



Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

To: Rostered Ministers, Congregations, Synod Council Members, and Executive Officers of Synod Related Social Ministry Organizations, Agencies, and Institutions

From: Pr. Joseph Klinger, Chair, Nominating Committee, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

Re: Nominations for 2021 Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly

Date: November 2020

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod's Nominating Committee is asking for your help in identifying gifted and qualified persons, both clergy and lay, to serve as nominees for election at the **Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly on April 23 - 24, 2021**

Please be advised that this is a very significant year for nominations, with many positions to be filled.

Every year the Synod Assembly elects members of the **Synod Council**, which serves as "the board of directors of the synod" and "its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly." The 2021 assembly will elect the following, which includes positions not filled last year due to the cancellation of the Assembly because of the pandemic.

Please be proactive in seeking diversity in nominees, both with regard to youth and young adults, and with regard to persons of color or whose primary language is other than English. Our Synod Constitution sets an intention that at least 20% of our representation be persons of color or whose primary language is other than English.

Synod Council positions:

Open seats:

- Synod Council, lay woman – Young Adult Representative, term ending 2022
- Synod Council, lay man – Young Adult Representative, term ending 2022
(*Young Adult – between the ages of 18 and 30 at time of election or appointment*)

To be filled from last year, 2020 Assembly not held:

- 3 clergy, terms ending 2023
- 1 lay woman, Chester Conference representative, term ending 2023
- 1 lay woman, Lower Bucks Conference representative, term ending 2023
- 1 lay man, Lower Montgomery Conference representative, term ending 2023
- 1 lay woman at large, term ending 2023
- 1 lay man at large, term ending 2023

Current positions to be filled, 2021 Assembly:

- 3 clergy, terms ending 2024
- 1 lay man, Central Philadelphia Conference representative, term ending 2024
- 1 lay woman, Upper Bucks Conference representative, term ending 2024
- 1 lay woman at large, term ending 2024
- 1 lay man at large, term ending 2024
- 1 lay woman youth representative, term ending 2023
- 1 lay man youth representative, term ending 2023
(Youth – under the age of 18 at time of election or appointment)

Synod Vice President

In addition to these positions, the Assembly will also be electing a Vice President for a term ending 2025. The Vice President shall be a lay person, who is a voting member of a congregation of our synod. According the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod,

S9.05. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for vice president only if there is an incumbent; otherwise the Nominating Committee shall nominate at least two persons for vice president. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

In addition to these Synod Council positions, we need persons for the following constitutionally required Committees:

The **Committee on Discipline** specifically considers the discipline of rostered ministers, officers, congregations, and members of congregations. The process of discipline is described in detail in Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. The Committee on Discipline does not hold regular meetings. The members of this committee serve on an “as needed” basis. Members serve for one six year term.

Committee on Discipline:

- 2 ministers of Word and Sacrament, term ending 2026
- 1 lay man, term ending 2026
- 1 lay woman, term ending 2026

The **Consultation Committee** seeks to resolve disagreements within congregations on “substantive” issues. “When there is disagreement between or among factions within a congregation on a substantive issue which cannot be resolved by the parties, members of the congregation may petition the synod bishop for consultation after informing the president of the Congregation Council of their intent to do so.” The Consultation Committee does not hold regular meetings. The members of this committee serve on an “as needed” basis. Members serve for one six year term.

Consultation Committee

- 2 Ministers of Word and Sacrament, term ending 2022
- 2 Ministers of Word and Sacrament, term ending 2024

- 1 lay man, term ending 2022
- 1 lay man, term ending 2024

- 1 lay woman, term ending 2022
- 1 lay woman, term ending 2024

Finally, this is the year we elect persons to serve as Voting Members to the Churchwide Assembly in 2022

Churchwide Assembly positions:

August 8 – 12, 2022 is the date of the **Churchwide Assembly** in Columbus, OH. Our Synod is to send a total of 16 voting members to the CWA. The Bishop and the Vice President are two of that number. In addition to them we have the following positions:

- 4 positions for Rostered Ministers
- 4 positions for Lay Man
- 4 positions for Lay Woman

To ensure diversity in ethnicity, language, and age at the CWA, we also are to have

- 1 additional Rostered Minister that is a Person of Color or whose primary language is other than English
- 1 additional Lay Youth or Young Adult, that is, a person who is 30 or under at the time of election or appointment.

Nominees for ELCA Church Council:

SEPA Synod is in the rotation to put forward nominees to serve on the ELCA Church Council for a term extending from 2022 - 2028. The Synod Assembly needs to send 2 nominees to stand for election to the Church Council at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, where one of them will be elected to serve.

- 2 Rostered Ministers

Please use the synod's nominating form, available at the synod website or by request, to suggest one or more persons for the positions under consideration for the Synod Council. You may make additional copies of the nominating form if necessary. Please submit names of prospective nominees as soon as possible, **but before February 15, 2021.**

The Nominating Committee requires all nominees submit a digital photo of themselves and respond to the following questions – (1) List your top five spiritual gifts and/or personal gifts you would bring to the position if elected, and (2) How have you used these gifts in service to the church and your work? Please answer in 50 words or less

A digital photo and response to the questions are required for a nominating form to be considered completed. Nominating forms submitted without the required information will not be accepted and will not be placed in nomination. Completed nominating forms, and answers to the “spiritual and personal gifts” question, should be sent to:

Pr. Joseph Klinger, Nominating Committee Chairperson
pastor@redemptionphiladelphia.org

Digital photos must be sent to:

Ms. Cynta Outterbridge
Database Manager
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
coutterbridge@sepa.org

Please note:

- Those nominated must be active members of congregations of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod.
- As always, we seek a diversity of candidates.
- Before suggesting a person, ask whether the person is willing to serve if elected.
- The Nominating Committee is not required to place in nomination the name of any person suggested.
- Except for the congregations of the officers and the youth and young adult representatives, two people from the same congregation may not serve on the Synod Council at the same time. The Synod Council may make exceptions to this requirement to promote greater diversity and/or inclusivity.
- In light of the level of responsibility and influence of the following positions, it is our practice that a person may serve as one of the following at a time: Synod Council Member, Conference Dean, or Member of the Candidacy Committee. A person serving in any of these roles may stand for election or appointment to another, but if chosen must resign their current position.