

GUIDELINES FOR SYNOD MEMBERS

Your congregation has elected you as a lay member to serve on Synod. This is an honour, a vote of confidence and a responsibility.

To help you find your way, we would like to give you a few guidelines:

As a rule, an ordinary meeting of Church Synod is convened every two years. The meeting usually lasts for 3,5 days, starting Thursday afternoon with a divine service and ending Sunday with the closing divine service. The dates and venue of Synod are announced well in advance so that arrangements can be made for leave from work.

It is compulsory for Synod members to attend Synod meetings. If members are unable to attend, Church Council, Synod Council and the respective Congregational Council have to be notified and the elected deputy for Synod member has to stand in for the Synod.

Travel costs for Synod members are borne by the relevant congregation. ELCSA (N-T) is responsible for arrangements and costs of accommodation.

Synod members will receive all the relevant documentation and reports timeously to be able to prepare for Synod. Preparatory meetings will be held in the Circuits well in advance to help members orientate themselves and ask questions. These meetings are usually chaired by the President of Synod and the Treasurer of the Church.

The recent Synod meeting in Piet Retief 2013 was the 2nd Meeting of the VI Synod of ELCSA (N-T). Church Synod is constituted for 6 years. Synod members are thus elected for one period of Synod involving 3 Synod meetings, and may be re-elected once. Synod members or their alternates that move away from their congregation relinquish their position as Synod members.

An organogram to outline the structures of ELCSA (N-T) is attached. At each of the 3 Meetings of Synod, elections take place for various positions in church structures according to the constitution and as shown in the organogram.

Please consult any member of Synod or your Pastor if you have any questions.

Wishing you God's guidance and blessings as a member of Synod.