

Guiding Document for Synod 2021-2023
For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission

Phase One: In-reach, beginning November 2021 through February 2022

Diocesan Level: Bishop Steven, Co-leaders Deacon Mike Leman and Diana Marie Waggener, Diocesan Team (currently being formed).

Co-leaders train and prepare Diocesan Team to train and prepare coordinators at parish-level.

Co-leaders and Diocesan Team communicate with pastors and deans to help identify best ways to conduct Phase One: In-reach (parishes and Church organizations) of conversations.

Bishop Steven communicates with deaneries and talks with clergy in preparation for opening of Synod.

Deanery Level: Deans work to connect parishes in close proximity and assist pastors who are unsure of how to proceed.

Parish Level: Pastors select two (2) coordinators: one facilitator and one record keeper. Coordinators should be people who are spiritually mature; effective communicators who can synthesize a variety of information; able to interact well with people of diverse cultural, generational, and ecclesial backgrounds; open to the insights and gifts of others; and willing to continue conversations even after the synthesis document is complete. Parish coordinators should not be persons who work for the parish or who are stretched thin by their volunteer efforts.

Diocesan Entities: Boards and other leaders may wish to conduct their own synodal sessions. Co-leaders can assist with preparation.

Phase Two: Outreach, done during the months of January and February

Diocesan Level: Bishop Steven, Co-leaders Deacon Mike Leman and Diana Marie Waggener, Diocesan Team

Co-leaders and Diocesan Team assist with logistics of outreach to other ecclesial communities and marginalized persons and training for ad-hoc coordinators. Also, the team should help identify existing ministries and programs in which dialogue may occur.

Parish Level: Pastors may help to select ad-hoc coordinators: one facilitator and one record keeper to reach out to the margins. Example: People who already minister to the homebound, homeless, elderly, etc., can be trained to conduct conversations.

Ad-hoc leaders: As issues and needs are revealed, other diocesan leaders and parish-level volunteers may be asked to assist with information gathering.

Synthesis of Material: Due March 1, 2022

Diocesan Level: Bishop Steven, Co-leaders Deacon Mike Leman and Diana Marie Waggener, Diocesan Team

Co-leaders and Diocesan Team draft a synthesis (no more than 10-pages) of conversation results.

Bishop Steven: Reviews draft and offers input

Deanery Level: Deans review draft and offer input

Bishop Steven and Co-leaders complete final document, which is shared with all constituents.

Working Calendar for the Diocese of Cheyenne

Early October: Diocesan team meets with Co-leaders (to begin preparations)

- Diana develops Synod webpage, which will be updated regularly ✓
- Bishop Steven records video explaining synod (English and Spanish) -- to be placed on webpage, Social Media, and shared with parishes
- Diana sends out bulletin announcements announcing opening of synod ✓
- Father Rob sends Liturgy aids to pastors for opening of synod ✓
- Diana/Deacon Mike/Carmella Chavez-Weatherford develop social media posts

October 7-18: Bishop Steven meets with priests

- Oct. 7 – Thermopolis Deanery at St. Stephens Mission ✓
- Oct. 13 – Casper and Sheridan Deaneries at St. Patrick, Casper
- Oct. 14 – Cheyenne Deanery at Bishop Steven's house
- Oct. 18 – Rock Springs Deanery at Immaculate Conception, Green River

October 10: Bishop Steven does Synod opening Mass at the Cathedral (Livestreamed) and announced in Advance ✓

October 12: Bishop Steven meets with Clergy

October 17-17: Parish opening of synod

November 2: Pastors send names and contact information for two (2) parish coordinators to Diana Marie Waggener and Deacon Mike Leman

Early-to-mid-November: Co-leaders and Diocesan Team train and assist coordinators as needed

November 28: Consultations with the People of God begin

December 15: Pastors send names and contact information for ad-hoc coordinators (2 persons per community served, i.e., homebound, elderly care facilities, homeless shelters, etc.) for local outreach; Diocesan Team finalizes teams for further outreach

January 18-25, 2022: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: opportunity to consult with other Christians. Pastors and Deacons are encouraged to communicate with ecumenical councils with which they work, etc.

January and February: Outreach to marginalized communities and others who are not currently practicing their Catholic faith

March 1: Parishes and other entities send all documents and photos of artwork, dream boards, etc., to Diana Marie Waggener

Month of March: Co-leaders and Diocesan Team draft and offer feedback of 10-page report; Bishop Steven reads report and offers feedback; Deans read report and offer feedback

March 31: Diocesan of Cheyenne report is sent to the USCCB

April 5: Report is shared with all Diocese of Cheyenne constituents