

# ROLES TO BE ELECTED AT 2021 ASSEMBLY

## **Virginia Synod Council**

The Virginia Synod Council serves a visionary role in the Virginia Synod. In conjunction with the Bishop's Office, the Council reviews and coordinates all planning proposals and establishes synod priorities. The Synod Council members share their various gifts for the purposes of God's mission and ministry through the Virginia Synod and the churchwide organization of the ELCA.

The Synod Council also serves as the Virginia Synod board and meets quarterly to supervise the Synod administration. The Synod Assembly elects these leaders. The Synod Council is composed of congregations members from across the Virginia Synod, including rostered ministers (pastors and deacons) and laypeople (those not ordained).

Unless otherwise noted, all Synod Council terms are 4 years (pending the approval of proposed VA Synod Constitution changes). Members may be elected to a second consecutive term.

## **What are the conference partnerships in the Virginia Synod?**

In January 2019, Synod Council approved the following conference partnerships:

- Coastal (Tidewater and Peninsulas Conferences)
- Piedmont (Richmond and Germanna Conferences)
- Valley (Northern Valley, Central Valley, and Page Conferences)
- Blue Ridge (Southern Valley and Southern Conferences)
- Appalachia (New River and Highlands Conferences)

## **Synod Council Members to be Elected in 2021:**

### **Youth – 1 member** (currently in 10th - 12th grade)

- Any gender; Any Conference Partnership
- 1-year term, concludes June 2022

### **Class of 2023 – 4 members** *(Because there was no 2020 Synod Assembly, Synod Council appointed members in 2020)*

- **THREE Rostered Ministers (Pastor or Deacon):** TWO women and ONE man
- One each from these Conference Partnerships:
  - Appalachia
  - Blue Ridge
  - Piedmont
- **ONE Lay Person**
  - Blue Ridge - woman

### **Class of 2025 – 7 members**

- **TWO Rostered Ministers (Pastor or Deacon):** ONE woman and ONE man
- One each from these Conference Partnerships:
  - Valley
  - Coastal
- **FIVE Lay Members:**
  - Appalachia - woman

- Piedmont - any gender
- Person of Color and/or Whose Primary Language is other than English
- At-Large member (any conference) - man
- Young Adult - any gender; age 18-30

### **Churchwide Assembly**

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the church, is a process of communal spiritual discernment that happens every 3 years. This event is invitation-only, but always available via live stream for the general public. The next one will take place in Columbus, Ohio on August 12-18, 2022.

The Virginia Synod has a total of 10 voting members - two of the ten are automatically allocated to the synod bishop and vice president. The other eight will be elected at the 2021 Virginia Synod Assembly.

### **2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly - 8 voting members to be elected**

- **Rostered Ministers (Pastor or Deacon): THREE**
  - One woman
  - One Young Adult (any gender; 30 or younger)
  - One person of color and/or whose primary language is other than English (any gender)
- **Lay Voting Members: FIVE**
  - One man
  - Two women
  - One Young Adult (any gender; 30 or younger)
  - One person of color and/or whose primary language is other than English (and gender)

The Nominating Committee's goal is to consider individual skills and qualifications, as well as our Synod's and Churchwide Assembly inclusivity goals. These goals address the balance between laypersons and rostered ministers, gender, status as a youth or young adult, and racial/ethnic background. Achieving some geographical diversity of nominees will also be a factor in the Nominating Committee's decisions.

### **Responsibilities of Voting Members of our Churchwide Assembly**

The Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is its highest legislative authority. Its responsibilities, as described in constitutional provision 12.21, include the following:

1. Review the work of the churchwide officers, and for this purpose require and receive reports from them and act on business proposed by them.
2. Review the work of the churchwide units, and for this purpose require and receive reports from them and act on business proposed by them.
3. Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies.
4. Establish churchwide policy
5. Adopt a budget for the churchwide organization.
6. Elect officers, board members, and other persons as provided in the constitution or bylaws.
7. Establish churchwide units to carry out the functions of the churchwide organization.

8. Have the sole authority to amend the constitution and bylaws.
9. Fulfill other functions as required by the constitution and bylaws.
10. Conduct such other business as necessary to further the purposes and functions of the churchwide organization.

Voting members are elected by Synod Assemblies to serve at the Churchwide Assembly. Their individual responsibilities are to:

1. Represent the interests of this whole church to facilitate its mission and ministry
2. Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and approach the Churchwide Assembly's work with reflection and prayer
3. Participate in orientation, both that provided by the synod and that provided by the churchwide organization
4. Be present during the entire Churchwide Assembly, attending plenary sessions, worship, hearings, and other assembly-related activities
5. Study in advance the *Pre-Assembly Report*, particularly the reports of officers and the matters on which the Churchwide Assembly will take action
6. Listen to presentations and discussion and be prepared to participate responsibly
7. Exemplify servant leadership in words, life-style, and manner of leadership, recognizing accountability to the Triune God, the whole Church, each other, and to the Churchwide Assembly as a whole
8. Provide reports about the Churchwide Assembly to congregations and others within the synod

### **Committee on Discipline**

The Virginia Synod Committee on Discipline serves the Consultation and Discipline Process in this church. The consultation and discipline process assures due process and due protection for the accused, other parties, and this church in the discipline process, which governs officers, rostered ministers, congregations, and members of congregations.

**Class of 2025 (6-year term)** - *(appointed by the Synod Council in 2019; did not have a 2020 Assembly to elect them)*

- THREE Lay members: at least 1 man and 1 woman
- ONE Minister of Word and Sacrament: a woman

**Class of 2027 (6-year term)** - **terms ended for Class of 2021**

- TWO Lay Members
- TWO Ministers of Word and Sacrament