

ELCA ACRONYM KEY

Coach: An ELCA-trained person in facilitation, discernment, and guiding congregations along their ministry journey. A Coach does not provide answers but rather works with teams and individuals to help them discover the solutions that will best work. Coaches come to the table understanding their “clients” to be creative, resourceful, and whole.

CWO: Churchwide Organization - the national body of the ELCA, headquartered in Chicago, IL.

DEM: Director for Evangelical Mission – a Synod and Churchwide staff member responsible for vitality, strategic ministries, SAOMs, SAWCs, and other Synod-specific ministry initiatives.

EBMD: East Berks Mission District – the geographic area of the Synod that includes the Eastern area of Berks County, PA.

ELCA: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – a merger in 1988 of the Lutheran Church in America (LCA), the American Lutheran Church (ALC), and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC).

GRAIL: Greater Reading Area Involved Lutherans – a group of Lutheran congregations in and near Reading, PA who came together starting in 1972 to collaborate and share in ministry.

Growing Young – “Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church” by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin is a book that centers around the “Growing Young” wheel of 6 key characteristics of congregations who are vital and multigenerational.

LGBTQ: Lesbian-Gay-Bi-Trans-Queer – a shorthand way to reference people who identify Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, or Queer, along with additional identities including Asexual, Intersex, and Two-Spirit.

LLM: Licensed Lay Minister – lay people of the NEPA Synod who have completed the coursework and fulfilled the requirements to become licensed by the NEPA Synod Bishop to serve a specific congregation or 6261 Ministry Community within the NEPA Synod.

LWF: Lutheran World Federation – a global communion of national and regional Lutheran denominations (including the ELCA) for collaboration, shared ministry, and proclamation of the Gospel around the world. The LWF is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

MSP: Ministry Site Profile – the paperwork congregations and ministry sites complete when in the call process and looking for a new rostered minister.

MSS: Mission Site Story – the MSP process specifically designed by the NEPA Synod for 6261 Ministry Communities who are looking to call a deacon or pastor.

NEPA: Northeastern Pennsylvania (Synod) – the ELCA consists of 65 Synods across the United States and Puerto Rico. The NEPA Synod stretches from Reading to New Jersey in the east and all the way to the New York border in the north.

Portico Benefit Services – the benefits broker of the ELCA for health insurance, pension, disability benefits (short-term and long-term), and basic group life insurance, required for Rostered Ministers serving in congregations of the ELCA, but also open to lay employees of ELCA congregations and ELCA-associated ministries.

RIC: Reconciling in Christ – since 1983, RIC has been a public way for communities to see, name, celebrate, and advocate for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expression within the Lutheran church. RIC is a process which Synods, congregations, seminaries, colleges/universities, outdoor ministries, and other Lutheran organizations can complete and which then serves as witness that they are safe places for LGBTQIA+ people to worship and participate.

Roster: The list of ordained people who have completed the ELCA candidacy requirements and are authorized for ministry. The ELCA has 2 rosters: Word and Sacrament (Pastors) + Word and Service (Deacons).

RLP: Reading Lutheran Parish – was a cluster within the WBMD, made up of 13 city-based Lutheran congregations and clergy in Reading who worked closely together from 1992-2002.

RMP: Rostered Minister Profile – the paperwork which a pastor or deacon will complete to become available for a new call. Synods receive this paperwork and share it with congregations and ministry sites.

SAOM: Synod Authorized Outreach Ministry – an outreach ministry for service and evangelism that is typically shared across multiple congregations or is its own independent 501c3 organization for the purpose of providing ministry to the community.

SAWC: Synod Authorized Worshipping Community – a worshipping community in the process of developing into an organized ELCA congregation.

WBMD: West Berks Mission District – the geographic area of the Synod that includes the Western area of Berks County, PA.