



Dear friends of the Southwestern Washington Synod,

We are approaching an important moment in our shared journey together as a Synod - in June 2025, we will elect a new Bishop who we will ask to lead our community at a time of extraordinary complexity and change.

To support our community's discernment of our new leadership, we have carried out a process of faithfully listening to more than 200 Synod members and partners throughout 2024. We hope you have had a chance to join a listening post, complete a survey, or share your perspective in a small group. Thank you to all who shared openly and courageously: your voice has been heard and is shaping our shared direction.

As part of this listening process, we contracted with *Beyond Data*, a small, reputable data analysis organization whose leaders are members of our Synod. They did a fantastic job of analyzing and synthesizing all of the stories, perspectives and information that you shared in listening sessions with Synod members, as well as offering a contextual analysis of our Synod. We are grateful for their faithful work!

The result of the Synod's listening process and *Beyond Data's* work is a new **Ministry Site Profile (MSP)** for our Synod. The purpose of this document is to capture **who we are** today as a Synod, our **vision for mission**, and our current **leadership needs** as a Synod body. This document has been reviewed and approved by the Synod Council for circulation in support of the 2025 Bishop's election.

Please enjoy reading the MSP as you prepare for the coming Bishop's election.

The Bishop's election process from this point will include:

- + Synod Ministry Site Profile shared with Synod | *January 2025*
- + Gathering + sharing biographical information of Pastors open to being nominated for Bishop at the Assembly | *January 2025*
- + Congregations identify voting members for Assembly
- + Preparation for Synod Assembly 2025 | *Now - June 2025*
- + Synod Assembly 2025 | *June 13-14th 2025*

We look forward to continuing this process of faithful discernment together in the coming months as we prepare for a new season in the life of our Synod.

Faithfully, on behalf of the Synod Council,

Tom Hulst

Vice President

Synod Council

Southwestern Washington Synod of the ELCA

Kathryn Nelson

Secretary

Synod Council

Southwestern Washington Synod of the ELCA

