

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CENTRAL STATES SYNOD**



Suggestions for Selecting a Call Committee

In selecting a Call Committee, the council consults the congregation constitution for special provisions regarding the call committee's composition and appointment. If no special provisions exist, the following guidelines may prove helpful:

- The model constitution for congregations (C13.05) recommends that the Council appoint a Call Committee of six members whose term of office ends upon the installation of the newly-called pastor/lay rostered leader. The more members on the Committee, the longer the process will take. Every member is expected to be at EVERY meeting of the Committee.
- The council invites congregation members (both verbally in written communications) to nominate persons for the Call Committee. Members are free to nominate themselves. The Council needs to be clear that every person nominated will not be asked to serve.
- The Council determines some general criteria for the composition of the Call Committee. Members should demonstrate Christian maturity, and be concerned for the welfare of the whole congregation, rather than their own personal preferences. Members should work well with others. There should be a diversity in age, gender, and length of membership in the congregation; the same qualifications that are needed for Council service such as voting member, regular worship attendee, regular giver, and participant in congregational ministry.
- *In congregations that have a strong vision for mission and a ministry plan that will be the foundation for the new leader's ministry, an additional step is desirable. Invite those who are interested in serving on the Call Committee for a gathering. Ask them to briefly introduce themselves, to indicate why they are interested in serving on the Call Committee, and about their commitment to God's mission and the ways it is being followed in the congregation. Only members who attend this gathering will be eligible to serve on the Call Committee. A Council Member records the information for the council deliberations.*
- The Council selects the Call Committee from all nominations (including those made by Council members), on the basis of its criteria. It informs the Call Committee members of their selection and thanks all who have offered their services.
- The Call Committee appoints the Chairperson of the Call Committee. Gifts needed for this ministry are spiritual maturity, organizational ability, conscientiousness, and a sense of partnership with the Council. The chairperson is responsible for regular communication with the congregation council. Because documents will be sent electronically from the Office of the Bishop and the Call Process Minister, it is important that the Chairperson or others have access to email.

The Council directs the Chairperson of the Call Committee to contact the Office of the Bishop in order to advance the call process.