

ELCA Youth Ministry Network
11821 98th Place North
Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369

Tax ID # 341865352



ELCA Youth Ministry Network By-Laws Effective April 28, 2008

Article I. Name

ELCA Youth Ministry Network

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network is to renew, educate and connect ELCA Youth Ministers as well as promote and encourage their ministry.

Article III. Confession of Faith

- We confess the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.
- We accept the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life.
- We accept the Apostles', Nicene and Athanasian Creeds as declarations of the Christian faith.
- We accept the confessional writings in the Book of Concord as valid interpretations of the Christian faith.

Article IV. Membership

Section 1. Membership

- 1.1 Voting member: Any person who is a youth minister, volunteer or professional, and pays the annual ELCA Youth Ministry Network Membership fee.

Section 2 Membership Responsibilities and Privileges

- 2.1 To further the ELCA Youth Ministry Network's purpose.
2.2 To participate in the ELCA Youth Ministry Network's activities.
2.3 To submit current name, address, phone number, and position.
2.4 To participate in the election of Regional Facilitators

Article V. Board of Directors

All affairs of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network shall be governed by the Board of Directors.

Section 1 Number, Tenure and Election

- 1.1 Number of Members: The number of members of the Board of Directors shall be seven.
- 1.2 Term of Office: The term of office shall be three years. No Board member shall serve more than two consecutive full terms and/or six years. The terms shall be staggered so that two or three board member's terms expire each year.
- 1.3 Elections of Board Members: A nominating committee shall be established to recommend candidates to the Board of Directors to replace members leaving the Board. The Nominating Committee shall present to the Board at its fall meeting the exact slate of candidates for the number of vacancies. The selection of a slate by unanimous decision is strongly encouraged. In lieu of this, there must be four of the five assenting votes to pass the slate.
The board will elect the candidates by simple majority vote. The Nominating Committee will work to see that the board members represent both the diversity of the church, and to specific needs that the Network Board may have at a given time.
 - 1.3.1 Two Nominating Committee members shall be appointed to the committee at the winter meeting of the regional facilitators.
 - 1.3.2 Two Nominating Committee members shall be members of the current board, elected by simple majority at the Board's winter meeting. Board members seeking term renewal may not be eligible to serve on the nominating committee.
 - 1.3.3 The Board shall appoint one at-large member who is not a current board member, Regional Facilitator or staff member.

Section 2 Vacancy

- 2.1 In the event that a Board member can not serve out their term, the Chairperson will ask the Nominating Committee to reconvene and to select and present a candidate for the position in the most expedient way possible. This member then would be eligible to serve a maximum of one more term if nominated and elected by the Board.

Section 3 Removal

- 3.1 A Board member may be removed if said member does not fulfill the responsibilities of his or her position or if said member's goals and ambitions are in conflict with the interest and purpose of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network.
- 3.2 Removal of a Board member shall require a five out of seven vote of the Board.

Section 4 Officers

- 4.1 The Board shall elect by simple majority vote a Chairperson and a Recorder.
- 4.2 The term for an officer shall be one (1) year and is renewable.
- 4.3 Duties of Officers
 - 4.3.1 Chairperson: The Chairperson shall set board meeting agendas,

convene all meetings of the Board, and shall communicate information as needed. The Chairperson shall appoint an ad-hoc chair in the event of his or her absence. When an ad-hoc chair has not been appointed, the convening board will rotate temporary chairing duties.

4.3.3 Recorder: The Recorder shall take all minutes of the Board meetings and shall send a copy to Board members within two (2) weeks after each meeting.

- 4.4 In the event that an officer is unable to complete his or her term, the board shall elect a member of the existing board to fill out the vacant term.

Section 5 Annual Board Meetings

- 5.1 Annual meetings: The Board of Directors shall meet annually immediately before and in the vicinity of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network's Annual Gathering (Extravaganza). Additional meetings (face to face, phone conference or electronic) may be determined by the Board.
- 5.2 Decisions between Board Meetings: The officers of the Board, acting as an executive committee, have the authority to make decisions between Board meetings within the parameters of the By-Laws. The Recorder shall notify all Board members of executive committee actions within two weeks of such action.

Article VI. Committees

The Board of Directors may appoint committees as needed to study and carry out special tasks. At least one Board member shall be on each committee. All committees shall be responsible to the Board of Directors.

Article VII. Regional Representation

- 7.1 The Board of Directors shall see to and maintain communication, representation and the relationship between the larger organization and local, synodical and regional networks. The Board shall see that a system of regional representation, facilitation and communication is in place that will facilitate this goal to ensure quality communication between membership and the ELCA Youth Ministry Network's leadership.
- 7.2 The Board of Directors may choose to empower others (staff or committee) to facilitate this regional representation and structure, accountable to the Board.

Article VIII. Finances

- 8.1. The fiscal year of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network shall begin on July 1 and end on June 30.
- 8.2 The Executive Director shall prepare an annual budget and present it to the Board of Directors for approval.

- 8.3 ELCA Youth Ministry Network funds shall be deposited in the name of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network in a bank designated by the Board of Directors.
- 8.4 The Chairperson, Director and Staff members empowered by the Director shall be able to sign for accounts.

Article IX. Relationship to the ELCA

The ELCA Youth Ministry Network is independent of, but works alongside of and is supportive of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The ELCA's churchwide Youth Ministry Executive, or their designee, serves as an ex-officio member of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Board of Directors.

Article X. Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network, all assets shall be transferred to the ELCA offices in Chicago, IL to be used for the furthering of Youth Ministry.

Article XI. Amendments to the By-Laws

An amendment to these by-laws shall

1. Be approved at any meeting of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Board of Directors by a five out of seven (5/7) vote.
2. Be ratified without change at the next regular meeting of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Board of Directors by a five out of seven (5/7) vote.
- 3.

Following approval, notice of changes shall be communicated to the Network members at least 30 days prior to ratification.

Respectfully Submitted

Charlene Rollins
Recorder; ELCA Youth Ministry Network Board of Directors