



Florida-Bahamas Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.
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January 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

At the 2023 Synod Assembly in Orlando, voting members will elect a bishop. Voting members will also elect people to serve on the Synod Council and the Consultation Committee. Additional information will be provided by the Synod Council relating to the election of the bishop as we move closer to the period leading up to the assembly.

BISHOP ELECTION: Voting members will elect, by ecclesiastical ballot, a bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod. The synod constitution states that “the bishop shall be a pastor who is an ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.” The bishop is elected for a six-year term.

Ecclesiastical Ballot for Bishop –The first ballot is referred to as the nominating ballot. The second ballot will contain the names of all candidates who do not withdraw their names from consideration. The first two ballots for bishop will be cast using paper ballots. Beginning with the third ballot for bishop, voting will be done electronically.

GENERAL ELECTION: In preparation for the general elections, we ask your help in identifying nominees to fill these important positions.

1. ***Synod Council Representatives*** (in good standing for a three-year term)

North Mission District - Layperson Female

(Includes 1st Coast, Heart of Florida, Pinelands, Panhandle & Flagler-Volusia Conferences)

Southeast Mission District - Rostered Minister, male or female

(Includes Miami-Dade, Broward-Bahamas, Tradewinds & Space Coast Conferences)

Southwest Mission District - Person of Color or Primary Language other than English (PCLE) male or female, Layperson, or Rostered Minister

(Includes Lake, Mid Gulf, Tampa, Sun Coast, Gulf Coast & Caloosa Conferences)

Southwest Mission District - Layperson Male

(Includes Lake, Mid Gulf, Tampa, Sun Coast, Gulf Coast & Caloosa Conferences)

Youth - Layperson male or female, any mission district - 1 year term

(Nominees for the youth position shall be 15-17 years of age at time of election)

Note: After all the open positions on Synod Council are elected, the need for At-large members, if any, will be identified and announced.

2. Consultation Committee (in good standing 6-year term)

Lay Female

Lay Male

Rostered Minister Female

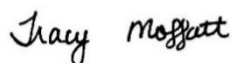
Rostered Minister Male

Deadline for nominations is May 1, 2023. The nominations form is available at <http://www.fbsynod.com>. This form is position specific.

We strongly encourage nominations to be submitted prior to the Synod Assembly so they may be included in the Nomination Packet for Voting Members. This will also facilitate a smoother and more efficient voting process for the open positions. Nominations from the floor will be accepted for all positions using a "Floor Nomination Form" which will require the written or emailed consent of the person being nominated and must be submitted as a paper copy only at the Assembly.

Your prayerful consideration of these opportunities for service is encouraged. Please be sure to promptly fill out and submit your completed Nomination Data Form so that it may be considered by the Nominating Committee. Voting on the general ballot will be done electronically.

Yours in Christ,



Tracy Moffatt, Chair

Synod Bishop

†S8.12. 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 by another synod bishop 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 of this church.
- 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
 - 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 synod 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) direct and guide the work of the other officers;
 - 5) exercise supervision over 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 they are serving or the date on 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;
- 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; and
 - 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 laypersons who have been elected to represent them; and
- 12) appoint a statistician of the synod, who shall secure the 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.

Synod Council Representatives

The Synod Council sees to it that the mission and vision of the Synod are lifted up and carried forward.

Mission: Share Christ, Make Disciples, Do Justice in the World.

Vision: To be deeply rooted in Christ, firmly grounded in Word and Sacrament, and joyfully sent for the sake of the world.

A Synod Council member shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The term of office shall be three years. The Synod Council is the board of directors of the synod and serves as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly.

The functions of synod council are:

- Trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of the synod
- Recommend program goals and budgets to meetings of the Synod Assembly
- Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly
- Provide for an annual review of the rosters, receive and act upon recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration.
- Issue letters of call to rostered persons
- Fill vacancies in elected positions until the next regular meeting of Synod Assembly
- Report its actions to regular meetings of Synod Assembly.

The Synod Council meets four times a year at various sites around the territory of the Synod.

Consultation Committee

The committee consists of 12 members, 50% rostered ministers and 50% lay persons. They are elected by Synod Assembly for a term of six years. Members of this committee may be called upon by the bishop when there are indications that a cause for discipline may exist of a clergy or layperson and before charges are made. The bishop may wish to resolve the situation by consultation and would call upon the consultation committee for assistance. The Consultation Committee will advise the bishop as to whether the bishop should bring charges or other recommendations for the resolution of the controversy that would not involve proceedings before a discipline hearing committee. If requested by the bishop, members of the committee also may assist, as representatives of the accuser, in the presentation of evidence and examination of witnesses before a discipline hearing committee. A member of the Consultation Committee may not be a member of the Discipline Committee.