



Rocky Mountain Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Ministry Team Descriptions

■ **Synod Council** rmselca.org/synodcouncil

1. **Description of work:** This is the governing body for the Synod between Synod Assemblies. In addition to financial and legal business, it helps establish priorities for the synod and oversees progress on those priorities.
2. **Meeting Schedule/ Time Required:** There are three in-person meetings usually in September, January or February and the day before the synod assembly. Other business is done via email, conference call and web meeting. Additional meetings (virtual and/or in person) may be required for subcommittees, task forces, or liaison roles. Most members will have at least one additional role.
3. **Ideal experiences or characteristics:** Experience on a governing body (board of directors, congregation council, etc.). Council seeks a wide variety of expertise including administrative, visionary, legal, fiscal, discernment, fund raising, public speaking, communications, management, facilitation, project management, and program evaluation. Council is a place that oversees policy, budget, and programs but is not a place where programs are developed or managed. That takes place in Ministry Teams.
4. **Positions:** 18 total people. 4 officers, 14 elected members. The elected members are one per conference plus 4 at large positions with one each for lay male, lay female, rostered leader, and youth.

■ **Global Missions** rmselca.org/globalmission

1. **Description of work:** The Global Mission Committee "shall interpret and inform congregations of the synod regarding the scope, the opportunities, and the needs of the global mission of the ELCA, in consultation with the Division for Global Mission." This work is carried out by three working groups (subcommittees) of the committee: companion synod working group, border/immigration issues working group, and global mission education/interpretation working group. The Global Mission Committee consists of the chairs of the three working groups and three members at-large.
2. **Meeting Schedule/ Time Required:** Meetings by conference call take place at least four times per year, with one or two face to face meetings per year, as needed. Working groups set their own meeting schedule to accomplish their work.
3. **Ideal experiences or characteristics:** A passion for the global mission of the church. Participation in one of the synod sponsored trips to Madagascar or Mexico or attendance at an ELCA Global Mission Event. International missionary and/or volunteer experience. International travel experience or hosting of international visitors.
4. **Positions:** Six voting members: three members who are appointed by the Synod Council for a term of four years with the possibility of reelection, and three at-large members who are elected by Synod Assembly for a four-year term with the possibility of reelection.

■ Congregational Ministries rmselca.org/congmin

1. **Description of work:** Work with Synod Council to identify major needs and areas of concern in all areas of congregational life and mission. Once priorities are identified, the group creates a team (task force, etc.) that will develop and implement a plan to bring that work to congregations. The team itself does not create or implement initiatives. Rather it resources and oversees them.
2. **Meeting Schedule/ Time Required:** Usually meet twice each year in Denver or by video conference. May require interim work with specific taskforces.
3. **Ideal experiences or characteristics:** Should have experience identifying and empowering people with talent or experience to address issues, delegating tasks and helping groups stay on track and be accountable for progress. Able to keep an eye on the big picture and understand how smaller tasks relate.
4. **Positions:** 6-10 all elected

■ Mission Outreach rmselca.org/outreach

1. **Description of work:** Oversee the development of new congregations and the renewal of existing congregations within the Rocky Mountain Synod.
2. **Meeting Schedule/ Time Required:** Members are invited to serve on one of two teams: New Ministry Team or Mission Team. Each meets twice a year for a day or less, in person or via conference call, depending on agenda.
3. **Ideal experiences or characteristics:** The New Ministry Team identifies, studies, and recommends new ministry starts while the Mission Team works with newly organized congregations and those receiving ELCA and synod financial support for renewal. Ideal experience would be to have served or participated in one of these settings, however, commitment to new ministry development and ministry renewal is the only expectation.
4. **Positions:** 6-10 members, all elected.

■ Campus Ministry rmselca.org/campus

1. **Description of work:** Oversees the ministries at colleges and universities in the Rocky Mountain Synod.
2. **Meeting Schedule/ Time Required:** The committee meets twice per year, and may require one trip to a common meeting location, but more often, meets via videoconference. Each meeting lasts approximately 5-6 hours. Other duties may require additional time, and occasional travel, on a voluntary basis.
3. **Ideal experiences or characteristics:** The ideal member of the committee has a commitment to stewarding available Synod resources for campus ministry, a passion for ministry with students, staff, and faculty; and, a desire and ability to see the ministry on campuses as a shared, Synod-wide ministry, not only at a particular site. Members of the committee should advocate for campus ministry on the whole territory of the Synod.
4. **Positions:** 6-10 voting members in accordance with the representational principles of the ELCA and Rocky Mountain Synod, three members to be elected by Synod Assembly for a term of four years with the possibility of one additional consecutive term, and the other members to be appointed by the Synod Council for a term of four years with the possibility of one consecutive reappointment. Terms conclude at the time of the synod assembly.

■ Congregation & Leader Wellness

1. **Description of work:** This is the ministry team primarily responsible for addressing the Vision-Passion-Action initiative priority: *“We (synod, congregations, lay and rostered leaders) are healthy and able to go through transition and conflict in ways that lead to positive growth.”* This ministry team proposes and oversees the ways in which our synod promotes wellness and addresses conflict in our congregations and leaders (both lay and rostered).
2. **Meeting Schedule/ Time Required:** As a new ministry team, no meeting patterns have been established. It is likely that there will be more meetings initially to establish the team. Once established it is likely that the team will meet in person at least once per year and via conference call or web meeting 2-3 additional times. The team may develop subcommittees and task forces as it determines necessary to deal with the broad scope of its charge. Members who participate on such groups will require more time.
3. **Ideal experiences or characteristics:** An understanding of the dynamics of healthy and unhealthy congregations and leaders. Experience working with congregations and/or leaders to promote health.
4. **Positions:** six members to be elected by Synod Assembly for a term of four years with the possibility of one additional consecutive term, and the other members to be appointed by the Synod Council for a term of four years with the possibility of one consecutive reappointment.

■ Consultation Committee

1. **Description of work:** From the Synod Constitution ¶S17.11: *“When there is disagreement among factions within a congregation on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, members of a congregation shall have access to the synodical bishop for consultation after informing the chair of the Congregation Council of their intent. If the consultation fails to resolve the issue(s), the Consultation Committee of this synod shall consider the matter. If the Consultation Committee of the synod shall fail to resolve the issue(s), the matter shall be referred to the Synod Council, whose decision shall be final.”*
2. **Meeting Schedule/ Time Required:** This group meets when circumstances require it, which historically has been rarely. The creation of the Congregation and Leader Wellness Ministry Team may present opportunities for increased use of this group. Term is for 6 years.
3. **Ideal experiences or characteristics:** Experience working with people in conflict and crisis, ideally in a congregational setting.
4. **Positions:** of six persons, of whom three shall be ordained ministers and three shall be laypersons.

■ Committee on Discipline

1. **Description of work:** The Committee on Discipline provides part of the due process required when a party is accused of something for which they can be disciplined. This may include congregations, rostered leaders, or members of congregations. The duties of this committee are outlined in the ELCA constitution under Chapter 20 where it is called the Discipline Hearing Committee. Its primary responsibility is to hold hearings and submit findings.
2. **Meeting Schedule/ Time Required:** This group only meets when circumstances require it. Generally these matters are addressed by the office of the Bishop, so this group has historically met rarely. However, if the need arises, this committee must be in place. Term is for six years.
3. **Ideal experiences or characteristics:** Experience with discipline or other personnel issues. Ability to be unbiased and consider the facts in emotional situations.
4. **Positions:** Twelve persons, six ordained ministers and six lay persons.