

2025 NOMINATIONS FOR CENTRAL STATES SYNOD

Introduction

Each year the voting members of the Synod Assembly elect people who have been nominated for various positions, such as members of the Synod Council. Ultimately, the voting members of the Assembly are responsible for the nominations, but they are assisted by members of congregations, area ministry leaders, and the Nominating Committee. There are two stages to the nominating process, one before the assembly and one at the assembly. All Synod Council positions (except the youth positions) require a background check. A link to complete the background check will be sent following the assembly.

Pre-Assembly

Early in the calendar year, the Nominating Committee works with conferences to fulfill its responsibility as described in the synod bylaws (S9.03.04). Nomination forms are to be submitted to the synod office no later than April 15, 2026.

At the Assembly

Nominations may also take place at the assembly as described in the synod bylaws (S9.03.05). Those nominated from the floor will be expected to complete the biographical form as early as possible following their nomination.

Participating in the Process

Whether you are a voting member of the assembly or not, if you have questions about how you can participate in the nominating process or would like to suggest someone for nomination, please contact your pastor, or Tim Anderson at the synod office (913-948-9701, tanderson@css-elca.org).

Helpful information:

Responsibilities for Synod Council members:

- Be the board of directors for the synod and serve as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- Carry out the resolutions of the assembly.
- Attend council meetings, ordinarily three times a year.
- Interpret the work of the synod through their conferences and across the synod.

The term "persons of color and/or person whose primary language is other than English" (PC/L*) is understood to mean African American, Black, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino, Native American, and Alaska Native people.

The term "youth" means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election. The term "young adult" means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election.

It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. (S6.04.B09. Adopted by 2009 Churchwide Assembly)

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NOMINATION FORM

Anyone elected to a Synod Council position will need to complete a background check.

[Submit a nomination online](#)

Conference: _____

Position Nominated for: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Congregational membership (include city/state): _____

Congregational activities: _____

Synodical/churchwide activities: _____

Community activities: _____

Person of color/language other than English? ___ yes ___ no
Youth (younger than 18 years old) ___ yes ___ no (DOB _____)
Young Adult (between 18 & 30 years old) ___ yes ___ no (DOB _____)

Nominated by: _____

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PRE-ASSEMBLY NOMINATIONS 2026

The Nominating Committee presents the following nominations:

Synod Council Members (3-year term except where noted)

Secretary (4-year term)	Alesia Roccia*
Border Conference - clergy, male	Rev. Edd Wunderlich
Central Kansas Conference - lay, female	Julie Barstow*

* Incumbent

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION—NOMINEES

Synod Council Nominations

Position: Synod Secretary

Name: Alesia Martin Roccia

Congregation membership: Family of Christ Lutheran, Imperial, MO

Congregational Activities: As a founding member of Family of Christ, I have served in leadership roles for over 20 years, including on the Council and as Congregation President. I am deeply committed to community outreach and engagement, actively supporting initiatives such as food drives and family-focused events like Trunk or Treat and the Community Egg Hunt. I currently contribute as a member of the youth education team, worship team, and finance committee.

Synodical/Churchwide Activities: I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as Synod Secretary since October, bringing my experience in nonprofit leadership, record-keeping, and fundraising to support and strengthen the Central States Synod. I am also actively engaged with the Synod Hunger Team, where I focus on food insecurity education and the review of ELCA Domestic Hunger Grants.

Community Activities: I am deeply engaged in food insecurity and hunger relief efforts through distribution, fundraising, and advocacy as part of my work with the St. Louis Area Foodbank. I am also committed to supporting my daughter and individuals of all abilities through disability employment and life enrichment initiatives. In addition, I am an active advocate for neurodivergent communities.

YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

Position: Border Conference

Name: Rev. Edd Wunderlich

Congregation membership: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Kansas City, MO

Congregational Activities: I am the pastor at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Synodical/Churchwide Activities: I currently attend the Border Conf. text study. I also serve on the board for Oasis. I am also currently on the Hollis Retreat Center capital campaign fundraiser.

Community Activities: I would work with the outreach ministries in the Northland. I sing with the Heartland Men's Chorus, serving as the chair for the Aids Walk KC. I work closely with the Chinn Elementary School.

YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

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Position: Central Kansas Conference

Name: Julie Barstow

Congregation membership: Peace Lutheran Church, Manhattan, KS

Congregational Activities: Working at the church as the Director of Youth and Family Ministry often blurs the line between what is work and what is volunteering. I am part of the Mom's Group that meets monthly, I help with many of the activities and service projects provided by our Ministry and Outreach Committee, such as God's Work, Out Hands. I often find new projects to bring to other ministry teams, such a knitting project that would be a nice addition to outreach ministry. I love to find donations for projects that church is hosting, most recently the Peace-Full Pantry Fundraiser Meal and Auction.

Synodical/Churchwide Activities: I have served on the Synod Council now for 3 years. I have been part of the Executive Committee for one year. Due to my role as DYFM, I have attended 4 Youth Gatherings, take part in area Conference meetings when I am able and attend the Extravaganza about every other year. I have been on the Camp Tomah Shinga Auction team for 3 years where I get to help with decorations and finding auction item donations.

Community Activities: Our family enjoys supporting different groups around town that are hosting pancake fundraisers or chili feeds by purchasing tickets and attending. Our kids' schools often have specific drives such as a Pet Toy Drive or Clothing drives that we support. Instead of throwing out items we are getting rid of we like to offer them to area agencies such as MART or Be Able. We support the Manhattan Go Green Match day each year. I am a member and regular attendee of Chapter DE PEO (Professional Education Organization) which supports women in education. I am currently serving as Chaplin and on the membership committee.

YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No
