

The 2023 Reference and Counsel Committee was appointed by Bishop Paul Erickson and met in a hybrid fashion (in person and via Zoom) on May 2, 2023 to discuss the five resolutions submitted for action by the 2023 Synod Assembly.

The resolutions were all submitted by the South Central Conference and they were reviewed, edited, and formatted to meet the necessary requirements for resolutions and to ensure clarity. The authors of the resolutions, the Rev. Tyler Rasmussen and the Rev. Matthew Schlake-Kruse, were consulted and gave their approval to the final form of the resolutions. The revised resolutions are published in the assembly book and will be presented for consideration; the original versions of the resolutions are available on the synod assembly webpage.

Several of the resolutions combined actions for the synod assembly with memorials to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, but the guidelines on memorials and resolutions indicate that memorial actions need to be separate motions. The authors were advised to craft memorials for consideration in 2024, which is still well in advance of the next ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2025.

Members of the Reference and Counsel Committee include Sara Bitner (chair), Rev. Jackie Cook, Rev. Mark Jaramillo, Carl Johnson, Ken Miller, and Kathy Nelson, along with Synod Secretary Rev. Matthew Schlake-Kruse, Synod Vice President Joyce Caldwell, Synod Parliamentarian Matthew Brockmeier, and Bishop Paul Erickson.