



## Sask Synod pulpit supply policy

### Context

Synod Strategic Plan Strategic Priorities: Expand leadership capacity and courageous innovation.

### Purpose

This policy aims to provide congregations seeking pulpit supply access to a broader list of synod-approved worship leaders.

### Benefits:

This Policy sets out to address the growing issue of pulpit supply for congregation's worship together. There was a time when 'pulpit supply' only meant covering the Sunday worship when the regular pastor was on holidays. In 2020 with nearly 20% of our congregations served entirely by pulpit supply the availability of worship leaders has become a challenge. Congregations normally have accessed a synod pulpit supply list that consisted of rostered ministers. Congregations either unable to secure pulpit supply from this limited list, or unable to afford the travel cost of regular pulpit supply have often asked if the synod could provide them with an expanded list of synod-approved leaders for pulpit supply.

### Principles:

- Worship is a core activity of our congregations.
- Worship leadership is a key requirement for congregational worship.
- Pulpit supply is becoming a crucial element in the worship of many congregations.
- Pulpit supply from ministers of other denominations can be affirmed and accessed if boundaries are addressed in synod policy.
- Synod-approved lay worship leadership can provide pulpit supply if boundaries are addressed in synod policy.
- Sacraments are provided only by ELCIC or ACC rostered ministers, or as provided in this policy by temporary license through the Sask synod bishop in the bishop's constitutional role as having charge of sacrament in the synod.

### Responsibilities

#### A. Congregations requiring pulpit supply.

Congregations should continue to secure a Rostered minister for pulpit supply whenever possible to provide strong worship leadership.

When it is not possible to secure a rostered leader due to availability or finances:

- Congregations can continue to name lay Congregational worship leaders from the congregation to lead worship in their congregation.
  - Congregational councils or their worship committees identify people from their congregation who are capable of leading worship and/or reading the sermon.
  - Congregational worship leaders are not listed on the synod website as they are not authorized by the synod to lead worship beyond their local congregation.



- Congregations are encouraged to access the expanded Synod Pulpit Supply list (on the synod website) to seek pulpit supply.

B. Worship leaders desiring to be listed on the Synod's Pulpit Supply list:

**1. Rostered ministers**

Rostered ministers on the roster of Sask Synod, ELCIC may request to be included in the Synod's Pulpit Supply list. Rostered deacons may be included in the list but are not eligible for presiding at sacrament unless licensed by the bishop for each service.

**2. Ministers belonging to the Anglican Church of Canada**

Ministers belonging to the Anglican Church of Canada are approved for Pulpit supply including presiding at sacrament in Saskatchewan synod congregations and ministries. Prior to inclusion on the synod list the minister must present the bishop with written permission from their diocesan bishop.

**3. Seminary Students**

Seminary students who have taken an initial preaching class may request to be included on Synod Pulpit Supply list. Seminary students are not authorized to preside at sacrament.

**4. Ministers belonging to denominations covered by the Ecumenical Handbook**

The handbook at <https://www.elcic.ca/Documents/EcumenicalSharedMinistriesHandbook-Final2019.pdf> handles the potential relationship of the ELCIC with the United Church of Canada and the Presbyterian Church of Canada. Rostered ministers from these denominations may request inclusion in the Synod Pulpit Supply list.

- Prior to inclusion on the list the minister must present the bishop with written affirmation of good standing and approval for inclusion in the Sask Synod pulpit supply list from their denominational leadership.
- To preside at sacrament, the minister requires the synod bishop's license to preside at sacraments.

**5. Ministers belonging to denominations with whom the ELCIC has no formal relationship**

These ministers may request inclusion on the Synod Pulpit Supply list by submitting a **Covenant for a Synod Worship Leader** to the Synod bishop.

- Prior to inclusion on the list the minister must present the bishop with written affirmation of good standing and approval for inclusion in the Sask Synod pulpit supply list from their denominational leadership.
- If the covenant proposal is approved by the bishop, the minister will be included' in the Synod Pulpit Supply list for a one-year period. The minister may contact the bishop to renew each year.
- To preside at sacrament, the minister requires the synod bishop's license to preside at sacraments.

**6. Lay leaders desiring to be Synod worship leaders on the Pulpit supply list.**

- Must submit a **Covenant for a Synod Worship Leader** to the bishop for approval.
- If approved the Lay worship leader will be added to the Synod Pulpit Supply list as a lay synod worship leader.
- Synod lay worship leaders on the Synod Pulpit Supply List will not preside at sacraments.



C. Bishop

Approves all inclusions to the Synod Pulpit Supply list.

- Reviews all submitted **Covenant for a Synod Worship Leader** documents and informs applicants of the decision.
- Reviews all annual requests for renewal of covenants.
- Works with synod office to support Synod worship leaders.

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## Covenants for a Synod Worship Leader

### Clergy worship leader covenant

Ministers belonging to denominations with whom the ELCIC has no formal relationship may request inclusion on the Synod Pulpit Supply list.

Clergy applicant:

Submit the following covenantal documents to the synodical bishop:

- a letter of good standing or the like from their supervisor in their judicatory body.
- a personal faith statement of about 1-2 pages.

Note:

- If approved the minister may contact the bishop to renew each year.
- The minister requires the synod bishop's additional approval to preside at sacraments .

The bishop

1. Reviews the covenant of the clergy application as a synodical worship leader.
2. Informs the applicant of the decision
3. If approved, the bishop adds the minister to the Synod Pulpit Supply list for a one-year period.

### Lay worship leader covenant

A congregational lay worship leader willing and able to serve beyond their local congregation may request inclusion on the Synod Pulpit Supply list as a Synod worship leader.

Lay Leader

Submit the following covenant document to synod bishop:

- a brief statement of relationship to the congregation they are attending.
- a written personal recommendation from their local pastor. (Normally this is a recommendation from their current ELCIC pastor or in the case of a vacancy, the last serving ELCIC pastor at their congregation).
- a personal faith statement of about 1-2 pages.



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- a statement from the current ELCIC pastor or in the case of a vacancy, the last serving ELCIC pastor at their congregation affirming the ability of the person to lead worship and deliver the sermon.

Note: If approved the lay worship leader may contact the bishop to renew each year.

The bishop

1. Reviews the covenant of the lay applicant as a lay synodical worship leader.
2. Informs the applicant of the decision.
3. If approved, the bishop adds the lay worship leader to the Synod Pulpit Supply list for a one-year period.
4. Informs the worship leader of ongoing educational opportunities for lay worship leaders.