



Report of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee for the Churchwide Assembly met April 26–27, 2013, in Chicago, Ill., and subsequently in telephone conferences, to fulfill the responsibilities assigned to it in the bylaws of this church. An introduction to the responsibilities of the committee was provided by Mr. David D. Swartling, secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Secretary Swartling emphasized the basic representational principles that guide the work of the Nominating Committee. Provision 5.01.f. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* provides:

Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, the churchwide organization, through the Church Council, shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; that as nearly as possible, 50 percent of the lay members of these assemblies, council, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be female and 50 percent shall be male. At least 10 percent of the members of these assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organization units shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English. Processes shall be developed that will assure that in selecting staff there will be a balance of women and men, persons of color and persons whose primary language is other than English, laypersons, and persons on the roster of ordained ministers. This balance is to be evident in terms of both executive staff and support staff consistent with the inclusive policy of this church.

In addition to representational principles, other factors apply in the nomination process. Bylaw 19.21.05. provides as follows:

The Nominating Committee shall strive to ensure that all persons nominated for any position possess the necessary competence and experience for the position. All persons elected to any position, whether nominated by the Nominating Committee or not, shall strive to represent this church and not just a particular geographic area.

Finally, the ELCA is committed to increasing the representation of youth (confirmed members under the age of 18) and young adults (persons under the age of 30) in the governing structures of each expression of this church.

Secretary Swartling reviewed the actions of the Churchwide Assembly in 2011 that would impact the work of the Nominating Committee. He explained the genesis of these proposals in the redesign of the churchwide organization and in the recommendations of the Living Into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT) task force. These led to a number of recommendations relating to structure and governance adopted by the Churchwide Assembly in 2011, including a triennial assembly beginning in 2016, an increase in the size of the Church Council and the manner of election of additional Church Council members, and the elimination of program committees. One of the continuing resolutions adopted by the Churchwide Assembly (12.31.A11) provided:

To implement the transition to a triennial cycle, the Church Council shall make recommendations to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly regarding elections to the Church Council, boards, and committees.

This continuing resolution shall expire upon the adjournment of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.

In response to this continuing resolution, Secretary Swartling prepared a report and recommendations to the Church Council. (This report is included in the *Pre-Assembly Report* in Section VI on “Other Assembly Related Documents.”) In preparing this report, Secretary Swartling conferred with staff in the churchwide organization, the boards of separately incorporated ministries affected by the transition to a triennial assembly, and the Conference of Bishops. At its November 2012 meeting, the Church Council passed the following action (CC12.11.31):

To receive and approve the memorandum of Secretary David D. Swartling on elections and the transition to a triennial Churchwide Assembly, and to forward it to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, in response to continuing resolution 12.31.A11;

To endorse the recommendations in Secretary Swartling's memorandum regarding nominations for the Church Council and the boards of trustees of Portico Benefit Services, The Publishing House of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and to recommend to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly adoption of amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, in order to implement these recommendations; and

To instruct the churchwide Nominating Committee to bring to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly nominations for 11 or 12 positions on the Church Council, in addition to positions nominated by synods, and nominations for the boards of trustees of Portico Benefit Services, The Publishing House of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in accordance with Secretary Swartling's memorandum.

Secretary Swartling also brought recommended amendments to the governing documents of this church to the Church Council in November 2012 and July 2013. These additional proposed amendments were vetted and reviewed by the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee of the Church Council, and the full Church Council adopted actions to recommend their passage to the Churchwide Assembly.

The Nominating Committee considered Secretary Swartling's memorandum and the actions of the Church Council, and it discussed the manner in which they could be implemented and governance of this church and its separately incorporated ministries could be strengthened. As a result of these discussions, the Nominating Committee concurred with the recommendation to implement the amendments in 2013. Hence, the slates of nominees incorporate proposed amendments recommended by the Church Council to the Churchwide Assembly.

With this background, the Nominating Committee proceeded to evaluate and recommend persons for election to the Church Council for "open positions" (i.e., in addition to those nominated by synods), churchwide committees, and the boards of separately incorporated ministries.

In the course of its discussions, the Nominating Committee reiterated the importance of expanding the pool and diversity of the nominations data base. With the integration of data bases at the churchwide organization, the process for nominating individuals was streamlined. Nominations for any position can be made at nominations@elca.org. The staff of the Office of the Secretary then can follow-up to obtain nomination forms so that individuals can be considered when vacancies occur or in anticipation of elections at a Churchwide Assembly. The Nominating Committee strongly encourages voting members to nominate individuals for service on the Church Council, boards, and committees.

Secretary Swartling explained restrictions necessitated by ELCA bylaw 19.21.04., which provides as follows:

Among those persons elected by the assembly, no more than two persons from any one synod shall serve on the Church Council or any one board, committee, task force, or other group.

In cases where two people from the same synod will continue to serve on the council, board, or committee, additional nominees from the synods were not possible. In some instances, additional nominees from specific synods would be possible only if paired on the same ticket with someone from that same synod. Those specific restrictions would be explained in the Report of the Nominating Committee with each slate of nominees.

The Nominating Committee met May 21, 2013, in a telephone conference and voted:

To transmit the report of the Nominating Committee to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly for election of members of the Church Council, churchwide boards and committees, as required by the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*;

To transmit to the Church Council the recommendations for nominees to the churchwide Nominating Committee; and

To authorize the chair of the Nominating Committee and the secretary of this church, in consultation with the Nominating Committee, to fill vacancies on the slates of nominees that may occur prior to the convening of the thirteenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Secretary Swartling and the continuing committee members expressed the gratitude of this church to former members Pr. Cherlyne V. Beck and Pr. Jonathan W. Linman, who had resigned, and to those people who were completing terms on the Nominating Committee: Ms. Gwen E. Arneson, Pr. Jonathan L. Eilert, Mr. James M. Hushagen, Ms. Emily Isensee, Pr. Loren D. Mai, and Mr. Jeremy D. Posadas.

The Rev. Jonathan L. Eilert, *chair*

Alphabetical Listing of Nominees

Nominee	Church Council, Board, or Committee	Region/Synod	Vita Page
Arndt, Albert V.	Committee on Appeals	5H	59
- B -			
Baerwald, Kathryn E.	Mission Investment Fund	8G	47
Bell, Ulysses	Church Council	9B	39
Bellefeuille, Christine M.	Committee on Appeals	3G	56
Berggren, David J.	Church Council	5K	20
Bieber, Allan J.	Church Council	3I	27
Briggs, Amanda E.	Church Council	2A	35
Brokering, T. Mark	Augsburg Fortress, Publishers	Episcopalian	54
Brown, Linda J.	Augsburg Fortress, Publishers	3D	52
Brown, Tristan St. John	Church Council	1B	38
- C -			
Carlson, Eric	Nominating Committee	5D	75
Chen, Betty T. Y.	Committee on Discipline	2C	65
Chillison, Robert J. II	Mission Investment Fund	2B	50
Christopherson, Reid A.	Church Council	3C	26
Countess, Sylvia S.	Committee on Discipline	9D	67
- D -			
Dubsky, Michael A.	Committee on Discipline	8F	61
Dutta, Dinah E.	Committee on Discipline	4B	65
Dyke, James R.	Committee on Discipline	2A	72
- E -			
Ebbesen, Julie A.	Committee on Appeals	3G	56
Elliott Chillison, Kathleen V.	Committee on Discipline	2B	68
Emery, John	Committee on Discipline	5I	70
Engstrom, Paul F.	Portico Benefit Services	7F	43
Enko, Peter J.	Portico Benefit Services	4B	44
- F -			
Flippin, William E. Jr.	Church Council	9D	32
Flugstad, Joel M.	Committee on Discipline	4C	62
Flynn, Robert T.	Augsburg Fortress, Publishers	2B	53
Fogt, Thomas M.	Mission Investment Fund	4B	50
- G -			
Gallerson, Bryan K.	Portico Benefit Services	4D	44
Garabedian, Kristina D.	Committee on Appeals	2A	58
Gehret, Donn M.	Church Council	1D	25
Glusenkamp, Ronald T.	Church Council	2E	29
Gordon, John I.	Committee on Discipline	7F	70
Graham, Stephanie I.	Committee on Discipline	2B	68
Graue, Joyce M.	Church Council	3F	30
Graves, Brandon M.	Nominating Committee	5B	80
Gubrud, Ronald C.	Committee on Discipline	4D	72
Gustavson, Cynthia M.	Church Council	4C	24

- H -

Hamilton, Ruth E.	Nominating Committee	9D	74
Hansen, Kurt A.	Committee on Discipline	5F	61
Haywood, Diana G.	Portico Benefit Services	9B	42
Heavner, Christopher S.	Nominating Committee	9C	75
Hileman, Cynthia K.	Nominating Committee	5A	74
Hinlicky, Wynemah K.	Church Council	9A	21
Hulden, Maren	Church Council	3D	33
Hushagen, James M.	Church Council	1C	38

- I -

Isensee, Emily	Nominating Committee	1C	77
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- J -

Johanson, Peder	Church Council	5K	20
Johnson, Bruce E.	Portico Benefit Services	9A	43
Johnson, Darcy B.	Mission Investment Fund	1B	48
Johnson, Mark E.	Committee on Appeals	1B	59

- K -

Keiser, Stephen A.	Nominating Committee	7F	76
Kitahata, Stacy D.	Nominating Committee	1B	78
Knauss, Hannah L.	Committee on Discipline	8C	69
Koterwski, Kayla S.	Church Council	3C	36
Kreidler, John D.	Committee on Discipline	4B	62
Krey, Jordan	Nominating Committee	7B	80

- L -

Lohrmann, John W.	Church Council	1D	25
Lumpkin, Paul E. Sr.	Committee on Discipline	7C	71
Lutter, Paul E.	Committee on Discipline	3F	60

- M -

Mason, Michael	Church Council	5C	28
McAllister, Ida M.	Committee on Discipline	4C	67
McCracken, Anna	Committee on Discipline	1C	69
Moench, Pamela S.	Portico Benefit Services	Methodist	46
Mongillo, Susan M.	Church Council	5A	34
Monroe, Carlton	Committee on Discipline	2C	64
Morse-Wendt, Lauren C.	Church Council	3G	33
Mueller, Harold C.	Mission Investment Fund	4B	49
Mundy, Twyla G.	Church Council	1A	22

- N -

Nelson, Craig S.	Church Council	3I	27
Nesse, Janice E.	Committee on Discipline	1B	63
Newman, Tim	Church Council	3A	37
Nou, Linda	Church Council	1C	18

- P -

Pederson, Duane C.	Committee on Discipline	7B	60
Penumaka, Israel D. P.	Church Council	7C	32
Perkins, Todd A.	Committee on Discipline	6A	71
Peterson, Gordon D.	Nominating Committee	4B	76
Petrivelli, Meri Jo	Church Council	2C	23
Pitre, Tanisha	Church Council	2B	35

- R -

Rader, Sharon Z.	Augsburg Fortress, Publishers	Methodist	55
Rainforth, Judith L.	Church Council	4A	19
Ramseth, Mark R.	Committee on Appeals	1F	57
Reed, Nancy M.	Committee on Discipline	9A	66
Remillard, Amber	Nominating Committee	2C	73
Rice, Jody V.	Augsburg Fortress, Publishers	6D	51
Richie, Rebecca R.	Committee on Discipline	6E	63
Robinson, Tommie L. Jr.	Nominating Committee	8G	79
Rosenberg, John P.	Church Council	1C	18
Runestad, Rodney D.	Portico Benefit Services	7B	45
Ruppar, Kenneth M.	Committee on Appeals	9A	57
Russell, Jack D.	Committee on Discipline	9B	64

- S -

Schlesinger, Sandra J.	Nominating Committee	6B	78
Schlouch, Samuel F.	Church Council	5B	37
Schultz, Joanne S.	Mission Investment Fund	2A	47
Schwartz, Leon J.	Portico Benefit Services	5D	45
Scott, Robert H.	Church Council	3C	26
Sevimli, Amy Thompson	Nominating Committee	8G	73
Smith, Clarence M.	Church Council	3G	39
Smith, Meghan E.	Committee on Appeals	6C	58
Smith, Pamela I.	Augsburg Fortress, Publishers	9E	51
Splichal Larson, Jonathan	Church Council	3A	31
Stafford, Ingrid S.	Church Council	5A	34
Stumme-Diers, Paul W.	Portico Benefit Services	1B	41
Swenson, Leslie J.	Church Council	1A	22

- T -

Telyea, Wesley C.	Church Council	1B	31
Thul, Oliver W.	Church Council	3F	40
Troutman, Susan P.	Mission Investment Fund	9C	48
Truhe, Eli R.	Church Council	4B	40

- U -

Utt, James H.	Church Council	9A	21
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- V -

Veal, Vernon K.	Church Council	5C	28
Voss, William O.	Church Council	4A	19

- W -

Wachtman, Elli N.	Church Council	6F	36
Walker, Troy	Nominating Committee	6A	79
Ward, Michael R.	Church Council	9B	29
Wenzel, Sheila M.	Church Council	2C	23

- Z -

Zenker, Marlene M.	Church Council	4C	24
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Church Council

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America currently consists of the four churchwide officers, the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and 33 other people nominated by Synod Assemblies and elected by the Churchwide Assembly. The 2011 Churchwide Assembly, acting on a recommendation of the Living Into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT) task force, increased the size of the Church Council and set the manner of election of additional Church Council members. Eleven members are nominated by certain Synod Assemblies and elected by the Churchwide Assembly; the assembly elects up to 12 additional members (the number determined by the council) from those named by the Nominating Committee. The purpose of the expansion was to provide the opportunity to nominate persons with needed expertise from throughout this church and to more fully live into the representational principles.

Another LIFT recommendation the assembly adopted in 2011 was to begin triennial Churchwide Assemblies in 2016. To adapt to a three-year election cycle, the Church Council instructed the Nominating Committee to bring to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly nominations for an additional 11 or 12 positions on the Church Council. So, the committee prepared 11 tickets of synodical nominations and 12 “open positions” on the Church Council.

The council serves as the interim legislative authority between meetings of the Churchwide Assembly and as the board of directors of the churchwide organization. Its specific duties are listed in bylaws 14.21.01. through 14.21.14. Responsibilities of the Church Council include acting on policy, reviewing procedures and programs of churchwide units, responding to synodical resolutions, submitting budget proposals to the Churchwide Assembly, setting salary ranges for the churchwide officers, and adopting personnel policies. It also elects the treasurer of this church.

*Note: The abbreviation PC/L indicates “person of color or whose primary language is other than English.”
The abbreviation Y/YA indicates youth or young adult.*

Restrictions

For tickets 1–11, nominations to the Church Council are made by designated synods by Synod Assembly action. Floor nominations can be made only by the designated synods and only in the event that one of the nominees no longer is eligible for election.

Slate of Nominees – Synodical Nominations

1. **Clergy (*Southwest Washington Synod, 1C*)**
 - A. Pr. Linda Nou, Olympia, Wash.
 - B. Pr. John P. Rosenberg, Olympia, Wash.
2. **Clergy (*Nebraska Synod, 4A*)**
 - A. Pr. Judith L. Rainforth, Omaha, Neb.
 - B. Pr. William O. Voss, Scottsbluff, Neb.
3. **Clergy (*South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, 5K*)**
 - A. Pr. David J. Berggren, Sun Prairie, Wis.
 - B. Pr. Peder J. Johanson, Brodhead, Wis.
4. **Clergy (*Virginia Synod, 9A*)**
 - A. Pr. Wynemah K. Hinlicky, Salem, Va.
 - B. Pr. James H. Utt, Winchester, Va.
5. **Lay Female (*Alaska Synod, 1A*)**
 - A. Ms. Twyla Mundy, Kenai, Alaska
 - B. Ms. Leslie Swenson, Fairbanks, Alaska

6. **Lay Female (*Pacifica Synod, 2C*)**
 - A. Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli, San Diego, Calif.
 - B. Ms. Sheila M. Wenzel, Fountain Valley, Calif.
7. **Lay Female (*Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, 4C*)**
 - A. Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson, Tulsa, Okla.
 - B. Ms. Marlene M. Zenker, Hot Springs Village, Ark.
8. **Lay Male (*Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod, 1D*)**
 - A. Mr. Donn M. Gehret, Spokane, Wash.
 - B. Mr. John W. Lohrmann, Walla Walla, Wash.
9. **Lay Male (*South Dakota Synod, 3C*)**
 - A. Mr. Reid A. Christopherson, Garretson, S.D.
 - B. Mr. Robert H. Scott, Sioux Falls, S.D.
10. **Lay Male (*Southeastern Minnesota Synod, 3I*)**
 - A. Mr. Allan J. Bieber, Rochester, Minn.
 - B. Mr. Craig S. Nelson, Albert Lea, Minn.
11. **Lay Male (*Central/Southern Illinois Synod, 5C*)**
 - A. Mr. Michael Mason, Anna, Ill.
 - B. Mr. Vernon K. Veal, Bloomington, Ill.

Expertise

Nominees for open positions were actively sought in the following areas: Legal; Development/Fundraising; Program Evaluation; Global Mission; Congregational Development; and Financial.

Restrictions

Additional nominees for open positions on the Church Council from the following synods may only be paired on a ticket with someone from that same synod: Northwest Washington (1B), Southwestern Washington (1C), Sierra Pacific (2A), Rocky Mountain (2E), Western North Dakota (3A), South Dakota (3C), Southwestern Minnesota (3F), Minneapolis Area (3G), Southern Ohio (6F), Metropolitan New York (7C), and North Carolina (9B) synods.

Slate of Nominees – Open Positions *

12. **Clergy**
 - A. Pr. Ronald T. Glusenkamp, Cherry Hills Village, Colo. (2E)
 - B. Pr. Michael R. Ward, Arden, N.C. (9B)
13. **Clergy (*incumbent*)**
 - A. Pr. Joyce M. Graue, Raymond, Minn. (3F)
14. **Clergy (*YA*)**
 - A. Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson, Bismarck, N.D. (3A)
 - B. Pr. Wesley C. Telyea, Bellevue, Wash. (1B)
15. **Clergy (*PC/L*)**
 - A. Pr. William E. Flippin Jr., Columbus, Ga. (9D)
 - B. Pr. Israel D. P. Penumaka, Floral Park, N.Y. (7C)

- 16. Lay Female**
 A. Ms. Maren Hulden, Moorhead, Minn. (3D)
 B. Ms. Lauren C. Morse-Wendt, Edina, Minn. (3G)
- 17. Lay Female (*preference for financial expertise*)**
 A. Ms. Susan M. Mongillo, Arlington Heights, Ill. (5A)
 B. Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford, Evanston, Ill. (5A)
- 18. Lay Female (*PC/L, preference for young adult*)**
 A. Ms. Amanda E. Briggs, Oakland, Calif. (2A)
 B. Ms. Tanisha Pitre, Los Angeles, Calif. (2B)
- 19. Lay Female (Y) [Three-Year Term]**
 A. Ms. Kayla S. Koterwski, Sioux Falls, S.D. (3C)
 B. Ms. Elli N. Wachtman, Columbus, Ohio (6F)
- 20. Lay Male (*preference for young adult*)**
 A. Mr. Tim Newman, Bismarck, N.D. (3A)
 B. Mr. Samuel F. Schlouch, Rock Island, Ill. (5B)
- 21. Lay Male (*preference for legal expertise*)**
 A. Mr. James M. Hushagen, Edgewood, Wash. (1C)
 B. Mr. Tristan St. John Brown, Mountlake Terrace, Wash. (1B)
- 22. Lay Male (*PC/L*)**
 A. Mr. Ulysses Bell, Durham, N.C. (9B)
 B. Mr. Clarence M. Smith, Minneapolis, Minn. (3G)
- 23. Lay Male (Y) [Three-Year Term]**
 A. Mr. Oliver W. Thul, Tyler, Minn. (3F)
 B. Mr. Eli R. Truhe, Salina, Kan. (4B)

* This slate of nominees is presented based upon proposed amendments to ELCA constitutional provision 19.02.

Continuing Members of the Church Council

Clergy

Pr. Elizabeth E. Ekdale, San Francisco, Calif. (2A) [2017]
 Pr. Vicki T. Garber, Lakeside Park, Ky. (6C) [2017]
 Pr. Stephen R. Herr, Gettysburg, Pa. (8D) [2017]
 Pr. Yvonne I. Marshall, Council Bluffs, Iowa (5E) [2015]
 Pr. Raymond A. Miller, Quakertown, Pa. (7F) [2015]
 Pr. Robert G. Moore, Houston, Texas (4F) [2017]
 Pr. Laurie F. Skow-Anderson, Pelican Rapids, Minn. (3D) [2017]
 Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede, Lino Lakes, Minn. (3H) [2015]

Clergy (PC/L)

Pr. Amsalu T. Geleta, Springfield, Va. (8G) [2015]

Lay Female

Ms. Christine P. Connell, Staten Island, N.Y. (7C) [2017]
 Ms. Louise A. Hemstead, La Farge, Wis. (5L) [2015]
 Ms. Susan W. McArver, Columbia, S.C. (9C) [2015]
 Ms. Pamela E. Pritt, Minnehaha Springs, W.Va. (8H) [2017]

Lay Female (PC/L)

Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis, Worthington, Ohio (6F) [2017]
 Ms. Feronika A. Raming, Somersworth, N.H. (7B) [2015]

Lay Female (Y/YA)

Ms. Marit L. Bakken, Black River Falls, Wis. (5H) [2015]

Lay Male

Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson, Colorado Springs, Colo. (2E) [2017]
 Mr. John M. Pederson, Mayville, N.D. (3B) [2017]
 Mr. Paul G. Archer, Dearborn, Mich. (6A) [2017]

Lay Male (PC/L)

Mr. William B. Horne II, Clearwater, Fla. (9E) [2015]

Lay Male (Y/YA)

Mr. Nicholas (Nick) A. Barber, Erie, Pa. (8A) [2015]

Portico Benefit Services Board of Trustees (ELCA Board of Pensions)

Portico Benefit Services (ELCA Board of Pensions) manages and operates this church's retirement and other benefits programs and administers the benefits plans that continue from the ELCA's predecessor church bodies. Congregations, churchwide units, and church-related agencies are the primary sponsors of participants in the plans. The board also administers alternative programs for such ministries as church-related nursing homes, governmental chaplains, and seminarians. The number of members of this board that may be participants in the plans provided by Portico is limited in ELCA bylaw 17.20.03.a., which states:

The board of trustees of the Board of Pensions shall include persons with expertise in investments, insurance, and retirement plans, and two to five persons who are members of the plan, at least one of whom shall be a lay plan member or lay recipient of plan benefits and at least one of whom shall be an ordained minister who is a plan member.

*Note: The abbreviation PC/L indicates "person of color or whose primary language is other than English."
A dagger (†) indicates that the person is a plan participant.*

Restrictions

Additional nominees for positions on the Portico Benefit Services Board of Trustees are not possible at this time from the Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A) or Lower Susquehanna Synod (8D).

Additional nominees from the Central States Synod (4B) or New England Synod (7B) may only be paired on a ticket with someone from that same synod.

Slate of Nominees *

24. Clergy (*incumbent*)

- A. Pr. Paul W. Stumme-Diers, Bainbridge Island, Wash. (1B) †

25. Lay Female (*PC/L, incumbent*)

- A. Ms. Diana G. Haywood, Durham, N.C. (9B)

26. Lay Male

- A. Mr. Paul F. Engstrom, Orland, Pa. (7F)
- B. Mr. Bruce E. Johnson, Roanoke, Va. (9A)

27. Lay Male

- A. Mr. Peter J. Enko, Kansas City, Mo. (4B)
- B. Mr. Bryan K. Gallerson, Plano, Texas (4D)

28. Lay Male

- A. Mr. Rodney D. Runestad, New Canaan, Conn. (7B)
- B. Mr. Leon J. Schwartz, Winterset, Iowa (5D)

29. Full Communion

- A. Ms. Pamela S. Moench, St. Louis, Mo. (The United Methodist Church)

* This slate of nominees is presented based upon the proposed amendment to ELCA bylaw 17.20.03.

Continuing Members of the Portico Benefit Services Board of Trustees

Clergy

†Pr. Martha “Marty” E. Stevens, Gettysburg, Pa. (8D) [2017]

Lay Female

Ms. Lisa Ann Kro, Plymouth, Minn. (3G) [2015]

Ms. Kathleen K. Mooney, Cold Spring, Minn. (3F) [2015]

Ms. Raye Nae D. Nylander, Sioux Falls, S.D. (3C) [2017]

†Ms. Jill A. Schumann, Gettysburg, Pa. (8D) [2015]

Ms. Dianne Witte, New Haven, Conn. (7B) [2017]

Lay Female (PC/L)

Ms. Janette E. Drew, San Francisco, Calif. (2A) [2015]

Lay Male

Mr. Kevin D. Anderson, Bethesda, Md. (8G) [2015]

Mr. William J. Falk, Chicago, Ill. (5A) [2017]

Mr. Gregory W. Heidrich, Schaumburg, Ill. (5A) [2017]

Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA Board of Trustees

The Mission Investment Fund enables congregations and their members, synods, and ELCA-related organizations to earn interest on their financial resources while furthering the mission and ministry of this church. With these investments, the Fund provides loans to new mission congregations for purchases of land and construction of initial buildings and to established congregations to expand existing facilities, renovate or repair church buildings, relocate, or increase the accessibility of church buildings. The Fund also makes loans to ELCA-related organizations such as colleges and universities, schools, outdoor ministries, and social ministry organizations.

Note: The abbreviation PC/L indicates "person of color or whose primary language is other than English."

Restrictions

Additional nominees for positions on the Mission Investment Fund Board of Trustees are not possible at this time from the Minneapolis Area Synod (3G).

Additional nominees from the Central States Synod (4B) may only be paired on a ticket with someone from that same synod.

Slate of Nominees *

30. Lay Female

- A. Ms. Kathryn E. Baerwald, Washington, D.C. (8G)
- B. Ms. Joanne S. Schultz, Oakland, Calif. (2A)

31. Lay Female

- A. Ms. Darcy B. Johnson, Bellevue, Wash. (1B)
- B. Ms. Susan P. Troutman, Greenville, S.C. (9C)

32. Lay Male (*incumbent*)

- A. Mr. Harold C. Mueller, Chesterfield, Mo. (4B)

33. Lay Male

- A. Mr. Robert J. Chillison II, Los Angeles, Calif. (2B)
- B. Mr. Thomas M. Fogt, Overland Park, Kan. (4B)

* This slate of nominees is presented based on the proposed amendment to ELCA bylaw 17.30.01.

Continuing Members of the Mission Investment Fund Board of Trustees

Clergy

Pr. Lorenz W. Lutey, Park Ridge, Ill. (5A) [2015]

Clergy (PC/L)

Pr. Viviane E. Thomas-Breitfeld, Brookfield, Wis. (5J) [2017]

Lay Female

Ms. Kendra D. Brodin, Shoreview, Minn. (3G) [2015]

Lay Female (PC/L)

Ms. Miji Bell, Durham, N.C. (9B) [2017]

Lay Male

Mr. Daniel M. Bringman, Gettysburg, Pa. (8D) [2015]

Mr. Warren M. Hanson, Saint Paul, Minn. (3G) [2015]

Mr. Roger E. Southward, Columbus, Ohio (6F) [2017]

Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, Board of Trustees (Publishing House of the ELCA)

Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, is the publishing ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Augsburg Fortress creates worship and faith-formation resources for congregations as well as textbooks and scholarly publications for higher education. Funded through sales revenue, Augsburg Fortress is called to provide products and services that communicate the Gospel, enhance faith, and enrich the life of the Christian community from a Lutheran perspective. These resources are distributed primarily through the www.augsburgfortress.org website.

Restrictions

Additional nominees for positions on the Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, Board of Trustees are not possible at this time from the Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F).

Additional nominees from the Southwest California Synod (2B) may only be paired on a ticket with someone from that same synod.

Slate of Nominees *

34. Clergy

- A. Pr. Jody V. Rice, Fremont, Ohio (6D)
- B. Pr. Pamela I. Smith, Clearwater, Fla. (9E)

35. Lay Female (*incumbent*)

- A. Ms. Linda J. Brown, Moorhead, Minn. (3D)

36. Lay Male (*incumbent*)

- A. Mr. Robert T. Flynn, North Hollywood, Calif. (2B)

37. Full Communion

- A. Mr. T. Mark Brokering, Mill Valley, Calif. (The Episcopal Church)

38. Full Communion

- A. Bp. Sharon Z. Rader, Chicago, Ill. (The United Methodist Church)

* This slate of nominees is presented based on the proposed amendment to ELCA bylaw 17.40.01.

Continuing Members of the Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, Board of Trustees

Clergy

Pr. Brian C. King, Cedar Falls, Iowa (5F) [2015]

Clergy (PC/L)

Pr. Winston D. Persaud, Dubuque, Iowa (4B) [2015]
Pr. José R. Valenzuela, Phoenix, Ariz. (2D) [2017]

Lay Female

Ms. Susan G. Worst, Cambridge, Mass. (7B) [2017]

Lay Female (PC/L)

Ms. Rosemary R. Ohles, Lincoln, Neb. (4A) [2015]

Lay Female (Y/YA)

Ms. Julie M. Stecker, Baltimore, Md. (8F) [2017]

Lay Male

Mr. Robert D. Hahn, Walkersville, Md. (8F) [2015]
Mr. Timothy I. Maudlin, Eden Prairie, Minn. (3G) [2015]

Lay Male (PC/L)

Mr. Randall S. Foster, Carson, Calif. (2B) [2017]

Committee on Appeals †

The Committee on Appeals receives appeals from proceedings before discipline hearing committees and petitions for the recall of a churchwide or synodical officer. It conducts appropriate proceedings to resolve such appeals and petitions, in accordance with the constitution and bylaws of this church.

Note: The abbreviation PC/L indicates “person of color or whose primary language is other than English.”

Slate of Nominees

39. Clergy

- A. Pr. Christine M. Bellefeuille, Golden Valley, Minn. (3G)
- B. Pr. Julie A. Ebbesen, Minneapolis, Minn. (3G)

40. Clergy

- A. Pr. Mark R. Ramseth, Bozeman, Mont. (1F)
- B. Pr. Kenneth M. Ruppard, Richmond, Va. (9A)

41. Lay Female

- A. Ms. Kristina D. Garabedian, Fresno, Calif. (2A)
- B. Ms. Meghan E. Smith, Indianapolis, Ind. (6C)

42. Lay Male

- A. Mr. Albert V. Arndt, Centuria, Wis. (5H)
- B. Mr. Mark E. Johnson, Seattle, Wash. (1B)

Continuing Members of the Committee on Appeals

Clergy

Pr. Philip L. Hougen, West Branch, Iowa (5D) [2015]
Pr. Matthew L. Riegel, Morgantown, W.Va. (8H) [2015]
Pr. Paul R. Swanson, Oregon City, Ore. (1E) [2017]

Clergy (PC/L)

Pr. Kimberly A. Vaughn, Canton, Ohio (6E) [2017]

Lay Female

Ms. Madelyn H. Busse, Denver, Colo. (2E) [2015]

Lay Female (PC/L)

Ms. Ivonne Moreno-Velazquez, San Juan, Puerto Rico (9F) [2017]

Lay Male

Mr. Robert W. Tuttle, Washington, D.C. (8G) [2017]
Mr. George C. Watson, Port Huron, Mich. (6A) [2015]

† *Note:* Constitutional provision 20.64. states: “The Committee on Appeals shall be comprised of six ordained ministers and six laypersons, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years, without consecutive re-election.”

Committee on Discipline †

Members from the Committee on Discipline, together with the members of a synod's Committee on Discipline, serve as the discipline hearing committee that considers written charges seeking disciplinary action upon congregations, ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers where such action has been requested as outlined in the constitution and bylaws of this church.

*Note: The abbreviation PC/L indicates "person of color or whose primary language is other than English."
The abbreviation Y/YA indicates youth or young adult.*

Restrictions

Additional nominees for positions on the Committee on Discipline are not possible at this time from the Saint Paul Area (3H), Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast (4F) or Florida-Bahamas (9E) synods.

Additional nominees from the Northwest Washington (1B), Sierra Pacific (2A), Southwest California (2B), Pacifica (2C), Southwestern Minnesota (3F), Central States (4B), Arkansas-Oklahoma (4C), Northeastern Ohio (6E), New England (7B), or Allegheny (8C) synods may only be paired on a ticket with someone from that same synod.

Slate of Nominees

43. Clergy

- A. Pr. Paul E. Lutter, Litchfield, Minn. (3F)
- B. Pr. Duane C. Pederson, Oxford, Conn. (7B)

44. Clergy

- A. Pr. Michael A. Dubsy, Baltimore, Md. (8F)
- B. Pr. Kurt A. Hansen, Farley, Iowa (5F)

45. Clergy

- A. Pr. Joel M. Flugstad, Chickasha, Okla. (4C)
- B. Pr. John D. Kreidler, Liberty, Mo. (4B)

46. Clergy

- A. Pr. Janice E. Nesse, Shoreline, Wash. (1B)
- B. Pr. Rebecca R. Richie, Canfield, Ohio (6E)

47. Clergy (PC/L)

- A. Pr. Carlton Monroe, Joshua Tree, Calif. (2C)
- B. Pr. Jack D. Russell, Cherokee, N.C. (9B)

48. Clergy (PC/L) [Three-Year Term]

- A. Pr. Betty T. Y. Chen, Chula Vista, Calif. (2C)
- B. Pr. Dinah E. Dutta, Lawrence, Kan. (4B)

49. Lay Female

- A. Ms. Nancy M. Reed, Luray, Va. (9A)

50. Lay Female

- A. Sr. Sylvia S. Countess, Knoxville, Tenn. (9D)
- B. Ms. Ida M. McAllister, Tulsa, Okla. (4C)

51. Lay Female (PC/L)

- A. Ms. Kathleen V. Elliott Chillison, Los Angeles, Calif. (2B)
- B. Ms. Stephanie I. Graham, Inglewood, Calif. (2B)

52. Lay Female (Y/YA)

- A. Ms. Hannah L. Knauss, Martinsburg, Pa. (8C)
- B. Ms. Anna McCracken, Spanaway, Wash. (1C)

53. Lay Male

- A. Mr. John Emery, Fond du Lac, Wis. (5I)
- B. Mr. John I. Gordon, Lafayette Hill, Pa. (7F)

54. Lay Male (PC/L)

- A. Mr. Paul E. Lumpkin Sr., New Windsor, N.Y. (7C)
- B. Mr. Todd A. Perkins, Detroit, Mich. (6A)

55. Lay Male

- A. Mr. James R. Dyke, Stockton, Calif. (2A)
- B. Mr. Ronald C. Gubrud, Dallas, Texas (4D)

Continuing Members of the Committee on Discipline

Clergy

- Pr. Michel D. Clark, Knoxville, Ill. (5B) [2015]
- Pr. Jay E. Denne, Sioux City, Iowa (5E) [2017]
- Pr. Robert R. Henderson, Chagrin Falls, Ohio (6E) [2017]
- Pr. David J. Klawiter, Owatonna, Minn. (3I) [2017]
- Pr. Laurie A. Natwick, Moorhead, Minn. (3D) [2015]
- Pr. Joyce L. Piper, Willmar, Minn. (3F) [2015]
- Pr. JoAnn A. Post, Manchester, Conn. (7B) [2017]
- Pr. Vicki A. Taylor, Deer River, Minn. (3E) [2017]
- Pr. Rita G. Tweed, Palm Harbor, Fla. (9E) [2015]
- Pr. Deanna M. Wildermuth, Mercer Island, Wash. (1B) [2015]

Clergy (Y/YA)

- Pr. Megan L. Torgerson, West St. Paul, Minn. (3H) [2017]

Lay Female

- Ms. Kathryn L. Baerwald, Washington, D.C. (8G) [2015]
- Ms. Joanne Chadwick, San Francisco, Calif. (2A) [2015]
- Ms. Kathy Patrick, Bellaire, Texas (4F) [2017]
- Ms. Janice M. Quirl, Austin, Texas (4E) [2015]
- Ms. Cheryl G. Stuart, Tallahassee, Fla. (9E) [2017]

Lay Female (Y/YA)

- Ms. Anna K. Helgen, White Bear Lake, Minn. (3H) [2017]

Lay Male

- Mr. Kevin K. Fitzgerald, Pasadena, Calif. (2B) [2017]
- Mr. Henry Harms, Springfield, Ill. (5C) [2015]
- Mr. William R. Lloyd Jr., Somerset, Pa. (8C) [2017]
- Mr. Arthur E. Murphy, Bellaire, Texas (4F) [2015]

Lay Male (PC/L)

- Mr. Miguel A. Hernandez, El Paso, Texas (2E) [2015]

Lay Male (Y/YA)

- Mr. Josh S. Tatum, Indianapolis, Ind. (6C) [2017]

† *Note:* Bylaw 20.21.11. states: “The churchwide Committee on Discipline shall consist of 36 persons, 19 of whom shall be laypersons and 17 of whom shall be ordained ministers, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years, each without consecutive re-election, to serve as needed on a discipline hearing committee in any of the synods in this church.”

Nominating Committee

The responsibility of the churchwide Nominating Committee is to nominate two people for each position on boards and committees for which an election will be held by the Churchwide Assembly and for which a nominating procedure has not otherwise been designated in the constitution and bylaws of this church. Under those bylaws, the slate of nominees for the Nominating Committee is prepared by the Church Council.

*Note: The abbreviation PC/L indicates "person of color or whose primary language is other than English."
The abbreviation Y/YA indicates youth or young adult.*

Restrictions

According to ELCA bylaw 19.21.01., the Nominating Committee "shall consist of at least one member but no more than three members from any region."

Additional nominees for positions on the Nominating Committee from the Northwest Washington (1B), Metropolitan Chicago (5A), or Metropolitan Washington, D.C., (8G) synods may only be paired on a ticket with someone from that same synod. Additional nominees from Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, or 9 may only be paired on a ticket with someone from that same region.

Slate of Nominees *

56. Clergy

- A. Pr. Amber Remillard, Berkeley, Calif. (2C)
- B. Pr. Amy Thompson Sevimli, Alexandria, Va. (8G)

57. Clergy

- A. Pr. Ruth E. Hamilton, Atlanta, Ga. (9D)
- B. Pr. Cynthia K. Hileman, Oak Lawn, Ill. (5A)

58. Clergy

- A. Pr. Eric Carlson, Clive, Iowa (5D)
- B. Pr. Christopher S. Heavner, Clemson, S.C. (9C)

59. Clergy

- A. Pr. Stephen A. Keiser, Philadelphia, Pa. (7F)
- B. Pr. Gordon D. Peterson, Overland Park, Kan. (4B)

60. Lay Female (*incumbent*)

- A. Ms. Emily Isensee, Vancouver, Wash. (1C)

61. Lay Female

- A. Ms. Stacy D. Kitahata, Seattle, Wash. (1B)
- B. Ms. Sandra J. Schlesinger, Midland, Mich. (6B)

62. Lay Male (*PC/L*)

- A. Mr. Tommie L. Robinson Jr., Washington, D.C. (8G)
- B. Mr. Troy Walker, Detroit, Mich. (6A)

63. Lay Male

- A. Mr. Brandon M. Graves, Sycamore, Ill. (5B)
- B. Mr. Jordan Krey, Quincy, Mass. (7B)

* This slate of nominees is presented based on the proposed amendment to ELCA bylaw 19.21.01; it is submitted to the Churchwide Assembly by action of the Church Council.

Continuing Members of the Nominating Committee

Clergy

Pr. Herbert E. Anderson, Berkeley, Calif. (2A) [2015]

Pr. Kathie Bender Schwich, Park Ridge, Ill. (5A) [2015]

Lay Female

Ms. Susan M. Berg, Bothell, Wash. (1B) [2017]

Ms. Kathy J. Magnus, Edina, Minn. (3G) [2015]

Lay Female (PC/L)

Ms. Linda M. Chinnia, Baltimore, Md. (8F) [2017]

Ms. Judith A. Tutt-Starr, Los Angeles, Calif. (2B) [2015]

Ms. Vernetta I. Wilson, Tulsa, Okla. (4C) [2017]

Lay Male

Mr. Ken F. Aicher, Tampa, Fla. (9E) [2015]

Lay Male (Y/YA)

Mr. Baron Blanchard, Bismarck, N.D. (3A) [2017]

Mr. Brandon W. Huston, Hamilton, Ohio (6F) [2015]

1. Church Council: Clergy (*Restricted to Southwestern Washington Synod, 1C*)

A. The Rev. Linda Nou

Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)

1) *Congregational membership*

St. Mark Lutheran Church (ID: 04909) - Lacey, WA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Global Mission Committee
Global Internship
Healthy Congregations Presenter

3) *Education*

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Biola College, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Interim Pastor, Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1953

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have a deep passion for the future of the ELCA and its ability to adapt to the world in which we find ourselves. We need visionary leadership and people who are able to think outside the box. I believe I am such a person. I am deeply committed to mission and desire to work to find ways to creatively move forward in these challenging times.

I have served the church from a variety of perspectives. I have worked as a professional lay leader, a missionary, a regularly called pastor and as an interim. All total, I have worked as a staff person in 14 congregations.

As a missionary, I worked in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe while living in three different European countries. I attended The Lutheran World Federation conference on Russia and the Baltic in the early 1990s and represented the ELCA on a National Council of Churches delegation to the Baltic. Thus I bring both national and international perspective to this position as well as broad ecumenical experience.

B. The Rev. John P. Rosenberg

Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)

1) *Congregational membership*

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (ID: 12921) - Olympia, WA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Lutheran Institute for Theological Education (LITE) Board
Voting member ELCA Churchwide Assembly
Campus Pastor - Portland State University

3) *Education*

Concordia Senior College - Ft. Wayne, IN, Bachelor Of Arts
Luther Theological Seminary - St. Paul, MN, Master Of Divinity
Portland State University, Master Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Lead Pastor, The Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd

5) *Year of birth*

1949

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

My gifts and experience include my association with all three predecessor church bodies that formed the ELCA. I've served as campus pastor, parish pastor, and intentional interim and taught history and theology. I've served as supervisor for six seminary interns and a student in the TEEM program. I helped develop an innovative lay ministry program for the Southwestern Washington Synod and served as the director of Lutheran Education Network and Support (LENS). Along with seven colleagues, I engaged in a collaborative project titled "Practicing our Faith in Salmon Nation" (<http://salmon.luther-house.org>) funded by the Louisville Institute. I'm committed to sound adult faith formation and care for creation. I have worked pastorally for the full inclusion of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. I remain convinced that full inclusion is the way forward for the ELCA. I am grateful for the opportunity this nomination represents.

2. Church Council: Clergy (*Restricted to Nebraska Synod, 4A*)

A. The Rev. Judith L. Rainforth

Nebraska Synod (4A)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
First Lutheran Church (ID: 20174) - Omaha, NE
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Lutheran Metro Ministries Board Member
Immanuel Health Systems Board Member
NE Lutheran Outdoor Ministries
- 3) *Education*
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminar, Master Of Divinity
University of Minnesota, Master Of Science
University of Nebraska at Kearney, Master Of Counseling
- 4) *Employment*
Senior Pastor, First Lutheran Church of Omaha
- 5) *Year of birth*
1946
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have experience serving on councils and boards for many years beginning when, as a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Grand Island, Neb., in the mid '80s, I was the first female to serve on the Executive Council in Nebraska.

Hopefully, my wide range of professional experience serving as a therapist, hospital administrator, and business owner, before going to seminary and becoming ordained, have equipped me with a variety of skills. I am involved with Tri-Faith Initiative in Omaha which gives me further understanding of the Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths. My work with the ecumenical community gives me deeper compassion for God's children throughout the world in relation to peace and justice.

By grace, I am able to exhibit a sense of humor, patience and confidence in my problem-solving skills. I serve in a diverse community in the mid-town of Omaha where we focus on outreach with food closet/pantry, support groups and other charitable efforts.

B. The Rev. William O. Voss

Nebraska Synod (4A)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Calvary Lutheran Church (ID: 10221) - Scottsbluff, NE
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Member, World Hunger and Justice Committee, Nebraska Synod
Vice-chair, Churchwide Ev. Outreach and Congregational Mission Program Committee
Treasurer, American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association
- 3) *Education*
Luther Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity
University of South Dakota, Bachelor Of Science
- 4) *Employment*
Director/pastor, Lakota Lutheran Center, Nebraska Synod
- 5) *Year of birth*
1959
- 6) *Ethnicity*
American Indian/Alaska Native
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

We Lutherans are heirs to a remarkable heritage of faith, centered in God's tenacious love and grace. I love this church, and always welcome the opportunity to serve in new and exciting ways.

My current role as director of a grassroots Lutheran relief organization and as pastor of its Word and Sacrament ministry keeps me engaged in all expressions of this church, and, over the years, in a variety of settings from Alaska to Nebraska. Economics and public administration laid the groundwork for service in organizations, as manager, on committees, as dean, etc., and these have taught me that careful strategic planning and judicious decision-making result in a productive and healthy organizational life. I am proud of our congregational ministries, Lutheran colleges, outdoor ministries, women's ministries, and especially our domestic and global ministries that address poverty. We should keep them strong.

Let us keep together and work hard -- for the sake of God's mission in the world!

3. Church Council: Clergy (*Restricted to South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, 5K*)

A. The Rev. David J. Berggren

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5K)

1) *Congregational membership*

Our Savior Lutheran Church (ID: 14820) - Sun Prairie, WI

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Secretary, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Secretary, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Synod Stewardship Table

3) *Education*

University of Minnesota, Bachelor Of Arts

Northwestern Lutheran Theological Sem., Master Of Divinity

Univ. of Dubuque Theological Sem., Doctor Of Ministry

4) *Employment*

Pastor, Our Savior's Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1948

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

It is an honor to be nominated to serve this church through the church council. I love this church and its mission to carry out the ever living, dynamic Word of God.

What I would bring to the council is over 30 years of parish experience. Having served in several different settings, I've considered each one to be a unique missional extension of the church. Making the churchwide organization and the synod vital and real for congregations has been a priority for me.

After a quarter century of service, I think the ELCA has firmly established an identity and a voice. The next decades will challenge us to speak into a world with massive cultural shifts sometimes rubbing up against amazingly complicated cultural diversity. I'd like to be part of that journey of faithful witness. I believe it is a challenge to which God has called us.

B. The Rev. Peder J. Johanson

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5K)

1) *Congregational membership*

Bethlehem Lutheran Church (ID: 14630) - Brodhead, WI

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Co-coordinator of worship and music for Synod Assembly

Participating in synod pilot program for planned giving and financial stewardship with young adults

3) *Education*

Capital University, Bachelor Of Music

Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Master Of Divinity

4) *Employment*

Pastor, Bethlehem Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1982

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

My internal sense of call to ordained ministry is driven by a passion for the Gospel and the justice it proclaims. I am convinced that our witness as the ELCA, rooted in Lutheran theology, can do great things for the life and wholeness of the world, and I am committed to working with others in leading this church to bear such witness in all expressions of ministry.

In addition to what I have learned as a first-call pastor in a full-time solo call, I have gained experience in leadership and collaboration through present and past membership on the board of United Way Green County, and Family Promise of Green County (an ecumenical network of rural congregations serving families in a homeless situation).

As a member of Church Council, I will contribute enthusiasm and vision for leading a missional church that honors our heritage and tradition while seeking new and creative ways to serve the Gospel of Christ.

I am humbled, honored, and grateful to be have been nominated. Thank you.

4. Church Council: Clergy (*Restricted to Virginia Synod, 9A*)

A. The Rev. Wynemah K. Hinlicky

Virginia Synod (9A)

1) *Congregational membership*

College Evangelical Lutheran Church (ID: 06159) - Salem, VA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kingston, NY
Christ Lutheran Church, Woodstock, NY
St. John's Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie, NY

3) *Education*

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Master Of Divinity
Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN, Bachelor In Social Work

4) *Employment*

Pastor, College Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1959

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

Ordained 23 years, it has been my calling to serve as a minister of Word and Sacrament within the ELCA. Reliant upon the power of the Holy Spirit and grounded in a biblical understanding of the Christian faith as well as the confessional teachings of the Church, I have faithfully served as a pastor in four congregations. My love for Christ and his Body, the Church, has compelled me to preach the truth of the Gospel while sharing the good news through ministry and mission. In addition to serving on a pastoral staff and as an Internship Supervisor for three years, my ministry has included the hard work of reconciliation and healing among congregations divided by conflict.

We are living in a divisive time, not only in society but the church as well. My moderate though conservative voice could contribute to the unity of our communal life as the Church. I believe the Church Council needs a fair representation of this segment.

B. The Rev. James H. Utt

Virginia Synod (9A)

1) *Congregational membership*

Grace Lutheran Church (ID: 06140) - Winchester, VA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Parish Pastor
Virginia Synod Executive Board LCA
-1978-1984;ELCA-2001-2008
LCA Churchwide Conventions -'72;'84;86; ELCA-1990

3) *Education*

University of Tennessee, Bachelor Of Science In Education
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Master Of Divinity
McCormick Theological Seminary, Doctor Of Ministry

4) *Employment*

Senior Pastor, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1949

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

Not English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have always been open to serving this church at its various levels of expression if given that opportunity through the work of the Holy Spirit in the actions of the people of God. Throughout my 36 years of ordained ministry I have sensed that my call was specific in a congregational context serving the Gospel through the Office of Word and Sacraments, but I have also embraced a broader view of ordained ministry committed to serving this church in its various expressions and ecumenical relationships. I believe I bring the gifts of discerning and articulating a vision that faithfully witnesses to God's rule of justice, mercy, peace, and service to others in local and global contexts. I have acquired the skills of collaborative leadership, building consensus among strong leaders, developing with others plans for communicating, implementing and evaluating mission and ministry goals and objectives. I have expertise in "systems thinking" and organizational dynamics.

5. Church Council: Lay Female (*Restricted to Alaska Synod, 1A*)

A. Ms. Twyla G. Mundy

Alaska Synod (1A)

1) *Congregational membership*

Christ Lutheran Church (ID: 13000) - Soldotna, AK

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Alaska Synod Council
Our Savior Lutheran, Nome AK church treas
River of Life Missional Congregation, Chugiak, AK

3) *Education*

Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Bachelor Of Science In
Education

4) *Employment*

Mathematics Teacher, Anchorage School District

5) *Year of birth*

1948

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I believe that I was called to serve on Church Council because both of the candidates that were originally elected a year ago at our Synod Assembly declined the nomination. I was interested then, but not ready!

My God-given gift that I bring to the Council table is the questioning voice of those in our back pews, those who live in a rural setting, and those that don't feel worthy to enter. Throughout my career as a teacher, I always have had a sense of those that struggled with the subject, with the system. As I have gotten older (not necessarily wiser!), I have found that I enjoy being the safe listener and I am not in charge of the solution, but I do have a responsibility to ask questions. Most recently I have been blessed by crocheting with inmates in our local correctional institution. As women have always done in other settings when we feel 'safe and heard,' we find our way in the journey God has intended for us.

B. Ms. Leslie J. Swenson

Alaska Synod (1A)

1) *Congregational membership*

Christ Lutheran Church (ID: 07448) - Fairbanks, AK

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Church Council, Secretary, Christ Lutheran Church, Fairbanks
Mutual Ministry Committee, Chair, CLC, Fairbanks
Education Director, Our Savior's Lutheran, Nome

3) *Education*

St. Olaf College, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

5) *Year of birth*

1961

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

Though raised in the Midwest, I've spent the last 22 years living in Alaska. This is where I feel called to live, serve, and raise my family. Here I've experienced a crossroads of cultures and I've felt the calling to aid the communication between and among communities. It is by acting on this calling that I hope to serve God's world and the ELCA through the Churchwide Council. My experiences include:
Cross Cultural: 13 years in Nome among the Inupiat and Yupik, nine years in Fairbanks among the Athabaskan learning to listen for the native voice in my community
Rural & Urban: living in bush Alaska and the state's 2nd largest city has given me insight to their unique joys and challenges
Congregational Service: Nome - Education Dir., Call Comm., Camp Comm., Choir
Fairbanks - Mutual Ministry, Church Council, Sunday School, Social Ministry, Hospitality & Outreach, Choir
Community Service: Hospice Patient Care Volunteer, Museum Docent, Charter & Preschool Boards, PTA
CPE training 2004

6. Church Council: Lay Female (*Restricted to Pacifica Synod, 2C*)

A. Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli

Pacifica Synod (2C)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
St. Andrew Lutheran Church (ID: 13971) - San Diego, CA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Pacifica Synod Council
Voting Member 2009 Churchwide Assembly
Lay Chair 2010 Pacifica Synod Assembly Planning Team
- 3) *Education*
Penn State University, Bachelor Of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Parish Administrator, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1960
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

The challenges faced by the ELCA are great, but the opportunities for the ELCA to make a difference in the world are even greater. The possibility of adding my voice to those who have steered the ELCA in the direction God is leading is humbling and exciting. I have the gift of leadership and I love this church and the message it brings to a world in need. Serving as a leader in this church comes naturally to me, as my experience over 20+ years in a variety of ELCA entities demonstrates (including congregation president, conference lay chair, Pacifica Synod Council, Region 2 steering committee, Synod Mission Interpreter, and voting member at 2009 Churchwide Assembly). I have the ability to listen to all sides of an issue and to ask questions when something is not clear. I have been described as a creative and imaginative problem solver with independent and analytical thinking skills. I communicate directly and factually, and take my work and responsibilities very seriously.

B. Ms. Sheila M. Wenzel

Pacifica Synod (2C)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Resurrection Lutheran Church (ID: 05121) - Huntington Beach, CA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Congregational Church Council, incl. president
Pacifica Synod Council, incl. sec. and president
Board for Church in Society
- 3) *Education*
North Dakota State University
- 4) *Employment*
Administrative Secretary, Personnel Services, Garden Grove Unified School District
- 5) *Year of birth*
1941
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

My Lutheran faith began in high school with an invitation from a friend. I witnessed a joyful and hopeful worship and knew I wanted to share in that spiritual journey.

I served on congregation council with a term as president, Women of the ELCA board, as Sunday school and VBS teacher, and adult Bible study leader. I served on the Pacifica Synod Council with terms as secretary and vice president. I currently serve on synodical committees and the board of Lutheran Social Services of Southern California.

I have been a voting member to two Churchwide Assemblies. We, as the ELCA, have a heart for social justice and I am drawn to our compassion for the marginalized. I have witnessed the gift of a deliberate process of governance. We are knit together, no matter how scattered in opinion and distance, by a unity in Jesus. I feel called to be a part of this hopeful and hope-filled decision-making process.

7. Church Council: Lay Female (*Restricted to Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, 4C*)

A. Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C)

1) *Congregational membership*

Fellowship Lutheran Church (ID: 07418) - Tulsa, OK

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

pastoral counselor/trouble shooter for synod
synod workshops for Women of the ELCA and youth leaders
choir, adult SS teacher, development chair

3) *Education*

Louisiana State Univ., Master Of Social Work
Boston University, Bachelor Of Science
Gustavus Adolphus College

4) *Employment*

pastoral counselor, self-employed

5) *Year of birth*

1947

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

Since I retired from pastoral counseling I have been open to a new call. I was called to ministry in 1978, attended seminary, but left to raise my family, eventually reinterpreting that call in the profession of social work. I am dedicated to using my talents for the glory of God.

I helped develop the field of poetry therapy, speaking across the U.S. and internationally, writing journal articles and books about it, including my latest workbook for children and teens, "Bully: The Big Book about Bullies and the Bullied." My skills as writer, speaker, listener, pastoral counselor, teacher, and small business owner are useful to a church that needs to listen, reach out and serve all ages, genders and cultural backgrounds.

My vision for the ELCA is one that encompasses more diversity, keeping and recruiting more young members, and emphasizing intergenerational activities such as the bluegrass ELCA-approved liturgy "Light into the World" written by my son, Dr. Kent Gustavson.

B. Ms. Marlene M. Zenker

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C)

1) *Congregational membership*

Christ Lutheran Church (ID: 07442) - Hot Springs Village, AR

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

AR/OK Synod Candidacy Committee
AR/OK Synod Worship/Music Team Intro New Hymnal
Christ Lutheran - Endowment Team

3) *Education*

Concordia College, Moorhead, MN
Bethel Series - Teacher

4) *Employment*

Asst. Business Manager, Arthur L. Reynolds, DDS & John D. Luker, DDS

5) *Year of birth*

1935

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

My husband was the late Bishop Al Zenker C/SIS. We served parishes in ND and IL. I have many years of experience working with women's groups, organizing and leading seminars and retreats. I've created a historical dramatization about the life of Katharine von Bora Luther and have presented it in several venues throughout the country.

I have compassion for the lonely, down-trodden, and marginalized. I've authored and published the book, "The Empty Bowl," a moving story about a homeless hungry man and the young woman who touched his life with her care and compassion.

I have a deep passion for the mission of the ELCA. We must remain true to Lutheran doctrines and continue to be an inclusive church. We need to hold on to those values as our foundation but continue to find new and creative ways to spread the Gospel. God has remained faithful and we must share God's unconditional love! In today's world we are God's hands; may we see humankind through God's compassionate eyes!

8. Church Council: Lay Male (*Restricted to Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod, ID*)

A. Mr. Donn M. Gehret

Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod (1D)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Central Lutheran Church (ID: 13007) - Spokane, WA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Congregation President, Vice President, Treasurer
Synod Council, Executive Committee, Finance Committee
Region 1 Audit Committee
- 3) *Education*
Spokane Falls Community College, No Degree Earned
Whitworth University, Certificate
- 4) *Employment*
Accountant / IT Manager, Rowand Machinery Company
- 5) *Year of birth*
1960
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

More than 10 years ago, I was challenged by my synod secretary to utilize my passion for this church, my optimistic outlook, and my enthusiasm to serve God in areas that would benefit more than my local congregation. That challenge led to multiple calls of service on our Synod Council, executive committee, finance committee and regional audit committees, as well as local and national volunteer organizations. The opportunities that I have had through service have allowed me to develop my gifts of leadership and level-headed discernment. My mission is to enthusiastically serve God using these gifts. I am honored to be nominated and would welcome the opportunity to serve on the ELCA Church Council.

B. Mr. John W. Lohrmann

Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod (1D)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Christ Lutheran Church (ID: 13042) - Walla Walla, WA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Church council
Church President
Synod Council
- 3) *Education*
Valparaiso University, Bachelor Of Arts
Valparaiso University School of Law, Doctor Of Jurisprudence
- 4) *Employment*
Superior Court Judge, State of Washington/Walla Walla County
- 5) *Year of birth*
1951
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

My background is firmly Lutheran, with many pastors in the family. But my own call was different. At Valparaiso University I promised myself NOT to enter the ministry. I became a lawyer and then a judge. But like Jonah, I cannot escape God's call to serve. As a lay person I am called to witness to my faith in Jesus Christ in all that I do. I view my vocation to be that of God's ambassador in the context of my life. I realize that God's gifts to me demand their return in service to my community and to the larger mission of our synod and churchwide bodies. I would love to use these gifts serving on the ELCA Council. What would I bring to the table? First, respect for our Lutheran heritage; second, abilities and experiences as lawyer and judge; third, church leadership experience grounded at the congregation and synod levels; and fourth, a burning desire to serve wherever the needs are the greatest.

9. Church Council: Lay Male (*Restricted to South Dakota Synod, 3C*)

A. Mr. Reid A. Christopherson

South Dakota Synod (3C)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Zion Lutheran Church (ID: 13576) - Garretson, SD
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
President, Zion Lutheran Church, Garretson SD
President, Crossroads Conference, South Dakota Synod
Synod Council and Executive Committee, South Dakota Synod
- 3) *Education*
Black Hills State College, Spearfish SD, Associate Bachelor Of Arts
South Dakota State University, Brookings SD, Bachelor Of Science
South Dakota State University, Brookings SD, Master Of Science
- 4) *Employment*
Wing Executive Support Officer / Lieutenant Colonel, South Dakota Air National Guard
- 5) *Year of birth*
1957
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have had the wonderful and blessed opportunity to experience the fellowship of ELCA ministry throughout a wide spectrum of experiences, including: * 38 years of military service in the United States Air Force and Air National Guard; * Service to youth through the Boy Scouts of America and honored with the Lutheran Lamb Award; * Past President of a mission congregation (Gloria Dei, Sioux Falls S.D.); * Past President of a rural congregation (Zion, Garretson, S.D.); * Service to the imprisoned as President of the Outside Council for St. Dymas of South Dakota prison ministries in Sioux Falls and Springfield, S.D.; * Charter member and Past Secretary/Treasurer of South Dakota Lutheran Men in Mission; * Synodical leadership as Conference President and member of Council/Executive Committee, South Dakota Synod ELCA.

B. Mr. Robert H. Scott

South Dakota Synod (3C)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (ID: 16318) - Sioux Falls, SD
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Two congregation councils
Christus Rex Campus Ministry Board-U of North Dakota
Lutherans Outdoors of South Dakota Board
- 3) *Education*
South Dakota State College, No Degree Earned
Sioux Falls College, No Degree Earned
- 4) *Employment*
Partner/Marketer/President of Industry Advocate group, Poet Ethanol Products
- 5) *Year of birth*
1945
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

Since pre-ELCA God has been calling me to a more active life of worship and service. This gave me an opportunity to speak out in support of forming the ELCA. I am still a supporter and my family and I love our church. It is where we choose to celebrate our faith and through which God seems to call each of us.

I served nine years on congregation councils in the Dakotas, three years on Christus Rex Campus Ministry board, am president of the Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota board, attended synod assemblies, delegate to Churchwide Assembly in Kansas City, taught confirmation, am involved in Bible studies, learned tithing is not the end but the beginning and, the more I study, the more I learn of Christ, the more there is to learn.

A study of Luther through the Luther House of Study strengthened my resolve that this is my church. I believe I bring to it an ability to work with others and to disagree without someone needing to be right or wrong. I am a child of God, saved by grace.

10. Church Council: Lay Male (*Restricted to Southeastern Minnesota Synod, 3I*)

A. Mr. Allan J. Bieber

Southeastern Minnesota Synod (3I)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
People of Hope (ID: 30221) - Rochester, MN

- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
SEMN Synod Council (current)
People of Hope Congregational Council (current)
People of Hope Congregational President

- 3) *Education*
Harvard University, Doctor Of Philosophy
University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh, Bachelor Of Science

- 4) *Employment*
Associate Professor of Neurology, Mayo Clinic, College of Medicine
- 5) *Year of birth*
1954

- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian

- 7) *Primary Language*
English

- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I am a lifelong Lutheran. By profession I am a scientist and an educator. I believe deeply in the tenets of Lutheranism and I have taught Lutheran catechism and theology to both adolescents and adults. I trust in the power of education to open the mind and to lay the foundation for changes of the heart and soul. I have raised four children in the church and I understand the desire of parents for their children to receive relevant and substantial education in the Christian faith and its traditions. I am aware however, that too many lay people are poorly prepared for teaching their children and adult education has therefore been a longstanding interest of mine. I believe in reason as a first approach to the solution of problems but I am comfortable with the fact that reason may have limitations when it comes to understanding the will of God. I believe that God is imminent in the lives of men and that prayer can serve as a source of inspiration to help guide the application of reason.

B. Mr. Craig S. Nelson

Southeastern Minnesota Synod (3I)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Salem Lutheran Church (ID: 03108) - Albert Lea, MN

- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
President of Congregation, Salem Lutheran Church
Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council
Conference Dean, Southeastern Minnesota Synod

- 3) *Education*
St. Olaf College, Bachelor Of Arts
Mansfield College, Oxford University, Certificate
University of North Dakota School of Law, Doctor Of Jurisprudence

- 4) *Employment*
Freeborn County Attorney, Freeborn County
- 5) *Year of birth*
1950

- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian

- 7) *Primary Language*
English

- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

My call to serve on the Church Council comes in the joy, fulfillment, and encouragement I have received from my congregation and synod, where I have served in many roles.

My gifts, skills, and personal perspectives have been formed by personal, professional, and community service experiences. As a private lawyer, I provided legal services to individuals, corporations, local government, and labor unions. As an elected county attorney, I am a prosecutor in the courtroom who also provides legal advice and services to the varied work of local government.

Professionally, I served as President of the Minnesota County Attorneys Association and District Bar Association. Personally, I have served on local, regional, and statewide boards and task forces, and have served as president of the Family Y and Senior Resources, vice-president of a Girl Scout Council, and treasurer of a Credit Union. I have managed businesses and nonprofits and helped adopt budgets, policies and procedures.

11. Church Council: Lay Male (*Restricted to Central/Southern Illinois Synod, 5C*)

A. Mr. Michael Mason

Central/Southern Illinois Synod (5C)

1) *Congregational membership*

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church (ID: 02162) - Jonesboro, IL

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Congregational Council
Synod Reference and Counsel
Synod Council

3) *Education*

University of Northern Colorado, Bachelor Of Arts
Sonoma State University
Southern Illinois University School of Law, Doctor Of Jurisprudence

4) *Employment*

Administrative Law Judge, State of Illinois

5) *Year of birth*

1946

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

At the close of the January 2013 Synod Council meeting, Vice President Jeanne Rapp announced that she needed additional names for Executive Committee consideration for nomination to the ballot for Church Council. I told Jeanne if she needed another name, she could use mine.

In a later conversation, Jeanne encouraged me to proceed with the nomination process. I discussed the matter with our pastor, David Eidson, and he encouraged me as well. Also, I have served with many of the Executive Members voting to place my name on this ballot. I have the deepest respect for all of them. Each shares my view that it is an honor to be asked to serve.

My judicial caseload primarily concerns incidents of child abuse, some of the deepest human tragedies. There is seldom a good solution. Nevertheless, it fosters a profound respect for process and deliberative consideration of all relevant matters, all of which would be invaluable to me if elected to Church Council.

B. Mr. Vernon K. Veal

Central/Southern Illinois Synod (5C)

1) *Congregational membership*

St. John Lutheran Church (ID: 02069) - Bloomington, IL

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

CSIS Synod Council
CSIS NE Conference Lay V-P
St. John Lutheran Church (Blgtn., IL) Congregation President

3) *Education*

University of Nebraska at Kearney, Bachelor Of Arts
University of Denver, No Degree Earned
University of Denver Law School, No Degree Earned

4) *Employment*

Project Manager, State Farm Insurance Co.

5) *Year of birth*

1939

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

An ELCA member since its formation, my mission has been in service for my congregation, my conference, my synod and churchwide task forces. As a formation voting member, my belief was the formation of this new church was being led by my God and the people who served him. Merging gave us opportunity to expand mission in our churches, our nation and our world. My faith calls me to continue to serve in our "God's work. Our hands."

My church memberships include experience as Congregation President & Council, Sunday School Director, Preaching, Stewardship, Evangelism, and Building Campaigns. My synod service includes Council member, Finance Committee chair, Youth Leader, Campus Ministry, Conference vice president, Consultation and Stewardship roles which developed my call to mission and service. Years of business leadership experience with State Farm Insurance Company add to this. A lifelong community volunteer expands my mission and service to God's calling.

12. Church Council: Clergy

A. The Rev. Ronald T. Glusenkamp

Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)

1) *Congregational membership*

Bethany Lutheran Church (ID: 05472) - Cherry Hills Village, CO

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Vice President-ELCA Board of Pensions (Portico)
Gethsemane Lutheran Church- St. Louis, MO
Voting Member-Churchwide Assembly Minneapolis

3) *Education*

Concordia Teachers College
Concordia Senior College Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Bachelor Of Arts
Christ Seminary-Seminex, Master Of Divinity

4) *Employment*

Senior Pastor, Bethany Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1954

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I am a baptized child of God. For the past 32 years I have served this church as an ordained pastor. I've served mid-sized congregations in the past and am currently serving a large 4,000 member congregation. I've worked for a unit of the ELCA. During my travels and experience I've been able to see how this church functions interdependently. I am very grateful for the intentionality of the threefold expression of this church, congregation, synod and churchwide.

My gifts are strategic planning, financial accountability, a listening heart, an open mind and the ability to process complex systems. I am a communicator who loves telling the story of Jesus and his love. During my years at the Board of Pensions, I attended on average 6-8 synod assemblies per year. I believe I am deeply rooted in the Gospel.

We have adopted the theme of ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW as our congregational theme for 2013. It is in this Spirit and conviction that I am open to the call to be on the Church Council.

B. The Rev. Michael R. Ward

North Carolina Synod (9B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Lutheran Church of the Nativity (ID: 04211) - Arden, NC

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

ELCA Youth Ministry Network Board of Directors
Association of Lutheran Development Executives Carolinas
Chapter President
NC Synod Stewardship Workshop Speaker

3) *Education*

Appalachian State University, Bachelor Of Business Admin
Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Master Of Divinity

4) *Employment*

Vice President of Advancement, Lutheridge + Lutherock Ministries

5) *Year of birth*

1971

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I love this church and God has provided me with tremendous experiences to get to know it and understand it. Through serving a regional outdoor ministry for the last 12 years and having the opportunity to provide stewardship, strategic planning, and marketing consulting to congregations and outdoor ministries across the country, I feel I have come to know a significant portion of this church. I have served on the Board for the ELCA Youth Ministry Network and as President of the Carolinas Chapter of ALDE.

As a consultant, I have the ability to see the big picture of what is going on and needs to happen. As a stewardship professional, I have the ability to not be limited by scarcity mentality. As a member of other boards, I can work together to achieve mutual goals.

13. Church Council: Clergy (*Incumbent*)

A. The Rev. Joyce M. Graue

Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F)

1) Congregational membership

St. John Lutheran Church (ID: 12185) - Raymond, MN

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Global Mission: Papua New Guinea, Central African Republic

Global Mission Associate: mission development in Australia

Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church, Oakdale, Pa.

3) Education

Princeton Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity

St. Olaf College, Bachelor Of Arts

4) Employment

Pastor, St. John Lutheran Church

5) Year of birth

1957

6) Ethnicity

Caucasian

7) Primary Language

English

8) What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?

As I complete this nomination form, I am serving the last 1 ½ years of the unexpired term of another on the ELCA Church Council. So I bring this experience with me to serve a full term, if elected.

Elected or not, I love my work as an ELCA pastor and I strive to love all God's children and our world. Serving with ELCA Global Mission in Papua New Guinea as a seminary lecturer and then in the Central African Republic as an Advisor to the ELC-CAR's Women's Organization (equivalent to our Women of the ELCA) - and before that two mission starts in Australia - means that I lived overseas for 23 years. These years which are rich with a variety of experiences enable me to see my church (and my birth country) with different eyes and to hear voices - and note silence! - I likely otherwise would not.

I enjoy church history and worship. I am committed to offering my best: to being faithful, to practice active listening, to be an advocate for those without voice, and to come prepared to learn.

14. Church Council: Clergy (YA)

A. The Rev. Jonathan Splichal Larson

Western North Dakota Synod (3A)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Faith Lutheran Church (ID: 12574) - Bismarck, ND
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Glocal Mission Gathering Facilitator
- 3) *Education*
Augustana College (SD), Bachelor Of Arts
Wartburg Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Associate Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1984
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

The nomination to enter the process for Church Council came as a surprise and an honor. The external and internal call of God continues to sustain me.

Called by God I've served in various leadership positions in camping ministry, ELCA college campus ministry, and as student assistant to the Center for Global Theologies while at Wartburg Seminary. I now serve as Associate Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Bismarck, N.D. Through the work in my congregation I have worked side-by-side with the people to grow in the areas of mission and young adult ministry.

While in the WND Synod I have served as Lutheran Youth Organization chaplain, and facilitated a Glocal Mission Gathering. Both are key points of service in areas of my passion and calling. I have and will continue to be deeply connected to the global church, including the country of Haiti and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti, deeply bonded in love and changed by my experience in the earthquake in January 2010.

B. The Rev. Wesley C. Telyea

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church (ID: 04929) - Bellevue, WA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Associate Pastor Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church
- 3) *Education*
Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor Of Arts
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Associate Pastor, Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1983
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

My sense of God's call to serve the greater church through the Church Council has come to me in two ways. The first has been through people who have approached and asked me if I would be willing to be nominated. This sort of thing is always very humbling, but alone is not always an indicator of God's call. However, when these requests were made as I was also feeling a desire to serve the church in a greater capacity. These two hints, an outer call and an inner call, have made clear to me God's call.

Should I be elected to Church Council I would bring three important gifts and skills. The first gift and skill is an ability to engage a changing church. The second gift and skill I would bring to Church Council is the ability to vision. The third gift and skill I would bring is a love for the church and an ability to stay focused on Christ.

Thank you for considering me for Church Council. It would be a great honor to serve the national church.

15. Church Council: Clergy (PC/L)

A. The Rev. William E. Flippin Jr.

Southeastern Synod (9D)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
St. Matthew Lutheran Church (ID: 05775) - Columbus, GA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Congregational and Synodical Renewal Team
Lutheran World Relief Presidents Council
National Youth Gathering Discernment Planning Team
- 3) *Education*
Morehouse College, Bachelor Of Arts
Interdenominational Theological Center, Master Of Divinity
Emory University, Candler School of Theology, Master Of Theology
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1976
- 6) *Ethnicity*
African American/Black Non-Hispanic
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

In my varied experiences in serving this great church, I have been a part of many synodical and national boards that have enhanced my understanding and overall appreciation of mission. All these opportunities have afforded me to be enlightened on the richness and diversity of our great church which will be further enhanced in serving on the ELCA Church Council, if elected.

This is acquired into the faithful witness to the gospel and to our God! All our activities should be part of a concerted effort to grow closer to the God who comes to us in Jesus Christ. Life is a spiritual adventure, and it begins when we fall into water through the understanding of our baptismal creeds, confessions and faith.

The mission of Christ that motivates me is to transform hearts and do God's work in the world through the reaching of seekers of the faith.

B. The Rev. Israel D. P. Penumaka

Metropolitan New York Synod (7C)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
St. Paul International Lutheran Church (ID: 03963) - Floral Park, NY
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Member of Candidacy Committee, Metro New York Synod
Member of Executive Committee of Asian & Pacific Islander Ministry
Member of Asian Church Planting Team, ELCA-CSM
- 3) *Education*
United Theological College, Bangalore, Master Of Theology
United Theological College, Bangalore, Bachelor Of Divinity
Andhra University, Master Of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, St. Paul's International Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1958
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Asian/Pacific Islander
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I am a pastor and mission developer with passion and dedication to serve Lutheran communities in the United States, Hong Kong and India for the past 25 years. I believe, being Lutheran God called us all into the mission of God. And I accepted this call full time to proclaim God's love and grace to God's people in this church. We are in historical times to revitalize our Lutheran congregations across the United States. I strongly believe that "The Church is the body of Jesus Christ," should not die, simply because it is divine body, though it is constituted by human. Therefore, I strive to revive ministries wherever I engage in ministry. I have been continuing the same at St. Paul's International Lutheran Church, New York City for last 12 years. I am a leader who can analyze the present and forecast the future. Provide leadership, vision, strategic planning, coordinate, at synodical and churchwide. If I am given an opportunity to service in the Church Council, I will bring these gifts.

16. Church Council: Lay Female

A. Ms. Maren Hulden

Northwestern Minnesota Synod (3D)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 11594) - Moorhead, MN
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
President, ELCA Lutheran Youth Organization
Youth Advisory Member to ELCA Church Council
Church Council, Augustana Lutheran Church in Hyde Park
- 3) *Education*
University of Chicago, Bachelor Of Arts
Columbia University, Doctor Of Jurisprudence
- 4) *Employment*
Law Clerk to the Honorable David F. Hamilton, United States
Court of Appeals
- 5) *Year of birth*
1985
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have grown to know Christ through my family, my many church families, my work with the church, and my work as a volunteer, public school teacher, and now a lawyer. I feel called to use my experiences in nonprofit board governance and strategic planning and my commitment to diversity and inclusion to serve the church and my neighbors in need. Teaching 6th grade in south Texas taught me the importance of purposeful planning, effective communication, and building relationships across generations and cultures. In law school I started a nonprofit governance volunteer project that placed law students on the boards of grassroots charter schools. As Editor-in-Chief of the Columbia Law Review, I led a board of 26 and a staff of 90 to publish faculty legal scholarship and, recognizing the barriers to full participation, implemented multifaceted efforts to increase diversity. Now I am humbled to be part of the judiciary's work resolving disputes and interpreting our nation's laws.

B. Ms. Lauren C. Morse-Wendt

Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Edina Community Lutheran Church (ID: 11827) - Edina, MN
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Minneapolis Area Synod Council
Minneapolis Area Synod Global Companion Table (Chair, then Member)
Minneapolis Area Synod Seminary of the Streets Leadership Team
- 3) *Education*
Luther Seminary, Master Of Arts
St. Olaf College, Bachelor Of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Mission and Ministry Developer, Edina Community Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1982
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I believe that the Church must bring together diverse perspectives as it makes wise and emboldened decisions about its present and future. I would be honored to share my perspective and hear those of others by serving on the Church Council.

My calling as a diaconal minister serving a congregation in outreach and justice ministry provides me with the perspective of how ELCA congregations today both thrive and struggle to be in mission. My childhood in an unchurched home enables me to see the institutional church and its decisions from both an insider and outsider's perspective. My experience as a young adult surrounded by the dichotomy of peers who are either pastors or are long-time friends who never attend church inspires me to speak the truth of what the Church represents to my generation. I would be honored to bring my perspective as a mission-oriented, young adult convert with a great commitment to and love for this Church to the leadership conversations of the ELCA.

16. Church Council: Lay Female

C. Sr. Davia A. Baldauf

Lower Susquehanna Synod (8D)

1) *Congregational membership*

St. Matthias Evangelical Lutheran Church (ID: 01026) -
Carlisle, PA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Synod candidacy
Deaconess community board/candidacy

3) *Education*

Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Master Of Sacred Theology
LTSP, Master Of Arts
Northeastern Illinois Univ., Bachelor Of Arts In Ed.

4) *Employment*

Spiritual Director/retreat leader, The Dwelling Place
Retreat Center

5) *Year of birth*

1948

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

My background in Lutheran Theology and spirituality gives me a strong basis from which to engage in the holy conversation that guides the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. My skills in developmental psychology, education, spiritual direction and nursing give me a board perspective in matters that touch the church and the world.

I am rostered as an ELCA deaconess and can bring the voice of the Word and service rosters to the council. Word and service rosters, Associates in Ministry, Diaconal Ministers and Deaconess, serve to make the Word of God real for people through acts of mercy and servant leadership.

As this form does not allow for explanations in dates, positions, etc., please call me if you have a question.

17. Church Council: Lay Female (*Preference for financial expertise*)

A. Ms. Susan M. Mongillo

Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

1) *Congregational membership*

Our Saviour Lutheran Church (ID: 01850) - Arlington Heights, IL

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Congregation Council
Green Team
Stephen Ministry

3) *Education*

Valparaiso University, No Degree Earned
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Bachelor In Social Work
Northwestern University Law School, Doctor Of Jurisprudence

4) *Employment*

Vice President, Gift Planning, Advocate Charitable Foundation

5) *Year of birth*

1955

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

A desire to serve and love of the church coupled with my professional background and personal strengths underlies my sense of calling. The blessing of membership in a dynamic congregation has afforded me the chance to participate in numerous ministries. I also bring to the table over two decades of legal experience during which I applied my problem solving, analytic, and advocacy skills.

Now, as a gift planning officer for Advocate Health Care, a faith-based health care system sponsored by the ELCA, I use my gifts of being strategic, collaborative, and empathic to help people have an impact on Advocate's healing ministry. I also have engaged in a variety of philanthropic initiatives, held leadership roles, and participated in organizational development. These experiences equip me to be a useful resource to the council. In healthcare fundraising, many gifts come from patients wanting to "give back." Likewise, I am a grateful ELCA member desiring to "give back" to my church.

B. Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford

Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

1) *Congregational membership*

Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 10649) - Evanston, IL

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

ELCA Audit Committee
ELCA Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services)
Wittenberg University - Chair, Board of Directors

3) *Education*

Wittenberg University, Bachelor Of Arts
University of Michigan, Master Of Arts
Northwestern University, Master Of Business Administration

4) *Employment*

Associate Vice President for Financial Operations, Treasurer
Northwestern University

5) *Year of birth*

1953

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

Serving on the governing Council of the ELCA would be my fifth opportunity to serve the Church in my career to date. I have been called to share my financial stewardship, governance and leadership skills. I believe that every faithful person who has been blessed with talents has an obligation to serve others. The organized expressions of our faith, whether it is through our individual congregations, our Lutheran colleges, or the national church bodies, are the communities where we are able to strengthen the Church's foundation - enabling all stewards who work tirelessly spreading the good news to be cared for and supported.

I bring to the ELCA Church Council previous experience on the Audit Committee of the ELCA, having served as a "public" member for several years. I also served from 2008-2011 as a trustee of the ELCA Board of Pension (now "Portico," where I served two years as Audit Chair, and also served on the Finance and Executive Committee.

18. Church Council: Lay Female (PC/L, preference for young adult)

A. Ms. Amanda E. Briggs
Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
St. Paul Lutheran Church (ID: 05044) - Oakland, CA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Youth Representative to the St. Paul Congregation Council
District Representative to the Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee
Co-chair elect to the Council for Lutheran Youth Organization Presidents
- 3) *Education*
Castro Valley High School
- 4) *Employment*
- 5) *Year of birth*
1995
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Asian/Pacific Islander
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I feel especially called to work with the youth in my synod at retreats run by the synod youth committee. I thoroughly enjoy witnessing the faith journeys of those youth and being a role model to them. I believe youth look at life in a very simple manner and that provides me with much comfort. I am strong in my faith, and I gain strength every time a youth tells me I have helped them learn about God and life as a Lutheran.

In addition to helping the youth in synod, I also feel called to speak on their behalf. Youth are often under-represented because people assume they are not interested in business, but I am fascinated by it. I want other youth to feel comfortable speaking up and voicing their opinions.

B. Ms. Tanisha Pitre
Southwest California Synod (2B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Community Lutheran Church (ID: 13866) - Los Angeles, CA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Deacon/Young Adult Ministry/Christian Education
Multi-Synodical Candidacy Committee
Regional Representative-African American Lutheran Association
- 3) *Education*
California School of Professional Psychology, Doctor Of Psychology
California School of Professional Psychology, Master Of Arts In Psychology
San Diego State University, Bachelor Of Science
- 4) *Employment*
Psychologist, L.A. County Dept. of Mental Health
- 5) *Year of birth*
1978
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Other Heritage
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

My name is Dr. Tanisha Pitre. I am a member of Community Lutheran Church in Los Angeles, California. I am a mother of two young boys, Jalen and Kameron. I currently work with children in foster care providing mental health services. I have been involved in different ministries within the church as a Deacon assisting the pastor during worship services, as a youth and young adult ministry leader, Christian Education, and a former board member of a FLCC Child Development Center. In terms of synodical experience, I have also served on a Multi-Synodical Candidacy Committee. I am currently serving on congregation council updating the constitution. I have always felt a sense of calling to use my gifts, talents, and abilities to further the mission of building the kingdom of Christ. I believe that throughout my life God has been leading and nudging me to use my gifts of leadership and encouragement of others. If chosen I will do my best to serve in the way that God would have me to serve.

19. Church Council: Lay Female (Y) [Three-Year Term]

A. Ms. Kayla S. Koterwski
South Dakota Synod (3C)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Peace Lutheran Church (ID: 13704) - Sioux Falls, SD
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
South Dakota Synod Council youth representative
Church council youth representative
Churchwide youth delegate from South Dakota

3) *Education*

4) *Employment*

5) *Year of birth*
1995

6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*
English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I feel so wonderfully blessed to have been allowed to be involved with the SD synod, my church, and with the ELCA. Over the past four years I have been given so many opportunities to grow my faith, and my understanding at synod and churchwide levels. Youth involvement is very important to me. I am currently a youth representative on two church-related councils. I was recently given the opportunity to serve as a member on the South Dakota Synod's malaria campaign board. I will be attending my fourth consecutive SD Synod Assembly this summer and am also on the Synod Assembly planning committee. Along with Synod Assembly, I was selected to be one of two youth delegates to the Churchwide Assembly in Pittsburgh in 2013. I was honored to be able to attend an ELCA young leaders conference called "The Event" where I met so many wonderful ELCA youth who shared my goals and interest in synod involvement. In the summer of 2012 I attended the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

B. Ms. Elli N. Wachtman
Southern Ohio Synod (6F)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 04516) - Columbus, OH
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
YWCA Homeless Family Shelter Volunteer
Summits Trace Nursing Home Worship Facilitator
Vacation Bible School - Volunteer Leader

3) *Education*
Upper Arlington High School

4) *Employment*

5) *Year of birth*
1998

6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*
English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

As a lifelong church member, my values are grounded in faith and inform my choices. I have always felt a particular connection and devotion to God whether at church, LOMO camp, home or school. I have been blessed to grow up Lutheran and am eager to give back to the church that has provided so much for me.

As an honor student, I could read, comprehend and comment on the material the Council needs to manage in leading the church. My communication, organization and critical thinking skills would enable me to be a vital part of important conversations. I have demonstrated leadership in the classroom, athletics and church. I was chosen to participate in the So. Ohio Synod Leadership Program, Faith Trek, as well as in a community leadership program.

Being a student, I can bring a valuable perspective to the ELCA Church Council and would be honored to represent the youth for that purpose. A church is never richer and fuller than when it involves people of every age, gender, and race.

20. Church Council: Lay Male (*Preference for young adult*)

A. Mr. Tim Newman

Western North Dakota Synod (3A)

1) *Congregational membership*

Church of the Cross Lutheran Church (ID: 12575) - Bismarck, ND

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Pastoral Assistant - Lutheran Church of the Cross
High Ropes Coordinator/ Councilor - Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp
Councilor - Camp of The Cross

3) *Education*

4) *Employment*

Pastoral Assistant, Lutheran Church of the Cross

5) *Year of birth*

1981

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I grew up in the Lutheran church but church became real when I was a camp counselor. Who knew Lutherans could be so fun! My camp experience left me full of the Holy Spirit with a passion to share the life of Jesus with others. God was showing me the gifts that I had hidden away.

I currently work in a small church with a big heart. I get to walk with people from all generations through the sorrows and joys of life. I have an ambiguous title which allows God to use me in a variety of ways. I love everything from listening and learning to preaching and teaching. I see families bring their children to the waters of baptism and I get to walk with people when tragedy strikes.

I look forward each day to seeing what God has in store. Usually about the time I think I have it all figured out, God goes and flips all my ideas upside down. I like that. If elected I hope to be God's hands and feet for the bigger church.

B. Mr. Samuel F. Schlouch

Northern Illinois Synod (5B)

1) *Congregational membership*

St. James Lutheran Church (ID: 02060) - Rock Island, IL

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

ELCA Church Council Advisory Member
Board of the Lutheran Youth Organization Advisory Member and Committee Chair
Central/Southern Illinois Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Planning Committee

3) *Education*

Augustana College, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Manager, Arts Events and Communication, Augustana College

5) *Year of birth*

1988

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

After attending Augustana College as a student and now working at the college as an administrator, I have a deep understanding of vocation and the idea of being called to something. This is something we instill in our students in their first few weeks on campus. The particular call to serve God through work on committees or boards has never left me since my first committee meetings as a youth in my congregation. After taking some time since my last service to the churchwide organization, I am ready to answer the call again.

I firmly believe that everyone is called to use their own skills, gifts and talents to better the church and its work around the world. During my time as an advisor to the ELCA Church Council, I was able to see that the work accomplished at these meetings can have real effects within all expressions of the ELCA. It was an honor to be a small part of that work, and I look forward to continuing my service in whatever way God calls.

20. Church Council: Lay Male (*Preference for young adult*)

C. Mr. Hans E. Becklin

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5K)

1) Congregational membership

Advent Lutheran Church (ID: 14712) - Madison, WI

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

President, Luther College Student Congregation

Voting Member, 2011 and 2013 Churchwide Assemblies

Synod Assembly Voting Member, 2008, 2009, and 2013

3) Education

Luther College, Bachelor Of Arts

4) Employment

5) Year of birth

1992

6) Ethnicity

Caucasian

7) Primary Language

English

8) What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?

I feel the Holy Spirit moving in me as a 21-year old young adult—baptized, confirmed, and now serving in the ELCA (itself a "young adult" at the age of 25)! God has called me into service in this church throughout my life. Structuring the national church IS a mission, one that reaches every corner of this large, vibrant denomination.

As a student, I have served in many capacities: as a leader in our Student Congregation, as a Bible Study leader, and as a leader in Outreach ministry. I love the Gospel and the freeing message that we live as Lutherans.

Although I am young, I am passionate about how our church is structured. I have participated in the decision-making of our church, and have loved every minute of this service. This passion has also colored my studies. As an historian, I have studied the growth, history, and structure of the Lutheran faith in America. If elected, I would combine this historical understanding with my youthful passion and zeal for the Gospel.

21. Church Council: Lay Male (*Preference for legal expertise*)

A. Mr. Tristan St. John Brown

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Bethesda Lutheran Church (ID: 12909) - Mountlake Terrace, WA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Youth Programs Director First Lutheran of Richmond Beach
Board Member, Jeremiah Center
Board President, Open Door Ministries

3) *Education*

Whitworth College (now University), Bachelor Of Arts
Seattle University, Master Of Public Administration
Seattle University School of Law, Doctor Of Jurisprudence

4) *Employment*

Assistant District Counsel, Department of Defense

5) *Year of birth*

1980

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I believe God calls me through the people and events that he puts before me. I have learned to be mindful of the way the Holy Spirit leads me to places I can put my talents to their best use - my call to the Church Council is no different.

If elected, I would bring to the Council the skills and experiences that have shaped who I am. After college, I served for four years as a church Youth Program Director. That experience gave me a keen awareness of how a church operates and the issues our church faces in modern times. As an attorney, I chose a career where I could serve on a daily basis. My legal background will be helpful in many of the legal, risk management, and governance considerations that the Council addresses on a daily basis. I believe my perspective would be of great service to the Council.

I am honored by my consideration as a candidate and if elected I would seek to serve in a Christ-like manner, trying to utilize the skills and abilities God has blessed me with.

B. Mr. James M. Hushagen

Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)

1) *Congregational membership*

Mountain View Lutheran Church (ID: 12952) - Edgewood, WA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Southwestern WA Synod Vice President
Churchwide Nominating Committee
Mountain View Congregation Council

3) *Education*

Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor Of Arts
Pacific Lutheran University, Master Of Arts
University of Puget Sound (Seattle U) Law School, Doctor Of Jurisprudence

4) *Employment*

Intern; then lawyer—partner since 1986, Eisenhower & Carlson PLLC

5) *Year of birth*

1948

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

God's plans have been lived out despite my plans. I left seminary because I did not feel a call to ordained ministry. But, God has called me to serve the ELCA in other ways. I have a gift for improving Lutheran institutions' governing boards. Starting with congregation council, I served as a leader on the boards of a Lutheran hospital, PLU, Thrivent Financial, the SW Washington Synod and Lutheran Music Program. On each board, I've led the organization to clarify its mission and grow by pursuing it. For 33 years, I've practiced law and used my legal expertise to serve congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. I've been Holden Village Attorney for 18 years. I understand the legal crossroads between church and society and enjoy helping the church navigate that intersection. The ELCA faces big demographic and cultural challenges in coming years. It will take experienced, visionary Church Council servant leadership to meet those challenges. I have the skills and experience to be of service.

21. Church Council: Lay Male (*Preference for legal expertise*)

C. Mr. J. Sojin Thompson

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
St Matthew Lutheran Church (ID: 04934) - Renton, WA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Synod Council - Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA
Church Council - St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Youth Leadership and Planning Team - St. Matthew - Renton
- 3) *Education*
- 4) *Employment*
- 5) *Year of birth*
1997
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Asian/Pacific Islander
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

This church has the capacity to do great things and achieve greater feats and acts of love than previously possible. We are at a crossroads and must start moving forward into the future. A major part of this progression is our youth. I am convinced that when people feel they are a part of something, they want to help it succeed. Let's stop thinking of how we can get young people into the church, and start to think more on how we can make young people into the church. Youth outreach is important in today's church. This means changing how we view church and the community. We have a bigger impact than we may believe. We simply have to make that impact. We need to ensure young people feel they're a real part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. In turn our possibilities become momentum and change. Together we can change lives, and teach how to live in the image of God. It begins with God, and his work, and ends with us, and our hearts, and hands.

D. Mr. George C. Watson

Southeast Michigan Synod (6A)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
St Martin Lutheran Church (ID: 11353) - Port Huron, MI
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Secretary, Southeast Michigan Synod
Churchwide Committee on Appeals
Congregation President
- 3) *Education*
Wayne State University Law School, Doctor Of Jurisprudence
University of Michigan, Bachelor Of Arts
St. Clair County Community College, Associate Bachelor Of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Partner, Touma Watson Law Offices
- 5) *Year of birth*
1949
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

Each of us is called to serve Christ and God's church. We do not all have the same gifts so our service takes different forms. Whatever our daily vocation is, it should be carried out in a manner that furthers the Gospel. As a lawyer my analytical and organizational skills and my ability to clearly summarize complicated situations, thereby helping others to more easily reach decisions, have allowed me to serve Christ and his church in a variety of ways. I have served on several committees of this church and its predecessor bodies. I have been Secretary of the Southeast Michigan Synod for 23 years. My service has given me a deep appreciation of this whole church, its gifts and challenges. I have visited many meetings of the Church Council and have a good understanding of how it operates and the opportunities and challenges before it. I will be a valuable member of the Council and help guide the ELCA toward a future of increasingly effective service to God with the work of our hands.

22. Church Council: Lay Male (PC/L)

A. Mr. Ulysses Bell

North Carolina Synod (9B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Church of the Abiding Savior (ID: 10348) - Durham, NC
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
ELCA Board of Pensions, Investment Committee
Lenoir Rhyne College, Board of Trustees
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary
- 3) *Education*
NC Central University, School of Law, Doctor Of Jurisprudence
Columbia University, New York, Master Of Arts
Elizabeth City State Univ, North Carolina, Bachelor Of Science
- 4) *Employment*
Senior Program Director, MDC, Inc.
- 5) *Year of birth*
1943
- 6) *Ethnicity*
African American/Black Non-Hispanic
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I believe that God has given me the gifts of intellect, compassion, skills and experiences that are to be used in ways that add value to the advancement of the human condition and help close gaps that exist between equity and opportunity for far too many of God's children. In services to the Church Council, I will work to incorporate these gifts, talents and experiences to help the ELCA continue to reach its fullest potential to be the inclusive House of God that embraces the well-being of all humanity. Fifteen years of professional services as a Vice President of Development and Planning for three universities and more than 17 years of consultancy in fundraising, strategic planning, and organizational development to community- and faith-based organizations have given me invaluable insight and experiences in policy-level leadership and honed my interpersonal and technical skills as a policy-level leader.

B. Mr. Clarence M. Smith

Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Central Lutheran Church (ID: 11822) - Minneapolis, MN
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Member, Minneapolis Area Synod Council (and Exec Committee)
Member, TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod, Evangelism and Worship committees
NW Washington Synod, worship task force
- 3) *Education*
University of Texas - Austin, Bachelor Of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Risk Management Officer, Wells Fargo
- 5) *Year of birth*
1957
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Multiracial
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

The ELCA has confronted many challenges during its first 25 years of history. New challenges and opportunities await the church. How will we engage a world that views the church as increasingly irrelevant? How do we catechize and educate younger generations? Can a Lutheran understanding of Scriptures bring new meaning to a world that is hurting and in need of healing? What must we do to become better disciples and share God's message of love?

I have lived and worked within three different synods of the ELCA. For six years (2004-2010), I served as Board Chair for National Lutheran Choir, a choral organization whose mission is to strengthen, renew, and preserve the heritage of Lutheran choral music. For me, good worship not only unites us, but also inspires us to go into the world serving others in peace and justice.

My 30-year work experience is in accounting and finance, and my career is focused on bank compliance issues - specifically around policy-writing and implementation.

23. Church Council: Lay Male (Y) [Three-Year Term]

A. Mr. Oliver W. Thul

Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Danebod Lutheran Church (ID: 03178) - Tyler, MN
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
SWMN Synod LYO Board
Sillerud Lutheran Youth Group Design Team
- 3) *Education*
Tracy Milroy Balaton High School, No Degree Earned
- 4) *Employment*
Chicken rancher, egg producer, Self employed
- 5) *Year of birth*
1998
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I know what it is like to be alone in a crowd, to be different. I'm sure there are a lot of kids like that, but God gave me skills in being able to speak about it. Our churches need to be safe, open places that capture kids' attention and I have been involved in a lot of different plans and programs. Some worked well and some did not. Most do a little of both.

I really think that most ELCA churches do pretty good with younger kids and Sunday School, but they mostly give up on high schoolers. I don't understand that.

We get a lot of older teens at our Wednesday nights. There are three reasons I see. We eat, the pastors talk in a way the kids get what is said, and we are an important part of the work. What we say and do matters, to the younger kids who are around and to each other.

My mom says I naturally think in theological terms. I don't know about that, but I do know that God wants me to use what he gives me to help others.

B. Mr. Eli R. Truhe

Central States Synod (4B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Immanuel Lutheran Church (ID: 01583) - Salina, KS
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Youth Group
Volunteer in Community through church
Acolyte
- 3) *Education*
- 4) *Employment*
- 5) *Year of birth*
1999
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

Loren Mai told me about it. I believe that it would be a great experience for me. I was in Fellowship Of Christian Athletes (FCA) for two years and was an officer this past year. I am looking forward to the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit.

23. Church Council: Lay Male (Y) [Three-Year Term]

C. Mr. Eric J. Pike

New England Synod (7B)

1) Congregational membership

Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 03588) - Worcester, MA

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

NE Synod Assembly Voting Member
Assisting Minister
TV Ministry

3) Education

Worcester Technical High School, N/A

4) Employment

Technology Sales Advisor, Staples

5) Year of birth

1996

6) Ethnicity

Caucasian

7) Primary Language

English

8) What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?

I feel a sense of call to this church and God's Ppeople. I am actively serving many ways between the synod and church. I am an Assisting Minister, Crucifer, Acolyte and Usher, as well as serving on the TV Ministry Board at Trinity Lutheran Church. While serving as a voting member at the 2012 New England Synod Assembly, I was elected to Churchwide Assembly.

I am a officer for the class of 2015 at Worcester Technical High School. I am an active member on the Student Council, as well as the Advisory Board for the Information Support Services and Networking (ISS&N) Department.

My background at both Church and School have given me the communication skills to reach out to people. This skill has assisted me in communicating the gospel for the church. I believe that the use of technology is an essential and effective way of doing this. With my background in TV Ministry and the ISS&N course I major in at school, it makes it easier and helpful for the purpose of sharing the good news.

24. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Clergy (*Incumbent, plan participant*)

A. The Rev. Paul W. Stumme-Diers

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

1) Congregational membership

Bethany Lutheran Church (ID: 04927) - Bainbridge Island, WA

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Synodical Bishop, Greater Milwaukee Synod
LSS WI/UM Board member
Pilot synod (GMS) for Portico Benefit Services wellness initiative

3) Education

Pacific Lutheran University (Political Science), Bachelor Of Arts
Wartburg Theological Seminary, Doctor Of Ministry

4) Employment

Pastor, Bethany Lutheran Church

5) Year of birth

1960

6) Ethnicity

Caucasian

7) Primary Language

English

8) What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?

I am firmly committed to the mission and ministry of the ELCA, and recognize Portico Benefit Services as being a faithful extension of this ministry. I am impressed by the services provided by Portico to its members, including the care and attention our family was given during my wife's breast cancer ten years ago; the compassion and resources we received were deeply appreciated. I am grateful for the recent focus on wellness in our plan, and its proactive and preventive approach to health care. The perspectives I hope I bring are through my experience as a synodical bishop, where I felt a true collaboration with Portico. In my positive experiences as a recipient of the services provided, both through a family health crisis, but also the emphasis on wellness. I have a pretty good head for numbers, although I recognize my limitations when it comes to investments and sophisticated financial instruments (where I think we do well to rely on the professionals).

25. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Female (PC/L, Incumbent)

A. Ms. Diana G. Haywood

North Carolina Synod (9B)

1) Congregational membership

Church of the Abiding Savior (ID: 10348) - Durham, NC

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Current Vice President of North Carolina Synod
Past Congregation President
Current Chair of African Descent Strategy Synodical Task Force

3) Education

Hampton University, Bachelor Of Arts

4) Employment

Director of Data Administration, UNC-General Administration

5) Year of birth

1948

6) Ethnicity

African American/Black Non-Hispanic

7) Primary Language

English

8) What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?

I am committed to modeling love, hope and service and to giving of my time to proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ are guiding principles in my life. The love of God, love of neighbor, and energy for ministry continues to lead me. I am the Vice President of North Carolina Synod, serve on synodical committees and love working in my home congregation. Processing details and using the specifics to identify requirements, limitations and general scope of projects have always been helpful when working on committees. With a background in systems analysis, statistics and research, I am technical, analytical and process oriented. My work and service have provided a foundation in developing vision and strategy with attention to planning, implementing and designing evaluation and accountability methodologies. In addition to the insight and perspective gained from my background and experiences, I would bring a lay perspective with congregational and synodical lenses.

26. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Male

A. Mr. Paul F. Engstrom

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Christ's Lutheran Church (ID: 00716) - Oreland, PA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Member, Division Mission of North American Lutheran Church in America
Member, Planning Committee Liberty Lutheran Services
Chairman, Board of Directors, Paul's Run Retirement Community
- 3) *Education*
St. Olaf College, Bachelor Of Arts
University of Minnesota Medical School, Doctor Of Medicine
Internal Medicine & Medical Oncology training
- 4) *Employment*
Senior Vice President, Acting Chairman, Department of Medical Oncology, Fox Chase Cancer Center
- 5) *Year of birth*
1936
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I am a committed member of my local and regional Lutheran community. As a medical doctor training in Medical Oncology and working at a major Comprehensive Cancer Center for 43 years, I have served on numerous regional and national medical boards and advisory committees. I am knowledgeable about pertinent health needs, health care delivery, health administration and health care financing. I will bring the perspective of a medical doctor, cancer center administrator, expert in disease prevention, Lutheran retirement community and social services board member, and consumer of medical services.

B. Mr. Bruce E. Johnson

Virginia Synod (9A)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
St. Philip Lutheran Church (ID: 06156) - Roanoke, VA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Congregation Council, Board of Elders, Chair of Council and/or Elders
Congregational representative to Synod
- 3) *Education*
Stanford University (Biology), Bachelor Of Arts
UCLA School of Medicine, Doctor Of Medicine
- 4) *Employment*
Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs/Attending Physician, Carilion Clinic/Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine
- 5) *Year of birth*
1950
- 6) *Ethnicity*
African American/Black Non-Hispanic
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I'm willing to serve and eager to contribute to the ELCA with whatever skills, insight and knowledge I can bring. My current position permits attendance at scheduled Board meetings. I have experience working with boards of regional and national scope, including positions as treasurer and president. I work daily with issues of education, health care and managed care and am willing to do my homework, including consulting friends and colleagues, in issues related to finance, benefits, insurance and technology. As a physician, I'm involved with staff and patients on issues related to health care, insurance, managed care, assisted living and care, disability, benefits and (to a degree) retirement planning. I have a working knowledge of current national policy issues related to health care. As an educator, I'm familiar with the wide range of issues related to educational institutions, including non-medical institutions. In recent years helped draft and modify social responsibility policies.

27. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Male

A. Mr. Peter J. Enko

Central States Synod (4B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Immanuel Lutheran Church (ID: 01602) - Kansas City, MO
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Past Council Member of Immanuel Lutheran Church
Past Endowment Trust Fund Committee Member of Immanuel Lutheran Church
Past Stewardship Committee Member of Immanuel Lutheran Church
- 3) *Education*
College of William and Mary, Bachelor Of Arts
University of Virginia, Master Of Arts In Psychology
University of Virginia, Doctor Of Jurisprudence
- 4) *Employment*
Partner, Husch Blackwell
- 5) *Year of birth*
1964
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I believe that my background as a lawyer practicing in the healthcare industry and my service on other boards would enable me to contribute effectively to the mission and value of Portico Benefit Services. My work in the healthcare industry, particularly with managed care, third party administrator and pharmacy benefit management clients, has kept me on top of healthcare reform initiatives and may be of help to the organization.

B. Mr. Bryan K. Gallerson

Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod (4D)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Resurrection Lutheran Church (ID: 07379) - Plano, TX
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Past Chairman - Plano, Texas Civil Service Commission
Past Board Member - Plano, Texas International Preschool
- 3) *Education*
Southern University, BS Electrical Engineering
Texas Southern University, Doctor Of Jurisprudence
- 4) *Employment*
Attorney Manager, Liberty Mutual Group
- 5) *Year of birth*
1962
- 6) *Ethnicity*
African American/Black Non-Hispanic
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have extensive experience serving on community/charitable boards, and I believe that this experience gives me the insight and knowledge to serve as a valuable member of this Board. I am an attorney with over 20 years of corporate legal experience, including assisting clients with financial and estate planning. I believe this experience would bring an important legal perspective to this Board.

28. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Male

A. Mr. Rodney D. Runestad

New England Synod (7B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
St. Michael Lutheran Church (ID: 03463) - New Canaan, CT
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Treasurer and Financial Secretary, St. Michael Lutheran Church
Congregation Council President, St. Michael Lutheran Church
Two-time delegate to New England Synod Assembly
- 3) *Education*
MacMurray College, Bachelor Of Arts
Michigan State University
- 4) *Employment*
Associate Actuary, Prudential Financial
- 5) *Year of birth*
1949
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

Financial reporting and financial projections for life insurance companies. Experience with regulators and regulations. Extensive experience with financial statements: income and balance sheet. As an insurance company professional, I have developed an understanding of the relationship between assets and liabilities. I have also been involved in the setting of assumptions about future economic activity and also expected policyholder behavior.

B. Mr. Leon J. Schwartz

Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
St. Paul Lutheran Church (ID: 11214) - Winterset, IA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Currently member on Reference and Counsel Committee, Southeastern Iowa Synod
Recently led project to update governing documents and taught confirmation, St. Paul Lutheran Church
President, treasurer, council member, Sunday school teacher, previous congregation
- 3) *Education*
Drake University (Certified Public Managers program), Certificate
Iowa State University, Bachelor Of Liberal Studies
Drake University (Financial Resource Management emphasis), Master Of Public Administration
- 4) *Employment*
Vice President of Client Relations and Communications, ICON Integration and Design, Inc.
- 5) *Year of birth*
1956
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I feel I am being called to serve as a trustee for Portico Benefit Services and am excited for the opportunity to share my God-given gifts and experiences within the ELCA. I bring pension administration experience from my service as COO of Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System (IPERS). In that role I provided leadership and overall responsibility for all information technology, financial reporting, auditing, budgeting/accounting, human relations, facilities management and purchasing. I have executive experience both as a consumer of the types of services offered by Portico as well as an administrator of such services. I understand what board service entails through my previous work and service on many boards. The most important perspective that I could contribute would be my understanding of fiduciary responsibility. All discussions and decisions would be driven by the knowledge that funds entrusted to Portico are the exclusive benefit of the members and their beneficiaries.

29. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Full Communion

A. Ms. Pamela S. Moench

Full Communion

- 1) *Congregational membership*
The United Methodist Church

- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
(None provided)

- 3) *Education*
Wells College, Bachelor Of Arts
Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Master Of
Business Administration

- 4) *Employment*
Assistant Treasurer, Monsanto Company

- 5) *Year of birth*
1954

- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian

- 7) *Primary Language*
English

- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have had 30 years of investment experience managing large corporate retirement plans. For the last four years, I have been a member of the Fiduciary Committee of the United Methodist Church's General Board of Pensions. I believe my skills and experience would be of value to those who are charged with providing secure retirement benefits to those who have served God through their ministry.

30. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Female

A. Ms. Kathryn E Baerwald

Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod (8G)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Augustana Lutheran Church (ID: 02637) - Washington, DC
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Commission for a New Lutheran Church
ELCA Council
Lutheran World Federation
- 3) *Education*
Valparaiso University, Bachelor Of Arts
University of Minnesota Law School, Doctor Of Jurisprudence
Georgetown University Law Center
- 4) *Employment*
Chief Philanthropy Officer, National Lutheran Communities & Services
- 5) *Year of birth*
1950
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

As one who strongly believes in the priesthood of all believers and the importance of vocation, what I do on a day-to-day basis is a reflection of my calling from God to serve my sisters and brothers. Furthermore, the ELCA occupies a place of trust and must exhibit diligence, skill and integrity in all activities. I believe that I would bring these characteristics to the board of the MIF.

I was the General Secretary of The American Lutheran Church. While Deputy General Counsel at Georgetown University, I served as counsel for both the Chief Investment Officer and the Chief Financial Officer. At that time, the university had an endowment of approximately \$1 billion. While on the Board of the Lutheran Community Foundation, I chaired the investment committee, which included a review of the investment policies and securing independent investment advisers. I know from my experience with ELCA-related organizations that the MIF serves a much-needed role.

B. Ms. Joanne S. Schultz

Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
St. Paul Lutheran Church (ID: 05044) - Oakland, CA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
East Bay Lutheran Parish - President
Congregation Council two terms (last one is listed)
St. Paul Endowment Board
- 3) *Education*
Chabot-Las Positas CCD, Associate Degree In The Sciences
Cal State University East Bay, Bachelor Of Business Admin
Alliant International University, Doctor Of Education
- 4) *Employment*
Vice President of Administrative Services, Merced Community College District
- 5) *Year of birth*
1953
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have always admired social service providers, but I learned very early on that I did not have what it took to be on the front line. Sometime later I discovered that I did have skills in providing financial assistance to these organizations. Along with my degrees I am also a CPA and provide review services for congregations and not for profits. I am currently using my leadership skill to guide the East Bay Lutheran Parish through a transition in the Nursing Home Ministry. Besides accounting, business and leadership, my skills extend to team building, consensus building, negotiations, budgeting, government financing and long range facilities use, cash flow and strategic plans.

Now that my education is complete, I am in a good position to use my talents and skills in a broader way within the ELCA. From what I have read about the Mission Investment Fund Board, this would be a good fit for my strengths. If selected, I look forward to an ability to serve in this capacity.

31. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Female

A. Ms. Darcy B. Johnson

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church (ID: 04929) - Bellevue, WA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
St. Andrew's Finance Committee Chair
PLU Board of Trustees
PLU Investment Committee
- 3) *Education*
Pacific Lutheran Univ, Bachelor Of Business Admin
Pacific Lutheran, Master Of Business Administration
- 4) *Employment*
Owner, Portfolio Manager, Fulcrum Capital
- 5) *Year of birth*
1954
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

As a confirmed Catholic, I have always felt God calling me to serve. When I reaffirmed my baptism as a Lutheran in 1980, I felt so tenfold. With grace at my back I have listened hard and felt deeply the call to put my financial skills to work for God's purpose. In 1988, with four other members of my congregation, we started St. Andrew's Housing Group, a nonprofit low-income housing provider. Our objective was to use our collective skills and the mission orientation of our congregation to secure into perpetuity a stock of housing which would serve our community, thereby enriching the fabric of our social structure. We house over 1,000 people every night now.

I also feel called to use my investment skills to serve the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. I have managed investments for individuals and nonprofits with a socially responsible bent for five years, now at \$150 million assets under management.

B. Ms. Susan P. Troutman

South Carolina Synod (9C)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 05656) - Greenville, SC
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Board (current), Membership Committee
Invitation to Service Committee; SC Synod
ELCA Churchwide Assembly voting delegate from SC Synod (2 yrs)
- 3) *Education*
Presbyterian College, Bachelor Of Science In Business Admin
- 4) *Employment*
VP of Finance and Support Services; CFO,
Lutheridge+Lutherock Ministries, Inc (NovusWay Inc)
- 5) *Year of birth*
1961
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have for many years been intrigued yet very impressed with the ministry of the MIF to help our church, congregations and other institutional ministries through funding sources for buildings and growth. Working with MIF while in capital campaign needing a place to safely invest our campaign returns and then later seeking funds for land purchase.

After my first work in the for-profit sector, in 1998 I stepped into an accounting role in my home church that changed my outlook on work and sense of calling. I have since been blessed to continue my "journey" and work with assurance that I am called to service and leadership equipped with unique gifts.

My first Board of Trustees work was on the LLMI Board, prior to my employment. I so enjoyed the collaboration of gifts, ideas and impact that a well-balanced, strong board can bring to a ministry. My work with synods and institutions along with my accounting, budget and finance skills would be well utilized in a Trustee role with MIF.

32. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Male (*Incumbent*)

A. Mr. Harold C. Mueller

Central States Synod (4B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 07613) - Chesterfield, MO

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Board of Pensions

Central States Synod- Treasurer

Mission Investment Fund

3) *Education*

Amherst College, Bachelor Of Arts

Harvard Business School, Master Of Business Administration

4) *Employment*

President and CEO, Delta Group Electronics, Inc

5) *Year of birth*

1950

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have discovered over the years that there are ways to use my God-provided talents to serve the church, without having to be a full-time employee of the church. God has richly provided my family and me, and I always ask God to provide me ways that I can further his kingdom.

33. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Male

A. Mr. Robert J. Chillison II

Southwest California Synod (2B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Ascension Lutheran Church (ID: 13865) - Los Angeles, CA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Congregation President
Board Chair of California Lutheran Homes and Community Services
Churchwide Assembly Voting Member
- 3) *Education*
Wayne State University, Bachelor Of Business Admin
Wayne State University, Master Of Business Administration
- 4) *Employment*
First Vice President/Commercial Loan Officer, Comerica Bank
- 5) *Year of birth*
1943
- 6) *Ethnicity*
African American/Black Non-Hispanic
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

My skills and expertise include a career in banking, including operations but more focused on managing a loan portfolio of over \$100 million and making decisions concerning extension of credit and how best to match bank services to needs of clients. I worked not only with clients, but also CPAs, legal counsel, etc., in the process of crafting solutions to meeting client needs, I have always thought it important to foster God's ministries through work in my congregation (served on various boards, elementary school board, three times as congregation president) as well as serve my community (governing board of a three-hospital health system, chair of a community/economic development partnership and board member and chair of a large non-profit senior housing company).

B. Mr. Thomas M Fogt

Central States Synod (4B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Atonement Lutheran Church (ID: 10197) - Overland Park, KS
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Board Member & Treasurer, Blessings Abound Thrift Store
Board Member & Treasurer, Atonement Lutheran Foundation
Member Finance Committee, Atonement Lutheran Church
- 3) *Education*
Wittenberg University, Bachelor Of Arts
Xavier University, Master Of Business Administration
- 4) *Employment*
Exec VP CFO, not retired, AmerUs Annuity Group (now Aviva Life & Annuity)
- 5) *Year of birth*
1945
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

Recently I became active as a board member and treasurer of Blessings Abound, a thrift store whose mission is to receive donations of clothing and other items, sell the merchandise at reasonable prices, and donate the net proceeds to support Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries and Lutheran Urban Ministry Agency in the greater Kansas City area. God gave me some abilities in the financial area which I used over my working career. Now I have time to devote my talents to God's service to others, with Blessings Abound being one of those areas.

The ELCA Mission Investment Fund is another area where my financial background might possibly enable me to again praise God in thanksgiving for what was given to me.

34. Publishing House of the ELCA (Augsburg Fortress, Publishers): Clergy

A. The Rev. Jody V. Rice

Northwestern Ohio Synod (6D)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Grace Lutheran Church (ID: 13183) - Fremont, OH
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Mission Endowment Committee in Central States
Synod Assembly Planning Team-Central States and NWOS
Local DEM for NWOS
- 3) *Education*
Jacksonville University, Bachelor Of Science In Business
Admin
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Master Of
Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Senior Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1953
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

We are all called to be children of God. God has called me, a baptized member of his church, for ministry in the ELCA. My sense of call comes from my passion for transformational ministry within the church to seek where God is leading us together to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This call from God completely shapes my life and work. I attempt to live by the simple theme: love God, love others and serve the world. "God's work. Our hands." My passion is to empower others to build skills for mission and ministry by learning to connect with our local community by developing our own unique response to God's promised and preferred future.

Since bringing 30 years of experience from the business world focusing on retailing and wholesale product development, my gifts available to the Augsburg Fortress are quite diverse. Some of my skills are leading national marketing campaigns, strategic mission planning, financial and budget analysis and creative thinking. I seek to serve.

B. The Rev. Pamela I. Smith

Florida-Bahamas Synod (9E)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Grace Lutheran Church (ID: 10327) - Clearwater, FL
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Candidacy Committee
Voting Member 2011 Churchwide Assembly
Instructor in FLBA diakonia program
- 3) *Education*
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Stetson University College of Law, Doctor Of Jurisprudence
Indiana University Purdue University Indpls, Master Of Social
Work
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1953
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

Augsburg Fortress is "called to provide products and services that communicate the Gospel, enhance faith, and enrich the life of the Christian community from a Lutheran perspective." Doing this effectively in the 21st century requires a firm hold on our Lutheran foundation while seeking a creative approach to the many ways this mission can be achieved for the church.

In my professional life as a social worker, attorney, project manager of a multi-disciplinary team, and now as a pastor, communication and learning have been critical to holding to the essentials and thinking creatively about approaches to new situations. The varied skills I have learned in my professional life equip me well to serve this Board of Trustees as it addresses the challenges it faces.

I am committed to serving the ELCA in its three expressions because there is so much more that we can do together than any of us or our congregations can do individually. Thank you for considering me for this position.

34. Publishing House of the ELCA (Augsburg Fortress, Publishers): Clergy

C. The Rev. Joel D. Burkholder

Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod (4D)

1) *Congregational membership*

Advent Lutheran Church (ID: 07465) - Arlington, TX

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Bishop's Convocation Team
Tri-Synodical Conference Team
Synodical Consultation Team

3) *Education*

Carthage College, Bachelor Of Music
Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Master Of Divinity
Princeton Theological Seminary, Diploma Only - No Degree

4) *Employment*

Senior Pastor, Advent Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1953

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I now have more time to serve beyond the local church and Synod in my 33rd year of ordination, i have used and evaluated, and been a tester for Augsburg Fortress materials and programs for the 25 years of the ELCA's existence and feel that my practical experience as a pastor using these materials in very different congregational settings (rural, suburban and now intercity) and working with other Christian educators, youth ministers and lay folk on my church staffs over the years equips me to be a significant voice to help guide this institution over the coming years.

D. The Rev. Clint A. Schnekloth

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C)

1) *Congregational membership*

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ID: 07151) - Fayetteville, AR

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Lutheran World Relief's President's Advisory Council
Editorial Board for Connect Journal of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network
Advisory Council for Word & World: A Journal of Christian Ministry

3) *Education*

Fuller Theological Seminary, Doctor Of Ministry
Luther Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Luther College, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Lead Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1972

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I am particularly interested in the ways the ELCA can create space for faith formation across media platforms. In my work as a pastor, I observe on a weekly basis the power of face-to-face small group interaction, corporate worship, one-to-one conversations, and more. In the contemporary social media context, however, the church is like the rest of the world navigating new waters, discovering how to faithfully form people in faith in various media contexts.

My specific call has been emerging in these past few years. I have considerable experience helping churches and leaders think through faith formation in digital media. I am publishing a book with Fortress Press in 2014 with the title *Mediating Faith: Faith Formation in a Transmedia Context*. I consider my own blog, <http://lutheranconfessions.blogspot.com>, a mediated Christian ministry, and I believe I can bring this expertise in social media to bear on the work of Augsburg Fortress in constructive and generative ways.

35. Publishing House of the ELCA (Augsburg Fortress, Publishers) Board of Trustees

A. Ms. Linda Jeanne Brown

Northwestern Minnesota Synod (3D)

1) *Congregational membership*

Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 11594) - Moorhead, MN

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Publishing House of the ELCA
Church Council ELCA
Board of Pensions

3) *Education*

Moorhead State University, Bachelor Of Science
Concordia College, Bachelor Of Science

4) *Employment*

Vice Pres for Finance & Treasurer, Concordia College

5) *Year of birth*

1951

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

My sense of God's call, at this time, is to effectively use my gifts and experiences to further the mission of the Publishing House of the ELCA. To this work I bring skills related to financial matters such as accounting and auditing. I also bring leadership experience gained over the past 21 years as a vice president for Concordia College, one of the colleges of the ELCA. This leadership experience includes developing and executing strategic plans and managing human and financial resources in furtherance of mission.

My past experiences in service to the ELCA as a member of the Church Council and as a trustee for the Board of Pensions, treasurer of the synod and currently a member of the synod audit committee and as an advisor to the Lutheran World Federation Council have enlarged my view of the church and help me better understand the environment in which the Publishing House operates. These are important perspectives in considering strategic direction for the Publishing House.

B. Ms. Ann E. Hafften

Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod (4D)

1) *Congregational membership*

Messiah Lutheran Church (ID: 30454) - Weatherford, TX

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Served 6 years on ELCA churchwide communication staff, 4 years with global mission
Synodical Team: Giving Public Witness to Justice and Peace
Regularly write for The Lutheran magazine

3) *Education*

Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa

4) *Employment*

Self-employed: writing, editing, religion communication

5) *Year of birth*

1952

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I am a career reporter, writer and administrator in the field of religion communication. My work as news director in the ELCA and in communication for the American Lutheran Church have given me insight into the changing needs and goals of U.S. churches and their members. I assist my synod in use of social networking media. I have guided several books - my own and others' - toward publication by Augsburg Fortress and others.

My decision to use my journalism degree in service to the church and God's kingdom came from a few important influences. My confirmation pastor told me that I have a leadership role to fulfill in God's world. Volunteering at Holden Village instilled in me a fascination for and trust in the freedom of the gospel. As a teen, one of my first "jobs" was volunteering in the library at my home church. My church nurtured my imagination and provided literature that shaped me for Christian leadership. My delight has been to share this faith through story and song.

36. Publishing House of the ELCA (Augsburg Fortress, Publishers): Lay Male (*Incumbent*)

A. Mr. Robert T. Flynn

Southwest California Synod (2B)

1) Congregational membership

St. Matthew Lutheran Church (ID: 05069) - North Hollywood,
CA

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Congregation Council, 5 years (noncontinuous), currently Secretary
St. Matthews, Finance Committee
Attended Churchwide Assembly as observer

3) Education

Haverford College, PA, Bachelor Of Arts
Yale Divinity School, Master Of Arts In Religion

4) Employment

Editor in Chief, Getty Publications

5) Year of birth

1968

6) Ethnicity

Caucasian

7) Primary Language

English

8) What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?

My 19 years of experience in the publishing industry (marketing, sales, editorial, and management), my theological and religious education, my commitment to the ELCA, and my deep desire to support scholarly publishing in religion lead me to request the privilege of continuing to serve on the AFP board. The challenges faced by publishers and the church offer opportunities to consider our mission carefully, to engage with new audiences through emerging technologies, to take conscientious risks, and to proclaim the gospel in new ways and to new communities. I believe that AFP has a mission to help writers and scholars reach others with their work and to help all of us understand and share the love of Christ. I want to continue to work with the other board members and the executive team to ensure that AFP will have the strong leadership and financial stability necessary to carry on this good work.

37. Publishing House of the ELCA (Augsburg Fortress, Publishers): Full Communion

A. Mr. T. Mark Brokering

Full Communion

1) *Congregational membership*

The Episcopal Church

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Adult Education

3) *Education*

St. Olaf College, Bachelor Of Arts

University of Minnesota, Master Of Arts

4) *Employment*

V.P. Content Strategy and Acquisition, Safari Books Online

5) *Year of birth*

1952

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have spent my entire career in publishing, and feel very privileged to be part of an industry that enables people with ideas and stories to share with others across the globe who will appreciate and benefit from them. But even before I started my career, I was steeped in the world of writing and publishing through my father's work at Augsburg Publishing House in the 1960s and early 1970s. I grew up surrounded by editors and writers and have a deep respect and appreciation for the power of the printed (and digitally distributed) word.

Although much of my career has been in religious publishing, all of my work has been in the for-profit sector, including publicly traded corporations. I'm anxious at this point in my career to find ways to give back to organizations whose mission is less about profit and more about changing the world. It feels right and fitting to contribute what I've learned over the past four decades to the publishing house where my father served long ago.

38. Publishing House of the ELCA (Augsburg Fortress, Publishers): Full Communion

A. The Rev. Sharon Z. Rader

Full Communion

1) *Congregational membership*

The United Methodist Church

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Ecumenical Officer, Council of Bishops, UMC
Executive Secretary, Connectional Table, UMC
Bishop in Residence, Garrett Evangelical Theo. Seminary

3) *Education*

North Central College, Bachelor Of Arts
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Eastern Michigan U, University of MI, No Degree Earned

4) *Employment*

Bishop then in retirement (2004) executive for connectional table, ecum. officer for COB, United Methodist Church

5) *Year of birth*

1939

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

The joint decision that the ELCA and United Methodist Church (UMC) would be in full communion brought joy to many of us in the UMC. For the past four years, I served as a member of the joint committee seeking to find ways for our two churches to further our common work in Christ's ministry in the world. I would be delighted to make evident one of the ways in which our two churches are learning from and supporting one another by serving as a board member for your publishing house.

During my ordained ministry with the UMC, I have served as pastor, district superintendent, conference staff, denominational staff, staff to the Council of Bishops and bishop (for 12 years in Wisconsin). I have carried numerous responsibilities in those various roles including vision casting, fiscal oversight, management, global connections, multi-ethnic/racial/gender advocacy, and most especially discipleship training. I have written curriculum for our own publishing house.

39. Committee on Appeals: Clergy

A. The Rev. Christine M. Bellefeuille

Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Valley of Peace Lutheran Church (ID: 03035) - Golden Valley, MN
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
MAS Executive Committee
MAS Synod Council
MAS Mission Renewal Initiative Steering Committee (Dates??)
- 3) *Education*
Concordia College-Moorhead, Bachelor Of Arts
Luther Seminary, Master Of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, Valley of Peace Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1960
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have long sensed God's call to collaborative, generative and policy-shaping leadership having served on other boards over the past many years. It is exciting and challenging to be in conversation with others who are similarly called and care deeply about the body of Christ in its "organized" expressions of congregation, synod and churchwide. The ELCA is uniquely poised to bring to the world a powerful message of grace and inclusion that cannot be found in other than God; although people search far and wide to fill their hunger. It is an exciting time for us to create new and reinvent proven ways to bring the news of the gospel to that need. My gifts include communication skills, both written and oral; collaborative leadership; willingness to speak a difficult truth with pastoral integrity; the ability to build a bridge between rostered and lay leadership; hospitality and affirming the gifts and contributions of others and a deep passion for the church. Thank you.

B. The Rev. Julie A. Ebbesen

Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
St. Peer Lutheran Church (ID: 03153) - Minneapolis, MN
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Board Member Division for Congregational Ministries
Sacramental Practices Task Force
Committee on Reference and Counsel (Minneapolis Area Synod)
- 3) *Education*
Minnesota State University at Mankato, Bachelor Of Education
Luther Seminary, Master Of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Senior Pastor, St. Peer's Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1954
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

In the 1990s I served the ELCA on the churchwide level as a board member of the former Division for Congregational Ministries and on the task force that prepared The Use of the Means of Grace statement.

I've also served several times over the years on Reference and Counsel Committees (as chair and as a member) for both the Central States Synod and the Minneapolis Area Synod. I was on a synodical listening team for Central States Synod that reviewed heresy charges a congregation brought against its pastor. (I have also served the synods in other ways that are less relevant to this nomination.)

I believe my experience and skills allow me to consider the whole picture and all sides of an issue, listen and receive information calmly and thoughtfully, and work well with other team members. I seek to be diplomatic, respectful, and honest in my communications and, of course, faithful and discerning in carrying out my commitments.

40. Committee on Appeals: Clergy

A. The Rev. Mark R. Ramseth

Montana Synod (1F)

1) *Congregational membership*
Christ the King Lutheran Church (ID: 04851) - Bozeman, MT

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
President, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, OH
Bishop, Montana Synod
ELCA Stewardship Staff

3) *Education*
St. Olaf College, Bachelor Of Arts
Luther Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Union Seminary in Virginia, Master Of Theology

4) *Employment*
President Emeritus, Trinity Lutheran Seminary

5) *Year of birth*
1944

6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*
English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

As a member of the ELCA Committee on Appeals I would rely on my vocational experience as seminary president and synodical bishop. In both pastoral offices I encountered challenges almost daily that called for just decision and discernment, whether pertaining to the circumstance of a student seminarian, a seminary staff or faculty person, or a rostered person in this church. I function and live from a broad view of church and congregation, going back to years in the parish that today yet complements administrative accountability.

B. The Rev. Kenneth M. Rupp

Virginia Synod (9A)

1) *Congregational membership*
Lutheran Church of Our Saviour (ID: 07525) - Richmond, VA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
ELCA Committee on Discipline
ELCA Church Council
Co-chair Memorials Committee 2007 CWA

3) *Education*
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Doctor Of Ministry
Concordia Seminary in Exile St. Louis, MO, Master Of Sacred Theology
Concordia Seminary St. Louis, MO, Master Of Divinity

4) *Employment*
Pastor, Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

5) *Year of birth*
1946

6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*
English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

My calling into ministry began in high school. The calling has brought me into a variety of different settings for a common ministry. I have served as a Lutheran pastor for over 40 years in positions as a seminary administrator (financial aid and business management), an Active Duty Army Chaplain, and now as a parish pastor. Each of these positions has been in the service of the wider church to share the Gospel ministry with others.

I have served on the Discipline Committee of the ELCA and the Virginia Synod. I served as a member of one hearing for the ELCA. I served on the ELCA Church Council as chair of the Legal Committee and as a member of the Executive Committee. Each of these positions required a sensitivity to personal concerns, the varied beliefs of others and the needs of the wider church.

41. Committee on Appeals: Lay Female

A. Ms. Kristina D. Garabedian

Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Hope Lutheran Church (ID: 13808) - Fresno, CA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Synod Council Member
Lutheran Youth Organization Planning Team
Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee
- 3) *Education*
Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor Of Business Admin
Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor Of Arts
San Joaquin College of Law, Doctor Of Jurisprudence
- 4) *Employment*
Student Supervisor for the Mediation Clinic, San Joaquin
College of Law
- 5) *Year of birth*
1986
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

Recently a friend, whom I haven't spoken to since graduating from Pacific Lutheran University, asked to nominate me for a position with the ELCA. My first reaction was, no! However, after praying about it, I felt God was using her to tell me my next step. When God calls, I listen. I was born in Fresno, Calif., and raised at Hope Lutheran Church. I have served on the Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee, been involved with Lutheran Campus Ministry, and many other organizations including a nonprofit organization I founded 13 years ago. I am currently serving on Synod Council. It is important to have young adults involved in our church! I am currently in my third year of law school and am working on my MBA. Law school has honed my skills of listening, understanding and expressing myself both orally and written. The ELCA and this committee is a place where I can put my skills to help our church. Thank you!

B. Ms. Meghan E. Smith

Indiana-Kentucky Synod (6C)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer (ID: 20080) - Indianapolis, IN
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Committee on Discipline
Female Youth Advisor, Church Council and BLYO
Peer Minister, Lutheran Campus Ministry at University of Chicago
- 3) *Education*
University of Chicago, Bachelor Of Arts
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, Certificate
- 4) *Employment*
Conservation Specialist, Indiana State Museum
- 5) *Year of birth*
1980
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

The ELCA's discipline process is one that requires prayerful consideration, grace, and a desire to see a situation from all sides. Though difficult and often painful, the process of coming to a resolution is necessary. We must hold ourselves accountable to the rules and guidelines we've set, while at the same time constantly seeking to understand how those rules shape our daily lives and ministries. The Committee on Appeals is a crucial step in that process.

Serving on the Committee on Discipline laid an excellent foundation for a possible term with the Committee on Appeals. I found it to be very humbling. To come together as members of this church and grapple with these problems, while at the same time treating everyone involved with care, is a weighty responsibility. If elected, I will also draw on my experiences as a campus peer minister, liaison to the ELCA Church Council, advisor to the Board of the Lutheran Youth Organization, and voting member of the Churchwide Assembly.

42. Committee on Appeals: Lay Male

A. Mr. Albert V. Arndt

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin (5H)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Fristad Lutheran Church (ID: 06799) - Centuria, WI
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Congregational Treasurer/Organist
Synod Vice President
Synod Council
- 3) *Education*
UW-Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI, Bachelor Of Science In Education
UW-Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI, Master Of Science In Education
- 4) *Employment*
High School Business Education Teacher, Unity School District
- 5) *Year of birth*
1957
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

It is my belief that all I have is a gift from God and from that belief I need to be actively involved and supportive of my church.

I would like to serve in this capacity because I have enjoyed being a member of the Synod Council and congregation councils in the past. I take my participation seriously, reviewing all materials and I am not afraid to ask questions or to question important items of business before the council. I will work hard to represent all members of the ELCA to the best of my ability.

As a retired high school business education teacher I have excellent communication, office, organizational, and financial related skills to use and share with the council, boards, and/or committees of the ELCA.

B. Mr. Mark E. Johnson

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Magnolia Lutheran Church (ID: 04943) - Seattle, WA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
President, Magnolia Lutheran Church Seattle, WA
Member, Northwest Washington Synod Council
Member, ELCA Church Council
- 3) *Education*
Trinity College, Harford, CT, Bachelor Of Arts
University of Oregon School of Law, Doctor Of Jurisprudence
- 4) *Employment*
Attorney/Of Counsel, Lane Powell PC
- 5) *Year of birth*
1943
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have been an active member of the ELCA and its predecessors all of my life and have been a trial lawyer for 40 years. My service as President of my congregation, as a member for eight years on my Synod Council and my service for the past six years on the ELCA Church Council, including my present service as Chair of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee of the Church Council have exposed me to numerous issues and situations involving the constitutions of congregations, synods and the churchwide organization. I believe that, based on that experience, service on the Committee on Appeals would be a natural culmination of my service to the ELCA. If elected, I would be honored to serve on the Committee on Appeals.

42. Committee on Appeals: Lay Male

C. Mr. Anthony Rhodes

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Advent Lutheran Church (ID: 07587) - Mill Creek, WA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Young Adult Advisor, ELCA Church Council
Vice President, Lutheran Student Movement
Synod Council Member, Northwest Washington Synod

3) *Education*

Western Washington University, Bachelor Of Arts
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity

4) *Employment*

5) *Year of birth*

1987

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

From the time that I was a young child I have always found myself intrigued and interested in the way that instructions and systems of all types work. In my college career I found myself in the Human Services Program where I was introduced to systems theory, non-profit management principles, board structure and function, and I developed a deep appreciation for the intricacies of managing non-profits. Through out my involvement in campus ministry and now at the seminary I have found that this interest in and knowledge of systems especially in the area of boards and councils is very much part of my call from God to serve the church.

Over the last year I have had the wonderful opportunity to serve the ELCA as the Young Adult Advisor to the Church Council of the ELCA. This experience has strengthened this since of call, and I feel that God is calling me to use the skills and knowledge I have been blessed with to serve the church as a member of the ELCA Church Council.

43. Committee on Discipline: Clergy

A. The Rev. Paul E. Lutter

Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
First Lutheran Church (ID: 03208) - Litchfield, MN
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Dean, Crow River Conference, SW MN ELCA
Author, Living Lutheran and Seeds for the Parish
Adjunct Instructor, Religion Departments, Gustavus Adolphus College and Augsburg College
- 3) *Education*
UW-Superior, Bachelor Of Science
Luther Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Luther Seminary, No Degree Earned
- 4) *Employment*
Senior Pastor, First Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1971
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

Formed by attending to the work of law and gospel in lives that are simultaneously sinful and forgiven, and an abiding passion for the difficult but necessary work of forgiveness and reconciliation in difficult personal and communal contexts, I am interested in bringing these gifts to bear in the work of the Committee on Discipline. While the church celebrates "all things new," the work of this committee is to sift through the painful realities of all things old, and to engage in the work of restoration that comes slowly yet steadily by God's grace. Through advanced graduate theological study in lament as new creation, my ear is trained to listen through the pain for the new day that promises to dawn. I am hopeful that my training in this area may be of use as a member of this committee.

B. The Rev. Duane C. Pederson

New England Synod (7B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Immanuel Lutheran Church (ID: 03469) - Oxford, CT
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Bishop - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Portico - Advisory Board Member from Conference of Bishops
Augsburg College - Board of Regents
- 3) *Education*
McCormick Theological Seminary, Doctor Of Ministry
Luther Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Montana State University, Master Of Counseling
- 4) *Employment*
Transitional Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1954
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

Matters of discipline are defined in the ELCA constitution, Chapter 20. In the unfortunate occasions when charges are made and a discipline hearing commences, those conducting the proceedings must provide due process and protection for the accused and carefully follow the constitutional procedures that guide and direct such action.

Discipline addresses the brokenness of the body of Christ and brings resolution to a situation that has not otherwise been resolved. Matters of discipline should be approached with a humble awareness of falling short of God's intent for our life together, confidence in Christ's redemption, and a determination to be fair and just in deliberations and decisions.

My experience as a bishop and over 30 years as a pastor of the church provides me with the capability, constitutional background, and commitment to fair process that will enable me to be an asset to the Committee on Discipline. I'm willing to serve on a committee that I hope will never meet!

43. Committee on Discipline: Clergy

C. The Rev. Kris D. Ferkin

Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

1) Congregational membership

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church (ID: 01982) -
Grayslake, IL

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Parish Pastor in SD, MA, IL
South Dakota Lutheran Planned Giving
ELCA Foundation

3) Education

Luther College, Bachelor Of Arts
LTSP, Master Of Divinity

4) Employment

Sr. Pastor, Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

5) Year of birth

1964

6) Ethnicity

Caucasian

7) Primary Language

English

8) What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?

Answering God's calling has been a lifelong journey of discovery in the gifts given in service of the church. The discovery has lead to the discovery of helping individuals, congregations and church organizations in understanding how to be good stewards of time, talent, and treasurers. In helping individuals leave a legacy for future generations, to strengthen congregations in their role of building community capacity both in the church and in the community it resides in, and lastly to help further the work of the greater church to reach its neighbors in service. Having specialized in capacity building processes through endowment work on all three of these levels has been a joy in life. Working in congregational systems capacity building process has been the single most rewarding activity in life. The training in Healthy Congregations, Natural Church Development, and fundraising has given me a unique perspective to help serve the larger church.

44. Committee on Discipline: Clergy

A. The Rev. Michael A. Dubsy

Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
St. Luke Lutheran Church (ID: 02706) - Baltimore, MD
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Delaware-Maryland Synod Council - Mission Team Leader
Synod Constitution Chair
ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Member 2003, 2007, 2011
- 3) *Education*
The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Master
Of Sacred Theology
The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Master
Of Divinity
University of Maryland, Bachelor Of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Executive Director/ Pastor St. Luke's, The Lutheran Home and
Hospital Foundation
- 5) *Year of birth*
1971
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that
you would bring to this work?*

I am a baptized child of God who serves as a pastor in the ELCA. I am married to another ELCA pastor, father of two great kids, and I love Jesus and the ministry of this church. In my service as a parish pastor, on Synod Council, and as conference dean, I have sought to balance care, concern, and fairness for pastors and congregations with attentiveness to issues related to constitution, bylaws, and ELCA standards for rostered leaders (e.g., Vision and Expectations). It is the same serious care I have brought when serving as a juror in Baltimore City, including trials involving murder and other violence. I believe any discipline process needs to be careful, kind, and thorough with a spirit of humility for all those involved.

B. The Rev. Kurt A. Hansen

Northeastern Iowa Synod (5F)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
New Hope Lutheran Church (ID: 30463) - Farley, IA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Assistant to the Bishop Northern Illinois Synod
Synod Hunger Committee (NIS and So Central WI)
Synod Council (So Central WI Synod)
- 3) *Education*
Bethany College, Lindsborg, KS, Bachelor Of Arts
University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, Master Of Social Work
Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA, Master Of
Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, New Hope Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1955
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that
you would bring to this work?*

Training in mediation skills and conflict resolution, as well as an earned certificate in intentional interim ministry, coupled with post-grad training in family systems. Advanced level listening skills and ability to remain objective. I learned that nominations were needed, and I decided to respond with a willingness to serve.

45. Committee on Discipline: Clergy

A. The Rev. Joel M. Flugstad

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Our Lord Lutheran Church (ID: 01666) - Oklahoma City, OK
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Missionary, Brazil
Conference Dean
Synod Leadership Coordinator
- 3) *Education*
Wartburg College, Bachelor Of Arts
Wartburg Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Luther Seminary, Doctor Of Ministry
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1947
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

Since ordination in 1973, I have been a parish pastor, missionary in Brazil, Conference Dean, Member of Synod Council, Synod First Call Theological Education Coordinator.

B. The Rev. John D. Kreidler

Central States Synod (4B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Hosanna Lutheran Church (ID: 30411) - Liberty, MO
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Interim Pastorates
Parole and discipline hearing representative while serving as chaplain in correctional settings
- 3) *Education*
Concordia Junior College, Portland, OR, Associates Degree In The Arts
California State University, Hayward, CA, Bachelor Of Science
Christ Seminary - SEMINEX, Master Of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Bishop's Associate for Administration, Central States Synod, ELCA
- 5) *Year of birth*
1948
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

My willingness to serve in this position comes first from my understanding that the movement of our church into God's preferred future requires that the people have confidence in the trustworthiness of the church's leaders and its communities of faith. Where this trust is violated, the people should be assured that the expressions of our church will act appropriately to ensure their well-being.

I am also willing to serve as a thank offering for the vocational support the church has given me first through a churchwide call to correctional chaplaincy and then a synod call to serve on synod staff. These calls have provided me with opportunities to develop and implement governing documents, policy and procedure. I have had opportunities to provide support and guidance during disciplinary procedures and to represent the accused. Prior to my call to synod staff, various interim ministries nurtured my compassion for the people of the church, especially when their trust has been violated.

46. Committee on Discipline: Clergy

A. The Rev. Janice E. Nesse

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

1) *Congregational membership*

First of Richmond Beach Lutheran Church (ID: 12962) - Shoreline, WA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Task Force on Call Process
Coach Trainer for ELCA
NCD Coach Trainer for ELCA

3) *Education*

Washington State University, Bachelor Of Science
Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Luther Seminary, No Degree Earned

4) *Employment*

Assistant to the Bishop, Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA

5) *Year of birth*

1947

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

God has called me to serve the church and has gifted me with skills to build the kingdom. I tend to be systematic in my approach to solving problems or attempting tasks. I am thorough in gathering data but sometimes impatient with those who act less quickly. I enjoy working with people and tapping their wisdom, insight, and experience but I am equally willing to impress my thoughts into the mix. I am analytical, separating facts from opinions and emotions, and always try to keep the overarching purpose in mind when making decisions. I am motivated by challenges that require creative solutions and am willing to try new things to get positive results.

B. The Rev. Rebecca R. Richie

Northeastern Ohio Synod (6E)

1) *Congregational membership*

Lord of Life Lutheran Church (ID: 04611) - Canfield, OH

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Intern at Gateway Trinity Lutheran Church, Fort Myers, FL

3) *Education*

The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Master Of Divinity
Moravian Theological Seminary, Master Of Counseling
Muhlenberg College, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

5) *Year of birth*

1980

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

We all have different skills and abilities that we can offer to this church body. We also all have a responsibility to give of our time and talent to carry out the work of the church in the world.

I believe that God has given me the gift of discernment and the ability to see situations from many different angles, which allows me to have objectivity. As I reflected on this position, I felt that at least these gifts and abilities could be well used as a member of the ELCA Committee on Discipline. So I offer them up, if they will be of use.

47. Committee on Discipline: Clergy (PC/L)

A. The Rev. Carlton Monroe

Pacifica Synod (2C)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Faith Lutheran Church (ID: 16352) - Joshua Tree, CA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Congregational Food Pantry
- 3) *Education*
Cleveland State University
Cuyahoga Community College
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, Immanuel Prince of Peace Lutheran/Faith Lutheran
- 5) *Year of birth*
1954
- 6) *Ethnicity*
African American/Black Non-Hispanic
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I am blessed to bring a life experience that encompasses a perspective of our being accountable and responsible for our actions. I serve with empathy and understanding that each person, situation and circumstance is best served trusting in God to lead and guide based on case-by-case assessment and prayerfully taking into consideration context.

I am comfortable stating that my gifts of empathy and understanding result from my life experience of having been on both sides . . . the individual that discerns discipline as to whether or what discipline is necessary, and as the individual who is seeking empathy and understanding in a discipline process.

B. The Rev. Jack D. Russell

North Carolina Synod (9B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Living Waters Lutheran Church (ID: 30492) - Cherokee, NC
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Church of Living Waters, Cherokee, NC
Eber Ezer Lutheran Church, Oaks, OK
Commission for Multicultural Ministries-Program Committee
- 3) *Education*
LSTC, Basic Theo Ed For Min-Alternate Route
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor Developer, Shepherd of the Hills
- 5) *Year of birth*
1943
- 6) *Ethnicity*
American Indian/Alaska Native
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

God called my name and I have served him to bring his good news to those I have met and to those I will meet. This calling has been a priority in my life and to give the good news of Jesus especially to people in my community who need the hope and love and above all the grace of Jesus.

My gifts are never meeting a stranger, listening to the stories people want to tell and being able to tell the stories of the gospel that our Creator wants me to tell. I understand the traditions and customs of our people and have integrated those traditions with the traditions of the Lutheran church.

48. Committee on Discipline: Clergy (PC/L) [Three-Year Term]

A. The Rev. Betty T. Y. Chen
Pacifica Synod (2C)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Glory Lutheran Church (ID: 30634) - Chula Vista, CA

- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

- 3) *Education*

4) *Employment*

5) *Year of birth*
Not Specified

6) *Ethnicity*

7) *Primary Language*
Not English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

B. The Rev. Dinah E. Dutta
Central States Synod (4B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ID: 10144) - Lawrence, KS

- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Synod Council Member
Synod Executive Council member
Synod Mission Budget

3) *Education*
North Eastern Hill University, Doctor Of Philosophy
Central States Synod, No Degree Earned
PLTS, Berkeley, CA, TEEM Program

4) *Employment*
Pastor, St. Mark's Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*
1959

6) *Ethnicity*
Asian/Pacific Islander

7) *Primary Language*
Not English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I came to U.S. in 1993 to work at The University of Kansas as a research scientist with a PhD in chemistry from India. I worked in Germany for 2 years. I became a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lawrence, Kan. I was actively involved in several ministries, especially Christian Education. Certified as Parish Ministry Associate in 2006, I served a rural congregation for 3 years. The Lord kept calling me to pursue ordained ministry. In 2009 I resigned my job of 15 years at the university and accepted his call. Graduated through the TEEM program from PLTS, I was ordained in 2010. I served as the member of Synod Council and Executive Council and was on the Mission Budget team of the Central States Synod for 6 years as PC/L nominated from the floor. As a person of color with extensive academic multicultural experience and training, faith and dependence on the Lord in prayer, passion to teach and preach the word of God, are the gifts that I can contribute to the ministry of ELCA.

49. Committee on Discipline: Lay Female

A. Ms. Nancy M. Reed

Virginia Synod (9A)

1) *Congregational membership*

St. Mark Lutheran Church (ID: 05996) - Luray, VA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

ELCA Criminal Justice Task Force

Virginia Synod Early Childhood Task Force

St. Mark Lutheran Church council and early childhood chair

3) *Education*

College of William and Mary, Bachelor Of Arts

College of William and Mary, Doctor Of Jurisprudence

4) *Employment*

Attorney, Reed & Reed, P.C.

5) *Year of birth*

1959

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I am very interested in serving on the ELCA Committee on Discipline. I believe that my professional and church experiences make me highly qualified to serve in this position and I hope you will consider my nomination.

I have practiced law in the Commonwealth of Virginia for 29 years in private civil practice. For 20 years I also served as a part time Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney in Page County, Virginia, while continuing my civil practice. In both my private practice and as Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney I have been involved in all levels of litigation, including appeals, and spend several days a week in court. I am a member of the ELCA Attorneys' Association. I also serve on the Virginia Synod Committee on Discipline.

I served as a member of the ELCA Criminal Justice Task Force. The recommended proposed social statement "The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries" will be considered by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.

50. Committee on Discipline: Lay Female

A. Sr. Sylvia S. Countess

Southeastern Synod (9D)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
St. John Lutheran Church (ID: 05853) - Knoxville, TN
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Global Mission: Assistant to the Director of Education,
ELCJHL
- 3) *Education*
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Master Of Arts
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Master Of Science In
Education
University of Tennessee Medical Center, Certificate
- 4) *Employment*
Director of Vocation and Education, Deaconess Community,
ELCA
- 5) *Year of birth*
1940
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

In the past two years at my present call working with deaconess candidates, synod candidacy committees, and seminaries, I have become increasingly aware of the need for clearly defined standards of accountability and responsibility linking and encompassing this church, those it prepares, and those it serves. If my previous years of experience working with students, teachers, evaluation committees in public schools and undergraduate teacher preparation programs can now be used as well to serve this church, I would be willing to learn how to transfer and adapt those skills for such a purpose.

B. Ms. Ida M. McAllister

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Fellowship Lutheran Church (ID: 07418) - Tulsa, OK
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Congregation Treasurer
Congregation Council
Altar Guild
- 3) *Education*
Tulsa Community College
Houston Community College
University of New Orleans
- 4) *Employment*
Office Manager, Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod
- 5) *Year of birth*
1944
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I served as the synod office manager for 16 years involved in all aspects of service to the synod. Because of this service I have become familiar with many in our synod - lay as well as rostered. At synod assembly each year I worked with the ELCA churchwide representative providing support for the arrangements for their presentation at the assembly. As members of the synod needed information regarding churchwide programs or policies I became more and more cognizant of where to find that information on the website or personal contact with an ELCA staff member.

God has gifted me with common sense abilities to deal kindly and gently with folks and to always be of service to them. I truly believe that we are constantly called to be a source of support and love to our fellow members and to treat them with dignity and respect.

Working in a synod office has given me the skill of knowing ELCA policies and procedures, and an awareness of the work of the church throughout the world.

51. Committee on Discipline: Lay Female (PC/L)

A. Ms. Kathleen V. Elliott Chillison

Southwest California Synod (2B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
St. Mark Lutheran Church (ID: 05024) - Los Angeles, CA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary - Board of Directors
LIFT - Task Force
Lutheran Services in America - Board of Directors
- 3) *Education*
- 4) *Employment*
Manager - Risk Management / Finance, Marriott International
- 5) *Year of birth*
1965
- 6) *Ethnicity*
African American/Black Non-Hispanic
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

There are probably as many ways to witness our faith as there are people who possess faith. Those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ attest to their belief by what they do, how they do it, and by what they say.

I have a long history of finance, insurance and risk management experience with my current employer for more than 22 years. My financial skills may be a value for budgets and audits. I have knowledge and understanding of Policy Governance and establishing Ends Policies with my previous Board experience.

I note the call to see fresh life beyond today and to remember that God's destiny is to love humanity in the profound simplicity of faith and the complexities of life. We are told (1 Peter 4:10) "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

B. Ms. Stephanie I. Graham

Southwest California Synod (2B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 05014) - Inglewood, CA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Synod Churchwide Voting Member
African Descent Lutheran Association - Assembly Coordinator
Holy Trinity Congregation Council
- 3) *Education*
- 4) *Employment*
Ministry Associate, Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1965
- 6) *Ethnicity*
African American/Black Non-Hispanic
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

My sense of God's call for me is not always clear; what I do know is that I've given my life to God and I've asked him to lead me. The process of God's call into mission and service in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has been gradual; God has lead me step by step. My journey began at my home congregation, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Inglewood, California. After some time, God decided to lead me to the Southwest California Synod Office. I worked at the Synod office for 19 years, during this time God introduced me to the inner workings of the synod and the ELCA.

Through the ELCA I understand what service is all about. I've learned how to listen and learn from those around me. I have a better appreciation for what it takes to serve others. If God leads me to serve the Church Council of the ELCA, I will follow. I bring many gifts with me, the gift to listen and discern a matter, organization, patience, a calm spirit and an excitement for our Lord Jesus.

52. Committee on Discipline: Lay Female (Y/YA)

A. Ms. Hannah L. Knauss

Allegheny Synod (8C)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
St. Matthew Lutheran Church (ID: 00949) - Martinsburg, PA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Secretary - Board of the Lutheran Youth Organization
Interim Youth Director - Calvary Lutheran Church, West Chester, PA
Youth Representative - Allegheny Synod Council
- 3) *Education*
West Chester University, Bachelor Of Music
- 4) *Employment*
Part-Time Administrative Assistant, Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries
- 5) *Year of birth*
1991
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

From being a member of a Synod Council, to leading acolyte training, to working on the Board of the Lutheran Youth Organization (BLYO), my faith journey thus far has included serving within all three ELCA expressions. Serving as the secretary of the BLYO, from its former ministry to its current, has allowed me to influence decision-making at the churchwide expression. As that term ended, I looked for other ways I can use my gifts to serve the church at large.

I have witnessed and experienced both the blessings and complexities of such an organization. Part of our callings as Christians is to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. Being a part of the Committee on Discipline would allow me to use my gifts of listening, reasoning and guiding to help to seek justice while loving and forgiving our neighbors as I continue walking humbly with God. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

B. Ms. Anna McCracken

Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Spanaway Lutheran Church (ID: 13002) - Spanaway, WA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Board of the Lutheran Youth Organization: Region 1 Member at Large
Southwestern Washington Lutheran Youth Organization
- 3) *Education*
Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor Of Arts
School for International Training
- 4) *Employment*
Student Assistant, Office of the President, Pacific Lutheran University
- 5) *Year of birth*
1992
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

As a youth and now a young adult in the church, I have always seen and believed in the need for youth leadership and empowerment in all that we do. Youth are not only our future leaders but our current leaders. It is absolutely imperative that we encourage and support them in reaching this leadership potential, as well as listening to the insight and passion for ministry that they have.

As a young adult, I feel that God has continually been calling me into a life of service through the church. During my summers as a counselor at ELCA summer camps and through countless other experiences, I have seen time and time again how important it is to live your faith by example. As St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the gospel at all times, if necessary use words." It is this belief in living out my faith that I will bring to this work, as well as a passion for youth ministry and experience in the field, a love for the church and investment in its work, and dedication to the future.

53. Committee on Discipline: Lay Male

A. Mr. John Emery

East-Central Synod of Wisconsin (51)

1) *Congregational membership*

Immanuel-Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 14673) - Fond Du Lac, WI

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Vice President - East Central Synod of Wisconsin
ELCA Church Council
Board of Directors - Wartburg Theological Seminary

3) *Education*

Univ. of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Bachelor Of Arts In Ed.
Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, Doctor Of Jurisprudence

4) *Employment*

Staff Attorney, Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission

5) *Year of birth*

1956

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have been involved in church leadership in all three expressions during most of the 25 years of the ELCA's existence, as a congregation council member and officer, delegate to the synod constituting convention in 1987, synod council member, synod vice president and ELCA Church Council member. I feel this gives me broad experience in church policy and governance.

Vocationally, I have worked for many years as an arbitrator, mediator and hearing examiner, giving me extensive experience in conflict resolution and as a presiding officer in quasi-judicial proceedings. I feel the combination of my church experience and professional training and background qualifies me for the position for which I am nominated, but also it is an area I which I have great interest, so that if elected I will be more than willing to serve.

B. Mr. John I. Gordon

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)

1) *Congregational membership*

St. Peter Lutheran Church (ID: 00712) - Lafayette Hill, PA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Social Ministry
Congregation Council

3) *Education*

Villanova University Law School, Doctor Of Jurisprudence
New York University
University of New Hampshire, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Attorney, self

5) *Year of birth*

1954

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I am pleased to be nominated for possible election to the Committee on Discipline. I believe that I would make a positive contribution to that committee should my involvement be called upon.

I have been working with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and a number of local Lutheran congregations for a number of years relating to a variety of matters of concern, including employee terminations, lease and sale documents, synodical administration, and other sensitive matters. I believe that my familiarity with the working relationships between the ELCA, the synods, and the congregations through prior litigation, has provided me with a working knowledge of the constitutions applicable to each. I have also served on congregation councils of two different congregations of which I was a member, including the position of President (in both congregations). I continue to be active in social ministry and recognize the benefit of communication, understanding, and sensitivity.

54. Committee on Discipline: Lay Male (PC/L)

A. Mr. Paul E. Lumpkin Sr.

Metropolitan New York Synod (7C)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
King of Kings Lutheran Church (ID: 03916) - New Windsor, NY
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Synod Discipline Committee
Synod Council
Synod Constitution Committee
- 3) *Education*
Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg, No Degree Earned
Orange County Community College, Associate Degree In The Sciences
- 4) *Employment*
Substitute Teacher, Spackenkill Union Free School District
- 5) *Year of birth*
1948
- 6) *Ethnicity*
African American/Black Non-Hispanic
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have experiences with many of the policies of the church with my involvement in the synod and congregation committees and being a voting member of the synod and churchwide assemblies since the formation of the ELCA.

In the work force and volunteer organizations I have been an advocate for multicultural youth and social ministry issues. I have worked in both urban and rural settings. I have love and compassion for all people. With my leadership in the church I will bring a broad understanding of the Gospel.

B. Mr. Todd A Perkins

Southeast Michigan Synod (6A)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church (ID: 30773) - Detroit, MI
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Southeast Michigan Synod Treasurer
Design Team for 5 Detroit congregations
Congregation Council member and President (2006-2008)
- 3) *Education*
Oakland University (PhD in Electrical and Comp. Engr),
Doctorate In Psychology
Oakland University (MS in Electrical and Comp. Engr),
Master Of Science
Howard University, BS Electrical Engineering
- 4) *Employment*
Advanced Transmission Controls Engineer, Chrysler Group LLC
- 5) *Year of birth*
1968
- 6) *Ethnicity*
African American/Black Non-Hispanic
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

Finding Christ as an adult has given me a unique perspective in the Lutheran church, the ability to blend my secular and Christian experiences into a single Spirit-filled soul walking with God. Early on, this blend was applying my skills to my church's parking lot paving committee. My spiritual journey lead me to becoming a Deacon, congregation council member, Synod Treasurer, Synod Assembly and churchwide voting member, member of the Southeast Michigan's Consultation Committee and bringing Detroit churches into a single 5-point ministry. I also teach Science and Engineering subjects to K-Undergraduate students as a way to connect with my community.

I believe my years of church involvement, engineering experiences and devoted spiritual relationship with God make me the ideal candidate for the Committee on Discipline. If elected, I will exercise the practical solutions of the Old Testament and loving grace of the New Testament in resolving any conflicts and disciplinary issues.

55. Committee on Discipline: Lay Male

A. Mr. James R. Dyke

Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Zion Lutheran Church (ID: 14008) - Stockton, CA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
President Zion Lutheran, Stockton, Ca
Synod Council, Sierra Pacific Synod
Synod Discipline committee; Zion Endowment committee
- 3) *Education*
University of Washington, Bachelor Of Arts
Willamette University, Doctor Of Jurisprudence
- 4) *Employment*
Attorney, Neumiller & Beardslee
- 5) *Year of birth*
1941
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I am a lifelong Lutheran, from Butte, Montana, Gold Hill Lutheran; Spokane, Wash., Central Lutheran and Stockton, Calif., Zion Lutheran. I have served my congregations and the Synod. I am currently General Counsel to the Sierra Pacific Synod. Have served on the synod discipline committee and attended numerous assemblies. I am an attorney in private practice and am certified by the state of California in tax and estate planning, probate and trust. I am a member of the ELCA Attorneys' Association.

I am willing to serve the greater church as needed.

B. Mr. Ronald C. Gubrud

Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod (4D)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
First United Lutheran Church (ID: 05927) - Dallas, TX
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Churchwide Voting Member
NTNL Synod (Mission Area) Council
Financial Secretary First United Lutheran Church
- 3) *Education*
Northeastern Illinois University, Bachelor Of Arts
Texas Woman's University, Master Of Business Administration
Texas Woman's University, Master Of Arts In Management
- 4) *Employment*
Business Services Manager, Children's Medical Center
- 5) *Year of birth*
1961
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

God gifted me with an acute sense of logic and a penchant for justice and mercy. I served with distinction on the NTNL Synod's Legal and Constitution Committee for 4 years, 2 as chair. During my work history, the assignment of teaching and interpreting policy to fellow employees has fallen on me. In healthcare there is "red" letter and "blue" letter policy. Red letter is regulatory. Blue letter is an entity's own policy, which will allow interpretation. (In the ICU only one visitor is allowed by policy, however prior to surgery or if the patient's stats are poor, more than one visitor may be allowed as a compassionate decision.) God's gift of logic is in balance with his gift of compassion. Whenever confronted with a situation that requires applying policy or regulation, I use thought and prayer to arrive at the appropriate decision. I believe that God has gifted me to follow the law with compassion, justice and mercy. God's gifts will enhance my service on the Committee on Discipline.

55. Committee on Discipline: Lay Male

C. Mr. Thomas W. Salber

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)

1) Congregational membership

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (ID: 00652) - Philadelphia,
PA

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Vice President Congregation Council
Synod Candidacy
Synod Council

3) Education

Philadelphia Community College, Associate Degree In The
Sciences

4) Employment

Case Manager/HIV Specialist, Keystone Care

5) Year of birth

1958

6) Ethnicity

Caucasian

7) Primary Language

English

8) What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?

I am first and foremost a child of God. I feel I am called to be a caring listener and inclusive of all people and we need to be more inclusive in this Church.

I feel God has given me the gifts of listening, understanding; advocating and being sensitive to others.

56. Nominating Committee: Clergy

A. The Rev. Amber Remillard

Pacifica Synod (2C)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 06961) - Castleton-on-Hudson, NY
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Conference Deacon Advisory Committee Chair
Synod Nominating Committee (Conference Nominating Comm Chair)
Coordinator of Campus Pastoral Care PLTS
- 3) *Education*
University of Washington, Bachelor Of Arts
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia
- 4) *Employment*
Director of Admissions, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
- 5) *Year of birth*
1982
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

My call as Dir. of Admissions at an ELCA seminary (PLTS) supports my knowledge of the overall operation of the church and allows me to interact with many persons serving in congregations, campus ministries, churchwide positions and synods. By virtue of my time as a parish pastor and my general temperament, I am a discerning listener who strives to be fair in my assessments.

I endeavor to uphold the tenets and tradition of the ELCA while keeping an eye on changes and needs in the modern church and in society. As such, I recognize the varied gifts required for leadership in our large, complex body. Certainly my work on synod nominating committees has prepared me for the delicacy of such service.

Overall, however, my greatest qualification is rooted in my deep love for the church and faith in the leadership of the Spirit. The work of the ELCA, in sharing the gospel of Christ, is exciting, intriguing, and invaluable. It is my honor and joy to offer my gifts to that mission.

B. The Rev. Amy Thompson Sevimli

Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod (8G)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ID: 10257) - Alexandria, VA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Project Connect
Metro DC Synod Young Adult Working Group
Metro DC Synod Youth Ministry Team
- 3) *Education*
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg
Duke University Divinity School, Master Of Divinity
Wittenberg University, Bachelor Of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Assistant to the Bishop, Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod, ELCA
- 5) *Year of birth*
1977
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I love this church. It is the only church I remember being part of, and I want to see it thrive in the way that any healthy organism thrives.

One of the most important ways to help the church thrive is through the people who are a part of it and who work in it. The ELCA nominating committee is a way to impact the people who are participating in this church. I have lived and worked in a number of different synods around this church and I know numerous people—many of whom happen to be younger and who are people of color or whose first language is other than English. They also love this church, want to see it thrive, and would benefit this church through their active participation in it. I would like to use my time on the nominating committee as an opportunity to nominate some of them for possible election in our church. My hope is that their presence and participation will help it thrive.

57. Nominating Committee: Clergy

A. The Rev. Ruth E. Hamilton

Southeastern Synod (9D)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
St. Luke Lutheran Church (ID: 10267) - Atlanta, GA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
executive assistant, ELCA Office of the Secretary
pastoral associate, Church of St. Luke, Chicago
dir, archives administration, ELCA Office of the Secretary
- 3) *Education*
Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, IA, Bachelor Of Arts
Northwestern Univ., Evanston, IL, Doctor Of Philosophy
Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, Master Of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, St. Luke Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1953
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

Since at least the mid-1990s God has been calling me to serve the ELCA in both administrative and pastoral roles. Beginning at 1997 Churchwide Assembly, I served as a volunteer on the Minutes Team. In 1999 former ELCA Secretary Lowell Almen asked me to be the administrator of the newly relocated ELCA Archives. I served there while attending seminary part-time, then resigned in order to take up a residential internship at First Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois. Following the 2003 Churchwide Assembly, Secretary Almen asked me to return to the churchwide offices as one of his assistants. When Secretary Swartling was elected, I became his chief of staff. Under both secretaries, I worked closely with the Nominating Committee, the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council, and the Conference of Bishops. I know synodical staff members, pastors, and lay people across this church and would be glad to help identify and recruit new leaders for the ELCA's work on God's behalf.

B. The Rev. Cynthia K. Hileman

Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 10746) - Oak Lawn, IL
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Synod Nomination Committee
Synod Candidacy Committee
Antiracism Team
- 3) *Education*
Wartburg College, Associate Bachelor Of Arts
LSTC, Master Of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Bishop's Associate, Metropolitan Chicago Synod
- 5) *Year of birth*
1947
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have a deep love for God and for God's people. I am a team player, positive, hopeful and insightful regarding others.

58. Nominating Committee: Clergy

A. The Rev. Eric Carlson

Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Faith Lutheran Church (ID: 16053) - Clive, IA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
ELCA Youth Gathering Planning Team
Practice Discipleship Coach
Synod Council
- 3) *Education*
Luther Northwestern Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Luther College, Bachelor Of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Assistant to the Bishop, Southeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA
- 5) *Year of birth*
1967
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have a love and passion for the mission and ministry of the ELCA. Since my youth, I have been shaped and formed by the work of the wider church, as God has called me into ministry through the three expressions of the ELCA. The possibility to serve on the Nominating Committee is one more way in which I understand God's invitation to nurture new relationships, connect the gifts of individuals to the variety of leadership positions in the church, and witness to the life-transforming good news that is Jesus Christ.

Serving on synod staff since 2008, I have been introduced to a variety of networks: Synod staff across the church, ELCA Youth Ministry Network, SYMBOL, and currently serve on the ELCA Youth Gathering Planning Team. Other synod staff responsibilities also include global mission, synod/congregational governance, and vocation and faith formation.

I bring a strategic approach to tasks, place high priority on relationship-building, and connecting others to their passion.

B. The Rev. Christopher S. Heavner

South Carolina Synod (9C)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
University Lutheran Church (ID: 05652) - Clemson, SC
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Good Shepherd Lutheran, Houghton, MI
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago-Interim Dean of Student
Bethel Lutheran Church
- 3) *Education*
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Master Of Divinity
North Carolina State University, Bachelor Of Education
- 4) *Employment*
Campus Pastor, University Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1957
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

At a gathering for college students, a speaker my age said, "We have had our go. I encourage you to pick up where we left off-do great things." I have taken these words as wise counsel for my life and ministry. I am coming to understand my best contribution to be lifting up the next generation of servants.

Not all those nominated should be from the young. But the contributions of those for whom the future of the church is essential needs to be balanced with those firmly rooted in its past.

I bring 30 years as a pastor, having served in four synods. I have served as a campus pastor for 26 years – all in parish based campus ministry. Nearly a dozen graduates have pursued theological studies and are serving the church in various capacities. But the best witness of this ministry is the service to church and community by graduates in engineering, architecture, or education. I was heavily involved in the Eastern Cluster's Project Connect—an outreach to young adults open to public ministry.

59. Nominating Committee

A. The Rev. Stephen A. Keiser

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)

1) *Congregational membership*

Holy Communion Lutheran Church (ID: 00419) - Philadelphia, PA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Initial Interviewer for the SEPA Candidacy Committee
Chaplain, First Call Theological Education in Region 7
Secretary, Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries

3) *Education*

Wheaton College, Associate Bachelor Of Arts
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Master Of Divinity
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Master Of Sacred Theology

4) *Employment*

Co-Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion

5) *Year of birth*

1958

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

My sense of call to this work is rooted in a deep love for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a denomination which has sought to fully live out the implications of the Gospel, including the implications for justice in our world. It has used its resources to pursue justice with a strong sense of compassion for those who are suffering, even to the point of jeopardizing its own stability as an organization. For me, this is one of the clearest signs that Christ is alive and at work in this church.

In addition to loving the ELCA, I bring 13 years of experience as a parish pastor in central Philadelphia, 15 years of experience in retail bank management, teaching experience at the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia, and involvement in a variety of ministries, including: the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of PA; the Philadelphia Liturgical Institute; Friends of Mwangaza; the Temple University Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry; the Philadelphia Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

B. The Rev. Gordon D. Peterson

Central States Synod (4B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (ID: 07821) - Overland Park, KS

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*

Assistant to the Bishop, Pacifica Synod
Assistant to the Bishop, Central States Synod
Lutheran Social Services Southern California Board Chair

3) *Education*

Luther College, Decorah, IA, Bachelor Of Arts
Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, IA, Master Of Divinity
Lutheran School of Theo. at Chicago, Doctor Of Ministry

4) *Employment*

Retired

5) *Year of birth*

1951

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have extensive experience and knowledge in the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. I served in two different synods as an Assistant to the Bishop for twenty-two years. During that time, I was able to participate in many different events, training opportunities and a wide variety of meetings that created great opportunity to network with both the lay and rostered leadership of the ELCA.

I have served as a parish pastor, a mission developer and an interim pastor. These opportunities allowed me to gain a great appreciation for the day to day work of ministry in three unique contexts: rural (Nebraska), suburban (Kansas City) and urban (Metro Saint Paul).

I have extensive experience working with different ethnic communities in the development of their faith communities, including: Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese, Ethiopian, Spanish, Indonesian and Filipino.

I will do my best to bring my experience to identify future leaders for the ELCA.

60. Nominating Committee: Lay Female

A. Ms. Emily Isensee

Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
St. Andrew Lutheran Church (ID: 13039) - Vancouver, WA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
National Board of the Lutheran Youth Organization (BLYO)
PLU University Church Council Vice President
ELCA Nominating Committee
- 3) *Education*
Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor Of Business Admin
- 4) *Employment*
Senior HR Assistant, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- 5) *Year of birth*
1987
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

God has blessed me many opportunities to serve on a variety of boards and committees at all levels of the church. Each time my term has been up for one of these positions, I've been sad to be done, but God has always presented me with another opportunity to work for the church doing something else I love. I have enjoyed being able to use my talents to serve on the nominating for the last two years and I see being re-nominated to this committee as God's continued calling for me.

Serving on the Nomination Committee has allowed me be to combine my leadership, organization and interpersonal skills to empower others to respond to their calling and step up to leadership roles in the church. As a young adult from the west coast, I bring different demographic and unique perspective to this committee as well.

B. Ms. Julie S. Magadance

Southwestern Texas Synod (4E)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Abiding Presence Lutheran Church (ID: 07573) - San Antonio, TX
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Faith Formation Ministry Action Team Leader
Voting Member, Churchwide Assembly and Synod Assembly
Synod Council, New Jersey Synod
- 3) *Education*
Texas Lutheran University, Bachelor Of Arts
Texas A&M University, Master Of Counseling
- 4) *Employment*
Instructor, English as a Second Language,
North East Independent School District
- 5) *Year of birth*
1977
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I am awed by the Spirit moving in the work of this church to find the right person, for the right task, at the right time. The nominating committee is an example of God's Work, Our Arms...stretching toward gifted disciples who are willing to serve. With the Spirit, the nominating committee seeks to bring together complimentary gifts for the work ahead.

It takes organization and sensitivity to match nominees to positions. I have those skills of organization and even enjoy the process of planning and working to keep things coordinated.

In my four (4) years as the Faith Formation team leader in my congregation, I was responsible for finding volunteers to fulfill several congregational roles. I approached these invitations to serve intentionally, seeking to be sensitive to the many talents of those around me that might fit the required work.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve the greater church using my skills of organization and sensitivity.

61. Nominating Committee: Lay Female

A. Ms. Stacy D. Kitahata

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Immanuel Lutheran Church (ID: 12980) - Seattle, WA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Lay Schools for Ministry
Global Mission consultant and presenter
Region 1 Coordinator for Evangelical Outreach
- 3) *Education*
McCormick Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, Lutheran Year
University of California, Los Angeles, Bachelor Of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Program Director, The Krista Foundation for Global Citizenship
- 5) *Year of birth*
1961
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Asian/Pacific Islander
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

From the planning team for the new women's organization and the churchwide staff, as a seminary student, faculty member, regional staff, committee member, consultant and congregational participant, I have purposefully engaged with the ELCA from the first days. Since the outset, the principles and directions of the ELCA have shaped my faith and called me to offer my unique contributions. I work now with an ecumenical organization accompanying young adults to transform service experiences into lives of inter-culturally competent, adaptive service leadership. This faith-based effort clarifies even more sharply the value of diverse and full participation of a broad range of persons focused on common value and purpose. I offer these commitments and a lifetime of mission practice to ongoing service.

B. Ms. Sandra J. Schlesinger

North/West Lower Michigan Synod (6B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 11316) - Midland, MI
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Synod Vice President - N/W Lower Michigan Synod
Advisor to ELCA Genetics Social Statement Task Force
ELCA Church Council Member
- 3) *Education*
St. Olaf College, Bachelor Of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Associate Quality Director, The Dow Chemical Company
- 5) *Year of birth*
1962
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

The thing I most value as a life-long Lutheran is our focus on using our gifts and talents in a variety of ways to carry out God's calling as we serve others. As an example, 1) I have taught 6th grade Confirmation within my congregation for 13 years (still going!); 2) I am currently serving my 2nd year as Synod VP for the N/W Lower MI Synod; and 3) I recently completed a 6-yr term on ELCA Church Council (2005-2011). I have been blessed with the relationships, skills, and knowledge gained as a result of these (and other) meaningful volunteer endeavors at the congregation, synod, and churchwide levels.

I would bring gifts of initiative, organization, facilitative leadership, networking, and discernment to my work on the ELCA Nominating Committee. It would be an honor to work with others to identify possible candidates from across the ELCA for the various open positions for consideration by voting members.

62. Nominating Committee: Lay Male (PC/L)

A. Mr. Tommie L. Robinson Jr.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod (8G)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Augustana Lutheran Church (ID: 02637) - Washington, DC
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Vice President, Metro DC Synod
Board, National Lutheran Communities and Services
Reference and Counsel Committee
- 3) *Education*
The University of Mississippi, Bachelor Of Arts
The University of Mississippi, Master Of Science
Howard University, Doctor Of Philosophy
- 4) *Employment*
Med Staff and Director, Scottish Rite Center for Childhood
Language Disorders, Children's National Medical Center
- 5) *Year of birth*
1962
- 6) *Ethnicity*
African American/Black Non-Hispanic
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have always been active in the church and feel that, each time I have taken on a task, it was God who supported and strengthen me. I felt that my role as vice president of the synod, was truly a call from God to do so; therefore, I was faithful to the task. My role on my congregation council feels the same. I truly discerned the will of God before I decided to do this, and here again I am faithful to the task. Each time God calls me, I go without question, because I truly that believe that God does not call us to do without equipping us first.

I truly enjoy my work in the church as I do God's work with my hands. I bring to any encounter the ability to be a visionary and strong leadership background as I was president of my professional organization of over 150,000 members. In my everyday work I am an administrator, clinician, teacher and researcher. I have experience with being on the nominating committee of my professional organization and chaired the same committee for my church.

B. Mr. Troy Walker

Southeast Michigan Synod (6A)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
St. Andrew-Redeemer Lutheran Church (ID: 20118) - Detroit, MI
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Congregation President
Congregation President
President Namaste Men's Ministry
- 3) *Education*
Oakland University
- 4) *Employment*
Team Leader, Pitney Bowes Management Services
- 5) *Year of birth*
1977
- 6) *Ethnicity*
African American/Black Non-Hispanic
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I've grown up in the Lutheran Church my entire life. But my first recollection of God speaking to me occurred at the age of 16. It was at that moment that I understood what people meant when they said God spoke to them. That day was instrumental in helping shape whom I have become today. That one moment in time opened my eyes to the wonders of what God can do.

Once God opened my eyes, he placed individuals in my path that helped shape the tools that he has given me. It is on this path that I have been blessed to serve in ministries both congregationally and synodically. One opportunity on my journey that has blessed me immensely is working with the Namaste Men's Ministry. It is in this ministry that I have found my calling. It has allowed me to work with men from various backgrounds, socio-economic and educational levels, various religious denominations and age groups. Working in this ministry is a blessing to me. We're able to shape lives and build leaders in God's Kingdom.

63. Nominating Committee: Lay Male

A. Mr. Brandon M. Graves

Northern Illinois Synod (5B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Salem Lutheran Church (ID: 01977) - Sycamore, IL
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Witness Committee
Salem Nominating Committee
Northern Illinois Synod Assembly voting member
- 3) *Education*
Student
- 4) *Employment*
- 5) *Year of birth*
1992
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I feel called to serve the ELCA as a member of the Nominating Committee. I have always been interested in the inner workings and the politics of the ELCA. If elected to this committee I would seriously consider not just people from the ELCA, but I would also help represent the Northern Illinois Synod as well. My previous experience with this is serving on my congregation's Nominating Committee twice and currently serving on my congregation's Witness Committee which invites new members to church and also welcomes them to church. I have served as a Northern Illinois Synod Assembly voting member twice. In the community I have served as a volunteer at my local hospital winning Volunteer of the Year in my last year. If elected I would be honored to serve in a capacity that would bring new leaders to the ELCA as part of the Nominating Committee.

B. Mr. Jordan Krey

New England Synod (7B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Faith Lutheran Church (ID: 07409) - Quincy, MA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Synodical: President, Lutheran Ministry in the Fenway (Campus Ministry)
Churchwide: Vocation and Education Committee
Congregational: Mutual Ministry
- 3) *Education*
Northeastern University, Bachelor Of Computer Science
- 4) *Employment*
Technical Specialist, VP, Citigroup
- 5) *Year of birth*
1981
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

God has called me in many different ways to be a part of the church and I feel blessed at the opportunity to serve. As a pastor's son, I am often asked whether I have considered going into the ministry. My answer is that I would be lying if I said the thought never crossed my mind, but my vocation is in software development and our church needs just as many leaders who are from the pews. As a member of the nominating committee, I would represent this point of view. I am a husband and father of two boys. I met my wife at Northeastern University where I graduated with a degree in Computer Science. In school we attended campus ministry and Lutheran Student Movement events. My day job for the last 9 years has been software development for a large financial company. During that time I have become President of the Lutheran Ministry in the Fenway (supporting the campus ministries at Northeastern and Boston University) as well as an active member at our local congregation.