



Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Welcome to Candidacy!

Thanks for your interest in becoming a rostered leader in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The ELCA is consolidating the roster to include those called to Word and Sacrament (ordination) or Word and Service.

"Candidacy" is the name given to the process in which your congregation, the synod's candidacy committee, and the ELCA partner with you to discern what God is doing in your life. In the steps below, you'll see that there are many steps to beginning the candidacy process. I know it can appear extremely bureaucratic and more than a little intimidating. Please know that these steps are designed to help us get to know you so that we can be faithful and effective companions on your journey.

The candidacy committee and I are here for you to help navigate these beginning steps in your process. I will be glad to answer any questions you might have. Please feel free to contact me.

We have received your official application. Soon you will be contacted to set up a time for an initial interview. We do this with all those who enter the candidacy process, so you have a face-to-face opportunity to tell your story and for a committee member to get to know you better.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Kathy Haueisen

Candidacy Chair

kathyhaueisen@sbcglobal.net

Getting Started: Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the first step I need to take to be in the candidacy process?

A. Contact your local synod office.

Q. What form do I fill out to begin the candidacy process?

A. As a new candidate you must create an ELCA community account first. Go to www.elca.org/en/Resources/Candidacy and follow the instructions to do that.

- After that is completed, you will be able to fill out the candidacy application form and submit it electronically. To begin work on your application for entrance to candidacy in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, log in to your <https://community.elca.org> login account, select leader portal, candidacy process, and click on the application.
- You may work on your application and save to submit later. When your application is complete, press "Submit Application." Please remember to print, sign, and mail to your synod office. Print a copy for your records and bring it to your entrance interview.

Entrance Essay

When you read the application form, you will note that it asks for an essay and gives instructions for what it should include. Please make sure to identify yourself as the author of the essay on the front page, say that it is an "Entrance Essay" (there are more essays later in the process), and date it. You'd be surprised how many folks fail to give us that basic information. You can prepare this in MS Word, and send it to Pastor Blair Lundborg, blair@gulfcoastsynod.org, as an email attachment.

Background Check

Download, print, complete, and send by snail mail authorization for us to complete a background check on you. The form should be available on the synod website. If you can't find it, please email a request for it at kathyhaueisen@sbcglobal.net. Please mail it to:

Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, ELCA
Attn: Pastor Blair Lundborg
12941 I-45 North Freeway #210
Houston, TX 77060-1243

You are welcome to talk to Pastor Blair Lundborg as well, 281.873.5665.

Congregational Registration

There is a form by this name on the same page as the application for entrance. You can find this form (a fillable PDF form) at www.elca.org/en/Resources/Candidacy at the bottom of the page. This form is designed for applicants who are members of a congregation with a pastor and congregation council. If you are serving as the leader of a worshipping community, these labels might not fit as well. Don't worry. Ask your president, or another leader, to complete the form. Save it using the following format: (<Last Name> Congregational Registration), and send it as an email attachment to Pastor Blair Lundborg, blair@gulfcoastsynod.org.

Please note: this form asks the congregational leaders to affirm that the applicant has been a member of that congregation for a full year. This is a requirement for entering candidacy.

Psychological Evaluation

Once the above items are complete, you may schedule your psychological evaluation. The fee for this is \$700, \$350 of which the synod pays on your behalf. Often the congregation that completes the congregational registration (your home congregation) will pay the remaining \$350 as way to support you. In any case, that check for your share of the fee needs to be made payable to the "Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod" and sent to Pastor Blair Lundborg at the mail address above.

Texas Applicants

Please contact Dr. Jerry DeSobe, 713.523.4211. Tell the person that you are a Lutheran (ELCA) candidate. He or she will know what to do from there. Dr. DeSobe's office is located at 4306 Yoakum, Suite 565, Houston, TX 77006, www.epiphany-counseling.com.

Louisiana Applicants

Please contact Dr. Lynn Parker-Malik, 504.269.0200. Tell the person that you are a Lutheran (ELCA) candidate. He or she will know what to do from there. Dr. Parker-Malik's office is located at 644 N Carrollton Ave, New Orleans, LA 70119.

Initial Interview

This may be scheduled anytime after the Application for Entrance (including the essay) is complete. Please call me, and I will help you set up that interview with a member of the candidacy committee. This is a structured interview and can take anywhere from an hour to ninety minutes to complete. I will try to set your interview with someone who is geographically close to you.

Entrance Panel

When all these prior steps are complete, you will be ready for your Entrance Panel. The panel is made up of a subset of the entire candidacy committee, who will talk with you about your sense of call to ministry, your life situation, and items of interest that appear in your application, essay, entrance information, background check, and/or psychological evaluation. These people are your partners in Christ, who seek to work with you to discern God's call in your life at this time. I know this all seems intimidating, but try to relax. The panel is there, ultimately, to serve you in Jesus' name.

Three results are possible at the conclusion of the panel: approval, postponement, or denial. Any of the results will be shared with you in Christ's love with regard for your wellbeing, and that of the church.

If you have questions or just want to talk, please contact me. I look forward to working with you.