

CONFERENCE CHAPLAIN

The Chaplain of a Conference for Cooperative Ministry, in consultation with the Bishop's Office and the Synod Council, shall be entrusted with fostering pastoral care among the rostered persons of the Conference and rostered persons' families. The Chaplain shall have a clear concern for spiritual care and be considered trustworthy and wise in pastoral matters. All matters dealt with in the course of this ministry will be kept in strict confidence unless permission is specifically granted to share such information with others (including the bishop).

The Conference Chaplain program is intended to foster mutual spiritual care through simple encouragement and readily available resources.

The Chaplain shall:

1. Take responsibility for visitation of members at time of professional, personal, or family crisis;
2. Covenant to pray regularly for the conference rostered persons and their families and encourage them to pray for each other;
3. Communicate, in a timely manner, pastoral care concerns and celebrations of rostered persons in the conference to the Dean and the office of the bishop;
4. Initiate and encourage the practice of:
 - a. prayer, discussion, fellowship groups
 - b. spiritual care partnerships
 - c. retreats
 - d. contacts by the Chaplain or other designated persons;
 - e. continuing education;
5. Meet with the Bishop and/or his or her designee and the other Conference Chaplains in the synod for the purposes of training, communication, reflection, support, and the sharing of resources for spiritual care among the rostered persons;
6. Submit an annual report to the Conference;
7. Be on the active or retired (parish or institutional) roster of the ELCA in the Conference where he or she serves;
8. Be elected by the rostered persons, active and retired, of that Conference by ecclesiastical ballot (see back);
9. Serve a term of two years, beginning October 1; the Chaplain is eligible for re-election; and
10. Reimbursement for expenses will be determined within each conference.

The Conference Chaplain shall be elected by the rostered persons, active and retired, of that Conference by ecclesiastical ballot.

“Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot.”*

**From S9.04. of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Northeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*