

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBER

Position Description

Qualities and Eligibility

Nominees for the Synod Council 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 Synod Council shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, with the exception of ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod.

Nomination, Election, and Term of Office

Conferences nominate for election by the Synod Assembly lay and clergy members to the Synod Council to terms of four years in accordance with the bylaws of this synod. Members of the Synod Council are eligible for nomination and election to no more than two consecutive terms. The term of office for members of the Synod Council commences at the close of the Synod Assembly at which they were elected.

Functions

The Synod Council functions as the board of directors of this synod and serves as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. The functions of the Synod Council include:

- Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of this synod.
- Recommend program goals and fiscal proposals to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.
- Provide for an annual review of the roster of ordained ministers and of other official rosters.
- Receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA.
- Issue letters of call to ordained ministers and letters of call to associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers, as authorized by the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA.
- Report its actions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- Perform such other functions as are set forth in the bylaws of this synod, or as may be designated to it by the Synod Assembly.

Responsibilities

Synod Council members must prepare for, attend and participate in regular and special meetings of the Synod Council and the Synod Assembly. In so doing, they must:

- Study carefully the issues on the agenda of the Synod Council.
- Listen to and participate thoughtfully in debate during meetings.
- Examine wisely possible amendments to proposals.
- Consider with insight resolutions or new business.

- Nominate and elect with care apt persons to serve on the boards and committees of this synod.
- Seek prayerfully the guidance of God's Spirit in all matters, and act conscientiously for the sake of the unity and well-being of this synod, this church and the whole Church.

Privileges and Accountability

A member of the Synod Council:

- Serves as a voting member of the Synod Assembly with the privilege of voice and vote.
- May serve on committees of this synod as appointed or elected.
- May serve on their conference's executive committee, according to the custom and discretion of their respective conference.
- Is accountable to the synodical vice president in consultation with the bishop and deans.

Other

- Nominees for Synod Council should preferably have experience functioning in board, council, or committee settings. Previous leadership in these capacities is highly desirable.
- Nominees should be proficient in electronic communications skills and able to work with electronic document files.
- No elected member of the Synod Council shall receive compensation for such service.
- Synod Council members may be financially responsible for a portion of the expenses associated with their attending meetings of the Synod Council and the Synod Assembly.