

Synod Treasurer

This position is accountable for the management of monies and all financial accounts of this synod. The treasurer is responsible for the oversight and arrangement for the proper recording of all financial transactions of the synod to ensure proper handling according to both synod requirements and generally accepted accounting principles. The treasurer is responsible for oversight of all investments of synod assets, reporting of the synod financial conditions to each regularly scheduled meeting of the Synod Council, ensuring an annual external audit is conducted, and the preparation of the annual audited financial statement for reporting to the Synod Assembly. As an officer of this synod, the treasurer is a member of the synod's Executive Committee. The treasurer shall be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of 4 years and may be reelected.

Synod Council Representatives

The Synod Council sees to it that the mission and vision of the Synod are lifted and carried forward.

Mission: Share Christ, Make Disciples, Do Justice in the world. Vision: To be deeply rooted in Christ, firmly grounded in Word and Sacrament, and joyfully sent for the sake of the world.

A Synod Council member shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The term of office shall be three years. The Synod Council is the board of directors of the synod and serves as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly.

The functions of synod council are:

- Trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of the synod,
- Recommend program goals and budgets to meetings of the Synod Assembly,
- Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly,
- Provide an annual review of the roster of the rosters, receive and act upon recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration,
- Issue letters of call to rostered persons,
- Fill vacancies in elected positions until the next regular meeting of Synod Assembly, and
- Report its actions to regular meetings of Synod Assembly.
- The Synod Council meets four times a year at various sites around the territory of the synod.

Consultation Committee

The committee consists of 12 members, 50% rostered ministers and 50% laypersons. They are elected by Synod Assembly for a term of six years. Members of this committee may be called upon by the bishop when there are indications that a cause for discipline may exist of a rostered minister or layperson and before charges are made. The bishop may wish to resolve the situation by consultation and would call upon the consultation committee for assistance. The Consultation Committee will advise the bishop as to whether the bishop should bring charges or other recommendations for the resolution of the controversy that would not involve proceedings before a discipline hearing committee. If requested by the bishop, members of the committee also may assist, as representatives of the accuser, in the presentation of evidence and examination of witnesses before a discipline hearing committee. A member of the consultation committee may not be a member of the Discipline Committee.

Discipline Committee

The committee consists of 12 members, 50% rostered ministers and 50% laypersons. They are elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years. This committee serves as a hearing committee and may make recommendations relating to discipline of a rostered minister or layperson, according to ELCA and synod guidelines, to the Bishop or Synod Council. A member of the discipline committee may not be a member of the consultation committee.

2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly - July 28-August 2, Phoenix, Arizona

- Reviews work of churchwide officers and units and acts on their proposals,
- Reviews and considers proposals from synod assemblies,
- Establishes churchwide policy,
- Adopts a budget for the churchwide organization,
- Elects officers, board members,
- Establishes churchwide units, and
- Sole authority to amend the constitution and bylaws.

Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

Persons chosen as voting members of the Churchwide Assembly are given the responsibility of doing the work of the Churchwide Assembly on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. They are not sent to participate as politicized delegates from some regional or agenda-specific caucus, as may be the case at a national party convention. They gather around Word and Sacrament to represent and serve on behalf of all the members of the congregations in all the synods of this one church. **The Voting Member's lodging, food, and transportation** are paid for by the ELCA. Sometimes there is a free afternoon or evening, and then the dinner is the responsibility of the voting member.

Voting at ELCA Churchwide Assembly

It is important to note and remember that no delegates will be present for the assembly. Voting members are not delegates, as the term is used in the context of some meetings such as political conventions! The terminology related to the legislative process of this church is no accident. The words, "Synod Assembly" and "Churchwide Assembly," rather than convention, and "voting members," rather than delegates, were deliberately chosen for our governing documents. These words not only fulfil certain legal requirements but also reflect the ecclesial understanding that the three primary expression of this church—congregation, synod, and churchwide organization—exist and serve within this one church. The congregation does not meet in convention; the members gather in worship, carry out service, and assemble occasionally and properly for governance decisions and elections. The people of this church in each of the 65 synods are not sent as delegates from a given caucus; they are not gathered to act as some politicized delegates to a regional party convention. Rather, they assemble as duly selected members of this church with voting responsibilities for governance and elections on behalf of the synod. The Synod Assembly is just that, an assembly of the people of this church gathered around Word and Sacrament, some of whom have been granted the responsibility of being voting members of the Synod Assembly.

The people of this church, when gathered as voting members of the Synod Assembly, have the responsibility of electing the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly. Persons so chosen are given the responsibility of doing the work of the Churchwide Assembly on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. They are not sent to participate as politicized delegates from some regional or agenda-specific caucus at some national party convention. They gather around Word and Sacrament to represent and serve on behalf of all the members of the congregations in all the synods of this one church. The vocabulary that we use both shapes and reflects our understanding of this church. When we recognize and understand that our "congregations find their fulfilment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations" (ELCA churchwide constitutional provision 3.02.), then our awareness of the significance of being voting members in each assembly may grow.

After all, as we declare of the "Nature of the Church," the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America "derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faith" (also ELCA churchwide constitutional provision 3.02.). Indeed, we together affirm and declare the primary principle of organization for our church, namely: "The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be one church" (ELCA churchwide constitutional provision 5.01.).