

CONFERENCE DEANS

The Dean of the Rostered Persons in each Conference for Cooperative Ministry shall be the liaison between conference rostered persons and the Office of the Bishop. The Dean shall be supportive of the ministry of the synod and the ELCA and have a clear commitment to collegial relations among rostered persons.

The Dean shall:

- 1) initiate a monthly gathering of rostered persons for the purposes of eucharistic worship and community building;
- 2) initiate occasions of welcome and orientation for newly arrived rostered persons and farewells for rostered persons leaving the conference;
- 3) communicate, in a timely manner, pastoral care concerns and celebrations of rostered persons in the conference to the office of the bishop;
- 4) establish a communication network (telephone, fax, and/or electronic mail) to transmit urgent messages to conference rostered persons;
- 5) preside at the election of the Conference Chaplain;
- 6) meet with the bishop and/or his or her designee and the other Conference Deans in the synod at least annually for the purposes of training, communication, reflection, and support;
- 7) be on the active ministry roster of the ELCA in the Conference where he or she serves;
- 8) be nominated by the Bishop, and appointed by the Synod Council, the number of consecutive terms shall be renewable by appointment of the Synod Council in consultation with the Dean;
- 9) submit an annual report to the conference and the office of the bishop; and
- 10) be reimbursed for expenses by the synod.

The Dean may:

- a) at the request of the bishop, represent the bishop at congregational and conference activities;
- b) engage in other ministries of support and communication as mutually agreed to by the rostered persons of the conference or the bishop.