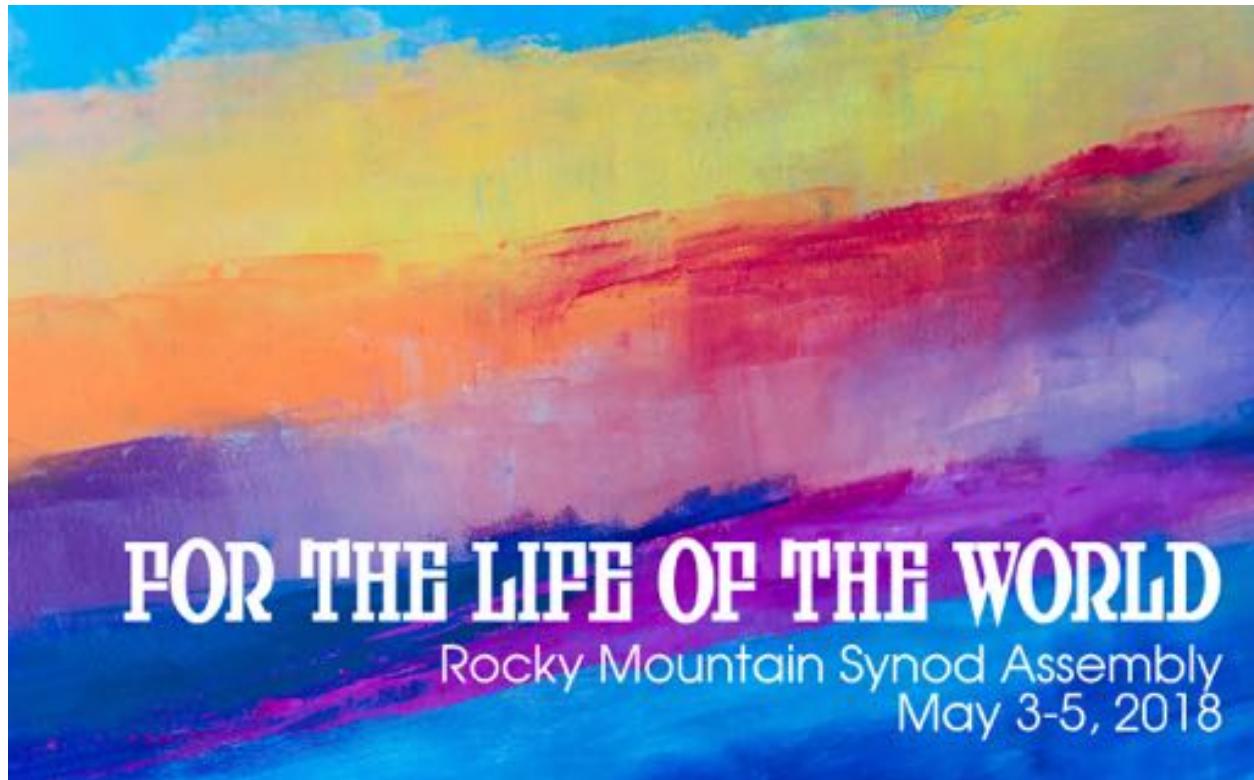


**OUR MISSION:**  
*Together we proclaim and embody  
God's unconditional love for the sake of the world*



# FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD

Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly  
May 3-5, 2018

## 2018 Rocky Mountain Synod Pre-Assembly Information Packet

**WESTIN HOTEL • WESTMINSTER, CO**

*[rmselca.org/assembly](http://rmselca.org/assembly)*

# FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD

*Dear Friends in Christ,*

*At a time when conversations in the church tend to focus on survival and sustainability, in light of a future filled with so much uncertainty, it's more critical than ever that we remember that the Body of Christ exists not for itself but for the sake of the world God so loves. As people of faith, we have been called to new life in Christ so that we may serve as the Spirit's instruments of hope and healing for every neighbor on our globe as well as for the earth itself. Join our 2018 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly as we explore what it means to be Christ's Church Together, for the life of the world.*

*It is our hope that our assembly voting members represent the full breadth of our synod. We ask that you encourage new leaders to participate in our life together, especially our youth and young adult members. A youth housing option will be available again this year. Childcare and translation services will be provided as needed to support those who may not otherwise be able to attend.*

*We look forward to seeing you in Westminster as we gather together "For the Life of the World".*

*In faith,  
Bishop Jim Gonia*

**Christ's  
Church**  
better together

# **Assembly Location & Travel Information**

## **Location**

Westin Hotel Westminster  
10600 Westminster Blvd.  
Westminster, CO 80020  
(303) 410-5000

## **Date and Time**

The assembly will begin around **1 p.m. on Thursday, May 3** and end by **noon on Saturday, May 5**.

**Assembly Registration Fee includes program costs, materials, three meals, and breaks. The Registration Fee does not include the hotel.**

Voting Member: \$300

Visitor with Meals: \$250

Visitor without Meals: \$125

Exhibitor with Meals: \$175

Exhibitor without Meals: \$50

Youth Visitor (**includes hotel**): \$150

**You will make your own hotel reservation at the Westin Hotel.**

**The link will be posted by February 1: [www.rmselca.org/assembly](http://www.rmselca.org/assembly)**

Room Rate: \$109

*Room rate does NOT include breakfast. Breakfast can be added to your room reservation for an additional \$15/person per day.*

**Hotel Reservation deadline is April 13**

To guarantee our group rate, you must reserve your hotel by April 13. After this date, rooms may still be available, but we cannot guarantee the group rate.

## **Scholarships and Travel Assistance**

We are Christ's Church, Better Together! Which means we are not complete unless all are gathered around the table. Scholarships are available to those who need financial assistance. The online request form can be found here: [www.rmselca.org/assembly](http://www.rmselca.org/assembly)

Travel Equalization forms will be available at the assembly providing assistance to those who travel more than 150 miles away (300 miles round trip)

*Acting as the Church Together, there will be an option at registration to donate a small amount to Assembly Scholarships if your congregation is able.*

## **Important Deadlines**

### **March 1: Exhibitor Request Deadline**

An online request form will be available February 1

### **March 23: Early Bird Registration Deadline**

Registration will be available online February 1. The online request form for exhibitors will also be available at that time.

### **March 23: Resolutions and nominations for non-Bishop elections due**

Open positions listed on pages 8-9

### **March 23: Ministry Booklet Pages Deadline**

The on-line submission form for exhibitors and ministry booklet pages will be available early February.

### **April 13: Hotel Reservation deadline**

## Voting Member Information

The voting members of the assembly must be members of the congregation and are determined as follows:

- A. Congregations are allowed 2 lay voting members, 1 male and 1 female. If a congregation is not able to find both a male and female, contact Janice Ladd-Horkey at the Office of the Bishop for permission to send 2 of the same gender:  
[jladd-horkey@rmselca.org](mailto:jladd-horkey@rmselca.org)
- B. In addition, based upon baptized membership records for the previous year (2017)
  - (1) Congregations having membership of 650 to 1,199 baptized members shall be allowed one additional lay voting member (male or female).
  - (2) Congregations having membership of 1,200 or more baptized members shall be allowed two additional lay voting members (one male and one female).
- . In the selection of voting members, congregations are urged to be aware of the matter of inclusiveness of persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
- D. All Ministers of Word and Sacrament (pastors) and Ministers of Word and Service (deacons) under call or on leave from call on the roster of the Rocky Mountain Synod are voting members.
- G. All retired ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who are currently serving as interim pastors who are in attendance at the assembly are voting members.

## **H. Youth/Young Adult Voting Members**

It is the goal of this synod that at least 10% of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term “young adult” means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service. A youth or young adult voting member is NOT an additional voting member, but rather would be one of the voting members allotted to your congregation.

Information to assist you and your congregation in inviting, selecting and supporting your youth and young adult voting members for the upcoming Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly:

- A youth or young adult attending the Assembly, as a voting member from your congregation, will sit with the members of your congregation and fully participate in the assembly schedule.
- It is our hope that each youth/young adult voting member attending the assembly would have an adult mentor—someone who is also a voting member from your congregation and has previously attended an Assembly. This adult's role is to support the youth during the event, answer questions, explain the business at hand, and offer encouragement for full participation.
- Make sure ALL of your congregation's voting members have copies of the schedule, reports and documents. If

possible bring the congregation's voting members together before the Assembly to review the schedule, resolutions and documents which are posted at [www.rmselca.org/assembly](http://www.rmselca.org/assembly)

- Set a date for your voting members to present a report to the congregation following the Assembly. Include your youth and young adult members!
- Youth who are 17 and younger are the legal responsibility of the congregation. Permission and medical forms and all other critical documents for responsible and safe participation are the responsibility of the congregation. Sample forms, covenants, and guidelines for appropriate adult/youth interaction may be requested from the Office of the Bishop. Youth are the responsibility of the congregation during the regular business hours of the assembly, unless youth-specific events are noted in the agenda. For youth participating in the youth housing option, designated caring adults will serve as overnight leaders.

## Resolutions and Memorials

Although both memorials and resolutions are requests by a synod for action, they are intended to address different issues and are processed differently.

Memorials address broad policy issues and are passed by Synod Assemblies for consideration by the Churchwide Assembly.

On the other hand, resolutions are requests from individual synods to the Church Council or units or offices of the Churchwide organization OR requests from the Synod Assembly to Synod Council, Office of the Bishop, or synodical boards or committees. As a practical matter,

resolutions have a more narrow focus than memorials because they are requests for consideration or action by individual units or offices of the Church Council or Synod Council.

## **2018 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly Elections**

To be considered for election to any of the below positions, a nomination form must be received by **March 23**. The nomination form will be available on the website January 1. Completed nomination forms should be submitted to Janice Ladd-Horkey: [jladd-horkey@rmselca.org](mailto:jladd-horkey@rmselca.org) Nominations will also be received from the floor of the assembly on May 3.

### **Boards and Committees** (4 year terms unless noted otherwise)

#### **Consultation Committee** (6 year term)

(2) At Large Clergy

#### **Committee on Discipline** (6 year term)

(2) At Large Clergy

(2) At Large Lay Male

#### **Global Mission Committee**

(3) At Large Lay or Clergy

#### **Mission Outreach Committee**

(6) At Large Lay or Clergy

## **Congregational Ministries Board**

- (1) Border Conference, Lay or Clergy
- (1) Denver & Suburbs, Lay or Clergy
- (1) Colorado, not Denver, Lay or Clergy
- (1) New Mexico, Lay or Clergy
- (1) Wyoming, Lay or Clergy

## **Synod Council (9 openings)**

- (1) At Large Lay Female
- (1) At Large Lay Male
- (1) Ethnic Specific Ministry
- (1) Youth
- (1) Metro East (Clergy)
- (1) Metro South (Clergy)
- (1) North Colorado (Lay)
- (1) North New Mexico (Lay)
- (1) Utah (Clergy)

## **2019 Churchwide Assembly: August 5-10, New Orleans, LA**

- (1) Border Conference Lay Female
- (1) Colorado Lay Male
- (1) Colorado Clergy
- (1) North New Mexico Lay Female
- (1) Utah Lay Male
- (1) Wyoming Clergy
- (1) At Large Clergy
- (1) At Large Deacon
- (1) At Large Person of Color Clergy
- (1) At Large Person of Color Lay Female
- (1) At Large Youth or Young Adult Lay Female
- (1) At Large Youth or Young Adult Lay Male

# 2018 Rocky Mountain Synod Bishop Election

The process of identifying potential nominees prior to the Synod Assembly is an informational step. The ecclesiastical ballot at the assembly begins the actual process, where each voting member at the assembly writes a name on the first ballot. Any rostered pastor in the ELCA is a viable candidate. The possibility of election exists on any ballot by achieving the required number of votes (see box to the right). The first ballot is the nominating ballot if no election occurs on the first ballot.

## Bishop Election Timeline

Fall/Winter Conference Gatherings

**February 9** deadline for submitting names of potential candidates

**February 12** letters sent to those whose names were submitted inviting a bio be submitted

**March 9** deadline for receiving bios

**March 16** names and bios published on synod website

**May 3-5** Synod Assembly with official nominating "Ecclesiastical Ballot"

## The Election of a Bishop

### **Rocky Mountain Constitution S9.04**

The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot.

Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot.

Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election.

The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.

The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.

On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot.

# 2018 ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD Snapshot



*In preparation for the Bishop Election in May of 2018, this document provides an overview of the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, including its purpose, structure, and current realities. Synod members are encouraged to use this information to inform their conversations about their vision for the synod and their expectations for the next Bishop.*

**The Office of the Bishop:** Currently includes the Bishop, four Assistants to the Bishop (one is half time), one Director for Evangelical Mission (ELCA deployed staff), one Director of the 3E initiative (funded by a Lilly Grant), two Advocacy Directors, two Administrative Staff, and one contracted Communications Assistant. Assistants to the Bishop are co-terminus with the Bishop. The configuration and responsibilities of staff members are determined primarily by the Bishop. Each Bishop establishes a team to address the priorities of the synod while operating within budgetary allowances.

**Governance:** The RMS is governed by the annual **Synod Assembly** with the **Synod Council** serving as the Rocky Mountain Synod board of directors and as the interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. Synod Council members are elected to assure geographic representation.

**RMS Strategic Plan Emphases:** **CLAIM OUR GIFTS:** Teach, proclaim and share the significance of our ELCA way of being part of Christ's Church with a clear contagious vision from abundance. **CONNECT:** Foster new and increased collaboration and connection across our Synod. **EQUIP:** Equip leaders and congregations to strengthen healthy and vibrant faith communities. **ACCOMPANY:** Ensure that Synod leadership is engaged in the life of the congregations and ministries.

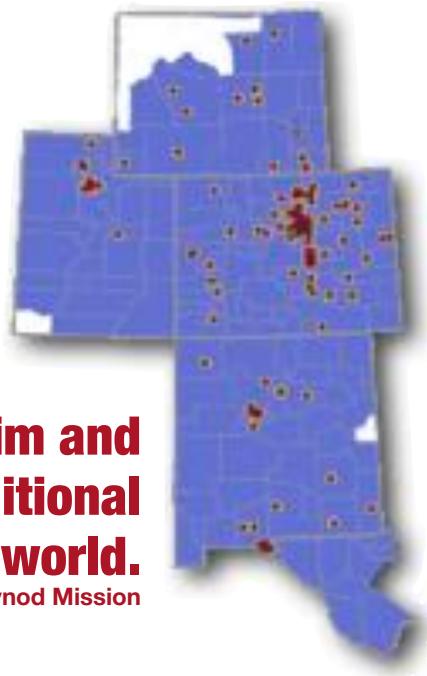
## Synod Stats

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is comprised of about 3,563,800 members in 9,252 congregations.

The **Rocky Mountain Synod** (RMS) is one of 65 synods in the ELCA. The synods are organized into nine regions, and the RMS is part of Region 2.

About **60,000 baptized members** comprise 161 RMS congregations in Colorado [111], New Mexico [22], El Paso, Texas [5], Utah [9], and Wyoming [14].

**Congregations** are grouped into 10 geographic conferences. Each conference has a Dean.



**Together, we proclaim and embody God's unconditional love for the sake of the world.**

**Rocky Mountain Synod Mission**

**Mission Support from Congregations** was \$2.17 million in 2016. 54% stays in the RMS and 46% supports ELCA Churchwide.

**Claiming our Gifts**

**Connecting in Ministry & Witness**

**Equipping All Leaders**

**Accompanying one another into God's Future**

**The Office of the Bishop** is located in unincorporated Adams County, north of downtown Denver at 7375 Samuel Drive, Denver, CO, 80221. Video conferencing via Zoom is used to bridge the geographic distances.

### Summary of Strategic Plan Goals adopted by the Synod Council

#### Claiming our Gifts

Offer a clear and contagious vision about the unique gifts we offer to the larger church and world as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Root our congregations, ministries, and witness in the abundance of our unique gifts

Name our gifts as we tell our story, both as a wider church and through our congregations

#### Connecting in Ministry & Witness

Strengthen communication across our synod

Build connectivity- between congregations, among leaders, and throughout our synod- to energize our ministry and witness

Facilitate networking and sharing, including with ecumenical partners and new rostered ministers

#### Equipping All Leaders

Create a vision for comprehensive leadership development in our synod

Develop a spirituality of generosity and abundance

Use the resources of the Lilly Endowment Grant—Educate, Equip, Enact— to address economic challenges faced by rostered ministers

#### Accompanying one another into God's Future

Acknowledge, support, and create new viable models for ministry across our synod, encouraging creativity and experimentation

Increase the number of rostered ministers arising from our synod and entering candidacy

Align our organizational structures to support our vision for ministry and witness



**Rocky Mountain Synod**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

[rmselca.org](http://rmselca.org)

[www.facebook.com/rmselca](http://www.facebook.com/rmselca)

# The Election and Call of the Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod

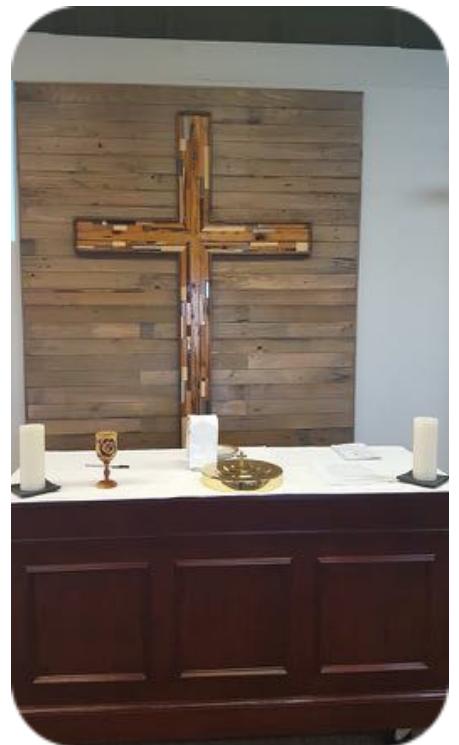
## Bishop Profile: The Office and Ministry of the Bishop

In preparation for the Bishop Election in May of 2018, this document provides an overview of the Office of the Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Synod members are encouraged to use this information to inform their conversations about their vision for the synod and their expectations for the next Bishop.

The Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America seeks the Holy Spirit's guidance in electing and calling a bishop for the Rocky Mountain Synod. The role of the bishop is defined theologically in the Lutheran Confessions and given institutional shape in the constitution of the Rocky Mountain Synod, Chapter 8. (Various citations from the constitution are referenced below. In addition, each nominee will be required to have a background check.)

There will be a time in the election process at assembly when nominees will have the opportunity to answer questions from the voting members. The following outline summarizes some of the key aspects of the bishop's role:

1. **Proclaim Word and Sacrament (the means of grace in Christ) as an expression of the one public office of ordained ministry.**  
*Timothy Wengert in Priesthood, Pastors, Bishops, pp. 65, 75, 100, points out that the Confessions consider the ministry of the bishop to be equivalent to that of a "head pastor" in a city or town. How might the bishop serve as "chief pastor" of Word and Sacrament for the synod?*
2. **Teach the apostolic faith of the church.**  
*How does the bishop foster dialogue and lead conversation about what it means to be Christian (and Lutheran) in this time and place, in relation to the witness of the history and theology of the church's tradition?*
3. **Provide oversight and pastoral care for the ministry of the synod, congregations, and rostered leaders (S8.12.b.).**  
*Pastoral care involves both support and admonition (law and gospel). How does the bishop's role include practicing mercy and forgiveness and yet also providing for good order in consideration for the health of the whole church?*
4. **Ordain and consecrate approved candidates for various ministries (or provide for these actions in accordance with the constitution), attest letters of call, and install rostered ministers. (S8.12.c.-f.).**  
*What are the most helpful characteristics of a bishop's work with the call process? How does the bishop build up and encourage the varied ministries across the synod?*
5. **Lead the mission of the church within the territory of the Rocky Mountain Synod (S8.12.g.).**  
*This may include the ability to lead planning for the overall mission of the synod, to publicly interpret this mission both internally and externally, and to help gather the necessary resources for our mission as a synod. How might the bishop help elicit new visions for mission in the midst of a changing culture?*



## THE GIFTS OF THE BISHOP

The responsibilities listed in the synod constitution are quite extensive, yet are the "minimum requirements" for the bishop's call.

Prayerfully reflect on these questions about the gifts needed for a bishop to serve effectively:

- ◆ What is your vision for our synod for 2023 (six years from now) and how might a bishop help lead us into that future?
- ◆ What are the leadership gifts most important for someone to serve as bishop?
- ◆ As you reflect on your own congregation or ministry, what are the challenges and joys you see and how do you envision a bishop empowering and/or hindering those things?
- ◆ How is God calling you to be actively involved in this selection process and then supporting the person ultimately called to serve as bishop?

6. **Be the chief ecumenical officer of the synod and serve as a sign of the unity of the church in the world (S.8.12.h.).**  
*The ELCA has formal relationships with the Episcopal, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, United Methodist, and United Church of Christ churches. Additional important ecumenical relationships are with the Council of Churches in New Mexico and Colorado, and the Wyoming Association for Churches. What should the bishop's priorities be in fostering these connections?*
7. **Be responsible for administering constitutional processes for resolving controversies and disciplining rostered ministers and congregations of the synod (S.8.12.h.2).**  
*What are the personal gifts and skills of delegation needed to carry out this responsibility?*
8. **Serve as a liaison and link to the wider church across the ELCA and around the world.**  
*The bishop relates to various ministries, including campus ministry, social service ministries and agencies, outdoor ministries, global missions, etc. Approximately four to eight weeks of the bishop's time each year are involved in working directly with the ELCA and its regions (more time in years with a churchwide assembly). The bishop covenants with other bishops and church leaders to foster collegial and accountable relationships. How might a new bishop set priorities for managing the demands of the role, especially in light of the travel required in this large synod geographically?*
9. **Be an administrator for the work of the synod (S8.12.i.).**  
*The office of bishop involves many administrative duties, including exercising appropriate legal authority; preparing for synod assemblies and the synod council; acting in conformity with the constitution; supervising other synod officers and synod staff; appointing and serving on committees; and maintaining rosters. The position involves a great deal of collaboration, supervision, and leadership. How can assistants to the bishop, the synod council, and the administrative staff best collaborate in accomplishing the synod's work?*
10. **Advocate and encourage governmental and societal leaders toward the greater establishment of justice.**  
*This may include fostering inclusiveness within the synod's ministries (s8.12.01.a.-b.), and public witness in line with the church's social statements and Scriptural foundations. How does the bishop's "public witness" reflect on the mission of the Rocky Mountain Synod overall?*
11. **Continue the momentum of the RMS Strategic Plan as endorsed by the Synod Council and Synod Assembly.**

## The Bishop's Term of Office

The bishop is elected to a six-year term. In the Rocky Mountain Synod, there are no term limits.

## The Election of a Bishop

*Rocky Mountain Synod Constitution S9.04*

The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot.

## The Ecclesiastical Ballot

- On the first ballot the name of any eligible individual (an ELCA Minister of Word & Sacrament) is submitted by each voting member.
- The possibility of election exists on any ballot by achieving the required number of votes cast by voting members of the assembly applicable to a particular ballot.
- Spoken floor nominations are precluded.
- The first ballot is the nominating ballot if no election occurs on the first ballot.



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

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[www.facebook.com/rmselca](http://www.facebook.com/rmselca)