

Background Information

The following information will assist each voting member in the discharge of responsibility. Some material is taken from the Constitution and Bylaws of the Rocky Mountain Synod and will be identified by the symbol: "RMSC."

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The church was constituted on January 1, 1988, from the previous church bodies of The American Lutheran Church, Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and Lutheran Church in America. Spanning the United States and the Caribbean, the ELCA consists of 65 synods. The Rocky Mountain Synod is one of five synods in Region 2.

ELCA Regions

The ELCA is divided into nine regions, which are points of connection and ministry for each of the synods in the various regions. Regions work together, especially in terms of the call process for rostered leaders.

The Synod

The Rocky Mountain Synod is comprised of 159157 congregations. The territory of the Rocky Mountain Synod is the states of COLORADO; NEW MEXICO, excluding Curry County; UTAH excluding Washington county; WYOMING, excluding the counties of Big Horn, Lincoln, Park, Sheridan, Teton, and Washakie; and including in TEXAS only the counties of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Loving, Presidio, Reeves, Ward, and Winkler.

Purpose of the Synod

To participate in God's mission, this synod as a part of the church shall:

1. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.
2. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.
3. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs.

4. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.
5. Nurture its members in the Word of God to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
6. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives. (RMSC S6.02)

Synod Council Functions

- Be the Board of Directors of the synod and serve as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of the synod.
- Recommend program goals and budgets 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 Ministers of Word and Sacrament (Pastor) and Ministers of Word and Service (Deacon) and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the actions in this regard.
- Issue letters of call to pastors and deacons who are serving in specialized ministry, as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA.
- Promote the interests of the ELCA.
- Provide oversight and coordinate the work of the Boards, Commissions, Committees and all other synodical entities.
- Determine the time and place for each Synod Assembly and oversee the agenda and program.
- Elect the representatives of the synod, who are to serve, in addition to the bishop ex officio, on the governing bodies of institutions and agencies to which this synod relates.
- Elect the representatives of the Regional Council. (RMSC S10.03.0)