

SYNOD COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE MEMBER

Position Description

Qualities and Eligibility

Nominees for the Synod Committee on Discipline should be deeply committed to the life and ministry of Christ's Church, especially as expressed through the Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, regular in their worship attendance, and charitable with their gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

Each person elected to the Committee on Discipline shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.

Nomination, Election, and Term of Office

The Nominating Committee of the Synod Council nominates clergy and lay members for election by the Synod Assembly to the Synod Committee on Discipline. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the Synod Assembly.

A member of the Committee on Discipline serves for one term of six years and is not eligible for consecutive reelection. The term of service for members of the Committee on Discipline commences at the close of the Synod Assembly at which they were elected.

Functions and Responsibilities

The Committee on Discipline, consisting of six clergy and six lay members, serves to render decisions in matters referred to it by the Synod Consultation Committee concerning formal ecclesiastical discipline involving a rostered person or a congregation.

When such matters are referred, a panel is formed of three clergy and three lay members from the Synod Committee on Discipline, appointed by the synodical vice president, and six members of the Churchwide Committee of Discipline appointed by the vice president of the ELCA. This panel meets with and hears from the parties involved in the matter and renders a decision. If the allegations are sustained, the panel will impose a discipline appropriate to the situation.

Privileges and Accountability

- Persons elected to the Committee on Discipline may simultaneously serve on other structures of the synod if they are so selected or elected.
- The Committee on Discipline is accountable to the synodical vice president, the vice president of the ELCA, and the synodical bishop.

Other

- Nominees for the Committee on Discipline should be persons of maturity and good judgment, who can function with discretion and fairness, and able to handle confidential information.
- The bishop of the synod is not a member of the Committee on Discipline.