partners visited by synod staff

100 +

Stories of faith shared and amplified

35

Candidates processed between Entrance & First Call

25

Installations of pastors, deacons and vicars into new ministry settings

15

First call ministers being accompanied through their first three years of ministry