



Oregon Synod

Consultation Committee Board Member

The Consultation Committee's job is to assist the bishop in conflict resolution and matters that could lead to discipline for a rostered minister, congregations, or their members. Consultation committee members should be available for assisting a congregation or congregations in the rare but important task of mediating disputes among congregations, disputes of factions within a congregation, or with a member whom the congregational council has deemed as interfering with the mission or ministry of the church. This process is detailed in the synod constitution and may include listening posts within the church community, one-to-one conversations with key parties, prayerful discernment and the composing of recommendations.

Members should demonstrate a strong sense of self, objectivity, maturity, and possess skills like listening, communication, and analytical ability. A commitment to justice, equity, compassion, prudence, and the ability to maintain confidentiality are critical for the role. Volunteers are to follow all guidelines related to behavior and conduct and will be treated with the same care and respect as that accorded to paid staff.

Term

Consultation committee members are elected to a six-year, non-renewable term.

Key responsibilities

1. Conflict resolution: Assist the bishop in resolving disagreements within congregations that cannot be resolved by the parties involved.
2. Disciplinary support: Advise the bishop on matters involving charges against a rostered minister, a congregation, or congregation body or member.

3. Investigation: May be asked to help investigate complaints by interviewing people and gathering information.
4. Recommendation: Provide advice and recommendations to the bishop based on the committee's findings.
5. Advising the bishop: Serve as an advisory body to the bishop in these matters, but do not have the authority to act as a mediator or conflict manager themselves.