



GOD'S GRACE TRANSFORMS AND CONNECTS US  
• TO LEARN • TO LOVE • TO LEAD •

# SYNOD ELECTED POSITIONS

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES



GOD'S GRACE TRANSFORMS AND CONNECTS US  
• TO LEARN • TO LOVE • TO LEAD •

The Southwestern Texas Synod (SWTS) is one of the 65 Synods of the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#). The Synod covers a wide area spanning from almost to the western edge of Texas, to just north of Austin, east to about half way to Houston, and south to Corpus Christi and to the tip of Texas. There are currently 115 congregations in 8 conferences with over 250 rostered leaders, both active and retired.

Our purpose statement is: *God's grace transforms and connects us to learn, to love, to lead.*

The Synod Council is made up of individuals primarily elected by the Synod Assembly (excluding the Treasurer, which is an appointed position).

The chairs of the two ministry teams and the Committee of Deans, plus a WELCA and LMM representative, serve on the Synod Council with voice but no vote. The Synod Council gathers to meet 3 times a year and occasionally by electronic means to carry out the mission of the Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly. The Synod Council has developed a behavioral covenant for their work together, which is outlined in Appendix A.

The descriptions for Synod Council Member, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, the two Ministry Team chairs and the Consultation and Discipline Committee members are summarized from chapters 8, 10, and 11 from the “Constitution, By-laws, and Continuing Resolutions” of the Southwestern Texas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Every three years we elect voting members to the Churchwide Assembly; a description of those responsibilities are also listed.



GOD'S GRACE TRANSFORMS AND CONNECTS US  
• TO LEARN • TO LOVE • TO LEAD •

## CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

The members of the Consultation Committee of the synod serve as advisors to the Bishop when charges have been brought against one of the ELCA rostered leaders. At the Bishop's request, members of the committee may assist in investigating the charges, interviewing persons related to the situation, and giving their advice to the Bishop relating to their discoveries.

The Consultation Committee may also be asked by the Vice President to serve on a panel in helping resolve conflict in congregational settings.

### **From the Synod Constitution:**

S11.02.01. CONSULTATION COMMITTEE: There shall be a Consultation Committee consisting of 8 persons, of whom half shall ministers of Word and Sacrament and half shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of 6 years without consecutive re-election. The functions, duties and procedures of this committee shall be as set out in [Chapter 20 of the Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#).

### **Skills/Abilities/Gifts:**

The following skills, abilities, and/or gifts are required for a person to effectively serve on the Synod Consultation Committee:

- Ability and willingness to pray regularly for the ministry and congregations of the synod
- Openness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- Comfort in the gathering, discussing and discerning of potentially sensitive personal material
- Ability to maintain appropriate confidentiality when considering potentially sensitive personal material
- Voting member of a congregation of the synod



GOD'S GRACE TRANSFORMS AND CONNECTS US  
• TO LEARN • TO LOVE • TO LEAD •

## COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE

Members of the Committee on Discipline may be called to serve on a Discipline Hearing Panel when a formal charge has been brought against a rostered leader or a congregation of the ELCA. The Hearing Panel consists of 12 persons (six from the synod committee and six from the churchwide committee). They serve as the body who hears the evidence against the rostered leader or congregation and the defense provided by the accused. The Hearing Panel is called upon to make a judgment as to the validity of the charges and to recommend actions appropriate to the outcome of their decision.

### From the Synod Constitution:

- †S11.03. The Committee on Discipline of this synod shall consist of 12 persons of whom six shall be ministers of Word and Sacrament and six shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive re-election.
- a. The functions of the Committee on Discipline of this synod are set forth in [Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.](#)
  - b. The Synod Council shall fill vacancies on the Committee on Discipline for any unexpired term.

### Skills/Abilities/Gifts:

The following skills, abilities, and/or gifts are required for a person to effectively serve on the Synod Committee on Discipline:

- Ability and willingness to pray regularly for the ministry and congregations of the synod
- Openness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- Comfort in the gathering, discussing and discerning of potentially sensitive personal material
- Ability to maintain appropriate confidentiality when considering potentially sensitive personal material
- Voting member of a congregation of the synod



GOD'S GRACE TRANSFORMS AND CONNECTS US  
• TO LEARN • TO LOVE • TO LEAD •