

Western Iowa Synod ELCA 2026 Secretary's Report

The purpose of the Synod Council is to conduct synod business between assemblies.

2025-2026 SYNOD COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS:	TERM:	ENDS:
• Bishop	Pr Scott Dalen	6 yrs 2031
• Vice President	Tracy Gayer	4 yrs 2029
• Treasurer	Tiffany Messerlie	4 yrs 2028
• Secretary	Dagna Simmons	4 yrs 2026
• Conference - Abundant Fields (lay female)	Jane King	3 yrs 2027
• Conference - Hands of Hope (lay female)	Open	3 yrs 2028
• Conference - Hands of Hope (rostered)	Pr Denise Lindemann	3 yrs 2026
• Conference - Living Waters (lay female)	Deb Jordt	3 yrs 2027
• Conference - Living Waters (rostered)	Pr Chuck Meyer	3 yrs 2028
• Conference - Rivers of Grace (rostered)	Open	3 yrs 2028
• Conference - Rivers of Grace (lay male)	Open	3 yrs 2027
• Conference - Seeds of Faith (rostered)	Pr Rod Hopp	3 yrs 2027
• Conference - Seeds of Faith (lay male)	Jim Post	3 yrs 2026
• Conference - Winds of Hope (lay female)	Denise Kramer Tolzmann	3 yrs 2027
• Conference - Winds of Hope (lay male)	Ken Less	3 yrs 2026
• At-large (lay female)	Michelle Smith	3 yrs 2028
• At-large (rostered)	Pr Paige McGrath	3 yrs 2028
• At-large	Travis Brincks *	3 yrs 2026
• At-large person of color or language	Pr Inba Inbarasu	3 yrs 2028
• At-large young adult (male or female)	Nick Milbrodt	3 yrs 2026
• At-large youth (male or female)	Open	2 yrs 2026

ADVISORY MEMBERS

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| • WIS Women's Organization | Sue Boblit |
| • Lutheran Men in Mission | Brian Underwood |

* Appointed by the Synod Council to fill vacant conference position

SYNOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

- August 13, 2025 – Synod Office, Storm Lake
- October 18, 2025 – St Luke Lutheran Church, Sioux City
- January 10, 2026 – Zoom
- January 13, 2026 – Electronic (email)
- March 21, 2026 - Zoom

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROVIDES OVERSIGHT BETWEEN SYNOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Analysis of revenues and expenses
- Staff performance evaluations
- Congregation and pastoral updates
- Other

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- September 10, 2025 – Zoom
- January 6, 2026 – Zoom
- March 10, 2026 - Zoom

RECOMMENDED for synod assembly adoption

- 2026 Revised WIS Budget
- 2027 Proposed WIS Budget
- 2027 Compensation and Care Guidelines
- Churchwide recommended Constitution Amendments Resolution

RECEIVED/APPROVED THE FOLLOWING PASTOR AND CONGREGATION CHANGES:

ON LEAVE FROM CALL

- Pr David Grindberg
- Pr Kris Hackbart
- Pr Inba Inbarasu
- Pr Eric Alm

STUDY LEAVE

None

DISABILITY

None

RETIRED

- Pr Lorna Halaas
- Pr Tonna Parsons
- Pr David Halaas
- Pr E Jon Benson
- Pr Judith Johnson

REMOVED/RESIGNED ROSTERED LEADERS

None

ISSUED SYNOD COUNCIL LETTERS OF CALL:

- Pr Chip Borgstadt

REPORT TERMINATION OF CONGREGATION RELATIONSHIP WITH ELCA

- Washington Lutheran, Duncombe

REPORT CLOSING OF CONGREGATION

None

REPORT NEW CONGREGATION

None

REPORT SYNOD AUTHORIZED WORSHIPING COMMUNITIES (SAWCs)

None

Respectfully Submitted,
Dagna Simmons
Synodical Secretary, Western Iowa Synod ELCA