

# Minneapolis Area Synod Profile

## For the 2024 Bishop Election

### Synod Mission Statement

*The Minneapolis Area Synod works together so that all experience gracious invitation into life-giving Christian community and live in just and healthy neighborhoods.*

### About the Synod

- Our synod spans all or part of eight counties: Anoka, Carver, Hennepin, Isanti, LeSeuer, Scott, Sherburne, Wright.
- The worship attendance in our churches ranges from a few people to more than a thousand every week in 134 congregations and three Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities (SAWCs)
- The current synod staff consists of 5 full-time positions, 5 full-time grant-funded positions, and 8 part-time positions (that equal almost 3 full-time positions) that support the Bishop and the work of the synod
- We worship in 11 languages: Amharic, ASL, English, Hmong, Lao, Norwegian, Oromo, Spanish, Swahili, Tigre, Togolese French
- The synod is divided into 12 geographically into 12 conferences
- We are a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) synod
- Racial make-up of synod members: 95.39% Caucasian, 1.46% Multi-racial, 0.94% African American, 0.83% Hispanic/Latino, 0.64% Asian/Pacific Islander, 0.44% African National/African Caribbean, 0.21% American Indian/Alaska Native, 0.08% Arab/Middle Eastern

### Ministry Support

#### New Ministries and Networking

- Supports mission starts and redeveloping ministries
- Strategizes for growth and development so congregations can learn from each other

#### Transitions

- Supports congregations through various changes, including leadership and redevelopment changes

#### Congregations

- The synod office supports congregations by providing support with Training (e.g., Tool Kits, Boundaries Trainings), Governance, Organizing, and Imagination Grants

#### Specialized Ministries

- The synod office supports rostered ministers serving in hospitals, prisons, educational institutions, and full communion partnerships by aiding in logistics, providing gathering opportunities, and offering trainings

#### Prospective Leaders

- The Synod accompanies those who wish to be ordained into service in the church through the entire Candidacy process, beginning with Entrance, and through Endorsement, Internship, Approval, Assignment, and Call.

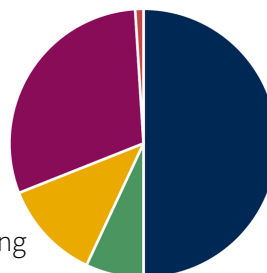
### Partnerships

- The synod maintains many global and regional partnerships.

### Sources of Income for the Synod

- Congregational mission support, grants in support of synod initiatives, and the Resurrection Fund
- Current grant-funded initiatives include Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices, and Racial and Climate Justice organizing

### Where does mission support go?



- 50% ELCA Churchwide benevolence
- 30% Congregational leadership support
- 12% Administration
- 7% Co-ministries
- <1% Reserves

# The Office of the Bishop For the 2024 Bishop Election

*“The bishop is the synod’s pastor and its chief administrator.” - Minneapolis Area Synod Constitution*

## Roles and Responsibilities of the Bishop

### Support of Leaders

- Hosts educational opportunities for rostered leaders, including semi-annual Ministeriums and annual Bishop’s Theological Conferences and Boundaries Trainings
- Provides spiritual care for leaders
- Encourages participation in Peer Groups
- Handles disciplinary matters

### Administration and Leadership

- Interprets and advocates the mission and theology of the whole church
- Provides oversight of synod budget
- Supervises clergy mobility process
- Convenes synod deans
- Participates in Conference of Bishops
- Engages in leadership among regional agencies and institutions, including service on governing boards (e.g., Luther Seminary, Augsburg University, Minnesota Council of Churches)
- Supervises synod staff
  - The current synod staff consists of 5 full-time positions, 5 full-time grant-funded positions, and 8 part-time positions (that equal almost 3 full-time positions) that support the Bishop and the work of the synod

Visit [mpls-synod.org/2024-bishop-election](https://mpls-synod.org/2024-bishop-election) or email [BEC@mpls-synod.org](mailto:BEC@mpls-synod.org) with questions.

## Partnerships

### Global Companions

- Tends to global partnerships, including visits, with companion synods: Leipzig District - Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony and Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria

### Public Voice

- Promotes prophetic work and advocacy
- Implements resolutions and social justice statements
- Engages social justice issues including environmental and racial justice
- Participates in interfaith and ecumenical relationships

### Presence in Congregations

- Attends and performs ordinations and installations
- Preaches and presides at the sacraments
- Attends celebrations
- Provides support and guidance during conflict



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of the ELCA



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*Compiled by the Minneapolis Area Synod  
Bishop Election Committee and synod staff*