

From the ELCA [Candidacy Manual](#)

*Congregations identify and accompany people as they discern their vocations. For people who have discerned a call to rostered ministry, their congregation submits a Congregational Registration form, which identifies and affirms them for rostered ministry.*

*A congregation maintains a relationship with a candidate throughout the entire candidacy process. Even though registration by a congregation is an important part of the candidate's discernment of call to rostered ministry, the responsibility for assessing and approving candidates belongs to the candidacy committee. Congregation responsibilities include:*

- 1. Providing a community that encourages and nurtures the discernment of vocation.*
- 2. Completing and submitting a Congregational Registration form, which includes a thoughtful and honest summary of an applicant's involvement in the life of the congregation and its participation in God's mission in the world, identifies characteristics that reflect an applicant's potential for ministry, and notes any concerns about an applicant's health, wellbeing, or spiritual life. If an applicant is actively involved in a Lutheran campus ministry or other ministry site, it is appropriate for the campus pastor or another rostered minister to add recommendations concerning the applicant as part of the congregation registration.*
- 3. Providing support for a candidate throughout the candidacy process, including prayer, regular communication, and, when possible, financial support to assist with expenses for tuition and other costs related to candidacy. In the case of students enrolled in an ELCA seminary, such assistance is administered by the seminary.*
- 4. Affirming a candidate's potential for ministry through invitations to teach, preach, and lead worship based on a candidate's availability.*