



Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod www.mnosynod.org

201-3657 Roblin Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3R 0E2 Canada • phone: 204.889.3760 • fax: 204.896.0272 • mnosynod@elcic.ca

“Call to Special Service” Endorsement Policy

Effective Date: April 1, 2010
Approved by: Synod Council (SC Motion # SC 2010-14)
Review Date: March MNO Synod Council meeting, 2011

Background:

Formal recognition of a call to special service enables the synod to provide guidance and support for persons seeking to enter or serving in specialized ministries of service or pastoral care ministries. This endorsement is a function of the church and therefore is distinguished from the certification for competence granted by a professional organization or from employment endorsements given for service in federal or provincial agencies or departments. The main purpose of recognition of a call to special services is for placement on the roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada as a rostered minister (pastor or deacon), under the authority of the Manitoba Northwestern Ontario Synod.

Policy:

1. ELCIC guidelines stipulate that a *Call to Special Services* can only be issued in support of an employment contract of at least two years that is compensated at a level that would allow for participation in the ELCIC Pension and Benefits plan. At present this is defined as being 25% of the YMPE (Year's Maximum Pensionable Earning) as defined by Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Should you wish to continue participating in the ELCIC Pension and Benefits plan, your employer will need to sign an Employers agreement with *ELCIC Group Services, Inc.* In this regard you should contact GSI at 1.877.352.4247.
2. The applicant must be rostered or eligible for rostering or in the ELCIC, according to the standards set by the *ELCIC Candidacy Manual*, i.e. pastor or deacon.
3. Applicants will have served in a congregational setting for at least three years prior to entering specialized ministry unless exceptions are made in consultation with the bishop, as per the *Western Synods First Call Programme*. A first call other than in a congregation must be approved by the ELCIC Conference of Bishops.

4. Applicants will submit the attached list of required written materials to the bishop. First Call applicants may be exempt from required written materials as per guidelines in the *ELCIC Candidacy Manual*, i.e. diaconal ministry.
5. Upon submission of written materials, the applicant will arrange for an interview with the bishop before the applicant's request is given to the synod council.
6. A *Call to Special Services* is issued by the synod council upon recommendation of the bishop, for a three year renewable term.

Required Written Materials

1. Personal Data Form (attached)
2. Personal history essay of applicant's life and spiritual journey, including an understanding of how one's personal history enhances ministry and present involvement in the life of the church, as well as a statement of your current congregational membership and your willingness to provide occasional Word and Sacrament/ Word and Service as requested and as you are able.
3. Documentation of specialized education, both clinical and academic, that serves as preparation for specific areas of ministry for which applicant seeks roster status, including supervisory reports and self evaluations of educational experiences, if applicable.
4. A brief statement of the applicant's theology of specialized ministry as it relates to the specific area of ministry for which roster status is sought. The statement should state how the individual understands the particular ministry specialization to be a ministry of the church, including attention to its contribution to church growth and life.
5. A letter or statement of recommendation from the bishop indicating the applicant's roster standing and support for the applicant's request for call to special services (available after the personal interview).



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CALL TO SPECIAL SERVICES

APPLICATION FORM

PASTOR/DEACON _____

ADDRESS _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email _____ **Phone** _____

A statement indicating the area of specialization for which the applicant is seeking roster status

Applicants signature _____

****Applicant gives permission for required written materials to be shared with synod council, if requested.**

****include this form with all completed required written materials**

Office only:

Date

Action

Interview with bishop

Approval for roster status by synod council