



Reflections...

A Newsletter of the Women of the ELCA + Northern Great Lakes Synod

May 2021—Part 2

The Synodical Women's Board met on May 12, 2021. The decision concerning the fall convention for 2021 was discussed.

We discussed the options of having a virtual convention (that option could not be confirmed until late July, early August) versus an in-person convention. Considering the uncertainty of how the summer would fair with COVID,-19, we decided to err on the side of caution. Therefore, **IT WAS DECIDED AND VOTED ON THAT WE WOULD POSTPONE OUR 2021 FALL CONVENTION. (WE HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO POSTPONE THE ANNUAL RETREAT** for reasons of safety.)

We have reserved the dates for the Convention and Retreat 2022 at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. We would like to invite any member that is willing to join us in discussion about what we can do over this next year to build up our organization and bring women together. We are looking for as many women from all eight clusters that are willing to join us in this journey. The meetings will be held via ZOOM. Currently, the Board is meeting the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for July 14 at 6 pm CDT/7 pm EDT. However, knowing that there are interested women who work and cannot make it at that time, we are open to changing the time to meet. If you feel called to join us, please send your email, telephone number, church name and town and the meeting times that would work for you to Melzee Jacobson via email or call (imlizrd@yahoo.com or 906-282-0169} WE NEED YOUR HELP SO PLEASE JOIN US.



SYNOD NEWS FLASH!!!!!!

**A RESOLUTION WAS BROUGHT TO A VOTE AT THE 2021 NORTHERN GREAT LAKE SYNOD ASSEMBLY
THAT
THE NAME OF CONFERENCE 6 WOULD BE CHANGED FROM DELTA TO TRICOUNTY CONFERENCE;
THEREFORE; BE IT KNOWN THAT CLUSTER6 DELTA WILL NOW BE KNOWN AS CLUSTER 6 TRICOUNTY.**



With Melzee

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I often share devotions from Daily Grace, which you can also enjoy by going to the womenoftheelca.org website and sign up to receive. It seems that most devotions speak to me about our current journey. The following are my thoughts on two of those devotions: (devotions may be seen in their entirety on the above-mentioned webpage).

May 16, 2021 *Where gladness meets hunger*

(This message is adapted from "Every day calls" written by Heather B.P. Wallace in the January/February 2013 issue of [Gather](#) magazine.)

This message talks about a different hunger than the one for food to eat. It is about our dreams and desires we had as children on what we would grow up to be. How many of us heard the words "call" or "vocation" during the years from toddler to adult when we thought of being nurses, teachers, mothers, wives, etcetera. The first time these words appeared in my thoughts was when my husband was contemplating going into the ministry. It seems that these words are permanently attached to that position. However, in 1 Corinthians 1:2, Paul is talking to the whole congregation about becoming saints, he does not specify being a pastor or minister. God generously gives each of us gifts of the Spirit and he gives them for us to use in reaching out to others. Be Bold and use your gifts. Did you know that you and I can reach more people and tell the story by our actions, than ministers, Christian singers, comedians, etcetera can? We have so few obstacles that confront us when we share our faith with others. How many of us rush to our pastors with all the "little" things that happen in our lives? I certainly do not, rather I reach out to a close friend with whom I have a close relationship. How about you?

Heather shares "One of the best ways I've heard vocation defined is from the author and Presbyterian minister, Frederick Buechner. He says, 'The place where God calls you to is a place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.' This explanation is a comfort to those who may have multiple passions that pull in different directions."

May 18, 2021 *Gifts that give forever*

(This message is an excerpt from a [Women of the ELCA](#) blog [Kimberly Conway Hester](#).) Galatians 5:22-23...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

From God's abundance, he gives us these eternal gifts of the Spirit to help us live into our relationships with others. We are to care for and let these gifts transform and grow in depth as we share our lives so that others will see Christ through us. They are not meant to show how Christian we are. They are meant that we become gift givers as Christ's disciples. Each gift should become second nature and be expressed honestly and open in all our relationships. Each relationship will have a specific combination of gifts that is unique. Be Bold, trust that God is with you and knows exactly what is needed for each relationship at each specific time.

We often ask many of you “would you consider being called to be a part of the NGLSWO board?” We are taking this opportunity to share with you the job descriptions for the various roles for which you may be called to serve. From personal experience, I will tell you that it is a wonderful calling to answer ‘yes’ to, where you will be in community with wonderful women doing God’s work while serving others.

Please prayerfully consider these opportunities; we have confidence that your talents will be an asset to our purpose when we declare “*As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.*”

JOB DESCRIPTIONS OF THE NGLSWO BOARD AND OFFICERS

(please note – the job descriptions here are being revised and are a work in progress. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact a board member or Melzee Jacobson. Thank you !)

The Job Descriptions for the Synodical Women’s Organization Board are listed below. Each description is a combination of what appears in the constitution, what has been expanded into the specific job description for what is used for elections at this time, and additional tasks that have become a part of what we have found in the jobs as we have done them. When I worked for the Rock Island Arsenal there was a common phrase used in all job descriptions.... And other duties as assigned. I think this statement is true for all positions one may hold in their lifetime. Our hope is that we can give you a more complete picture of each position as it has evolved in our rural and geographically large organization.

General Duties for all board members and officers:

- Ensure that the constitution and bylaws of the Synodical Women’s Organization are duly observed and that the actions thereof are carried into effect.
- Keep decisions of the board confidential until it has been released as public knowledge. Publicly support decisions made by the board.
- Attend meetings unless excused (must notify the President prior to the meeting to be excused.)
Meeting duties: Sign up to lead the group in reading the Purpose Statement, present a devotion, or do the closing prayer for the SWO board meetings. (This will occur more than once a program year as they are a part of each meeting.)
- Be a cluster (conference) liaison for one of the eight clusters (all board members and officers except the President.)
~Attend cluster meetings of assigned cluster as an SWO representative (Liaisons do not pay a registration fee.)
~Oversee the Cluster Gathering financial sheet.
~Write an article for the *Reflections* newsletter summarizing the Cluster Gathering.
~Send any updated Cluster information to the Cluster Coordinator.
~Send a copy of the program to the Board Historian.
- Write a devotion for *Pray Faithfully* (NGLS Online Publication) usually twice a year. Submit it to the president.
- Submit an article for a minimum of three issues of *Reflections* and send to the Editor and President at least 15 days before the publication date.
- All officers and board members shall attend the annual fall convention.
- Assume duties of being a part of the team to plan and host the annual retreat should no host committee step forward.
- Be on board committees either as chairperson or a committee member. (Committees are Peace and Justice, Discipleship, Stewardship, Historian, Fortune Lake Representative and *Reflections*. If chairperson, submit report of any committee action or activity.)
- Encourage and assist women who are planning the Fall Women’s Retreat at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.
- Perform such other duties as deemed necessary by the president or the board.
- Be a positive witness and board member.

About the Officers:

- The officers of the Synodical Women’s Organization shall be president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. Each shall (proposed amendment at the 2021 Churchwide Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention to change wording to ‘shall strive to’) be a participant in a unit and a voting member of an ELCA congregation.
- Each officer shall be elected by the convention to a term of two years. All officers shall be eligible for one reelection to the same office.
- Upon completion of her term(s) as president, the president shall be ineligible for election as an officer or board member for two years.

- Should a vacancy occur in any of the four offices or board member positions, the board of the Synodical Women's Organization shall fill the same until the next regular convention. The election by the convention shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- The terms of the officers shall begin immediately following installation, except that of the treasurer, which shall begin on February 1 following the election.
- There shall be an executive committee consisting of the four officers, which shall act between meetings of the board of the Synodical Women's Organization.

Specific duties of Officers:

The President shall—

- preside at all conventions of the Synodical Women's Organization and at meetings of the board and executive committee.
- ensure that the constitution and bylaws of the Synodical Women's Organization are duly observed and that the actions thereof are carried into effect, and appoint all committees not otherwise provided for.
- be an ex-officio member of all committees of the Synodical Women's Organization except the Nominating Committee.
- submit a report to each regular convention of the Synodical Women's Organization concerning her work with observations and recommendations affecting the Synodical Women's Organization as she may deem important.
- serve as liaison with the Churchwide Women's Organization and attend the meetings of the Conference of Presidents (COP) held the third weekend in February (Friday thru Sunday).
- represent the Synodical Women's Organization at, or appoint representatives to, inter-Lutheran and ecumenical associations and councils in which the organization participates.
- serve as representative to the Synod Council, or appoint a representative. (There are four NGLS synodical meetings a year. The representative is a consultant, has voice but no vote, and submits a written report to the Office Manager at the Synod office prior to the meeting.)
- complete the following reports for Churchwide Women of the ELCA to include (but not inclusive):
 1. WELCA Primary Contacts Report
 2. Convention Report
 3. Synodical leaders Report
 4. Triennial Voting Members Report
- encourage officers and board members in developing understanding of organizational history and to help them expand their depth of knowledge about the structure and workings of the organization.
- expand and deepen relationship with all other board members, maintaining communication contact and providing direction where needed.
- attend a cluster meeting in each cluster at least once during each two-year term. (*Mileage is reimbursable*).
- work congruently with the secretary in preparation of the annual convention booklet.
- work with the annual retreat Host group in providing guidance in retreat planning.
- if the board hosts the retreat, assign a chairperson from the board and work congruently with that chairperson in the planning of the retreat along with the other members of the board.
- work with the Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Liaison as to directions and needs in planning the convention/retreat.
- act as the host when holding meetings via Zoom. (The organization maintains an annual Zoom subscription.)
- work with secretary and treasurer on forms and information to be included in the *May Reflections* newsletter.

The Vice-president shall—

- act in the absence, disability, or resignation of the president. She shall assume the duties of the president until the vacancy is filled by the board of the Synodical Women's Organization at its next regularly scheduled meeting.
- assist the President of the Synodical Women's Organization and at meetings of the board and administrative committee.
- ensure that the constitution and bylaws of the Synodical Women's Organization are duly observed and that the actions thereof are carried into effect.
- help appoint all committees.
- attend all Synodical Women's Organization board meetings and Executive Board Meetings and submit a written or oral report. (If unable to attend, the president is to be notified.)
- attend the Cluster Meeting for which she is liaison.
- submit an article for print in each issue of the *Reflections* newsletter (3 times per year.)
- help with the mailings for Convention and Fall Retreat.
- assist the president and other officers in completing their duties.
- effectively contribute to the organization's operations.
- be involved in the work and understand the policies of the Synodical Women's Organization.
- become thoroughly acquainted with the president's duties in order to assist the president.
- receive all materials and possible help from the past vice-president of the organization.
- work with the new vice-president and help her prepare to take over your job after her election.
- perform such other duties as requested by the president of the board.

The Secretary shall—

- be the secretary of the board and the executive committee of the Synodical Women's Organization.
- be responsible for recording and distributing minutes of the Synodical Convention, the board and executive committee meetings, and minutes of special meetings.
- maintain a hard copy of all minutes as historical records.
- give the congregational units notification of the regular convention at least three months in advance and of a special convention at least one month in advance. (Currently done in the May *Reflections*)
- keep a correct register of the roll of units, along with the names of the officers of these units.
- secure from the units such reports as from time to time may be required.
- help appoint all committees.
- be the secretary of the board and administrative committee and attend all meetings and the convention, unless excused by the president.
- provide copies of minutes two weeks after a meeting either by email or postal letter to the SWO president, board members, Chicago Office, *Reflections* editor, Cluster coordinators, committee members, or any other person as directed by the SWO President or board members. One copy of all minutes shall remain as a permanent record in the SWO secretary's file.
- include a thank-you letter along with a copy of the convention minutes to each congregational unit who sent a delegate to the convention. Also, send a note of concern to each church that didn't send a delegate.
- keep a hard copy of the approved minutes, the constitution, bylaws, and roster of officers, clusters, and members of committees in a secretary's binder.

- keep an accurate record of attendance of meetings of the SWO board, including members present, absent, and excused.
- provide a roster of the SWO board members, congregational unit leaders and the NGLS office.
- provide address labels for mailings as requested by the board and SWO committees
- delegate someone to send thank you notes to the convention participants (i.e., Workshop leaders, musician, chaplain, etc.) as provided by the convention committee.
- keep a copy of all SWO current communications which are sent out to CU's and churches within the NGLS. This includes *Reflections* newsletters, scholarship forms, convention information, etc.
- keep a file of current Women of the ELCA and ELCA information which can be used by the board and committees.
- work with the President to prepare the Annual Convention Booklet.
- be aware of and attend Women of the ELCA events, including Churchwide Office, Synodical Women's Organization and Clusters, sharing information with the board and chairpersons and participants.
- perform such other duties as the board may from time to time direct.

What Goes in the Minutes?

- ◇ Time, place, date, and the type of meeting as well as the name and office of the presiding officer.
- ◇ The names of persons present and absent (excused/unexcused) and guests.
- ◇ Agenda items as listed on the printed agenda plus items added to the agenda by the group.
- ◇ Any corrections and acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting.
- ◇ The exact wording of each motion, name of maker, and the action taken on the motion (read the motion aloud, get corrections and affirmation from the group that the wording is correct.) Some phrases for reporting board actions are:
 - The agenda was reviewed and adopted by consensus.
 - It was agreed by consensus that the minutes be accepted "as corrected."
 - A motion was made by Mary Jones and supported by Sally Smit "to cancel the 2021 Fall Women's Retreat as a precaution due to the uncertainty of the status of the Covid-19 Pandemic." The motion carried unanimously, or the motion carried with 4 votes 'aye' and 3 votes 'nay' (Wilson, Anderson, Johnson) or the motion was defeated with 5 votes 'nay' and 1 vote 'aye' (Wilson) and one abstention (Johnson).
 - Action taken on reports. Written copies of reports presented should be filed with the minutes in the secretary's notebook.
 - Reports should be explicit and concise and emphasize accomplishments and future plans.
 - Assignments/responsibilities for any participants noting name of participant, responsibility assigned, and date due.

The Treasurer shall—

- provide for the keeping of all records and be accountable for all funds.
- be responsible for disbursing funds in accordance with the financial policies of Women of the ELCA and the budget of the Synodical Women's Organization.
- present an interim report to each board/executive meeting and a complete yearly report for the financial year, including a review by outside individuals.
- present a complete report, including an accounting compilation or review, to the Synodical Women's Organization Convention and an interim report to each board and executive committee meeting.

- attend the Synodical Women's Convention every year, unless excused by the Synodical President.
- provide for the keeping of all financial records and be accountable for all funds.
- attend the Treasurer Training in Chicago, IL (or virtually) unless excused by the Synodical President.
- be advisor to the Offering Committee at the annual Synodical Women's Organization Convention.
- prepare a budget for the next year in collaboration with the Executive Committee before the Convention and present this budget for the following fiscal year (beginning February 1) to the Synodical Women's Organization Convention.
- serve on the Finance (Stewardship) Committee.
- receive subscriptions for *Reflections* (hard copy) and notify the person assigned to maintaining the newsletter distribution spread sheet.
- receive scholarship applications and keep application form updated.

Board Members shall—

- be a voting member of an ELCA congregations..
- commit to a two year term.
- be eligible for only two consecutive terms nor serve on the board in the capacity of officer and/or board member for more than seven consecutive years.
- begin her term immediately following her installation.
- assume the General Duties as described on page 3 of this newsletter.

Committees

Board Cluster Coordinator

- Update cluster lists as update information is sent by liaisons or president.
- Place reminders in *Reflections* for units to send any changes to the coordinator.
- Once a year, print current copies of all 8 clusters and give to the SWO officers and board members for their binders. When changes occur, report them at the next board meeting so members can adjust their listings and record in minutes.

Community and Action (Justice)

- Maintain lending library of books on Justice for members wishing to borrow them, posting the list in the *Reflections* newsletter and the NGLSWO Group page on Facebook.
- Encourage members synod wide to submit book reports and summaries of articles on the topic of justice to be submitted through the chairperson of the committee for use in a future newsletter.
- Check for justice, community and action articles in *Gather, Living Lutheran*, womenoftheelca.org website, the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin (loppw.org) and the elca.org website to share summaries on in the newsletter or the NGLSWO Group page on Facebook.

Communications (Synod Website)

- Reviews SWO webpage on the Northern Great Lakes Website (nglsynod.org) to see that information is up-to-date to include Board Members, Minutes (Preconvention, Convention, Post-convention), Publications (Newsletter editor information, newsletter subscription form (for hard copy), instructions/links for digital newsletter, information for *Daily Grace*, the *Bold Café*' blog and link to womenoftheelca.org website).

- Updates for Women of the ELCA website on NGLS website emailed to Betsy Koski at the NGLS office.
- Maintain contact with NGLS webmaster for incorrect emails of digital *Reflections*.
- Recruit someone to maintain digital *Reflections* mailing (Excel worksheet to keep records up-to-date.)
- Provide technical training for officers and board members, either as chairman or committee member.

Growth and Leadership (Discipleship)

- Writing articles on Growth and Leadership for *Reflections* (Resources available from Women of the ELCA website, *Gather Magazine*, *Living Lutheran Magazine*, the Bible, and use personal thoughts on growth and discipleship.
- Encourage synod wide members to share their discipleship stories/thoughts.
- Ideas for outreach for growth of groups in congregations.
- Encourage cluster unit leaders to share activities and events.
- Recruit a cluster member in each cluster to be a contact for gathering this information and submitting to the chairperson of the committee.

Finance (Stewardship)

- SWO treasurer is the chair of the finance/stewardship committee. Oversees the offerings taken during the annual convention and retreat.
- Encourage regular offerings (Form A) and Thankofferings from the WELCA units. Encourage regular offerings every time we gather; Cluster gatherings, individual church WELCA units.
- Encourage faithful personal stewardship. Stewardship is not just about money; it is also sharing our time and talents. Encourage openness to new stewardship opportunities that present themselves.
- Encourage support of the wider church by becoming a “Faithful Friend”, subscribing to *Gather Magazine* and other on-line resources for Bible studies, devotions, etc. for group and individual study.
- Pray for our sisters in Christ.

Fortune Lake Representative

- Check the FLLC website for new season schedule, as well as any special events that are planned, and share the current information with the SWO board and add to the *Reflections*.
- Contact the Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Director when the board has monies available to make purchases for the camp.

Historian

- Currently maintains photos, cluster programs in scrapbooks.
- In the future may be transitioning pictures to digital format.

Reflections

- Articles are to be submitted as follows: November 15 for December Newsletter; February 15 for March Newsletter; August 15 for September Newsletter
- May Newsletter is formatted by the President with help from the Secretary and Treasurer.
- Hard copies are made for Subscribers
- Digital copies are sent to those for whom we have email addresses. Corrections made after a previous mailing must be forwarded to communications chair who will forward them to the webmaster no later than by Oct.30, Jan. 31, March 30, & July 31.

- Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly—if there is no election for Bishop, we supply 300 copies of the May newsletter to the Synod Office in Marquette prior to Synod Assembly. If there is an election for Bishop, we supply 350 copies. Usually we hand deliver to the Synod Office (Mileage reimbursed/meal). Can be mailed if mileage is too great to travel. We print approximately 20 extra copies if we have a display table at the assembly.



WHAT CAN WE DO ?

A community of women is:

a group of people having particular characteristics in common. Lutheran women, acting boldly on our faith in Jesus Christ. A group that gets together virtually for the *Gather* magazine Bible study.

By the way, this summer's bible study is free to everyone. The link for June is:

https://www.gathermagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/June2021_GatherBibleStudy.pdf

A feeling of fellowship with others comes from sharing common attitudes, interests, goals, and, I would add, faith.

Activity suggestions:

Hold a Thankoffering service online.

Obtain a printed service from womenoftheelca.org. Resource page.

Hold a conference call using the phones and the internet to stay spiritually together.

We can connect by phone, by mail, by email, and online. Let's make a point of it. Let's stay connected.

Gather women virtually: for a Bible study, a book discussion, devotional time or even happy hour.

Gather the presidents/leaders of all our congregational units for a virtual event.

Could open up a virtual event to anyone who wants to join.

How about a virtual event for those who are new to Women of the ELCA?

How about each member invite another women from the congregation to attend with them to learn about SWO.

Build community creatively in other ways.

Obtain a copy of the Six Different Models for a group from the Women of the ELCA website.

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/resources>

Blog <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/blog>

Build community with our Faithful Friends program

"A Place for You " is available in PowerPoint and is perfect for new members and outreach efforts.

Books may be purchased through CWO and can be given to others in the church.

Download this welcome flyer and print as many copies as you need to introduce future participants.

JOIN YOUR SWO BOARD FOR DISCUSSIONS ON DISCOVERING NEW VISIONS FOR OUR NEW NORMAL AFTER THE PANDEMIC ZOOM EVENTS.

Send your name, telephone number, email, church and times that would be convenient for you to join us to imlizrd@yahoo.com. Subject line: SWO Future Visioning.



Your Synodical Women's Organization Board of Directors

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NORTHERN GREAT LAKES
SYNODICAL WOMEN OF THE ELCA
527 E Margaret Street
Ironwood, MI 49938

REFLECTIONS Newsletter—May 2021 Part 2

REFLECTIONS Newsletter May 2021, part 2



If this box has an X in it your subscription time is up! Please help support the Women of the ELCA by renewing your subscription today!



Our Purpose

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world

Our Mission

To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.