

## What is the Candidacy Committee?

*Candidacy is the name of a process.* This process raises up, prepares, certifies and places public leaders in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In the ELCA public ministers include commissioned Associates in Ministry, consecrated Diaconal Ministers and Deaconesses, and ordained Pastors.

In the Lutheran tradition, a person's individual or internal sense of call to ministry must be confirmed by the larger community of the church (external call). By the power of the Holy Spirit, the candidacy process invites chosen representatives of the church to determine whether a person's character, ability, health and wellness, spiritual formation, preparation, and commitment are appropriate for the roster on which that person seeks to serve. The process is a partnership among candidate, congregation, and synod, seminary, candidacy committee and the ELCA Vocation and Education unit.

The candidacy committee of each synod has the responsibility for approving a candidate for rostered ministry in this church. The committee is charged to approve, postpone or deny (with explanation of gifts and challenges) candidates at each step in the process and to give guidance all along the journey.

The candidacy process parallels and works together with the academic process of seminary education. Following approval by the candidacy committee, a candidate will go through an assignment process which makes him/her available to a public all which is finally affirmed when an ELCA assembly issues a Call to the form of ministry for which the candidate has prepared.

For more information, search "candidacy" on the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America website or contact the Pastor Ginny Aebischer, assistant to the bishop, South Carolina Synod, 803-765-0590.