



## Oregon Synod Council Member Job Description

Synod Council members are volunteers that carry out the constitutional duties and responsibilities of the Synod Council and serve as the interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. This may include; carrying out resolutions of the Synod Assembly; recommending program goals, budgets, constitutional changes, or memorials and resolutions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly; serving as a liaison to clusters and congregations to share and interpret synod mission and ministry issuing letters of call to ordained ministers; participating in faithful conversations that explore our differing and shared perspectives of faith and humanity; filling Synod Council or committee vacancies until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly; approve updates to congregational constitutions; provide an annual review of the roster of ordained ministers (and receiving, acting, and reporting upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the Constitution and Bylaws of the ELCA), attending Synod Council meetings, retreats, and Synod Assembly, and performing other functions as set forth in the bylaws of this synod, or as may be delegated to it by the Synod Assembly.

Members should demonstrate;

- The ability to interact with and demonstrate respect for the diversity of God's people including different races, gender identities, and ages, etc.
- Collective and independent exploration of issues from a place of grounded and mature faith.
- Experience and comfort with budgets and their link to mission.

- A posture of curiosity and the ability to treat others with respect, even in disagreement.
- Understanding of/ willingness to develop adaptive leadership skills.
- Timely communication responses to requests for meetings, information and input
- Strong communication skills: Listening with empathy and engaging in open, honest conversation.

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**

Synod Council positions are open to active members of an Oregon Synod congregation. The term of office of members of the Synod Council shall be three years, with a limit of two terms (6 years). For any youth member it shall be two years. The start date for new terms is August 1st.

## **Key Responsibilities**

1. Understanding of boards and governance.
2. Guide the work of the synod as directed by the Oregon Synod Assembly.
3. Prepare for and attend all Oregon Synod Council meetings, retreats, and Synod Assembly: six regular (by Zoom on the 3rd Saturday morning of odd months) meetings per year, an in person retreat, and a preparatory council meeting preceding the annual Oregon Synod Assembly.
4. Be able to receive documents electronically and participate actively in online meetings.
5. Represent the synod strategic work; be prepared to help develop, speak to, and promote synod goals and priorities.
6. Participate on task forces and committees as needed to carry out the business of the council between meetings.

7. Engage in biblical work, prayer, and other faith practices both in and outside of council meetings.