



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

TASK FORCE ON HUMAN SEXUALITY SOCIAL STATEMENT RECONSIDERATIONS

REV. WICKY BARNES

The Rev. (Father) W.L. Barnes III, STS was born in York, Pa., and is a 2014 graduate of York College of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in behavioral science. He graduated with a Master of Divinity from United Lutheran Seminary (formerly Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg) in 2018. Since Feb. 1, 2019, he has served as pastor of Shells Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grantville, Pa. Father Barnes is a member of the Society of the Holy Trinity (STS) and the American Guild of Organists. He also serves on the Worship Committee, Nominating Committee, and Justice Task Force of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA.



REV. JOEL BENSON

The Rev. Joel A. Benson is pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Butler, Pa. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (now United Lutheran Seminary). He has served congregations in western Pennsylvania. He is an active volunteer firefighter and keeps busy representing the congregation in the Butler community.



BISHOP BRENDA BOS

Bishop Brenda Bos serves the Southwest California Synod, overseeing 106 congregations with over 11,000 members. She has served Lutheran congregations in Danville, Canoga Park, Santa Monica and San Clemente, Calif. Before ordination, she worked in network television production for 18 years, most notably at Warner Bros. Television. She and her wife, Janis, are fierce advocates for mental health services for families and youth.



GEORGE D. BROWN

George D. Brown is a retired educator from Cumberland, Md. He is a lifelong member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Cumberland, serving in every capacity a layperson can at one time or another. He is an Order of St. Stephen Deacon candidate and serves on multiple advisory boards in his community. Since his retirement, he once again is enjoying one of his passions — coaching high school track and field. George earned a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Education degree from Frostburg State University and a doctorate in education from West Virginia University.



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BISHOP KEVIN JONES

Bishop Kevin Jones was ordained in 1993 and served congregations in Blair, Wis., and Marion and Mason City, Iowa, prior to being elected bishop of the Northeastern Iowa Synod. He and his wife Amy were married in 1986; they have two adult children. They are housemates with a geriatric Great Dane named Thorin. Kevin finds joy in bicycling, walking, woodworking and chainsaw carving.



ROBIN KIME

Robin Kime is the campus ministry associate at ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministries, working closely with students and the campus community at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa. She grew up on a dairy farm and received her Bachelor of Arts in theater — much to everyone's surprise! Her favorite thing about her work is walking alongside students as they grow in their faith and understanding of themselves, and how each day brings something different. Robin is excited to be part of this task force to create safe space for all God's beloved children. She looks forward to working and collaborating with everyone.



REV. DR. KATHRYN KLEINHANS

The Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kleinhans is dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio. Prior to coming to Trinity in 2018, she held the Mike and Marge McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission at Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, where she taught for 24-1/2 years. Dr. Kleinhans is a graduate of Valparaiso University (Bachelor of Arts in theology, Christ College Scholar), Christ Seminary-Seminex/Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (Master of Divinity) and Emory University (Ph.D. in theological studies). Ordained in 1985, she served her first call at Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Atlanta, Ga. Dr. Kleinhans chaired the ELCA's Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force in 2012-13. She also served as a member of the Faith, Sexism, and Justice Task Force.



REV. KEATS MILES-WALLACE

The Rev. Keats Miles-Wallace (they/them) is the pastor and developer of Technicolor Ministries, a ministry of the Southwestern Texas Synod that is based in Seguin, Texas. They hold a Master of Divinity from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and specialize in Queer Theology and LGBTQ+ welcome in the ELCA. Rev. Keats is Mex-Indigenous and Anglo, a descendent of a band of the Coahuiltecan peoples from what is now the Texas/Mexico border, an out and proud trans masculine nonbinary person, and an advocate and public speaker for LGBTQIA2S+ rights and equity.



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KAOU NOU MOUA

Kao Nou L. Moua is an assistant professor of social work at Augsburg University. She holds a doctorate in social work from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and a Master of Social Work from the University of Montana. Her practice experience includes working with marginalized young people as an advocate, trainer, researcher, and program developer and coordinator in Missoula, Mont., and in St. Paul, Minn. Her other practice areas include organizational and community change and culturally grounded services and interventions. She is a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Randolph, Minn.



NATALIA PIERSON

Natalia Pierson is a member of Church of the Apostles in Seattle, Wash. and is a candidate for ordination in Word and Sacrament. She recently graduated from Vanderbilt Divinity School with a Master of Divinity and a certificate in religion, gender and sexuality, and began studying at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago Fall 2024. She is a social worker and enjoys running half marathons.



TERRI RITTENBURG

Terri Rittenburg is a member of Southwood Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Neb., and an emerita faculty member at the University of Wyoming. She earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and spent most of her career teaching marketing, international business and business ethics courses. Her research has focused on marketing ethics, including study of consumer vulnerability in the marketplace. Terri began singing in choir as a teenager in Neb., and has continued that love of church music for 29 years at Trinity Lutheran Church in Laramie, Wyo., and now at Southwood Lutheran.



RALPH SCHOFIELD

Ralph Schofield is an attorney with the Florida Department of Health and a mediator and business consultant with Schofield Collaborative LLC. He will enter the Master of Divinity program at Luther Seminary in Fall 2024. He has extensively studied law at the University of Michigan; physics, philosophy, public health, leadership and mathematics at the University of South Florida; and religion, marketing and management at the University of Central Florida. He is a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pensacola, Fla.



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STEPHEN SCHRADER

Stephen Schrader is a registered landscape architect and a member of Shades Valley Lutheran Church in Birmingham, Ala., where he serves as an assisting minister and member of the worship and finance committees; he has previously served as council president and on the executive committee of the Southeastern Synod. He has served on the board of trustees and several national committees of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and was elected a fellow of ASLA in 2023. He and his husband married in December 2014, six months before the Supreme Court ruling that legalized marriage equality nationwide. Stephen Schrader is in Word and Sacrament candidacy in the Southeastern Synod and is a part-time, remote student at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.



REV. ANNA TEW

Originally from Alabama, the Rev. Anna Tew graduated from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 2011. Since then, she has worked in a variety of ministry settings, including parish ministry and hospital chaplaincy. She is currently pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in South Hadley, Mass. In her spare time, she works as a CrossFit coach, runs, hikes and hangs with her partner, Parker.



REV. DR. KRISI STJERNA

The Rev. Dr. Kirsi Stjerna is the First Lutheran, Los Angeles/Southwest California Synod Professor of Lutheran History and Theology at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, of California Lutheran University. Originally from Finland, she earned her Ph.D. from Boston University and her Master of Theology from Helsinki University, where she is a docent. She serves on the Core Doctoral faculty at Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, Calif. She has authored books on Luther, Lutheran theology and women in the Protestant traditions.



DAVID KECK

David Keck is a lifelong Lutheran who worships at Faith Lutheran Church in Mount Vernon, Ohio, where he currently is council president. He is a teacher in a public school and has held positions as intervention specialist, ESL teacher and administrator. For 13 years, he taught at Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare, the state hospital in Columbus. He has served on synod council and has attended several synod assemblies and churchwide assemblies, including in 2009. David is the husband of Rebecca and has two adult sons.



CHURCH COUNCIL ADVISERS

MITCH MCCARTNEY

Mitch McCartney currently serves as community relations operations manager for Heartland Family Service, a human services agency dedicated to strengthening families and individuals in eastern Nebraska and southwestern Iowa through advocacy, education, counseling and support services. During his career, he has also worked at the Nebraska Legislature, the Nebraska Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Salvation Army Kroc Center, serving in roles primarily related to communications, development and program administration. Mitch has a master's degree in public administration from the University of Nebraska Omaha and a Bachelor of Arts in speech communications from Nebraska Wesleyan University. His wife, Jean, is a pastor at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Missouri Valley, Iowa. They have a daughter, Maddie. Mitch's son (Brian) and daughter-in-law (Brandy) live in North Carolina with their children (Rae, Clyde and Wylee). Mitch has been a member of the ELCA Church Council since 2022 and serves on the board of trustees for SID #516. He is a certified barbecue judge for the Kansas City Barbecue Society and a member of the Sing Omaha Master Chorale.



REV. GWENDOLYN KING

The Rev. Gwendolyn S. King would say that she is first and foremost a baptized child (daughter) of the Living God. A rostered leader of Word and Sacrament ministry in the Lutheran church for over 40 years and a native of Philadelphia, Pa., Pastor Gwen is a graduate of Gettysburg College (Bachelor of Arts in biology and religion) and of Howard University School of Divinity (Master of Divinity with an emphasis in counseling). Currently, she serves as intentional interim pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Havertown, Pa.; is blessed to serve as the pastoral presence on the Philadelphia campus of United Lutheran Seminary; and is a member of the ELCA Church Council. Rev. King has also served in parish ministry in Illinois, New England and Southeastern Pennsylvania, as both a settled and transitional pastor within the ELCA and as a bridge, supply and sabbatical pastor/priest within the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. A campus pastor at heart, she has previously served in campus ministry as associate chaplain at Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., (three years), as a chaplain to cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy (four years), and as chaplain of Dartmouth College (18 years). At present, Rev. King serves as a trainer and member of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod's Anti-Racism Team and as a member of its synod council. Honored to serve in the U.S. Air Force Reserves as a chaplain for 30 years, Rev. King achieved the rank of colonel by the time of her retirement. An African American woman who is committed to issues of justice and women, she concluded a six-year term on the churchwide executive board of Women of the ELCA in 2017 and currently serves on the board of Feast Incarnate, a local church community 501(c)(3) outreach meal program for people dealing with HIV and AIDS, homelessness and food insecurity. Pastor Gwen delights in music, singing, movies and the theater; enjoys traveling, many sports, camping and canoeing; and loves spending time with family and friends and flying her kite by the ocean.

