

Bylaw 2.11 (Continued Eligibility of Individual Members)

2010 Handbook of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Active Members

2.11.1

To remain on the roster of the Synod as an active member, an ordained or commissioned minister of religion must be a communicant member of a congregation which is a member of the Synod (except as provided in paragraph [c] below) and be regularly performing the duties of one of the following:

- (a) An ordained minister serving a congregation of the Synod.
- (b) A commissioned minister serving a congregation of the Synod.
- (c) A minister of religion, ordained or commissioned, serving a congregation which is not a member of the Synod, provided that such is approved (on the basis of policies adopted by the Council of Presidents) by the president of the district in which the congregation is located.
- (d) An elected officer of the Synod, including a district or other agency of the Synod.
- (e) An executive or professional staff member serving the Synod, including a district or other agency of the Synod.
- (f) An executive or professional staff member serving a national inter-Lutheran entity of which the Synod is a member.
- (g) A missionary serving under a call by the Synod, including a call by a district.
- (h) A person serving on the faculty or professional staff of an educational institution of the Synod.
- (i) A military or institutional chaplain or other specialized ministry endorsed by the Synod, including endorsement by one of its districts.
- (j) An executive or professional staff member called or appointed by a national inter-Lutheran agency referred to in Bylaw 1.3.8.
- (k) An executive or professional staff member called or appointed by an auxiliary (Bylaw section 6.1) or other recognized service organization (Bylaw section 6.2), or a person serving an educational institution solely governed by congregations of the Synod and recognized by a district of the Synod.

Inactive Members

2.11.2

Inactive members are advisory members of the Synod.

- (a) As such, they have all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of advisory membership in the Synod as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.
- (b) To remain on the roster of the Synod as an inactive member, an ordained or commissioned minister of religion must be a communicant member in good standing of a

congregation which is a member of the Synod and must qualify and make application for one of the following categories.

Emeritus

2.11.2.1

An “emeritus” member is one whose membership is held for retention on the roster upon retirement after reaching the age of 55 or for reasons of total and permanent disability. Any unusual case shall be decided by the Council of Presidents if the appropriate district president so requests.

- (a) The emeritus member or a representative identified by his district president shall, by January 31, make an annual report to the member’s district president.
- (b) This report shall include current contact information and address the criteria for remaining an inactive member of the Synod.

Candidate

2.11.2.2

A “candidate” member is one who is eligible to perform the duties of any of the offices of ministry specified in Bylaw section 2.11 but who is not currently an active member or an emeritus member.

- (a) A candidate may be continued on the roster for a period not to exceed four years by act of the president of the district through which the person holds membership.
- (b) The candidate shall, by January 31, make an annual report to the district president, who shall evaluate the member’s eligibility for remaining on candidate status. The candidate’s report shall include current contact information and address the criteria for remaining on candidate status.
- (c) Among criteria for determining whether candidate status should be granted or continued are
 - (1) The health of the applicant;
 - (2) A spirit of cooperation in any efforts to address any unresolved issues involving fitness for ministry;
 - (3) The extent of current involvement on a part-time and assisting basis in his/her respective ministry; and
 - (4) A demonstrated willingness to consider a call or appointment to any of the offices of ministry specified in Bylaw section 2.11.

Non-Candidate

2.11.2.3

A “non-candidate” member is one who is eligible to perform the duties of any of the offices of ministry specified in Bylaw section 2.11 but who is not currently an active member or an emeritus member and who chooses not to be a candidate member.

- (a) The member may be continued on the roster for a period of up to eight years by act of the president of the district through which the member holds membership.

- (b) The non-candidate shall, by January 31, make an annual report to the district president, who shall evaluate the member's eligibility for remaining on non-candidate status. The non-candidate's report shall include current contact information and the member's efforts to fulfill the responsibilities of an advisory member of the Synod.
- (c) Non-candidate members are eligible to serve in ministry situations upon approval of their district presidents and according to guidelines established by the Council of Presidents.
- (d) The Council of Presidents may grant an extension of non-candidate status for a second period of up to eight years upon request of the appropriate district president.