

Report Concerns About a Minister's Ethical/Professional Conduct, or Misconduct

This form is intended to report concerns regarding a Rostered Minister (a pastor or deacon) or a Synodically Authorized Minister.

The Northwestern Ohio Synod takes seriously the standards, responsibilities, and disciplinary guidelines established for Rostered Ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The basic standards, responsibilities, and disciplinary guidelines for Rostered Ministers are set forth in the ELCA's *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions*, and the established policies and procedures of this Church.

Gross misconduct has been outlined in *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* which may be located here:

[Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline](#)

In addition, the ELCA has also set forth in our governing documents, basic standards for ministers, and responsibilities for ministers (letter of call), which can be located here:

[Basic Standards and Responsibilities for Rostered Ministers](#)

If you believe that a Rostered Minister (pastor or deacon) or Synodically Authorized Minister has violated *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*; and/or has not uphold the basic standards for ministers; and/or has not fulfilled their responsibilities/letter of call, please complete this form to report your concerns.

Please note that some congregations use the term "deacon" to describe some members of the congregation's council. For concerns regarding a "deacon" of the congregation's council, please contact the congregation's lay and rostered leadership. If you are unsure, please submit this form and synod staff will be able to inform you if the "deacon" is a Rostered Minister on the roster of the ELCA and subject to the synod's inquiry process.

Please complete this form as thoroughly as possible. You may submit this online or download/print/and mail. Please note that online submission will allow synod staff to receive the concerns quicker.

While you may submit concerns anonymously, please realize that doing so may impact the synod's ability to follow up, investigate, and resolve the concerns if limited information is available.

Your Name: _____

Your Congregation (if applicable): _____

Your Phone Number: _____ Your Email Address: _____

Date of Incident(s): _____ Location of Incident(s): _____

Involved Parties

Individual's Name: _____

Individual's Congregation (if applicable): _____

Select Identifier:

- Rostered Minister (pastor or deacon)
- Congregational Member
- Community Member

Select Role in the Incident:

- Witness
- Alleged Violator
- Complainant/Alleged Victim or Survivor

Incident Description/ Narrative of Events

Please describe the incident(s) in as much detail as possible. (Please attach additional papers to provide the details you need to communicate.)

Additional Documentation

If you have additional documentation to provide such as voicemails, emails, text messages, letters, etc., please include them.

Do you need a way to upload your documents? Yes No