

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Who may submit a name for consideration?

A: Under the terms of the churchwide constitution, two categories of women may submit a name for consideration: voting members-elect (i.e., voting members of the 2017 Triennial Convention) and units (Article XIV, Section 4, Item 4).

Q: Who is qualified to be a nominee?

A: Each nominee shall be a participant in a unit and a member of the ELCA (Article XIV, Section 3, Item 2). Each nominee also should have the requisite skills for the particular position for which she is nominated.

Q: Can I ask people to vote for me or for someone else?

A: No. Please see our policy against electioneering, below. This policy not only prohibits promoting one candidate over another in person, but also by email, telephone and on social media including Facebook, Twitter and any other platform.

POLICY AGAINST ELECTIONEERING

There are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit AND
There are a variety of services, but the same Lord AND
There are a variety of activities, but the same God who activates them in everyone.

Women of the ELCA affirms and believes all women should have equal opportunity for involvement and leadership in the organization.

Women of the ELCA further believes that the Spirit that binds us all through baptism is the guiding factor for each voting member to prayerfully review and consider each nominee's biographical information prior to the synodical women's conventions or churchwide Triennial Convention.

Each participant further understands that promoting one candidate over another through campaigning is in fact interfering with God's plan and actions for participants of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Q: Who is best suited to be nominated?

A: Each nominee must understand that the work of the churchwide board is around visioning and setting policies, around steering the organization in the right direction to meet its mission while providing oversight and ensuring resources to fulfill that mission.

Each nominee should be able and willing to share her own gifts with Women of the ELCA. She must be available for at least two three-day meetings per year, generally in Chicago, and willing to serve on a board committee (with meetings in person at the board meeting and often by telephone between meetings). She must be available to represent the churchwide organization at synodical conventions, comfortable with public speaking and willing to offer workshops. She must be comfortable in traveling across the country. She must have regular access to the Internet, using e-mail and other forms of online communication. She must be willing to engage in the goals of the stewardship development policy of the churchwide executive (a copy is available at womenoftheelca.org).

She must realize that, if elected, she must resign immediately from any positions held within a synodical women's organization (SWO) or networks of the organization. She must also realize that board meetings, committee work and SWO conventions demand considerable energy and time commitment, and she must therefore trust in God that her time will be stretched and her energy will be replenished.

Q: Who serves on the nominating committee?

A: The committee consists of nine women nominated from the roll of the Tenth Triennial Convention voting members-elect and then elected by the churchwide executive board. The board will take this vote at its October 2016 executive board meeting.

Q: If a name is submitted, will that person automatically become a nominee?

A: No. The nominating committee must submit a slate of candidates that contains two nominations per position. That's a total of 38 names. Many more than 38 names will likely be submitted to the committee. Moreover, the committee must present a slate that meets the organization's constitutional requirements (see the following question).

Q: How does the nominating committee select nominees?

A: The committee considers the biographical information on each submission as well as geographical diversity, variety of ages and diversity of experience (Article XIV, Section 2, Item 2). The churchwide constitution also requires that at least 10 percent of the members of the executive board be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English (Article XIV, Section 3, item 1).

The committee may nominate no more than one person from a synodical women's organization (Article XIV, Section 4, Item 5).

Q: Are nominations from the floor permitted?

A: Yes, for those positions for which nominations have been made by the committee (Article XIV, Section 4, Item 7).

Q: Can members of the nominating committee be nominated?

A: The answer is a qualified "yes." Members of the nominating committee cannot be nominated by the committee; they may, however, be nominated from the floor (Article XIV, Section 4, Item 6).

Q: What is the term of service?

A: The secretary and treasurer are each elected to one three-year term, with no reelection to that particular office. An officer may be eligible for election to another office or to a term as an executive board member, serving a total of two consecutive terms but no more than seven consecutive years (Article XII, Section 5, Item 1). Terms begin at the close of the Tenth Triennial Convention (Article XII, Sections 3-5). Board members are elected to a three-year term; they may be reelected to the board or to an office, serving a total of two consecutive terms but no more than seven years consecutively.