

2024 Synod Assembly Elections Information: Description of Open Positions

During the 2024 Synod Assembly, we will be electing people to serve as members of **Synod Council**, the **Committee on Discipline**, **Consultation Committee**, and as **Voting Members to the ELCA 2025 Churchwide Assembly**.

If you are interested in serving in one of these roles, or would like to nominate someone, [complete an online nomination form found here](#). The deadline for nominations is April 15, 2024. Questions? Email susan@lutheransnw.org.

Synod Council

The synod council typically meets every 2 months. The Synod Council is the board of directors of this synod, serving as the legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. Additional leadership functions include trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of this synod; recommending program goals and budgets; carrying out resolutions of the Synod Assembly; etc. Term length is three years (ending in 2027) unless otherwise noted. (Full description in Chapter 10 of the Synod Constitution.)

- 1 youth (under 18 at time of election) – 2-year term, ending 2026
- 1 young adult (between 18 and 30 at time of election)
- Rostered Minister – deacon
- Rostered Minister – PC/L (deacon or pastor) (PC/L = person of color or whose primary language is other than English)
- 2 Rostered Ministers (deacon or pastor)
- Lay Unrestricted – (Man, Woman, Non-Binary)
- Lay Woman
- Lay Man

Committee on Discipline

The Committee on Discipline of this synod consists of 12 persons, of whom six shall be rostered ministers (pastors or deacons) and six shall be laypersons, who are elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six* years without consecutive re-election. (*Due to a year without a synod assembly, we are electing members to 5-year terms this election process.) Members of this committee may be called to participate in a hearing when charges are brought against governing officers, ministers of Word and Sacrament, ministers of Word and Service, congregations, and/or members of a congregation. (Thankfully, members of this committee are rarely called upon.) (Full description in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA.)

- 1 Rostered Minister to complete a vacated term ending 2025
- 2 Rostered Ministers, terms ending 2029
- 2 Lay Persons, terms ending 2029

Consultation Committee

The Consultation Committee consists of 12 persons, of whom half shall be ministers of word and sacrament and half shall be laypersons. These members are elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of 6* years without consecutive re-election. (*Due to a year without a synod assembly, we are electing members for 5-year terms this election process.) When there is disagreement among factions within a congregation on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, members of a congregation shall have access to the synodical bishop for consultation after informing the chair of the Congregation Council of their intent. If the consultation fails to resolve the issue(s), the Consultation Committee of this synod shall consider the matter. (Thankfully, members of this committee are rarely called upon.) (Full description in Chapter 20 of the ELCA Constitution and Chapter 17 of the Synod Constitution.)

- 2 Rostered Ministers, terms ending 2029
- 2 Lay Persons, terms ending 2029

2025 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member

We are to send 9 voting members (including our synod bishop and synod vice president) to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly to be held July 28–August 2, 2025 in Phoenix, Arizona. Voting members must be members of our synod. In keeping with the representational principles set by the ELCA, of the nine, at least 60% will be laypersons (as nearly as possible, 45% of laypersons will be men and, as nearly as possible, 45% will be women. The percentage of laypersons that is not allocated to women or men may be allocated to persons who identify as gender non-binary, gender fluid, women, men, or other genders). At least 2 will be persons of color – or persons whose primary language is other than English (PC/L); and at least 2 persons will be a youth (not yet 18 at time of election) OR a young adult (age 18-30 at time of election.)