



Report of the Nominating Committee

Statement of purpose

The Nominating Committee is one of three standing committees of the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA constitutional provision 12.51.). ELCA bylaw 12.51.03. states:

A Nominating Committee, elected by the Churchwide Assembly, shall nominate at least one person for each position for which an election will be held by the Churchwide Assembly and for which an election will be held by the Churchwide Assembly in accordance with Chapter 19 of this constitution.

ELCA bylaw 19.11.02. provides:

The Nominating Committee shall nominate two persons for each council, board, or committee position, according to the process described in continuing resolutions, for which an election will be held by the Churchwide Assembly.

The Churchwide Assembly elects the members of the Church Council, as well as the boards of three separately incorporated ministries of the ELCA — Board of Pensions, Mission Investment Fund and Publishing House — and three churchwide committees — Committee on Appeals, Committee on Discipline and Nominating Committee.

The nominations process is governed by principles detailed in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, which is included in Section XII of the *Pre-Assembly Report*. It guides the Nominating Committee in presenting the Churchwide Assembly with slates of nominees for possible election, giving attention to the unique composition of each body and to the specific needs and restrictions of each election process.

Work of the committee

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger and the Office of the Secretary provide staff services to the Nominating Committee of the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA bylaw 13.41.05.). On behalf of the committee, the 2019 Nominations Workbook was produced and distributed online to encourage the participation of all ELCA members in identifying potential leaders for this church. An online biographical form was used to gather information about each of those named.

The Nominating Committee met in person and by conference call to review the elections to be conducted by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly, to discern the leadership needs of this church, to issue invitations for possible nomination and to assemble the slates included in this report.

Notes about restrictions on nominations

Nominations reflect this church's commitment to inclusive representation as explained in Chapters 5 and 6 of the ELCA constitution. Vacancies are identified according to mandatory categories: Minister of Word and Sacrament, Lay Female, Lay Male, PC/L (persons of color or whose primary language is other than English) and Y/YA (youth and young adults). Nominees born since August 8, 2001, are eligible to be elected as youth, and nominees born on or since August 8, 1989, are eligible to be elected as young adults by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

The Nominating Committee tracks whether someone whose term is ending on a board or committee is eligible to serve another term in that position. If the Nominating Committee has chosen to nominate that person (*) for another term, if authorized, or for nominees from church bodies with which this church is in a relationship of full communion, only one person need be nominated (ELCA bylaw 19.11.02).

For the Church Council and the Nominating Committee, the constitution requires that at least one or two persons from each region be elected (ELCA constitution 19.02. and 19.11.01.). The Nominating Committee endeavors "to ensure that every synod has at least one person serving on the Church Council or churchwide boards, committees, task forces, or other groups. 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" (ELCA bylaw 19.11.05.). The constitution assigns each of this church's nine regions with a number and each synod within each region a letter.

ELCA Regions and Synods

REGION 1

- 1A Alaska Synod
- 1B Northwest Washington Synod
- 1C Southwestern Washington Synod
- 1D Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod
- 1E Oregon Synod
- 1F Montana Synod

REGION 2

- 2A Sierra Pacific Synod
- 2B Southwest California Synod
- 2C Pacifica Synod
- 2D Grand Canyon Synod
- 2E Rocky Mountain Synod

REGION 3

- 3A Western North Dakota Synod
- 3B Eastern North Dakota Synod
- 3C South Dakota Synod
- 3D Northwestern Minnesota Synod
- 3E Northeastern Minnesota Synod
- 3F Southwestern Minnesota Synod
- 3G Minneapolis Area Synod
- 3H Saint Paul Area Synod
- 3I Southeastern Minnesota Synod

REGION 4

- 4A Nebraska Synod
- 4B Central States Synod
- 4C Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod
- 4D Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod
- 4E Southwestern Texas Synod
- 4F Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod

REGION 5

- 5A Metropolitan Chicago Synod
- 5B Northern Illinois Synod
- 5C Central/Southern Illinois Synod
- 5D Southeastern Iowa Synod
- 5E Western Iowa Synod
- 5F Northeastern Iowa Synod
- 5G Northern Great Lakes Synod
- 5H Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
- 5I East-Central Synod of Wisconsin
- 5J Greater Milwaukee Synod
- 5K South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
- 5L La Crosse Area Synod

REGION 6

- 6A Southeast Michigan Synod
- 6B North/West Lower Michigan Synod
- 6C Indiana-Kentucky Synod
- 6D Northwestern Ohio Synod
- 6E Northeastern Ohio Synod
- 6F Southern Ohio Synod

REGION 7

- 7A New Jersey Synod
- 7B New England Synod
- 7C Metropolitan New York Synod
- 7D Upstate New York Synod
- 7E Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod
- 7F Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
- 7G Slovak Zion Synod

REGION 8

- 8A Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod
- 8B Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod
- 8C Allegheny Synod
- 8D Lower Susquehanna Synod
- 8E Upper Susquehanna Synod
- 8F Delaware-Maryland Synod
- 8G Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod
- 8H West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod

REGION 9

- 9A Virginia Synod
- 9B North Carolina Synod
- 9C South Carolina Synod
- 9D Southeastern Synod
- 9E Florida-Bahamas Synod
- 9F Caribbean Synod

Ms. Susan M. Berg, *chair*
The Rev. Eric N. Carlson, *chair*

Church Council

Church Council members are elected to one six-year term, except for two youth members who are elected to three-year terms.

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly adopted a new structure for the Church Council that included a range of 33 to 45 members in addition to the four officers and the chair of the Conference of Bishops.

The 2016 Churchwide Assembly elected 11 Church Council members from synod nominees. To facilitate a nomination process every three years involving 16 or approximately a quarter of the 65 synods, the assembly adjusted the council's size from 32 to 45 members in addition to the four officers and the chair of the Conference of Bishops.

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly will elect Church Council members from the nominees from 16 designated synods. With the 11 members elected in 2016, the assembly must elect an additional five at-large members for the council to have a minimum of 32 members.

The Nominating Committee is responsible for nominating two female youth and two male youth for possible election to a three-year term on the council. Nominees born on or since August 9, 2001, are eligible to be elected as youth by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

Restrictions: For tickets 1–16, nominations to the Church Council are made by designated synods. 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 – Synod Nominations

1. **Rostered Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Northwest Washington, 1B*)**
 - A. Pr. Joanne E. Engquist, Seattle, Wash.
 - B. Pr. Kathleen (Katy) McCallum Sachse, Kirkland, Wash.
2. **Lay Female (*Montana Synod, 1F*)**
 - A. Ms. Mary M. Hutchinson, Billings, Mont.
 - B. Ms. Loni Taylor, Box Elder, Mont.
3. **Lay Female (*PC/L; Southwest California Synod, 2B*)**
 - A. Ms. Carol L. Bjelland, Thousand Oaks, Calif.
 - B. Ms. Valerie J. Shaw, Los Angeles, Calif.
4. **Rostered Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Grand Canyon Synod, 2D*)**
 - A. Pr. Jason S. Adams, Las Vegas, Nev.
 - B. Pr. Karn S. Carroll, Phoenix, Ariz.
5. **Lay Male (*Northeastern Minnesota Synod, 3E*)**
 - A. Mr. Nathan C. Anderson, Kerrick, Minn.
 - B. Mr. Loren A. Solberg, Bovey, Minn.
6. **Lay Female (*Central States Synod, 4B*)**
 - A. Ms. Susan Boxberger, Olathe, Kan.
 - B. Ms. Kristine A. Lubber, Topeka, Kan.
7. **Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, 4D*)**
 - A. Pr. Nicholas Billardello III, Southlake, Texas
 - B. Pr. Russell Vardell, Dallas, Texas

8. **Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Southwestern Texas Synod, 4E*)**
 - A. Pr. Mark T. Behrendt, Corpus Christi, Texas
 - B. Pr. Marcus A. Bigott, Seguin, Texas

9. **Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Northern Illinois Synod, 5B*)**
 - A. Pr. William H. Callister, Streator, Ill.
 - B. Pr. Frank Langholf, Galesburg, Ill.

10. **Lay Female (*East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, 5I*)**
 - A. Ms. Patricia Kluetz, Plover, Wis.
 - B. Ms. Hannah J. Schmit, Tomahawk, Wis.

11. **Minister of Word and Sacrament (*North/West Lower Michigan Synod, 6B*)**
 - A. Pr. Joan E. Oleson, Saint Joseph, Mich.
 - B. Pr. Kjersten L. Priddy, Battle Creek, Mich.

12. **Lay Male (*Northeastern Ohio Synod, 6E*)**
 - A. Mr. David M. Lenz, Mentor, Ohio
 - B. Mr. Chuck Mosberger, Lakewood, Ohio

13. **Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Upstate New York Synod, 7D*)**
 - A. Pr. Pamela J. Hoh, Clifton Park, N.Y.
 - B. Pr. Dustin Wright, Schenectady, N.Y.

14. **Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, 8B*)**
 - A. Pr. Tara R. Lynn, Butler, Pa.
 - B. Pr. William A. Schaefer, Latrobe, Pa.

15. **Lay Male (*Upper Susquehanna Synod, 8E*)**
 - A. Mr. Chris Minnich, Sunbury, Pa.
 - B. Mr. Noah F. Roux, Turbotville, Pa.

16. **Minister of Word and Sacrament (*North Carolina Synod, 9B*)**
 - A. Pr. Timothy J. Brown, Raleigh, N.C.
 - B. Pr. Emily C. Hartner, Charlotte, N.C.

Slate of Nominees – At-Large Nominations

17. **Lay Female (*PC/L; financial expertise*)**
 - A. Ms. Tracey Beasley, Philadelphia, Pa. (7F)
 - B. Ms. Elaine Whitney, San Francisco, Calif. (2A)

18. **Lay Female**
 - A. Ms. Cubwa Divine, Omaha, Nev. (4A)
 - B. Ms. Isabell Retamoza, San Diego, Calif. (2A)

19. **Lay Male (*PC/L*)**
 - A. Mr. Keoni Newman, Spanaway, Wash. (1C)
 - B. Mr. Lamont Rouse, East Orange, N.J. (7A)

20. Lay Male (*Attorney*)

- A. Mr. Kevin D. Anderson, Gaithersburg, Md. (8G)
- B. Mr. C. Theodore (Ted) Miller, Lakeside Park, Ky. (6C)

21. Lay Person (*Financial expertise*)

- A. Mr. Ulysses Bell, Cary, N.C. (9B)
- B. Ms. Cherish Holland, New London, Minn. (3G)

22. Lay Female (*youth; 3-year term*)

- A. Ms. Abby G. Potoer, Fairfax, Va. (8G)
- B. Ms. Merritt G. Zesinger, Madison, Ala. (9D)

23. Lay Male (*youth; 3-year term*)

- A. Mr. Ismael E. Castillo-Danforth, Katy, Texas (4F)
- B. Mr. Mitchell J. Fuller, Fairfax, Va. (8G)

Continuing members of the Church Council

Treasurer Lori S. Fedyk

Bp. William O. Gafkjen, chair of the Conference of Bishops

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Pr. Dena M. Gable, Somerset, Pa. (8C)

Pr. Chad M. Huebner, Decorah, Iowa (5F)

Minister of Word and Sacrament (PC/L)

Pr. Ricardo E. Rivera, Caguas, Puerto Rico (9F)

Lay Female (PC/L)

Mr. Lisa A. Burk, Torrington, Connecticut (7G)

Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman, Minneapolis, Minn. (3G)

Ms. Sonja Wolfe, Milwaukee, Wis. (5J)

Lay Female (YA)

Ms. Emma K. Wagner, Baltimore, Md. (8F)

Lay Male

Mr. James J.F. Jennings, Bangor, Pa. (7E)

Mr. Joseph T. Nolte, Des Moines, Iowa (5D)

Mr. Gary A. Pederson, Peachtree City, Ga. (9D)

Mr. Philip Wirtanen, Bergland, Mich. (5G)

Mission Investment Fund

Trustees of the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA are elected to a maximum of three consecutive three-year terms. The board of trustees has a range of nine to 12 members with expertise in lending, investments and finance. Only one person need be nominated for each position on the board of a separately incorporated ministry of the ELCA. Up to two trustees from church bodies with which this church is in a relationship of full communion may serve as long as they are not from the same church body.

At its Spring 2017 meeting, the Church Council elected the Rev. Martín J. Lopez-Vega and Ms. Nicole Hudson to a two-year term expiring in 2019. This was necessitated by the transition from a biennial to a triennial election cycle.

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly will complete the transition to a triennial election cycle by electing all Mission Investment Fund trustees, with an appropriate mix of new and continuing members elected.

Restrictions: Additional nominations from the New Jersey Synod (7A) may be restricted.

Slate of Nominees

*Incumbent

24. Minister or Word and Sacrament (PC/L)

A. Pr. John E. Mack Jr., Jersey City, N.J. (7A)*

25. Minister of Word and Sacrament

A. Pr. Wm Chris Boerger, Park Ridge, Ill. (1B)

26. Lay Female

A. Ms. Kathryn E. Baerwald, Washington, D.C. (8G)*

27. Lay Female

A. Ms. Heather Miller, Clive, Iowa (5D)*

28. Lay Female

A. Ms. Susan P. Troutman, Greenville, S.C. (9C)*

29. Lay Female (PC/L)

A. Ms. Nicole Hudson, Brooklyn, N.Y. (7C)*

30. Lay Male

A. Mr. Michael J. Fallon Jr., Haddonfield, N.J. (7A)*

31. Lay Male

A. Mr. Mark E. Fiebrink, Naples, Fla. (9E)*

32. Lay Male

A. Mr. Paul Oprande, University Place, Wash. (1C)*

33. Lay Male (PC/L)

A. Mr. Robert J. Chillison II, Los Angeles, Calif. (2B)*

ELCA Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services)

Trustees of the Board of Pensions of the ELCA (Portico Benefit Services) are elected to a maximum of three consecutive three-year terms. The board of trustees has a range of 14 to 18 members with expertise in investments, insurance and retirement plans. Only one person need be nominated for each position on the board of a separately incorporated ministry. Up to two trustees from church bodies with which this church is in a relationship of full communion may serve as long as they are not from the same church body.

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly will complete the transition to a triennial election cycle by electing all Portico trustees, with an appropriate mix of new and continuing members elected.

Restrictions: Additional nominees from the Minneapolis Area (3G) and Central States (4B) synods may be restricted.

Slate of Nominees

*Incumbent

† Plan participant

34. Minister of Word and Sacrament

A. Pr. Thomas P. Schlotterback, Billings, Mont (1F) †

35. Lay Female

A. Sr. Elizabeth-Ann (Becky) I Swanson, Holmen, Wis. (5L)* †

36. Lay Female

A. Ms. Angela M. Dejene, Corcoran, Minn. (3G)*

37. Lay Female

A. Ms. Helen Doerpinghaus, Columbia, S.C. (9C)* †

38. Lay Female (PC/L)

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

39. Lay Female

A. Ms. Lori A. Lewis, Byron, Minn. (3I)*

40. Lay Female

A. Ms. Jennifer L. McGinnis, Fort Wayne, Ind. (6C)*

41. Lay Male (PC/L)

A. Mr. Steven R. Brown, Baltimore, Md. (8F)

42. Lay Male (PC/L)

A. Mr. Vincent P. Brown, El Cajon, Calif. (2C)

43. Lay Male

A. Mr. Peter J. Enko, Leawood, Kan. (4B)*

44. Lay Male

A. Mr. John R. Hoffman, Minneapolis, Minn. (3G)*

45. Lay Male

A. Mr. Bruce E. Johnson, Roanoke, Va. (9A)*

46. Lay Male

A. Mr. Morris L. Larson, Chesterfield, Mo. (4B) †

47. Lay Male

A. Mr. Frank A. Roth, Havertown, Pa. (7F)*

48. Lay Male

A. Mr. Leon J. Schwartz, Winterset, Iowa (5D)*

49. Lay Male

A. Mr. James B. Vos. St. Louis Park, Minn. (3G)*

50. Full Communion

A. Ms. Catharine C. Burkett, Atlanta, Ga. (Episcopalian)

51. Full Communion

A. Pr. Adam J. Copeland, Rochester, Minn. (Presbyterian)* †

Publishing House of the ELCA

Trustees of the Publishing House of the ELCA (1517 Media) are elected to a maximum of three consecutive three-year terms. The board of trustees has a range of 11 to 15 members with expertise in publishing, education, business management, finance and investment. Only one person need be nominated for each position on the board of a separately incorporated ministry of the ELCA. Up to two trustees from church bodies with which this church is in a relationship of full communion may serve as long as they are not from the same church body.

At its Spring 2017 meeting, the Church Council elected the Rev. Pedro M. Suarez, Deacon Julie M. Stecker, Ms. Susan G. Worst and Mr. Fred D. Halvin to the board of trustees of 1517 Media for a two-year term expiring in 2019. This was necessitated by the transition from a biennial to triennial election cycle.

At its April 2018 meeting, the Church Council elected Ms. Linda J. Brown to an interim term expiring in August 2019. This was necessitated by the resignation of a board member.

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly will complete the transition to a triennial election cycle by electing all 1517 Media trustees, with an appropriate mix of new and continuing members elected.

Slate of Nominees

*Incumbent

52. Minister of Word and Sacrament

A. Pr. Kathleen O. Reed, Cambridge, Mass. (7B)

53. Minister of Word and Sacrament

A. Pr. Pamela Smith, Nashville, Tenn. (9D)*

54. Minister of Word and Sacrament

A. Pr. Mark G. Vitalis Hoffman, Middletown, Md. (8F)*

55. Lay Female

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

56. Lay Female (PC/L)

A. Ms. Ileana (Lilly) Kimmelshue, Sacramento, Calif. (2A)

57. Lay Female

A. Ms. Lisa Peck, Overland Park, Kan. (4B)

58. Lay Female

A. Ms. Christine M. Smith, Waunakee, Wis. (5K)*

59. Lay Female

A. Ms. Jill Yetman, Seattle, Wash. (1B)*

60. Lay Male

A. Mr. Fred D. Halvin, Austin, Minn. (3I)*

61. Lay Male

A. Mr. Michael A. Miller, Saint Paul, Minn. (3H)

62. Lay Male (PC/L)

A. Mr. Joel Peterson, La Cañada Flintridge, Calif. (2B)*

63. Full Communion Partner

A. Mr. T. Mark Brokering, Mill Valley, Calif. (Episcopalian)*

64. Full Communion Partner (PC/L)

A. Pr. Michele E. Watkins, San Diego, Calif. (Methodist)*

Endowment Fund of the ELCA (ELCA Foundation)

Trustees of the Endowment Fund of the ELCA are elected by the Church Council. If the 2019 Churchwide Assembly decides to make the Endowment Fund a separately incorporated ministry of this church which has trustees elected by the Churchwide Assembly, the assembly will consider this slate of nominees for election.

The board of trustees would have a range of nine to 15 members with expertise in business, investments and finance. Only one person need be nominated for each position on the board of a separately incorporated ministry of the ELCA. Trustees are elected to a maximum of three consecutive three-year terms. Up to two trustees from church bodies with which this church is in a relationship of full communion may serve as long as they are not from the same church body.

If the proposed changes to the constitution below are adopted, the 2019 Churchwide Assembly will elect all trustees on the board, with an appropriate mix of new and continuing members. The Church Council will divide the trustees into three classes — one class eligible for three terms, another class eligible for two terms, and yet another class eligible for one term.

17.60.01. The Endowment Fund shall have a board of trustees composed of the presiding bishop of this church and 9–15 persons elected by the Churchwide Assembly for three-year terms with the possibility of two consecutive re-elections. Any vacancies occurring because of the death, resignation, or removal of a member of the board of trustees shall be filled by the Church Council for the unexpired term of such member of the board of trustees. The composition of the board of trustees shall comply with the representational principles described in constitutional provision 5.01.e. Up to two trustees may be members of congregations of church bodies with which this church is in a relationship of full communion, provided that both are not from the same church body.

17.60.B19 Initial Election of Board of Trustees of Endowment Fund Under Chapter 17

For the first election of members of the board of trustees of the Endowment Fund under this Chapter 17, the Church Council shall divide the currently serving trustees, other than the presiding bishop, into three classes: one class which shall be deemed to have served one full term and be eligible for election to two more terms; one class which shall be deemed to have served two full terms and be eligible for election to one more term; and one class which shall be deemed to have served three full terms and not be eligible for further election.

Slate of Nominees

*Incumbent

65. Lay Female

A. Ms. Kristy L. Albrecht Fargo, N.D. (3B)*

66. Lay Female

A. Ms. Naomi M. Horsager, Apple Valley, Minn. (3H)*

67. Lay Female (PC/L)

A. Ms. Liza Canino, Charlotte, N.C. (9B)*

68. Lay Male

A. Mr. Eric Brudos, Palo Alto, Calif. (2A)*

69. Lay Male

A. Mr. Keith J. Christensen, Decorah, Iowa (5F)*

70. Lay Male

A. Mr. Bruce D. George, Westborough, Mass. (7B)*

71. Lay Male

A. Mr. Eric Golberg, New York, N.Y. (7C)*

72. Lay Male

A. Mr. John Quello, Sioux Falls, S.D. (3C)

Committee on Appeals

Six ministers of Word and Sacrament and six laypersons make up the Committee on Appeals. Its members meet only as needed.

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly elected two ministers of Word and Sacrament, one lay female and one lay male to a six-year term that ended in 2017. In accordance with continuing resolution **20.64.A16.**, at its spring 2017 meeting, the Church Council elected the Rev. Paul J. Blom, the Rev. Christine A. Timm, Ms. Lesley M. Houston and Mr. George K. Rahdert to serve on the Committee on Appeals until the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. These individuals are eligible for re-election to a full term by the assembly without opposition, having served less than half of a six-year term.

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly will elect eight members of the committee, and the 2023 Churchwide Assembly will elect four members of the committee.

Slate of Nominees

*Incumbent

73. Minister of Word and Sacrament

A. Pr. Paul J. Blom, Georgetown, Texas (4E)*

74. Minister of Word and Sacrament

A. Pr. Christine A. Timm, Lake Ann, Mich. (6B)*

75. Minister of Word and Sacrament

A. Pr. Michael A. Dubsy, Sykesville, Md. (8F)
B. Pr. Paul A. Wollner, Winston Salem, N.C. (9B)

76. Minister of Word and Sacrament

A. Pr. Martha H. Maier, Vancouver, Wash. (1C)
B. Pr. Linda M. Pederson, Brownton, Minn. (3F)

77. Lay Female (PC/L)

A. Ms. Lesley M. Houston, Suffolk, Va. (1C)*

78. Lay Female

A. Deacon Rebecca Hanson Kolowe, Washington, D.C. (8G)
B. Deacon Erin Power, Denver, Colo. (2E)

79. Lay Female

A. Ms. Susan Berg, Bothell, Wash. (1B)
B. Ms. Cheyenne C. Boykin, Los Angeles, Calif. (2B)

80. Lay Male

A. Mr. George Rahdert, St. Petersburg, Fla. (9E)*

81. Lay Male (PC/L)

A. Mr. Emanuel Alves, Philadelphia, Pa. (7F)
B. Mr. Brandon Dupree, Bronx, N.Y. (7C)

Continuing Members of the Committee on Appeals

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Pr. Cheryl M. Hausman, Fleetwood, Pa. (7E)

Minister of Word and Sacrament (YA)

Pr. Fritz E. Fowler, Philadelphia, Pa. (7F)

Lay Male

Mr. Kevin D. Anderson, Gaithersburg, Md. (8G)

Committee on Discipline

The Committee on Discipline has a range of 24 to 36 members; half are ministers of Word and Sacrament. Its members meet only as they are named to serve on a discipline hearing committee.

The continuing membership of the committee, after the 2019 Churchwide Assembly, will consist of four ministers of Word and Sacrament, two lay females and two lay males. If the assembly is to complete the transition to a triennial election cycle, electing half of the committee's members, it may elect eight ministers of Word and Sacrament, four lay females and four lay males.

Slate of Nominees

82. Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Region 1; male*)

- A. Pr. Tor K. Berg, Bothell, Wash. (1B)
- B. Pr. David W. Parks, Everett, Wash. (1B)

83. Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Region 1*)

- A. Pr. Mia Baumgartner, Seattle Wash. (1B)
- B. Pr. Philip R. Wold, Sheridan, Wyo. (1F)

84. Minister of Word and Sacrament

- A. Pr. David B. Dragseth, Milwaukee, Wis. (5J)
- B. Pr. Dana K. Nelson, Roseville, Minn. (3H)

85. Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Female*)

- A. Pr. Jessica L.M. Cain, Buda, Texas (4E)
- B. Pr. Kristina N. Heise, Wooster, Ohio (6E)

86. Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Region 7; male*)

- A. Pr. Tim Johansen, Havertown, Pa. (7F)
- B. Pr. Nathan D. Piphon, Worcester, Mass. (7B)

87. Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Region 7*)

- A. Pr. Emily Hamilton, Malden, Mass. (7B)
- B. Pr. Dominic S. Smyth, New Britain, Conn. (7B)

88. Minister of Word and Sacrament (*PC/L*)

- A. Pr. Emmanuel F. Y. Grantson, Mitchelville, Md. (8G)
- B. Pr. Angela L. Shannon, Gary, Ind. (6C)

89. Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Region 9; PC/L; male*)

- A. Pr. James R. Thomas, Columbia, S.C. (9C)
- B. Pr. Timothy L. Taylor, Raleigh, N.C. (9B)

90. Minister of Word and Service

- A. Deacon Shelley M. Allen, Moore, S.C. (9C)
- B. Deacon Theresa J. Endres, Excelsior, Minn. (3G)

91. Lay Female (*PC/L*)

- A. Ms. Tina M. Bigelow, Poulsbo, Wash. (1C)
- B. Ms. Tanisha Pitre, Los Angeles, Calif. (2B)

92. Lay Female (*Region 3*)

- A. Ms. Gwen E. Arneson, Cottonwood, Minn. (3F)
- B. Ms. Sherri L. Broderius, Hector, Minn. (3F)

93. Lay Female

- A. Ms. Rachel Davis, Loveland, Colo. (2E)
- B. Ms. Anne H. Williams, Ankeny, Iowa (5D)

94. Lay Female (Region 9)

- A. Ms. Sarah J. Downs, Stephens City, Va. (9A)
- B. Ms. Bethany N. Fayard, ocean Springs, Miss. (9D)

95. Lay Male (PC/L)

- A. Mr. S. J. McKinney, Grand Rapids, Mich. (6B)
- B. Mr. David K. Tap, Saint Cloud, Minn. (3F)

96. Lay Male

- A. Mr. Jimmie Eschberger, McDade, Texas (4E)
- B. Mr. David Lewis, Fairfax, Va. (8G)

97. Lay Male (Region 4)

- A. Mr. Kevin J. Boatright, Lawrence, Kan. (4B)
- B. Mr. Carol R. Swenson, McPherson, Kan. (4B)

98. Lay Male

- A. Mr. Denton L. Bennet Jr., Kannapolis, N.C. (9B)
- B. Mr. Andrew A. Springhorn, Shoreview, Minn. (3H)

Continuing Members of the Committee on Discipline

Minister of Word and Sacrament

- Pr. Paul E. Lutter, Virginia, Minn. (3E)
- Pr. Christine M. Bellefeuille, Stillwater, Minn. (3H)

Minister of Word and Sacrament (PC/L)

- Pr. Linda Boston, Oakland, Calif. (2A)
- Pr. Yehiel Curry, Riverdale, Ill. (5A)

Minister of Word and Service

- Sr. Clare Josef-Maier, Seattle, Wash. (1B)

Lay Female

- Ms. Robin B. Kaelin, Hamilton, Ohio (6F)

Lay Male

- Mr. Joel T. Kangas, Fargo, N.D. (3B)
- Mr. Thomas W. Salber, Philadelphia, Pa. (7F)

Nominating Committee

The Church Council nominates individuals for possible election to the Nominating Committee by the Churchwide Assembly. The committee has a range of 12 to 18 members. At least one but no more than three members must be from any of the nine regions of this church. Members serve one six-year term (or until a successor is elected) and are not eligible for re-election.

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly may complete the transition to a triennial election cycle and elect half of the committee's members. The regional requirement will make it more important for the Church Council to identify nominees by region.

Restrictions: Nominees from Region 3 are not possible at this time.

Slate of Nominees

99. Lay Female (*Region 1*)

- A. Deacon Debra H. Mantey, Salem, Ore. (1E)
- B. Ms. Jessica Potts, Camas, Wash. (1C)

100. Lay Male (*Region 8; Y/YA*)

- A. Mr. Adam Fairchild, Hampstead, Md. (8F)
- B. Mr. N. Uzoma Ariguzo, Bowie, Md. (8G)

101. Lay Female (*Region*)

- A. Ms. Gwendolynn Edwards, Bellevue, Neb. (4A)
- B. Ms. Ann Hafften, Weatherford, Texas (4D)

102. Lay Female (*Region 9*)

- A. Ms. Sandra Cline, Belmont, N.C. (9B)
- B. Ms. Doris Underwood, Montgomery, Ala. (9D)

103. Rostered Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Region 5; PC/L*)

- A. Pr. Lawrence J. Clark, Chicago, Ill. (5A)
- B. Pr. Gus Brnes, Delevan, Wis. (5K)

104. Rostered Minister of Word and Sacrament

- A. Pr. Andrew Tucker, Pickerington, Ohio (6F)
- B. Jared Witt, Orlando, Fla. (9E)

105. Lay Male

- A. Deacon Jason Fisher, Champaign, Ill. (5C)
- B. Mr. Hierald Osorto, Ithaca, N.Y. (7D)

106. Lay Female

- A. Ms. Desta Goehner, Thousand Oaks, Calif. (2B)
- B. Ms. Marcia Riggers, Mercer, Wash. (1B)

107. Lay Female (*Region 7; PC/L*)

- A. Ms. Annette Sample, Philadelphia, Pa. (7F)
- B. Pr. Sarah C. Anderson, Drexel Hill, Pa. (7F)

108. Lay Female (*Y/YA*)

- A. Ms. Hannah Barnard, Columbus, Ohio (2D)
- B. Ms. Caroline Parrot, Salisbury, N.C. (9B)

Continuing Members of the Nominating Committee

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede, Saint Paul, Minn. (3H)

Minister of Word and Sacrament (PC/L)

Pr. Nathan V.A. Luong, Saint Peter, Minn. (3F)

Lay Female

Ms. Joyce D. Adams, East Lansdowne, Pa. (7F)

Lay Male

Mr. Zachary C. Baker, Minneapolis, Minn. (3G)

Mr. Louis Moehlman, Garden Grove, Calif. (2C)

Mr. Bryan L. Penvose, Valley City, Ohio (6E)

Lay Male (Y/YA)

Mr. Samuel P. Swenson-Reinhold, Fairfax, Va. (8G)

1. Church Council: Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Restricted to Northwest Washington Synod, 1B*)

A. The Rev. Joanne E. Engquist

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Gethsemane Lutheran Church (ID: 04939) - Seattle, WA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*

Internship Supervisor, Horizon Site
Lutheran Campus Ministry churchwide committees; Regional Mentor
Pastor Developer, Conference Dean, synodical boards

3) *Education*

Bexley Seabury Seminary, No Degree Earned
Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Lead Pastor, Gethsemane Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1963

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

With a deep love for Christ's church and broad ecumenical and interfaith experiences, I feel called to this ministry of support and oversight. Having served varied ministries, working with and in multiple synods (in CA, MN, ME, MA, WA), I sense a belonging that extends far beyond local ministry.

I am passionate about equipping a new generation of leaders in the church and helping congregations adjust to changing contexts for ministry. Thirty years of ministry includes regular rounds of parish life as well as significant work in capital campaigns, nonprofit management, community service, and board development.

I've delighted to engage both multifaith and nonsectarian organizations to explore best practices for ministry leadership and developing partnerships. Coursework in a Doctor of Ministry program focused on congregational development helps me re-imagine a church energized for faithful service, lively in its work for justice and peace.

B. The Rev. Kathleen (Katy) McCallum Sachse

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church (ID: 04954) - Kirkland, WA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*

NWWA Synod Nominating Committee
NWWA Synod Discipline Committee
Pacific Lutheran University Board of Regents

3) *Education*

Luther Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Pastor, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1973

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

My faith has been formed by life in the church. That communal life has encouraged me to consider ordained ministry; named and shaped the gifts I bring; challenged and pushed me to hear other perspectives; forgiven and encouraged me when I have failed. Faith and community are intricately intertwined and connected and, for that reason, I am called to participate and contribute in our communal life as the ELCA. Along with serving in two very different congregations and contexts, I have worked alongside a mission developer as our congregation helped bring a new mission start to life (Salt House in Kirkland, Washington). I learned a great deal along the way and am eager to bring those insights to the larger work of the church. As a native of the Pacific Northwest, I also live and serve in a place where Christendom has long been dead (if it lived at all), and that perspective adds value. I'm grateful for this new chance to join in the work of the ELCA.

2. Church Council: Lay Female (*Restricted to Montana Synod, 1F*)

A. Ms. Mary M. Hutchinson

Montana Synod (1F)

1) *Congregational membership*

American Lutheran Church (ID: 13350) - Billings, MT

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

American Lutheran Church, Youth & Education representative -
Estimated date
American Lutheran Church, President - Estimated date
Montana Synod Council

3) *Education*

Montana State University, Bachelor Of Science Nursing

4) *Employment*

Director, Call Center, Billings Clinic

5) *Year of birth*

1959

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

During my recent journey in serving the church, my eyes have been opened to the level of God's work. God is good, but we need to continue strengthening the connections with the local congregations, synods and ELCA Churchwide.

I know God has a plan and often not very clear, so it is of the utmost importance to continue to trust and move forward. I believe we are at a crucial time within the church and need to understand how we can continue to evolve. People are so busy with families, extended families and careers that it is very important to learn & teach new ways to keep connected to the church. As a country, with all the turmoil it is a time that faith needs fostering. This can be done!

As a servant of God and a nurse, I am a very compassionate, dedicated, thoughtful and calm person willing to help. I am not afraid to ask questions and feel I can bring ideas and concerns from myself and others forward to help move into the future. I look forward to this opportunity.

B. Ms. Loni Taylor

Montana Synod (1F)

1) *Congregational membership*

Our Saviour Lutheran Church (ID: 04839) - Box Elder, MT

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

President for Church Council at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Rocky Boy, MT
Secretary for American Indian Alaska Native Lutheran
Association

3) *Education*

MSU Bozeman, No Degree Earned
Stone Child College, Associate Degree In The Sciences

4) *Employment*

Bank Reconciliation Clerk, Chippewa Cree Tribe

5) *Year of birth*

1979

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?*

Greetings! I am a Chippewa Cree Woman, I am born & raised on the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation. I was baptized at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. Ever since I was young I was taught to attend our Ceremonies and I was taken to the Lutheran Church. I can bring a perspective from a woman of color.

As I grew up and in my adulthood, I see so many similarities in my Traditional ways/ceremonies and the "White Church" I love sharing where I come from and showing the "connection" in Religion. (from my view)

I never saw myself as a "political person," for some reason I am led to be a member on several committees, I like to stay neutral and hear both sides of the story. I get along well with others. Respect is key.

Being on the AIANLA Board I have had great opportunity to meet many individuals from around the globe. Also to show visitors our home and church and culture. I will do my best if it is meant for me to be apart of this mission/service. Thank you.

3. Church Council: Lay Female (*Restricted to PC/L; Southwest California Synod, 2B*)

A. Ms. Carol L. Bjelland

Southwest California Synod (2B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Ascension Lutheran Church (ID: 14014) - Thousand Oaks, CA

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

Ascension Church Council - Council Member at Large (current term ends 2020)

Ascension Foundation Board of Trustees (Chair, Publicity & Education Committee)

Ascension Global Ministry Team Co-Chair (current term ends June 2019)

3) *Education*

Washington University - School of Law, Doctor Of Jurisprudence

Macalester College, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Corporate Counsel (various titles throughout years of service), Verizon Communications Inc. (and predecessor GTE)

5) *Year of birth*

1959

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

Talents from God and a 30+ year legal career have given me skills and experiences I have used in current service and would use in Church Council service. In 2 terms on Ascension's Council, I have drafted and revised policies and procedures, co-chaired our Sr. Pastor 360 review process, and actively participated in Council discussions and actions on long-term visioning, a capital campaign, pastoral call processes and major construction projects. In my years of Finance Committee service, I have been actively involved in annual budget and audit process. In leading Ascension's Global Ministries Team, there was focus on planning and leading effective meetings, inviting, involving and engaging others, including other ministry teams, and strengthening connections between the Ascension Community and the GMT. In being a voting member at SWCA Synod Assembly for the past 4 years, I have a better understanding of the scope of our Synod's work and opportunities to grow in faith and service.

B. Ms. Valerie J. Shaw

Southwest California Synod (2B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Community Lutheran Church (ID: 13866) - Los Angeles, CA

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

Synod Council, Southwest California Synod

3) *Education*

Columbia College Chicago, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Church Administrator, Community Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1955

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?*

Born and raised in Chicago, I grew up in a Missouri Synod Lutheran church and attended Lutheran elementary and high school. I have always felt the need to fight for fairness and the rights of others. In an all white Lutheran high school I formed a Black Student Union and convinced the school to honor MLK Day with a memorial service. As an employee of AT&T I fought for fair working conditions as a union rep, working my way up to Chief Steward. Now that I am retired, I have devoted my time to my church and rededicated myself to God. I completed the African Descent Deacon Program, and ELM (Equipping Leaders for Ministry). I have served on every board at my church-wherever God needs me-and have taught Sunday school, Bible study and preached during Sunday worship. The need to help others is still there. I organized my church to support the food pantry at a nearby college to help feed homeless college students and today I dropped off soup to a man living in his car. To God be the Glory!

4. Church Council: Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Restricted to Grand Canyon Synod, 2D*)

A. The Rev. Jason S. Adams
Grand Canyon Synod (2D)

1) *Congregational membership*
Reformation Lutheran Church (ID: 05206) - Las Vegas, NV

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
ELCA Youth Gathering Social Media Team
ELCA Youth Gathering Proclaim Community
New & Renewing Congregations (Grand Canyon Synod)

3) *Education*
Florida State University, Bachelor Of Arts
Wartburg Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity

4) *Employment*
Senior Pastor, Reformation Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*
1977

6) *Ethnicity*
White

7) *Primary Language*
English

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

I believe I have gifts for leadership, making connections, and evangelism. I'm a husband and a father of four, and being the church that supports all kinds of families in faith formation is a core value I hold dear. As God's Word calls us into mission together for the sake of the world, I believe we have something special to offer as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and look forward to seeing how this church body grows in the future.

As someone who came back to the church in my thirties after a long absence, I long to share a practical faith that connects with peoples lives in the twenty-first century. I try to answer the question, "So what?" and relate our stories to the story of God's love shown through the life and ministry of Jesus, and the grace given to each one through the cross. Humans are connected every day through social media, and our world is still in deep need of faith, hope, and love. I feel that God is calling me to use my gifts to connect congregations to

B. The Rev. Karn S. Carroll
Grand Canyon Synod (2D)

1) *Congregational membership*
Our Saviour Lutheran Church (ID: 04996) - Phoenix, AZ

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Chair of the Grand Canyon Synod Global Engagement Team
Guatemala Task Force
Metro DC Synod Council

3) *Education*
Luther Seminary, Doctor Of Ministry
Luther Seminary, Doctor Of Divinity
Wartburg College, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*
Pastor, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*
1972

6) *Ethnicity*
White

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 ordained for 20 years and have served in three synods: Metro D.C., Saint Paul Area, and Grand Canyon. My three calls have gifted me the privilege of experiencing the ELCA in different parts of the country and I deeply appreciate what is unique to each area and what we hold in common. I believe in working collaboratively and the importance of supporting the larger church. Through my involvement in companion synod relationships, I've gained a deep understanding and appreciation for the valuable work of ELCA World Hunger and ELCA Global Mission. I now feel God is calling me to get involved even further by serving on the Church Council.

I would bring with me all that I have learned about what it takes to make decisions, create policies, and deliberate procedures, while keeping the mission of Christ front and center. I am confident in my abilities in the areas of budgets, administration, constitution revisions, and human resources.

5. Church Council: Lay Male (*Restricted to Northeastern Minnesota Synod, 3E*)

A. Mr. Nathan C. Anderson

Northeastern Minnesota Synod (3E)

1) *Congregational membership*

Oak Lake Lutheran Church (ID: 03056) - Kerrick, MN

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

K R Conference Administrator
NEMNS Leadership Team
NEMNS Representative to Region 3

3) *Education*

Lutheran Bible Institute, Unknown
University of Minnesota, No Degree Earned
University of Minnesota Detroit Lakes, No Degree Earned

4) *Employment*

SAM, Oak Lake Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1953

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I can vividly remember God's call to serve and "Yes" which happened when I was quite young. I love Christ's church and I love this church as well as the predecessor bodies, Augustana and LCA, which I have tried to faithfully serve. Sometimes that call to minister and serve had best been done on a tractor, with a hoe, on a scaffold, with a hammer, in a Sunday school room or in a pulpit. It is all God's world filled with His creation that I serve.

Even though my ancestry and mind set is based in the rural, I had a marvelous 12 years serving in inner city Minneapolis. People in both settings are needy and gifted, insecure yet certain, reserved yet genuine. Our basic needs and dreams are so much the same. How then can we mutually care for each other.

I am a plain speaker, earthy, open with a touch of mysticism. We could see if these would be helpful.
Thank you.

B. Mr. Loren A. Solberg

Northeastern Minnesota Synod (3E)

1) *Congregational membership*

Bethel-Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 30189) - Bovey, MN

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

Delegate to ELCA Assembly in Indianapolis, ID
Delegate to ELCA Assembly in Orlando, FL
Bethel-Trinity Church Treasurer

3) *Education*

Bemidji State University, Bachelor Of Science
Bemidji State University, Master Of Science
Harvard University Kennedy School of Government, Master Of Public Administration

4) *Employment*

Owner of Consulting, Loren Solberg Consulting, LLC

5) *Year of birth*

1941

6) *Ethnicity*

White

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 the ELCA Council.

I had a dual career for many years as a public school teacher and as an elected Mayor or State Representative. My faith in God and my nurturing relationships with my Grace Based Faith community (ELCA) strengthened me in my professional positions to face challenges and controversy. As Chair of the Ways and Means Committee I learned that I could successfully bring together many ideas for spending.

It is a privilege to serve on the NEMN Synod Committee which meets with congregations who might call a GLBTQ pastor. It is vital to study and discerningly affect issues facing churches.

I am blessed to have a calm disposition, patience and the ability to remain focused on the facts and resolution. I will validate all participants who may have diverse opinions and will bring those skills to the ELCA Council.

I am confident that I will utilize my abilities and skills to productively serve on the ELCA Council.

6. Church Council: Lay Female (*Restricted to Central States Synod, 4B*)

A. Ms. Susan Boxberger

Central States Synod (4B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Advent Lutheran Church (ID: 07605) - Olathe, KS

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

Central States Synod Council
Central States Synod Assembly Representative
Advent Synod Council (President 1991-92)

3) *Education*

The University of Kansas, Educational Specialist
Fort Hays State University (KS), Master Of Arts In Education
University of Northern Iowa, Bachelor Of Arts In Ed.

4) *Employment*

School Psychologist, Spring Hill Public Schools

5) *Year of birth*

1958

6) *Ethnicity*

White

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 life-long Lutheran, and I feel called by God to be involved in his church. It's a way of giving back for all of the blessings I have received, both directly from God and through my involvement with many congregations throughout my life. I consider myself a lifelong learner, and I experience constant growth and deepening of faith through my involvement and participation, always coming away with new knowledge and perspective. I see the Churchwide Council as an extension of the Synod Council on which I currently serve, which is in turn an extension of the congregational council I previously worked on. Each is a "higher-altitude" view of the church, but with the same overall mission: to help accomplish the work of the church and to build the kingdom of God. My career in special education taught me to work with a variety of different people, ideas and values. I acted as a team leader and consensus-builder, always considering legal requirements and what was best and right.

B. Ms. Kristine A. Luber

Central States Synod (4B)

1) *Congregational membership*

First Lutheran Church (ID: 01638) - Topeka, KS

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

volunteer youth leader/congregation and synod director of ministry for persons with intellectual challenges
Lutheran Supplement editor/mission interpreter

3) *Education*

Concordia University Wisconsin, Associates Degree In The Arts
Concordia University Nebraska, Bachelor Of Arts In Ed.

4) *Employment*

Mobility and Outreach Specialist, Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority

5) *Year of birth*

1951

6) *Ethnicity*

White

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 live out my personal baptismal call, but I also know that being part of the larger church enables me as an individual Christian to minister more effectively. I am glad that I'm not alone in my faith or calling. In my lay ministry in my own congregation, I felt called to engage the youth in my care in larger works of learning, worship, and service – big projects that could only be accomplished when we worked together. I helped the youth embrace their Lutheran identity and its emphasis on grace and helped them realize that they were not alone – there are many other Lutherans out there!
I've been involved in ministries on the Synod and national levels, most notably working among persons with disabilities. I've developed a strong sense of comfortableness with and advocacy for persons whose spiritual gifts are often overlooked.
Working on Council will enable me to be in mission and service with others who, like me, are called to their own acts of mission and service.

7. Church Council: Minister of Word and Sacrament

(Restricted to Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, 4D)

A. The Rev. Nicholas Billardello III

Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod (4D)

1) *Congregational membership*

Abiding Grace Lutheran Chapel (ID: 30906) - NULL, NU

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

Abiding Grace Lutheran Church

3) *Education*

Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Oakland University, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Senior Pastor, Abiding Grace Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1979

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve the wider ELCA & believe that I'm uniquely qualified for this position because of my background, in & out of the church. Before seminary, I worked in the corporate world where I gained valuable experience that I have used in my ministry. Being a self-starter & motivated served me very well in the development of Abiding Grace in 2010. We successfully organized as a congregation in under a year; growing from 15 members to 435.

I feel that God is calling me to serve on the council because I have hope & vision for the future of our church, & experiences that have helped prepare me to implement change. Throughout our 8+ years as a congregation, I have led two capital campaigns & many smaller building projects. I have a track record of success & am business minded while being faith oriented. I believe that I can bring a fresh perspective to the ELCA Church Council & hope that my leadership skills will be a valuable asset to this community.

B. The Rev. Russell Vardell

Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod (4D)

1) *Congregational membership*

First United Lutheran Church (ID: 05927) - Dallas, TX

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

Parish Lay Mission Academy of NTNL
SELECT Learning
NTNL Synod Council

3) *Education*

University of Houston, Doctor Of Philosophy
Luther Seminary, Master Of Theology
Luther Seminary, Master Of Divinity

4) *Employment*

Pastor, First United Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1953

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

God's call to me has always been about mission, outreach and service in many diverse contexts. Coming from the South, confirmed through campus ministry, attending seminary in a Lutheran heartland, then returning home, I began as pastor in rural, small town and campus ministry communities, while pursuing a PhD, becoming able to combine roles of pastor and college teacher. After a Fulbright lectureship in Zimbabwe, I served a suburban mission, assisting in the move into its first building, followed by ministry in small city and urban churches, while increasing my familiarity with technology. Meanwhile, I taught in a historically black college helping prepare future leaders in the community and for the ELCA leading my synod's lay school, facilitating SELECT courses, hosting a German vicar for a year and now mentoring a TEEM candidate. I now offer the breadth of my gifts, experiences, and service to assist the ELCA with proposals and policies, relationships and resolutions for the future.

8. Church Council: Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Restricted to Southwestern Texas Synod, 4E*)

A. The Rev. Mark T. Behrendt

Southwestern Texas Synod (4E)

1) *Congregational membership*

Galilean Lutheran Church (ID: 16332) - Corpus Christi, TX

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

Southwestern Texas Synod Council
South Central Synod LYO Adult Leader
Grace Lutheran Church Monroe WI

3) *Education*

Luther Northwestern Seminary, Master Of Divinity
University of Wisconsin Green Bay, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Pastor, Galilean Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1960

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

Over the past few years the work of strategic planning and integration of the plan into the life of the congregation has been the most recent skill and experience I bring to this Churchwide position. I have held leadership roles within my current synod and inter-synod committees. I have been and continue to welcome and explore what it is to share other cultures in the life of the congregation. Before and now over the years in Word and Sacrament Ministry I have been privileged to work with people from other faith practices and religions. I will bring attentive listening to my work with others as I serve the larger church.

B. The Rev. Marcus A. Bigott

Southwestern Texas Synod (4E)

1) *Congregational membership*

Emanuel's Lutheran Church (ID: 14259) - Seguin, TX

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

ELCA Behavioral Interviewer
Cross Trails Ministry Board Member
Adjunct Faculty, Texas Lutheran University

3) *Education*

Texas Lutheran University, Bachelor Of Theology
Wartburg Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity

4) *Employment*

Senior Pastor, Emanuel's Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1986

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I have discerned with congregational leadership as to how they can continue in the ministry to which they feel called. I have planned in prayerful strategy with Synod leadership as to how the Spirit might be leading the local church to share the Gospel in new ways. In both of these capacities, I have been able to share my gifts of leadership, visioning, of experimentation and struggle for the sake of the Gospel. I have helped craft ministry plans, vision and mission statements, and set goals that have directly impacted financial well being, staff involvement, and community engagement. I have been given the chance to explore the gifts of others and their churches and use those gifts to form and shape non-profits and ecumenical partnerships. It is from this place of fascination and hope that I see God calling and using me to serve the Church in a new way via the ministry that is the Church Council; service by way of active involvement, a willingness to lead, and a voice that cares.

9. Church Council: Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Restricted to Northern Illinois Synod, 5B*)

A. The Rev. William H. Callister

Northern Illinois Synod (5B)

1) Congregational membership

St Paul Lutheran Church (ID: 10801) - Streator, IL

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Conference Dean - CSIS / Synod Council
Illinois State University Lutheran Campus Ministry Board
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center Board - Oregon, IL

3) Education

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Master Of Divinity
North Park College, Bachelor Of Arts

4) Employment

Pastor, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

5) Year of birth

1963

6) Ethnicity

White

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 felt that my call as a Minister of Word and Sacrament is a call to the work of the greater Church as much as it is to the congregations I serve. I feel that my past experiences on the boards of campus ministries and outdoor ministries, and having served as a conference dean and member of a synod council has prepared me to serve in this position.

It is my desire to see the ELCA thrive even in these challenging times. As an ELCA Council member I that having grown up in and attending a Lutheran congregation in Chicago and then serving all my ministry as a pastor in rural and small-town settings offers me a good perspective of all the varied environments where ministry goes on in the ELCA. I would also see this position as a new way for me to advocate for the ELCA and help us in our synod to be even more aware of all the ministry that is being done at the churchwide level on our behalf.

B. The Rev. Frank Langholf

Northern Illinois Synod (5B)

1) Congregational membership

Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 02042) - Galesburg, IL

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Synod Outreach Committee
Synod Spirituality Committee
Central/Southern IL Synod Outreach Committee

3) Education

Highland Community College, Freeport IL, Associate Degree
In The Sciences
Huntington College, Huntington IN, Bachelor Of Arts
Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Lombard IL, Master
Of Divinity

4) Employment

Senior Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church

5) Year of birth

1957

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

When asked if I would consider nomination as a member of the church council I said yes after a time of reflection. I believe that I am called to serve in this way at this time because we are in a time of great change in culture and church. I became a Lutheran because this tradition is centered on God's grace, love, revealed in Christ. This is the good news and this is our evangelical heritage. I believe that out of this center we can engage the changes around us and within us. I believe our focus is on God's work in the world, and how we participate in that work.

I bring the experiences of serving as an associate, solo, and senior pastor. I have served rural, small town, city congregations from family size to larger mid size congregations. My work in the communities I have served include participation ecumenical, interfaith, LGBTQI+ groups. I am a spiritual director and i bring a focus on spirituality. I believe my core skill is networking with others to find creative solutions.

10. Church Council: Lay Female (*Restricted to East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, 5I*)

A. Ms. Patricia Kluetz

East-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5I)

1) *Congregational membership*

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ID: 16104) - Plover, WI

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

Bishop's Advisory Council
Building Team—two major building additions/remodeling
Lay voting member, ELCA Churchwide Assembly

3) *Education*

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Master Of Science
University of Wisconsin-Stout, Bachelor Of Science

4) *Employment*

Professor, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

5) *Year of birth*

1957

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

Having been a professional interior designer and educator helped me to develop a listening and questioning mentality. We are trained to listen to the needs of our clients, develop a solution, and then evaluate whether the solution is working. This questioning and reevaluating quality could be valuable within the Church, especially within our top governing bodies. My twenty-eight-year career in higher education taught me a lot. I am familiar with the intricacies of large, multi-layered organizations, and I have navigated through tedious bureaucracies to accomplish goals—this has taught me patience. My career-long involvement with ASID—the largest professional organization representing interior design and designers—included appointments at both the state and national levels, which helped develop my ability to comprehend the “big picture” of large organizations and implement those initiatives at a regional level.

B. Ms. Hannah J. Schmit

East-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5I)

1) *Congregational membership*

Grace Lutheran Church (ID: 14575) - Tomahawk, WI

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

Lutheran Volunteer Corps
Ambassador for Augsburg Youth Theology Institute
Augsburg Youth Theology Institute Summer Mentor

3) *Education*

Augsburg College, Bachelor Of Arts
Luther Seminary

4) *Employment*

Family Reunification Coordinator, Lutheran Social Service

5) *Year of birth*

1995

6) *Ethnicity*

White

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 am being called to be a voice of critical listening and change. I studied Sociology and Religion in undergrad and am currently attending Luther Seminary for an MA in Justice and Reconciliation. In addition to this, I am in the Lutheran Volunteer Corps, where I work with refugee families. Some of my other experiences include teaching in a foreign country, researching human development in the Himalayas, leading youth in Theology Bible camps, and more. My academics and experiences have taught me to think critically and seek answers while striving for change and justice. Having grown up in a Lutheran Church, I see the immense potential for growth and change as the ELCA can begin to 'take up their cross' and seek justice in a torn and divided world. I also see that there is work yet to be done within the church. Serving on the board would help me bring my experiences, my passions for justice, and my voice as a young adult to foster meaningful change in the ELCA.

11. Church Council: Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Restricted to North/ West Lower Michigan Synod, 6B*)

A. The Rev. Joan E. Oleson

North/West Lower Michigan Synod (6B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Saron Lutheran Church (ID: 02843) - St Joseph, MI

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*

Pastor
Synod Council
Michigan Multi-Synodical Candidacy Committee

3) *Education*

Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Western Theological Seminary, No Degree Earned
Capital University, Bachelor Of Science

4) *Employment*

pastor, Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1954

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I think God is calling the ELCA into a season where we must honestly dwell in and struggle with difficult decisions. The Church Council must be willing to humbly and courageously make decisions that move us into the future that is concerned with Jesus' vision of transformation, peace, and justice, rather than remain the church of the past. My calling is to bring my years of experience as a parish pastor (both of a new start as the mission developer and a long-established congregation) that will speak to change for the sake of the Gospel without losing the strength of our heritage.

Actively working as a team with the rest of the people called to the table, is a strength which I bring with my years of working on various synod committees (synod council, candidacy, campus ministry board, witness/evangelism committee) and in positions of leadership (executive committee, chair, and secretary).

B. The Rev. Kjerstern L. Priddy

North/West Lower Michigan Synod (6B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 02827) - Battle Creek, MI

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*

Kalamazoo Conference Dean
Writer for ELCA World Hunger
Member of NWLM Synod New and Renewing Ministries Table

3) *Education*

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Master Of Divinity
Gonzaga University, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1983

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

My congregation houses Woman's Co-op, an organization explained to me like this, "Say I need a ride to work. And you do childcare. Then we meet Judy, who needs childcare. If Judy drives me and you watch her kids, then we all have what we need." I feel God calling me to serve on the ELCA Church Council so I can share what I've learned from Co-op and help congregations find their Judys, the piece that fills their need and with whom they can share their abundance. The ELCA says, "we are church together" and "we are church for the sake of the world." I get to see how our shared ministry changes lives and is changing the world. I bring a broad perspective on the church, having lived and served many places, from Washington, DC to suburban Los Angeles to Michigan. I also am a policy nerd who loves the nuts and bolts of what makes an institution run. I have skills in organizational management, fund development, and a little bit of property management. Most important, I know how to learn.

12. Church Council: Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Restricted to Northeastern Ohio Synod, 6E*)

A. Mr. David M. Lenz

Northeastern Ohio Synod (6E)

1) *Congregational membership*

Advent Lutheran Church (ID: 04502) - Mentor, OH

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

Northeastern Ohio Synod Council Secretary
Congregation President - Advent, Mentor
Service Outreach Team Chair

3) *Education*

Michael E. Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University, Doctor Of Jurisprudence
The Ohio State University (Economics), Bachelor Of Science
The Ohio State University (Political Science), Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Attorney, Partner, Schneider Smeltz Spieth Bell LLP

5) *Year of birth*

1981

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

If I am called to serve on the ELCA Church Council, I bring a range of leadership experiences and, as a parent of children ages 5 and 2, an urgent desire to see that the gospel is proclaimed to the next generation. My skills as an attorney who practices in areas of trusts, estates, and nonprofit organizations inform my insights on church council governance, but my passion in the church is encouraging living a life of service. I have led my congregation's Outreach team for 11 years, and as I value ecumenical partnership, I helped lead us to establish a joint food pantry with a local Episcopal congregation.

My service as a student leader during a key transition for the campus ministry at Ohio State, on a development task force for Ohio Lutheran Campus Ministry, and as Secretary of the Northeastern Ohio Synod have shown me the importance of the broader church supporting specialized ministries, how we sometimes fall short in those efforts, and a desire to step up to serve.

B. Mr. Chuck Mosberger

Northeastern Ohio Synod (6E)

1) *Congregational membership*

Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 04498) - Lakewood, OH

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

NEO Synod Executive Council
NEO Synod Council
Churchwide Assembly Voting Member

3) *Education*

Cleveland Institute of Art, Bachelor Of Fine Arts

4) *Employment*

President, DesignWyse Interiors, Inc.

5) *Year of birth*

1950

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

God gave me common sense, empathy and compassion. I am here to serve the church. An example occurred due to the recent government shutdown. My parish offers three monthly community meals and a food pantry. To help people and as an outreach opportunity, I wrote and distributed a press release to invite furloughed workers to receive free groceries and meals. ABC News broadcast our message and many families were served.

A number of our synod committees were under producing or inactive, I initiated a group to study and reconstitute. I interviewed the bishop, staff, clergy, laity, held focus groups, then refined the results. In October our council approved the Necessary to Function Tasks. I led the discussion to motivate each member to work on at least one committee; 15 council members committed.

Due to the U.S. immigration policy I wrote Synod Website Advocacy Information to explain to and encourage parishes to actively volunteer to help migrant families and donate to the ACLU or LIRS.

13. Church Council: Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Restricted to Upstate New York Synod, 7D*)

A. The Rev. Pamela J. Hoh

Upstate New York Synod (7D)

1) *Congregational membership*

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (ID: 07348) - Clifton Park, NY

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

Candidacy Team for Upstate New York Synod
Conflict and Healing Team for the Upstate New York Synod Team East

3) *Education*

New York University, Bachelor Of Arts
Hunter College, Master Of Science In Education
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Master Of Divinity

4) *Employment*

Transitional Pastor, St. John-St. Mark/Trinity Lutheran Churches

5) *Year of birth*

1956

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 feel I have several gifts that can support and facilitate the work of the wider church. The first is my previous experience working as church-wide staff and then as a parish pastor for the past five years--I bring an understanding of both worlds. I have always held a deep love for the work of the national church as it was through my experience with the wider church that I became a Lutheran, twenty-five plus years ago. I bring the gifts of discernment, deep listening and an ability to mediate conflict. I have been trained as both a spiritual director and coach and bring this skill set as well. I have also been a teacher (and am state certified) and bring the skills of a storyteller, writer and teacher to bear. But I think the greatest strength I bring is the love of learning and growing with others in faith community committed to faith in Jesus Christ and love of God.

B. The Rev. Dustin Wright

Upstate New York Synod (7D)

1) *Congregational membership*

Messiah Lutheran Church (ID: 07070) - Schenectady, NY

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

Camp Counselor/ Urban Day Camp Director/ Trainer at Calumet Lutheran Ministries
President at New York State Council of Churches
Vice Chair at Schenectady Community Ministries

3) *Education*

The George Washington University, Bachelor Of Arts
The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Master Of Divinity

4) *Employment*

Pastor, Messiah Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1986

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

At Messiah Church in lovely Schenectady, New York we are living out God's call to embody what a life-giving, justice-centered faith community looks like in the 21st century. Through focusing on social media, faith formation for all ages and community organizing we've almost doubled our worship attendance, begun not just welcoming but celebrating our rapidly growing population of LGBTQ+ young adults, helped guide two young adults towards rostered ministry, created the Bread of Life Food Pantry that will soon expand into a community center, will soon be certified as a Green Congregation and connected our faith in intersectional ways to issues like immigration, racism, sexism, climate change, hunger and more. We've worked in ecumenical and interfaith partnership with the New York State Council of Churches, the Poor Peoples' Campaign and Schenectady Clergy Against Hate. I'd like to use our experiences and learnings to help the wider ELCA reach new generations of folks on the Way of Christ.

14. Church Council: Minister of Word and Sacrament(*Restricted to Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, 8B*)

A. The Rev. Tara R. Lynn

Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod (8B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Grace @ Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church (ID: 06435) -
Butler, PA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*

Synod Finance Committee
Lutheran SeniorLife, Board of Directors
Butler Area Lutheran Ministries

3) *Education*

Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Master Of Divinity
University of Pittsburgh

4) *Employment*

Pastor, Grace @ Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1979

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

Over the past five years I have sensed a clarity of calling in mission and service to the wider church. I experience this call most strongly in the things I am compelled to do in faith, including this nomination for service on Church Council.

I have a natural curiosity and deep desire to stand in awe of what God is up to in our world. I have been compelled to engage in board level work for a variety of organizations, both faith-based and secular, and my multifaceted experience in this arena would be put to good use while serving on our Church Council. In board level service, I have specifically felt compelled to serve in the following capacities: strategic planning, leadership development, visioning and innovation, governance, resource development, moral ownership, conflict resolution, and education and training. On a synodical level, I have served on the Finance, Communications and Global Missions Committees. I have also assisted with synod level youth events.

B. The Rev. William A. Schaefer

Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod (8B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (ID: 06529) - Latrobe, PA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*

SWPA Synod Council and Executive Committee
SWPA Synod Council and Executive Committee
SWPA Synod Dean of Conference 4

3) *Education*

Pennsylvania State University, Bachelor Of Education
The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Master Of Divinity

4) *Employment*

Pastor, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1970

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I have felt called to serve the wider church for some time and when my bishop asked me to be a nominee for this office, it confirmed the sense of call that I was feeling. I see the ELCA doing wonderful things to include all God's children in the work and ministry that we are all called. We are an amazingly diverse church that continues to need leaders who are not afraid of growth and change, even when it is hard or uncomfortable. As we proclaim the Word of God and live out the grace of Christ through the Sacraments, we continue to reform ourselves as a church who must go and meet the needs of a world that hungers for the gift of Christ. I bring the joy of 19 years of ministry and the experience of being twice called to serve on both Synod Council and the Executive Committee. I bring the gifts of leadership, discernment, listening and humor to this calling. I actively look for the presence of Christ each day and find ways to bring Christ into the world through my words and deeds.

15. Church Council: Lay Male (*Restricted to Upper Susquehanna Synod, 8E*)

A. Mr. Christopher L. Minnich

Upper Susquehanna Synod (8E)

1) *Congregational membership*

Zion Lutheran Church (ID: 01431) - Sunbury, PA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*

Zion Lutheran Sunbury, PA, Council President, immediate past, several prior additional terms
Missional leadership, Upper Susquehanna Synod

3) *Education*

Temple University, Masters In Education
Mansfield University, Bachelor Of Music

4) *Employment*

System of Care Project Director, Director of Quality, BHARP

5) *Year of birth*

1965

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

God calls us to use our strengths and experiences with a plan. I have been blessed to have been placed in situations and opportunities for growth in my faith, mission, and vision through leadership roles in our local church and Synod. In many cases I have been struck by the leading of the Holy Spirit for which I am grateful. Allowing these experiences and sense of vision to be used at a national level would be an honor. My ongoing faith in the Holy Spirit would be a source of strength and guidance should I be chosen. My graduate education in organizational development has served me well in my various positions within my local church and Synod. For example, our church council used our devotional time to explore the notion of strengths-based leadership through the book, *Living Your Strengths*. My strength is in vision, implementation and engagement. I would share a sense and commitment to listening to the needs of the congregations in my work at the national level. Thank you.

B. Mr. Noah F. Roux

Upper Susquehanna Synod (8E)

1) *Congregational membership*

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (ID: 01290) - Turbotville, PA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*

Usher
Volunteer at Camp Mount Luther in various capacities
Member of Camp Mount Luther Marketing Committee

3) *Education*

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

4) *Employment*

Student Worker, Bloomsburg University

5) *Year of birth*

1998

6) *Ethnicity*

White

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 thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities that have been given to me by the Church. They have allowed me to grow personally and to experience that growth with others. The most rewarding faith experience I have ever participated in has been the Summer Ministry Team at Camp Mount Luther. Camp Mount Luther has strengthened my faith and given me an opportunity to share my faith with others, and most importantly with the campers. I have always wanted to do more, and I am grateful that this opportunity to be nominated has been given to me. I think that God calls people when we are least expecting it and I was certainly not expecting this opportunity. I would like to rise to the occasion to the best of my ability and use my God given talents to assist the ELCA in whatever capacity I can. I hope that I can combine the leadership skills I have learned through Scouts, the spiritual knowledge I have gained from camp and combine them to do the best job I can.

16. Church Council: Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Restricted to North Carolina Synod, 9B*)

A. The Rev. Timothy J. Brown

North Carolina Synod (9B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ID: 07686) - Raleigh, NC

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*

ELCA Coaching Board
NC Synod Coaching Advisory Council
Metro-Chicago Synod Disciplinary Team

3) *Education*

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Master Of Divinity
Valparaiso University, Master Of Arts In Education
Valparaiso University, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Senior Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1980

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

In my ten years of ministry, I've been surprised at how quickly things have shifted, both in the world, and in the landscape of the church. We are beginning Phyllis Tickle's predicted "great emergence" for our time, and navigating these waters will be an interesting challenge.

I look forward to helping the church plot a path forward through these waters. I bring to the table my insights as an early career pastor figuring out this new church landscape, and my recent work as a coach, helping other pastors and professionals do the same. I bring my calling as a theologian of scripture and the world, pointing to where God's call and our feet intersect.

I bring my conviction that we honor our ancient traditions and past while leaning into the future, and I believe that the more we embrace this new future God is calling us toward, the more solid our denomination will be.

We must rely on the promise that God continues to prepare a place for us, and for the ELCA, and walk forward.

B. The Rev. Emily K. Hartner

North Carolina Synod (9B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 04179) - Charlotte, NC

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*

Parish Pastor
NC Synod Council
WELCA Triennial Gathering Chaplain

3) *Education*

The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Master Of Sacred Theology
Yale Divinity School, Master Of Divinity
Davidson College, Bachelor Of Science

4) *Employment*

Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1981

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

It's been over 15 years ago now, but my most significant interaction with the churchwide expression of the ELCA constituted my year of service with the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program (Edinburgh, Scotland; 2003-04) and ELCA's emphasis on mission as accompaniment (literally, "eating together"). That experience and this understanding of mission has had great influence on my ministry in the local context and the local congregation.

I come to the table of Church Council with a gift and goal of accompaniment, in both a narrow and broad sense. I come to the table as a woman, as a younger woman, and as a younger clergywoman. I come to the table as a cradle Lutheran, as the daughter of a mother with a disability, as the mother of an adopted child, and as the pastor of a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

Perhaps most importantly, however, I come to the table as a child of God, claimed, called, nourished, and sent to accompany others to GOD'S table and to its great abundance.

17. Church Council: Lay Female (*Restricted to PC/L; financial expertise*)

A. Ms. Tracey A. Beasley

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)

1) *Congregational membership*

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation (ID: 00726) - Philadelphia, PA

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

Vice President Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
National Treasurer for African Descent Lutheran Association
Member of African Descent Strategy Team

3) *Education*

West Chester University, Master Of Business Administration
Mercy Gwynedd Mercy University, Bachelor Of Science

4) *Employment*

Supervisor of Accounting/Taxes/Audits, Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC

5) *Year of birth*

1969

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?*

With my 29 years of Financial expertise, the gifts and skills I bring are able to analyze, organize, summarize and articulate complex legal and financial information, able to handle multiple tasks, credibility, facilitator, the gift of proclaiming the Gospel, task and goal oriented, honest, reliable, consistent, Prayerful over all things, open and transparent. A responsible steward of the resources God has entrusted in me being Treasurer for two congregations and Treasurer for the African Descent Lutheran Association to expand and enhance the capacity to further God's mission. I am Servant of God, I love God and I love this church and I want to help this church and boards to be all "Inclusive" with the diversity I will provide. I believe the sense of God calling me into mission and service in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through this board would be best stated from Ephesians 4:12 "to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

B. Ms. Elaine H. Whitney

Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)

1) *Congregational membership*

St Francis Lutheran Church (ID: 13974) - San Francisco, CA

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

Vice President - Sierra Pacific Synod
Synod Council - Sierra Pacific Synod
Candidacy Committee - Sierra Pacific Synod

3) *Education*

San Francisco State University, Bachelor Of Arts
San Francisco State University, Educational Specialist
San Francisco State University, Master Of Arts In Education

4) *Employment*

Special Education Case Manager, Alameda County Office of Education

5) *Year of birth*

1961

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 feel called to mission and service in the Church to share the gifts that God has shared freely with me. I am Lutheran because Grace is the most important part of my life. I am an African-American educator and I am active in both Synodical and Congregation leadership. I believe that my perspective will add a diverse voice to the Church Council. I am prepared to work together with others to serve as the Board of Directors and engage in decision-making on behalf of the ELCA.

I have gifts in parliamentary procedure and meeting management, music, public speaking, instruction, administration, personnel, pastoral care, and property management. I have served as a synodical Vice President, synod Council member, Candidacy Committee member, Congregation President, Vice President, and Council member, teacher, site administrator, and central office administrator. The Church gives me hope that we can, as Church together, effect positive change in the world. It would be an honor to serve.

18. Church Council: Lay Female

A. Ms. Cubwa Divine Nebraska Synod (4A)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
First Lutheran Church (ID: 20174) - Omaha, NE
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*
Myle
Lyon Assembly
Youth Leadership Synod
- 3) *Education*
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bachelor Of Education
- 4) *Employment*
cashier, Hyvee
- 5) *Year of birth*
1999
- 6) *Ethnicity*
African American/Black Non-Hispanic
- 7) *Primary Language*
Not English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

Through my church I've been able to use my singing and drumming talents to move people to seek God. My goal is to continue using my talents in a career that motivates others and has the sole purpose of creating an atmosphere for youth to explore their faith. As a Lutheran, I have had many leadership opportunities; however, these opportunities were not simply handed to me. I sought them out by asking people if there was anything that I could do to help and raised my hand to volunteer when no else would. In my church I was offered an opportunity to be a leader by going at the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) Leadership summits, a youth leadership program that happens every fall. Here I talked to people about racism, sexism, and defining what gender really was. I also joined the Lutheran Youth Organization, LYO, as an organizer of the yearly Nebraska summit. This experience pushed me to make my own decisions and ideas. In 2018 I also hosted MYLE, pushing my leadership abilities.

B. Ms. Isabell Retamoza Pacifica Synod (2C)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
St Andrew Lutheran Church (ID: 13971) - San Diego, CA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*
St. Andrews Preschool Attendant
Confirmation Guide
- 3) *Education*
University of California, Santa Cruz, Bachelor Of Liberal Studies
- 4) *Employment*
Barista, Java Junction Coffee House
- 5) *Year of birth*
1996
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Latino/Latina
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I was raised in the church starting from a very young age. My father was attending Luther Seminary when I was young and is now the Senior Pastor for St. Andrews Lutheran Church in San Diego. Throughout my father's career I have learned by example that the church is established in a community to serve. The church opens its doors to broken people. My faith has felt affirmed in the moments in which I witness the church serving. God's grace reaches into us through our faith and pushes us to serve others. God's grace has given me the opportunities to learn what my gifts are so that I may serve. My gifts are that of leadership and creativity. I enjoy and find fulfillment in leading groups in creative problem solving and project organization. I hope that I can use these gifts to serve on the Church Council.

19. Church Council: Lay male (*Restricted to PC/L*)

A. Mr. Keoni R. Newman

Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)

1) *Congregational membership*

Spanaway Lutheran Church (ID: 13002) - Spanaway, WA

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

Connect Youth Group (PLU)

ALYVE Board (Associated Lutheran Youth in Various Endeavors)

Spanaway Lutheran Church Youth Committee

3) *Education*

Pierce College, Associates Degree In The Arts

University of Washington

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Bachelor Of Science In Business Admin

4) *Employment*

Site Supervisor, Pierce County Parks and Recreation

5) *Year of birth*

1999

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?*

My sense of God has always been the understanding that having a strong moral fiber stems from having an active and meaningful relationship with my church community. Because of this, I am an active member and leader in my church and I've made it my life's mission to be there and help those around me. Serving on this committee would allow me to bring the perspectives of young adult and ideas of a younger generation.

My faith in God has always served as a reminder to reach out help those in need. For example, when I saw the need for a Youth Group in my area as numbers and turnout in the local churches were low, I went out and gathered churches to create a youth group and established one at Pacific Lutheran University. I also spent 2 years with our local Lutheran Youth Organization. I believe that serving on this board and committee would allow me to continue my work; spreading the good will and positivity that I have found through my relationship with God.

B. Mr. LaMont Rouse

New Jersey Synod (7A)

1) *Congregational membership*

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 07477) - East Orange, NJ

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

Vice President of the Church Council

Church Council

3) *Education*

Walden University

Kean University

Kean University

4) *Employment*

Assistant Director of Assessment, The College of New Jersey

5) *Year of birth*

1969

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 been drawn to the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in East Orange, New Jersey. It is a small but vibrant church. Without a permanent pastor for 5 years, they continue to march forward, bringing light to the area with grace and faith. Holy Trinity has been serving East Orange for 125 years and I am in awe at the work that they've done. I continue to be focused on rebuilding membership while engaging current members. I truly believe Holy Trinity's best days are yet ahead. I can see the spirit of renewal, and I am dedicated to ensuring that I do my part. That same enthusiasm that I bring to my church is a passion I feel for the ELCA. I truly believe we can get our numbers moving in the right direction, and it is my hope that I can influence policy and direction to begin that turnaround. Our faith - the ELCA - is one that others need to hear. We just need to do a better job communicating it.

20. Church Council: Lay male (*Restricted: Attorney*)

A. Mr. Kevin D. Anderson

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

1) *Congregational membership*

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ID: 02662) - Gaithersburg, MD

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

Portico Benefit Services; Trustee, Secretary, Committee Chair
Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod; Secretary
Churchwide Committee on Appeals

3) *Education*

University of Michigan Law School, Doctor Of Jurisprudence
University of Wisconsin--Whitewater, Bachelor Of Business
Admin

4) *Employment*

Partner, National Tax Office, BDO USA, LLP

5) *Year of birth*

1953

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

Since 2003 when I began serving on our Synod Council and since 2007 when I attended my first CWA, I have felt called to ever-increasing levels of participation and responsibility in the church. I have found this service to be tremendously rewarding as I have been privileged to work with some of the most senior leaders in the church. I have more than 30 years of experience as both a lawyer and a certified public accountant, having devoted my career to the provision of advice and counsel to clients on complex tax matters. In that capacity I have developed strong analytical, writing, and oral communication skills, including the ability to convey complex concepts to clients and to train staff professionals and fellow partners. I also have obtained an appreciation for, and thorough understanding of, the church in all of its expressions, culminating in my recently concluded service as a trustee of Portico Benefit Services and my role as the Secretary of the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod.

B. Mr. C. Theodore (Ted) Miller

Indiana-Kentucky Synod (6C)

1) *Congregational membership*

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (ID: 07696) - Lakeside Park, KY

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

Vice-President, Indiana-Kentucky Synod
Gloria Dei Church Council (two terms)(first from 1996-98)
Secretary, Indiana-Kentucky Synod

3) *Education*

College of William & Mary, Bachelor Of Arts
Marshall-Wythe School of Law, William & Mary, Doctor Of
Jurisprudence

4) *Employment*

Central Staff Counsel, Supreme Court of Kentucky

5) *Year of birth*

1953

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

Having grown up in an ELCA Pastor's family and then being involved in campus ministry including as a graduate assistant, I have been blessed to be part of this church all my life. In my 40 years as a lawyer, all but the first two in appellate court staffs making recommendations on all areas of state law, I have been privileged to use the law not only in my vocation but also in various calls to service in four years as a congregation president before nearly two decades as a synod officer. I also have had the rare privilege of attending all of the past eight CWAs (seven as a voting member) as well as multiple meetings of the ELCA Attorneys Assn. and all Synod V.P. Gatherings since 2013. Given these many opportunities to be part of the great cloud of witnesses at work in the ELCA, I would count it a great privilege if called also to serve on the Church Council and thus to follow in inspiring footsteps including those of my former pastor Vicki Garber and my Bishop Bill Gafkjen.

21. Church Council: Lay Person (*Restricted: Financial expertise*)

A. Mr. Ulysses Bell

North Carolina Synod (9B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Christ the King Lutheran Church (ID: 04096) - Cary, NC

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

Christ the King - Church Council, Stewardship Committee, Appeals Team
NC Lutheran Synod - Stewardship Table, Life Line Fund Steering Committee
Lenoir Rhyne Univ Board of Trustees; ELCA Board of Pensions

3) *Education*

North Carolina Central University - School of Law, Doctor Of Jurisprudence
Columbia University - Teachers College, Master Of Arts In Education
Elizabeth City State University, Bachelor Of Science In Business Admin

4) *Employment*

President & Senior Consultant, The Bell Group, Inc./TBG-NC Fundraising Concepts, 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?*

My early memory is of my grandmother telling me that I would be a "preacher." God blessed me with educational opportunities and work experiences to help eliminate poverty and improve financial literacy in domestic and international emerging communities. My expertise in leadership training, stewardship designs, strategic planning, fundraising campaigns, endowment building and organizational capacity building has been shared with numerous individuals and organizations in improving lives in rural and urban communities. I embraced these gifts and experiences as ways to do God's work with my heart and hands in extending services to others as others extended services to me. I am not a "preacher" as grandmother predicted; however, I do embrace my professional expertise and services as a form of personal ministry to help strengthen faith-based organizations.

B. Ms. Cherrish Holland

Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F)

1) *Congregational membership*

Peace Lutheran Church (ID: 12169) - New London, MN

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

Peace Lutheran Church Council (served as Chair of council, Vice chair and treasurer)
Resourceful Servants leadership team
Southwest Minnesota Synod- Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders leadership /implimentation te

3) *Education*

Gustavus Adolphus College, Bachelor In Social Work

4) *Employment*

Program Director, Partnerships and Financial Education, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

5) *Year of birth*

1971

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

Most of my youth was spent in Nebraska where my Dad, Larry Arganbright served as lead Pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church in Elkhorn, Nebraska for many years. My father's calling into ministry was a blessing to our family and we loved our life of faith surrounded by strong relationships in our church community.
At the age of 25 I started working for Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota as a Financial Counselor. Almost 23 years later—I am still at LSS and understand that I am living out my vocational calling through my work in the Financial Counseling program.
My job has allowed me time to work both on a synod level and also on a national level around Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders. Both the Southwest Synod of Minnesota and the Resourceful Servants program on the national level are working to assist Pastors to normalize conversations about personal finance and increase financial literacy.

22. Church Council: Lay Female (*Restricted to Youth; 3-year term*)

A. Ms. Abby G. Potoker

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

1) *Congregational membership*

Lord of Life Lutheran Church (ID: 10359) - Fairfax, VA

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

Youth Group
Student Leadership Program

3) *Education*

Robinson Secondary School

4) *Employment*

Head Guard and End of Season Manager, Crystal Aquatics

5) *Year of birth*

2001

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

Summer 2017, I participated in a mission trip to Knoxville, TN. Throughout the week, I was a group leader and led my work team in completing the painting of two houses, rebuilding an outside deck, and repairing a playground for children. Through this experience, I had the opportunity to serve God and the community of Knoxville. I was called by God to be apart of a greater community and help make the lives of the less fortunate better.

When preparing for this mission trip, I organized and led a fundraiser for my home congregation, Lord of Life in Fairfax, VA, to help with travel, work equipment, and other necessities for the trip. I led the Youth Group in raising \$5000 dollars towards the mission trip. Once the trip was complete, I felt as if I had used my God-given gifts of leadership and service to make an impact that can be felt by more people than just those in my community. This experience inspired me to become a more involved member in my church congregation and the ELCA.

B. Ms. Merritt G. Zesinger

Southeastern Synod (9D)

1) *Congregational membership*

Messiah Lutheran Church (ID: 30022) - Madison, AL

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

National Youth Gathering, Houston TX, July 2018
Children's Church Leader
Lector

3) *Education*

James Clemens High School Madison, AL

4) *Employment*

Student, James Clemens High School

5) *Year of birth*

2003

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

God's people, reaching out, is the mission statement at Messiah Lutheran Church in Madison, AL. I have therefore grown up surrounded by people who encourage me to seek to serve God and others in our community and beyond. Through involvement in our own congregation, the SE Synod, and the community, my parents and grandparents have modeled the importance of service throughout my childhood, teaching me that simply attending service on Sundays isn't the only way to live a faithful life.

As I get older, I have become more involved in the church by doing things such as leading Children's Church, lectoring, involvement in youth group, and intensive study of our faith in our pastor's rigorous confirmation class. Being a Lutheran in the south is sometimes isolating, but going to the National Youth Gathering last summer was eye-opening, seeing so many Lutheran youth gathered to worship and to grow in their faith. I see this position as an important way to serve God and others.

23. Church Council: Lay Male (*Restricted to Youth; 3-year term*)

A. Mr. Ismael E. Castillo-Danforth

Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod (4F)

1) *Congregational membership*

Living Word Lutheran Church (ID: 07487) - Katy, TX

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

Gulf Coast Synod ELCA Synod Council Youth Member
Sunday School Teacher
National Youth Gathering

3) *Education*

Travis High School, No Degree Earned

4) *Employment*

Student, Student

5) *Year of birth*

2002

6) *Ethnicity*

Latino/Latina

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I believe it should be a goal of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to support and encourage a more diverse and open minded community of Lutherans. My own life and personal experiences have played a tremendous role in forming my opinions about this. I am a 16 year old hispanic male living in Texas who was adopted by a loving, faithful and Lutheran family. My fathers, a gay couple of 20 years, are actively involved in our church and have nurtured my passion for Christ and a deep desire to use my own experiences to create a more welcoming, inclusive faith community.

This past year I had the privilege of representing the TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod at the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit. I have also served as the youth representative on our Synod council.

It is important that we as a church body enable youth to become more involved. It is essential to the future of our church that young leaders are welcomed and encouraged to live out their faith actively.

B. Mr. Mitchell J. Fuller

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

1) *Congregational membership*

Lord of Life Lutheran Church (ID: 10359) - Fairfax, VA

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

Mission Trip, Knoxville, TN
Mission Trip, Columbus, OH
Youth Gathering Service Work, Houston, TX

3) *Education*

Robinson Secondary School, No Degree Earned

4) *Employment*

Crew Member, Tracy Sites

5) *Year of birth*

2002

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

A little over a year and a half ago I went to my congregations regular Sunday youth group to hang out enjoy some time with my friends that went as well. While I was there, one of my peers recommended me to join them on the mission trip that upcoming summer, and I said yes. Ever since that first mission trip to Knoxville Tennessee, God has presented himself to me in a way that I have never felt before. The love that was shown to me from my peers, god, and the people that I served was incredible and I will never forget or ignore that feeling that occurred to me that trip.

Since then I have acquired many skills through many service activities that I have participated in. One of my best skills is the ability to communicate and cooperate with all kinds of people, I feel very comfortable being put in a situation where I am talking to new people. I also personally feel I have grown as a leader since then, and these kinds of skills help me a lot when working in a service environment.

24. Mission Investment Fund: Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Restricted to PC/L*) [*Incumbent*]

A. The Rev. John E. Mack Jr.

New Jersey Synod (7A)

1) Congregational membership

Redeemer Lutheran Church (ID: 03624) - Jersey City, NJ

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities

Mission Investment Fund Board
NJ Synod Council Member
Camp Cross Roads Retreat Center Board

3) Education

Upsala College, No Degree Earned
Wagner College, Bachelor Of Arts
United Lutheran Seminary, Master Of Divinity

4) Employment

Pastor, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

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?

St. Paul speaks of the church being the "body of Christ with many members." We are all gifted with various skills and abilities. While having been trained in the area of parish ministry, serving on the board of the Mission Investment Fund has allowed me to discover other personal untapped gifts and skills. During my time on the board I have learned [and still continue to learn] the "inner workings" of this valuable financial ministry of the ELCA.

As already stated, I don't have a financial background but I have learned quite a bit during my time serving as a board member of the Mission Investment Fund. I have also served Lutheran congregations that have been recipients of funding from the Mission Investment Fund. Serving on the Mission Investment Fund Board is not just about looking at financial budgets and numbers. It's an invitation to be co-laborers with Christ towards making ministry happen!

25. Mission Investment Fund: Minister of Word and Sacrament

A. The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

1) *Congregational membership*

St Luke's Lutheran Church (ID: 01881) - Park Ridge, IL

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

Northwest Washington Synod Planning Group
Region One Governing Council
Evangelical Outreach and Cong. Mission Advisory Council

3) *Education*

Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor Of Arts
Christ Seminary - SEMINEX, Master Of Divinity

4) *Employment*

Secretary, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

5) *Year of birth*

1949

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I began my ministry as a mission developer. The Mission Investment Fund is very involved in the support of new mission congregations and congregations under development. I served Northlake Lutheran Church in Kenmore, WA. As we did a remodel and expansion project, MIF was a valued partner. I have served as the Presiding Bishop's advisor to the MIF board for the past two years.

I know the polity of the ELCA and the importance the separately incorporated ministries to the work of the whole church. I bring knowledge of the church's structure to the MIF Board of Trustees.

26. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Female [*Incumbent*]

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

ELCA Church Council
Lutheran World Federation
Augustana Lutheran Church - Congregation Council

3) Education

Georgetown Univ. Law Center, Doctor Of Jurisprudence
University of Minnesota Law School, Doctor Of Jurisprudence
Valparaiso University, Bachelor Of Arts

4) Employment

Executive Manager, NLCS - Impact1890

5) Year of birth

1950

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

Since 1978, I have been involved in some fashion with the ELCA or a predecessor church body as an officer of The American Lutheran Church, a member of the Commission for a New Lutheran Church, a member of one of the boards or committees of the ELCA or now on MIF. I have long believed that each of us, as we may be called by God, has a responsibility to use the gifts God has given us for good. As a lawyer, an administrator, and now as the Executive Manager (Director) of a philanthropic organization, I have had a wide variety of experience that well serves membership on the MIF Board. While Deputy General Counsel at Georgetown, I worked with the University investment managers, the CFO/Finance Office and Information Technology -- all of which are integrally important to the working of MIF. I also have knowledge of the operation of not-for-profit organizations, particularly those that are church-related. Service on the MIF has been meaningful to me and I hope that I have been a help.

27. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Female [*Incumbent*]

A. Ms. Heather Miller

Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D)

1) Congregational membership

Faith Lutheran Church (ID: 16053) - Clive, IA

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Southeastern Iowa Synod - Vice President

Faith Lutheran Church - congregational president

Faith Lutheran Church - stewardship committee

3) Education

St. Olaf College, Bachelor Of Science In Business Admin

4) Employment

CEO, Freedom Financial Bank

5) Year of birth

1975

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

Rarely do my spiritual and professional lives have the opportunity to intersect. My professional life in banking allows me to actively participate in making a difference in people's lives and businesses. However, the most rewarding experiences have been working with area churches to structure financial packages to help serve their needs and grow their ministries. Witnessing this fine line between the practical realities of church finance with the inspiration of the holy spirit comes with its challenges, but also great rewards. This is the motivation for me to put my name forth as a candidate for the Board of Trustees of the Mission Investment Fund. Finding ways to utilize my professional skill set to further the work of God and the ELCA would be the most rewarding experience of all and an honor.

28. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Female [*Incumbent*]

A. Ms. Susan Troutman

South Carolina Synod (9C)

1) Congregational membership

Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 05656) - Greenville, SC

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Board of Trustees - Treasurer

(current)

Invitation to Service Committee SC Synod

Committees at Trinity Lutheran Church (Worship Comm chair currently)

3) Education

Presbyterian College, Bachelor Of Science In Business Admin

4) Employment

Director of Development, Lutheran Homes of SC Foundation

5) Year of birth

1961

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

The MIF plays an important part in the ministry, mission and service of not only the ELCA but also the many ministries, congregations and individuals that are touched by the church. My experience and skills learned on various Boards along with my executive leadership with NovusWay Ministries for 16 years has prepared me for this role on the MIF Board. These many and varied connections help me to be an advocate for the MIF when out in the constituency.

After my last term on the Board, I feel called to continuing this service to help orient and educate the new members as they become the new leaders into the next century. Additionally my financial background, accounting degree and CFO experience help me to be able to interpret and vision needs for the organization into the future.

29. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Female (PC/L)

A. Ms. Nicole Hudson

Metropolitan New York Synod (7C)

1) Congregational membership

The Church of the Holy Redeemer (ID: 03861) - Brooklyn, NY

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Worship Steward Leader & Minister of Culture
African Descent Strategic Team Steward
African Descent Lutheran Association national Vice President

3) Education

Brooklyn College, Master Of Arts
Brooklyn College, Bachelor Of Arts

4) Employment

Assistant Vice President, LS Global Advisory Group, Inc.

5) Year of birth

1970

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?

As a steward that is always seeking God and the ways in which God wants me to serve, being able to tap into my more than 20 years of financial service experience to assist the Mission Investment Fund Board in its goal of helping build the larger church is one of many ways I feel blessed to undertake.

My sense is that my passion to help others, as well as my experiences within market research, understanding of financial instruments, global markets and the effects of global economies on investments are some expertise skill sets that can be necessary in aiding the MIF Board in whatever the Board may require.

I also believe that listening and being engaged are crucial parts of being called to whatever position God has for me or anyone. Whatever God has me to do, my body is his to direct.

Looking forward to hearing from the selection committee.

30. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Male *[Incumbent]*

A. Mr. Michael F. Fallon Jr
New Jersey Synod (7A)

1) Congregational membership

Lutheran Church of Our Savior (ID: 03751) - Haddonfield, NJ

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

MIF Board of Trustees
Memorial Gifts Board LCOS Haddonfield Nj
VP Church Council LCOS Haddonfield NJ

3) Education

Villanova University, Bachelor Of Science In Business Admin
Tuck School of Business, Certificate
Harvard Business School, Certificate

4) Employment

CFO, Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

5) Year of birth

1960

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

Providing financial services to churches in a manner that strengthens the whole Church is an important ministry in a time when institutions. My perspective as a financial leader for 28 years in a very similar church organization would be unique and helpful to the ELCA both in financial and governance matters. In my financial leadership role with the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), I have the opportunity to deal with many of the same issues impacting the ELCA and MIF such as investment management, increasing costs, an aging population, changing church demographics, increasing compliance responsibilities and expense management. I have a deep respect for the sacrifices church staff leaders have made to serve the Church and the importance of supportive leadership in freeing them to concentrate on their ministry.

31. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Male *[Incumbent]*

A. Mr. Mark E. Fiebrink

Florida-Bahamas Synod (9E)

1) Congregational membership

Emmanuel Lutheran Church (ID: 01762) - Naples, FL

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Mission Investment Fund Board of Trustees
Serving Others Ministry Team, Emmanuel Lutheran
Several ELCA Congregation Church Councils

3) Education

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater, Bachelor Of Arts

4) Employment

Last Position: President, Wausau Insurance, Liberty Mutual
Insurance

5) Year of birth

1951

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

I am excited about combining my Christian faith, my actuarial and financial background and my management and board experience in the insurance industry to serve on the Mission Investment Fund Board. I believe God has called me to combine my faith and financial expertise to work as a member of the Mission Investment Fund Board. This role is a great fit for me because faith and finance is at the core of the Mission Investment Fund. I care deeply about serving others with integrity and conducting business with full transparency and accountability.

I believe I am also called to worship the Lord and serve others. I am currently doing this in Naples, FL as a member of the Serving Others Ministry Team at Emmanuel Lutheran Church and as a math tutor and Church Council member of Grace Place in Naples, with the mission to provide pathways out of poverty for children and families through education.

32. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Male *[Incumbent]*

A. Mr. Paul Opgrande

Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)

1) Congregational membership

Mount Cross Lutheran Church (ID: 04916) - University Place,
WA

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Mission Investment Fund Board of Trustees
SW Washington Synod, ELCA. Vice President
Mt Cross Lutheran Church Council President

3) Education

Concordia College, Moorhead, Mn, Bachelor Of Arts
City University, Seattle, Wa, Master Of Business
Administration

4) Employment

President/CEO, Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Community

5) Year of birth

1947

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

During my working career as the CEO of one of our church's social ministry organizations, I had the opportunity to become familiar with The Mission Investment Fund. Once I learned about the impact that the MIF had in the life of the ELCA, it was an easy decision for our organization to become investors.

Three years ago, I had the opportunity to become a member of the Board of Trustees of the MIF and serve on its Executive Committee. That has given me the opportunity to see first hand, how the MIF works and the impact it has on strengthening the mission and ministry of the ELCA.

All of us are called by God to serve in a variety of ways to strengthen the work of our church. I have been most fortunate to use my business and planning skills in directing the work of one of our social ministry organizations. It is my hope to continue using those skills to advance and support the work of the Mission Investment Fund in the future.

33. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Male (PC/L) [Incumbent]

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

Mission Investment Fund Board of Trustees
Southwest California Synod Council/Exec Committee
Congregational President- numerous years

3) Education

Wayne State University, Bachelor Of Business Admin
Wayne State University, Master Of Business Administration

4) Employment

Director of Winner's Circle, Front Porch

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 service so far on the MIF board has been among the most meaningful experiences of my life, allowing me to utilize my banking and lending background to further the mission of the ELCA and spreading God's Word. I am currently Vice Chair of the MIF board and have been blessed to interact with the MIF board and senior management in continuing to grow by successfully finding ways for MIF to strengthen the mission of ELCA congregations, synods and social service organizations as well as the missions of our communion partner denominations. It would be an honor and continued blessing to be a part of expanding the services provided by MIF to God's people in spreading the word of our Lord Jesus Christ.

34. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Minister of Word and Sacrament [*Plan Participant*]

A. The Rev. Thomas P. Schlotterback

Montana Synod (1F)

1) Congregational membership

King of Glory Lutheran Church (ID: 16293) - Billings, MT

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Big Sky Economic Development Board
Alzheimers Association and Relay for Life volunteer
Family Promise Board - Ministry/Sheltering of the Homeless

3) Education

Concordia College, Biology, Bachelor Of Arts
Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary, Master Of
Divinity
Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Transformational Leadership

4) Employment

Vice President of Mission Advancement, St. John's Lutheran
Ministries

5) Year of birth

1959

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

1. The historical saga of Lutheran concern for rostered church leaders, other church workers and their dependents has been and remains a personal interest of mine. I value the mission of Portico and desire to offer what I am able to advance the mission. I would dedicate the best of my presence, skills and energy to serve well.

2. I am seasoned and wise in sound governance practice. My Board experience includes higher education, social ministry and community leadership.

3. I have high capacity for critical thinking, collaboration and leadership strategy.

4. I have a studied and experienced understanding of the ecclesiology structure of the ELCA.

5. I am an engaged learner.

The particular perspectives that I would contribute include: ELCA clergy and congregation, Portico member/participate, Social Ministry Organization, Higher Education and Foundation Director, inclusive of oversight and decision making related to wealth management and philanthropic growth.

35. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Female [Incumbent, Plan Participant]

A. Sr. Elizabeth-Ann (Becky) I. Swanson

La Crosse Area Synod (5L)

1) Congregational membership

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church (ID: 14683) - Holmen, WI

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities

Portico board of trustees

LaCrosse Area Synod Church in Society committee

Minneapolis Area Synod bridgebuilders and systems workshop

3) Education

Augsburg College, Bachelor Of Arts

Luther Seminary, Master Of Sacred Music

4) Employment

Interim Pastor, Halfway Creek Lutheran Church

5) Year of birth

1961

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

I served bi-vocationally for over 25 years in the areas of worship & music and in corporate leadership and development. I am now serving as synodically authorized minister as an interim. I served on boards of directors for small, secular non-profits as well as on the board for the Deaconess Community ELCA. My corporate experience has influenced my leadership ability in the church and my faith life and work in the church has influenced my leadership in the secular corporate sphere. I am responsible and conscientious about commitments I make. While I'm not a finance "wonk" I know enough to take fiscal responsibility along with the rest of the board. I will ask good, and sometimes hard questions aimed at making sure decisions align with values and goals and are carried out in ways that reflect those values and ethics.

36. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Female [Incumbent]

A. Ms. Angela M. Dejene

Southwestern Texas Synod (4E)

1) Congregational membership

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (ID: 07485) - West Lake Hills, TX

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Lutheran Youth Organization Board - NW MN Synod

3) Education

Augustana University, Bachelor Of Arts

4) Employment

President, Dejene Communications

5) Year of birth

1986

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

I am eager to contribute my gifts, passion and time to help elevate Portico as a meaningful thought leader in the health and benefits industry, committed to strengthening communities and helping individuals and families live well for life.

Throughout my career, I have communicated on a broad spectrum of health issues including the ACA, CHIP, Medicaid, Medicare, health system transformation, health equity, public health and emerging infectious diseases.

I have delivered trusted communications counsel to a variety of change-leaders and industries. Whether the challenge has been to protect and restore corporate reputation in a crisis, prepare and complete an acquisition, manage a U.S. thought leadership tour, ignite support for comprehensive health reform, reduce violence against girls and women, or protect the health of underserved communities, I have navigated these complex scenarios with communications solutions that align with the strategic objectives of the enterprise.

37. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Female [*Incumbent; Plan Participant*]

A. Ms. Helen Doerpinghaus

South Carolina Synod (9C)

1) Congregational membership

Living Springs Lutheran Church (ID: 07829) - Columbia, SC

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Justice Ministry Team Leader
ELCA National Task Force for the Social Statement on Health and Health Care
Church Council member, Incarnation Lutheran Church

3) Education

Malcaester College, B.A., English and History, Bachelor Of Arts
The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, Master Of Arts In Management
The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, Doctor Of Philosophy

4) Employment

Distinguished Professor Emerita and Deputy Provost Emerita,
Adjunct Professor of Finance, University of South Carolina

5) Year of birth

1953

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

Over the past 30+ years, I have been professionally engaged in the fields of risk management, insurance and employee benefits. My graduate work at Wharton focused on insurance and my dissertation was on health care cost containment. As a Finance and Insurance Professor, I have taught basic risk management, insurance and employee benefits courses at the undergraduate and graduate level. My research has focused on insurance policy and economics. I believe that with my educational background and professional expertise I would be able to make a contribution to Board discussions. I also have administrative experience as a dean, vice and deputy provost with some experience serving on other boards. As a member of the Board, my perspective would be shaped by my professional knowledge of insurance fundamentals and markets; understanding of consequences of public policy decision making; and familiarity with national demographics and projections for the coming decades.

38. 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

Vice President, North Carolina Synod
Chair, North Carolina African Descent Strategy Team
Congregation President

3) Education

Hampton University, Bachelor Of Arts

4) Employment

Director of Data Administration, University of North Carolina

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?

A strong commitment 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 continue to lead me into exciting areas. I currently serve as Vice President of the North Carolina Synod, on synodical committees and love working in my small home congregation. Processing details and using specifics to identify requirements, limitations and general scope of projects have always been helpful when working on committees, both related to the church and in my professional life. 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.

39. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Female *[Incumbent]*

A. Ms. Lori A. Lewis

Southeastern Minnesota Synod (31)

1) Congregational membership

Mount Olive Lutheran Church (ID: 02936) - Rochester, MN

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Endowment Committee
Church Council President
Chair of Mutual Ministry

3) Education

Winona State, Bachelor Of Science
Winona State University, Master Of Business Administration

4) Employment

Management Consultant, Kirkland-Jones

5) Year of birth

1959

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

In my work as a Management Consultant, I frequently interact with Executive Teams and Boards of Directors from a wide array of corporations, including healthcare. My work includes guidance in maximizing the performance of an organization, using measures to evaluate performance and identify improvement opportunities, developing solutions to policy and process issues faced by the organization and looking at what is needed to remain competitive in the marketplace. Many times this requires the analysis of data and information.

People have a wide array of gifts and talents that they can use to do God's work. My gifts do not enable me to build, sew, craft or do many of the things that others can do. However, I have always had an affinity for business. I tend to be a systems thinker, looking at the larger picture to understand organizations and their challenges. I enjoy working with others to resolve complex issues by finding a solution that best fits the needs of all stakeholders.

40. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Female *[Incumbent]*

A. Ms. Jennifer L. McGinnis

Indiana-Kentucky Synod (6C)

1) Congregational membership

Come2go Ministries, Inc (ID: 30580) - Fort Wayne, IN

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Come2Go Ministries - Board member

Lutheran Social Services of Indiana - Board intern

3) Education

Ferris State University - BS Applied Mathematics, Bachelor
Of Science

University of Iowa - MS Actuarial Science, Master Of Science

4) Employment

Senior Vice President & In Force Portfolio Manager, Swiss Re

5) Year of birth

1982

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

I hope to contribute to the work of the organization by leveraging my experiences related to actuarial work (including risk management, contingency modeling and contract negotiation and management), board service, strategic planning, governance and project mgmt. I have a bias toward collaboration and consensus, which I hope will be useful not only in interacting with other Board members and staff, but also in considering the needs and concerns of benefits recipients. I appreciate that there are situations in which difficult decisions need to be made and, through such experiences, have gained an increased appreciation for good communication. I anticipate that my work as an actuary focused on life insurance risks will bring a different perspective to issues pertaining to the variety of benefits offered. Having served on boards overseeing both local and international organizations, I believe I bring an understanding of how differently boards can operate.

41. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Male (PC/L)

A. Mr. Steven R. Brown

Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F)

1) Congregational membership

Zion Lutheran Church (ID: 02687) - Baltimore, MD

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Church Council Vice-President

Church Council Member

Assisting Minister

3) Education

U of Md School of Law, Unknown

University of Md. Balt.. Co., Bachelor Of Arts

4) Employment

Assistant Attorney General, Maryland Attorney General

5) Year of birth

1957

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 only recently learned of Portico and the services that it provides to the employees of the ELCA. I would hope that I can broaden my connections within the ELCA through my work with Portico. In that way, perhaps I can help with the charitable work of the ELCA, in ecclesiastical matters and in other ways as well.

My professional experience of more than 34 years is as a real estate attorney. I tend to work better with concepts than with numbers. In spite of my admitted shortcomings with higher forms of mathematics, I believe that I can grasp the workings of Portico and bring rational and unbiased thinking to the Board. Hopefully this is what is being sought and I will be deemed capable of service on this honorable Board.

42. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Male (PC/L)

A. Mr. Vincent P. Brown

Pacifica Synod (2C)

1) Congregational membership

St John's Lutheran Church (ID: 05183) - El Cajon, CA

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Lector--St. John's Lutheran Church, Sacramento CA.
Budget Sub Committee--not sure of dates/SJ, Sacramento CA.
Trust Fund Committee--SJ, Sacramento, CA.

3) Education

State University of New York At Albany, Master Of Public Administration
LeMoyne College (Note Bachelor of Political Science), Bachelor Of Science

4) Employment

Special Consultant, California State Treasurer

5) Year of birth

1952

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?

The Mission of the PORTICO Board "...is to provide retirement, health, and related benefits and services to enhance the well-being of those who serve through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America..." I'm certain i can add value to the PORTICO Board given my experience, skills, and education during my forty plus years of work. As i move toward retirement this July, my sense of God calling me is to give back my time and experience to St. John's Lutheran Church (SJ), and now this unique opportunity to serve on the PORTICO Board. My wife Ann Boynton and I have been members of SJ for about 23 years and active in the Church.ST. JOHN'S SEARCH WRONG

I have a vast amount of experience from my positions with public pension funds, state budgets, state treasury banking and cash management, and state accounting and auditing control functions. I have been CEO for Alameda and Santa Barbara County Retirement Systems. I also was a Deputy Exec Officer and Assistant Exec Officer for CalPERS.

43. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Male [*Incumbent*]

A. Mr. Peter J. Enko

Central States Synod (4B)

1) Congregational membership

Atonement Lutheran Church (ID: 10197) - Overland Park, KS

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Past Church Council Member of Immanuel Lutheran Church

Past Endowment Trust Fund Committee Member

Past Stewardship Committee Member of Immanuel

3) Education

College of William and Mary - Psychology, Bachelor Of Arts

University of Virginia - Psychology, Master Of Arts

University of Virginia, Doctor Of Jurisprudence

4) Employment

Partner, Husch Blackwell

5) Year of birth

1964

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

While not necessarily apparent to me at the outset, during my time on Portico Benefit Services Board of Trustees, I have experienced a growing sense that I am being asked not only to help those who serve the Church, but also am being called into a closer relationship with God and to mature as a person. For these reasons, I am hopeful that I can continue experiencing the blessing of being a Board member and sharing my time and skills with Portico.

44. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Male [*Incumbent*]

A. Mr. John R. Hoffman

Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)

1) Congregational membership

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (ID: 03145) - Minneapolis, MN

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Youth Group and Usher at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church
Big Brothers Big Sisters Organization from
Cheerful Givers Organization

3) Education

Minnesota State University, Mankato, International Relations,
Bachelor Of Business Admin
CLF Designation (Chartered Leadership Fellow)

4) Employment

Regional Managing Director, Principal Financial Group

5) Year of birth

1977

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

I believe I have a solid understanding of the needs of your client base. The mbrs are the main focus of Portico. My background in financial services offers an educated yet unique perspective to the challenges and issues facing Portico's mbrs today. I feel my leadership style lends itself well to the collaborative working environment with a team goal in mind. I am a voice of a young GenX leader. I see the challenges that churches face and I believe that is the same with financial/benefit companies as well. I will bring a fresh perspective. I will be provide the following contribution: client trends and issues facing members with retirement objectives; market trends in relation to the client base; industry insight and overview of what competitors are doing; Gen X & Y perspective on future, financial planning and technology; opportunities for growth; and out of the box thinking to help grow and thrive.

45. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Male [*Incumbent*]

A. 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

Church 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/VTC School of Medicine

5) Year of birth

1950

6) Ethnicity

White

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 ELCA with whatever skills, insight and knowledge I can bring. I have experience working with Boards of both regional and national scope, including positions as treasurer and president. I work daily with issues of education, health care, and managed care. My wife had the pleasure of serving on an ELCA Churchwide committee, so I am familiar with the expectations of time and productivity of lay representatives on committees. As a physician, I am continuously 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 and familiar with the wide range of issues related to educational institutions, including non-medical institutions. In particular, I have in recent years helped draft and modify social responsibility policies.

46. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Male [*Plan Participant*]

A. Mr. Morris L. Larson

Central States Synod (4B)

1) Congregational membership

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

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Portico member and Congregational Representative (14 years)

Director of Operations - Finance Committee Chairman

Congregational Representative, Central States Synod Convention

3) Education

University of Montana - Marketing, Bachelor Of Business

Admin

University of Oregon - Marketing, Master Of Business

Administration

Licensed Financial Trader - Commodities (Merrill Lynch)

4) Employment

Director, Operations, Trinity Lutheran Church

5) Year of birth

1947

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

I am willing to commit the time and work required to serve and have experience operating at the national level serving a broad constituency. I served on the board of NGTC which represents the major grain companies and grain exchanges in the U.S. I was appointed by the Sec of Ag to serve on the National Ag. Marketing Cmte. addressing food and distribution concerns in the country. This national experience provided me with a broader scope and an appreciation for service to others. My recent employment at Trinity has provided a consideration for church staff and members' involvement in leadership and service to the local and greater church. My role as father to a female ELCA ordained pastor has been informative, fulfilling and given me great joy. As a participant I have gained an insight into the benefits available to Portico members and explaining the benefits to employees. I am familiar with budgets, cost controls and senior care trends to include opportunities and challenges.

47. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Male [Incumbent]

A. Mr. Frank A. Roth

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)

1) Congregational membership

St Paul Lutheran Church (ID: 00435) - Ardmore, PA

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Mbr of St.Paul's for 30 years; served as President of
Congregation
Member of Board of Directors of Liberty Lutheran Services
Chaired served on numerous Congregational Committees

3) Education

Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Government & Urban Studies,
Bachelor Of Arts
Harvard University Law School, Cambridge, MA, Doctor Of
Jurisprudence

4) Employment

General Counsel & Secretary, Lehigh University

5) Year of birth

1958

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

As a baptized, confirmed and lifelong member of ELCA congregations, I am very familiar with, and strive to live and serve and help others consistent with the tenets and teachings of the Lutheran faith. As a practicing attorney for 32 years, 28 of which have been as counsel for non-profit, tax-exempt entities, I have a thorough understanding of the fiduciary responsibilities of serving on the board of directors of a non-profit, tax-exempt entity, including entities which oversee the administration of employee benefits and retiree benefits. My experience gives me an appreciation for the importance of employee benefits and retirement benefits for those who choose to work in the non-profit sectors of our economy.

48. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Male [*Incumbent*]

A. 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

ELCA Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services)
SE IA Synod, Reference and Counsel Committee, Chair and Member

3) Education

Iowa State University, Bachelor Of Liberal Studies
Drake University, Master Of Public Administration

4) Employment

Vice-President, ICON Integration and Design

5) Year of birth

1956

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

I feel that I am being called to continue to serve as a trustee for Portico Benefit Services. I am currently serving as the Vice-Chair of the Board. I bring deep pension administration experience from my service as COO of the 330,000 member Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System. In that role I provided leadership and overall responsibility for all information technology, financial reporting, auditing, budgeting / accounting, human relations, facilities management, purchasing, and other support functions for IPERS. I have extensive executive experience both as a consumer of the types of benefit services offered by Portico Benefit Services as well as an administrator of such services. I understand what board service entails through my previous work and service on many boards. I look forward to serving another term providing my board experience on the Portico Benefit Services board of trustees. A significant strength I provide is a strong understanding of fiduciary responsibility.

49. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Male [Incumbent]

A. Mr. James B. Vos

Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)

1) Congregational membership

Westwood Lutheran Church (ID: 11914) - St Louis Park, MN

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

LSS - various volunteer roles

Rotary - various volunteer and leadership roles

Junior Achievement - classroom teacher/volunteer and former board mbr.

3) Education

Gustavus Adolphus College, Economics/Political Science,
Bachelor Of Arts

University of Minnesota/Carlson School of Business, Master
Of Business Administration

4) Employment

Principal, Cresa Minneapolis

5) Year of birth

1962

6) Ethnicity

White

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 held "The Church" needs to be more supportive of our leaders-pastoral staff, Bishops, etc.- in ways that are not just theological training. As I have begun to understand Portico's larger mission, I am energized by the opportunity to see well-being expressed in a wide variety of ways that can benefit our clergy and recognize the challenge of changing demographics and intrigued by the opportunity to create effective responses. My professional work gives me the privilege of being connected to a broad spectrum of leaders and organizations from which I hope I can bring relevant examples of new thinking that can advance the mission of Portico and meet the challenges that lie ahead. As a two-time council president (and part owner in a small business) I speak the language of the employer in this setting. I have many close clergy friends and understand the employee point of view and I have a daughter who is a pastor. Hopefully, that variety of perspectives is helpful.

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

A. Ms. Catharine C. Burkett

Full Communion: Episcopalian

1) Congregational membership

All Saints Episcopal Church Atlanta, Episcopal

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Flower Guild - All Saints Episcopal Church Atlanta

Welcome Ministry St James Episcopal Church Richmond, VA

3) Education

Randolph Macon Woman's College

Queens College Charlotte NC, Bachelor Of Arts

Xavier University, Master Of Business Administration

4) Employment

Vice President and Director of Private Investments, LCG
Associates

5) Year of birth

1944

6) Ethnicity

White

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 it is up to us to listen and recognize opportunities that God puts in front of us. When I heard about the Portico opportunity, I felt that it was something I should pursue. As I learned more about Portico from Pam Moench, the website and Rev. Thiemann, I felt that Portico's mission and my own desire of being of service was a match - a calling.

I am an investment professional and have the skill set to provide investment advice on appropriate policy, allocations to asset classes and knowledge of the investment decision process, risks and expected return. I have served a variety of clients - university endowments, foundations, a family office, a federal agency, a state retirement plan and now a variety of clients - some of whom have similar goals as Portico. I think that serving this variety of clients gives me perspective on how to apply my skills and knowledge to serve the mission of Portico and its members. If elected, I would take my responsibilities seriously.

51. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Full Communion [*Incumbent; Plan Participant*]

A. The Rev. Adam J. Copeland

Full Communion: Presbyterian

1) Congregational membership

Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, Presbyterian Church (USA)

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Thrivent, member of chapter board
Service with several national Presbyterian church committees
Frequent speaker at congregations, synods, leadership events, etc.

3) Education

North Dakota State University, Doctor Of Philosophy
Columbia Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity
St. Olaf College, Bachelor Of Arts

4) Employment

Assistant Professor of Leadership, Luther Seminary

5) Year of birth

1983

6) Ethnicity

White

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 passion for faith and finances, and as a faculty member at Luther Seminary work with students pursuing leadership in Christian communities. My role directing the Center for Stewardship Leaders calls me to research, publish, and speak on topics including financial wellness, community engagement, congregational leadership, and money matters in ministry. With God's help, I strive to be a committed, responsible, faithful leader in my teaching ministry, and I would bring an ethic of servant leadership and care for the neighbor to continued service on the Portico Board.

If elected, I would bring my perspective and experience as 1) a Presbyterian pastor with a deep appreciation for the ELCA , 2) a young adult with an interest in leadership, communication, and technology, 3) a teacher committed to preparing my students for the church God is always making new, 4) a Portico plan member.

52. Publishing House (1517 Media): Minister of Word and Sacrament

A. The Rev. Kathleen O. Reed

New England Synod (7B)

1) Congregational membership

University Lutheran Church (ID: 03546) - Cambridge, MA

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

VP of Gettysburg Seminary Endowment Foundation

Trustee, Board of Pensions

Assistant to the Bishop, New England Synod

3) Education

Lutheran Theological Seminary Gettysburg, Master Of
Divinity

Boston University, Bachelor Of Science

4) Employment

Lead Pastor at University Lutheran Church and Lutheran

Chaplain at Harvard, University Lutheran Church

5) Year of birth

1953

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

What has shaped my sense of call and my growth as a human being is how each community I have served has taught me to listen in new ways. Learning that happens through listening deeply to another's story is transforming. Since coming to University Lutheran Church and Harvard in 2013 to serve as the Harvard Lutheran Chaplain, listening to the stories of adults and youth experiencing homelessness and to the Harvard College students responsible for the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter has added new dimensions to my mind and heart. Most recently, in partnership with student leaders listening to the mother in danger of deportation and living in sanctuary my church has broken down whole walls in my soul. Am I good listener? I'm learning. My experiences in assessing institutional needs, honoring tradition, and building on God-given assets for sustainable strategic plans in importance beside growing capacity to listen.

53. Publishing House (1517 Media): Minister of Word and Sacrament [*Incumbent*]

A. The Rev. Pamela Smith

Southeastern Synod (9D)

1) Congregational membership

First Evangelical Lutheran Church (ID: 05820) - Nashville,
TN

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Candidacy Committee, FLBA Synod
Synod Assembly Worship Teams, FLBA and SE Synods
Occasional Bishop Panels, FLBA

3) Education

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Stetson Univ College of Law, Doctor Of Jurisprudence
Indiana University School of Social Work, Master Of Social
Work

4) Employment

Pastor, First Evangelical Lutheran Church

5) Year of birth

1953

6) Ethnicity

White

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 is grounded in three things: a former board member who raised my name as a possible candidate, my having been elected to two terms, and finally, the pleasure and gratification that I experience as a result of this service. My passion for reading and study fuels my interest in serving in this role. As a parish pastor, I bring firsthand experience with those who are the direct consumers of the materials prepared by our publishing house -- parents, adults, children, Sunday School teachers, VBS coordinators, families, scholars, and others. This experience enhances my functioning as a trustee, contributing another viewpoint to the many that are present on the board.

54. Publishing House (1517 Media): Minister of Word and Sacrament [*Incumbent*]

A. The Rev. Mark G. Vitalis Hoffman

Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F)

1) Congregational membership

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (ID: 02598) - Middletown, MD

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities

Select Learning (FishersNet)

3) Education

University of Illinois, Bachelor Of Arts
Luther (Northwestern) Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Yale University, Doctor Of Philosophy

4) Employment

Professor of Biblical Studies, United Lutheran Seminary

5) Year of birth

1956

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

As a congregational member, pastor, and seminary professor, I have sought to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in word and practice. As my ministry path has unfolded, I have found both joy and affirmation particularly in preaching and teaching. I directed the GIFTS (Lay Ministry) program of the Eastern North Dakota Synod for many years, I served as a pastor for 14 years, I've been on the board of Select Learning (FishersNet), and now I teach in a seminary. I have, therefore, attended to the faith formation of lay members of the ELCA as well as those preparing for professional service in the church. I also have maintained my CrossMarks.com website since 1998 which has provided Bible study resources for thousands of people, and I continue to teach in a variety of church-related settings beyond the seminary.

I list these to indicate my deep interest in providing faithful, high-quality educational resources for the church, and serving on the 1517 Media Board would be another way for m

55. Publishing House (1517 Media): Lay Female [Incumbent]

A. Ms. Linda J. Brown

Northwestern Minnesota Synod (3D)

1) Congregational membership

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

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities

Trustee, Publishing House of the ELCA

Member, ELCA Church Council

Treasurer, NW MN Synod of the ELCA

3) Education

Minnesota State University Moorhead, Bachelor Of Science

Concordia College, Bachelor Of Science

4) Employment

Vice President for Finance & Treasurer, Concordia College

5) Year of birth

1951

6) Ethnicity

White

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 has been created with gifts and talents that, as I have understood Lutheran teaching, should be shared as one lives out her or his vocation. Within my own understanding and experience, this means that I will strive to do excellent work each and every day – to advance the mission and purposes of the institution in which I practice my career and of the organizations and institutions of the ELCA as opportunities have arisen to do so. It is both a responsibility and a privilege to serve the ELCA and its ministries.

I have over thirty years of experience working with the financial operations at Concordia College. That work includes day-to-day operational issues in finance, budgeting, auditing, and human resources as well as institutional leadership and strategic planning. My previous service gives me a sense of history as well as an understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the publishing house.

56. Publishing House (1517 Media): Lay Female (PC/L)

A. Ms. Ileana (Lilly) M. Kimmelshue

Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)

1) Congregational membership

St John Lutheran Church (ID: 05136) - Sacramento, CA

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Sunday School
Mutual Ministry
Communications Committee

3) Education

California State University, Chico, Master Of Arts
Florida International University, Bachelor Of Arts

4) Employment

Marketing Manager, Europe and India, Visit California

5) Year of birth

1965

6) Ethnicity

Latino/Latina

7) Primary Language

English

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

Our motto at home is, "We serve, it's what we do." It feels right to serve where your gifts might be of value and benefit. The work of 1517 Media is well-aligned with my gifts and practical skills of organizational management, strategic planning, sales and marketing, communications, and fundraising. By serving, I can continue to advance the mission of the 1517 Media board.

1517 Media and its publishing units is in the business of words. My career has spanned a variety of industries where creating meaningful words via campaigns, grants, press releases, newsletters, magazines, direct mail, websites, advertising, brochures, videos and contracts were critical to its success. I hope my experiences executing these roles can help enhance 1517 Media's products and services, at the Board level. I look forward to working with the 1517 Media board for Good. I believe we each have been gifted and it is important to be good stewards of our individual qualities to serve others and create a "whole" life.

57. Publishing House (1517 Media): Lay Female

A. Ms. Lisa J. Peck

Central States Synod (4B)

1) Congregational membership

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

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Holy Cross
Metro Lutheran Ministry

3) Education

University of Kansas, Bachelor Of Science
Graceland Collage, No Degree Earned

4) Employment

VP - Sr. Business Technology Manager, PNC Bank

5) Year of birth

1965

6) Ethnicity

White

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 Board of 1517 Media is a call to use my business management and technology acumen in a meaningful way for the larger church.

58. Publishing House (1517 Media): Lay Female [Incumbent]

A. Ms. Christine M. Smith

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5K)

1) Congregational membership

Peace Lutheran Church (ID: 07350) - Waunakee, WI

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Peace Endowment/Long Range Planning & .Call Committees
TEAC Facilitation and Study of Seminaries
Peace Public House (alternative ecumenical dialogue and worship)

3) Education

Univ of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, Bachelor Of Business Admin

4) Employment

Managing Director, Consulting, Baker Tilly

5) Year of birth

1965

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

My faith as explored through my ELCA church community, is an important part of my and my family's life. My sense of call only increases with time. It has been my distinct honor to serve on the 1517 Board for the past three years to witness its transformation and ensure both mission and fiscal sustainability. The ELCA is in a time of great transition and opportunity, as it considers how to best share the grace of God and love of Christ with all God's people amidst the chaos of today's society. Optimizing these opportunities to their fullest will require synergies across the church. It is my belief that 1517 Media can play a significant role in helping the broader church to embrace new ways of "doing things" and can be an important conduit for evangelizing the word in a manner that connects with the diversity of God's community in new and exciting ways. I bring 25+ yrs of innovating and advocating for impactful organizational growth and change to ensure mission sustainability.

59. Publishing House (1517 Media): Lay Female [Incumbent]

A. Ms. Jill Yetman

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

1) Congregational membership

Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church (ID: 12983) - Seattle, WA

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Congregational Council President, Phinney Ridge Lutheran
Catechism / The Way / Faith Formation Sponsor, Small Group,
Participant

3) Education

University of Washington, Master Of Arts
University of Maryland, Bachelor Of Arts In Ed.
University of Lancaster, England, No Degree Earned

4) Employment

Senior IT Project Manager, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

5) Year of birth

1972

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

I am inspired both by the mission of 1517 Media to boldly communicate the liberating grace of God and by level of expertise and creativity 1517 Media brings to the effort. I sense God calling me in this effort as someone with broad and deep tech experience and a willingness to ask difficult questions

As a program and project manager in various roles, I have over 15 years of experience observing systems, organizations, and teams to determine what's functioning healthy and what's not. As a technology manager, managing enterprise level software development efforts for the University of Washington, I have broad knowledge of technical strategies, risks, and considerations. As the current president of our congregational council, I'm increasing my budgeting knowledge as we have addressed some exciting financial questions as a congregation in the last year.

I look forward to being part of the effort to see 1517 Media flourish in the coming years within a dynamic religious landscape.

60. Publishing House (1517 Media): Lay Male [Incumbent]

A. Mr. Fred D. Halvin

Southeastern Minnesota Synod (3I)

1) Congregational membership

St Olaf Lutheran Church (ID: 11714) - Austin, MN

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

President, St. Olaf Church (approx. dates)

Treasurer, St. Olaf Church (approx. dates)

Caring Board, St. Olaf Church (approx. dates)

3) Education

Midland University, Bachelor Of Business Admin

4) Employment

V.P. Corporate Development (Strategy and Mergers & Acquisitions), Hormel Foods Corporation

5) Year of birth

1962

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

Faith has been an important part of my life since I was a child. I strongly believe that a faith based life-style provides a higher quality of living for the individual, their family, the community and the world.

With that in mind, I believe the decline in traditional church attendance over the last 10 - 15 years has weakened the foundation of the Christian Community. I know from my own experience that life-styles and time commitments have changed, which now requires the faith community outreach and support to change as well.

Based on my professional, personal and faith based experiences; I feel my input, combined with other member's input, can provide good direction for 1517 Media to make progress renewing interest in the Christian lifestyle.

61. Publishing House (1517 Media): Lay Male

A. Mr. Michael A. Miller

Saint Paul Area Synod (3H)

1) Congregational membership

St Timothy Lutheran Church (ID: 11936) - Saint Paul, MN

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities

St. Timothy's - RIC Implementation team
Messiah Lutheran - Advocate and leader

3) Education

Hanover College, Bachelor Of Arts
Ball State University, Master Of Arts
Ball State University, Doctor Of Philosophy

4) Employment

Retired - College President, Northland College

5) Year of birth

1955

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

Faith is a strong determinant in my decisions about the use of my time and talents. I endeavor to see God in others, support faith-based living and betterment of the world, and see education as the avenue to solving the world's woes. My sense of calling and vocation center around advocacy for community, education, and faith. 1517 Media plays a critical role in many facets of that work of the ELCA.

In my role as a liberal arts college president for the past 8 years, I have spent much time in facilitating board functioning and trustee recruitment, strategic and innovative niche development and leveraging mission and strengths, evolving populations, and marketing and social media strategies to expand visibility. Further, I have extensive experience with corporate and foundations relations and fundraising. Because I am now mostly retired, I am anxious to invest significant time with the other trustees in assuring the sustainability of the mission and operations of 1517 Media.

62. Publishing House (1517 Media): Lay Male (PC/L) [Incumbent]

A. Mr. Joel Peterson

Southwest California Synod (2B)

1) Congregational membership

Lutheran Church in the Foothills (ID: 05205) - La Canada, CA

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

N/A

3) Education

Claremont Graduate University, Doctor Of Philosophy
Virginia Tech, Master Of Business Administration
University of Virginia

4) Employment

Managing Partner and CEO, Pintoresco Advisors, LLC

5) Year of birth

1963

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?

My life experiences speak literally to having been reborn because of and through the love of Christ and the power of the living Church.

I was born into extreme poverty as the mixed-race product of prostitution to an uneducated, destitute sex worker in Korea. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, which surely gave my Korean mother the strength to love me enough to relinquish me so that I may have a future, when seven years-old, I was adopted by a devout Lutheran family in MN. Through an act of living Faith and by the living body of Christ's Church, I received a new life. I feel called to give of my life, in part, back to the Church.

As an author of an Amazon Best Seller book, a corporate finance and M&A professional, and an experienced global business executive, I know I can bring relevant experience and skills to assist 1517 Media to continue its success and mission.

63. Publishing House (1517 Media): Full Communion [*Incumbent*]

A. Mr. Mark Brokering

Full Communion: Episcopalian

1) Congregational membership

St. Mary the Virgin, Episcopalian

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Director of Adult Education, St. Mary the Virgin

3) Education

St. Olaf College, Bachelor Of Arts

University of Minnesota, Master Of Arts

4) Employment

Vice President, Content Strategy, Safari Books Online

5) Year of birth

1952

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

As the son of a Lutheran minister who was also a staff member at Augsburg Publishing House in the 1960s and early 1970s, I grew up in a world of authors, editors, and other talented publishing professionals. Before finishing graduate school, I found my way into the publishing industry, where I spent my entire career. I was fortunate to work for ten of those years at HarperCollins' religious division.

When Beth Lewis first approached me about serving on the Augsburg Fortress board, I felt it was a calling to give back to the church and the publishing mission that my father spent his life serving. These are challenging time in the publishing industry, and perhaps even more so for denominational publishers. I have many years of experience in this business, and I hope my knowledge and my publishing networks have been beneficial to 1517 Media's the executive team. I look forward to serving another term, giving whatever guidance and insight I can to this important mission of the Church.

64. Publishing House (1517 Media): Full Communion [*Incumbent*]

A. The Rev. Michele Watkins

Full Communion: Methodist

1) Congregational membership

St. Mark UMC, United Methodist

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Pembroke Institute for Ministerial Recruitment

Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century

3) Education

4) Employment

Assistant Professor of Theology and Religious Studies,
University of San Diego

5) Year of birth

1984

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?

As both a clergy woman and religious scholar, I have made a commitment to invest in the advancement of the sharing of the gospel message of Jesus Christ. I have devoted my life's work toward making a contribution to the viability of the Christian Church, and for me this task is an ecumenical one. My service to the publishing house of the ELCA has and continues to provide an opportunity to engage my life's work in that I am compelled to take an active interest in the full communion relationship between the Lutheran and Methodist traditions. Given the decline of the denominational publishing house(s) within the United Methodist Church, This has meant sharing and point to 1517 as a viable resource for advancing Christian education in both the parish and the academy.

65. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Lay Female [*Incumbent*]

A. Ms. Kristy L. Albrecht

Eastern North Dakota Synod (3B)

1) Congregational membership

First Lutheran Church (ID: 12325) - Fargo, ND

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

ELCA Eastern Synod Attorney
First Lutheran Church of Fargo, Council President
First Lutheran Church of Fargo, Attorney

3) Education

Jamestown College, Bachelor Of Arts
Universtiy Of Iowa College of Law, Doctor Of Jurisprudence

4) Employment

Shareholder/Officer, Fredrikson & Byrom, P.A.

5) Year of birth

1961

6) Ethnicity

White

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 a member of the ELCA Church all of my life, and I believe strongly in the good work that the Church does. I would be honored to serve on the Board of Trustees for the ELCA Endowment Fund.

Growing up, my parents emphasized the need to serve to our community, our church, and the world. Their examples impressed upon my siblings and me the importance of shaping our lives and professions to give back to society and to help others. We have diverse interests and talents, but we all have found ways to serve.

My calling is to contribute as an attorney and a Christian. My efforts in that regard involve work in my church, a significant pro bono practice, and living my life with integrity. I also feel the work I do in my non-pro bono practice reflects my commitment to live as a Christian. I have been practicing law for 20+ years, litigating and advising clients.

I have prayed about the request to serve on this Board. I would be pleased to have the opportunity to do so.

66. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Lay Female *[Incumbent]*

A. Ms. Naomi M. Horsager

Saint Paul Area Synod (3H)

1) Congregational membership

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (ID: 16200) - Apple Valley, MN

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities

GodZone/Kids program, SOTV
Board Member, LCOS
Kids program leader, nursery coordinator, LCOS

3) Education

University of MN Duluth, Bachelor Of Science

4) Employment

CFO and Treasurer, Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropic Services (MACP)

5) Year of birth

1963

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

I have felt God's calling to service since early in life. The opportunity to serve the ELCA church is particularly precious as it would allow me to pursue my calling to service with opportunity for a strong spiritual connection and spiritual growth.

I would hope to be able to put my professional experience in philanthropy and the nonprofit sector to good use for the ELCA Foundation. Serving the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies for the last 10+ years in the CFO role, along with years of consulting before that, have given me a first-hand perspective on what it takes to build foundation operations from the ground up in areas of governance, strategy, finance and auditing, planning, and compliance. Prior to that, I worked in public accounting serving a variety of nonprofit organizations; advising on finance, tax, organization structures, strategy and operations. It would be an honor and a privilege to be considered for a role serving the ELCA Foundation.

67. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Lay Female [PC/L; Incumbent]

A. Ms. Liza Canino

North Carolina Synod (9B)

1) Congregational membership

Christ Lutheran South (ID: 8-11292397) – Charlotte, NC

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Congregational Council
Lutheran Youth Organization
World Council of Churches

3) Education

University of Puerto Rico, Bachelor Of Business Admin
Loyola University Chicago, Master Of Business
Administration

4) Employment

Senior Manager, Promotional Planning, Walgreens

5) Year of birth

1976

6) Ethnicity

Latino/Latina

7) Primary Language

Not English

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

God gives us all individual talents. My talents are pretty specific. I'm good at strategy, planning, insights and cross-functional work. My experience in a large corporation has given me the opportunity to leverage those skills and use them to further company and team performance. God continues to nurture me everyday which inspires me to want to learn and refine my craft.

68. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Lay Male [*Incumbent*]

A. Mr. Eric Brudos

Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)

1) Congregational membership

Grace Lutheran Church (ID: 13919) - Palo Alto, CA

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Grace Lutheran Church - Church Council

Grace Lutheran Church - Stewardship Committee

3) Education

Luther College, Bachelor Of Arts

4) Employment

5) Year of birth

1963

6) Ethnicity

White

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 into mission and service in the ELCA comes from a strong commitment to the work of the church. I believe that our obligation is to "give what we have" in order to further God's work.

I have been blessed with strong skills and experiences in business which include investment management, accounting and financial management, and organizational governance experience. Having served in a variety of ways in my home congregation and my Lutheran college, I feel that board service is a way that I can make a significant impact for the church.

69. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Lay Male [*Incumbent*]

A. Mr. Keith J. Christensen

Northeastern Iowa Synod (5F)

1) Congregational membership

Decorah Lutheran Church (ID: 10906) - Decorah, IA

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Decorah Lutheran Church council and stewardship committee

Decorah Lutheran Church Luce Bergeson Fund endowment committee

3) Education

Luther College, Bachelor Of Arts

College for Financial Planning (CFP certification), Certificate

4) Employment

Principal Gifts Officer, Mayo Clinic

5) Year of birth

1958

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

As a life-long Lutheran and having served in Lutheran higher education for 30 years, I have a deep sense of history and appreciation for our church. This opportunity to serve on the newly formed board of trustees of the ELCA Foundation is truly a calling that seemed to mesh the interest and deep appreciation of the church with a skill set of strengths (development & financial knowledge) that I can bring to the board for making a positive impact in this work.

While my direct involvement in our local churches in Decorah, Sioux Falls, and growing up in Clinton, Iowa has been intermittent - attendance and indirect involvement has been consistent and important for me, and more importantly, for our whole family. From my wife and I serving Decorah Lutheran as volunteer youth directors in the early 80's to being involved in aspects of church when we were blessed to be raising our own children - through our history, our church life has been important and critical for us.

70. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Lay Male [*Incumbent*]

A. Mr. Bruce D. George

New England Synod (7B)

1) Congregational membership

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ID: 20113) - Westborough,
MA

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

United Lutheran Seminary Endowment Foundation - Trustee
Portico Benefit Services - Trustee
ELCA Foundation

3) Education

Central Michigan University, Bachelor Of Business Admin
Wayne State University, Master Of Business Administration

4) Employment

Senior Managing Director, P/e Investments, LLC

5) Year of birth

1957

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

It has been my personal ministry, in my adult lifetime, to serve this church.

Beginning as my congregations internal auditor in 1997, progressing on to congregation treasurer, and a member of congregation council (2000 - 2005), it has been my personal ministry to serve this church.

As a member of the Board of Trustees of the ELCA Board of Pensions (now Portico) (2007 - 2011), as a Trustee of the United Lutheran Seminary Endowment Foundation (2008 - Present), and as a Trustee of the ELCA Foundation (2018 - Present) it has been my personal ministry to serve this church.

I bring more than 30 years of professional training and experience in business, finance, economics and investment management, and it remains my personal ministry to serve this church with my God given skills and abilities in the accomplishment of it's mission and vision.

71. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Lay Male [*Incumbent*]

A. Mr. Eric R. Golberg

Metropolitan New York Synod (7C)

1) Congregational membership

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church (ID: 03833) - New York, NY

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities

Endowment Fund Board of Trustees
Koinonia Board of Directors

3) Education

Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, Master Of Arts
Luther College, Bachelor Of Arts

4) Employment

Director, Portfolio Manager, Nippon Life Global Investors Americas, Inc.

5) Year of birth

1963

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

My vocation is at the intersection of service, mission, and the interests, skills, and knowledge that God has given me. I sense that God is calling me to use my experience to serve on the ELCA Endowment Fund Board of Trustees. My experience includes budgeting, investment/risk analysis, portfolio management/construction, and other experiences that may be helpful for the Board.

Other vocations include serving in my congregation and at Koinonia, an ELCA outdoor ministry. I have been able to use my experience in analysis, budgeting, and leadership. These experiences may also be helpful for the Board as it seeks to grow the Fund's participants and assets under management.

An uncommon area of expertise is alternative investments; specifically building multi-manager portfolios using various styles and strategies. This experience may help the Board as it considers investment strategies, endowment models, and reviews the external managers selected to manage the Fund.

72. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Lay Male

A. Mr. John Quello

South Dakota Synod (3C)

1) Congregational membership

Our Savior Lutheran Church (ID: 13703) - Sioux Falls, SD

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities

Luther Seminary Foundation Board
Concordia College Board of Regents
Augustana University Board of Trustees

3) Education

Concordia College/Moorehead MN, Bachelor Of Arts
Luther Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity

4) Employment

Financial Advisor, Loft Advisors/Raymond James Financial
Services

5) Year of birth

1944

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

I would be interested in serving on this board and the investment committee because I believe strongly that the church must be a good steward of its assets and must encourage members of the church to have a long-term vision of support for our mission.

73. Committee on Appeals: Minister of Word and Sacrament [*Incumbent*]

A. The Rev. Paul J. Blom

Southwestern Texas Synod (4E)

1) Congregational membership

Christ Lutheran Church (ID: 14139) - Georgetown, TX

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

ELCA Conference of Bishops (Executive Committee, Academy Committee)

ELCA Church Council

ALC South Pacific District Council

3) Education

St. Olaf College, Bachelor Of Arts

Luther Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity

4) Employment

Bishop, Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod

5) Year of birth

1941

6) Ethnicity

White

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 blessed with opportunities to serve throughout my career in a variety of positions. As a Bishop, I had the opportunity to oversee the mission and ministry of a synod, to participate in leadership on the churchwide level both in the Conference of Bishops and as member of the Church Council and then as an advisor bishop to the Council. Dealing with issues that involved violations and the resolution of those violations prepared me to serve on the Appeals Committee of this church. Having a fair and balanced view of all issues is required of members of this committee. God calls us to address all persons with a fair and open mind and heart.

74. Committee on Appeals: Minister of Word and Sacrament [*Incumbent*]

A. The Rev. Christine A. Timm

North/West Lower Michigan Synod (6B)

1) Congregational membership

Advent Lutheran Church (ID: 30694) - Lake Ann, MI

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities

Committee on Appeals
Mentor to First Call Pastors
ELCA Churchwide Assembly Memorials Committee

3) Education

The Ohio State University, Bachelor Of Arts
Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Portland Seminary, Doctor Of Ministry

4) Employment

Assistant to the Bishop for Synod Life, North/West Lower
Michigan Synod

5) Year of birth

1960

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

As a rostered minister who has engaged with a variety of ministry settings, colleagues, and congregation members, I believe I am being called to offer myself in service to this Church for the sake of its health, diversity, and mission. Although I was not called into service on this committee during my first term, I have witnessed the appeals process for a colleague. I understand the gravity of the discernment that is made there for the sake of the Church, its rostered ministers and congregation members.

I bring a deep love for the Church as the Body of Christ, a calm, steady spirit, and a demonstrated capacity to listen and prayerfully discern with others a faithful response to any matters brought before the committee. I have the support of the Bishop and synod staff with whom I serve to give the time that is needed to carry out the work entrusted to the Committee.

75. Committee on Appeals: Minister of Word and Sacrament

A. The Rev. Michael A. Dubsy
Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Messiah Lutheran Church (ID: 02635) - Sykesville, MD
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Dean - Westminster Conference - DE-MD Synod
LTSP Alumni Board
ELCA Committee on Discipline
- 3) *Education*
The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Doctor Of Ministry
The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Master Of Divinity
University of Maryland, College Park, Bachelor Of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Executive Director, Lutheran Home and Hospital Foundation
- 5) *Year of birth*
1971
- 6) *Ethnicity*
White
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

As a baptized child of God, husband, and father, I know Christ Jesus and his promise of love, forgiveness and new life. I am grateful to be a Lutheran and to be a pastor of this church. Through active leadership in congregations, campus ministry and outdoor camp ministry, I have been formed in faith and blessed by the ministry of the ELCA. I have served in leadership as a Dean, Synod Council Member, Synod Nominations Chair, Synod Constitution Chair, LTSP Seminary Alumni Board Member as well as a ELCA CWA Voting Member and member of the ELCA Discipline Committee..

My current ministry has given me experience in both, the day-to-day rhythms of pastoral ministry in a small congregation, as well as executive administrative experience as a foundation director developing and administering a health and wellness ministry grant program.

...

B. The Rev. Paul A. Wollner
North Carolina Synod (9B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*
Augsburg Lutheran Church (ID: 04130) - Winston-Salem, NC
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*
Co-Leader, Churchwide Young Rostered Leaders Gatherings Chair, SC Synod Public Education Task Force
NC Synod Stewardship Committee / Stewardship for All Seasons
- 3) *Education*
University of Florida, Bachelor Of Arts
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Master Of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Senior Pastor, Augsburg Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1979
- 6) *Ethnicity*
White
- 7) *Primary Language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I am thankful to serve a Church that yearns to truly love our neighbor. However, throughout the Church I see the daily challenges of being truly missional while also working within the structures of our institutions. As the Spirit molds the Church for future ministry together, the need for sound, loving, and prayerful reasoning from the Appeals Committee intensifies.

My experiences with congregations longing to grow in faith honed my gifts for seeking feedback and wisdom from a variety of sources, asking challenging questions, and finding a balance between what is possible and practical. My experiences supervising seminarians in contextual education reminds me that our leaders deserve constructive feedback and support which prepares them to be confident in who they are within the Body of Christ.

If called to serve on the Committee on Appeals, I pray that my gifts as a thoughtful listener, pragmatic visionary, and passionate disciple would be useful to our work together.

76. Committee on Appeals: Minister of Word and Sacrament

A. The Rev. Martha H. Maier

Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)

1) Congregational membership

St Andrew Lutheran Church (ID: 13039) - Vancouver, WA

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Task force to set up a lay ministry program for SWWA synod Board, Journey to Baptismal Living: North American Assoc for the Catechumenae
Pacific Lutheran University Corporate Delegate

3) Education

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity
University of Washington, No Degree Earned
University of Kansas, Bachelor Of Arts

4) Employment

Associate Pastor, St. Andrew Lutheran Church

5) Year of birth

1955

6) Ethnicity

White

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 length and breadth of experience in serving the church, having worked in youth ministry, campus ministry, and congregational ministry for nearly 30 years. I would bring my expertise and experience gained during this time to any decisions facing the Committee on Appeals. Additionally I have experience and training as a Spiritual Director, which has honed my listening skills and ability to be open to a variety of viewpoints as I seek to discern what needs to happen in any given situation. I am caring and compassionate, but am able to make difficult decisions when called upon.

B. The Rev. Linda M. Pedersen

Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F)

1) Congregational membership

Grace Lutheran Church (ID: 12018) - Brownton, MN

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

SW MN Synod Equipping Congregation Minister
Churchwide Stewardship Coordinator SW MN Synod
Saint Paul Area Synod Candidancy Committee

3) Education

Luther Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Augburg College, Bachelor Of Arts
University of MN, No Degree Earned

4) Employment

Synod Minister, Southwestern Minnesota Synod

5) Year of birth

1951

6) Ethnicity

White

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 priveledge and opportunity to serve God in a variety of callings. Raised in a blue collar home in St. Paul, MN, God has surprised me throughout my life with how the gifts of my baptism could be used to share in God's story of faith and empower others. Beginning as a young adult with a passion for youth and family ministry and carrying me through a call to ordained ministry. I have served in rural, urban and suburban ministry settings and traveled globally in Europe and Africa.

Regarding this opportunity I bring my love of our church and a deep sense of faith. I am both a logical thinker and intuitive, relying on prayer and God's Spirit to guide me. My work with the SW MN Synod has widened my experience with the Church and God's people in many expressions. As I have moved from fulltime employment to retirement, I have a new opportunity to explore and listen for where God might be calling me to use my gift of positivity and enthusiasm for what God is doing in the world.

77. Committee on Appeals: (PC/L) [Incumbent]

A. Ms. Lesley M. Houston

Virginia Synod (9A)

1) Congregational membership

Faith Lutheran Church (ID: 30086) - Suffolk, VA

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Mission Volunteer
Micah's Backpack Donor

3) Education

Troy State University, Master Of Science In Business Admin
Jackson State University, Bachelor Of Science In Business
Admin

4) Employment

Investigator, Dept. of Defense, Investigations & Resolutions
Division

5) Year of birth

1970

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?

As a baptized Catholic, I've struggled for years with the Catholic Church's handling of abuse claims. As a result, I became disenfranchised and veered away from Catholicism.

I've visited numerous churches but couldn't find a Church home; one that is inclusive of all people. This is vitally important to me because I've experienced discrimination throughout my life and I've spent over 15 years investigating discrimination.

When Faith Lutheran Church shared an electronic message praying for the victims of the Orlando shooting, I decided this was a church I would consider to become a member of. When I visited and felt welcomed, and learned about their commitment to the community/feeding people. I knew this was my Church home. I am a highly focused and organized professional with strong interpersonal skills. I'm a certified Mediator with the DOD/DON. I can communicate effectively orally and in writing. I adhere to confidentiality rules. I'm proficient in Microsoft Word.

78. Committee on Appeals: Lay Female

A. Deacon Rebecca Hanson Kolowe

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

1) Congregational membership

Christ Lutheran Church (ID: 20034) - Washington, DC

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

ELCA Church Council Task Force, Word and Service Rosters
Metro DC Synod Candidacy Committee and Synod Council
Christ Lutheran Church, DC, Youth Ministry Developer Search
Team Chair

3) Education

Luther Seminary, Master Of Arts
Roanoke College, Bachelor Of Arts

4) Employment

Director of Operations, Greater DC Diaper Bank

5) Year of birth

1978

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

I'm always happy to serve the ELCA in any/all of its expressions, and have a lot of experience doing so. If called, I will serve. My gifts, skills, and experience most directly related to serving on the Nominating Committee include my work as DEM in Southeastern Synod when I worked in partnership with the bishop and congregations to call mission developers. In addition, I have hired personnel in my job as Executive Director of WFCM, and most recently as chair of the search team for a new Youth Ministry Developer at my home congregation in DC. My service as a rostered deacon in the ELCA, along with experiences like serving on two different candidacy committees over the years (SEPA and Metro DC Synods), have equipped me to understand the varied nuances of service as a deacon/pastor/lay person both locally and as part of the wider church.

B. Deacon Erin Power

Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)

1) Congregational membership

Highlands Lutheran Church (ID: 05468) - Denver, CO

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Highlands Lutheran Church Council

3) Education

Black Hills State University, Bachelor Of Science
Iliff School of Theology, Master Of Divinity

4) Employment

Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Life, Rocky Mountain Synod Office of the Bishop

5) Year of birth

1984

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

As a rostered minister, I am committed to encouraging and supporting healthy leadership in our Church. Sometimes being committed to healthy leadership requires hard conversations. My experience has equipped me to sit in the midst of hard places, to listen, pray, ask challenging questions, and seek both grace and accountability.

I believe my call in the Office of the Bishop has given me a unique opportunity to experience the church in all of its expressions. With the variety of expressions has come a broadening of my perspective, an ability to hold multiple perspectives, and a deep understanding of the complexities of our church. This is a gift that reminds to again and again to consider whose voice hasn't been heard.

The complexities of our church and our world continue to unfold at a rapid pace, and I feel called to step into places that are both responding to the immediate challenge, while seeking the adaptive change that we are needing for the sake of life and life abundant.

79. Committee on Appeals: Lay Female

A. Ms. Susan Berg

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

1) *Congregational membership*

First Lutheran Church (ID: 12805) - Bothell, WA

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

Congregation: worship leader, fellowship chair, SS teacher
Various task groups & committees, Youth Gathering Synod
Leader, Deaconess Comm. Nominating Committee
ELCA Churchwide Nominating Committee Co-Chair, ELCA
Churchwide Assembly Voting Member multiple times

3) *Education*

Seattle University, Master Of Counseling
Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor Of Education

4) *Employment*

Communications Administrator, NW Washington Synod of
ELCA

5) *Year of birth*

1966

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

Susan has shared her gifts with the Church for close to thirty years. From youth work to committee work she has offered her gifts of organization, critical thinking and community building. She is a good communicator and great listener. Susan is able to not only listen well but she makes sure that other knows they have been heard. Collaboration is central to how she works. She is able to get along well with folks from every walk of life. She is able to hold people accountable.

B. Ms. Cheyenne C. Boykin

Southwest California Synod (2B)

1) *Congregational membership*

St. Marks Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, Lutheran

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

SouthWest California Synod Youth Team Metropolitan
Representative
SouthWest California Synod Youth Team President

3) *Education*

California Lutheran University, Bachelor Of Science

4) *Employment*

Student Assistant, Office of Congregational Relations -
California Lutheran University

5) *Year of birth*

1999

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 young. I am currently a sophomore at California Lutheran University. I have worked my way all the way up in many leadership roles for my synod as a youth and it is time for me to use my skills and experiences as a young adult. More importantly, I would love to use my skills as a young adult of color.

80. Committee on Appeals: Lay Male [*Incumbent*]

A. Mr. George K. Rahdert

Florida-Bahamas Synod (9E)

1) Congregational membership

St Andrew Lutheran Church (ID: 01768) - St Petersburg, FL

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities

Synod Council, FI-Bahamas Synod
Council President, St. Andrew

3) Education

Duke University, Bachelor Of Arts
Yale Law School, Bachelor Of Laws

4) Employment

Attorney, Rahdert & Mortimer PLLC

5) Year of birth

1950

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

As Synod Counsel for the Florida Bahamas Synod, I handled a full disciplinary hearing over several days time in 2012. These proceedings are rare in Church life, and I feel that I am among the few with hands on experience, which I feel I can bring to bear on the Committee.

As a cradle to grave Lutheran I have long been active in church life, including several decades as Synod Council, and as legal representative of numerous congregations over the years. I recently navigated a challenging call process as Council President

Service to the Church has been a life long calling

81. Committee on Appeals: Lay Male (PC/L)

A. Mr. Emanuel Alves

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)

1) Congregational membership

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

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Volunteer Youth Coordinator and Chair at Holy Communion
Young Adult Rep at Synod Council
Church Council at Holy Communion

3) Education

DeVry University, Bachelor Of Computer Science

4) Employment

IT Desktop Engineer, Ellucian

5) Year of birth

1992

6) Ethnicity

African National

7) Primary Language

English

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

Over the years I have discovered my profound passion to serve the church through many different roles, but my favorite role is of a listener. Working with the church has taught me much about God's love and his mission. I've served my church, city, and participated in many servant trips across the US. My background consists of my family migration from Angola, Africa to the United States when I was only ten. In time I was blessed with opportunities to travel to many cities, states and countries, which in return has given me a wide experience of diverse cultures and languages. I speak three languages fluently, and know the basics of a few others. All I'm saying is that by learning people's culture, background, and their language I've come to appreciate and understand people as a whole, and in their individuality. Learning to love God's creation as a whole, while understanding that we are each unique in our own special way is key to growth of humanity.

B. Mr. Branden Dupree

Metropolitan New York Synod (7C)

1) Congregational membership

Fordham Lutheran Church (ID: 10430) - Bronx, NY

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Church Council Member, Fordham Lutheran Church
Member, Environmental Stewardship Committee, Metropolitan NY Synod
Advisory Panel Coordinator, Metropolitan NY Synod

3) Education

Monroe College, Bachelor Of Science In Business Admin
The New School, Master Of Science

4) Employment

Assistant to the Director for Evangelical Mission, Metropolitan New York Synod

5) Year of birth

1985

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 feel God may be calling me into service through the work of this committee as I have been part of the local Synod and now in partnership with Churchwide through my latest position. I believe it is my duty to be part of these important conversations that may come forth.

The skill set that I bring to this work is of course the gift of wisdom of having spent time on the staff of one of the most progressive Synods but also the skills of fresh eyes and ears to the work happening Churchwide. I bring a eagerness to learn and no bias which is always helpful when dealing in situations of appeal.

82. Committee on Discipline: Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Restricted to Region 1; male*)

A. The Rev. Tor K. Berg

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

1) Congregational membership

First Lutheran Church (ID: 12805) - Bothell, WA

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Chair, Constitution Review, Northwest Washington Synod
Chair, Reference and Counsel (many syod assemblies)
Intern Supervisor, Deaconess Community

3) Education

Eastern Washington University, Bachelor Of Arts
Luther Seminary, Master Of Divinity

4) Employment

Pastor, First Lutheran

5) Year of birth

1964

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

From the beginning of my ministry colleagues have encouraged me to be a part of the conflict mediation community. I have many years of training through the Alban Institute and other programs. God has called me into congregations that have suffered trauma due to pastoral conflict. These congregations have benefited from learning processes and following best practices that have led to healing and growing in their faithful service in their communities. I feel that when people find themselves in deep conflict it is important to provide opportunities for both the community and the individuals affected healthy avenues for reconciliation.

B. The Rev. David W. Parks

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

1) Congregational membership

Our Savior Lutheran Church (ID: 12850) - Everett, WA

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Synod "Because of You" Cap Campaign Committee
Director, Board of ELEA
Boards; Bethany NW, Everett Faith Action, Trinity Luth.
College, PLU, Cluster Dean,

3) Education

LBI/Trinity Lutheran College, Associates Degree In The Arts
LBI/Trinity Lutheran College, Bachelor Of Education
Pacific Lutheran Theo Seminary, Master Of Divinity

4) Employment

Lead Pastor, Our Savior's Lutheran Church

5) Year of birth

1956

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

I appreciate the invitation to enter this nominating process. I'm guessing that my name comes up because of the kinds of experiences that have come our way over the years. The Church is a wonderful and complicated community of saints and sinners. We're sometimes at our best, and sometimes not. Our siblings in Christ are broken and beautiful, malicious and merciful, and kind and cruel. In my work as a pastor, board member, supervisor and counselor, I have had to confront situations of conflict, misconduct, boundary violations and breaches in trust. That work has been difficult but important. I appreciate the work of the ELCA. It really is God's work and our humble, scared, callused and fumbling hands.

83. Committee on Discipline: Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Restricted to Region 1*)

A. The Rev. Mia Baumgartner

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

1) Congregational membership

Immanuel Lutheran Church (ID: 12980) - Seattle, WA

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities

Discipline Committee - Northwest WA Synod
Synod Council- Northwest WA Synod
ELCA Commission for Women

3) Education

St Olaf College, Bachelor Of Arts
Luther Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Seattle University, Masters In Non-Profit Management

4) Employment

Manager of Spiritual Care, University of Washington Medical Center

5) Year of birth

1966

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

Throughout my 25 years in ordained ministry I have been active in the conversation of professional boundaries and self-care. I served on the board of Interfaith Sexual Trauma Institute, trained as a clergy/professional boundaries trainer, promoted healthy boundaries in communities of faith and supported parishioners and colleagues who had experienced clergy malfeasance and abuses of power. I think I have strengths in discernment and good judgment. I would be honored to serve on the ELCA Churchwide Committee on Discipline should that committee be called upon in churchwide matters that need further discernment.

B. The Rev. Philip R. Wold

Montana Synod (1F)

1) Congregational membership

Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 05513) - Sheridan, WY

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities

ELCA Church Council
Montana Synod Council
Great Divide Cluster Dean

3) Education

Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Luther College, Bachelor Of Arts

4) Employment

Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church

5) Year of birth

1960

6) Ethnicity

White

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 Committee on Discipline calls for insightful theological and pastoral perspective in dealing with all who are involved in this process. I believe I could be a part of a team that would provide Gospel centered care for our Church in these matters.

84. Committee on Discipline: Minister of Word and Sacrament

A. The Rev. David B. Dragseth

Greater Milwaukee Synod (5J)

1) *Congregational membership*

Lake Park Lutheran Church (ID: 06729) - Milwaukee, WI

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

Internship Supervisor
Milwaukee Water Commons
Campus Ministry Board

3) *Education*

Harvard Divinity School, Master Of Divinity
Dartmouth College, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Lead Pastor, Lake Park Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1970

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I have served for 20 years in a redevelopment congregation, growing our ministry of young adults into a strong city congregation devoted to social justice, community outreach, and faithful learning. Along the way I have with our ministry mentored over 20 diaconal, lay, and pastoral candidates for ministry and have raised up many from our own congregation. I've experienced the joy of a diverse number of candidates and know well the demands, strains, and care needed to nurture and inspire people in this flesh and blood calling. I've also enacted, along with our synod and the wider church, structures, checks and balances, and teams that support us all in the path of ministry. Being a long term pastor, a pastor of a young (80% of our congregation is under 50) congregation, and a larger redeveloped congregation, gives me a unique perspective. I also have a spouse, three children, and a wide network of friends in ministry and know the important vocational balance that takes.

B. The Rev. Dana K. Nelson

Saint Paul Area Synod (3H)

1) *Congregational membership*

Galilee Lutheran Church (ID: 03088) - Roseville, MN

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

Galilee Lutheran Church, Board of Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota
Talitha Kum Lutheran Church, Cusco Peru (Global Mission)
Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, Lima, Peru (Global Mission)

3) *Education*

University of Minnesota, Bachelor Of Arts
Luther Seminary, Master Of Divinity

4) *Employment*

Pastor, Galilee Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1969

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I strongly believe the Church is multicultural. We are all one in Christ, all created in the image of God and there is one Holy Spirit. The congregation I serve, Galilee Lutheran Church, has a covenant relationship with Minnesota Faith Chinese Lutheran Church. I believe that Jesus Christ calls us, as followers, to be the hands, feet, eyes, and ears of God who seeks to liberate the oppressed, set the captives free, bring new sight to the blind, preach good news to the poor and announce the year of jubilee. I support the continuation of all congregations Celebrating Indigenous People, Repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery and having Services of Reconciliation. I served on the newly formed Disciple Committee for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Peru (ILEP) for three of the six years that my family and I served as ELCA Global Missionaries in Peru. I have extensive intercultural skills and am fluent in Spanish.

85. Committee on Discipline: Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Restricted: Female*)

A. The Rev. Jessica L.M. Cain

Southwestern Texas Synod (4E)

1) *Congregational membership*

Living Word Lutheran Church (ID: 30370) - Buda, TX

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*

Dean of Capital South Conference
Synod Assembly Planning Chair

3) *Education*

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Master Of
Divinity
Texas Lutheran University, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Pastor, Living Word Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1987

6) *Ethnicity*

White

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 be a rostered minister in the ELCA. Part of this calling is to support the work of the wider church, not just my local church. If the committee on appeals is called to action, I will serve by listening carefully, being in conversation with my co-committee members, and discerning God's calling to us. I will also serve by praying for the work of this church, and that we will not need to convene the discipline or appeals committees.

B. The Rev. Kristina N. Heise

Northeastern Ohio Synod (6E)

1) *Congregational membership*

St Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church (ID: 04439) - New
Pittsburg, OH

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*

Synod Council of Northeastern Ohio Synod
Vicar to Bethel Lutheran Church
Administrative Assistant to St. Lukes Lutheran Church of Logan
Square

3) *Education*

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Master Of Divinity
Ashford University, Bachelor Of Arts
Cleveland State University, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Pastor, St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1985

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

It is vital for ELCA members to know we take the conduct of our leadership seriously and will ensure the sacred trust between rostered leader and members will be upheld. In addition to my roles as pastor and chaplain I have volunteered at several domestic violence and sexual trafficking rehabilitation centers throughout the last 15 years. In seminary, I was asked to serve as a witness to sexual harassment hearings of a fellow student. In my role as Pastor for St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, I guided our Executive Committee in the ethical review and ultimate termination of a contract employee. Prior to seminary I was an administrator in the UCC and reported a supervisor for financial misconduct. The Forum for Theological Exploration and the Academy of Preachers repeatedly asked me to chair small group discussions. These discussions involve guiding theological students through conversations on professional ethics, call discernment, and spiritual reflection.

86. Committee on Discipline: Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Restricted to Region 7; male*)

A. The Rev. Tim Johansen

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)

1) *Congregational membership*

Temple Lutheran Church (ID: 00447) - Havertown, PA

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

Chaplain, Bear Creek Camp
SEPA Synod Forward Together in Faith Campaign
Delaware Conference Executive Committee

3) *Education*

Marist College, Bachelor Of Science In Business Admin
The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Master
Of Divinity

4) *Employment*

Pastor, Temple Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1986

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I am not a cradle Lutheran. My family fell in love with a Lutheran congregation when I was a child. I fell in love with Jesus soon after. The ELCA's emphasis on God's unconditional love and grace resonates with me. The Jesus narrative, and God's ability to meet us in unlikely circumstances, speaks to me.

Like Christ did and continues to do, I feel called to advocate for those who do not have a voice. I aim to use every bit of privilege I have to care for those living on the margins of our society and speak out for those who are mistreated, particularly by the church. Because of God's goodness, we have the church, the Holy Spirit, the means of grace. That is a privilege and responsibility which should never be taken lightly.

B. The Rev. Nathan D. Piphio

New England Synod (7B)

1) *Congregational membership*

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

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

Member, New England Synod Candidacy Committee
Chair, Synod Team for LGBT Inclusion
Dean, Boston Metro Conference

3) *Education*

Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Master Of Public Administration
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Master Of Divinity
Wartburg College, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Pastor, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1976

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

Leaders have the dual responsibility to both guide and guard the people with whom they live, work, and serve. As a rostered leader in the ELCA, I am honored and humbled by my call to guide people more fully into God's love announced in Christ and experienced in the Word and Sacraments.

At the same time, we are called to guard the communities we serve. Both as an internship supervisor, and as a member of the New England Synod Candidacy Committee, I've needed to act in ways that have guarded the body from those who would harm it either intentionally or unintentionally. Guarding the body by disciplining those who have wounded the body, and have become barriers and hindrances to an experience of God's Word, is a necessary part of guiding the people more fully into God's Word and into mission in the world.

I believe I have the experience, objectivity, and collaboration skills to serve effectively in this unique role. I look forward to serving if elected and called upon.

87. Committee on Discipline: Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Restricted to Region 7*)

A. The Rev. Emily Hamilton

New England Synod (7B)

1) *Congregational membership*

First Lutheran Church (ID: 03551) - Malden, MA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*

Synod Council

Metro NY Synod Domestic Violence Task Force

3) *Education*

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, No Degree
Earned

Union Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity

Vassar College, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Pastor, First Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1988

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

In my training to become a pastor, I spent a year working for a domestic violence organization. This work included learning to identify abusive behaviors, to educate others about them, to assess the facts in light of how abuse functions, and to seek accountability and justice. When Christians lose their way, the harm we do to one another impedes our ability to share the Good News. I am willing to serve on the discipline committee because I believe in strong boundaries, in accountability as necessary for service and spiritual growth, and because I believe that those experiencing abuse of any kind need accountability from their abusers in order to find peace and healing. I am willing to ask hard questions, to receive difficult answers, and to search for ways for all of us to receive Christ's healing and peace, even if those ways require disciplinary action.

B. The Rev. Dominic S. Smyth

New England Synod (7B)

1) *Congregational membership*

First Lutheran Church of the Reformation (ID: 07408) - New Britain, CT

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*

Emanuel Lutheran Church, Hartford CT

3) *Education*

The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Master Of Divinity

St. Paul's College Major Seminary, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Pastor, First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

5) *Year of birth*

1978

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 God has called me in the church because I am DIFFERENT. And I believe God is using this difference to challenge me, as well as others, to intentionally think of our mission and calling in a church, a world that is bigger than anyone of us - individually, as we continue to witness to the love of God for ALL people.

88. Committee on Discipline: Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Restricted: PC/L*)

A. The Rev. Emmanuel F.Y. Grantson

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

1) *Congregational membership*

St Michael's Truth Lutheran Church (ID: 07194) -
Mitchellville, MD

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*

African National Ministries, Steering Committee
Lutheran World Federation Council, Geneva,Switzerland
Metro. DC Synod Council

3) *Education*

Trinity College/University of your Ghana, Legon, Bachelor Of
Theology
Christ Seminary-Seminex/LSTC, Master Of Theology
LSTC, Doctor Of Philosophy

4) *Employment*

Pastor, St. Michael's Truth Lutheran

5) *Year of birth*

1949

6) *Ethnicity*

African National

7) *Primary Language*

Not English

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

To help strengthen the ELCA in its desire to provide justice and freedom in an environment of love and transparency.
To support staff and institution in their ministry and mission unhindered.
To assist white people to understand some of us ethnics!

B. The Rev. Angela L. Shannon

Indiana-Kentucky Synod (6C)

1) *Congregational membership*

Bethel Lutheran Church (ID: 02278) - Gary, IN

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*

Board member--Extraordinary Lutheran Ministry
Member committee for Evangelical Outreach & Congregational
Mission
Indiana Kentucky Synod Council (under former Bishop Stuck)

3) *Education*

Lutheran School of Theology, Master Of Divinity
Valparaiso University, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Pastor, All Saint Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1961

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 twenty-two years of ordained ministry, I have served in various capacities when called upon and where my gifts and skills were a match in local congregations as well as Synodical and Churchwide expressions of this church in the early 2000's. Since then, I have served as an Anti-Racism educator for WELCA and written for various ELCA publications. I care deeply about this church and support its continued growth as articulated in its Future Directions. Goal 5: A well-governed, connected, and sustainable church is of particular interest to me. I bring a protensive point of view, in that I've watch this church evolve, change and grow. I am adept at organizing and optimizing systems with an understanding that God is present and at work in them. I think this perspective will be of value on the nominating committee.

89. Committee on Discipline: Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Restricted to Region 9; PC/L; male*)

A. The Rev. James R. Thomas

South Carolina Synod (9C)

1) *Congregational membership*

Ebenezer Lutheran Church (ID: 05598) - Columbia, SC

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

Ebenezer Lutheran Church Council, Columbia, SC
Candidacy Committee - Southeastern Synod
National Council of Churches of Christ - General Board

3) *Education*

Concordia University - Nebraska, Bachelor Of Science In
Education
Christ Seminary/SEMINEX, Master Of Divinity
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Doctor Of Philosophy

4) *Employment*

Associate Professor of Church and Ministry and Worship,
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne

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've served for 28 years as a Chaplain in the US Air Force Reserve retiring in the rank of Lt. Col. I administered Chaplains of the 21st Air Force as Command Chaplain. I have worked with men and women through disciplinary hearings, promotions, and career decisions. I've served as a faculty member at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary for 10 years preparing men and women for rostered leadership in the ELCA. I have always felt called by God to do the work I am involved in. This work is my vocation, and I am pleased to be engaged in the Missio-Dei in this context. I am proud of my Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We have a library of Theological Statements that place us solidly in the Ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I bring a rich skill set to the work of this or another committee.

B. The Rev. Timothy L. Taylor

North Carolina Synod (9B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Grace Lutheran Church (ID: 10488) - Raleigh, NC

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

the Church of the Abiding Savior, Lutheran
Upper Tincum Lutheran Church

3) *Education*

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Master Of
Divinity
Susquehanna University

4) *Employment*

Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1959

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?*

Through a series of illnesses I have had the time to reexamine my call and see myself as pastor in the church and in the world. As clergy we have all been given a tremendous gift by God to be able to help God's Word come alive to all people, especially those who don't presently know God and those who do not think they need God. We have been entrusted with the care and nurture of God's people and that is exciting. I see my call now as one who has been given a second chance, and I want to make sure that everyone I meet leaves the encounter knowing whose I am and that God loves them also.

90. Committee on Discipline: Minister of Word and Service

A. Deacon Shelley M. Allen

South Carolina Synod (9C)

1) *Congregational membership*

Joy Lutheran Church (ID: 30418) - Moore, SC

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

Chair of the South Carolina Synod Candidacy Committee
ELCA Young Rostered Leaders Gathering-Planning Team

3) *Education*

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Master Of Arts In Religion
Lenoir-Rhyne University, Bachelor Of Arts In Ed.

4) *Employment*

Director of Faith Formation, Joy Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1978

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

The work of the Candidacy Committee is tough work but it is necessary work. I find great joy in serving on the South Carolina Synod Candidacy Committee. Walking with candidates in their discernment is an important part in the life of the church. This committee has to make decisions regarding the candidate and keeping Vision and Expectations at the fore front. We take great care in this work and we also are mindful our of responsibility to the larger church. It is a fine line that we walk but it necessary as we send out leaders to serve the church.

From synod youth events to chairing the synod youth leadership board to working in a congregational setting to camp & conference ministry, every ministry opportunity has been formational and has given me an appreciation for the work of the church. I am also aware of the importance of having boundary guidelines in every ministry setting. I have seen those implemented in each setting which further emphasizes the need for healthy boundaries.

B. Deacon Theresa J. Endres

Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)

1) *Congregational membership*

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church (ID: 02996) - Excelsior, MN

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

Board, Lutheran Campus Ministry- Twin Cities
National Macedonia Project Team

3) *Education*

Marquette University, Bachelor Of Science
Luther Seminary, Master Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Regional Representative, Portico Benefit Services

5) *Year of birth*

1962

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

When working as director of Stewardship and Development in the Mpls Area Synod office I discovered my love and passion for biblical stewardship. Since coming to Portico it has been a joy and privilege to use my seminary education and my experience from 9 years in the Mpls Area Synod office and 25 years before that in health care, to educate our leaders about the importance of holistic well-being and selfcare.

I agreed to be nominated for the discipline committee, because I have witnessed what can happen to a congregation and it's members when rostered ministers break the healthy boundaries of leadership that often starts by not tending to one's well-being. Whether that be physical, emotional, sexual or financial boundaries.

My hope would be that this committee would never have to meet. For the good order of the church, for the sake of God's mission, and the care of rostered ministers and members, a process needs to be in place to address misconduct for the well-being of the whole.

91. Committee on Discipline: Lay Female (*Restricted: PC/L*)

A. Ms. Tina M. Bigelow

Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)

1) *Congregational membership*

Vinland Lutheran Church (ID: 12950) - Poulsbo, WA

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

VLC Preschool Board of Directors member
VLC voting member to SWWA Gathering 2015 and 2017
WELCA SWWA VP then President 2014-2017, EX BRD17-19

3) *Education*

Tulane University, Bachelor Of Science Engineering
Naval Post Graduate School, Master Of Science

4) *Employment*

Project Management, CACI

5) *Year of birth*

1962

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?*

As a member of the United States Navy, I was a church hopping Christian my entire career. Once my husband and I both retired, we chose to live in Washington state in order to be close to family and military support. Our children's opinion mattered and when we found Vinland Lutheran Church (VLC), they requested we "go back there." That was 2007 and they were in first and third grade. Joining VLC, I found my spiritual home. I felt God calling me to serve my church and use my experiences to help. From 2007 to present, I have become more involved and have enjoyed my increased roles and responsibilities. My service includes: Preschool board, church voting member to synod (twice), communion team, youth chaperone, altar guild, WELCA unit member, WELCA Triennial delegate (now termed voting member), WELCA synod VP and President, and WELCA Executive Board Member. As a 100% disabled veteran and a woman of color, I feel I have a perspective which would benefit my membership on the church council.

B. Ms. Tanisha Pitre

Southwest California Synod (2B)

1) *Congregational membership*

(ID: 31047) - ,

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

Campaign for The ELCA Steering Committee
Church Council & Youth Ministry at Community Lutheran Church
Multi-Synodical Candidacy Committee/Southwest Calif. Synod Candidacy Committee

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*

Owner and Clinical Psychologist at Align Wellness, Inc. (Private Practice), Align Wellness, Inc.

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?*

I've always felt a calling to use my gifts of leadership and administration within the church, but I was not sure how or in what capacity. A few years ago, I went through a training to become a deacon through the African Descent Strategy. It was during this time, that as I began to discern the different ways that I could become more involved in church locally as well as churchwide. Different opportunities began to present themselves, which allowed me to explore and participate in various capacities using my gifts, while developing new ones. During my most recent churchwide service, as a member of the Campaign for the ELCA-Steering Committee, I have had the opportunity to utilize my gifts in a different way related to philanthropic efforts of the church and our members. I look forward to continue using my gifts and various experiences in a way, that furthers the mission of our church in sharing the love of Christ.

92. Committee on Discipline: Lay Female (*Restricted to Region 3*)

A. Ms. Gwen E. Arneson

Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F)

1) *Congregational membership*

Christ Lutheran Church (ID: 12037) - Cottonwood, MN

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

SWMN Synod Vice President
ELCA Nominating Committee (not certain of years of term)
Multiple Synod Committees and Task Forces - for more than 25 years

3) *Education*

Augustana (College) University, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Lay Pastoral Assistant/Organist, Christ Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1953

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

It has been a great privilege and source of joy and spiritual growth for me to serve in all the roles to which I've been called. My eyes and heart have been opened to the diversity and expanse of God's church; for that I give thanks. On so many occasions and in daily life it has been my honor to meet and learn from countless faithful followers of Jesus in a variety of settings, reminding me in beautiful ways that all of life is birthed and bathed in our baptismal calling to live among God's faithful people, be fed with word and meal, proclaim the good news of Christ in word and deed, serve all people with Jesus as our example, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

I have to offer the gifts (that others have also affirmed) of careful listening, a commitment to learn, a compassionate heart, a deep sense of responsibility, a collaborative spirit, a history of service in the church, and a willingness to see where God may be calling me to serve in the days to come.

B. Ms. Sherri L. Broderius

Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F)

1) *Congregational membership*

St Paul's Lutheran Church (ID: 12092) - Hector, MN

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

Southwest Minnesota Synod - Bishop's Round Table
Southwest Minnesota Synod - Strategic Planning

3) *Education*

Mankato State University, Bachelor Of Arts In Ed.
Mankato State University, Master Of Arts In Education
Mankato State University, Educational Specialist

4) *Employment*

Public School Superintendent, MACCRAY Public School

5) *Year of birth*

1958

6) *Ethnicity*

White

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 work with all ages in my work as a public school administrator. I see the lives families live. There are times I wonder how faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is happening in their lives. What stands in the way? Often I celebrate the faith lives of kids who are involved in the work of the Lord and are very proud of it. I see the small rural communities who struggle to survive. They are dependent on their school and churches to help keep communities alive.

My secular work has also given me the opportunity to work in finance. I have overseen budgets of schools. Strategic planning has been an integral part of that work, as has been education policy, leadership training and mentoring new school administrators.

My faith work consists of working at the synod level trying to ascertain how best to serve churches in our synod with declining membership, financial support and work for and in the church.

My mission...connect what I see in the world to ELCA work.

93. Committee on Discipline: Lay Female

A. Ms. Rachel Davis

Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)

1) *Congregational membership*

Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 05489) - Loveland, CO

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

Congregational Rep @ Synod Assembly
Atonement Lutheran Church, Denver, CO
Our Savior's Lutherna Church, Greeley, CO

3) *Education*

Taylor University, Bachelor Of Music
Azusa Pacific University, Masters In Education

4) *Employment*

Director of Admissions & Outreach, Front Range Community
College

5) *Year of birth*

1976

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

Having served most recently, for three years, on the Fund for Leaders Scholarship Review Committee, I was considering different churchwide service. After learning about my 16 years in higher education, I was approached for nomination to the CoD. In higher education, I have served as a Hall Director which included adjudicating conduct cases both isolated to residence halls. I also served as a staff advisor for a peer conduct board which heard more extreme alcohol related cases on campus. Since then, having become a Director serving in the areas of academic advising and admissions/outreach, I have supervised large & small professional, graduate student, and student staffs handling everything from hiring, training, discipline, separation, and termination processes. As the spouse of a pastor who has served for almost 15 years in the ELCA, I am familiar with church governance and congregational dynamics and leadership. It would be a privilege to serve in this role. Thank you very much.

B. Ms. Anne H. Williams

Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D)

1) *Congregational membership*

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 10838) - Ankeny, IA

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

Synod youth ministry

3) *Education*

Illiff School of Theology, Master Of Arts In Religion
Augustana College - Rock Island, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Minister for Learning, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1978

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

Working in the church as a full time lay professional allows me to see and experience the contexts in which pastors find themselves. I'm very open minded and tend toward compassion unless "least of these" are placed in a vulnerable position.

I think I would bring a knowledge of the inner workings of congregations and relationships between staff, pastors, laity and leadership. I would also bring an appreciation of upholding the process. Most importantly, I think I would bring compassion tied to clarity.

94. Committee on Discipline: Lay Female (*Restricted to Region 9*)

A. Ms. Sarah J. Downs

Virginia Synod (9A)

1) *Congregational membership*

Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 06136) - Stephens City, VA

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

Day Of Service in honor of Reformation
Congregation Outreach

3) *Education*

Lord Fairfax Community College, Associate Degree In The
Sciences
George Mason University, Bachelor Of Science

4) *Employment*

Workstudy/ Receptionist, Lord Fairfax Community College

5) *Year of birth*

1998

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 19, and I believe that Christ is calling me to be involved in the church and to be a vessel of his word and love. I have been involved in my own congregation by growing our youth program and by being heavily involved in our outreach ministries. I am also serving on my church Vestry Board as their youth member. I am working towards a B.S. in Community Health because I would like to work for Non-profits and close the health and food equity gap. I enjoy any kind of service activity, public speaking, and worship. I love my community and my church and by attending and representing my congregation at the Nationwide assembly I hope to bring home valuable information, that way I can lead my church to continue growing. I feel that the I can be the next generation of the church and that I can lead my church to new horizons. I'm feel called to do so and would love to attend the assembly. I hope to fulfill God's work, with My hands.

B. Ms. Bethany N. Fayard

Southeastern Synod (9D)

1) *Congregational membership*

Christus Victor Lutheran Church (ID: 05813) - Ocean Springs, MS

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

Council Member at Christus Victor Lutheran Church
ELCA Social Statement Task Force; Justice for Women
Christian Ed, VBS, Music at Christus Victor Lutheran Church

3) *Education*

Mississippi State University, Bachelor Of Science

4) *Employment*

Director of Operations, Ocean Springs Seafood, Inc.

5) *Year of birth*

1977

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I've been prayerfully considering how God is calling me to serve the ELCA as my role on the "Women and Justice, One in Christ" task force ends. Lay task force members have been valuable in the process of creating a statement that speaks both to career theologians, member, and the outside world. If the church is "God's Hands," then the members of the ELCA are God's fingers, who demonstrate Christ's love in the world. The ELCA must express Christ's love by seeking justice when approaching situations that involve those accused of wrongdoing and those who are victims.

I've spent my career in roles that require the management of staff, volunteers, human resources, and cash flow. I've overseen investigations and applied justice in a variety of situations involving complicated and sensitive issues. I'm thorough in investigating situations that could be life altering for all parties. If chosen to serve on the Committee, I will strive to serve justice in the most equitable fashion possible.

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

A. Mr. Peter S. J. McKinney

North/West Lower Michigan Synod (6B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 02858) - Grand Rapids, MI

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

Division for Ministry Churchwide Board
Synod Council for NorthWest Lower Synod
Trinity Lutheran Church Council

3) *Education*

4) *Employment*

Senior Systems Management Analyst, Steelcase Inc.

5) *Year of birth*

1975

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 have been very active in my church since I was a youth. My Dad was an ELCA Pastor and my mom was a rostered layperson. I have already had a calling to serve. I served as a Youth member of the Southeast Michigan Synod council in high school, I was very active in the Luther Youth Organization at both a Synodical and Churchwide level. I served on the ELCA Division for Ministry Churchwide board, I have belonged to three churches in the Grand Rapids area and have served on the church council at all three churches and also have served as Youth leader, treasurer and technology point person. Outside of the church, I am highly active in the American Youth Soccer Organization as the Area Director of the Grand Rapids area and I'm a Boy Scout leader. In all of these roles I have had to deal with conflict and discipline and I feel that this is another opportunity that I can use my gifts that God has given me to serve the ELCA.

B. Mr. David K. Tap

Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F)

1) *Congregational membership*

Bethlehem Lutheran Church (ID: 12195) - Saint Cloud, MN

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

St Timothy Lutheran, Hendersonville TN; Teacher
Bethel Lutheran Church, Northfield MN; Teacher
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St Cloud MN; Lay Minister

3) *Education*

Working on GED

4) *Employment*

Line Worker, Cargill

5) *Year of birth*

1963

6) *Ethnicity*

African National

7) *Primary Language*

Not English

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

God called me to love Him and also I was the first Christian from my family who trust the Lord.

I am very happy to be a member of the ELCA and teach congregations and help them. Also I have a good relationship with the people of God.

Evangelical Lutheran Church gave me the opportunity to be a Lay Minister, because I have many years of teaching experience in Churches.

96. Committee on Discipline: Lay Male

A. Mr. Jimmie Eschberger

Southwestern Texas Synod (4E)

1) Congregational membership

Faith Lutheran Church (ID: 14190) - McDade, TX

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

SWTX Synod Council
Faith Council President
Faith Council Treasurer

3) Education

University of Houston, No Degree Earned

4) Employment

Personal Assistant, Cedar B

5) Year of birth

1965

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

I was asked to sit on church council, and for the last nine years I have held several positions. My service expanded from serving the congregation of Faith to help form a cooperative in our conference for three small rural congregations, one of which is Faith. I was then asked to serve on Synod Council. In May 2018 I was asked to put my name forward as a representative on Church Wide and I was elected to serve the Southwestern Texas Synod. Throughout my business career I have dealt with discipline on a daily basis. I believe in reviewing facts when making any decision, hearsay can play no part in discipline. Confidentiality is key. In some instances discipline has the ability to remove a person from their called profession and this cannot be taken lightly. Prayer needs to be a part of any decision making process. I believe all parties, in any situation, need to be heard. After all facts are presented then the time for discernment begins. The final step is to administer the discipline.

B. Mr. David Lewis

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

1) Congregational membership

Lord of Life Lutheran Church (ID: 10359) - Fairfax, VA

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Youth Adult Leader and Service Activities Coordinator
Confirmation Teacher
Stephen Minister, Stephen Ministry Trainer

3) Education

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, Bachelor Of Business Admin

4) Employment

Assistant Director, US Government Accountability Office

5) Year of birth

1960

6) Ethnicity

White

7) Primary Language

English

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

There are two hallmarks of my adult life. The first has been a willingness to look for opportunities to serve my church. I was a youth group leader as a youth and a youth program leader as a young adult, when my children were in their high school years, and in the years since. I have served on various church councils, boards, and task forces since I became a voting member. Today I am coordinating service activities for a thriving youth group, setting up post-service dinners every Sunday evening, rehabilitating donated furniture, and emptying mousetraps as needed. God has given me the time and aptitude to do many things, and I am blessed to do what I can to build God's Kingdom. Second is a 34-year career holding federal agencies accountable for efficient and effective service to the American people. My career has been spent gathering and evaluating evidence and teaching others to do the same. I believe that this experience would serve a member of the Committee on Discipline well.

97. Committee on Discipline: Lay Male (*Restricted to Region 4*)

A. Mr. Kevin J. Boatright

Central States Synod (4B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 01630) - Lawrence, KS

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

ELCA Division for Ministry, Board Member and Chair
Central States Synod, Committee on Discipline, Member
Lutheran Campus Ministry at KU, Board Member and Chair

3) *Education*

Nebraska Wesleyan University, Bachelor Of Arts
University of Iowa, Master Of Arts
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Master Of Science In
Education

4) *Employment*

Director (Emeritus) of External Affairs, Office of Research,
University of Kansas (KU)

5) *Year of birth*

1952

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

While discipline is not the mission of the ELCA, it's a necessary function for good order in the church. As a current member of my synod's Committee on Discipline, I understand the function and the necessity: to exist, to be ready, and to serve when needed.

As a member and chair of the Board of the ELCA Division for Ministry, I was deeply engaged in the churchwide discussion of issues related to human sexuality. That required an understanding of the "Vision and Expectations" documents and their ramifications for discipline. This experience, and being a voting or advisory member at six Churchwide Assemblies, gave me useful insights into the governance of the ELCA.

I am a mature person of sound judgment who respects confidentiality, and a diligent, well-organized committee member. I also agree that someone in this role should "listen well, think clearly, have the good of the whole church at heart, and discern fairly." If elected, I would try to fulfill that daunting job description.

B. Mr. Carol R. Swenson

Central States Synod (4B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 01652) - McPherson, KS

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

Central States Synod Campus Ministry Team Board
Central States Synod Assembly Delegate
Church Council/Treasurer

3) *Education*

Kansas State University, Bachelor Of Science In Education
Wichita State University, Masters In Education

4) *Employment*

Director of Sports Information/Director of Annual Giving,
McPherson College

5) *Year of birth*

1946

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

My interest in the larger church developed from an early age as I grew up in a home where the importance of the work of the church beyond its local level was emphasized through our family's gifts to and my mother's correspondence with missionaries around the world. I was privileged to be elected to serve as a delegate to the initial synod assembly of the Central States Synod at the time of the formation of the ELCA and multiple times since. Having taught at the secondary school level for over 30 years, followed by another 10 years of work at the collegiate level, I felt called to volunteer to serve on the Campus Ministry Team Board of the CSS and have spoken on behalf of LCM on the floor of the CSS assembly. As a member of our congregation as well as Trinity's church council, I have continued to lift up the work and needs of our synod church-wide bodies, encouraging regular giving along with special gifts to both the CSS and ELCA on both an individual and congregational basis.

98. Committee on Discipline: Lay Male

A. Mr. Denton L. Bennet Jr

North Carolina Synod (9B)

1) *Congregational membership*

New Hope Lutheran Church (ID: 30290) - Kannapolis, NC

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

New Hope Lutheran Church
Kimball Memorial Church
River Rock Church

3) *Education*

Luther Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Luther Rice College & Seminary, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Student Pastor, New Hope Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1980

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

Over the past twelve years I have fought against a sense of calling from God to serve in ministry. At first I began by being involved in children's ministry in my local baptist church, and after much encouragement from folks there I enrolled in a baptist seminary to earn a bachelor degree in ministry. While in school I continued serving the church and the children of God through children's and youth ministries, a temporary homeless shelter, and an inner city bus ministry. At this time I began preaching in supply for local churches and was elected to be the outreach/missions pastor for my church. After graduating from my BA degree, I was called to be an assistant pastor at a church in Vass, NC. However at this time, and for about 6 months prior, I had been immersed in the study of the early church and of Martin Luther. This led me to leaving the baptist church and joining the ELCA, where I have been in seminary for a year and half (Luther, St. Paul). and serving as Student Pastor.

B. Mr. Andrew A. Springhorn

Saint Paul Area Synod (3H)

1) *Congregational membership*

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (ID: 03107) - Shoreview, MN

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

Shepherd of the Hills, Youth Leadership Team
Shepherd of the Hills, Peer Ministry Team

3) *Education*

4) *Employment*

Team Member, Imagine White Bear Movie Theatre

5) *Year of birth*

2001

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

When I was young, my family was tight on cash, so we focused on donating time to the church. Now that I am older, a big way I continue to donate time is participation in standing committees and groups. Although a specific meeting sometimes might not feel like it, the work that we accomplish across time is really powerful.

I believe that I can be a useful member of the Committee on Discipline mainly because I believe in being alert and forgiveness. In high school, the idea of the social chameleon is common, but I strive to be the same person no matter where I am or who I am with. Furthermore, I strive for that person to always act in a way I am proud of, and a way that glorifies God. That being said, I sometimes fail, and I know others do to, so I live with as much forgiveness as I can. I am still young, but I have had some great leadership opportunities and great mentors at church, at school, and at home. I am a strong person, and I can be a strong addition to the committee.

99. Nominating Committee: Lay Female (*Restricted to Region 1*)

A. Deacon Debra H. Mantey

Oregon Synod (1E)

1) *Congregational membership*

St Mark Lutheran Church (ID: 04966) - Salem, OR

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*

Congregational Commission Adhoc committee member
Region 1 Youth Chaperone to Churchwide in Milwaukee
Education Committee- Southwest Texas Synod

3) *Education*

Valparaiso University, Bachelor Of Arts
Lutheran Bible Institute, No Degree Earned
Concordia College, No Degree Earned

4) *Employment*

Outreach Coordinator, Saint Mark Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1957

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

Not English

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

I believe that when an opportunity presents itself in an area that one cares deeply about, it is right to explore the possibilities. I have served this church in various ways, but only once in the churchwide expression. My work with Augsburg Fortress allowed an opportunity to network with other regional and churchwide staff, which was both interesting and important in shaping my ongoing ministry. Most of my work has been at connecting resources. for many years printed resources and programatic ministry with passionate lay members.

The opportunity to serve on the nominating committee would also be bringing together appropriate resources for ministry needs, in this case, people with a commitment to serve God with the breadth of ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. My current call to ministry as Outreach Coordinator invites me to consider who the Church is not reaching and how we can speak an inviting word and be witnesses to God's creative work.

B. Ms. Jessica M. Potts

Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)

1) *Congregational membership*

Messiah Lutheran Church, Vancouver WA, Yes--ELCA (link was broken)

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*

SWWA Synod Youth Committe
ELCA Churchwide Church Council
Led multiple groups on disaster relief trips with LDR

3) *Education*

University of Wisconsin--Madison, Bachelor Of Science
Madison Area Technical College--EMT, Certificate

4) *Employment*

Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Messiah Lutheran Church and Preschool

5) *Year of birth*

1976

6) *Ethnicity*

White

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 a lifelong Lutheran and have worked full-time as a layperson in ELCA congregations for over 20 years. I have been active at the congregational, synodical and Churchwide levels. My time serving on the Churchwide Church Council gave me insight into the various boards and committees and I believe would help me in matching gifts and talents for nominating persons for those roles, if I became a member of the Nominating Committee.

I believe I have a vast network of connections that would help in finding qualified candidates for Church Council and Committees. I enjoy finding ways to connect others to the larger church. I feel I have been called to serve in the church and would welcome an opportunity to serve at the Churchwide level again.

100. Nominating Committee: Lay Male (*Restricted to Region 8; Y/YA*)

A. Mr. Adam M. Fairchild

Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F)

1) *Congregational membership*

Grace Lutheran Church (ID: 02633) - Westminster, MD

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

Practice Discipleship: Young Adult Ministry of the Delaware-Maryland Synod
National Board, Lutheran Student Movement USA
Leadership Team, Lutheran Campus Ministry at University of Maryland

3) *Education*

University of Maryland, College Park, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Resident Assistant, Department of Resident Life, University of Maryland

5) *Year of birth*

1999

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I feel God's call to the mission of the ELCA through the work of the Nominating Committee in my passion for service to the larger church and its various ministries. Through the Nominating Committee, I would live into this passion by learning more about the work of the larger church and empowering others to live into their senses of call to different forms of service to the church.

I am especially skilled in decision-making, community leadership, and communication. Through experiences like attending the ELCA Young Adult Discernment Retreat this past November and representing Region 8 on the National Board for Lutheran Student Movement, I have developed strong relationships with a diverse group of peers across the church. These opportunities have helped me understand different perspectives on the mission of the ELCA in today's world. If I were to serve on the Nominating Committee, I would utilize these connections in identifying strong candidates for positions of church leadership.

B. Mr. N. Uzoma Ariguzo

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

1) *Congregational membership*

All Saints Lutheran Church (ID: 07421) - Bowie, MD

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

All Saints Lutheran Church

3) *Education*

University of Maryland, Bachelor Of Arts
University of Maryland, Bachelor Of Science

4) *Employment*

Assistant Chaplain, Lutheran Campus Ministry

5) *Year of birth*

1994

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?*

Throughout my life, I have battled with the doubts and fears concerning my faith in God. From the start of college career, I had always questioned and wondered how God worked in my life and at times lacked the faith to realize that God was transforming the way I looked at the world each day. Towards the end of Senior year, God had brought certain people into my life who helped guide and remind me of the calling of ministry that has always been in my life.

Having served in the Young Adults in Global Missions program, I have found that my sense of calling in mission and service has solidified itself in the accompaniment I had done with people in an international context. I have found an inspired commitment to help serve the ELCA in its mission of reconciliation with people all over the world and have currently enjoyed serving College students at the University of Maryland College Park.

Being a young adult within the church, I believe I bring a unique lens to this committee!

101. Nominating Committee: Lay Female (*Restricted to Region 4*)

A. Ms. Gwendolynn Edwards

Nebraska Synod (4A)

1) *Congregational membership*

Lord of Love Lutheran Church (ID: 10189) - Omaha, NE

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

Women of the ELCA, Churchwide Executive Board
Nebraska W/ELCA Vice President then President
Nebraska Synod Assembly Parliamentarian

3) *Education*

Metropolitan Community College, Associate Degree In The Sciences
Metropolitan Community College, Associate Degree In The Sciences
University of Nebraska-Omaha

4) *Employment*

IT Administrative Assistant / IT Procurement, National Indemnity Company

5) *Year of birth*

1964

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

God has been calling me to serve outside the walls for my congregation for many years, to share and demonstrate His unconditional love. Having the opportunity to serve my Synod on Assembly Planning Team, W/ELCA President, as Assembly Parliamentarian and the CW W/ELCA Board and Parliamentarian as given me the opportunity to share His word and the work of the W/ELCA and the ELCA itself. During these years of service, I have continued learning and sharing justice, racial advocacy, empowering others to be leaders and use their gifts. Serving CW W/ELCA has given me the opportunity to travel to many different synods.

Within my congregation, I served in many roles from congregational council to VBS Director to Bible study leader. It was there when I heard God calling me to continue serving and Act Boldly. To use my gifts to serve beyond my congregation. My organizational skills are an asset to any task. Harmony is my top strength and intercessory prayer my spiritual gift.

B. Ms. Ann Hafften

Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod (4D)

1) *Congregational membership*

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

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

Synod Council, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod
Mission Endowment Fund Board, NT-NL Synod,
Choir singer at Messiah Lutheran

3) *Education*

Drake University, College of Journalism, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Writer, editor, communication consultant, Self

5) *Year of birth*

1952

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

My vocation was fulfilled by my staff service in the former ALC national offices and in the ELCA churchwide offices as well as in synod positions. My career in church communication provided opportunities for extensive relationships in our church and experience with ecumenical partners and in the global church. As a consultant I organized an education and advocacy listserv for ELCA Global Mission, coordinated US volunteers for a World Council of Churches program, and represented a Palestinian fair trade olive oil company among US churches and peace groups. I have written many articles for the former "Lutheran" magazine and other publications. I consult with Lutheran authors on the editing and organizing of their books. One of my biggest influences, since I was a young adult, has been Holden Village. There I encountered the freedom of the gospel and the beauty of Christian community. I served as a volunteer at that retreat center, and as a member of the Board for three terms.

102. Nominating Committee: Lay Female (*Restricted to Region 9*)

A. Ms. Sandra R. Cline

North Carolina Synod (9B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church (ID: 04213) - Belmont, NC

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

NC Synod Council
Lenoir-Rhyne University Board of Trustees
Region 9 Archives Board

3) *Education*

Lenoir-Rhyne University, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Call Process Coordinator, NC Synod ELCA

5) *Year of birth*

1950

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

Because of my work in 3 different institutions of the church, I have been privileged to come in contact with many leaders at the congregational, synodical, and churchwide levels of the church. I have visited many congregations in both Region 9 of the ELCA and other regions of the church. I think this knowledge of the church and it's people have prepared me to serve on this important committee in the life of the church.

B. Ms. Doris M. Underwood

Southeastern Synod (9D)

1) *Congregational membership*

Messiah Lutheran Church (ID: 07732) - Montgomery, AL

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

Southeastern Synod Candidacy Committee
Southeastern Synod Synod Council
Southeastern Synod Vice President

3) *Education*

Auburn University Montgomery, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Manager, Montgomery Cardiovascular Associates

5) *Year of birth*

1946

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 1999 I was selected to serve on the Call Committee at my home congregation. That experience introduced me to the wider church and I emerged from that experience with a sense of call to service in the ELCA. That call was affirmed when the Assistant to the Bishop asked me to serve on our synod's candidacy committee. Since then I have served two terms on our synod council and two terms as vice president of my synod. I felt a sense of call to each of those roles and those calls were affirmed by my colleagues.

If elected to the church council, I will bring first of all, a great love for the ELCA and what it stands for and a strong desire to see it continue as a beacon of hope in our world. I will also bring first-rate organizational and communication skills, and an ability to bring consensus to a diverse group. I will bring a strong sense of commitment and the ability to focus on goals and see them through to completion. I will bring all that I am and I hope that is enough.

103. Nominating Committee: Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Restricted to PC/L; Region 5*)

A. The Rev. Lawrence J. Clark II

Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

1) *Congregational membership*

St Mark Lutheran Church (ID: 01935) - Chicago, IL

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

Metro Chicago Synod Council & Executive Committee
ELCA African Descent National Strategy Team
Chaplin ELCA LYO, MYLE, National Youth Gathering

3) *Education*

Interdenominational Theological Center, Doctor Of Ministry
Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Master Of Divinity
San Francisco State University, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Senior Pastor, St Mark Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1964

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 was asked to serve and after prayerfully considering this nomination, I am making myself available for call to the mission and service to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I am a gifted administrator, worship leader, curator, and a great listener seeking always to involve and engage others in the life of the church and ministry. I have served in a variety of leadership positions, and capacities. Additionally, I have served on local, synodical, and national organizations and boards. I also have experience as a member and chair of several nominating committees. I bring a wealth of knowledge and wisdom to the process and I personally look forward to using my gifts and skills in the service of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

B. The Rev. Gus Barnes Jr.

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5K)

1) *Congregational membership*

Luther Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church (ID: 06675) - Delavan, WI

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

Churchwide Assemblies-07/09/11
Greater Milwaukee synod and Assemblies 1990-2012
Currently Active in South Central Synod-WI

3) *Education*

Wartburg Seminary, Master Of Divinity

4) *Employment*

Solo Pastor, Luther Memorial

5) *Year of birth*

1961

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?*

To serve unconditionally in an everchanging church. My call began in 1980 when the LCA was not affirming people of color into it's ministry. As people of the ELCA we have come a great distance, yet there is much work to be done to this welcoming church. I have a passion for all of God's people and desire to be present where they are. If we are to grow as a church, meeting people where they are is important as we develop meaningful relationships with Christ and most importantly with one another.

104. Nominating Committee: Rostered Minister of Word and Sacrament

A. The Rev. Andrew (Drew) Tucker

Southern Ohio Synod (6F)

1) *Congregational membership*

Epiphany Lutheran Church (ID: 13278) - Pickerington, OH

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

Epiphany Lutheran Church Building Vision Committee
ELCA Appalachian Ministry Task Force
Virginia Council of Churches Young Leaders Task Force

3) *Education*

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University, Master Of Sacred Theology
Duke University Divinity School, Master Of Divinity
Ashland University, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

University Pastor, Capital University

5) *Year of birth*

1985

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

When first asked to consider serving on the Nominating Committee, my first reaction was surprise. As I reflected on the purpose of a nominating committee, to consider the leadership our church needs, the skills that such leadership requires, and the discernment of who might best fill those roles, I realized the synergy between that call and my work as University Pastor at Capital University and Trinity Lutheran Seminary. As we foster leadership in our students of all vocations, as we raise up rostered leaders and other church professionals, as we identify the gifts in faculty and staff to serve in ways previously unknown to them, it is something of the work of a nominating committee. We notice the needs of the campus, of the community of the church. We identify the gifts needed to meet those needs. We ask people to serve in that way.

Given that missional alignment, I do sense a call to serve the wider church in this way as well.

B. The Rev. Jared Witt

1) *Congregational membership*

(ID: 31174) - ,

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

Developed IDignity of Seminole County
Haitian Timoun Foundation Partner
Trinity Lutheran Seminary Alumni Council

3) *Education*

Colorado State University, Bachelor Of Science
Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Master Of Divinity

4) *Employment*

Pastor/Co-Founder, Castle Church

5) *Year of birth*

1985

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

We live in a time where many love the church but have no eyes to see its faults. Others see only its faults but have no love for it.

The ELCA will not transform and grow in a way that both keeps pace with the shifting culture and stays faithful to the Gospel, if the transformation isn't driven by leaders who both love it and see it honestly for where it's at.

Having built the first church to own and utilize a brewery as its worship space puts me in a rare position, where I get to see perceptions of the church from both the inside and the outside and then find ways to communicate Gospel on both fronts.

In a typical day, I'll run into a 25 year old software programmer who identifies as an atheist, a marine vet who is sympathetic but wary of church for some past hurt, and a born and bred ELCA Lutheran all under the same roof. And I've found ways to integrate them into one earnest community, where Gospel might make itself known on any given night. That's my most important credential.

105. Nominating Committee: Lay Male

A. Deacon Jason Fisher

Central/Southern Illinois Synod (5C)

1) Congregational membership

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ID: 10585) - Champaign, IL

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

3) Education

Greenville College

4) Employment

Director of Youth & Family Ministry, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

5) Year of birth

1980

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?

It wasn't until I began the process of becoming a rostered lay leader within the ELCA, and going through candidacy, that I found a variety of ways to serve within the church that I didn't even know existed. My own experience has been that many opportunities to serve are not apparent to us until we dive deeper into serving God.

I've encountered a number of youth and adults who also feel called to Word and Service ministry but who have, for no fault of their own, a limited idea of what that could look like. I feel called to help give people opportunities to explore God's call on their lives by being nominated to positions that may be entirely new to them, yet could open up doors to life long service in Jesus' name.

B Mr. Hierald E. Osorto

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

1) Congregational membership

Luther Place Memorial Church (ID: 02646) - Washington, DC

2) Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities

Organizing for Mission CoHort
Glocal Workshop Leader
Co-Leader for MYLE

3) Education

Messiah College, Bachelor Of Arts
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity
Luther Seminary, Master Of Arts

4) Employment

Director, Religious and Spiritual Life, Ithaca College

5) Year of birth

1984

6) Ethnicity

Latino/Latina

7) Primary Language

English

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

In a world where scarcity and isolation obscure our vision, the church needs leadership that can draw renewing waters from the font. I believe the church needs leadership that proclaims the Gospel with integrity, creativity, and beauty, and empowers the body of Christ to live out that proclamation in our lives. Encouraging discipleship challenges leaders to hold up the vision of life in the kingdom of heaven and to meet people where they are. The changes in society require that leaders stay open and flexible while remaining grounded in their experiences of the One who has entered our lives and transformed us. I believe God has cultivated in me gifts that respond to these needs. The waters of baptism bathe us all, reminding us that God gives the gift of ministry—a new way of seeing, dreaming, and acting—to the whole church. No one is baptized into this renewed life alone; each person is a member of Christ's body, and each requires the other to pursue the redemption of the world.

106. Nominating Committee: Lay Female

A. Ms. Desta R. Goehner

Southwest California Synod (2B)

1) *Congregational membership*

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 05084) - Thousand Oaks, CA

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

Holy Trinity Lutheran, Thousand Oaks, CA: Youth & Family ministry volunteer,
Mount Cross Lutheran, Camarillo, CA: Leading Spiritual practices, Youth & Family ministry volunteer,
ELCA Youth Ministry Network: Communications Team & Extravaganza Exec Planning Team

3) *Education*

California Lutheran University, Bachelor Of Liberal Studies
Stillpoint: The Center of Christian Spirituality (Spiritual Director), Certificate

4) *Employment*

Director of Congregational Relations, California Lutheran University

5) *Year of birth*

1974

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

Vocation is the whole way I serve God. I have been shaped through many different roles and experiences and I carry those with me to each table I sit at.

I am a trained & certified Spiritual Director, married to an ELCA pastor and am a mother. I work with people of different faith traditions & world views. I travel with work to support and collaborate with church leaders in ELCA Regions 1 & 2. I have served in congregations, on a Synod staff, in Lutheran outdoor ministries, the ELCA Youth Ministry Network in leadership and now in Lutheran Higher Education. I served on the Board for Holden Village.

I am peeling back layers to see more clearly how I carry, access and hold privilege as a white, straight, married, Christian woman in this world and our church. I try to use my voice to lift up voices of people on the margins. God calls me to build relationships across boundaries & categories through my deep listening, care for people and community.

www.linkedin.com/in/destag

B. Ms. Marcia L. Riggers

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

1) *Congregational membership*

St Andrew's Lutheran Church (ID: 04929) - Bellevue, WA

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

Certified Lay Minister, SWWA synod
Lutheran Ecumenical Outreach Chair, Seattle Univ.
Voting member, Churchwide Assembly

3) *Education*

Univ. of Washington, B S In Home Economics/Health
Columbia University, Master Of Arts In Teaching

4) *Employment*

Asst. Supt. Operations and Support, State Supt. of Public Instruction

5) *Year of birth*

1941

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

For nearly 50 years, as an active lay person and lay minister, I have supported and participated in the institutional church in a wide variety of leadership roles - church council president, call committees, Regional Coordinating Council, synod committees, and Churchwide Assemblies.

In all of these roles, I quickly understood that the passion, commitment, diversity, talent and grace of my colleagues and partners literally, by God's Grace, sustained the Church we love - through ever present theological, political, economic, and social change.

As a rule, I have been comfortable with ambiguity and a reflective thinker: a consensus builder and creative problem solver - bringing maturity, experience and a Lutheran "lens" to ministry in daily life.

It would be a privilege to help identify individuals who care deeply about God's work through the ELCA and are willing to be God's hands, hearts and minds at this critical time in our history.

107. Nominating Committee: Female (*Restricted to PC/L*)

A. Ms. Annette Sample

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)

1) *Congregational membership*

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation (ID: 00726) - Philadelphia, PA

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

SEPA Synod Hunger Ministry Team
Assistant Minister, Reformation Lutheran Church
LAMPa Board

3) *Education*

Temple University, Master Of Arts In Education
University of Pennsylvania

4) *Employment*

English Teacher, Carver High School for Engineering and Science

5) *Year of birth*

1952

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?*

It has been a blessing to serve the ELCA for over thirty years on national boards (Multicultural Ministries and ADLA), synodically and at the congregational level (church council president at Christ Lutheran Church and Property Committee Chair), as well as chairing the Call Committee both at Reformation and Christ Lutheran. In every capacity, communications and leadership skills are key to the success of a team. My approach to leadership has been participatory empowering all members to contribute to our shared goals.

Through my work in varied capacities I have developed a deeper relationship with God and the people I have worked with and believe God still calls me to mission and service in the ELCA. Always in prayer to discern God's will and be obedient, I believe my past work both in the church and in the field of education have provided me with gifts to seek out others who may be interested in serving the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America beyond the congregational level.

B. The Rev. Sarah Crysolite Anderson

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)

1) *Congregational membership*

Grace Lutheran Church (ID: 00442) - Drexel Hill, PA

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

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (SEPA) Synod Council

3) *Education*

United Theological College, Bangalore, India, Bachelor Of Divinity
Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, Master Of Theology
Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY, Doctor Of Theology

4) *Employment*

Pastor - The Rev. Dr., Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1968

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?*

As a life-long Lutheran, and growing up in a family of pastors (grandfather, father, sisters, and brother), it has been a passion to serve the church and its people. As one trained to both teach and preach, the sense of God's call on my life, to ministry in the church, and to service on behalf of the church reverberates in the core of my being each day.

I have come to know God in a deeper sense by tuning myself to the feeling of oneness with people from everywhere. My love for God and God's people and the joy that springs from making connections with people is the true strength. Skills include preaching, teaching, organizing, communication, leadership, and writing.

With an enthusiasm to know and learn more, a keen sense of observation, gifted with critical thinking, and as a team player, I would love to serve the wider church in ways that God calls me. Above all, my confidence to serve on the Nominating Committee rests squarely on the assurance of faith in my Lord Jesus Christ.

108. Nominating Committee: Lay Female (*Restricted to Y/YA*)

A. Ms. Hannah Barnard

Grand Canyon Synod (2D)

1) *Congregational membership*

Desert Cross Lutheran Church (ID: 07708) - Tempe, AZ

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*

no current or past service

3) *Education*

Capital University

4) *Employment*

Counselor, Novusway

5) *Year of birth*

1999

6) *Ethnicity*

White

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 had such a huge impact on my life. I have attended an ELCA church since I was 11 and through attending church, Sunday school, potlucks and other events I have learned so much about my faith, our awesome God and myself, and because of that I would love the opportunity to give back by serving on the nominating committee. This past summer I was a counselor at Camp Lutherock in Newland, NC. This opportunity allowed me to share the love of God with the kids, adults and my coworkers everyday. I would bring this experience, if I were chosen to serve on the committee. I am also a type 9 enneagram (peace maker) because of this, I can easily see multiple sides to a story and figure out the best way to meet everyone's needs. I would love the opportunity to serve on this committee.

B. Ms. C. Caroline Parrott

North Carolina Synod (9B)

1) *Congregational membership*

St John's Lutheran Church (ID: 04066) - Salisbury, NC

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide ServiceActivities*

Vice President of NC Lutheran Youth Organization Board
Lutheran Campus Ministry at UNC (various leadership position)
ELCA Youth Gathering Volunteer - Houston, TX

3) *Education*

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Bachelor Of Science

4) *Employment*

Jenner Carey Bryan Research Fellow, Matthew Gfeller
Concussion Institute

5) *Year of birth*

1998

6) *Ethnicity*

White

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

The church and the ELCA have played an integral role in my life and faith journey for as long as I can remember. As a young child, I always felt a desire to serve and give back to the organization that has provided me with great comfort and support. While serving on the LYO Board, I encountered many like-minded Lutheran individuals who guided me and shined light on gifts I didn't realize I possessed. They pointed out gifts that I didn't even realize were gifts, such as being an includer, being compassionate, and seeking harmony. After joining Lutheran Campus Ministry, I was given plenty of opportunities to exercise these gifts for the good of the ministry and greater community. As I phase out of LCM due to graduation, I desire to find a new community where I can continue to exercise these gifts, and help others find their gifts like the ELCA has helped me to find mine. I would be honored to give back to an organization that has given so much to me over the short span of my life.