

Membership & Information about Synod Council and Synod Committees

Synod Council: Chapter 10

Composition: Four officers of the synod and 17 other members elected by the Synod Assembly; shall be voting members of a congregation in the synod, with the exception of ministers on a roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod; elected members shall be 1 per conference plus 7 at large positions with one each for lay male, lay female, rostered leader and youth, young adult and 2 people of color and /or whose primary language is other than English; terms are 4 years except for the bishop (6 years) and youth member (elected in even numbered years for 2 years); terms limited to 2 consecutive terms; terms begin on August 1 or in the year of a Churchwide Assembly, the day after the adjournment of the Churchwide Assembly.

Membership

- Bishop Meghan Johnston Aelabouni (1st 2024-2030) R
- VP Ruth Hoffman (1st 2021-2025)
- Secretary Sharen Kamp (1st 2024-2028)
- Treasurer Lisa Guthrie (appointment to term ending in 2028)

- Pr Gary Sandberg (1st 2024-2028)-Metro South R
- Pr Matthew Weber (1st 2024-2028)-Boulder/Broomfield R
- Pr Samm Melton-Hill (1st 2024-2028)-At-large Rostered R
- Pr Tim Orlowski (1st 2022-2026)-North NM R
- Jeff Fairfax (1st 2018-2022; 2nd 2022-2026)-North CO
- Ray Ferry (1st 2018-2022; 2nd 2022-2026)-At-Large Lay Male
- Pr Carrie Bayliss (1st 2024-2028)-SE CO R
- Pr Debra Jimenez (1st 2021 unexpired term-2022; 2nd 2022-2026)-Utah R
- Cynthia Bailey (1st 2024-2028)-Young Adult
- Lynette Schurdevin (1st 2022-2026)-At-Large Lay Female
- Ken Maldonado (1st 2023-2027)-Metro West
- Emmy Baylis (2024-2026)-Youth
- Pr Jeff Swanson (1st 2024-2028)-Border R
- Pr Joshua Bruns (1st 2024-2028)-Wyoming R
- Pr Chelsea Achterberg (1st 2022-2026)-Metro East R
- Andrienne Sinaga (1st 2022-2026)-POC/LOE
- Laura Garcia Villalpando (1st 2024-2028) – POC/LOE

Current Synod Council composition: Lay=11; Rostered=10

Synod Council responsibilities:

- S10.03 The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:

- a. Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of this synod.
 - b. Recommend program goals and budgets to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly.
 - c. Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.
 - d. Provide for an annual review of the rosters of ministers of Word and Sacrament and the roster of ministers of Word and Service, receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's actions in this regard.
 - e. Issue letters of call to rostered ministers as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - f. Fill standing board, commission, committee, and council vacancies to fulfill the unexpired terms.
 - g. Report its actions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
 - h. Perform such other functions as are set forth in the bylaws of this synod, or as may be delegated to it by the Synod Assembly.
- S10.03.01 Additional duties and responsibilities of the Synod Council shall be:
 - a. Promote the interests of the ELCA on the territory of the synod.
 - b. Supervise & coordinate the work of the committees, commissions, and boards of this synod.
 - c. Call assistants to the bishop in consultation with the Bishop of this Synod
 - d. Determine the time and place for each Synod Assembly and prepare the agenda and program.
 - e. Elect the representatives of the synod who are to serve, in addition to the bishop, ex officio on the governing bodies of institutions, agencies and interchurch agencies to which this synod relates upon nomination by the appropriate synod board.
 - f. Elect members of all Boards, Commissions, and Ministry Teams of the synod, as directed by the constitution, bylaws and continuing resolutions of this synod, with the assistance, advice and consultation of the conferences.

Committees:

TS11.01 There shall be an Executive Committee, a Consultation Committee, a Committee on Discipline, a Mutual Ministry Committee, an Audit Committee, and such other committees as this synod may from time to time determine. The duties and functions of such committees, or any other organizational units created by this synod, shall be as set forth in this constitution or in the bylaws or continuing resolutions, and shall be subject to any applicable provisions or requirements of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

S.11.07. General Provisions for all committees:

- a. Each committee shall submit a report to the Office of the Bishop no less than forty-five days prior to each year's Synod Assembly for publication to the Assembly.

- b. Any committee requesting financial support shall submit a request to the Finance Committee of this synod as part of the annual budgeting process.
- c. Each member of a committee shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.
- d. The terms of members of all committees, who are elected by the Synod Assembly or by the Synod Council, shall begin in August 1. In the event that a vacancy on a committee occurs, that vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Synod Council to fulfill the unexpired term.
- e. Any member of a committee who is employed by an agency of institution related to such committee shall abstain from voting on any issue related to their employer.
- f. One or more members of the Synod Council may be appointed by the Council to serve as liaison to each committee. This liaison shall include notice of meetings, agenda items and minutes. The Council liaison may have voice and vote.
- h. A member of the synod staff may be assigned to committees as needed. The staff person shall have voice but no vote.
- i. No ministry team shall issue any public statement purporting to speak for this synod.

♣ **Reference & Counsel Committee:**

S7.32.11 A Reference and Counsel Committee, appointed for each Synod Assembly by the bishop in consultation with the Executive Committee, shall review all proposed changes or additions to the constitution and bylaws and other items submitted which are not germane to items contained in the stated agenda of the Synod Assembly.

S7.32.11.A06 The Committee on Reference and Counsel shall be appointed in January.

S7.32.11.B06 After the Synod Assembly, the Committee on Reference and Counsel will be responsible for seeing that all adopted resolutions are referred to the proper location for appropriate action.

S7.32.11.C11 In reviewing proposed memorials, resolutions, and main motions, the Reference and Counsel Committee may edit, prepare an alternative memorial, resolution, or motion, or consolidate into a single proposed action multiple memorials, resolutions, or main motions on the same or similar subjects. Whenever the Reference and Counsel Committee recommends an alternative memorial, resolutions, or motion, the report to the assembly shall contain the text of the original motion.

Membership:

- Dn Jan Krakow
- Pr Stephanie Kopsch
- Director of CO Advocacy
- Kurt Rager
- Pr Michael Mortvedt, Chair

♣ **Nominating Committee:**

S9.03 There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of 6 members.

- a. Membership on the Nominating Committee shall reflect a balance of gender, rostered and persons, a multi-cultural presence, and a geographical balance according to the standard representational mandate of the ELCA.
- b. A chairperson shall be appointed by the Synod Council to a two-year term, not eligible for reelection
- c. No person holding an office elected by the Synod Assembly shall serve on the Nominating Committee.

S9.03.01 The Nominating Committee shall seek to nominate at least 2 persons for each vacancy to be filled by election at the Synod Assembly with the exception of the 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. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee.

Membership:

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♣ Executive Committee:

S11.06 The Synod Council shall have an Executive Committee composed of the four synod officers and four synod council members, two elected by the Council at a fall meeting of the Synod Council to serve overlapping two-year terms and shall perform those functions of the Synod assigned to it by the Synod Council. This committee, with the exception of the salaried officer(s) of this synod, shall review the work of the officer(s) and the Executive Staff.

(Elected by Synod Council at its September meeting.)

S11.06.01 The Executive Committee sets the salaries of the Bishop, executive staff, and support staff of the synod.

S9.12.A11 The Synod Council Executive Committee shall provide for background checks from persons nominated for synod officer prior to the Synod Assembly at which the election will take place or as soon as possible after the Synod Assembly for newly elected officers nominated from the floor who were not

identified as nominees prior to the assembly. The process shall be as follows:
S9.12.A11 a-g.

Membership:

- Bp Meghan Johnson Aelabouni
- Vice-President Ruth Hoffman
- Secretary Sharen Kamp
- Treasurer Lisa Guthrie
- Jeff Fairfax (2024-2026)
- Ken Maldonado (2024-2026)
- Pr Tim Orlowski (2024-2026)
- Pr Matthew Weber (2024-2206)

♣ **Consultation Committee:**

†S11.02 The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of six persons and not more than twelve 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. 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 the synod's bylaws.

S11.02.01 The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of six persons, of whom three shall be rostered ministers and three shall be laypersons.

Membership:

- **Vacant**
- **Vacant**
- Pr Ruth Ann Loughry (2020-2026)
- Pr Tim Orlowski (2020-2026)
- Marie Friedemann (2022 appt-2028)
- Pr Brittany Baurle Kooi (2022-2028)

♣ **Committee on Discipline:**

†S11.03 The Committee on Discipline shall consist of twelve persons of whom six shall be rostered ministers and six shall be laypersons elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection.

- a. The functions of the Committee on Discipline of this synod are set forth in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

- b. The Synod Council shall fill vacancies on the Committee on Discipline for any unexpired term.

Membership:

- Diana Biggs (2020-2026)
- Pr Stephani Shumaker (2024-2030)
- Pr Stephanie Kopsch (2024-2030)
- Pr Caitlin Trussell (2020-2026)
- Andrea Weyand (2021 appt-2026)
- David Moore (2021 appt-2026)
- Stefanus Tampubolon (2022-2028)
- Pr Nathan Keith (2022-2028)
- Pr Ron Hartman (2022-2028)
- Pr Gordy Sandquist (2024-2030)
- John Emery (2022-2028)
- Lay -**Vacant**

♣ **Mutual Ministry Committee:**

†S11.04 The Mutual Ministry Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Synod Council to provide support and counsel to the bishop.

Membership:

♣ **Audit Committee:**

†S11.05 The Audit Committee shall consist of three to six persons, none of whom is a member of the synod staff. Up to half of the committee may be Synod Council members. **The Audit** Committee members shall be elected by the Synod Council for a term of three years and eligible for one consecutive three-year term. The terms audit committee members shall be staggered. The Audit Committee shall be responsible for assisting the Synod Council in fulfilling its general oversight of the synod's accounting, financial reporting, internal control systems, and external audit processes as provided in **†S15.31**.

†S15.31 This synod shall arrange to have an annual audit of its financial records conducted by a certified public accountant firm recommended by the synod Audit Committee and approved by the Synod Council. The audited annual financial report shall be submitted to the churchwide Office of the Treasurer and to the congregations of this synod.

Membership:

♣ **Finance Committee:**

S11.08.A10 A Finance Committee shall be composed of the treasurer of this synod, a chairperson and convener, and at least three other lay persons and/or rostered ministers. The members of the Finance Committee shall be approved by the Synod Council.

- a. The committee shall prepare a comprehensive budget to be approved by the Synod Council and recommended to Synod Assembly for adoption.
- b. The committee shall periodically review the invested funds of this synod and make appropriate recommendations to Synod Council.

Membership:

- Susan Sharkey, Chair
 - **Vacant**
 - Pr Gary Sandberg
 - Lisa Guthrie, Synod Treasurer
 - **Vacant**
- Staff: Jon Johnson, Bp Aelabouni

♣ **Candidacy Committee:**

S11.08.B17

- a. The Candidacy shall be responsible to assist in the affirmation, development and support of the ministries of the whole people of God, including recognition and support of the ministry of Word and Sacrament and the ministry of Word and Service. To accomplish this end, the Candidacy Board will relate to the appropriate Churchwide unit.
- b. The Candidacy Committee shall be responsible to fulfill the following functions:
 1. Develop programs for the recruitment, preparation and evaluation of candidates for the Ministers of Word and Sacrament as outlined in Chapter 7, ELCA Constitution and Bylaws.
 2. Develop programs for the recruitment, preparation, and evaluation of candidates for Ministers of Word and Service as outlined in Chapter 7, ELCA Constitution and Bylaws.
 3. Recommend for appointment by the Synod Council, persons to serve on the boards of seminaries to which this synod is related.

4. Determine the needs, both of and for Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service on the territory of the synod and make recommendations and develop programs to meet those needs.
 5. Serve as liaison between the seminary(ies) and synod providing information about the needs of each to the other and seeking to fill those needs.
- c. The Candidacy Committee members shall be nominated by the Synod Bishop and elected by the Synod Council for a term of five years with the possibility of one consecutive reelection.
1. Committee members shall be selected for their understanding of the ELCA and its rostered ministries, for their patience and compassion for people in discernment, for their ability to communicate clearly, and for their capacity to make difficult decisions for the sake of the church and those seeking candidacy.
 2. The Committee's membership shall reflect a balance of gender, rostered and lay persons, a multicultural presence, and geographical balance according to the standard representational mandate of the ELCA.
 3. The Synod Council-elected members, the Bishop of this synod, and a seminary representative shall have voice and vote on the committee. The ELCA regional deployed staff person and the synod staff person assigned to the committee shall voice but no vote.

Membership:

- Diana Biggs (SE CO) (2024-2029)
- Annette Bolt (Metro W Mountain) (2024-2029)
- Pr Nadia Bolz-Weber (RMS) (2024-2029)
- Pr Laura Bostrom (Chair, Metro West Metro) (2024-2029)
- Kelly Martin (Utah) (2024-2029)
- Dn Mary Stoneback (SE Colorado) (2024-2029)
- Tanya Scott (Metro East) (2024-2029)
- Pr Nate Preisinger (Metro South) (2024-2029)
- Pr Michael Vinson (Metro South) (2024-2029)
- Maria Sutton (Boulder/Broomfield) (2024-2029)
- Pr Joe Natwick (North Colorado) (2024-2029)
- Ryan Steinmetz (Border) (2024-2029)
- Dn Jan Krakow (North NM) (2024-2029)
- Kirsi Stjerna (PLTS representative)
- Maria Paiva (Reg 2 Candidacy Manager)

Staff: Bp Aelabouni, Pr Diana Linden-Johnson, Yvonne Wilken
All appointed by Synod Council in February, 2024

♣ **Campus Ministry Committee:**

S11.08.D10

- a. The Campus Ministry Committee shall be responsible for developing, supporting, interpreting, and advocating the mission of ELCA campus ministry among the student, faculty and staff at institutions of higher education on the territory of this synod.
- b. The Campus Ministry Committee shall facilitate an interdependent relationship with the ELCA Churchwide Campus Ministry Team and the local Campus Ministry Agencies.
- c. The Campus Ministry Committee shall develop and present an annual budget to the Finance Committee for the development and support of campus ministry. The Campus Ministry Committee shall develop and provide to the Campus Ministry Agencies a synodical grant application and distribute budgeted funds based upon those applications annually. Local application for the allocations of funds shall be the responsibility of the Campus Ministry Committee.
- d. The Campus Ministry Committee shall develop, encourage, and support cooperating congregations for outreach on campuses where there is not a Campus Ministry Agency.
- e. The Campus Ministry Committee shall commend to the Campus Ministry Agencies personnel policies consistent with ELCA policies, work with Campus Ministry Agencies in staff evaluations and participate in the quadrennial site reviews. The Campus Ministry Agencies and Synod Council shall consult the ELCA Churchwide Campus Ministry Team before issuing, or the synod's bishop attesting, a call involving significant campus ministry responsibilities.
- f. The Campus Ministry Committee shall approve and assist all capital fund raising efforts of campus ministries in this synod consistent with the synod's and ELCA's policy guidelines.
- g. The Campus Ministry Committee shall work with the National Lutheran Campus Ministry Inc., for the acquisition and management of property.
- h. The Campus Ministry Committee, through its chair, shall prepare an annual report for the annual Synod Assembly; provide through the designated synod staff and synod council liaison, regular reports to the Synod Council of program accomplishments long-range planning, requests for capital funding, and recommendations to call new staff.

- i. The Campus Ministry Committee may appoint a grant review team that will work in collaboration with the executive committee and treasurer of the Synod Council to make recommendations regarding the distribution of synod funds made to Campus Ministry sites. The Campus Ministry Committee will also oversee financial matters related to the interpretation and the encouragement of synod campus ministry support with congregations.
- j. 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.
- k. The Campus Ministry Committee shall elect biennially a chair, secretary, and may appoint a grant review team at the first meeting following the Synod Assembly in that year.
- l. 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.

Membership:

- Pr Julie Britsch (Synod Assembly, 2018-2022; 2022-2026)
 - Dr Karin DeJonge-Kannon (Synod Assembly, 2021-2025)
 - Michaela Askew (Synod Assembly, 2022-2026)
 - Pr Bill Ledford (Synod Council, 2025-2029)
 - Pr Monica Butler (Synod Council, 2023-2027)
 - Pr Andrea Kragerud (Synod Council, 2025-2029)
- Staff: Pr Diana Linden-Johnson

♣ **Mission Outreach Committee:**

S11.08.F17

- a. The Mission Outreach Committee shall be responsible for promoting, extending and coordinating the mission outreach activity of the synod, both on its own territory and throughout the world. To accomplish this end, the Mission Outreach Committee will relate to the appropriate churchwide unit.
- b. The Mission Outreach Committee shall be responsible to fulfill the following functions:
 - 1. Provide strategic planning for mission on synod territory.

2. Effect new congregational development in consultation with the appropriate churchwide unit.
3. Provide support for existing congregations and ministries in consultation with the appropriate churchwide unit.
4. Consult with churchwide agencies regarding priorities for multicultural ministries, their establishment and continued support as necessary.
5. Provide periodical review for mission outreach.
6. The Mission Outreach Committee will have six to ten members elected by the Synod Assembly for four-year terms.

Membership:

- Dn Korra Looschen (2022-2026)
- Pr Samm Melton-Hill (2022-2026)
- Pr Dave Ryder (appointed)
- Pr Libbie Reinking (appointed)
- Pr Jay Gamelin (appointed)
- Scott Kallio (2024-2028)
- Chair? Staff?

♣ **Congregational Ministries Committee:**

S11.08.G87

- a. Recognizing that the church is always being reformed, the Congregational Ministries Committee gives ear to the Holy Spirit to determine ways to invite and equip congregations to effectively and creatively participate in God's mission in their diverse contexts. The Congregational Ministries will relate to the Synod Council and collaborate with other synod ministries as well as churchwide ministries as appropriate.
- b. The Congregational Ministries Committee will have at least six members either elected by the Synod Assembly or appointed by the Synod Council for four-year terms. Ideally staggered among the members. Attention will be given to inviting a diversity of perspective and gifts.

Membership:

- Pr Travis Norton (Synod Assembly, 2022-2026) Chair
- Dn Colleen Teeuwe (Synod Assembly, 2024-2028)
- Janet Philpy (Synod Assembly, 2024-2028)
- Pr Andrea Kragerud (Synod Assembly, 2022-2026)
- Dn Gail Britt, (Synod Assembly, 2022-2026)
- Pr Brittany Kooi (Synod Council, 2025-2029)
- Mary Arnold (Synod Council, 2025-2029)
- Jeanette Bartling (Synod Council, 2025-2029)

Staff: Bp Meghan Aelabouni; Pr Katie Emery; Pr Diana Linden-Johnson

♣ **Global Church Network:**

S11.08.H17 Global Church Network promotes and supports connection between Rocky Mountain Synod ministries and individuals and the global church through communication, education, and immersion opportunities. The Global Church Network will:

- a. Build connection with missionaries, including Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM), communicating their stories with synod partners.
- b. Attend to relationships with the synod's four companion synods in Madagascar, promoting opportunities for learning and relationship-building.
- c. Partner with other globally related entities, including but not limited to synod missionaries, companion synods, the ELCA's Service and Justice Home Area, Peace Not Walls, World Hunger, AMPARRO, Luther Immigration and Refugee Services, and the Border Network, to coordinate 2-3 global engagement opportunities per year for synod individuals and ministries.
- d. Maintain alumni list of missionaries in the synod.
- e. Present a request for support to the Finance Committee of this synod as part of the annual budgeting process.
- f. Report its activities to the Synod Council at its regular meetings. This report shall include, but not be limited to financial reports, proposed budget, program accomplishments and long-range planning.
- g. Be composed of six voting members: three members who are appointed by the Synod Council for a term of four years with the possibility of one consecutive reelection, and three at-large members who are elected by the Synod Assembly for a four-year term with the possibility of reelection. When possible, there will be representative interest in global mission service, border issues, and synod companion synods.
- h. Invite advisory members who have the privilege of voice, but not vote, to participate in its meetings, as needed.

Membership:

- Pr Pam Challis (Synod Assembly 2022-2026), Chair
- Pr Peter Kapenga (Synod Assembly 2022-2026)
- Sara Love (Synod Assembly 2024-2028)
- Pr Brian Erickson (Synod Council 2023-2027)
- Mary Templeton (Synod Council 2025-2029)
- Terry Cole (Synod Council 2023-2027)

Staff: Pr Diana Linden-Johnson

- **Hunger Network Core Team**

S11.08.J17 b. The team selects its own chairman & secretary, who are not term-limited. The Chairman will be approved by the Synod Council