



Top Seven Nominees for Vice President of the ELCA

The following individuals are listed in order of the number of votes received. Their biographical information is listed on the following pages.

Ms. Tracey A. Beasley

Mr. Imran Siddiqui

Mr. Roberto Lara Aranda

Ms. Carla Borchardt

Mr. John Auger

Mr. Paul G. Archer

Mr. Clarence Smith

**Biographical Information Form for Possible Nominee
For Vice President of the ELCA**

Name: Tracey A. Beasley
Current Position(s): Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC Tax Supervisor
Congregation: Reformation Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, PA
Date of Birth: 3/22/1969

Previous Positions:

Corporate Tax Supervisor, Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC 6/6/2006 to Present
Treasury & Tax Manager, Treadways Corporation (a subsidiary Sumitomo Corporation of America), 3/1/2000–6/1/2006

Education with Earned Degrees:

West Chester University, Master's Business Administration (with Taxation Concentration). 2002–2004
Gwynedd Mercy University, Bachelor of Science, Accounting. 1995–1999

Honorary Degrees:

None

Current Board and Committee Membership:

Board member of the ELCA Church Council, 2019–to present
Member of the Budget and Finance Committee of the ELCA, 2019–Present
Chair of the ELCA Audit Committee, 2019–to present
member of the Faith, Sexism, and Justice committee, 2019–to present
3rd term as VP of Southeastern, PA Synod–2013–to present
Financial Associate for Reformation Lutheran Church, 202014 to present
Treasurer of the African Descent Lutheran Association, Philadelphia and National Chapter, 2000–to present

Past Board and Committee Membership:

Treasurer for Lutheran Settlement House, 2014–2021
ELCA African Descent Strategy Team–2016–2019
Member of Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Candidacy Committee, 2010–2013
Chair of the Southeastern Synod Financial Planning Team, 2014–2015
Financial Director of Thrivent Financial Philadelphia County Chapter–2015–2018

What gifts do you believe you would bring to the office of vice president of the ELCA?

I would bring the gifts of proclaiming the Gospel, prayerful over all things, experienced facilitator, faithfulness, a team player, able to delegate, exceptional at team building and managing people and committees. I would bring strong and proven gifts of administration and helps to this role. The gift of helps will often take the overload of responsibilities off other shoulders. I humbly operate in this gift and have no problems sacrificing time and energy to do God's work. This gift of mine has an ability to see what others need often before they need it. I have proven experience as the chair over meetings. Other gifts I would bring to this office would be reliability, diversity, the ability to multi-task, a team player for the Kingdom, good strategist, approachable, servanthood, discernment, listen to others and manger conflict. Lastly, I would bring the gift of bringing people together for the common good in this church.

What is your concept of the primary role of the vice president of the ELCA?

The vice president shall be a layperson who prayerfully serves as chair and provides leadership with the Church Council and, in the event the presiding bishop is unable to do so, as chair of the Churchwide Assembly. The vice president shall also serve with the presiding bishop of this church. The vice president may perform such other tasks for the benefit of this church as the Church Council directs.

What is the key skill required of a leader in the church?

I believe open, honest and clear communication is essential in church leadership. along with transparency. The ability to lead an organization to its purpose requires significant and key skills. My ability to serve with composure, equanimity and compassion will be essential in this role as VP. I discern a key skill I possess is a composite of these



abilities called spiritual deportment. The uniquely developed skill to govern accordingly in good order even under pressures that will arise.

How do you practice care for others and yourself?

I have learned to take care of myself by practicing Sabbath as a ritual for resetting my mental, physical, and spiritual health and wellness. It is a priority in my life to be intentional with consistent appointments with my spiritual director and life coach to keep me in tuned with my life's purpose and goals. The way I practice care for others is by praying for people that are on my prayer list and by checking in on people by calling them and letting them know that I am thinking and praying for them and making sure that they are also practicing self-care in their lives.



**Biographical Information Form for Possible Nominee
For Vice President of the ELCA**

Name: Imran Siddiqui
Current Position(s): United States Department of Labor – Employee Benefits Security Administration / Senior Investigator
Congregation: St. John's Lutheran Church, Atlanta, Georgia
Date of Birth: 5/30/1980

Previous Positions:

Investigator, US Department of Labor / EBSA 2005–2019
Benefits Advisor, US Department of Labor / EBSA 2003–2005

Education with Earned Degrees:

J.D. Emory School of Law 2002–2005
B.A. in Political Science & Economics, Rutgers University, 1998–2002

Honorary Degrees:

None

Current Board and Committee Membership:

Vice President, Southeastern Synod ELCA 2018–present
Board Member, Grace House, Lutheran & Episcopal Campus Ministry of Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA 2017–present

Past Board and Committee Membership:

Synod Council Member, Southeastern Synod Council ELCA 2015–2018
Board Member, Atlanta University Center Lutheran Campus Ministry 2015–2017

What gifts do you believe you would bring to the office of vice president of the ELCA?

I have been honored to serve as Vice President of the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA since 2018. In my term, I have helped lead a Bishop's Election (in my first year in office) and then have Chaired a Synod Council through the uncertainty and challenges of Covid.

I did not grow up in the Lutheran Church. I didn't even grow up as a Christian. I was born and raised as a Muslim to immigrants from Pakistan. When I grew up, it felt as if my faith was just a checklist as opposed to a living, breathing thing. During college, it was easy to drift away from the religious I was raised in, and I became an atheist for ten years. I came to faith in Christ through a Pentecostal Church. The folks at this church were so full of light and grace that it shocked me. My stereotypes of Christians had been busted, and I found myself being drawn back to those folks. I just remember their generosity and kindness. At some point, I felt a greater draw of wanting to be like these people and it made me open to faith. Not long thereafter I realized that Christ had been reaching towards me for many years. I was finally open to the love and grace that Jesus had been extending. A year later I attended my first Lutheran Church and absolutely fell in love with the liturgy and never left.

As you can see, I have very different experiences than many people in our Church. I feel that my faith history can bring a different perspective to our conversations. Too often we don't look outside our Lutheran box or doing things "as we've always done them". This keeps us from seeing new solutions or committing the same mistakes over and over again. Due to being a relatively new Lutheran, I have asked questions of why we do the things we do. In this way, we can see if what are doing is working, or we are just doing it because that's what we've always done. I believe it is important that we look at how we do things from all directions so that we can make the best decisions for our Church.

I also strongly believe in the importance of listening to one another. And by listening, I mean truly, actively listening. Too often we half listen, wanting more to respond than to understand. And in many boards, we don't listen because we feel we can simply vote down the other voices. I feel that we are called to be better as a Church. I have dedicated myself to actively fostering discussions and bringing in unheard voices into our conversations. How can we say that we love another, if we don't listen to one another. And having conversations with others helps to lead us in different directions, which may work a lot better than we ever anticipated. Because when everyone is heard and helps create our policies, everyone is invested in their success.



What is your concept of the primary role of the vice president of the ELCA?

The Vice President of the ELCA is the Chair of the Church Council and in that role must be someone who is willing to step back and let the conversation flow. The Holy Spirit does her work when we allow her to do her job. The Vice President has to foster discussion and allow marginalized and unheard voices to be heard. Too often our marginalized voices fear that if they speak they will be dismissed or cast aside. A welcoming environment, where all can speak without being put down is essential. And in addition, the Vice President needs to have an ability to bring in the voices around that table that are quiet, whether due to fear of their voices being put down or because they are contemplating the best course of action. The conversation can be dominated by those who jump in first or are the loudest, but those who wait and listen or are quiet and contemplative may have important points to consider.

Our best decisions require the diversity of voices in the Church to be part of the conversation. If decisions are merely dictated rather than discussed, we do not do what is asked of us by God or by the Church. The Vice President of the ELCA has an essential role in fostering this discussion.

What is the key skill required of a leader in the church?

I feel as if I may be beating the same drum, but a leader in the church needs to be able to step back and listen, as opposed to wanting to speak first. When I first was elected to Synod Council I was introduced to Consensus Based Decision making. What impressed me most of all about Consensus based decision making was that it required everyone to listen to one another. There was no voting anyone down – we had to come to decision together. That meant we had to make sure we were truly listening to one other. That's where I believe our Faith starts from. A belief that we are equally loved by our God who has created us. We each deserve to be treated with equal dignity as Children of God and that means each of our stories matters.

How do you practice care for others and yourself?

I believe there is a strong power in just sitting and spending time with others. Even if you aren't actively doing something – maybe especially when you aren't doing anything specifically. Sitting and sharing life allow people to openly speak about things in their lives and reflect on that. Sometimes it is far easier to do that when someone else is listening and not just jumping in with how to 'fix it'.

In the same way reflection in prayer or Bible Study helps me to practice care for myself. So that I can spend some time listening to what my emotions or God is telling me.



**Biographical Information Form for Possible Nominee
For Vice President of the ELCA**

Name: Roberto Lara Aranda
Current Position(s): Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Assistant to the Bishop for Communications and Development
Asociación de Ministerios Latinos de la ELCA (Latino Ministries Association of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)
Officer
Director of Dance
Saint Peter's Church, Manhattan, NY
Graduate Consultant
Meta (Former Facebook, Inc.)
Congregation: Saint Peter's Church, Manhattan, NY
Date of Birth: 5/9/1982

Previous Positions:

Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | Director of Communications; Co-Chair of MNYS Anti-Racism Taskforce
Accenture (Former MXM — Meredith Xcelerated Marketing) | Content Director
Dotdash - Meredith (Former Meredith Corporation) | Senior Bilingual Editor
Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo | Soloist

Education with Earned Degrees:

Executive M.S. in Strategic Communications | Columbia University in the City of New York | 2020–2022
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Performing Arts | National Institute of Fine Arts, CDMX | 1998–2003

Honorary Degrees:

None

Current Board and Committee Membership:

February 2022–Present | ELCA Foundation, Communications and Marketing Advisor
September 2019–Present | Latino Ministries Association of the ELCA, Officer for Communications and Media
November 2018–Present | Midtown Arts Common; Board Member
January 2013–Present | Dance at Saint Peter's (Saint Peter's Church, Manhattan), Artistic Director

Past Board and Committee Membership:

January 2016–September 2017 | Metropolitan New York Synod; Anti-Racism Committee Co-Chair
November 2015–October 2017 | Saint Peter's Church, Manhattan; Parish Council Board Member
November 2013–October 2018 | Saint Peter's Church, Manhattan; Liturgical Cabinet Member
June 2013–June 2014 | New Sanctuary Coalition of New York; Translator

What gifts do you believe you would bring to the office of vice president of the ELCA?

To many, the idea of increasing the membership of a religious organization in a post-Christian America would be daunting, but so was the idea of becoming a professional ballet dancer for a poor boy from the outskirts of Mexico City. The dedication and perseverance that it took to commute four hours each day to go to the National Institute of Fine Arts is the same drive and discipline that led me to move to two different countries in pursuit of my passion — allowing me to perform on some of the world's greatest stages.

When I transitioned to communications in the corporate sector, I retired from dancing, but I did not retire from being a creative person.

The ability to not only be creative but to have a process to harness that creativity for dynamic, collaborative, and data-driven problem-solving has allowed me to rise to positions of leadership and advance the mission of the organizations I have served. My aptitude for being a strategic risk-taker enables me to make recommendations that are not merely based on instinct but are founded in my assessment of possible outcomes, deep analysis of metrics, and robust implementation strategies.



The diverse experiences of my life thus far have informed and enhanced my professional endeavors, especially in my current position as the Assistant to the Bishop for Communications and Development in the Metro NY Synod. It is this synergy that I will bring to the Office of the Vice President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

What is your concept of the primary role of the vice president of the ELCA?

The vice president serves as chair of the Church Council and, in the event, the presiding bishop is unable to do so, as chair of the Churchwide Assembly. Additionally — and more importantly — in consultation and collaboration with the presiding bishop, executive staff, and board members, the vice president of the ELCA has the opportunity to lead the organization in strategic planning.

Tracking organizational improvement, curating SMART goals, and actively evaluating progress are vital responsibilities of a board's president. And these responsibilities are more critical now than ever in our church due to the secular wave affecting the United States, which is causing the tremendous declining membership trend in our denomination.

I've been a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for more than 15 years. Its radically welcoming view of the gospel drew me in. During these years, I have witnessed many changes, but something remains the same: according to recent data from the Pew Research Center, I'm still one of the youngest members of the denomination. Why do young adults and youth have little to no interest in the church? Why is traditional evangelism failing to attract new generations?

Robert Jones, CEO of the Public Religion Research Institute and author of the book *The End of Christian America*, told Vox Media that about seven in ten American seniors are white Christians, versus fewer than three in ten young adults. According to Jones, this decline is accelerating due to two factors:

- The U.S. is becoming a more diverse country
- Young people are leaving Christian organizations

Gen Z and Millennials in the U.S. grew up when Christianity's most amplified voices belonged to fundamentalist, right-wing Christian organizations and denominations. Jones stated that the top three attributes young Americans (16–29) associate with present-day Christianity are of being anti-gay, judgmental, and hypocritical.

In addition to this exodus of young adults from formal religious organizations, Barna Group — an organization focused on the intersection of faith and culture — in research titled *Reviving Evangelism*, found behavioral insights of self-identified Christians that further explain the failure of traditional evangelism strategies:

- 47 percent of Millennial Christians believe it is flat-out wrong to evangelize
- Self-identified Christians who reported attending a worship service in the previous six months, decreased from 77 percent in 2003, to 60 percent in 2019

According to this publication, cultural perceptions and Christianity's poor reputation are actively de-converting people raised in the church and hardening non-Christians against evangelism efforts. These insights describe a branding issue of Christianity in the American context (first identified by the Barna Group in a report titled *The Brand of Evangelicals*) that represents a challenge for the future of conservative, white Christian denominations.

HOWEVER, this also represents an opportunity for more progressive, mainline churches — such as the ELCA — to attract religious and unaffiliated young adults, or “nones,” who are pursuing spirituality and service, but not community, within an institution. But in order to take advantage of this opportunity, we need a vice president who is not afraid to think outside of their comfort zone and who can open space in our church for new communities without overlooking our current members.

What is the key skill required of a leader in the church?

Creatively shaping life in our church is a key skill required of leaders — lay and ordained — in our church. This will allow us to find God's work in our own hands.

Advocacy = Evangelism

Throughout the summers of 2018 to 2020, the Metropolitan New York Synod (MNYS) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America participated in several advocacy opportunities across its territory. These included the march against the separation of families, WorldPRIDE March, Climate Change Strike, and most recently, the Black Lives Matter demonstrations in several metro New York neighborhoods. The MNYS made an effort to be present in the public square, supporting social justice efforts while sharing its radically welcoming view of the gospel. These community engagements provided broad visibility to the organization via local and national media channels.



After each public participation, the strategic communications team of the organization — under my leadership — noted some interesting findings: the number of new visits coming to its website almost tripled every time the synod visibly engaged with the community. A substantial percentage of those new visits went to the “Find a Church” page. These new visits are potential new members for all the synod’s congregations. Through advocacy, MNYS is reaching out to young adults interested in joining its causes more than its worship services. MNYS advocacy efforts are becoming its most effective evangelism strategy.

Mainline Christian denominations across the U.S., with a radically welcoming theology, can find a new way to increase their membership by providing avenues to engage in public advocacy efforts. This implies organizational self-examination, radical transformation, and a new understanding of what it means to be church in the 21st Century.

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, stated in the publication *Living Lutheran* that “God is activating each of us to invite more people into the way of Jesus.” Rooting our work in advocacy is how Jesus evangelized during his ministry on Earth. By following the way of Jesus, our members will experience the epiphany that these plans of action are not so “new,” but rather, an ancient strategy rooted in loving your neighbor — just as Jesus proclaimed.

The ability to recognize similar opportunities, and the ability to create steps to radically transform evangelism in our church, will allow us to advance our mission by creatively shaping life in our church.

How do you practice care for others and yourself?

Change is never easy, especially in religious organizations. New evangelism strategies are crucial for the future of our denomination; however, leading new evangelism strategies will create moments of tension and sleepless nights. According to marketing research, advocacy is becoming the most effective evangelism strategy of established protestant denominations like ours. Additionally, research has shown that “spending money or time on others makes us happier than spending said resources on ourselves; moreover, doing small acts of kindness increases life satisfaction”.

Practicing these new evangelism strategies rooted in advocacy efforts is not only good for the future of the church and fulfillment of your mission as the church, but it is also a practice of care for others and ourselves. This is a practice that I wish to continue and that I wish to see amplified in all our synods and congregations.



**Biographical Information Form for Possible Nominee
For Vice President of the ELCA**

Name: Carla Borchardt
Current Position(s): Director of Professional Practice at Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Center,
Sioux Falls, SD (1999–present)
Congregation: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD
Date of Birth: 11/7/1961

Previous Positions:

Nursing Project Coordinator, Avera McKennan (1996–1999)
Unit Supervisor, Avera McKennan (1991–1996)
Registered Nurse, Avera McKennan (1987–1991)
Registered Nurse, Hendrick Medical Center, Abilene, TX (1984–1987)

Education with Earned Degrees:

Doctor of Nursing Practice, Executive Leadership, American Sentinel University, Aurora, CO (2013–2015)
Master of Science in Administrative Studies, Healthcare Administration, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD
(1997–2001)
Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Nursing, Augustana College (University), Sioux Falls, SD (1980–1984)

Honorary Degrees:

None

Current Board and Committee Membership:

South Dakota Board of Nursing: Member (2016–present), President (2020–present)
South Dakota Synod Woyatan Lutheran Task Force, Chair (2021–present)

Past Board and Committee Membership:

South Dakota Synod Council: Vice President (2013–2021), Secretary (2005–2013)
South Dakota Synod Capital Campaign Committee (2014–2015)
South Dakota Board of Nursing Home Administrators (2005–2014)
South Dakota Organization of Nurse Leaders: Public Relations Chair (2002–2006, 2010–2014), President-elect
(2005–2006), President (2006–2008)
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, President (2001)
Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society, Zeta Zeta Chapter, Secretary (1988–1992, 1994–1998)

What gifts do you believe you would bring to the office of vice president of the ELCA?

I am deeply rooted in the knowledge that I am a beloved child of God and have been marked with the cross of Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit through my baptism. As a lifelong Lutheran and I have a love for the church and a passion for its mission and ministry. I have served in multiple leadership positions in two of the three expressions of the ELCA – the congregation and synod and understand the roles and challenges of each of these bodies.

As a servant leader, I follow the example of Jesus. Others come before me. I lead with humility and the knowledge that I don't have all the answers. Through mutual trust, respect, and collaboration with others, and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, answers will emerge. I believe that those affected by decisions should be involved in the discussion and decision-making process. When needed, I can make executive decisions. I have a quiet presence, positive outlook, and am a calm, non-anxious leader. I conduct myself with integrity and hold myself accountable.

I am able to think strategically and see the big picture but am also attentive to details and am skilled in managing and operationalizing large projects. I am able to prioritize. I am skilled in clear and concise written and verbal communication. I strive to be transparent and keep others informed. I value other perspectives and facilitate decision making by creating clarity, understanding, and engagement.



What is your concept of the primary role of the vice president of the ELCA?

Constitutionally, the primary role of the vice president of the ELCA is to chair the church council and executive committee, and perform other tasks as directed by the church council. In this role, the vice president is called to lead effective meetings. The role connects and supports others to assist the church in fulfilling its mission to proclaim the gospel. The vice president is a key leader in the church who is visible, open, and accessible to others. The vice president serves as a representative of the ELCA in multiple forums and settings.

What is the key skill required of a leader in the church?

The key skill needed by a leader in the church is being an effective communicator. This is a multi-faceted skill. It involves active listening – truly listening and seeking to understand what the other is saying. It involves facilitating discussions, ensuring that all voices have an opportunity to be heard because each person brings valuable insights. It is knowing that the best decisions are made when various perspectives are presented and debated in an open, honest, and respectful manner, then striving for consensus in decision making. It also includes the ability to clearly express oneself verbally and in writing.

How do you practice care for others and yourself?

Care for others happens by treating them with respect, being present and offering a listening ear, providing encouragement and support, affirming their work and gifts, and sharing the gift of laughter.

Care for my spiritual, mental, and physical self occurs through daily devotions, routine exercise and doing things that bring me joy – spending time with family and friends, reading, music, travel, volunteering, and cheering for my favorite college basketball teams.



**Biographical Information Form for Possible Nominee
For Vice President of the ELCA**

Name: John Auger
Current Position(s): Delaware-Maryland Synod Vice President – in 4th year of my second four-year term
Congregation: Grace Lutheran – Hockessin, DE
Date of Birth: 6/20/1958

Previous Positions:

Retired from DuPont in 2014 after nearly 35 years (1980–2015), with 30 years of direct leadership roles. From front-line supervisor to Global Engineering Manager of the Bio-based Strategic Business Unit. This business unit led the industry in the development and use of environmentally friendly, renewable feedstocks for fuels and chemicals. Responsible for teams that designed, built and started up new technology plants with an annual budget \$200+ million. Career included 14 assignments at six different sites across the US.

Education with Earned Degrees:

Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, Clarkson University – 1980 – 4 years
Professional certified leadership coach (ACC) – International Coaching Federation, 2021 – 1 year

Honorary Degrees:

None

Current Board and Committee Membership:

- 2021 to present – LEAD – Living Every Day as Disciples – Board Member, Member of Strategy Development Committee
- 2019 to Present – Chair of the Region 8 Leadership (Bishops and VPs) Steering Team
- 2018 – Present – Lutheran Community Services (LCS) of New Castle County, Delaware – Co-Chair of annual golf tournament fundraiser

Past Board and Committee Membership:

- 2020 – 2021 – ELCA Vice Presidents – Member of the team that developed the *The Synod Vice President Role* guidance document
- 2001 – 2005 – Congregational Council President – First Lutheran Church, Parkersburg, WV
- 1995 – 1998 and 2006 – 2009 – Congregational Council President – Grace Lutheran Church, Hockessin, DE

What gifts do you believe you would bring to the office of vice president of the ELCA?

- Faith – strong personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Servant Leadership – modeling the leadership approach of Jesus. To empower and collaborate others to live out our calling together. To work as a team, setting and then achieving significant goals. To lead the church forward during these challenging times together with boldness, strength and courage knowing that Jesus is walking beside us.
- Adaptive Leadership – ability to adapt to the rapidly changing culture and challenges we are facing as leaders in the church. To be able to “get on the balcony” to observe what trends are occurring and then to develop and implement strategies to address them together.
- Leadership Experience – over 40 years of experience both in the church and in the business world leading teams to achieve significant goals
- Coaching/Mentoring – continue to use the skills gained over many years as a coach and mentor, along with my professional coaching certification, to help others discover and then live out their God given calling using the talents given to them
- Strength Finders top leadership traits: Belief, Maximizer, Connectedness, Arranger and Relator



What is your concept of the primary role of the vice president of the ELCA?

To provide strong, faithful, bold and courageous leadership to our national church during a time of significant change and disruption. To work with others as a servant leader to diagnose the challenges and then develop strategies to address them. To be open to new ideas and approaches. To be an inclusive leader that unites us all, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or political affiliation to discern God's will and then to live that out in our world that needs God's love. To not be afraid of the future, but to look boldly forward with anxious anticipation of God "doing a new thing" through us to reach others with the Good News of the saving grace of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To borrow the mission statement from the Delaware-Maryland Synod to be: *Called Forward Together – Making Disciples for Jesus.*

What is the key skill required of a leader in the church?

At this time in the life of the church, the skills of faithful application of Adaptive Leadership and Change Management skills is essential. Adaptive Leaders work in collaboration with others to diagnosis the environment and culture that we're living in, discern strategies to address those challenges and opportunities and then implement those strategies with focus and purpose with God walking beside us on that journey.

How do you practice care for others and yourself?

- I believe that a personal relationship with Jesus is essential to staying connected to and aligned with my leadership calling, as well as every other aspect of my life. To achieve that I begin each morning in devotion and contemplative prayer seeking God's will for my life. The benefits are immeasurable. As a direct result I strive to:
 - Live out my faith in tangible and active ways each and every day
 - Be an example of "salt and light" in my world to those I interact with
 - To worship and be in Bible Study with my community of believers o Lean on and trust in Jesus always
- I have a strong family, which is anchored in my 40 years of marriage to my wife Julie (who I met at church!), our three grown children, their spouses and our six grandchildren – ages seven and under. We believe that creating a faithful, positive legacy of how God works in their lives is one of the most important roles we have. So, we spend ample time with them sharing our faith, experiencing life and savoring every moment.
- To pour myself into others through coaching and mentoring. To help others recognize how God is working in and through them so they can live out their unique calling.
- Continue to develop and maintain friendships with those that are mutually faith building and life giving
- To value keeping my body in shape daily by running and gym workouts with the goal of being as healthy as possible so that I can do God's good work



**Biographical Information Form for Possible Nominee
For Vice President of the ELCA**

Name: Paul G. Archer
Current Position(s): Senior Medical Dosimetrist @ Michigan Medicine (University of Michigan), Ann Arbor, MI
Licensed Lay Minister (a.k.a. Synodically Authorized Minister) Southeast Michigan Synod
Congregation: Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, Dearborn, Michigan
Date of Birth: 2/19/1959

Previous Positions:

Medical Dosimetrist @ Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI. 1985–1986
Radiologic Technologist @ Henry Ford Hospital – Fairlane Center, Dearborn, MI 1981–1985

Education with Earned Degrees:

AART Certification: Henry Ford Hospital School of Radiation Therapy Technology, Detroit, MI 1984–1985
AART Certification: Oakwood Hospital School of Radiologic Technology, Dearborn, MI 1978–1980
High School Diploma: Edsel Ford High School, Dearborn, MI 1974–1977

Honorary Degrees:

None

Current Board and Committee Membership:

Synod Vice President, Southeast Michigan Synod (2019–2023)

Past Board and Committee Membership:

ELCA Church Council (2011–2017)
Church Council Program and Services Committee (2011–2017) Committee Chair (2015–2017)
Church Council Board Development Committee (2011–2017)
Church Council Executive Committee (2015–2017)
Churchwide Assembly Reference and Counsel Committee (2013 and 2016 Assemblies) Committee Co-Chair (2016)
SE Michigan Synod Discipline Committee (2002–2008)
SE Michigan Synod Resolutions Committee (2001–2005)
Hope Lutheran Church Call Committee (Committee Chair) (2009 and 2011)
Hope Lutheran Church Congregational Council (Multiple terms, 1979–2011, including multiple terms as Council President)

What gifts do you believe you would bring to the office of vice president of the ELCA?

- A passion for service in the church
- A desire for collaborative leadership
- A desire to listen to diverse voices across the church
- Experience in leadership in all three expressions of the ELCA: congregational, synodical, and churchwide
- An understanding of and appreciation for the interrelated and interdependent expressions of the ELCA

What is your concept of the primary role of the vice president of the ELCA?

As stated in the Constitution, the primary role of the Vice President is to chair the meetings of the Church Council and, under certain circumstances, to serve as temporary chair of the Churchwide Assembly. However, I have served with the two previous Vice Presidents and I have witnessed the additional ways in which the Vice President can serve the Church:

- as an ambassador of the Churchwide Organization to Synod Assemblies, to other Church organization, and to our ecumenical partners
- as a key voice on the Church Council Executive Committee
- as a role model for other lay leaders and volunteers in the Church
- and as a baptized child of God, living out their/her/his vocational call.



What is the key skill required of a leader in the church?

The most important skill in church leadership is listening: faithful listening, patient listening, compassionate listening – often, listening without needing to speak.

How do you practice care for others and yourself?

In several locations around my house, I keep a list of seven “Marks of Discipleship” which I see daily and which I try to practice. They are: sabbath keeping, charitable giving, private prayer, public worship, service work, hospitality, and forgiveness. I routinely fail to exhibit all seven marks, but I see the list every day and keep trying. I believe strongly that striving to maintain these disciplines is a way of caring for myself, for my loved ones, and for my neighbor. A recent focus of mine within my home congregation is an emphasis on my/our devotional life at home. I am collaborating with my pastor to emphasize the importance of this spiritual practice and to make devotional materials readily available. This is a piece of my faith life that has been sorely lacking, and I am committed to caring for myself and my church siblings with this practice.

In my professional life, I serve as one member of a team of Radiation Oncology professionals tasked with the care and treatment of cancer patients. I use the term “serve” rather than “work” because I consider the treatment of our patients to be a ministry – an effort to restore them to wholeness. In my role as a Medical Dosimetrist, generating customized treatment plans for the beams of radiation that will treat the diseased sites and minimize dose to normal tissues, I always try to remember that the diseased tissues I see on my computer screen represent a person – a child of God with a life and with loved ones. Caring for our patients is also caring for their loved ones and their community. I have found throughout my career that caring for others is also a form of self-care.



**Biographical Information Form for Possible Nominee
For Vice President of the ELCA**

Name: Clarence Smith
Current Position(s): Huntington National Bank – VP, Operational Risk
Congregation: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, St Paul, MN
Date of Birth: 1/6/1957

Previous Positions:

TCF Bank, VP – Operational Risk (2016–2021)
Wells Fargo, VP – Operational Risk (2004–2015)

Education with Earned Degrees:

BA, University of Texas-Austin, 1975–1978

Honorary Degrees:

None

Current Board and Committee Membership:

Member, Luther Seminary Board of Directors (term begins 7/1/2022)
Member, Board of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), 2021–present

- Co-Chair, Audit Committee, 2022–present

Past Board and Committee Membership:

Member, ELCA Churchwide Church Council, 2013–2019

- Chair, Budget & Finance Committee, 2017–2019
- Member, Audit Committee, 2013–2019
- Member, Governance Task Force, 2018–2019

ELCA Council Liaison to the Reformed Church in America (RCA), a full communion partner of ELCA, 2017–2021

Member, Minneapolis Area Synod Council, 2004–2010

- Member-at-Large, Executive Committee, 2006–2010

Board Chair, National Lutheran Choir, 2004–2011

Vice-Chair, Board of Civic Orchestra of Minneapolis, 1996–2000

What gifts do you believe you would bring to the office of vice president of the ELCA?

I bring a sense of knowledge about the ELCA and its ecology. In my role on Church Council, I routinely interacted with the Presiding Bishop, the officers, and various Churchwide staff members in order to accomplish tasks and assignments for the church body. I was also able to participate in several synod assemblies as a representative from the Church Council. These opportunities provided me with invaluable experiences. I bring significant governance experience. My roles within the ELCA have coincided with my professional life in an intersection of governance work. My professional career and my council/board work has all been focused on organizational effectiveness in decision-making capabilities. I bring a personalized sense of diversity. As an Asian-American (my Korean mother met my father when he served as a Marine in the Korean War), I endured taunting and other forms of discrimination as a child and appeared more Asian than I do as an adult. Diversity continues to be a major flaw in the ELCA and racism is our society's biggest shortcoming, and it is every Christian's responsibility to end these inequities. From a sexuality/gender perspective, my family includes my daughter's spouse, a non-binary person that reminds our family to practice pronoun (and more important) sensibilities on a daily basis. Finally, and most importantly, I bring a sense of grace and humility. As a lifelong Lutheran, I value our Reformation heritage. The precepts of 515 years ago still have applicability today, especially when we consider concepts such as the priesthood of all believers; the role of worship, Scripture, and the sacraments; and the responsibilities for each Christian disciple.

What is your concept of the primary role of the vice president of the ELCA?

When one considers the defined role of the vice-president as articulated in the ELCA Constitution, it is readily apparent that the primary role is to chair the Church Council. Certainly, this role goes way beyond “just” one



responsibility. Chairmanship involves a firm grasp on governance structures, the interplay between council and staff, a degree of servant leadership and kindness, and the ability to both speak authoritatively and to listen and understand with patience and understanding. The roles of council chair is therefore one that requires skill and experience.

But I also understand that the Lutheran in the pew may not completely understand the nuances of the role of VP. For many Lutherans, there is an expectation that vice president be a visible presence within the ELCA. Previous holders of the role have sat on various boards and/or ecumenical committees, traveled to various synods, and served in capacities that are beyond chairing the Council and that are permitted by the ELCA Constitution.

In summation, I view the primary role of the vice president to be the same as every other baptized member of the Body of Christ – our role is to join in the mission we share, give thanks and praise to God, and bear, God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world.

What is the key skill required of a leader in the church?

A leader should be passionate about the mission and the vision of the church. The leader should be able to speak and act in ways that are clearly consistent with the Gospel message. When I was confirmed at the age of 15, my pastor chose Romans 1:16 as my confirmation verse. “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, then to the Gentile”. As a leader, I would expect to advocate the work of the ELCA in ways that support the synods, congregations, and members of the church to do their transformative work. May we all act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

How do you practice care for others and yourself?

- 1) I derive satisfaction and enjoyment from music and the arts. I have been a church organist (and substitute musician) since I was 15 years old. Choral and orchestra music are particular favorites of mine, and I have enjoyed singing in a choir for most of my life. During the pandemic, those things I missed most were the in-person worships, performances by the Minnesota Orchestra, and attendance at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis.
- 2) My wife and I enjoy both domestic and international travel. Travel provides both energy and relaxation. And some might agree with me that planning the next trip is almost as enjoyable as taking the actual journey!
- 3) I am a voracious reader. I enjoy reading and discussing books and ideas contained within them. Membership in a book club is important to me, especially because it often forces me to read books that I would not choose on my own. I don’t know what I would do without the guys in my monthly book club at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in St Paul.

