

# **CALL RESPONSIBILITIES OF SIERRA PACIFIC BISHOP**

*The call of a Bishop is a specific role. The job description is defined in the Synod Constitution (S8.10 thru S8.15) and in the Churchwide Constitution (10.81.01). While the priority of each of these responsibilities can be navigated, the responsibilities themselves are non-negotiable and are required of our next Bishop. There are pastoral leadership responsibilities as well as executive administration responsibilities. As you discern candidates for the next bishop of Sierra Pacific Synod please consider all the responsibilities and recommend Rostered Ministers who can embody these responsibilities confidently with the help of God,*

## **1. Pastoral Leadership Responsibilities for Synod, Congregations and Rostered Ministers.**

- Pastoral care for synod, congregations, and Rostered Ministers; Including but not limited to: Preach, teach and administer the sacraments in accord with the Confession of faith of this church.
- Interpret and advocate the mission and theology of the whole church.
- Foster support of and commitment to the mission of the church
- Use available synod resources to promote the church's life and witness in the areas served by this synod.
- Strengthen the unity of the Church.
- Create, implement, and administer processes for Congregational and Rostered Minister health and discipline
- Oversee Rostered Ministers, including administering the constitutionally established processes for the resolution of controversies and for the discipline of rostered ministers and congregations of this synod
- Be the chief ecumenical officer of this synod
- Cultivate communion in faith and mission with appropriate Christian judicatory leaders functioning within the territory of this synod
- Foster awareness of other churches throughout the Lutheran world communion and, where appropriate, engage in contact with leaders of those churches

## **2. Executive Administrative Responsibilities for synod and Rostered Ministers:**

- Ordain, Attest letters of Call, and Install approved rostered ministers.
- Preside at all meetings of the Synod Assembly and submit a report of the synod's life and work .

- Actively be a member of the Conference of Bishops (COB) and regularly consults with other synod bishops, and ex officio member of the Churchwide Assembly.
  - Bishops meet regularly outside the prescribed twice a year in person meetings in Chicago.
    - (It can also include:)
    - Churchwide Assemblies
    - ELCA Youth Gatherings
    - ELCA Rostered Leader Gatherings
    - Bishop Trips to Washington DC for Advocacy Days
    - Assignment to a COB committee.
    - Academy of Bishops Annual Continuing educational gathering ( January)
    - Global trips sponsored by the COB or Global mission units
    - In addition, a Synodical bishop has Regional Gatherings several times a year for First Call placement, mobility, and collaborative ministry and bishop retreats
  
- Advise and counsel synod's related institutions and organizations.
- Direct the work of other officers, assistants and staff.
- Ensure the constitution and bylaws of synod are followed.
- Appoint and be a member of all committees.
- Prepare and maintain the synod roster of names and addresses of all rostered ministers of the Synod, including those on leave.
- Prepare and maintain a roster of synod congregations and names of the laypersons elected to represent them.
- Appoint a statistician who shall secure congregational reports.
- Serve as President and CEO of the synod, authorized to sign legal documents, also oversee the financial stability of the synod.

**Others Responsibilities Required:**

The Synod office is located in Oakland California.

Sierra Pacific Synod is geographically dispersed.

- The work of the Bishop requires significant travel.
- To facilitate and maximize connection the bishop must use technology, virtual meetings, and social media, etc to effectively bring together a wide geographic region.

The Bishop is the hiring officer responsible to select, hire, and ensure a staff that is competent to fulfill the duties, roles, and responsibilities of the Synod office. This work is done in conjunction with the Synod Council and synod policies.