

2025 Nominations

[Read more from the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions \(As of April 2024\)](#)

Synod Council Vice President

Burke Scot Beu, Nativity Lutheran Church, Commerce City, Co

- I nominated myself 4 years ago for this position, but the Nominating Committee did not include my name on the ballot (so synod assembly attendees paid an exorbitant registration fee to "vote" for a single nominee).
- Strong faith, life-long Lutheran, former organist at 3 different ELCA congregations, former office manager at an ELCA/RMS church, and a person who pays attention to what's happening in the ELCA (and not liking what I see). I was also employed for 2 years in the Colorado Episcopal headquarters office, which was a hostile work environment.

Ray Ferry, Trinity Lutheran Church, Monument, CO

- For most of my church activities and positions, I have "served." I am a firm believer that to fully live out my call to God, it must include service. I am interested in continuing to serve the RMS Council as VP because it will give me the opportunity to continue to serve a larger purpose. The work we do at the RMS and the ELCA is critically important and makes a difference in the world. I want to help make a difference in the world.
- I have been working in private industry for 38 years. I have managed multi-million-dollar projects and programs and have managed small to large offices. I have been a Lutheran for 40+ years and have served in many positions in many churches from Tennessee to Maryland to New Mexico to Colorado.
- 1) I am serving on the RMS Council 2017 - Present. (2) I served on the RMS executive Council 2020 - 2024. (3) Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council to include VP and Endowment Committee 2014 - 2017.

Campus Ministry Committee

Aaron Graff – St Philip Lutheran Church

- I have experienced the positive impact of campus ministry for the last year and a half, and finding this community has been such a blessing for me. In return for the amazing community, I've been able to be a part of, I want to help and learn about how other campus ministries operate so we can create the best experience for college students seeking faith communities.
- I have experience through my coursework with math and statistics, if I'm asked to be involved in budget conversations.
- I have done volunteer work through LuMin, such as helping serve Thanksgiving meals to kids at a local church. Additionally, I am going to start as the Congregational Ambassador for CSU LuMin in the fall, where I will worship with different congregations each week to keep campus ministry connected with the local community.

Rev. Michael Vinson, Christ, Lutheran Church Highlands Ranch

Consultation Committee

Matthew Kersten-Gray, Bethany Lutheran Church Cherry Hills Co.

- Program Manger Payments, Nordstrom
- I believe the work of this committee could at times be challenging, but we are called to help even when it is hard. I believe I have been blessed with compassion that is well-suited for this role. As a gay man, I value inclusivity, understanding, and the importance of diverse perspectives in the work of the church. I am passionate about fostering mutual respect, and I believe God is calling me to use my experiences and talents to contribute to this vital mission.
- I bring a variety of skills and experiences that would be an asset to the Consultation Committee. I have been serving on the Urban Servant Corps board since mid-2023, where I have supported their work of simplicity, service, spirituality, and intentional community. This group has been a joy to work with. Additionally, I served on the Bethany Ministry Council for two years, focusing on Hospitality, where I worked to create welcoming and inclusive spaces for all members of our congregation. My professional background as a Program Manager for Nordstrom gives me organizational, communication, and leadership skills, which would be valuable for the role as well. "Member of the Urban Servant Corps board (mid-2023 - present)
- Served on the Bethany Ministry Council (2-year term 2019-2021)
- Active participant in congregational life at Bethany Lutheran Church and choir
- Active with the local Gather young adult group

Discipline Committee

Rev. Eric Allert, Christ Lutheran Church Highlands Ranch, Co

- I believe God continually calls me to make my skills, time and willingness to serve available to the Synod in which I serve. I feel called to be available now in service on the Synod's Disciplinary Committee with the rest of the team where needed.
- I have served on Synod Council in the RMS before. I have served in many different settings of pastoral calls (Solo, bridge, interim, Associate and Lead).
- I have been a head-of-staff, a support staff, lay staff, and a volunteer in various ministry settings over the past 26 years.

Ralston Deffenbaugh, Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church, Estes Park Co.

- Retired, Lutheran World Federation Assistant General Secretary (2010-17), Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service President (1991-2009)
- I am a human rights lawyer who spent most of my career serving with Lutheran organizations. I am deeply committed to my church. In retirement, I look for opportunities to volunteer.
- In my professional life with the LWF and LIRS, as well as in my past service as congregational president, I have had, unfortunately, numerous occasions to deal with disciplinary complaints and procedures. I have striven to address these matters fairly and responsibly, with particular concern for the victims.
- Member of the ELCA Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church, 2023-25. Parliamentarian and governance adviser for the global assemblies of the Lutheran World Federation, 2017 and 2023. Audit committee for my congregation, 2023, 2024, 2025.

Rev. Paul Rosin, Ascension Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY

- Pastor
- I have been a past member of the Discipline Committee.
- I have served on various discipline committees in my past vocations.
- Have served in RMS Missions Board, Synod Council in the past. Also served one term on Discipline Committee under previous Bishop.

Nominating Committee

Colleen Sarah Maki – Bethany Lutheran Church Cherry Hills, Co

- I am called to create a community that is rooted in Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's vision of the Beloved Community. God calls me to create spaces where all people are loved, seen, known, and valued. I feel called to serve on the Campus Ministry Committee because I care deeply about creating spaces of wonder, exploration, vulnerability, and faith with young adults. I was an active

member of my own campus ministry, Christus Rex at the University of North Dakota, and I personally understand the significant role that communities of faith can play in college student's lives.

- I am creative, organized, and deeply relational. I am theologically trained and I am committed to ongoing learning from voices that are different than my own.
- Volunteering with Metro Caring and IFCS. Supporting a refugee family with LFS.

Paul Pane, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Durango, CO.

- My work-related experience draws from lifetime public service employment with Colorado dept. revenue, 1999-2009 Port of Entry Officer, and a small business owner operator. I retired from Durando School Dist. 9-R (2010- 2017) as transportation professional and am currently licensed Insurance Claims Adjuster.
- I have actively served in Christ The King Lutheran Church in parish social ministry, music ministry, and on church counsel. I am a lifetime baptized Lutheran since 1968. My Home congregation is in Durango, Colorado where I have been an active member since 2010. I'm divorced and living in Durango Colorado, and I have actively raised, and confirmed my son, whom I have single parented since 2010. He is currently in college in Colorado School of Mines, and a Daniels Fund Scholar.

Synod Council Positions

Position	Description
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<p>Synod Vice-President</p>	<p>The vice president shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The vice president shall be a layperson. The vice president shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The vice president shall not receive a salary for the performance of the duties of the office.</p> <p>The vice president shall serve as the chair of the Synod Council and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council. In the event of the absence or illness of the bishop, the vice president shall serve as the chair of the Synod Assembly. The synod vice president collaborates with the Bishop of the Synod in the formation and implementation of the Synod's vision and mission.</p> <p>The synod vice president shall serve as the representative from the Rocky Mountain Synod ELCA to the Region 2 Council.</p> <p>The terms of the officers of this synod shall be as follows: The vice president and secretary of this synod shall be elected to a term of four years and may be re-elected. The officer shall serve until a successor takes office. The vice president and secretary shall not be eligible for more than two consecutive terms in that office.</p>
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Committee Nominations

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<p>Consultation Committee</p>	<p>(2 lay positions to be filled)</p> <p>The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of at least six persons and not more than 12 persons, of whom half shall be rostered ministers and half shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection.</p> <p>The functions of the Consultation Committee are set forth in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and in Chapter 17 of this constitution. The size of the Consultation Committee, in accord with this provision, shall be defined in this synod's bylaws.</p>
<p>Discipline Committee</p>	<p>(1 position to be filled)</p> <p>The Committee on Discipline of this synod shall consist of 12 persons, of whom six shall be rostered ministers and six shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection.</p> <p>a. The functions of the Committee on Discipline of this synod are set forth in Chapter 20 of the <i>Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</i>.</p> <p>The Synod Council shall fill vacancies on the Committee on Discipline for any unexpired term.</p>

<p>Campus Ministry Committee</p>	<p>(1 layperson or rostered minister)</p> <p>The Campus Ministry Committee shall include advisory members with the privilege of voice, but not vote, including, but not limited to, a member of the ELCA CCMT, the synod bishop's designated staff member, Synod Council liaison, and RMS campus ministry staff members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Campus Ministry Committee shall be comprised of six to ten voting members in accordance with the representational principles of the ELCA and Rocky Mountain Synod, three members to be elected by Synod Assembly for a term of four years with the possibility of one additional consecutive term, and the other members to be appointed by the Synod Council for a term of four years with the possibility of one consecutive appointment. Terms conclude at the time of the synod assembly.
<p>Nominating Committee</p>	<p>(6 members reflecting a balance of gender, rostered and lay persons, a multi-cultural presence, and a geographical balance according to the standard representational mandate of the ELCA)</p> <p>A chairperson shall be appointed by the Synod Council for a two-year term, not eligible for reelection. No person holding an office elected by the Synod Assembly shall serve on the Nominating Committee.</p> <p>The Nominating Committee shall seek to nominate at least two persons for each vacancy to be filled by election at the Synod Assembly with the exception of voting members to the Churchwide Assembly. In the matter of all nominations, the Nominating Committee shall be concerned with representation of rostered ministers and lay people seeking gender balance and diversity, people of color and/or whose primary language is other than English, youth and young adults. Nominations may be sought using synod electronic communications. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee.</p>