

## Northwest Washington Synod Council

The Northwest Washington Synod is the congregations, people, and ministries of the Pacific Northwest, journeying together. The word *synod* comes from a Greek word which means "to walk together." When we walk together in Northwest Washington, we can be the light that shines with the love of Christ throughout our region.

Our Synod territory stretches from the Canadian border south to Kent, and west from the Cascade foothills into the Salish Sea (Puget Sound Islands). Within our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the Synod is a missional geographic region. Each ELCA Synod is overseen by a Bishop and a Synod Council who provide vision, support, and resources so that these ministries can carry out God's mission.

This council, meeting every other month, serves as the Board of Directors and the interim legislative authority between Synod Assemblies. Synod Council and the Executive Committee meet alternating months, with the council meeting in January, March, May, July, September and November. Synod Council meeting locations vary by month, either onsite within the Synod or online. Each meeting is typically 3-5 hours in length, depending on the month's agenda.

Additionally, our Executive Committee, which includes our Bishop, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two additional council members meets monthly, and provides guidance for the council and leadership between Synod Council meetings. Their additional meeting months include February, April, June, August, October and December. These meetings are typically online, and generally 1-2 hours in length, depending on the month's agenda.

### Current NW WA Synod Council Members

- **Bishop - Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee** Faith, Everett (2031) #
- **Vice President - Kay Edgerton**, Living Hope, Renton (2026) #
- **Secretary - Rev. Netsie Griffith**, Faith, Bellingham (2026) #
- **Treasurer - Dan Clements**, Our Savior's, Everett (2028) #
- **Deacon Luke Allgeyer**, Columbia City of Hope, Seattle (2027)
- **Rev. Andy Arnold**, Shepherd of the Valley, Maple Valley (2027)
- **Sherianne Caldwell**, Immanuel, Seattle (2027)
- **Salvador Cossio**, Grace, Des Moines (2028)
- **Rev. Paul Eldred**, Central, Seattle (2027)
- **Rev. Sara Funkhouser**, Luther Memorial, Seattle (2028)
- **David Kinner** (youth term is 2-years) Pointe of Grace, Mukilteo (2026)
- **Shane Lambing**, Pointe of Grace (2028) #
- **Sam Martinez**, Christ the Servant, Bellingham (2027)
- **Cindy Shultz**, Emmaus Table at 7400 Woodlawn, Seattle (2028) #
- **Rev. Sam Sseba**, Prince of Peace, SeaTac (2027) #
- **Dan Squires**, Our Savior's, Everett (2027)
- **Elizabeth Stitt**, Prince of Peace, Shoreline (2027)

- (Year) indicates when their terms end and # indicates a member of the Executive Council
- Question for the council? **Contact our VP by email.**

### **Synod Vice President**

The Vice President of the Northwest Washington Synod is elected by the Synod Assembly and must be a layperson of any age or gender. The Vice President shall be a voting member of a congregation or a confirmed member of a synod-authorized worshiping community of this synod. The Vice President is chair of the Synod Council, as well as a member of the Executive Committee of the synod. The Vice President is an ex-officio member of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly and receives no salary for performing the duties of Vice President of the Northwest Washington Synod.

The Vice President will meet monthly in official capacity, meeting bi-monthly with the Synod Council (January, March, May, July, September and November) and alternate months (February, April, June, August, October and December) with the Executive Committee.

### **Synod Secretary**

The Secretary of the Northwest Washington Synod is elected by the Synod Assembly and may be either a layperson, or a rostered member of the ELCA. The Secretary may be any age or gender. The Secretary shall be a voting member of a congregation or a confirmed member of a synod-authorized worshiping community of this synod.

The Secretary will meet monthly in official capacity, meeting bi-monthly with the Synod Council (January, March, May, July, September and November) and alternate months (February, April, June, August, October and December) with the Executive Committee.

The responsibilities of the Secretary include:

- a. Recording the minutes of all meetings of the Synod Assembly and Synod Council, distributing such minutes, and performing other duties as this synod may from time to time direct.
- b. Be authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to attest all instruments which require the same, and which are signed and sealed by the Bishop.
- c. In consultation with the Bishop, classify and arrange all important papers and documents and deposit them in the archives of this synod. Additionally, the Secretary shall deposit the archives of this synod in the archives maintained by the region.
- d. At least nine months before each regular Churchwide Assembly, submit to the Secretary of this church a certified list of the voting members elected by the Synod Assembly.

## **Synod Council Member Youth Representative**

The Synod Council Youth Representative is a 2-year term that will end in 2028. The Youth Representative may be any gender but must be under the age of 18 at the Synod Assembly which will take place on May 16, 2026.

The Synod Council typically meets every 2 months. The Synod Council is the Board of Directors of this synod, serving as the legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. Leadership functions include:

- a. Trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of the Northwest Washington Synod.
- b. Recommendation of program goals and budgets.
- c. Serving as the legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- d. Other tasks and responsibilities as needed.

(See Chapter 10 of the [Synod Constitution](#) for full definition of Council.)