



South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Initial Consideration of Call as Bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (ELCA)

This form is a first opportunity to formally discern your call as Bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin. As Lutherans, we strongly believe in discerning through the external call and the internal call of the Holy Spirit. Take some time to review the duties and responsibilities of the Bishop on your own and with a colleague outside of your current call. If you both sense that the spirit might be able to use your particular gifts and abilities for the sake of the synod in this role, please sign your names on the bottom of this form. This may be done either before or after being nominated. This form is completed by submission to the conference Dean(s) in which you have been nominated for Bishop. The completion of this form does not mean your name will come before the Bishop Call Committee until or unless you have been nominated by a conference.

Bishop's call as stated in the synod constitution and bylaws

As this synod's pastor, the bishop shall:

- a. Preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church.
- b. Have primary responsibility for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this synod and its congregations, providing pastoral care and leadership for this synod, its congregations, its ministers of Word and Sacrament, and its ministers of Word and Service.
- c. Exercise solely this church's power to ordain (or provide for the ordination of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for the office of ministry of Word and Sacrament (and as provided in the bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).
- d. Ordain (or provide for the ordination of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as ministers of Word and Service.
- e. Attest letters of call for persons called to serve congregations in the synod, letters of call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons on the rosters of this synod called by the Church Council.
- f. Install (or provide for the installation of rostered ministers) whose calls the bishop has attested.
- g. Exercise leadership in the mission of this church and in so doing:
 - 1) Interpret and advocate the mission and theology of the whole church;
 - 2) Lead in fostering support for and commitment to the mission of this church within this synod;
 - 3) Coordinate the use of the resources available to this synod as it seeks to promote the health of this church's life and witness in the areas served by this synod;
 - 4) Submit a report to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly concerning the synod's life and work; and



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5) Advise and counsel this synod's related institutions and organizations.

h. Practice leadership in strengthening the unity of the Church and in so doing:

1) Exercise oversight of the preaching, teaching, and administration of the sacraments within this synod in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church;

2) Be responsible for administering the constitutionally established processes for the resolution of controversies and for the discipline of rostered ministers, and congregations of this synod;

3) Be the chief ecumenical officer of this synod;

4) be a member of the Conference of Bishops and consult regularly with other bishops;

5) Foster awareness of other churches throughout the Lutheran world communion and, where appropriate, engage in contact with leaders of those churches;

6) Cultivate communion in faith and mission with appropriate Christian judicatory leaders functioning within the territory of this synod; and

7) Be ex officio a member of the Churchwide Assembly.

i. Oversee and administer the work of this synod and in so doing:

1) Serve as the president of the synod corporation and be the chief executive and administrative officer of this synod, who is authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to sign deeds or other instruments and to affix the seal of this synod;

2) Preside at all meetings of the Synod Assembly and provide for the preparation of the agenda for the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, and the council's Executive Committee;

3) Ensure that the constitution and bylaws of the synod and of the churchwide organization are duly observed within this synod, and that the actions of the synod in conformity therewith are carried into effect;

4) Exercise supervision over the work of the other officers;

5) Coordinate the work of all synod staff members;

6) Appoint all committees for which provision is not otherwise made;

7) Be a member of all committees and any other organizational units of the synod, except as otherwise provided in this constitution;

8) Provide for preparation and maintenance of synod rosters containing the names and addresses of all rostered ministers of this synod and a record of the calls under which their retired or disability status took effect;

9) Annually bring to the attention of the Synod Council the names of all rostered ministers on leave from call or engaged in approved graduate study in conformity with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church and pursuant to prior action of this synod through the Synod Council;



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10) Provide for prompt reporting to the secretary of this church of:

- a) additions to and subtractions from the rosters of this synod;
- b) the issuance of certificates of transfer for rostered ministers in good standing who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested, regular letter of call under the jurisdiction of another synod;
- c) the entrance of the names of such persons for whom proper certificates of transfer have been received

11) Provide for preparation and maintenance of a roster of the congregations of this synod and the names of the lay persons who have been elected to represent them; and

12) Appoint a statistician of the synod, secure the parochial reports of the congregations and make the reports available to the secretary of this church for collation, analysis, and distribution of the statistical summaries to this synod and the other synods of this church.

Statement of Affirmation

After prayerful consideration, we the undersigned believe that _____ should be considered as a candidate for Bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin.

 Candidate Name

 Discernment Partner Name

 Signature

 Signature

 Date

 Date

Conference Approval

Before a nomination is complete, this form must be signed by the Dean of a conference which has submitted this candidate's name for consideration.

 Signature of Conference Dean

 Date

 Conference