



December 2023

Dear Commissioners,

Welcome to the 2024 Synod Business Meeting! I could not be more grateful for each of you and your service to ECO. The materials included in this packet will prepare you for the resolutions and overtures you will be asked to vote on during the meeting.

Commissioner Virtual Preparation Events:

1. January 9, 2024 at 10 am (Pacific) - Rev. Dr. Dana Allin, ECO Synod Executive and I will be hosting a webinar to prepare and train commissioners for the Synod Business Meeting. [Register here](#) for the webinar.
2. January 12, 2024 at 10 am (Pacific) - Ms. Connie Deford, ECO's Parliamentarian, and I will be hosting a webinar to prepare and train commissioners on parliamentary procedures at the Synod Business Meeting. [Register here](#) for the webinar.
3. January 16, 2024 at 10 am (Pacific) there will be a webinar facilitated by Rev. Dr. Dana Allin and the presbyteries to bring two different overtures on how ECO should use Mission Affinity Groups (MAGs) in the future. Given the limited time to debate issues at the business meeting, the Synod Executive Council wanted to give more time to Commissioners ahead of the meeting to listen to the different approaches, so that Commissioners will feel prepared to vote on these overtures. [Register here](#) for the webinar.

Commissioners may attend the listed trainings live to ask questions or watch the recording later at their convenience. In addition to this forum, there will be a breakout session during the National Gathering taught by Ms. Connie Deford, ECO's Parliamentarian, for additional preparation. This will be held in room B315 (subject to change). Ms. Deford will also have office hours available (please see the National Gathering Program for those times and location).

***Please remember, registration for the National Gathering is not registration for a commissioner.*** Every registered commissioner must separately register for the National Gathering (and if an individual has registered for National Gathering 2024 but has not been recognized on the Commissioners List as a commissioner, the Synod Staff cannot correct



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this. Only a presbytery can correct an error. No presbytery can make someone a commissioner whose name was not approved prior to December 15, 2023.). ***Please also remember to print a copy of the docket materials as there will not be space or laptop devices at the meeting.***

Commissioners must be physically present at the Synod Business Meeting to vote. There will not be any online voting options for those registered as a commissioner. All commissioners will be given commissioner lanyards at the National Gathering's general check-in to wear to the Synod Business Meeting. Commissioners shall wear these lanyards and their name badges to check-in (which includes picking up your assigned electronic voting device) between 7:00 am and 7:50 am on Thursday, February 1, 2024, outside the Worship Arts Center as the Synod Business Meeting will begin promptly at 8:00am. Commissioners who arrive after 7:50am will be allowed in shortly after the first commissioner count is given and assessed by Synod staff so that the meeting may begin. Commissioners shall only sit in the Worship Arts Center while guests will be seated in the sanctuary, so please make appropriate arrangements with others in your party. In order to make sure we accomplish everything on our agenda, we may only have one 15-minute break at the discretion of the President and meeting Moderator. We will not be stopping for a lunch break, so please prepare in advance for any additional items you may need for the duration of the meeting. As I hope was demonstrated to those in attendance of previous Synod Business Meetings, the work which is completed at these meetings serves to enhance ECO's mission of building flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ. As you will soon see in this year's docket, we are hoping to complete our work no later than noon.

ECO meetings are governed by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, and therefore you may expect adherence to those rules during the meeting. As you read through the proposed "Standing Rules" as presented by the Synod Executive Council, the goal is to minimize the time the Synod spends on minutia and maximize the time spent on resolutions and overtures submitted by ECO Presbyteries and/or the Synod Executive Council. If you plan to offer an amendment to one of the resolutions, please seek Ms. Deford's advice before the meeting, so that you are properly prepared in writing.



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Finally, it is important to thank the many, many people who have volunteered their time and talents in their churches, presbyteries, and the Synod to bring these resolutions and overtures forward for the Synod's consideration. It is these volunteers and staff members which help ECO to flourish. If we can be of any assistance to you in your preparation, please contact us at [eccadmin@eco-pres.org](mailto:eccadmin@eco-pres.org).

In Christ,

Rev. Nate Dreesmann

Executive Director of Ecclesiastical Support