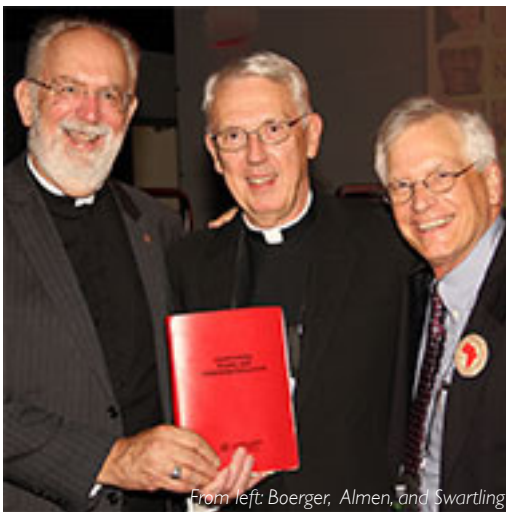


Congregational Council Trainings



Metropolitan New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

We are offering six Saturday events that give thanks for congregational council leaders in our synod and equipping them for their leadership. We'll look specifically at what congregational councils are tasked with doing, including governance best practices, and offer time to network with other leaders.



From left: Boerger, Almen, and Swartling

To help guide our time, our speakers will be past and present secretaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

The Rev. Lowell Almen

The Rev. Lowell Almen was the first ELCA secretary, holding the post after the ELCA was formed in 1987 by a merger of three Lutheran denominations until 2007 when he retired.

Mr. David Swartling

Mr. David Swartling, a trial lawyer from Seattle, was elected as secretary at the 2007 Churchwide Assembly. Swartling, the first lay person to hold the post of ELCA secretary, said his goal would be to "assist and facilitate mission and ministry in this wonderful church."

The Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger

The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger was elected to serve a six-year term as ELCA secretary at the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Pittsburgh. Previously, Secretary Boerger served as bishop of the ELCA Northwest Washington Synod based in Seattle for two terms.

Feb 4

with Rev. Lowell Almen
Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in
Huntington, NY

Mar 4

with Mr. David Swartling
Long Island Lutheran High School in Brookville, NY

Feb 11

with Mr. David Swartling
Graymoor Spiritual Life Center in Garrison, NY

Mar 11

with Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger
Wartburg Adult Care Facility in Mt. Vernon, NY

Feb 18

with Rev. Lowell Almen
Wartburg Adult Care Facility in Mt. Vernon, NY

Mar 18

with Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger
Auburn Seminary in New York, NY

Each event is 9:00am to 4:00pm. All congregation council members must RSVP at least two weeks prior to your selected date. Learn more by visiting www.onlinemnys.org/eventregistration.



Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are **claimed, gathered, and sent** for the sake of the world.
Learn more about For Such a Time as This, our 2013-2023 Strategic Plan at www.mnys.org.



Over the past four years of the development and implementation of our synod's strategic plan it has remained important to listen to leaders in our synod. One thing we kept hearing from our pastors, Synod Council, and Conference of Deans is that they would like help training congregational councils for their work.

We've developed these six trainings for this exact need. We are thankful for lay leaders who dedicate time and energy to congregations. We want to help them in this role. We'll look at what a council member is responsible for, policies congregations should have in place, and how this all helps us to strengthen our mission as a church.

Each of the events are free and will have the same content so you only need to commit to one. We hope that at least your congregation's officers if not your entire council will attend. There will be time in the day for meeting other congregation's officers and learning from their experiences. We'll also have time for your council to work together on goals for the coming year.

We want this to be the best possible experience and have invited some of the most knowledgeable people on this topic – past and present secretaries of the ELCA. The Rev. Lowell Almen, Mr. David Swartling, and the Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger will be at two events each to guide us through this information and answer questions. You will be able to ask questions specific to your congregation's needs and learn from others.

Make sure to register your council early so you get your first choice in a date and location!



Draft Schedule

Morning Session

- 9:00 Gathering and Breakfast
Arrive and check in to receive the materials for the day, including a USB drive with all the documents to be covered.
- 9:30 Welcome and Worship
As leaders in the church, we are always grounded in our faith. We'll worship together and explore how council leaders are also spiritual leaders.
- 10:00 Governance and Best Practices
What are the ten things council members need to know? What is included in the model constitution? What are best practices for councils and leadership? We'll look at all this and more with questions and answers throughout.
- 11:45 Questions
We know that there will be lots of questions so we built in plenty of time for them. Write them down for the presenters to look over at lunch and provide answers in the afternoon session.
- 12:00 Lunch
For lunch, you'll be joining in affinity groups with other council members, treasurers, secretaries, vice-presidents, and presidents to learn from each other.

Afternoon Session

- 1:00 MNYS Strategic Plan Refresh and Congregational strategic plans
We'll look at our synod's priorities for mission in the next few years and help congregations to think about their own goals for ministry.
- 1:45 Congregation policies / trainings
We will go through a checklist of what congregations should have in place. You'll go home with a full USB drive to make it easy to get started!
- 2:15 Individual Councils work together
Use this time to reflect on what you've heard so far and set goals for the year with your congregational council. Presenters will be throughout the room to answer questions and give guidance too.
- 3:15 Reporting back
As we return to the large group, we'll share among congregations what next steps are happening and the presenters will offer answers to all of the questions that have been submitted.
- 3:45 Prayer and Benediction
As we near the end of the day, we will again offer prayers of thanksgiving for one another and our common mission in Christ.