

Dear colleagues and co-workers in the Gospel,

Today, Portico announced the 2027 rate increases and cost sharing adjustments.

I know that this announcement brings challenging news for many rostered ministers, congregations, and ministries, in our synod and across the ELCA.

While this increase is in line with national expectations across the health insurance industry, I recognize that many congregations and rostered ministers in the Rocky Mountain Synod will be faced with difficult conversations and decisions. These decisions encompass both the financial impact to the congregation and the health, well-being, and financial impact to those called to serve our church and their families. We also know that many people in our congregations and communities are concerned about the rapidly shifting, and often confusing landscape of health care coverage in their own lives.

I, and our synod ministers in the office of the bishop, are committed to working with Portico to accompany our congregations, rostered ministers, and church employees as we all navigate this news and its impacts. Our goal is to provide helpful information so that you can make the best possible decisions amid these changing realities.

Portico is planning to offer additional resources for synod staffs, rostered ministers, and congregations to more fully address these increases and changes and to help guide the annual enrollment process. As those are offered, we will be sure to share them. Andrea Arey, our Region 2 Portico representative, is also planning to join our RMS theological conference and offer opportunities for one-on-one conversation and assistance.

In the meantime, please reach out to the synod office or the Portico customer care center as you have need.

Peace in Christ,
Bishop Meghan