



"FOOTSTEPS  *TO LEADERSHIP"*

**SYNOICAL WOMEN'S
ORGANIZATION**



Structure of the Synodical Women's Organization

The purpose of the Synodical Women's Organization is to assist
Congregational/Intercongregational/Special
Units within the North Carolina Synod
to fulfill the purpose of the Women of the ELCA.

Our Synodical Women's Organization (SWO)
is led by four officers and eight board members:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

The board members chair the following committees:

Communications

Conference Coordinator

Gathering Planning

Leadership and Constitution

Mission: Action

Mission: Community

Mission: Growth

The officers and board members are elected at the annual gathering/convention for a period of two years. The election process is set so that the terms of half those elected expire each year.

Membership of the SWO consists of Congregational/Intercongregational/Special Units who are affiliated with Women of the ELCA in the North Carolina Synod.

The responsibilities of the committees are listed on the following pages.

Communications Committee

Purpose of the Communications Committee:

The responsibilities of this committee are to inform participants about the activities of the North Carolina Women of the ELCA and the Churchwide Organization through *Carolina Vine*, *NC Synod Servant*, Churchwide newsletter *Interchange*, managing the NC Women of the ELCA website.

The committee will accomplish this by:

- 1) Publishing *Carolina Vine*
- 2) Promoting the sale of subscriptions to the *Carolina Vine*, *Gather* and *Interchange*
- 3) Encouraging the use of *Gather* magazine
- 4) Identifying CU reporters who will submit articles to *Carolina Vine* and *Gather* magazine
- 5) Encourage distribution of Women of the ELCA publications to pastors, shut-ins and new participants
- 6) Producing, maintaining and promoting the NC Women of the ELCA website
- 7) Encouraging use of social media

Gathering Planning Committee

Purpose of the Gathering Planning Committee:

The Gathering Planning Committee is responsible for organizing the “program” part of the annual convention. The business portions are the responsibility of the SWO Board.

Hosting the convention is the responsibility of the various conferences on a rotation basis assigned by the SWO Board. The theme of the gathering is taken from the goals set by the SWO Board and the CWO Board.

The overall mission of this committee is to enable Synodical Gathering/Convention participants to take part in uplifting worship, meaningful devotions and a variety of awareness sessions while sharing fellowship with others.

All events of the gathering are designed to equip participants to carry with them a better sense of where and how to best serve.

Leadership Committee

Purpose of the Leadership Committee:

The Leadership Committee is charged with empowering women for leadership in the SWO, Conferences and Congregational Units. This is accomplished in a variety of ways throughout the synod by:

- 1) Leadership training given as needed or requested. The committee provides training through awareness sessions at gatherings, through written and other materials on leadership and through special events designed to encourage and develop new leaders.
- 2) Compiling the interests and talents of the Women of the ELCA across the synod through annual surveys.
- 3) Providing special programs at the annual gathering for young women ages 11 to 35 as a means of encouraging them to become active in the Women of the ELCA and take leadership roles in the organization.

The Leadership Committee is also charged with:

- 1) Providing assistance to congregational units in interpreting, writing, organizing and/or updating their constitutions and bylaws.
- 2) Maintaining the North Carolina SWO Constitution, reflecting Triennial Convention changes and making recommendations for other changes as needed.

Conference Coordinator

One board member is chosen as Conference Coordinator to work closely with the three Conference Leaders elected in each conference.

Responsibilities of Conference Coordinator:

- 1) Serve as liaison between the SWO Executive Board and the Conference Leaders.
- 2) Provide training for Conference Leaders in conjunction with the Leadership Committee.
- 3) Support Conference Leaders and collaborate with SWO committees so that the following activities can be accomplished:

- a) Provide experiences for learning and leadership development
- b) Build community
- c) Provide opportunities for joint ministry and action
- d) Provide opportunities for stewardship education and offerings
- e) Establish networks for communication

Our Three Mission Areas and How They Work In Our Synodical Women's Organization

Our Synodical organization has established three committees that are responsible for the Three Mission Areas of Women of the ELCA. The committees and their responsibilities include:

Mission: Action

Responsibilities of the Mission: Action Committee:

- 1) To proclaim the Gospel to one another and others
- 2) To work with women on a global level for a just society
- 3) To promote justice and peace for all people, with particular concern for women within and beyond the community
- 4) To share time and skills through ministries that serve others
- 5) To take care of and share God's gifts to us

This committee is responsible for peace with justice issues, literacy, Lutheran World Relief, environmental concerns, women and children living in crisis situations, letter writing campaigns and mission interpretation in order to enable women to articulate and act upon their faith as disciples of Christ in all areas of life.

Mission: Community

Responsibilities of the Mission: Community Committee:

- 1) To provide anti-racism education training workshops for congregational units
- 2) To encourage participation in the special projects for Lutheran Family Services
- 3) To collect Campbell Soup labels and Labels for Education for Crossnore School to provide hope for children in need
- 4) To administer the Christine Bohr Anderson Seminary Scholarship for females attending Lutheran seminaries fulltime
- 5) To collect cleaning, health and school kits for Lutheran Family Services
- 6) To cooperate with other mission areas to plan and encourage Rachel's Day
- 7) To promote and support programs of Church Women United
- 8) To support resolutions from Triennial Convention

Mission: Growth

Responsibilities of the Mission: Growth Committee:

- 1) To provide Bible studies for conference gatherings each year that encourage women to examine and grow in their faith
- 2) To plan one day retreats in the spring, an annual weekend retreat, and the Theological Seminar For Women
- 3) To prepare Awareness Sessions for the annual gathering each year
- 4) To support opportunities for women to witness about their Lord
- 5) To enable women to recognize and respond to God's promises for their lives
- 6) To promote and provide resources and learning experiences, which strengthen each woman as a whole person, develop her potential and equip her for ministry

North Carolina Synodical Women's Organization of the Women of the ELCA Standing Rules

- Stationery and envelopes are available from the SWO Secretary or President.
- All printing is to be done on the SWO copier and in black and white, unless otherwise approved.
- If several committees are to meet simultaneously, the place and time will be arranged by the SWO President.
- The newsletter editor(s) and website manager shall be invited to attend Board meetings.
- Minutes of each Board meeting are to be sent to Board members within a few weeks of the meeting, and are to be brought to the next Board meeting for approval.
- Persons invited to Board meetings have the right to speak, but not to make motions or vote.
- All materials submitted for distribution are subject to editing by the SWO President or her designee.
- The President and Secretary may make editorial changes to motions made by the Board as long as they maintain the integrity of the motion.
- A person serving one-half or less of an unexpired Board term will be eligible for election to two additional two-year terms.
- A Board position shall be declared vacant if there are two consecutive unexcused absences from Board meetings.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information about the North Carolina Synodical Women's Organization of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, please visit its website at **www.ncwelca.org**.

To contact an individual officer or board member, please see the President of your congregational unit for further information or the website listed above.