

Synod Consultation Committee, Metropolitan Washington DC Synod
Description and Expectations
(As of February 17, 2006)

You have been asked to consider having your name placed in nomination for a six-year term as a member of the Consultation Committee of the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). As you consider this opportunity for service, we would like you to know something of the expectations and responsibilities of this office so you can make an informed decision.

The Consultation Committee meets only on an “as needed” basis. In accordance with our synod’s constitution and bylaws, members of the Consultation Committee shall be elected by the Synod Assembly and cannot be reelected for a second consecutive term. The Consultation Committee shall be composed of twelve members, six clergy and six lay. The terms of committee members shall be staggered so that the terms of four members (two clergy and two lay) shall expire every two years on even numbered years. The term of office for members shall begin upon election.

Functions of the Consultation Committee include:

- When there are indications that a cause for discipline may exist in matters pertaining to ordained ministers and lay rostered ministers of our synod, and before charges are made, efforts shall be made by the bishop of the synod to resolve the situation by consultation; for assistance in these efforts, the bishop may utilize either a consultation panel or an advisory panel appointed from the members of the Consultation Committee.
- When there is disagreement among factions within a congregation on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, members of a congregation shall have access to the bishop of the synod for consultation after informing the chair of the Congregation Council of their intent. If the consultation fails to resolve the issue(s), the Consultation Committee shall consider the matter. If the Consultation Committee of this synod shall fail to resolve the issue(s), the matter shall be referred to the Synod Council, whose decision shall be final.
- Additional functions of the Consultation Committee are set forth in Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

We are looking for people who are faithful and mature Christians, are good listeners and able to keep confidences, and are deliberative and fair minded in their dealings with others. Are you willing to have your name submitted for nomination?