

2025 Nominations Workbook

for

the Church Council and Churchwide Committees

Current as of Dec. 12, 2024

Instructions

The Nominating Committee of the Churchwide Assembly is responsible for nominating people for each position for which an election will be held. In advance of the assembly, the Nominating Committee seeks names for consideration. Nominations in specific categories also can be made by voting members on the floor of the assembly.

This document is designed to aid you in recommending names to the Nominating Committee. For each committee or board for which there will be an election, you will find the following information:

- a list of continuing members of the council or committee,
- a list of departing members who are ineligible for reelection,
- a list of any restrictions placed on nominations, along with needs and preferences,
- a summary of the election process with pertinent constitutional excerpts, and
- the positions for which nominations are sought.

The Nominating Committee welcomes the names of people who would be appropriate for positions on the Church Council, the boards of separately incorporated ministries, and churchwide committees. Please provide the Nominating Committee with the names and contact information of people you deem qualified for the various positions indicated, and please encourage others to submit nominations as well.

The nominations process is governed by principles detailed in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. Please nominate only people who match the requirements of a given category. For information on restrictions and representational principles, please see the next page.

Recommend someone to the Nominating Committee by sending the person's name and contact information to nominations@elca.org, or by calling 773-380-2831.

Each person nominated is required by the ELCA constitution to provide an information form to the Nominating Committee. The form is online at <u>elca.org/nominations</u>. A sample of the online form is included at the end of this booklet. The constitution requires that all information on the form be completed and verified. If you provide the individual's name and contact information, by **Feb. 1, 2025**, the Office of the Secretary will follow up and obtain the background information. Rostered ministers of this church will be asked to provide their leader key when completing the form (rostered ministers can get help finding their leader key by contacting the Office of the Secretary at <u>sec@elca.org</u>). Other ELCA members will be asked for the name of the congregation in which they hold membership.

Thank you for your prayerful attention to this important part of our work together in this church.

Notes about Restrictions on Nominations

Re-election: Individuals listed as "departing members" are *not eligible* for re-election to the body of which they are departing members and will not be nominated for that body. Persons leaving a position on one committee or council *are eligible* for election to a *different* committee or council.

Geographic restrictions: The Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America places the following restrictions upon geographic representation:

- (1) <u>Synod representation</u>: The Church Council shall endeavor to ensure that every synod has at least one person serving on the Church Council or churchwide boards, committees, task forces, or other groups. Among those persons elected by the assembly, excluding the officers, no more than two persons from any one synod shall serve on the Church Council or any one board, committee, task force, or other group (19.11.05.).
- (2) <u>Nominating Committee</u>: The committee shall consist of at least one member but no more than three members from any region (19.11.01.).

As you consider possible nominees, please look carefully at the synod designations for continuing members and related restrictions to be certain that the nominee is eligible according to geographic rules. A list of regions and synods appears below.

Inclusive representation: Nominations made by the churchwide Nominating Committee will reflect this church's commitment to inclusive representation as explained in chapter 5 of the ELCA constitution. Positions are identified according to mandatory categories: Rostered Minister, Lay Woman, Lay Man, Lay Person, PC/L (person of color or whose primary language is other than English) and Y/YA (youth and young adult). Nominees born on or after July 28, 2007, are eligible to be elected as youth, and nominees born on or after July 28, 1995, are eligible to be elected as young adults by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly (5.01.F19.).

ELCA Synods and Regions

REGION 1

- 1A Alaska Synod
- 1B Northwest Washington Synod
- 1C Southwestern Washington Synod
- 1D Northwest Intermountain Synod
- 1E Oregon Synod
- 1F Montana Synod

REGION 2

- 2A Sierra Pacific Synod
- 2B Southwest California Synod
- 2C Pacifica Synod
- 2D Grand Canyon Synod
- 2E Rocky Mountain Synod

REGION 3

- 3A Western North Dakota Synod
- 3B Eastern North Dakota Synod
- 3C South Dakota Synod
- 3D Northwestern Minnesota Synod
- 3E Northeastern Minnesota Synod
- 3F Southwestern Minnesota Synod
- 3G Minneapolis Area Synod
- 3H Saint Paul Area Synod
- 3I Southeastern Minnesota Synod

REGION 4

- 4A Nebraska Synod
- 4B Central States Synod
- 4C Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod
- 4D Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod
- 4E Southwestern Texas Synod
- 4F Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod

REGION 5

- 5A Metropolitan Chicago Synod
- 5B Northern Illinois Synod
- 5C Central/Southern Illinois Synod
- 5D Southeastern Iowa Synod
- 5E Western Iowa Synod
- 5F Northeastern Iowa Synod
- 5G Northern Great Lakes Synod
- 5H Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
- 5I East-Central Synod of Wisconsin
- 5J Greater Milwaukee Synod
- 5K South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
- 5L La Crosse Area Synod

REGION 6

- 6A Southeast Michigan Synod
- 6B North/West Lower Michigan Synod
- 6C Indiana-Kentucky Synod
- 6D Northwestern Ohio Synod
- 6E Northeastern Ohio Synod
- 6F Southern Ohio Synod

REGION 7

- 7A New Jersey Synod
- 7B New England Synod
- 7C Metropolitan New York Synod
- 7D Upstate New York Synod
- 7E Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod
- 7F Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
- 7G Slovak Zion Synod

REGION 8

- 8A Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod
- 8B Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod
- 8C Allegheny Synod
- 8D Lower Susquehanna Synod
- 8E Upper Susquehanna Synod
- 8F Delaware-Maryland Synod
- 8G Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod
- 8H West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod

REGION 9

- 9A Virginia Synod
- 9B North Carolina Synod
- 9C South Carolina Synod
- 9D Southeastern Synod
- 9E Florida-Bahamas Synod
- 9F Caribbean Synod

Church Council

Synod nominations

Alaska Synod (1A)

Northwest Intermountain Synod (1D)

Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)

Pacifica Synod (2C)

Northwestern Minnesota Synod (3D)

Nebraska Synod (4A)

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C)

Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod (4F)

Central/Southern Illinois Synod (5C)

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5K)

Southeast Michigan Synod (6A)

Southern Ohio Synod (6F)

Metropolitan New York Synod (7C)

Lower Susquehanna Synod (8D)

West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod (8H)

Virginia Synod (9A)

Continuing Members

The vice president and treasurer of this church and the chair of the Conference of Bishops

Rostered Minister

The Rev. Ann Elizabeth (Lisa) Ahlness, Western North Dakota

The Rev. Heather E. Brown, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Deacon Kari Alice Olsen, Saint Paul Area (3H)

Rostered Minister (PC/L)

The Rev. Leroy Cannon, South Carolina (9C)

The Rev. Gwendolyn S. King, Southeastern Pennsylvania (7F)

Lay Woman

Ms. Jamie L. Bruesehoff, New Jersey (7A)

Ms. Kristy K. Henriksen, Southwestern Minnesota (3F)

Ms. Jennifer E. Trom, Oregon (1E)

Lay Woman (PC/L)

Ms. Sheena R. Foster, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. (8G)

Ms. Linda C. Rivera, Florida-Bahamas (9E)

Lay Woman (YA)

Olivia L. Martin-Call, Northwestern Pennsylvania (8A)

Mr. Hans W. Giller, Northwestern Ohio (6D)

Mr. Mitchell S. McCartney, Western Iowa (5E)

Mr. Joel A. Miller, La Crosse Area (5L)

*Elected as at-large member

Lay Man (PC/L)

Mr. Iván A. Perez, Metropolitan Chicago (5A)

Lay Man (PC/L; YA)

Mr. Rindra Josoa, Rocky Mountain (2E)

Departing Members

Rostered Minister

The Rev. Benjamin B. Bergren, Grand Canyon (2D)

The Rev. Marcus A. Bigott, Southwestern Texas (4E)

The Rev. Nicholas M. Billardello III, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana (4D)

The Rev. William H. Callister, Northern Illinois (5B)

The Rev. Joanne E. Engquist, Northwest Washington (1B)

Rostered Minister (PC/L)

The Rev. Pamela J. Hoh, Upstate New York (7D)

Rostered Minister (YA)

The Rev. Emily C. Hartner, North Carolina (9B)

The Rev. Tara R. Lynn, Southwestern Pennsylvania (8B)

The Rev. Kjersten L. Sullivan, North/West Lower Michigan (6B)

Lay Woman

Ms. Susan Boxberger, Central States (4B)

Ms. Kerry Fehrman, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5I)

Ms. Cherrish Holland, Southwestern Minnesota* (3F)

Lav Woman (PC/L)

Ms. Tracey A. Beasley, Southeastern Pennsylvania* (7F)

Ms. Valerie J. Shaw, Southwest California (2B)

Ms. Loni Taylor, Montana (1F)

Lay Woman (PC/L; YA)

Ms. Divine, Nebraska* (4A)

Lay Man

Mr. Kevin D. Anderson, Metropolitan Washington, D.C.* (8G)

Mr. David M. Lenz, Northeastern Ohio (6E)

Mr. Loren A. Solberg, Northeastern Minnesota (3E)

Lay Man (YA)

Mr. Noah F. Roux, Upper Susquehanna (8E)

Lay Man (PC/L; YA)

Mr. Keoni R. Newman, Southwestern Washington* (1C)

Restrictions: Departing members are not eligible for nomination.

Needs: Two youth (3-year term), preferably from synods other than those currently represented or presenting nominations in 2025.

The voting members of the Church Council shall consist of the four churchwide officers, the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and at least 32 and not more than 45 other persons elected by the Churchwide Assembly.

Church Council members are elected to six-year terms, except for two youth members who are elected to three-year terms.

Church Council (continued)

The 2025 Churchwide Assembly will elect Church Council members from the nominees from 16 designated synods.

The Nominating Committee is responsible for nominating two youth women and two youth men[#] for possible election to a three-year term on the council. *Nominees born on or after July 28, 2007, are eligible to be elected as youth by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.* In addition, the Church Council is requesting that the Churchwide Assembly elect two at-large council members, a lay person with financial expertise and a lay person who is an attorney. The Nominating Committee is responsible for nominating two lay persons within each category.

- 14.31. The voting members of the Church Council shall consist of the four churchwide officers, the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and at least 32 and not more than 45 other persons elected by the Churchwide Assembly.
- 14.32. With the exception of youth members, Church Council members shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly to one six-year term and shall not be eligible for consecutive re-election. Youth members of the Church Council shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly to one three-year term.
- 19.02. The members of the Church Council, except the chair of the Conference of Bishops and the treasurer of this church, shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly.
 - a. In preparation for the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council shall determine how this church's commitment to inclusive representation will affect the next election to the Church Council. For 32 of the council members, the Nominating Committee shall invite each eligiblesynod to submit suggested nominees and shall then nominate persons who fulfill the categories assigned by the Church Council. With respect to the other nominees, the Church Council shall review its size and composition and take into consideration the experience and expertise of existing members and synod nominees as well as the needs of the council in seeking to fulfill its duties and responsibilities. Based upon this analysis, the ChurchCouncil shall instruct the Nominating Committee to provide nominations in specific categories for the remaining positions up to 13.
 - b. Excluding the churchwide officers and the chair of the Conference of Bishops, there shall not be more than two members of the Church Council from a synod. The Church Council shall have at least two members from each region.
 - c. No synod bishop, with the exception of the chair of the Conference of Bishops, shall serve as a voting member of the Church Council.
 - d. The terms of office of persons elected to regular terms on the Church Council by the Churchwide Assembly shall begin at the conclusion of the Churchwide Assembly at which such persons were elected.
- 19.03. Elections shall be for one six-year term, without consecutive re-election, with approximately one-half of the members of the Church Council and of each board or committee elected each triennium, unless otherwise specified in this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

Persons who do not identify as men or women may also be nominated for each position.

Lay Woman (Youth) Three-year Term A. B. Lay Man (Youth) Three-year Term A. B. Lay Person (Financial Expertise) A. B. Lay Person (Attorney) A. Lay Person (Attorney)

Churchwide Committee on Appeals

Continuing Members

Minister of Word and Sacrament

The Rev. Robert A. Abrams, Southern Ohio (6F)

Minister of Word and Service (PC/L)

Deacon Darcy J. Mittelstaedt, Southwestern Texas (4E)

Lay Man (PC/L)

Mr. Moses R. Kavishe, Lower Susquehanna (8D)

Departing Members

Minister of Word and Sacrament

The Rev. Linda M. Pedersen, Southwestern Minnesota (3F)

The Rev. Andrew A. Taylor, Pacifica (2C)

The Rev. Christine A. Timm, North/West Lower Michigan (6B)

The Rev. Paul A. Wollner, North Carolina (9B)

Lay Woman

Ms. Lana L. Obie, Northwest Washington (1B) §Deacon Erin A. Power, Eastern North Dakota (3B)

Lay Woman (PC/L)

Ms. Phyllis Chang, Southeastern Iowa (5D)

Lay Man (PC/L; YA)

Mr. Emanuel Alves, Southeastern Pennsylvania (7F)

Lay Man

Mr. George Rahdert, Florida-Bahamas (9E)

Restrictions: Departing members are not eligible for nomination.

Needs: Four rostered ministers. At least one and not more than two lay men. At least two and not more than three lay women. At least one young adult.

Preferences: Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9. A second young adult. Equal numbers of rostered men and rostered women. Persons who identify as LGBTQIA+.

§Pursuant to 5.01.G19, deacons previously elected as lay persons will fulfill their terms as lay persons. Beginning with churchwide elections in 2022, a lay person is a person who is not on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Ministers of Word and Service of this church.

Summary

When a discipline hearing committee issues a decision, both the accused and the synod have the right to appeal the decision. The Committee on Appeals hears these appeals and issues a final decision. The Committee on Appeals also is responsible for amending *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* and the *Rules Governing Disciplinary Proceedings*. Committee members are elected to a six-year term and may not be reelected.

Possible skillsets for nominees: Legal, editorial

Six rostered ministers and six laypersons make up the Committee on Appeals.

The 2022 Churchwide Assembly elected three members of the committee, and the Church Council filled a subsequent vacancy. The 2025 Churchwide Assembly will elect nine members of the committee.

20.20. There shall be a Committee on Appeals to which may be referred appeals from disciplinary proceedings and petitions for the recall of an officer as described in this chapter, as well as petitions for recall of synod officers as described in chapter 8 of the *Constitution for Synods*. The Committee on Appeals shall be composed of six rostered ministers, at least one of whom shall be a minister of Word and Service, and six laypersons, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years, without consecutive re-election. The Committee on Appeals shall elect its own officers.

Churchwide Committee on Appeals (continued)

Positions [9] **Rostered Minister Rostered Minister Rostered Minister Rostered Minister** Lay Woman Lay Woman Lav Man Lav Person Lay Person (Young Adult)

Churchwide Committee on Discipline

Continuing Members [2022-2028]

Minister of Word and Sacrament

The Rev. Stephen R. Herr, Lower Susquehanna (8D)

The Rev. Richard D. Sheridan, Metropolitan New York (7C)

The Rev. Breonna E. Tavenner Roberts, Delaware-Maryland (8F)

Minister of Word and Sacrament (PC/L)

The Rev. Angela T. Khabeb, Minneapolis Area (3G) The Rev. Herb Wounded Head, South Dakota (3C)

Minister of Word and Service

Deacon Bonnie J. Beadles-Bohling, Oregon (1E) Deacon Diane C. Schwiger-Alexander, Southern Ohio (6F)

Lay Woman (PC/L; Y/YA)

Ms. Mira P. DeGroat, Northwestern Minnesota (3D)

Lay Woman (Y/YA)

Ms. Moriah Reichert, Indiana-Kentucky (6C)

Lav Man

Mr. Jeffrey Akerson, Nebraska (4A)

Mr. Mark D. Steiner, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. (8G)

Lay Man (Y/YA)

Mr. Wyatt S. Meyer, Greater Milwaukee (5J)

Lay Man (PC/L; Y/YA)

Mr. Louis Y. Moehlman, Eastern North Dakota (3B)

Departing Members [2019-2025]

Minister of Word and Sacrament

The Rev. Mia J. Baumgartner, Northwest Washington (1B)

The Rev. Tor K. Berg, Northwest Washington (1B)

The Rev. Emily F. Hamilton, New England (7B)

The Rev. Kristina N. Heise, Northeastern Ohio (6E)

The Rev. Dana K. Nelson, Saint Paul Area (3H)

The Rev. Nathan D. Pipho, New England (7B)

The Rev. Angela L. Shannon, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. (8G)

Minister of Word and Sacrament (PC/L)

The Rev. James R. Thomas, South Carolina (9C)

Lay Woman (PC/L; Y/YA)

Ms. Sarah Downs, Virginia (9A)

Lay Woman (PC/L)

Ms. Tanisha Pitre, Southwest California (2B)

Lay Woman

§Deacon Shelley M. Allen, South Carolina (9C)

Ms. Gwen Arneson, Southwestern Minnesota (3F)

Ms. Rachel Davis, Rocky Mountain (2E)

Lay Man

Mr. Kevin J. Boatright, Central States (4B)

Mr. David L. Lewis, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. (8G)

Lay Man (Y/YA)

Mr. Andrew Springhorn, Saint Paul Area (YA) (3H)

Lay Man (PC/L)

Mr. Peter McKinney, North/West Lower Michigan (6B)

Restrictions: Departing members are not eligible for nomination.

Needs: At least three and not more than four lay men. At least five and not more than six lay women. Eight rostered ministers.

Preferences: Regions 2, 9. No nominations from regions 3, 8. Roughly equal numbers of rostered men and rostered women. Persons who identify as LGBTQIA+.

Summary

When needed, six members of the Committee on Discipline are appointed to a discipline hearing committee, along with six members of the relevant synod's Committee on Discipline. The committee shall hear the charges and evidence related to the accused rostered minister or congregation. The discipline hearing committee decides the guilt or innocence of the accused and determines appropriate disciplinary action. Members of the Committee on Discipline are elected to one sixyear term or until their successors are elected and may not be reelected. There have been 23 disciplinary hearings in the 37 years of this church.

Possible skillsets for nominees: Legal, social work

§Pursuant to 5.01.G19, deacons previously elected as lay persons will fulfill their terms as lay persons. Beginning with churchwide elections in 2022, a lay person is a person who is not on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Ministers of Word and Service of this church.

- **20.21.01.** The churchwide Committee on Discipline shall consist of 24–36 members, half of whom shall be rostered ministers (including at least two ministers of Word and Service) and half of whom shall be laypersons, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years. Each member will serve until a successor is elected, without consecutive reelection, and will serve as needed on a discipline hearing committee in any of the synods in this church.
- **20.22.08.** A discipline hearing committee shall be convened to conduct a hearing. The voting members of this committee shall be composed of 12 persons of whom six shall be selected by the Synod Council's Executive Committee from the Committee on Discipline of the synod and six shall be selected from the churchwide Committee on Discipline

Churchwide Committee on Discipline

Positions [17]
Rostered Minister A
B
Rostered Minister A. B.
Rostered Minister A
B
Rostered Minister A B
Rostered Minister A B
Rostered Minister A. B.
Rostered Minister A
B
Lay Man A.
B
Lay Man A.
B
Lay Man A.
D .

Lay Woman		
A		
В		
Lay Woman		
A		
В.		
Lay Woman		
A		
В.		
Lay Woman		
A		
В.		
Lay Woman		
A		
В.		
Lay Person		
A		
В.		
D		

Churchwide Nominating Committee

Continuing Members [2022–2028]

Minister of Word and Sacrament (PC/L)

The Rev. Jonathan Hemphill, Southeastern (9D)

The Rev. Kwame Pitts, Upstate New York (7D)

Minister of Word and Service (Y/YA)

Deacon Amanda Randall, South Dakota (3C)

Lay Man (PC/L)

Mr. Christopher A. Vergara, Metropolitan New York (7C)

Lay Man (Y/YA)

Mr. Matthew Lang, Southeastern Iowa (5D)

Mr. Ethan A. Roberts, Southern Ohio (6F)

Departing Members [2019–2025]

Minister of Word and Sacrament

The Rev. Andrew Tucker, Southern Ohio (6F)

Minister of Word and Sacrament (PC/L)

The Rev. Sarah C. Anderson, Southeastern Pennsylvania (7F) The Rev. Lawrence J. Clark, Metropolitan Chicago (5A) The Rev. Hierald E. Osorto, Minneapolis Area (3G)

Lay Woman

Ms. Gwendolynn Edwards, Nebraska (4A)

Ms. Desta R. Goehner, Southwest California (2B)

Ms. Jessica M. Potts, Southwestern Washington (1C)

Lay Woman (Y/YA)

Ms. C. Caroline Parrott, North Carolina (9B)

Lay Man (PC/L; Y/YA)

Mr. N. Uzoma Ariguzo, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. (8G)

Restrictions: Departing members are not eligible for nomination.

Needs: Three rostered ministers. At least one and not more than two lay men. At least four and not more than five lay women. Regions 1, 2, 4, 8.

Preferences: None.

Summary

The Nominating Committee is responsible for providing two nominees for each open position that will be elected by the Churchwide Assembly, except the positions for board of trustees of aseparately incorporated ministry. Members of the Nominating Committee serve one six-year term or until their successor is elected. The committee usually has one in-person meeting in thespring prior to a Churchwide Assembly and electronic meetings as necessary.

Possible skillsets for nominees: Individuals who have wide networks and connections across the ELCA. The "people who know people."

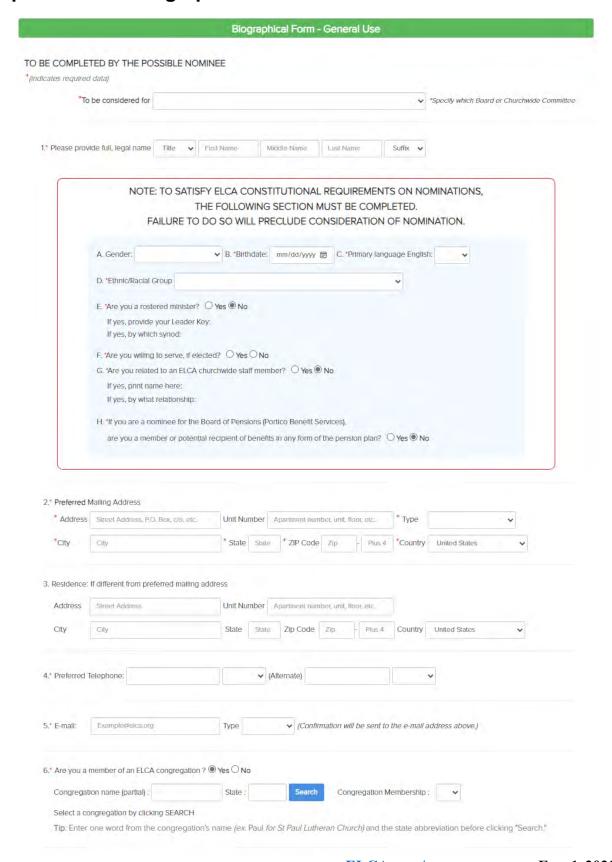
- **12.51.03. Nominating Committee.** A Nominating Committee, elected by the Churchwide Assembly, shall nominate at least one person for each position for which an election will be held by the Churchwide Assembly in accordance with Chapter 19 of this constitution.
- **19.11.01.** The Nominating Committee shall consist of 12–18 members elected by the Churchwide Assembly. Each member shall be elected to one six-year term and shall serve until a successor is elected. Members of the Nominating Committee shall not be eligible for consecutive re-election. The Church Council shall place in nomination the names of two persons for each position. The committee shall consist of at least one member but no more than three members from any region. Nominations from the floor shall also be permitted, but each floor nomination shall be presented in the specific category named by the Church Council and shall therefore meet the same criteria as the persons against whom the nominee is nominated. In the materials provided in advance to each member of the assembly, the Church Council shall set forth the criteria applicable to each category that must be met by persons nominated from the floor.

Churchwide Nominating Committee (continued)

Positions [9] **Rostered Minister Rostered Minister Rostered Minister** Lav Woman Lay Woman Lay Woman Lay Woman Lay Man

Lay Person

Sample of Online Biographical Form



*TO BE COMPLETED ONLINE BY THE POSSIBLE NOMINEE AT **ELCA.ORG/NOMINATIONS** BY FEB. 1, 2025.

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	а.						from	уууу	to	уууу		
	b.						from	уууу	to	уууу		
	C.						from	уууу	to	уууу		
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*TO BE COMPLETED ONLINE BY THE POSSIBLE NOMINEE AT <u>ELCA.org/nominations</u> by Feb. 1, 2025.

TO SUGGEST A POSSIBLE NOMINEE, SEND THAT PERSON'S FULL NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION TO NOMINATIONS@ELCA.org.