

ROLES TO BE ELECTED AT THE 2023 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Bishop

Six-year term ending in 2029

Synod Vice President

Four-year term ending in 2027

The Virginia Synod Vice President is a layperson elected by the Synod Assembly. The vice president is a volunteer and chairs the Synod Council meetings and is a voting member of the Virginia Synod at the Churchwide Assembly. The vice president works closely with the Bishop to accomplish long-range visioning for the Virginia Synod and helps the Bishop with a variety of matters. The vice president is responsible for planning the agenda for Synod Council meetings in a collaborative process with the Bishop, key staff members, and other Council members as appropriate. The vice president also co-chairs Synod Assemblies with the Bishop. The other duties and responsibilities of the Virginia Synod vice president are notated in the Virginia Synod Constitution S8-20 through S8-23.

Synod Secretary

Four-year term ending in 2027

The official duties of the Synod Secretary are set by the Virginia Synod Constitution. The Secretary is a member of the Synod Council and provides visionary and administrative leadership with the Virginia Synod. The Secretary should continuously and faithfully work with the Bishop, Vice-President, Synod Council, and Synod Staff to ensure that the work of the Synod is in accordance with the ELCA and the mission of the church. The Secretary is also responsible for ensuring that minutes are recorded at Synod Council meetings and the Synod Assembly, as well as reporting out the minutes and any actions taken by the Assembly.

Synod Council

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

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

Unless otherwise noted, all Synod Council terms are 4 years. Members may be elected to a second consecutive term.

What are the conference partnerships in the Virginia Synod?

Synod Council elections reflect the Conference Partnerships approved by Synod Council in January 2019. The goal is to have a lay person and a rostered minister from each of these five

Conference Partnerships:

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

Class of 2024 – One to be elected, lay member (1-year term, expires June 2024)

- Youth, any gender (Currently in 10-12 grade)

Class of 2027 – Seven to be elected, lay members (4-year term)

Conference Partnerships - Three to be elected, lay members

- One from Blue Ridge, any gender
- One from Coastal, any gender
- One from Valley, any gender

At- Large Member - One to be elected, lay member (from any Conference Partnership)

- Any gender

LGBTQIA+ - One to be elected, lay member

- Any gender

Young Adult member - One to be elected, lay member

- Any gender (Age 18-30)

Conference Partnerships - Three to be elected, rostered members

- One from Piedmont, any gender
- One from Blue Ridge, any gender
- One from Appalachia, any gender

Persons of color and/or whose primary language is other than English – One to be elected, rostered minister

- Any gender

Consultation Committee

The Virginia Synod Consultation Committee assists the bishop in efforts to resolve a situation - involving rostered ministers - in which there are indications that a cause for discipline may exist and before charges are made. The Consultation Committee is described by the ELCA Constitution and Bylaws in [20.22.04](#).

Class of 2029 (6-year term)

- **Four** to be elected, lay members: at least 1 man and 1 woman
- **Four** to be elected, rostered ministers: 2 men, 2 women

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. When charges are brought following the consultation process, the detailed Disciplinary Process outlined in the ELCA Constitution and Bylaws ([20.22.17.](#)) takes effect.

Class of 2029 (6-year term)

- **One** to be elected, lay member: 1 man
- **Three** to be elected, rostered ministers: at least 1 man, 1 woman, 1 any gender