

David V.

FILED

SEP 18 2026

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLT**

BRIAN C. SUSMILCH, individually and
on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

NORTH COAST MINISTRIES; and
DOES 1 through 20, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. CV2301894

Assigned for all purposes to
Hon. Judge Timothy Canning
Dept. 4

**[PROPOSED] ORDER AND JUDGMENT
GRANTING FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS
AND PAGA ACTION SETTLEMENT**

Date: September 18, 2026
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Dept: 4

1 This matter came on for hearing on September 18 2026, at 10:30 a.m., in Department 4
2 of the above-captioned Court on the Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement
3 pursuant to California Rule of Court 3.769, this Court's Order Granting Preliminary Approval,
4 and the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement and Class Notice ("Settlement
5 Agreement"), a copy of which was filed in conjunction with the Plaintiff's Motion for Final
6 Approval of Class Action Settlement.

7 Having received and considered the Settlement Agreement, the supporting papers filed by
8 the Parties, and the evidence and argument received by the Court in conjunction with the
9 unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement and the instant Motion
10 for Final Approval, the Court grants final approval of the Settlement and HEREBY ORDERS
11 AND MAKES THE FOLLOWING DETERMINATIONS:

12 1. Pursuant to the Order Granting Preliminary Approval, a Notice Packet was sent to
13 each Class Member by first-class mail. These papers informed the Class of the terms of the
14 Settlement, their right to receive an Individual Settlement Payment, their right (a) to comment on
15 or object to the Settlement, (b) to request exclusion from the Settlement and pursue their own
16 remedies, and (c) of their right to appear in person or by counsel at the final approval hearing and
17 to be heard regarding approval of the Settlement. Adequate periods of time were provided by
18 each of these procedures.

19 2. No member of the Class filed written objection to the proposed Settlement as part
20 of this notice process or stated an intention to appear at the final approval hearing.

21 3. Three Class Members opted out of the Settlement.

22 4. The Court finds and determines that this notice procedure afforded adequate
23 protections to Class Members and provides the basis for the Court to make an informed decision
24 regarding approval of the Settlement based on the responses of the Class. The Court finds and
25 determines that the notice provided in this case was the best notice practicable, which satisfied
26 the requirements of law and due process.

27 5. With respect to the Class and for purposes of approving this Settlement only, this
28 Court finds and concludes that: (a) the members of the Class are ascertainable and so numerous

1 that joinder of all members is impracticable; (b) there are questions of law or fact common to the
2 Class, and there is a well-defined community of interest among members of the Class with respect
3 to the subject matter of the Action; (c) the claims of Class Representative are typical of the claims
4 of the members of the Class; (d) the Class Representative has fairly and adequately protected the
5 interests of the members of the Class; (e) a class action is superior to other available methods for
6 an efficient adjudication of this controversy; and (f) the counsel of record for the Class
7 Representative, i.e., Class Counsel, are qualified to serve as counsel for Plaintiff in their
8 individual and representative capacities for the Class.

9 6. The Court has certified a Class, as that term is defined in and by the terms of the
10 Settlement Agreement as all current and former non-exempt employees employed by North Coast
11 Ministries. in California at any time during the Class Period of June 9, 2019 to January 2, 2026.
12 The Court deems this definition sufficient for purposes of California Rule of Court 3.765(a).

13 7. The Court hereby confirms Aegis Law Firm, PC as Class Counsel.

14 8. The Court hereby confirms Plaintiff Brian C. Susmilch as the Class Representative
15 in this Action.

16 9. The Court finds and determines that the terms set forth in the Settlement
17 Agreement are fair, reasonable, and adequate and directs the Parties to effectuate the Settlement
18 according to its terms, having found that the Settlement was reached as a result of informed and
19 non-collusive arm's-length negotiations facilitated by a neutral mediator. The Court further finds
20 that the Parties conducted extensive investigation and that their attorneys were able to reasonably
21 evaluate their respective positions. The Court also finds that the Settlement will enable the Parties
22 to avoid additional and potentially substantial litigation costs, as well as delay and risks if the
23 Parties were to continue to litigate the case. The Court has reviewed the monetary recovery
24 provided as part of the Settlement and recognizes the significant value accorded to the Class.

25 10. The Court further finds and determines that the terms of the Settlement are fair,
26 reasonable and adequate to the Class and to each Participating Class Member and that the
27 Settlement is ordered finally approved, and that all terms and provisions of the Settlement should
28 be and hereby are ordered to be consummated.

1 11. The Court hereby approves the Gross Settlement Amount of \$2,050,000.00.

2 12. The Court finds and determines that the Individual Settlement Payments to be paid
3 to Participating Class Members as provided for by the Settlement are fair and reasonable. The
4 Court hereby gives final approval to and orders the payment of those amounts be made to the
5 Participating Class Members in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

6 13. The Court finds and determines that payment of \$37,500.00 for PAGA Penalties
7 in this case is fair, reasonable, and appropriate. The Court hereby gives final approval to and
8 orders that the payment of that amount be paid in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

9 14. The Court finds and determines that the fees and expenses in administrating the
10 Settlement incurred by ILYM Group, Inc. in the amount of \$9, 950 are fair and reasonable. The
11 Court hereby gives final approval to and orders that the payment of that amount in accordance
12 with the Settlement.

13 15. The Court finds and determines the Class Representative Service Payment of
14 \$10,000.00 for Plaintiff is fair and reasonable. The Court hereby orders the Administrator to
15 make this payment to the Plaintiff/Class Representative in accordance with the terms of the
16 Settlement Agreement.

17 16. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement, and the authorities, evidence and argument
18 submitted by Class Counsel, the Court hereby awards Class Counsel attorneys' fees in the sum of
19 \$683,333.33 and litigation costs of \$26,028.90 The Court finds such amounts to be fair and
20 reasonable. The Court hereby orders the Settlement Administrator to make these payments in
21 accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

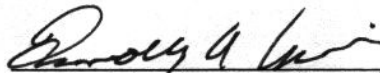
22 17. Nothing in this order shall preclude any action to enforce the Parties' obligations
23 under the Settlement or under this order, including the requirement that Defendants make payment
24 to the Participating Class Members in accordance with the Settlement.

25 18. This Judgment is intended to be a final disposition in its entirety of the above
26 captioned action. Without affecting the finality of this judgment in any way, the Court retains
27 jurisdiction of all matters relating to the interpretation, administration, implementation,
28 effectuation, and enforcement of the Settlement pursuant to C.C.P. § 664.6.

1 19. The Parties will bear their own costs and attorneys' fees except as otherwise
2 provided by this Court's Order awarding Class Counsels' Award for attorneys' fees and litigation
3 costs.

4 20. The Court sets a Hearing Re: Distribution of Settlement Funds for September 20,
5 ²⁷~~2026~~, at 10:30 a.m. Class Counsel are ordered to file a Final Report Re: Distribution of the
6 Settlement Funds by the Administrator five court days prior.

7
8 DATED: 9/18/2026



Honorable Timothy Canning
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

TIMOTHY A. CANNING