

## **Roles to be Elected at the 2025 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 the 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 2026)

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

### **Class of 2027 – 1 member** (*Synod Council appointed in 2024*)

- **ONE Lay Member, young adult (30 or younger), any gender:**
  - Germanna

### **Class of 2029 – 6 members**

- **ONE Lay Member, man:**
  - Piedmont
- **ONE Lay Member, man:**
  - Appalachia
- **ONE Lay Member, any gender:**
  - At-Large
- **ONE Lay Member, any gender:**
  - Person of Color or whose primary language is other than English
- **ONE Rostered Minister (Pastor or Deacon):**
  - Coastal- woman
- **ONE Rostered Minister (Pastor or Deacon):**
  - Valley- woman

### **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 is outlined in the ELCA Constitution and Bylaws ([20.22.17.](#)) takes effect.

### **Class of 2031 - 4 members** (6-year term)

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

### **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 - 1 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)