

Nominations Summary

Synod Council

Job Description:

The Synod Council shall be the board of directors of the Synod and shall serve as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. It may make decisions which are not in conflict with actions taken by the Synod Assembly or which are not precluded by provisions of the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA. The council meets regularly.

The Synod Council has nineteen members; four synod officers, twelve at-large members, one youth representative, one representative from the synodical women's organization and the synodical men's organization (currently inactive). The term is three years, and a representative is eligible to serve two consecutive full terms. The term for the youth member is one year.

Qualifications:

Persons need a vision of the mission of the church, a record of leadership in their local congregation, and a commitment to Christ expressed in the stewardship of one's gifts. They must be able to share openly in the decisions concerning the policies and missions of the church and be ready to assist the bishop of the synod in working with the agencies, institutions, conferences, congregations and rostered ministers in implementing the work of the church.

Synod Council
Position 1

Three Year Term
Appleton Conference
Lay Person
Adam Clifford
Patti Ruhle

Synod Council
Position 2

Three Year Term
Shawano Conference
Lay Person
Open

Synod Council
Position 3

Three Year Term
Wisconsin River Valley
Rostered Ministers
Open

Committee on Discipline

Job Description:

The Committee on Discipline (*12 members of whom six shall be rostered ministers and six shall be laypersons*) is a constitutionally mandated committee which acts to administer a thorough review and, as necessary, discipline process upon congregations and rostered ministers. The Committee on Discipline meets upon call of the Office of the Bishop should charges be either pending or submitted. The term is six years with no re-election.

Qualifications:

The primary gifts required for this ministry are the ability to reflect critically over the unfolding of events or incidents; the discernment of ethical requirements of ministry in the name of Christ; the ability to listen and the sensitivity to sit in humble judgment upon another Christian individual or body.

Committee on Discipline

Position 4

Six Year Term

WRV Conference

Lay Person

Natasha Beetsman

Shirley Ecker

Consultation Committee

Job Description:

The Synod Consultation Committee (6-12 members; preferably composed of half lay persons and half rostered ministers) is a constitutionally mandated committee to advise the Office of the Bishop and, as requested, to investigate situations that are potentially matters of formal ecclesiastical discipline. The committee meets at the request of the bishop.

Occasionally individuals are selected from the Consultation Committee to assist congregations in processing matters of conflict or community relationships within a local parish. The committee serves in an advisory capacity. The term is six years with no re-election.

Qualifications:

The gifts requested for a successful ministry on this committee include the ability to listen with discernment, to act impartially during investigations, to reflect prayerfully and to articulate helpful guidance in situations of pain and difficulty.

Consultation Committee

Position 5

Six Year Term

Appleton Conference

Lay Person

Rob Simms

Mary Vandenberg

Consultation Committee

Position 6

Six Year Term

Shawano Conference

Lay Person

Open

Consultation Committee

Position 7

Six Year Term

Tomorrow River Conference

Rostered Minister

Open

Consultation Committee

Position 8

Six Year Term

WRV Conference

Lay Person

Bob Wiederhoeft

2025 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member

Job Description: Attend the 2025 Churchwide Assembly. July 28 - August 2, 2025 in Phoenix, Arizona. The ECSW has been allotted a slate of 12-14 voting members: 60% Lay; 40% Rostered; 10% Persons of color or persons whose primary language is other than English; 10% Youth or young adults. While considering the whole group, diverse representation in age, gender, and geography should be considered. Those not elected will serve as alternates.

For the care of young people, position 9 will take place by slate. This position is for youth or young adults and will include a chaperone adult who will serve as an on-site alternate. All other youth or young adults who expressed interest will be included in the list of alternates.

Qualifications: The business of this churchwide gathering has many implications for our life together: the election of a new presiding bishop, receiving the report on the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church. Persons who are gifted at listening, communal discernment, and visioning would be thoughtful nominations.

CWA Voting Member Position 9

2 Youth or young adult elected as a slate with accompanying adult & alternate voting member
The Proposed Slate includes Julia Schwab and Natalie Wagner who serve on the Synod Youth Team and their Youth Director who also serves as Co-Chair of the Synod Youth Team, Christine Loppnow.

Julia Schwab, Youth
Natalie Wagner, Youth
Christine Loppnow, Accompanying Adult

Alternates

Sarah Bauer
Christina Johnson
Lillian Smoot

CWA Voting Member Position 10

2 Persons of Color | First Language is Other than English
Seeking Nominations

CWA Voting Member Position 11

5 Lay Persons, one of whom is the synod vice president. Select Four.

Adam Clifford
Breanna Drossart
Kira James
Randy Johnson
Jamie Kiener
Shilrey Paulson
Laurie Sturzenegger
Mike Sturzenegger
Bob Wiederhoeft

CWA Voting Member Position 12

4 Rostered Ministers, one of whom is the synod Bishop. Elect Three.

Rev. Sara Gorman
Rev. Michelle Nickodemus
Rev. Matt Olson
Rev. Will Ostrem
Rev. Kimberly Swenson
Rev. Ben Williams
Rev. Heather Yerion-Keck