

**Synod Council, Boards & Committees**  
**Elected Positions**  
**Summary of Descriptions**

The Nominating Committee: (WIS Constitution Chapters 7&9)

- There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of five members to serve for each regular meeting (1 year) of the Synod Assembly.
- The Nominating Committee shall make nominations to the Synod Assembly as specified in Chapter 9 of the constitution and its other chapters and bylaws. The Nominating Committee shall secure from all nominees assurance of their willingness to serve if elected. The Nominating Committee shall include in a certified list (for the Credentials and Elections Committee) the nominee's address, congregation, and pertinent biographical information.
- The Nominating Committee meets two to three times annually and members may work individually contacting conference leaders.

The Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel: (WIS Constitution Chapter 7)

- The Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel shall advise the Synod Council on the agenda and program of the Synod Assembly and shall supervise the preparation of a Pre-Assembly Report, which shall include the agenda reports and resolutions referred to it by the secretary, Synod Council, or voting members. It shall receive, during the Synod Assembly, any resolution of a general character which is not germane to the pending question or report.
- The term of office is two years, beginning after the election at the Synod Assembly. The Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel meets five to six times annually and attendance at the Western Iowa Synod Assembly is required.

Synod Council: (WIS Constitution Chapter 10)

- The Synod Council shall be the board of directors of this Synod and shall serve as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly
- Each person elected to the Synod Council shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. Broad experience in the church and commitment to its mission is suggested.
- The term of office of members of the Synod Council, with the exception of the officers and the youth members, shall be three years (unless filling a vacancy). The term begins after the election at the Synod Assembly.
- The Synod Council shall have at least three stated meetings annually, one of which may be an overnight retreat. Most Council members are asked to relate to another group in the synod involving two to six additional meetings.

The Consultation Committee: (WIS Constitution Chapter 11)

- The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consider matters of disagreement within congregations that have been brought before the Synodical Bishop but remain unresolved.
- The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of at least six persons and not more than 12 persons, of whom half shall be ordained ministers and half shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection. The term begins after the election at the Synod Assembly. Members of the Consultation Committee shall have an understanding of faith and polity of the ELCA.
- This committee has never met. If a consultation hearing were needed, it would require about a week's time.

The Committee on Discipline: (WIS Constitution Chapter 11)

- The Committee on Discipline of this synod shall deal with charges of misconduct or issues of faith brought against ordained ministers, lay rostered persons, or congregations.
- The Committee on Discipline of the synod shall consist of 12 persons of whom six shall be ordained ministers and six shall be layperson, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection. The term begins after the election at the Synod Assembly. Members of the Committee on Discipline shall have an understanding of faith and polity of the ELCA.
- This committee has never met. If a discipline hearing were needed, it would require about a week's time.

Synod Boards: (WIS Constitution Chapter 11)

- There will be three Synod Boards responsible to the Synod Council to fulfill the mission and function of the Synod.
  - The Board for Congregational Life shall be responsible for working with congregations to identify needs and develop or assist in the development of programs to fulfill the needs in the following areas of congregational ministry: worship, witness/evangelism, stewardship, education and service.
  - The Board for Mission shall be responsible for engaging the members and resources of this synod and its congregations in mission inside and outside the USA through involvement in evangelism, witness, justice, service, relief and development.
  - The Board for Ministry shall be responsible for the programs and organizations of the synod which affirm, develop and support the ministries of the whole people of God, including recognition and support of the ministry of laypersons, ordained persons and associates in ministry.
- The three boards shall each have one member from each conference elected by the conference. Suggested qualifications are broad experience in the church and commitment to its mission.
- The term of office of a board member shall be four years and no person may serve on any board for more than one term from one conference. The boards of the Synod shall come into being after the first meeting of the Synod Council each year – usually within a few weeks of the Synod Assembly.
- The Synod Boards usually have three Saturday meetings each year.