

Synod Council Covenant

"Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, . . . I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel."
(Philippians 1, selected verses)

As elected members of the Synod Council, we honor and prayerfully support the work of our synod, our Bishop, our synodical leadership, and our partners in ministry, by:

- Living lives worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ and seeking the way of Jesus in the decisions we make and the work we do together;
- Inviting members of the synod to our open, public meetings;
- Pledging transparency in our deciding, and forthrightness in our speaking;
- Respecting and praying for one another;
- Respecting dissent and encouraging the minority voice among us;
- Creating space among us for all voices to be heard, not speaking twice unless everyone has had opportunity to speak once;
- Fulfilling our responsibilities under the Synod's governing documents (attached);
- Supporting our collective Synod Council decisions-disagreements during Council will remain within Council sessions with final decisions being supported by all members outside of Council sessions;
- Being adequately prepared for meetings, having read supporting documents thoughtfully and prayerfully and remain engaged and focused during meetings by placing our mobile phones on vibrate and used for emergency use only;
- Commit to regular attendance at Synod Council meetings, arriving on time and remaining for the entirety of the meetings. Notification of absences should be made via email to the Secretary, preferably in advance;
- Honoring privacy and confidentiality for conversations and decisions occurring in closed Executive Session;
- Communicating our decisions to our sisters and brothers in the synod; and



- Safeguarding the ways we are with one another so that we are strengthened, reconciled, and encouraged in our work together.

As together we seek justice, reconciliation, and mercy to become an anti-racist and culturally competent synod, better reflecting the neighborhoods in which we live and serve, and more boldly telling of the ways in which Jesus has transformed our lives.

Signed

Date

Printed name

Please note one copy will be signed and returned to the VP and the other copy is for your file



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 from this synod, 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 three years.
- S10.01.A16. *The Synod Council shall consist of the four officers of this synod, nine members elected from the conferences, three members elected at-large, one member who is a person of color, one member whose primary language is other than English, one young adult member, and one youth member. Each nominee to represent a Conference shall be a voting member of a congregation in that Conference. The officers, members-at-large, person of color, person whose primary language is other than English, young adult, and youth positions on the Synod Council will be elected on an at-large basis at the Synod Assembly. Unless otherwise provided by the constitution and bylaws, those to be elected at-large will be chosen from among nominations made by the Nominating Committee and annual conference gatherings, and nominations from the floor of the Synod Assembly.*
- S10.01.B16. *The Synod Assembly shall elect to the Council three ministers on the roster of this Synod, three lay women, and three lay men. These Council members shall be elected for three-year terms. Nominations for these positions will be made by the conferences in the following manner: Each of the nine shall conferences will be represented on the Synod Council. The “classes” of those elected (Lay Woman, Lay Man, and Rostered Minister) would be rotated in a twelve-year cycle.*

2021		
Conferences 1,4,7	Conference 2, 5, 8	Conference 3, 6, 9
Lay Woman	Lay Man	Rostered Minister
2024 & 2027		
Conferences 1,4,7	Conference 2, 5, 8	Conference 3, 6, 9
Lay Man	Rostered Minister	Lay Woman
2030 & 2033		
Conferences 1,4,7	Conference 2, 5, 8	Conference 3, 6, 9
Rostered Minister	Lay Woman	Lay Man

Cycle Repeats beginning in 2036

Each Conference shall select two persons as nominees presented to the Synod Assembly; no additional nominations shall be permitted. The Assembly shall elect one of the two nominees of each Conference to serve on the Synod Council. A member elected as a representative of a Conference who subsequently moves out may continue to hold office until the end of that term, provided they continue to meet all other qualifications for office.

- S10.01.C16. *The Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee shall nominate at least one person as Youth member to be elected by the Synod Assembly for a two-year term. Additional nominations may come from the Nominating Committee, conference gatherings, or floor of the Synod Assembly. Each conference gathering may nominate one person; and nominations shall take into consideration the need to ensure diversity and representational principles in elected leadership. In accordance with †S6.04.02., the term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service.*
- S10.01.D16. *The three members-at-large shall be elected from nominations made by the Nominating Committee, by conference gatherings, or from the floor of the Synod Assembly. Each conference gathering may nominate one person; and nominations shall take into consideration the need to ensure diversity and representational principles in elected leadership. Members-at-large shall be elected for three-year terms, arranged in three classes so that one at-large position is elected each year. The election of the at-large Council member at each Assembly shall take place after the elections for any other Council positions are completed.*
- S10.01.A18. *One young adult member shall be elected by the Synod Assembly for a three-year term from nominations made by the Nominating Committee, by conference gatherings, or from the floor of the Synod Assembly. Each conference gathering may nominate one person; and nominations shall take into consideration the need to ensure diversity and representational principles in elected leadership. In accordance with †S6.04.02., the term “young adult” means a voting member of a congregation of this synod between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service. Should elections to Conference positions occur in the same year as the election of the young adult member, the election of the young adult Council member shall take place after elections to Conference positions.*
- S10.01.A21. *One person of color shall be elected by the Synod Assembly for a three-year term from nominations made by the Nominating Committee, by conference gatherings, or from the floor of the Synod Assembly. Each conference gathering may nominate one person; and nominations shall take into consideration the need to ensure diversity and representational principles in elected leadership. Should elections to Conference positions occur in the same year, the election of this position shall take place after elections to Conference positions.*

- S10.01.B21. *One person whose primary language is other than English shall be elected by the Synod Assembly for a three-year term from nominations made by the Nominating Committee, by conference gatherings, or from the floor of the Synod Assembly. Each conference gathering may nominate one person; and nominations shall take into consideration the need to ensure diversity and representational principles in elected leadership. Should elections to Conference positions occur in the same year, the election of this position shall take place after elections to Conference positions.*
- S10.01.01. In the election of Council members, all relevant provisions of Chapters 9 and 10 of the Synod Constitution shall apply.
- S10.01.02. Unless otherwise provided, Council members may serve no more than two consecutive terms. A partial term of two years or less shall not be considered in applying this restriction.
- S10.01.03. Unless otherwise provided, a vacancy on the Council shall be filled by the Council itself. A person elected by the Council to fill a vacancy shall serve until the completion of the unexpired term, and may be re-elected under the provisions of S10.01.02. Persons so elected shall meet the qualifications for the position they are filling.
- S10.01.04. Council members shall take office upon the adjournment of the Assembly at which they are elected. If elected by the Council to fill a vacancy, a Council member shall take office immediately upon election.
- S10.01.05. The Council shall meet at least four times each year.
- S10.01.06. Unless otherwise specified in the Synod Constitution or Bylaws, the Council shall determine its own organization and may establish any committees necessary to do its work.
- S10.01.07. A majority of the members of the Synod Council shall constitute a quorum.
- S10.01.08. *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Council.
- S10.01.09. Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Synod Council may be taken without a meeting, if all members of the Council shall individually or collectively consent in writing to such action. Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the Council. Such action by written consent shall have the same force and effect as the unanimous vote of the members of the Council. Any certificate or other document which relates to action so taken shall state that the action was taken by unanimous written consent of the Synod Council without a meeting and that the Bylaws of this corporation authorize the members of the Synod Council to so act.
- S10.01.10. The Synod Council shall elect or appoint from its members one person to serve with the bishop (or his/her appointee) on the Region 2 Steering Committee.
- †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 which are not in conflict with actions taken by the Synod Assembly or which 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 ELCA, 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 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. 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.
 - i. Arrange to have an annual audit of synod financial records conducted by a certified public accountant firm and submit the audited annual financial report to the Synod Assembly and to the churchwide Office of the Treasurer.
 - j. Elect members of synod boards, committees, or other organizational units unless otherwise specified in the bylaws.
 - k. Elect members of boards of affiliated institutions and agencies unless otherwise specified in the institution or agency bylaws or the bylaws of this synod.
 - l. Receive, review, and approve amendments to the constitutions of congregations of this synod, in accordance with provisions of those constitutions and the provisions of the ELCA.
 - m. Incur indebtedness, for terms not to exceed five years, when necessary to fund short-term needs of existing programs previously adopted by the Synod Assembly. The terms and amount of each such indebtedness shall be entered on the minutes of the Council and reported to each meeting of the Synod Assembly. The note or obligation given for such indebtedness, signed by the bishop and the secretary, shall be binding on this synod.
- S10.04. Any proposal to appropriate funds 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, except that amendments to the proposed budget which do not change the budget total may be approved by a simple majority of the Synod Assembly.
- S10.05. No elected member of the Synod Council shall receive compensation for such service. Synod Council members shall be entitled to reimbursement for approved expenses incurred in the exercise of their responsibilities as Council members.

- 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.
- S10.07.02. No officer or member of the Synod Council shall, during their term of office, serve as a member of the Board of Directors of any agency affiliated with the Synod under the provisions of Chapter 19 of this constitution, except as otherwise provided by this constitution or by the governing documents of said agency.
- S10.08. *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of the Synod Council.
- S10.08.01. 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.