



Serve at the Synod Level

The Nominating Committee of the Southeastern Iowa Synod is seeking names of gifted leaders willing and able to serve at the synod level.

At the 2024 Synod Assembly in May, the voting members will be electing people to serve in a variety of ways.

- Synod Vice President
- Synod Council Members
- 2025 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members
- Nominating Committee
- Consultation Committee
- Committee on Discipline

Look around your congregation. Do you see people who might be a good fit for one or more of these roles? You can learn more about what each entail by using the QR code below. Look on the back to see what some current and former leaders have to say about their experience of serving a synod-level ministry.

Scan this QR code with your cell phone camera to learn more



The focus on American Indian and Alaska Native People was a special part of my experience at the Churchwide Assembly in 2022. My eyes were opened to issues I wasn't aware of and the work that is yet to be done to bring more awareness Native issues within the church. I loved the worship service that included Native music and voices.

With our world changing in ways that may alienate youth and others, during the churchwide assembly it was challenging to see what steps we need to be taking now to positively impact church members and congregations. It's my hope that we will continue to work and pray together to find meaningful ways to continue to reach out to all.

Robin Doty, 2022 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member

I had the honor of serving on the Southeastern Iowa Synod Nominating Committee. The Committee met over Zoom several times in the Fall 2021. In addition to deciding who would appear on the official ballot for the 2022 Synod Assembly, the task was to find volunteers who would be willing to serve in various offices of the Synod. Although I have met several lay and clergy people in the synod, I was pleased to work with people that I had not met previously.

John Bonte, Nominating Committee, 202-2022

When Pr. Katherine Dutton first asked me to be a candidate for Synod Council in the 1990's, my response was, "What is a Synod Council"? Although I had participated in various gatherings in the ALC, I had little knowledge of the structure of the relatively new ELCA. Once I was elected, I immediately began to see how synodical lay service could be both challenging and rewarding. I certainly felt like I was contributing my time and effort to an entity that was about doing God's work in the world. That was affirming. I have continued to serve through the years with Bishop Paul Werger, Bishop Philip Hougen, Bishop Michael Burk and Bishop Amy Current. My participation taught me much and gave me many opportunities.

Martha Bonte, Synod Council

A major benefit I found of being on the Synod Council was getting to know more about the workings of our Synod and the Office of the Bishop and ELCA churchwide and how we are all connected. In the past, I have held multiple positions on my congregation's council and I have been our church administrative assistant for 11 years; but I really did not know that much about how the Synod Council worked or what they did.

During council meetings, we had wonderful worship by different pastors and lay members. There were educational sessions for us to learn what was expected of us as council members; that was extremely helpful. We received the agenda and meeting material before the meeting, so we could be prepared. I felt comfortable asking questions regarding the materials; that I would be heard.

Gloria Smallwood, Synod Council 2018-2022

The full reflection from each person can be found with the other materials.