

Greater Milwaukee Synod Council – Position Description

Council Member

Purpose of Synod Council: The Council acts as the trustee of the Greater Milwaukee Synod. The Synod is an organization which provides support to local ELCA congregations. There are 128 congregations in the ELCA Greater Milwaukee Synod, which includes the counties of Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Washington and Sheboygan, and a part of Jefferson County. The total annual budget is approximately \$2 million. While \$0.9 million is spent locally on staff and local programs, the remainder, approximately \$1.1 million of the budget, goes to the ELCA church-wide offices. The staff of the Synod includes the Bishop, plus seven (full and part-time) individuals (clergy and lay) who perform the day to day work of the Synod.

Council Members are Responsible to: The Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly.

Job Description: This Council will meet as needed to review and pass policies applicable to the Greater Milwaukee Synod, review financials and recommend budgets before Synod assembly, ensure that Synod assembly resolutions have been addressed by the Council or Synod offices, review and approve the annual roster of Word and Service (deacons) and Word and Sacrament (ordained pastors) plus their letters of call and retirement. Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of this synod.

Time Requirement: There are six meetings a year, which can take up to four hours per meeting. Meetings are generally on a Thursday evening in the odd months of the year. Members should consider being at the Synod Assembly which occurs at the end of May, beginning of June for two to two and half days. A three-day training program on Anti-Racism training is required to be taken once during the four year term. Every two years a one-day retreat will occur on a Saturday. Electronic meetings may be called when resolutions need to be passed outside of regular meetings.

Length of Commitment: Terms of four years (youth member term is two years).

Training provided: Current council members have experience with the workings of the Synod Council, programs of the Synod and working on GMS Synod committees. These members will explain the general working of the committee and the Synod to new members.

Skills/Qualifications: Knowledge and experience in congregational council activity, or non-profit boards is a plus. Voting membership in a Greater Milwaukee Synod congregation is required.

Benefits to the volunteer: Satisfaction is obtained in knowing that this work is providing support for the future of the Greater Milwaukee Synod. Gaining a greater understanding of the Synod and its role with congregations.

Expectations: Attend all meetings of the Synod Council. Study the agenda and advance materials received prior to each meeting and prior to the Synod Assembly. Participate in committees, task forces, and individual assignments as directed by the Council. Be familiar with the Synod constitution insofar as it affects the activities of the Council, the Assembly, and the Synod. Be the eyes and ears of the Synod Council near your congregation. Be a representative of the synod in your home congregation, and throughout the synod. Assume responsibility occasionally for opening and closing devotions at meetings. Serve without compensation. Make your congregations aware of these expectations if you are a pastor serving on the Synod Council.