



Metropolitan New York Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Dear Pastor and Council,

Blessings to you in the name of Christ! I write to you because a member of your congregation has expressed interest in applying to Candidacy for rostered ministry in the ELCA. We are grateful to you and your congregation for helping your members discern a vocation to serve and for nurturing leaders in the Church.

The MNYS Candidacy Committee values the home congregations of candidates as important partners in the Candidacy process. We appreciate your willingness to accompany your members in their discernment, to share your honest reflections during the application process, and to support your candidates spiritually, emotionally, and financially during their formation.

The following packet includes two forms: the **Congregational Registration** Form and the **Congregational Support** form. The Congregation Registration form asks for your clear and honest reflections on the applicant's sense of call, gifts, growing edges, and potential for rostered leadership. The Candidacy Committee takes this feedback very seriously as it considers an Entrance decision. The Congregational Support form asks your congregation to prayerfully discern how you will commit to financially supporting the applicant, should they receive a positive Entrance decision. Preparation for rostered ministry requires Candidates to invest significant amounts of money, time, and energy into education and formation. The concrete support of their home congregation makes a big difference for Candidates as they navigate this process. **Please return the attached forms via email to Candidacy Administrator, Leticia Silva, at lsilva@mnys.org at your earliest convenience.** Your member's initial application is not considered complete, and an Entrance interview cannot be scheduled until these forms are returned.

Finally, **the Metropolitan New York Synod Candidacy Committee encourages congregations to partner with the applicant in paying the Candidacy application fee.** This fee of \$1200 helps offset the high costs of the psychological evaluation and background checks required of all applicants. If possible, we encourage each congregation to prayerfully consider paying one half of the fee (\$600) as a concrete demonstration of support for your member in discernment. If your congregation is able to partner with the applicant in paying this fee, please let Leticia Silva know at lsilva@mnys.org.

Please let me know if you have any questions. You can reach me via email at bseely@mnys.org. Thank you for your important ministry that is raising up faithful new leaders for the ELCA. We are deeply grateful for you and all you do.

Yours in Christ's service,

The Rev. Becca Seely
Candidacy Coordinator

Please read these instructions before you proceed!

Instructions for filling out this form

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FILLING IN THE FORM

This form can be filled out and saved for later editing, printing, or emailing. To fill out this form, position your cursor within a light blue field, click and begin typing. When you have completed a field, tab or click to the next. Periodically save your work. The first time you may be prompted to save with a different file name; you may name your file anything you want. If you include your name in the file name, that will make it easier to identify your file among other submissions. To ensure success, fill out a small portion of the form, save and exit. Open the form again and verify that your entries were saved.

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Congregational Registration Form (Communal Discernment)

Every Christian has a baptismal call to ongoing discernment of God's activity in the world, in the Church, and in one's life. The primary purpose behind emphasizing a phase of discernment prior to candidacy - normally with a rostered minister or mentor and a discernment team selected by the church council - is to assist applicants in reflecting upon aspects of their lives that might confirm a call to rostered leadership. Some aspects worthy of consideration include an understanding of baptismal vocation, spirituality and prayer life, critical life experiences, relationship with the community of faith, significant life influences, and family of origin. You are asked to provide your understanding of the person named below who seeks candidacy for Rostered Ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This will be a part of the information which will assist the Candidacy Committee in its task of evaluating and accompaniment of the applicant as they begin their candidacy journey. Thank you for your time and effort in providing a candid evaluation of this applicant.

Person Seeking Candidacy: _____

Congregation (Discernment Community)

Name: _____

Address: _____
city state postal code

Pastor: _____ Synod: _____

Congregational Membership

Date of applicant's membership in your congregation: _____
mm/dd/yyyy

Number of years as a member: _____

Please share a brief description of this person's participation in the life of your congregation including any specific areas of responsibility and service.

Describe the process of discernment in which this person has been involved.

What is your assessment of this person's potential for leadership?

To your knowledge, are there any personal factors related to health and well-being that might be of concern if this person enters public ministry? Please be specific.

Describe any areas in which you believe this person might need specific guidance or nurture in order to pursue candidacy in the rostered ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Please be specific.

We hereby register this member of our congregation to be considered for candidacy in the rostered ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Chair of the Discernment Team or Council President: _____ **Date:** _____
mm/dd/yyyy

Pastor: _____ **Date:** _____
mm/dd/yyyy

Send completed form to Candidacy Committee at Synod Office.

Please read these instructions before your proceed!

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CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT FOR CANDIDATES AT A SEMINARY

Person Seeking Candidacy: _____

Name: _____ Synod Affiliation: _____

Address: _____
CITY STATE POSTAL CODE

Our congregation has registered the above named member as one who is seeking candidacy to rostered ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as (roster) _____

It is our intent to provide support for this member through regular communication, prayer, fellowship, leadership and worship opportunities, and the like. It is our further intent to provide financial support in the amount of: _____
for the years _____ through _____
YYYY YYYY

The financial support will be sent to the financial aid office of: _____
on or before the date of: _____
MM/DD/YYYY SEMINARY


It is our desire that the seminary financial aid office allocate these funds in the following way:

- For the general financial aid program of the seminary in providing for any student need.
- For the above-named student to the extent of his/her financial need with the remainder available for the general financial aid program of the seminary.
- For only the above-named student, regardless of financial need.

Congregation:

Name: _____

Address: _____
CITY STATE POSTAL CODE

Council President or Secretary: _____
To unlock form, right-click on signature and select Clear Signature.  Date: _____
MM/DD/YYYY

Pastor: _____
To unlock form, right-click on signature and select Clear Signature.  Date: _____
MM/DD/YYYY

Send completed form to Candidacy Committee at Synod Office.
FOR QUESTIONS CALL 773-380-2870 • WWW.ELCA.ORG/CANDIDACY