



# CHRIST THROUGH US

SYNOD CONVENTION 2025

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**First vice president**  
**(to be nominated by delegates at the 2025 synod convention)**

- The first vice president of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod must be a parish pastor.
  - He is elected for a four-year term with no limit on the number of terms.
  - The office is part time.
  - The first vice president assists the president and serves on the Conference of Presidents.
  - He serves as a non-voting ex-officio vice chairman of the Synodical Council.
  - He serves as acting president should the president be prevented from discharging his duties.
  - In the case of a vacancy in the presidency, the first vice president serves as president of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod until the next synod convention.
  - The first vice president carries out any assignments the president may assign or that are prescribed under the WELS bylaws.
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**Recording secretary**  
**(to be nominated by delegates at the 2025 synod convention)**

- The recording secretary of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod may be a pastor, teacher, staff minister, or layman.
  - He is elected for a four-year term with no limit on the number of terms.
  - He may hold no other synodical office at the same time.
  - The recording secretary serves as secretary and advisory member on the Conference of Presidents. He also serves as chairman of the synod's Nominating Committee.
  - He is responsible to see to it that notice of and delegates to each convention are publicized at least 60 days prior to the convention.
  - He records the proceedings of the synod convention and attends to their publication and distribution.
  - He notifies those who have been elected to office at the synod convention within 14 days after the close of the convention.
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## **Synodical Council at-large member**

- The Synodical Council has 21 voting members. They include 12 district lay representatives, 3 district presidents, 3 at-large members (2 pastors and a male teacher or staff minister), and 3 area of ministry chairmen (Ministerial Education, Home Missions and World Missions).
  - At-large members are elected for a term of four years and may serve two additional terms.
  - At-large members should be able to attend at least three two-day Synodical Council meetings in Waukesha, Wis., per year and attend synod and district conventions as they are able.
  - The pastor and teacher at-large members should represent the at-large interest of pastors and teachers/staff ministers in the overall work of the church.
  - Functions of the Synodical Council include the following:
    - Serves as the legal representative of the synod. It is empowered to represent the synod in all legal matters and has the sole authority to execute all legal documents.
    - Responsible for preparing, reviewing, and approving the ministry financial plan and support allocation for the plan.
    - Responsible for the administration and investment of all synod funds.
    - Responsible to require an annual audit by a certified public accounting firm of the records and accounts of the synod, its schools, subsidiaries, WELS Retirement Program Commission, WELS VEBA Commission and all other units identified by the Synodical Council.
    - Responsible for keeping an accurate record of the synod's history by maintaining a synodical archive.
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## **Board for World Missions chairman and member**

- The chairman of the Board for World Missions must be a pastor.
- He is elected for a term of four years and may serve two additional terms.
- The chairman also serves as a member of the Synodical Council.
- The board includes four additional men, one pastor, two laymen, and one teacher or staff minister. Each member is elected for a term of four years and may serve two additional terms.
- The chairman and members should have the time and ability to travel to a world mission field at least once a year for approximately two weeks, attend meetings approximately eight days per year plus travel as required, and spend one to two weeks per year reviewing and generating documents and reports as required.

- A member should possess experience in cross-cultural and world missions, cultural sensitivity, spiritual maturity, a flexible schedule, a heart for the lost souls of the world, and willingness and ability to constantly learn about world missions.
  - Functions of the Board for World Missions include the following:
    - Responsible for directing the world mission program of the synod.
    - Reviews all requests for overseas assistance, provides guidance for smaller church bodies, and evaluates exploratory work for potential world mission expansion.
    - Counsels, directs, coordinates, and balances the work of its administrative committees.
    - Responsible for establishing the policies under which the administrative committees operate.
    - Reviews at least biennially the mission, objective, and policy statements (or equivalent) of the board and each unit to determine whether each is operating within its assignment.
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### **Board for Home Missions chairman**

- The chairman of the Board for Home Missions is to be a parish pastor.
  - He is elected for a term of four years and may serve two additional terms.
  - He serves on the Synodical Council (and as its official representative for WELS Canada) and on the Joint Mission Council.
  - He helps establish the vision and direction of Home Missions.
  - He chairs all meetings of the Board for Home Missions and the board's executive committee. The latter is the group that makes ministry program decisions on behalf of the Board for Home Missions.
  - In consultation and cooperation with Home Missions staff, he produces and executes purposeful agendas for the meetings of the board, its executive committee, and the entire Board for Home Missions team.
  - He oversees the work of the Board for Home Missions by reviewing correspondence and regularly counseling with staff.
  - He responds to communications directed to him personally as appropriate or by forwarding them to Home Missions staff.
  - He represents Home Missions at conventions, conferences, and gatherings as his schedule permits. Travel will involve stays of 40 nights per year, on average.
  - Depending on the availability of the chairman, this position involves another 400 hours per year in preparation and prayer for Home Missions, depending on the availability of the chairman.
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## Board for Ministerial Education member

- Members of the Board for Ministerial Education include a chairman, one parish pastor, two teachers or staff ministers, one representative from the area Lutheran high schools, four laymen, and the chairmen of the governing boards of the synod's ministerial schools.
  - Members are elected for a term of four years and may serve two additional terms.
  - Members must possess spiritual maturity, be active in their local congregations, be willing to attend local and district conferences and other meetings as representatives of the Board for Ministerial Education, and be able to spend approximately three days per year away from home on synodical business.
  - Functions of the Board for Ministerial Education include the following:
    - Provides for the efficient and effective administration of Ministerial Education and its units.
    - Coordinates recruitment and retention of students to serve in the public ministry of the synod.
    - Cooperates with the governing boards in the calling and maintaining of qualified teaching staff for the ministerial schools.
    - Coordinates all of the curricula of the schools.
    - Coordinates, plans, and implements approved programs for the construction and/or acquisition as well as maintenance of adequate physical facilities and property of the schools, In cooperation with the governing boards, Synodical Council, and Conference of Presidents.
    - Sees to it that each school has competent non-called staff.
    - Correlates the fiscal needs of Ministerial Education and its units with the overall program of the synod.
    - Establishes, coordinates, and clarifies policies by which the units of Ministerial Education will be guided.
    - Reviews regularly the mission, objectives, and vision statement, or its equivalent, of the board and each unit to determine whether each is operating within its assignment.
    - Assists in and helps coordinate the area Lutheran high schools' ministerial education programs.
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## **Martin Luther College Governing Board chairman**

- The chairman of a ministerial school governing board must be a parish pastor.
  - He is elected for a term of four years and may serve two additional terms.
  - The chairman represents his school on the Board for Ministerial Education as a voting member.
  - In his role as governing board chairman, he presides over the meetings of his school's governing board and sees to it that an agenda is prepared for all meetings.
  - He serves as the chairman of his governing board's executive committee.
  - He is responsible for determining that his school's president discharges his responsibilities properly and that the president is functioning within the framework of his position description.
  - He meets or communicates weekly with the school president and functions as the governing board's representative at official school events.
  - In his role as his school's voting representative on the Board for Ministerial Education, he is expected to attend all Board for Ministerial Education meetings (usually one day of meetings in the Midwest annually).
  - He will spend approximately 20 days per year away from home on synodical or school business.
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## **Commission on Evangelism chairman**

- The Commission on Evangelism chairman may be a pastor, male teacher or staff minister, or a layman.
  - He is elected for a term of four years and may serve two additional terms.
  - He shall possess a deep love for Jesus and a great desire to help the congregations of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod seize every opportunity to evangelize lost souls.
  - He works together with members of the commission to help establish vision and direction for the commission's work.
  - He operates in close association with the commission's director to carry out the mission and objectives of the Commission on Evangelism, including equipping and encouraging the 12 district evangelism commissions.
  - He is responsible for moderating the meetings and video conferences of the commission.
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## **Commission on Lutheran Schools chairman**

- The Commission on Lutheran Schools chairman may be a pastor, male teacher or staff minister, or a layman.
  - He is elected for a term of four years and may serve two additional terms.
  - He should be knowledgeable in educational ministries including early childhood ministries, Lutheran elementary schools, and Lutheran high schools.
  - The chairman is responsible for chairing one or more face-to-face commission meetings and several video conferences each year.
  - The chairman will work in close association with the commission's director, associate director, national coordinator for early childhood ministries, and executive committee.
  - Candidates for the position of chairman of the Commission on Lutheran Schools must be spiritually mature, possess a deep love for Christian education, and have experience in WELS educational ministries
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## **Board of Appeals chairman and members**

- The synod's Board of Appeals is composed of ten members: a chairman (who must be a pastor), three pastors, three teachers, and three laymen.
- Members are elected for a term of four years and may serve two additional terms.
- Positions on the Board of Appeals are not subject to bylaw restrictions with regard to number of offices held.
- A five-person Board of Appeals panel is formed to decide each appeal. The chairman or his designee plus four board members selected by the chairman make up a Board of Appeals panel.
- The panel acts independently as it considers an appeal. It reviews all documentary evidence, conducts interviews, and may request additional information from anyone it deems connected to the matter. It has the responsibility to rule whether the disciplinary action was justified in its substance and whether the process followed was in keeping with biblical principles and with any applicable bylaws.
- The decision of a Board of Appeals panel is the final disposition of any appeal.