GET TO KNOW THE ROLE OF A CORPORATE CONGREGATION
ROLE OF CONGREGATIONS
The Role of Corporate Congregations

The ministry of caring for the elderly is one shared by Lyngblomsten and more than two dozen Christian congregations across the Twin Cities area.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America believes that the homes and programs for the elderly are an arm of the church and a part of the mission of each corporate congregation. All mission work in the sight of God is of equal importance. Congregations need to be sensitive to the mission of caring for the aged and committed to the partnership for shared ministry. Through partnering with Lyngblomsten, corporate congregations are able to expand and enrich their senior ministries and provide assistance in addressing issues on aging, including health concerns and seniors’ desires to live in their own homes.

At the core of the partnership with each corporate congregation is a signed Covenant, which is a written document describing the mutual relationship and commitment that exists between Lyngblomsten and each congregation. Member congregations have rights and responsibilities as described in Lyngblomsten’s bylaws. As a partner, Lyngblomsten works to expand and enrich the senior ministry already in each congregation. In return, Lyngblomsten is supported by prayer, volunteers, staff, member involvement and financial support as member churches are able. In addition to the signed Covenant, each corporate congregation appoints delegates to serve as their representatives to Lyngblomsten. Delegates elect the Board of Directors (volunteers), who oversee the strategic direction of the organization and authorize the hiring of paid staff who carry out the daily operations.

By the way, a bit of history...

The invitation to become corporate partners was first made to congregations in the St. Paul Conference of the American Lutheran Church in 1960 as Lyngblomsten was reincorporated and gifted to the church. Each congregation was asked to elect or appoint delegates to form Lyngblomsten’s new governing body. The delegates then elected members to the Lyngblomsten Board of Directors. In 1983, the delegates voted to expand Lyngblomsten’s corporate base to allow all Lutheran congregations in the St. Paul area to become members. In 1995 corporate membership was opened to all Christian congregations interested in affirming the mutual ministry and commitment to provide for the needs of older adults.

To ensure that Lyngblomsten’s Lutheran heritage continues, its bylaws stipulate that of the corporation’s congregate members, not less than 51 percent shall be affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Congregations’ involvement with Lyngblomsten and the support they provide help Lyngblomsten maintain the high quality and loving care for which it has been recognized. The need for such care in today’s aging society is great. Together, Lyngblomsten and its corporate congregations work as a team to reach out to those who once took care of us.
ANNUAL MEETING
ANNUAL MEETING TIDBITS

In 1960, after operating for 55 years under the leadership of the Branches that originally incorporated in 1906, a new Lyngblomsten Corporation was formed which merged the Branches and the churches of the St. Paul Area Synod of the American Lutheran Church (now the ELCA). This union has developed and grown, and continues to be known as Lyngblomsten.

At the 1983 Annual meeting, the corporate delegates voted to change the membership requirements to include all Lutheran congregations of the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area. At the 1995 Annual Meeting, the corporate delegates voted to change the membership to include all Christian congregations in the greater St. Paul metro area; later “St. Paul metro” was changed to “Twin Cities”.

- The Annual Meeting of the corporation is held at Lyngblomsten on the first Tuesday evening of May. All delegates are required to attend. The Board of Directors is elected at this meeting.

- The corporate delegates, whose names have been submitted, and the Life Branch Members, constitute the voting members at the Annual and special meetings of the membership.

- The management of the business and affairs of this corporation is vested in the Board of Directors of which there are seventeen (17). Each director can hold office for two full three (3)-year terms. At least 14 members of the Board of Directors shall be members of member congregations.

- The Nominating Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors by January 1 of each year. The committee determines its procedure for selecting nominees to be presented to the membership for election at the Annual Meeting.

- Nominations may be made by any person entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. A nomination must be submitted in writing to any member of the nominating committee or Board of Directors, not less than seventy-two (72) hours before the scheduled time of the Annual Meeting. There are no nominations from the floor.

- The officers of the corporation are elected by the Board of Directors at its annual meeting and shall hold their respective offices for one year and until their successors have been elected and qualified.
OUR COVENANT
This document signifies a covenant relationship and written affirmation of our mutual commitment to older adult ministry. We believe this ministry is inherent in the mission of this congregation, of Lyngblomsten, and of the church at large. As people created by God, influenced by Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are called and sent to bear witness to the power of God’s healing and saving presence in this world.

[CHURCH NAME] recognizes older adult issues as an important focus for the members of our congregation and as such is committed to strengthening our ministry to older adults and their families. We will utilize the resources of our church and partner with Lyngblomsten to do this. We recognize that aspects of our ministry include the families and caregivers of the older adults in our congregation. We will set goals for strengthening our senior adult ministry and accept the support of Lyngblomsten to create and implement a written plan to achieve these goals. To the best of our abilities as a corporate congregation, we will fulfill our basic duties of appointing delegates to serve as representatives and of having them attend the annual meeting to elect the Board of Directors for Lyngblomsten.

LYNGBLOMSTEN lifts up the work of [Church Name] and will serve as a partner and resource in helping this congregation design and/or strengthen its ministry to and with the older adults in its congregation and their families and/or caregivers. We will work with the church team to identify specific actions and formulate a shared work plan to help achieve the goals set for the senior adult ministry of [Church Name]. We will periodically review the progress on the plan with the pastor, delegates, other interested church members, and Lyngblomsten staff. We respect that the senior ministry belongs to the church and that we are a resource for that ministry.

TOGETHER, combining the church’s ministry and Lyngblomsten’s experience with older adult issues, we commit ourselves to strengthening senior ministry in this church and in the community.

Member congregations have legal rights and responsibilities described in Lyngblomsten’s bylaws and in Minnesota nonprofit law. By entering into this Covenant, we affirm our Christian commitment to and understanding of our mission to serve older adults, which is embodied in our affiliation, and we agree to perform the mutual obligations created by this relationship.

Signatures:

[CHURCH NAME]  

Lyngblomsten

Pastor  

Staff Liaison

Church Representative  

President/CEO

Date  

Date