**SYNODICALLY AUTHORIZED MINISTRY**

**Virginia Synod ELCA**

**Personal Information:**

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LAST Name(s) FIRST Name(s) MIDDLE Name(s)

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**Synodically Authorized Ministers – Autobiographical Essay**

Synodically authorized ministry is intended to honor the God-given office of Word and Sacrament (Article V, The Augsburg Confession). As such, synodically authorized ministry is intended to assist this church to respond pastorally and effectively to emerging opportunities in Christ’s mission where it is not possible to provide a minister of Word and Sacrament. Synodically authorized ministry, first and foremost, is in response to a ministry need in a particular setting.

The essay for synodically authorized ministry is an autobiographical reflection which should contain insights and understandings gained during the period of discernment leading to your decision to serve as a Synodically Authorized Minister in the Virginia Synod. You are asked to provide an honest assessment of your current self-understanding of your journey thus far and your hope for the future.

For each of the three parts, please write two to three pages in length, double spaced. Please submit a copy of the essay to Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick, Assistant to the Bishop of the Virginia Synod ([bayerderrick@vasynod.org](mailto:bayerderrick@vasynod.org))

1. Provide a brief autobiography that includes your early years, faith formation, and current life situation.
2. Describe your journey of discernment. How did have you experienced God’s call in your life? How have you experienced God’s call to serve as a Synodically Authorized Minister?
3. Describe your relationship with Jesus Christ.