

Councils, Committees, and Boards of the Alaska Synod

Prepared for the Synod Nominating Committee

General Goals: The Synod constitution (S6.04) requires all assemblies, councils, committees and boards of the Synod to have:

- At least 60% lay people (vs clergy)
- At least 45% women and 45% men
- Clergy (Pastors-Rostered leaders in Word & Sacrament and Deacons-Rostered leaders in Word & Service) be represented by both women and men as much as possible.
- At least 10% persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.

While not stated in the Constitution, as such, AK Native recruitment/participation is especially important for this Synod.

Synod Council Description:

The Synod Council serves as the board of directors of this synod and shall serve as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. It may make decisions that are not in conflict with actions taken by the Synod Assembly or which are not precluded by provisions of this constitution or the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. S.10 and S.8 for officers.

Meetings/Expectations:

Attendance at the Synod Assembly and at 3 Council meetings per year (at least one of which is on-line) in March, April (immediately following the Synod Assembly), and October. In-person meetings held in Anchorage (Friday evening till Sat. afternoon). Online meetings are typically held on a Saturday (morning-afternoon). At the March and October meetings, each member is expected to share an update on the cluster/demographic they represent. The Synod arranges and pays for travel.

Members: 19 + Bishop

- Officers (Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary)
- 1 pastor and 1 layperson serve from each cluster (Southcentral Cluster has 1 extra due to largest population and number of congregations)
- 2 at-large members, 1 multicultural, 1 youth, 1 ASWO president

Term: Four-year term, may serve 3 consecutive terms.

Except:

- ASWO president who is elected biennially by ASWO (Alaska Synod Women's' Organization)
- Youth representative whose term is two years but can serve up to 12 years

Consultation Committee Description:

The synod bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall receive expressions of concern from rostered ministers of this church, congregations, and organizations within this synod; provide a forum in which the parties concerned can seek to work out matters causing distress or conflict; and make appropriate recommendations for their resolution. The Synod Consultation Committee can be called upon to provide this forum. S.17 and C.20

Consultation Committee Meetings/Expectations:

When called upon, the Consultation Committee listens to the individuals involved. The team then writes up a synopsis of what they've heard and presents that to the bishop. The bishop shares that synopsis with a recommended action to the congregation's council and pastor. Consultation Committee members need to be able to sit with/listen to conflicted people and report on the situation objectively. Synod arranges and pays for travel.

Members: 12 - 6 lay people, 6 clergy

Term: Six-year term, no consecutive re-election (Elect 1 clergy per year, 1 layperson per year)

Discipline Committee Description:

There shall be set forth in the bylaws a process of discipline governing officers, ministers of Word and Sacrament, ministers of Word and Service, congregations, and members of congregations. Except as provided in C20.18. or C20.19., such process shall assure due process and due protection for the accused, other parties, and this church. Since synods have responsibility for admittance of persons into the rostered ministries of this church and have oversight of pastoral and congregational relationships, the disciplinary process shall be a responsibility of the synod on behalf of this church. S.17 and C.20

Meetings/Expectations:

This committee meets under the direction of the bishop. When called upon, members shall hold a hearing and render a final decision. Discipline Committee members will need to be able to be in a difficult situation and deal with sensitive information. Synod arranges and pays for travel.

Members: 12 - 6 Lay people, 6 clergy (an exception to the 60% lay requirement)

Term: Six-year term, no consecutive re-election (Elect 1 clergy per year, 1 lay person per year)

AK Child & Family Board Description:

AK Child & Family brings hope to troubled young lives through a broad range of mental health services. Our residential psychiatric treatment, community-based programs and treatment foster homes offer the structure, care and expertise to help young people build strong, positive, healthy lives. History: this program has roots in several denominational programs (including a Lutheran orphanage) and maintains its connection to the Lutheran Church through these Board seats.

AK Child and Family Board Meetings/Expectations:

Meetings are held monthly in Anchorage. No travel funds are available so members are usually drawn from the Anchorage area.

Members: 3 Lutheran Seats - at least 1 lay & 1 clergy (exception to 60% lay rule)

Gender - at least one woman & one man

Term: Three-year term, no term limit.

Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) Corporation Description:

PLU seeks to educate students for lives of thoughtful inquiry, service, leadership and care—for other people, for their communities and for the Earth. The people elected to this board serve as representatives of the synod for PLU and of PLU for the synod.

Meetings/Expectations:

Meetings are held at PLU (Tacoma, WA), twice a year. Travel expenses are covered by PLU.

Members: 5 Alaska Synod members (not representative of clusters but variety is good).

Term: 3-year term, may serve 2 consecutive terms.