



## ROLES TO BE ELECTED AT 2024 ASSEMBLY

### **Virginia 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?**

Reflecting the diversity across the Virginia Synod, the goal of Synod Council elections is to have a lay person and a rostered minister from each of these five 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)

### **Youth – 1 member** (1-year term, concludes June 2025)

- Youth (currently in 10th - 12th grade); any gender
  - Any Conference Partnership

### **Class of 2025 – 1 member** *(Because they were not elected during the 2023 Synod Assembly, Synod Council appointed members in 2023)*

- **ONE Lay Member, any gender:**
  - Appalachia

### **Class of 2027 – 2 members** *(Because they were not elected during the 2023 Synod Assembly, Synod Council appointed members in 2023)*

- **ONE Lay Member, any gender:**
  - Blue Ridge
- **ONE Rostered Minister (Pastor or Deacon):**
  - Appalachia - woman

### **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)**

- **Two** to be elected, lay members: at least 1 man and 1 woman

### **ELCA 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 Phoenix, Arizona on July 28-August 2, 2025.

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 8 voting members will be elected at the 2024 Virginia Synod Assembly.

### **2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly - 8 voting members to be elected**

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

The Nominating Committee's goal is to consider individual skills and qualifications, as well as our Synod's and Churchwide Assembly's 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

### **ELCA Church Council**

The Church Council operates as part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and serves as both a governing body and community of faith in the Lutheran tradition. The Council must comply with the Continuing Resolutions of ELCA and policies adopted by the Churchwide Assembly, while recognizing its interdependent partnership with synods and congregations in the ELCA's mission. It must provide advice and encouragement to other expressions of the church and exercise fiduciary, strategic, and generative leadership to fulfill the church's mission. The Governance Policy Manual outlines the Council's responsibilities to better fulfill the church's mission and clarify its governance responsibilities.

### **Class of 2031 - 2 to be elected (6-year term)**

- Lay Member - Woman - person of color and/or whose primary language is other than English - Young Adult (at the time of the synod assembly between 18-30 years old)