



Thirteenth Triennial Convention  
July 13-14, 2026

2026

**RANK ORDER PROCESS  
FOR THE THIRTEENTH TRIENNIAL CONVENTION (2026)  
FOR ELECTING THE 2026-2029 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS  
WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
(APPROVED BY THE CHURCHWIDE EXECUTIVE BOARD, OCTOBER 2025)**

**Background:** This document sets forth a rank order process to be considered by the churchwide executive board for election of the 2026-2029 Executive Board members.

At its October 2025 meeting, the churchwide executive board adopted the following rank order process for use in electing the executive board members to the 2026-2029 board.

**Proposed Rank Order Process**

Our constitution provides three criteria that need to be met in the election of executive board members:

Article XIII, Section 1.

The executive board shall be composed of the four officers and one representative from the territory of each of the nine ELCA regions, plus two at-large members, to make a total of 15. Of the 15, at least 20 percent shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English, and at least 20 percent shall be under the age of 45 and/or persons of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Article XIV, Section 3, Item 1

It shall be the responsibility of the executive board to assure that this organization maintains its commitment to inclusive representation. At least 20 percent of the members of the executive board shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English, and at least 20 percent shall be persons under the age of 45 and/or persons of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Article XIV, Section 3, Item 6

Board members shall be elected in such a manner that at least one person and no more than two persons are elected from the territory of each of the nine ELCA

regions. Further, no more than one shall be elected from any one synodical women's organization.

The simplest way to achieve these criteria is to present a ballot with three tickets.

- Ticket A will be used to elect the number of persons of color or whose primary language is other than English as set forth in the constitution.
  - Note: If two elected officers are from the same region, nominees remaining from that region are no longer eligible for election.
  - Note: 20% of the board is 3. If three officers meet this criterion, then this ticket is not needed. The number to be elected on Ticket A will be 3 minus the number of officers who meet this criterion.
  - A person will be considered elected even if it fills the second slot for a region; remembering only six regions are eligible for two slots.
  - Only one person from an SWO can be elected. If there are any nominees from SWOs already presented in the officers elected, they will be removed from the ballot and not eligible for election.
- Ticket B will be used to elect the number of people who are under the age of 45 and/or who identify as persons of the LGBTQIA+ community.
  - Note: If two elected persons from the officers or Ticket A are from the same region(s), nominees remaining from that region(s) are no longer eligible for election.
  - Note: 20% of the board is 3. If the elected officers or those elected on Ticket A meet this criterion and that total number is 3, then this ticket is not needed. The number to be elected on Ticket B will be 3 minus the number of officers and those elected on Ticket A who meet this criterion.
  - A person will be considered elected even if it fills the second slot for a region; remembering only six regions are eligible for two slots.
  - Only one person from an SWO can be elected. If there are any nominees from SWOs already presented in the officers elected or from Ticket A, they will be removed from the ballot and not eligible for election.
- Ticket C will be used to elect the remaining number of nominees needed to complete the board.

- Note: Once there are two people elected from a region, nominees remaining from that region are no longer eligible for election.
- If a person received the number of votes needed for election, yet would be the third person from a region, that person will not be considered elected.
- If a person received the number of votes needed for election yet would be the second person from the seventh region with two elected members, that person will not be considered elected.
- Only six regions will be eligible to have two people elected to the entire board composition: four officers and eleven board members.
- Only one person from an SWO can be elected. If there are any nominees from SWOs already presented in the officers elected, from Ticket A, or from Ticket B, they will be removed from the ballot and not eligible for election.

The election(s) on Ticket A will be conducted first and resolved before moving to Ticket B. To be elected on Ticket A, a person must receive a majority of votes (i.e., fifty percent of the votes cast, plus one). If an election does not occur on the first ballot, the number of nominees on the second (and all succeeding ballots) is limited to twice the number of voting members needed to be elected on that ticket.

Nominees not elected on Ticket A who remain eligible for elections (region not at two people elected) will be listed on Ticket C. They can also be listed on Ticket B if they are under the age of 45 and/or identify as persons of the LGBTQIA+ community.

The election(s) on Ticket B will occur next. To be elected on Ticket B, a nominee must receive a majority of votes (i.e., fifty percent of the votes cast, plus one). If an election does not occur on the first ballot, the number of nominees on the second (and all succeeding ballots) is limited to twice the number of voting members needed to be elected on that ticket.

Nominees on either Ticket A or Ticket B who were not elected will have their names listed on Ticket C if their region is still eligible to be elected. Ticket C will consist of the names originally selected by the nominating committee, those nominated from the floor, and the



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names of nominees who were on Ticket A and Ticket B who were not elected if the region does not have two persons already elected.

The election on Ticket C then follows. To be elected on Ticket C, a person must receive a majority of votes (i.e., fifty percent of the votes cast, plus one). The convention will conduct as many ballots on Ticket C as are necessary to complete the election. The number of names on each successive ballot will be limited to twice the number of voting members remaining to be elected on that ticket.

### **Nominee Information**

The nomination form collects a variety of information from the nominees including these three required questions:

Age Range \*

Under 45

45 or Over

Ethnicity \*

Black/African American/African Descent

African Caribbean

African National

American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous

Arab/Middle Eastern

Asian/Asian American/South Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

European Descent/White

Latin(o/a/e)/Latin-x/Hispanic

Multi-/Bi-racial

Does the nominee identify as LGBTIQ+ community\*

Yes

No



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Collecting this information will help meet the constitution's mandates. This information will be listed on the nominating committee report under each nominee's biographical information.

A nominee can meet both categories, a person of color or whose primary language is other than English AND under the age of 45 and/or who identify as persons of the LGBTQIA+ community. Meaning the person can count towards both constitutional mandates.