Southeastern Minnesota Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

2022 Nominations Workbook

Published: February 10, 2022

Please note: The workbook has been updated to include all potential positions for nomination. Positions with open vacancies are highlight in yellow after the position description

Instructions The Synod Nominating Committee is responsible for nominating one person for each position for which an election will be held at the **2022 Synod Assembly**. In advance of the assembly, the nominating committee seeks nominees for consideration. Nominations in specific categories also can be made by voting members on the floor of the assembly. This booklet is designed to aid you in recommending nominees to the nominating committee. For each board or committee for which there will be an election, you will find the following information: ● A list of the position for which nominations are sought, along with any restrictions placed on a given nomination, ● A list of people whose terms are expiring, ● A list of continuing members of the board or committee, and ● A job description for the board or committee.	The Synod Nominating Committee is responsible for nominations to committees and vacancies on the Augsburg University Board when such are needed. It welcomes names of people who would be appropriate for these posts. Please provide the nominating committee with the names, contact information and list of leadership qualities of as many people as you deem qualified for the various vacancies indicated, and please encourage others to submit nominations as well. The nomination process is governed by the principles detailed in the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. Please nominate only people who match the requirements of a given category. Recommend a nominee to the nominating committee by completing the online nomination form at **http://semnsynod.org/nominations** by **March 11, 2022**

†S6.04.01 *It is the goal of this synod that 10 percent of the membership of synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and/or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.*

†S6.04.02. *It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term "youth" means a voting member of a congregation who has not reach the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term "young adult" means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.*

Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council Executive Committee
Officer: Vice-President

†S8.01 The officers of this synod shall be a bishop, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer.

†S8.21 The vice president shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The vice president shall be a layperson. The vice president shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The vice president shall not receive a salary for the performance of the duties of the office.

S8.21.01 The vice president shall serve as a voting member of the churchwide assembly, if available to serve.

S8.22 The vice president shall chair the Synod Council.

S8.23 In the event of the death, resignation, or disability of the bishop, the vice president, after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall convene the Synod Council to arrange for the conduct of the duties of the bishop until a new bishop shall be elected or, in the case of temporary disability, until the bishop resumes full performance of the duties of the office.

This is the job description of the vice-president:

1. The vice-president serves as chair of the Executive Committee of the Synod Council. The Executive Committee meets up to 6 times a year. Meeting dates and times are scheduled at the discretion of Executive Committee members. The Executive Committee meetings are normally held in the Synod Office conference room at Assisi Heights, Rochester.

2. The vice-president serves as chair of the Synod Council. The Synod Council meets at least 5 times a year.

3. The vice-president reports to the Synod Council at each meeting on the actions of the Executive Committee.

4. The vice-president reports to the Synod Assembly each year on the actions of the Synod Council.

5. The vice-president chairs the Synod Nominating Committee.

6. When a new Bishop is to be elected, the vice-president is responsible to call the first meeting of the Committee on the Election of a Bishop.

7. The vice-president may perform other duties as this synod directs and as the vice-president is available. These may include:
   a. Serving as a representative of the Office of the Bishop at conference meetings and assemblies.
   b. Representing the Office of the Bishop in congregations for installations of pastors and deacons, anniversary celebrations, or other special occasions.
   c. Visiting congregations for mission support presentations and thank-yous.
   d. Attending the annual Fall Theological Conference or other synod-wide events.
   e. Attending meetings of the conference deans and synod council tables.

Qualifications:

1. Be a voting member of an ELCA congregation in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod.

2. Have an understanding of the relationship between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Southeastern Minnesota Synod and the local congregations.

Synod Vice President - 4 year term - Nominated by Synod Nominating Committee

Lisa Dierks	**2021-2025 (1st term)**

2022 election - NONE

Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council Executive Committee
Officer: Secretary

S8.30. Secretary

†S8.31. The secretary shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The secretary shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The secretary may be either a layperson or a rostered minister.

†S8.32. The secretary shall: a. Keep the minutes of all meetings of the Synod Assembly and Synod Council, be responsible for the printing and distribution of such minutes, and perform such other duties as this synod may from time to time direct. b. Be authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to attest all instruments which require the same, and which are signed and sealed by the bishop. c. In consultation with the bishop, classify and arrange all important papers and documents and deposit them in the archives of this synod. Submit to the secretary of this church at least nine months before each regular Churchwide Assembly a certified list of the voting members elected by the Synod Assembly.

Job Description:

Constitutionally, this is the job description of the secretary. In practice, the Executive Assistant and other synod staff perform some of these duties on a regular basis with the secretary having oversight of the work. The actual duties of the secretary are as follows:

1. As an officer of the synod, the secretary serves on the Executive Committee of the Synod Council. The Executive Committee meets up to 6 times a year. Meeting dates and times are scheduled at the discretion of Executive Committee members.

2. The secretary also meets with the Synod Council. The council meets a minimum of 5 times a year (in the summer, February, April, September and November). An annual 2-day retreat is included in one of the meeting times.

3. Oversight of the Executive Assistant includes:

   a. The Executive Assistant acts as recorder for the Executive Committee and Synod Council. The secretary provides the final copy of all minutes before they are published in their final form and presents the minutes to all meetings for approval.

   b. The Executive Assistant reports all Churchwide Assembly voter and alternate voter information to the Office of the Secretary, ELCA after an assembly where such voters and alternates are elected.

   c. The Executive Assistant is responsible for maintaining the archive of all minutes and important papers of the synod within the office. The secretary is responsible for submitting council and executive committee minutes, along with assembly minutes, to the Synodical Online Digital Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America offices.

Qualifications:

1. Be a voting member of an ELCA congregation in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod.

2. Have an understanding of the relationship between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Southeastern Minnesota Synod and the local congregations.

Synod Secretary - 4 year term - Nominated by Synod Council

Rev. Joshua Enderson	**2018-2022 (1st term)**

2022 election - election of secretary

Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council Executive Committee
Officer: Treasurer

†S8.01 The officers of this synod shall be a bishop, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer.

S8.40 The Treasurer

†S8.41 The treasurer shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The treasurer shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The treasurer may be either a layperson or a minister of Word and Sacrament.

S8.42 The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:

a. Management of the monies and accounts of this synod, its deeds, mortgages, contracts, evidences of claims and revenues, and trust funds, holding the same at all times subject to the order of this synod.

b. Investment of funds upon the authorization of the Synod Council.

c. Receipt and acknowledgment of offerings, contributions, and bequests made to this synod, collecting interest and income from its invested funds, and paying regular appropriations and orders on the several accounts as approved and directed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall transmit each month to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the funds received by this synod for the general work of this church.

d. Maintenance of a regular account with each congregation of this synod and inform the congregation, at least quarterly, of the status of this account.

e. Rendering at each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly a full, detailed, and duly audited report of receipts and disbursements in the several accounts of this synod for the preceding fiscal year, together with the tabulation, for record and publication in the minutes, of the contributions from the congregations.

f. Giving of corporate surety in the amount determined by the Synod Council, which shall be in the custody of the secretary, and the premium therefore shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.

Job Description:

The Financial Administration for the synod performs these duties on a regular basis with the treasurer working closely with and overseeing the work of the Financial Administration.

The duties of the Treasurer are as follows:

1. As an officer of the synod, the treasurer serves on the Executive Committee of the Synod Council. The Executive Committee meets up to 6 times a year. Meeting dates and times are scheduled at the discretion of Executive Committee members.

2. The treasurer meets with the Synod Council. The Synod Council meets a minimum of 5 times per year, approximately July Orientation, September, November, February, and April. An annual 2-day retreat is included in one of the meeting times.

3. The treasurer will correspond with the Financial Administrator following each council or executive committee meeting as to motions approved for any financial responsibilities (checks sent, funds to be requested, etc) within 2 weeks following the council or executive committee meeting.

4. Oversight of the Financial Administration includes:

a. Review of the monthly financial reports produced by the office accounting system.

b. Review the check register, journal report and bills as determined to be necessary.

c. Attend the audit meeting with the auditors annually.

d. Present the audit report at the synod assembly each spring.

e. Present the proposed budget at the synod assembly.

f. Be an authorized signer on all accounts and investment instruments of the synod.

g. Advise the Financial Administration regarding management of cash flow, investments and accounting questions as needed.

h. Will serve as ex officio member of the Synod Finance Committee.

Qualifications:

1. Be a voting member of an ELCA congregation in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod.

2. Have an interest in and experience with non-profit finances.

3. Have an understanding of the relationship between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Southeastern Minnesota Synod and the local congregations.

Synod Treasurer - 4 year term - Nominated by Synod Council

Jeffrey Chestnut	**2020-2024 (2nd term)**

2022 election - NONE

Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council Job Description
Serve for 2 year term, can be re-elected for one consecutive term

Chapter 10. Synod Council

†S10.01. The Synod Council consisting of the four officers of the synod, 10 to 24 other members, and at least one youth and at least one young adult shall be elected by the Synod Assembly.

- *a. Each person elected to the Synod Council shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, with the exception of ministers on a roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod. The process for election and the term of office when not otherwise provided shall be specified in the bylaws. A member of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, unless otherwise elected as a voting member of the Synod Council, may serve as an advisory member of the Synod Council with voice but not vote.*
- *b. The term of office of members of the Synod Council, with the exception of the officers and the youth member shall be two years.*

S10.01.B99. Should a member die, resign, or be unable to serve, the Synod Nominating Committee shall nominate a replacement to the Synod Council for election until the next Synod Assembly.

S10.01.01. The Synod Council shall meet at least two times annually. Special meetings may be called by any three members of the Synod Council, or by the Bishop of the synod. In the case of the bishop's death, incapacity to serve, or removal, a special meeting may be called by the vice president. A majority of the members of the Synod Council shall constitute a quorum.

†S10.02. The Synod Council shall be the board of directors of this synod and shall serve as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. It may make decisions that are not in conflict with actions taken by the Synod Assembly or that are not precluded by provisions of this constitution or the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

S10.03. The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:

- *a. Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of this synod.*
- *b. Recommend program goals and budgets to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly.*
- *c. Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.*
- *d. Provide for an annual review of the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament and the roster of ministers of Word and Service, receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's actions in this regard.*
- *e. Issue letters of call to rostered ministers as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*
- *f. Fill vacancies until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly except as may otherwise be provided in the constitution or bylaws of this synod, and determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of this synod.*
- *g. Report its actions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.*
- *h. Call or appoint Assistants to the Bishop if and when such positions are created by this synod in assembly.*
- *i. Approve the salaries of synod staff in accordance with the budget adopted by the Synod Assembly.*

j. *Provide for the appointment of representatives of the governing boards of those agencies and institutions whose representatives are not elected by the Synod Assembly.*

k. *Provide for an annual examination of all investments and securities held by the synod for report and/or recommendations of action to the Synod Assembly.*

l. *Perform such other functions as are set forth in the bylaws of this synod, or as may be delegated to it by the Synod Assembly.*

S10.04. *Any proposal to appropriate funds, whether by amendment to the budget or otherwise, which is presented to a meeting of the Synod Assembly without the approval of the Synod Council shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption.*

S10.05. *No elected member of the Synod Council shall receive compensation for such service.*

S10.06. *If a member of the Synod Council ceases to meet the requirements of the position to which she or he was elected the office filled by such member shall at once become vacant.*

S10.07. *The composition of the Synod Council, the number of its members, and the manner of their selection, as well as the organization of the Synod Council, its additional duties and responsibilities, and the number of meetings to be held each year shall be as set forth in the bylaws.*

S10.07.01. *To the extent permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees may be held electronically or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.*

Synod Council - At Large Members 10-24 members Optimal council size 18		
Ms. Karen Myers	Lay	2021-2023 (1st)
Mr. Gary Schindler	Lay	2021-2023 (1st)
Mrs. Ramona Skare	Lay	2021-2023 (1st)
Ms. Carolyn Solberg	Lay	2021-2023 (1st)
Mr. Burton Svendsen	**Lay**	**2020-2022 (2nd - not eligible)**
Dr. Mary Veiseth	Lay	2021-2023 (2nd)
Rev. Colette Broady Grund	Rostered	2021-2023 (1st)
Rev. Jenna Couch	Rostered	2021-2023 (1st)
Rev. Shelley Cunningham	Rostered	2021-2023 (1st)
Rev. Kris Ferkin	**Rostered**	**2020-2022 (2nd - not eligible)**
Rev. David Knox	**Rostered**	**2020-2022 (2nd - not eligible)**
Rev. Benjamin Loven	**Rostered**	**2020-2022 (2nd - not eligible)**
Deacon Amanda Sabelko	Rostered	2021-2023 (1st)
Rev. Dr. Kristen Venne	Rostered	2021-2023 (1st)
Rev. John Weisenburger	Rostered	2021-2023 (1st)

2022 election - up to 7 nominees

Synod Council Youth Member (*confirmed – 17 when elected*) *1 year term on the Synod Council*	
Ms. Anya Liedtke-Quick	**2021-2022 (2nd - not eligible)**
Mr. Jonah Udstuen	**2021-2022 (1st - not eligible due to age)**

2022 election - up to 2 youth members

Synod Council Young Adult Member (18-30 years old) *2 year term on the Synod Council*	
Mr Adam Anderson	**2020-2022 (2nd - not eligible)**
Mr. Marshall Laidlaw	**2021-2023 (1st)**

2022 election - up to 1 Young Adult Member

Committee on Consultation

†S11.02. The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of at least six persons and not more than 12 persons, of whom half shall be ministers of Word and Sacrament and half shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection. The functions of the Consultation Committee are set forth in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and in Chapter 17 of this constitution. The size of the Consultation Committee, in accord with this provision, shall be defined in this synod's bylaws.

The Consultation Committee meets when called upon by the bishop to advise the bishop on matters relating to possible discipline of congregations and/or pastors on the roster of the synod. They meet only on an as-needed basis.

Vacancies restricted to the conference listed below.

Consultation Committee *6 year term on Consultation Committee without consecutive re-election.*	
Rev. Mary Iverson - rostered BER	2021-2027
Angela Johnston (lay BER)	2017-2023
Rev. Jonathan Davis – rostered CR	2021-2027
Mr. Dave Borka – lay CR	2017-2023
Rev. Todd Buegler – rostered MR	2021-2027
Mr. Duane Olson (lay MR)	**2016-2022**
Rev. Sarah Walker Brown rostered RR	2017-2023
Ms. Jacque Wennes – lay RR	2021-2027
Rev. Dr. Carl-Eric Gentes – rostered ZR	2021-2027
Mr. Larry Laber – lay ZR	2021-2027

2022 election -1 lay MR Conference

Committee on Discipline

†S11.03. The Committee on Discipline of this synod shall consist of 12 persons of whom six shall be ministers of Word and Sacrament and six shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection.

a. The functions of the Committee on Discipline of this synod are set forth in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

b. The Synod Council shall fill vacancies on the Committee on Discipline for any unexpired term.

When charges are brought by the bishop of this synod, or by the bishop of this church, or are brought by others and the matter has not been withdrawn or dismissed under the consultation process, the Committee on Discipline may be called upon to serve on a discipline hearing committee to conduct a hearing of the charges brought against ministers of Word and Service, ministers of Word and Sacrament, or congregations.

Vacancies restricted to the conference if listed below.

Committee on Discipline *6 year term on Committee on Discipline without consecutive re-election.*	
Rev. Anjanette Bandel (rostered ZR)	2021-2027
Rev Jeanette Bidne (rostered BER)	2017-2023
Mrs. Jayne Boeding (lay CR)	2021-2027
Mr. James Munyer (lay BER)	2017-2023
Rev. Arthur Sharot (rostered CR)	2017-2023
Mrs. Janet Mosher (lay CR)	2019-2025
Rev. Patricia Reedstrom (rostered MR)	2017-2023
Mr. Robert Ihrig (lay MR)	**2016-2022**
Rev. Daniel Bredberg (rostered RR)	2019-2025
Mrs. Muriel Gunderson (lay RR)	2018-2024
Rev. Charlie Leonard (rostered ZR)	2019-2025
Mr. David Jorstad (lay ZR)	2017-2023

2022 election: 1 lay MR Conference

Augsburg University Corporation Board

Augsburg University maintains connections with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) through the Augsburg Corporation. Comprised of members of the Board of Regents, faculty, administration, and students, the Corporation also includes eight delegates and the bishop from the four synods within Augsburg's designated region: Minneapolis Area Synod, Saint Paul Area Synod, Southeastern Minnesota Synod, and Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. The Corporation meets annually in September to elect members to the College's Board of Regents and to approve, when necessary, changes to the College's articles of incorporation and bylaws. Delegates elected to serve as part of the Augsburg Corporation serve a two-year term, with eligibility for election to one additional term, and are asked to attend one meeting annually (usually a half-day commitment).

Augsburg University Corporation Board *2 year term*

Rev. Mark Boorsma	
Rev. Jason Bryan-Wegner	Moved from Synod
Rev. Krista Henning-Ferkin	Term 2 (2021-2023)
Rev. Elizabeth Hermeier	Term 2 (2021-2023)
Carolyn Isaak	Term 1 (2021-2023)
Rev. Nathan Luong	Moved from Synod
Rev. Katelyn Rakotoarivelo	Moved from Synod
Kari Solak	Term 1 (2021-2023)

2022 election - up to 3 for 2022-2024 term

Committee on Election of Bishop

S9.16. The Synod Nominating Committee shall nominate seven persons for the Committee on the Election of a Bishop who shall be elected by the Synod Assembly.

S11.09.01. There shall be a Committee on the Election of a Bishop composed of seven members, including one representative from each of the five conferences and two members at-large. Length of terms shall be six years, with a maximum of two consecutive terms.

S11.09.02. This committee:
a. shall inform congregations and pastors in the synod of the election and process and provide necessary forms by November 1 of the year preceding the election.
b. shall forward all candidates' names nominated by congregations and biographical data to each conference assembly for consideration. Each conference assembly shall then recommend up to three of these candidates' names for further consideration by the committee.
c. may select up to three candidates to be added to those of the conference assemblies' recommendations to help insure a broader slate.
d. may select up to nine candidates from those names lifted up by conference assemblies and any additional names lifted up by this committee and invite them to participate in a maximum of three candidate forums to be held throughout the synod prior to the Synod Assembly, provided there is more than one candidate.

Committee 2016-2022
Barb Anderson (ZR) - eligible for a 2nd term
Rev. Marie Anderson (At Large) - has completed 2 terms; not eligible
Nicolle Anderson (RR) - eligible for a 2nd term
Rev. Mark Boorsma (BER) - has completed 2 terms; not eligible
Rev. Steve Kidder (MR) - completed 2 terms; not eligible
Rev. Kathy Lowery (CR) - completed 2 terms; not eligible
Craig Nelson (At Large) - has moved out of the synod

2022 election - 7 members to serve on committee 2022-2028 for the 2025 Bishop election
One representative from each of the five conferences and two members at-large

Completed nomination forms must be submitted online at http://semnsynod.org/nominations
Due Date: March 11 2022

Nominations questions can be directed to:
Southeastern Minnesota Synod
1001 14th St NW Suite 300
Rochester MN 55901
507-280-9457
nominations@semnsynod.org

Synod Nominating Committee

S9.03. The Synod Nominating Committee consisting of five members shall be nominated by the Conference Deans and elected by the Synod Council to serve for one three-year term. The Synod's Vice President shall be the chairperson of the Committee.

Rev. Kristi Mitchell — Blue Earth River (2020-2023)
191 Water St
Alden, MN 56009-1108
507-360-1224
pastor@redeemeralden.com

Rev. Elizabeth Hermeier - Root River (2019-2022)
PO Box 188
Spring Grove, MN 55974-0188
507-498-5291
ehermeier@gmail.com

Rev. Kathy Lowery — Cannon River (2020-2023)
PO Box 251
Zumbrota, MN 55992-0251
507-271-5711
klowery@comcast.net

VACANT - Minnesota River (2019-2022)

Rev. Allyson Bowman – Zumbro River (2020-2023)
PO Box 38
Stewartville, MN 55976
507-533-4283
allyson.bowman@zion-stewartville.org

Lisa Dierks - Synod Vice President & Chair
240 3rd Ave
Wanamingo MN 55983
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