

Following legal review, the bylaws of STSORM were found to be inconsistent with our Certificate of Formation (Articles of Incorporation) as filed with the Secretary of State. While the bylaws referenced members, the state document, which takes precedence, did not. The board has voted to amend the Certificate of Formation to formally include members, legally strengthening the tie between Cross Trails Ministry (CTM) and the congregations of the Southwestern Texas Synod (SWT). Additionally, these proposed restated bylaws contain several minor edits to reflect current best practices related to non-profits. More substantial changes were made in the following articles:

Article II

Provides a clearer legal definition of what constitutes a Member as referenced by the Article 8 amendment to the Certificate of Formation filed with the Secretary of State. (2.01)

Article III

Provides a process for years in which a synod assembly does not convene, as they are only required once every three years by the synod constitution (3.01); specifically allows and specifies the requirements for electronic meetings and voting in line with current best practices (3.01 and 3.02); and redefines a quorum to be 10% of the voting Members of the Corporation (3.03.02)

Article IV

Shifts the Board of Directors to an all 'At-Large' board to provide consistency with the make-up of the Synod Council, including a new nomination (4.05) and election (4.06) process associated therewith. In recognition of the participant make-up of CTM programs and retreats*, extends eligibility to members beyond the SWT synod for up to three (3) of the thirteen (13) directors while still requiring their proper election by SWT synod members at the Corporation meeting (4.02); possible examples include: members of the NTNL or TLGC synods, other denominations, religions or secular groups who support the mission and ministry of CTM. Removes the standing LMM and WELCA advisory members (4.12), although these positions can still be appointed as deemed appropriate.

Article IX

Clarifies the powers to amend bylaws based on recent amendments to the Certificate of Formation (9.10); provides a definition in place of 'substantial assets' (9.11); and clarifies the full succession associated with the disposition of assets (9.12)

* see attached denominational statistics for 2022

Summary for 2022

The majority of our guests were affiliated with the ELCA, with a strong second being “none”. Many of the “none” group that is coming to summer camp is coming because a friend or church invited them.

For that group, and the Catholic and LCMS groups below it, we have seen youth attend summer camp because they, their parents or people they knew came to a retreat.

Groups that have strong camps of their own denomination tend to use those for summer camp but may use our sites for retreating if we are closer.

The chart below is fairly consistent with previous years in that almost 30% list no church. It is a little low on overall ELCA percentages because of the cancelled weeks of summer camp.

Affiliation of 2022 Guests	Retreaters	Summer Campers	% of Total
All ELCA*	36.6%	50.8%	41.7%
SWT Synod	34.6%	39.6%	36.4%
None or Left Church Blank	35.4%	13.5%	27.6%
Catholic	8.6%	3.9%	6.9%
LCMS	8.8%	2.7%	6.6%
NALC	3.9%	9.4%	5.9%
Non-Denominational	0.8%	7.6%	3.2%
NTNL Synod ELCA	0.6%	7.3%	3.0%
TLGC Synod ELCA	1.4%	3.8%	2.3%
Baptist	1.0%	2.9%	1.7%
Muslim	2.3%		1.5%
LCMC	0.2%	3.6%	1.4%
Church of Christ	1.9%	0.2%	1.3%
Methodist	0.1%	2.9%	1.1%
Episcopal	0.3%	1.4%	0.7%
Presbyterian	0.1%	0.7%	0.3%
Unknown Lutheran Affiliation		0.4%	0.1%
Other ELCA	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Anglican		0.2%	0.1%
*All ELCA includes SWT, NTNL, TLGC and Other listed below it.			
Note: In 2022 one week at Chrysalis and two ELCA Day Camps were cancelled for COVID			