



Serving as an ELCA Church Council Member

Responsibilities of Church Council

The mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America churchwide organization is to activate each of us so more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice, and love.

The Church Council serves as the interim legislative authority and the board of directors of the churchwide organization. To satisfy its generative, strategic, and fiduciary responsibilities, the Church Council is responsible for

- providing oversight and accountability for God's mission of the churchwide organization
- assessing the work of the churchwide organization to ensure it addresses and complies with the applicable purposes and principles specified in this church's governing documents and policies
- collaborating with the churchwide organization in strategic thinking, including monitoring progress in achieving the strategic plan, strategic goals, and priority areas and reallocating resources as appropriate
- engaging in proactive discussion and analysis to ensure this church is equipped to accomplish the mission of God's church in the world
- ensuring legal and ethical integrity with a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusivity, and accessibility for all God's children

Responsibilities of Individual Church Council Members

Each individual Church Council member serves a six-year nonrenewable term¹ and is expected to

- understand and act as representatives and fiduciaries of the churchwide organization
- serve as active advocates and ambassadors for the ministries and priorities of the ELCA in congregations, synods, and other settings
- become familiar with and follow the governing documents and other policies relevant to the governance of this church
- prepare for, attend, and conscientiously participate in Church Council and its committees' meetings²
- respect the experiences of all who bring their voices and lived experiences into the meetings
- remember in prayer the leaders of this church and the members and activities of the Church Council

Do you have one or more of the following desired skills, expertise, or board member characteristics?

- Enthusiastic and passionate about sharing God's love
- Curious
- Open Minded
- Approachable
- Collaborative
- Objective Listener
- Strategist
- Financial expertise
- Legal expertise

As a Church Council member, you would:

- Make a difference in this church
- See the church in action and at work in the world
- Develop friendships and networks with other incredible ELCA Lutherans
- Have opportunities to serve as liaisons to ecumenical church bodies, churchwide task forces, and other working groups
- Attend two in-person meetings in Chicago with periodic electronic meetings as needed

¹ Youth members serve a three-year term

² Travel, lodging, and meal expenses are covered by the churchwide organization