

## POSITION INFORMATION

<b>Title:</b>	Director for Evangelical Mission Synod Name: Southwestern Minnesota Synod
<b>Supervisor Title:</b>	Director, Congregational Vitality, New Ministry Training and Development & Synod Bishop
<b>Unit Name:</b>	Christian Community & Leadership (CCL) Home Area
	Position is co-terminus with Synod bishop's term

### POSITION SUMMARY:

This position represents the ELCA through the Christian Community and Leadership Area in the territory of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, and is responsible for engaging synodical leaders, structures and strategies in the formation and development of Congregational Vitality: **“Communities of Jesus that nurture new life-changing relationships with God, one another and the world,”** and reflects the purposes, principles and commitments of the synod, CCL and the ELCA as a whole. This position will coordinate and staff the education of all in the synod through the formation and coordination of three synodical initiatives:

1. Congregational vitality
2. Alignment with Future Church effort of helping the church reach new, young and more diverse people with the Gospel
3. Mission support and/or stewardship as determined by your synod Bishop

The person in this position is expected to fully participate in the life and ministry of the synod staff and synod initiatives, and is responsible for implementing and building upon ELCA commitments to ethnic-specific communities, communities of color, the young-adult population; as well as people and communities experiencing poverty. This person participates in resourcing the synod mission strategy with an emphasis on congregational vitality and leadership.

This position will be co-terminus with the synod bishop and is supervised jointly by both the Bishop of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod and CCL staff. Other assignments of responsibility will be made by the Synod Bishop and Director, CV Training & Development. The position will be based in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod and will serve as a living representation of the interdependent nature of the ELCA. This position is full-time.

### PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES:

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| <b>1.</b> | Responsible for the formation and coordination of a synod mission table that identifies potential fields and resources for the vitality of existing |
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congregations and new mission development of evangelizing congregations in the synod, including area ministry strategies, congregational mission plans, and congregational vitality.

2. Responsible for the development and coordination of synod mission strategy including building and developing key relationships with missional leaders who will form the synod mission strategy table. This position pays particular attention to the implementation of ELCA commitments to be in ministry among ethnic, multicultural and emergent communities; as well as ministry among people living in poverty.
3. Responsible for the administration of partnership support for the synod's Congregational Vitality portfolio if this is not done by other synod personnel.
4. Responsible for identifying and recruiting of leaders for synod teams and to raise leaders who can also serve as mission developers and redevelopers.
5. Responsible for being a public voice on behalf of the churchwide organization and synod including preaching, sharing learnings and other leadership opportunities. Provides a visible witness to the interdependent nature of the church and communicates our shared mission and vision.

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Effective grounding in Lutheran community life and theology, missional theology, and the theories and practices of mission development that responds to God's grace in Jesus Christ.
2. Effective communicator in preaching, teaching, writing and evangelical outreach.
3. Demonstrated ability working with leaders in agile, adaptive innovation and facilitating group processes and knowledge, experience and/or willingness to learn, listen and utilize the ELCA Coaching Ministry in growing leaders and building tables.
4. Extensive knowledge of the organizational structure of the ELCA and its synods and congregations.
5. Ability to utilize metrics, congregational trend reports and demographic data in the process of the development of congregational vitality for new and existing congregations.
6. Proven effective time-management and administrative experience and ability to meet deadlines and attention to details.

7.	Exceptional interpersonal, organizational, analytical and communication skills and the ability to work in partnership with peers, other CCL staff, synod and regional staff.		
8.	Demonstrated competency among communities of color; and well as with people and communities experiencing poverty. Ability to relate and communicate well in diverse cultural, ethnic and socio-economic situations.		
9.	Active participation in a Christian congregation and God’s mission.		
<b>Physical Requirements</b>			
	<b>Travel</b>		
	Must be willing to travel frequently via automobile and air (approximately 20-30 %). Travel within the synod can usually be accomplished within the same day. Overnight stay may be required. Valid driver’s license required.		
	<b>Physical Effort</b>		
	While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to talk and listen, use hands and fingers to operate a computer and telephone. This position requires sitting for long periods of time. Reasonable accommodations can be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential function.		
<b>For Human Resources Use Only</b>			
	<b>Effective Date:</b>		
	<b>Salary band:</b>		

The Southwestern Minnesota Synod is one of 6 ELCA Synods located in Minnesota, the third largest, and includes the territory of the southwestern quadrant of Minnesota.

The following synod mission statement describes our identity as a synod and guides the direction of our work in the future:

*The congregations and all the baptized who are the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are claimed by this mission: God places us in cities, farms, and towns together under one prairie sky. The risen Christ surprises us with opportunities to plant God’s Word in the world. Walking together in confidence, we cultivate life-giving congregations, nurture partner ministries, and cooperate in the life of the ELCA. By God’s grace, together we have what we need.*

The Southwestern Minnesota Synod has 233 congregations. Some of these congregations are part of a multi-point ministry. Currently, the Southwestern Minnesota Synod includes two, three, four, and a six-point-point parish. There are 240 active ministers of word and sacrament and word and service on our roster. There are also candidates in the TEEM program and interns serving congregations. Additionally, there is a core of authorized lay worship leaders who lead worship in congregations without a called pastor. Additional information is available at <https://swmnelca.org/> and at <https://swmnelca.org/2021/04/29/assessment/>