



July 28 – August 2
PHOENIX, ARIZONA



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 in accordance with Chapter 19 of this constitution.

ELCA bylaw 19.11.02. provides:

Except as otherwise provided, the Nominating Committee shall nominate two persons for each council 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, three churchwide committees—the Committee on Appeals, the Committee on Discipline, and the Nominating Committee—as well as the boards of four separately incorporated ministries of the ELCA—the Board of Pensions (Portico), the Mission Investment Fund, the Publishing House (Augsburg Fortress Publishers), and the Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation).

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 *Bulletin of Reports*. 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 Sue E. Rothmeyer and the Office of the Secretary provide staff services to the Nominating Committee of the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA bylaw 13.41.06.). On behalf of the committee, the 2025 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.

Updates to the Nomination Form

The form completed by nominees was updated for 2025 in two ways:

Updates to the “Ethnicity” Category:

Updates to the “Ethnicity” category were introduced to the form in January 2025, after some nominees had already completed the form. As a result, the profiles of some nominees reflect the earlier designations while others reflect the new designations. *Differences in wording of responses to the “Ethnicity” prompt depend only on when the form was completed. They do not reflect the preferences of nominees.*

The categories among which nominees were asked to choose were the following:

Earlier “Ethnicity” options:

African American/Black Non-Hispanic
African Caribbean
African National
American Indian/Alaska Native
Asian/Pacific Islander
Latino/Latina
Other Heritage
White

Current “Ethnicity” options:

Black/African American/African Descent
African Caribbean
African National
American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous
Arab/Middle Eastern
Asian/Asian American,/South Asian/Native Hawaiian/
Pacific Islander
European Descent/White
Latin(o/a/é)/Latin-x/Hispanic
Multi-/Bi-racial

“Historically Underrepresented Groups” Defined and a New Representational Goal Set:

“Historically Underrepresented Groups” was defined and a goal set of at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly, Church Council, and churchwide boards and committees being members of historically underrepresented groups in addition to the required 10 percent representation of persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English (ELCA continuing resolutions 5.01.J24.; 5.01.J24.; and 5.01.K24.). These changes were approved by the Church Council [CC24.11.12] in response to a recommendation in the DEIA audit conducted on the governing documents of this church in 2023.

In response to this action of the Church Council, the following optional prompt was added to the 2025 nomination form:

“11. The ELCA has established a constitutional commitment to intentionally lift up voices from historically underrepresented groups in its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units. These groups specifically include the following: 1) Persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English; 2) Persons of diverse gender identities and persons of diverse sexual orientations; 3) Persons experiencing poverty or persons of lower income; 4) Persons living with disabilities; 5) Persons who are not natural-born United States citizens.

If you identify as a member of one of these groups, we invite you to share how you might offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church.”

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 the following categories: Rostered Minister, Lay Woman, Lay Man, Lay Person, PC/L (persons of color or whose primary language is other than English), and Y/YA (youth and young adults). Nominees born on or since July 27, 2007, are eligible to be elected as youth, and nominees born on or since July 27, 1995, are eligible to be elected as young adults by the 2025 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. For persons nominated to serve another term in the same position 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 19.11.03). Incumbents nominated to serve another term are indicated with an asterisk (*) in this report.

For the Church Council and the Nominating Committee, the constitution requires that at least one (Nominating Committee) or two (Church Council) persons from each region be elected (ELCA constitution provision 19.02. and ELCA bylaw 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, excluding the officers, 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 ELCA constitution assigns each of this church’s nine regions a number and each synod within each region a letter.

A list of regions and synods is included on the next page.

ELCA Regions and Synods

REGION 1

- 1A Alaska Synod
- 1B Northwest Washington Synod
- 1C Southwestern Washington Synod
- 1D Northwest Intermountain 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

Jessica Potts, *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 2025 Churchwide Assembly will elect 16 Church Council members from among nominees put forward by 16 designated synods. 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 after July 27, 2007, are eligible to be elected as youth by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly. In addition, the Church Council determined that it would be beneficial to elect members with specific financial and legal expertise. Additional nominees with these skillsets were identified by the Nominating Committee,

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 a nominee no longer is eligible for election.

Slate of Nominees—Synod Nominations

- 1. Lay Woman (*PC/L; Alaska Synod, 1A*)**
 - A. Ms. Kathleen LaVonne Bourdon
 - B. Ms. Deborah Maria Nyquist
- 2. Rostered Woman (*Northwest Intermountain Synod, 1D*)**
 - A. The Rev. Ann M. Bjorklund
 - B. The Rev. Barbara R. Rossing
- 3. Rostered Man (*Sierra Pacific Synod, 2A*)**
 - A. The Rev. Moses Paul Peter Penumaka
 - B. The Rev. Kristofer Shurson Rhude
- 4. Lay Woman (*Pacifica Synod, 2C*)**
 - A. Ms. Nancy A. Marlin
 - B. Ms. Terri Lynn Robertson
- 5. Lay Man (*Northwestern Minnesota Synod, 3D*)**
 - A. Mr. Timothy Hiller
 - B. Mr. Dean Leonard Monke
- 6. Lay Man (*Nebraska Synod, 4A*)**
 - A. Mr. Jeffrey Dennis Akerson
 - B. Mr. Matthew Allan Schur
- 7. Rostered Man (*Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, 4C*)**
 - A. The Rev. Steve Evans
 - B. The Rev. Alvaro Nova
- 8. Lay Woman (*PC/L; Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, 4F*)**
 - A. Ms. Maria Edna Campos
 - B. Ms. Deidre D. Hayes
- 9. Rostered Man (*Central/Southern Illinois Synod, 5C*)**
 - A. The Rev. Ryan Howard Anderson
 - B. The Rev. Adam Joel Dichsen
- 10. Lay Man (*South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, 5K*)**
 - A. Mr. Andrew William Stevens
 - B. Mr. Paul Waelchli
- 11. Lay Woman (*Southeast Michigan Synod, 6A*)**
 - A. Ms. Kelle Shawn Shepherd-Bhavsar
 - B. *[To be nominated by the synod by floor nomination]*
- 12. Rostered Man (*Southern Ohio Synod, 6F*)**
 - A. The Rev. Chad Michael Huebner
 - B. The Rev. David Jansen Kamphuis

13. **Lay Man** (*Metropolitan New York Synod, 7C*)
 - A. Mr. Roberto Carlos Lara Aranda
 - B. Mr. John David Litke
14. **Lay Man** (*Lower Susquehanna Synod, 8D*)
 - A. Mr. Moses Kavishe
 - B. Mr. Charles R. Roberts
15. **Rostered Man** (*West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod, 8H*)
 - A. The Rev. Daniel Collins
 - B. The Rev. Richard T. Egtvedt
16. **Lay Woman** (*PC/L; YA; Virginia Synod, 9A*)
 - A. Ms. Jillian Colleen Stierwalt
 - B. *[To be nominated by the synod by floor nomination]*

Slate of Nominees—At-Large Positions

17. **Lay Person** (*Financial Expertise*)
 - A. Ms. Patricia P. Harper, Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)
 - B. Mr. Mark R. Roskopf, Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)
18. **Lay Person** (*Legal Expertise*)
 - A. Mr. Frank Albert Roth, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)
 - B. Ms. Spencer Sanders, Southwest California Synod (2B)
19. **Lay Woman** (*Youth; 3-year term*)
 - A. Ms. Evelyn Marie Parvin Fuller, Southeastern Synod (9D)
 - B. Ms. Emma Lynn Witt, South Dakota Synod (3C)
20. **Lay Man** (*Youth; 3-year term*)
 - A. Mr. Benjamin James Caseley, Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)
 - B. Mr. Gabriel Thor Shafer, North Carolina Synod (9B)

Continuing Members of the Church Council

Vice President Imran Siddiqui
 Treasurer Lori S. Fedyk
 Bp. Yehiel Curry, chair, Conference of Bishops

Rostered Minister

The Rev. Ann Elizabeth (Lisa) Ahlness, Western North Dakota Synod (3A)
 The Rev. Heather E. Brown, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin (5H)
 Deacon Kari Alice Olsen, Saint Paul Area Synod (3H)

Rostered Minister (PC/L)

The Rev. Leroy Cannon, South Carolina Synod (9C)
 The Rev. Gwendolyn S. King, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)

Lay Woman

Ms. Jamie L. Bruesehoff, New Jersey Synod (7A)
 Ms. Kristy K. Henriksen, Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F)
 Ms. Jennifer E. Trom, Oregon Synod (1E)

Lay Woman (PC/L)

Ms. Sheena R. Foster, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod (8G)
 Ms. Linda C. Rivera, Florida-Bahamas Synod (9E)

Lay Woman (YA)

Ms. Olivia L. Martin-Call, Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod (8A)

Lay Man

Mr. Hans Giller, Northwestern Ohio Synod (6D)
 Mr. Mitchell S. McCartney, Western Iowa Synod (5E)
 Mr. Joel A. Miller, La Crosse Area Synod (5L)

Lay Man (PC/L)

Iván A. Perez, Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

Lay Man (PC/L; YA)

Mr. Rindra Josoa, Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)

Committee on Appeals

Six rostered ministers and six laypersons make up the Committee on Appeals. Committee members meet as needed to update *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* and to consider appeals from disciplinary proceedings and petitions for the recall of an officer.

The continuing membership of the committee consists of two rostered ministers and one lay man. The 2025 Churchwide Assembly will elect four rostered ministers, two lay men, two lay women, and one lay person.

Restrictions: Additional nominees from Region 3 may be restricted.

Slate of Nominees

21. Rostered Minister (*Restricted to Region 7*)

- A. The Rev. Sara J Anderson, New England Synod (7B)
- B. The Rev. Susan Stephanie Salomone, Upstate New York Synod (7D)

22. Rostered Minister (*Restricted to Region 9*)

- A. Deacon Rebekah L Forst North Carolina Synod (9B)
- B. The Rev. Christopher Russell Hermansen, Southeastern Synod (9D)

23. Rostered Minister (*Restricted to Region 3*)

- A. The Rev. Justin Charles Boeding, Southeastern Minnesota Synod (3I)
- B. The Rev. Henry Wesley Burt, Southeastern Minnesota Synod (3I)

24. Rostered Minister

- A. The Rev. Tracie L Bartholomew, New Jersey ELCA (7A)
- B. The Rev. Shelley Rae Wickstrom, Alaska Synod (1A)

25. Lay Woman

- A. Ms. Katherina Elizabeth Farrow, Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C)
- B. Ms. Alice R Senechal, Eastern North Dakota Synod (3B)

26. Lay Woman (*Restricted to Region 5*)

- A. Ms. Kate English, Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D)
- B. Ms. Deborah Banks Williams, Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

27. Lay Man (*Restricted to Region 1*)

- A. Mr. Paul G Dodds, Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)
- B. Mr. Eric Edward Nord, Montana Synod (1F)

28. Lay Man (*Restricted to Region 2*)

- A. Mr. Ralston Henry Deffenbaugh, Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)
- B. Mr. Jay Beebe Simonson, Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)

29. Lay Person (*Restricted to Region 3; YA*)

- A. Ms. Lacy Elizabeth Tooker-Kirkevold, Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)
- B. Ms. Madeline Cecelia Trosvig, South Dakota Synod (3C)

Continuing Members of the Committee on Appeals

Minister of Word and Sacrament

The Rev. Robert A Abrams, Southern Ohio Synod (6F)

Minister of Word and Service

Deacon Darcy J. Mittelstaedt, Southwestern Texas Synod (4E)

Lay Man (PC/L)

Mr. Moses R. Kavishe, Lower Susquehanna Synod (8D)

Committee on Discipline

The Committee on Discipline has a range of 24 to 36 members; half are rostered ministers, including at least two ministers of Word and Service. Its members meet only as they are named to serve on a discipline hearing committee.

The continuing membership of the committee consists of seven rostered ministers (two of whom are deacons), two lay women, and four lay men. The 2025 Churchwide Assembly will elect eight rostered ministers, three lay men, five lay women, and one lay person.

Restrictions: Additional nominees from the Southwestern Washington Synod, the Oregon Synod, the Rocky Mountain Synod, the Eastern North Dakota Synod, the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, the Southern Ohio Synod, the Upstate New York Synod, and the North Carolina Synod are not allowed at this time. Additional nominees from Region 1, Region 3, and Region 5 may be restricted.

Slate of Nominees

30. Rostered Minister (*Restricted to Region 1*)

- A. The Rev. Bergen Anders Nelson Eickhoff, Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)
- B. The Rev. Sara Funkhouser, Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

31. Rostered Minister (*Restricted to Region 6*)

- A. The Rev. Michael Vance Johnson, Southeast Michigan Synod (6A)
- B. The Rev. Sarah Anne Moore, Northeastern Ohio Synod (6E)

32. Rostered Minister (*Restricted to Region 1 or 9*)

- A. The Rev. David Henry Brauer-Rieke, Oregon Synod (1E)
- B. The Rev. Mardy Ringer, Southeastern Synod (9D)

33. Rostered Minister (*Restricted to Region 5*)

- A. The Rev. Brittany Megan Barkus, Northern Great Lakes Synod (5G)
- B. The Rev. Nate Montover, Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D)

34. Rostered Minister (*Restricted to Region 7 or 9*)

- A. The Rev. Hannah Claire Norem, North Carolina Synod (9B)
- B. The Rev. Johanna K. Rehbaum, Upstate New York Synod (7D)

35. Rostered Minister (*Restricted to Region 9*)

- A. The Rev. David Eric Fox, Virginia Synod (9A)
- B. The Rev. Adam Christian Schultz, Virginia Synod (9A)

36. Rostered Minister (*Restricted to Region 2; PC/L*)

- A. The Rev. Chryll D. Crews, Southwest California Synod (2B)
- B. The Rev. Tracy Maria Williams, Southwest California Synod (2B)

37. Rostered Minister (*Restricted to Region 2 or 4*)

- A. The Rev. Pamela Joan-Swartz Challis, Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)
- B. The Rev. Ariel Otterstad, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod (4F)

38. Lay Man (*Restricted to Region 9*)

- A. Mr. Frederick H. Black, North Carolina Synod (9B)
- B. Mr. Charles Edward Lifford, North Carolina Synod (9B)

39. Lay Man (*Restricted to Region 4*)

- A. Mr. David Lee Humphrey, Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, (4C)
- B. Mr. Anthony Ormsbee-Hale, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod (4D)

40. Lay Man (*Restricted to Region 6*)

- A. Mr. Seth Gee, Southern Ohio Synod (6F)
- B. Mr. Josh S. Tatum, Indiana-Kentucky Synod (6C)

41. Lay Woman (*Restricted to Region 5*)

- A. Ms. Myrtis Jean Brown, Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)
- B. Ms. Catherine Olivia McKenna, Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

- 42. Lay Woman (*Restricted to Region 2; YA*)**
A. Ms. Savannah Kay Jorgensen, Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)
B. Ms. Sara Jo Larson, Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)
- 43. Lay Woman (*Restricted to Region 7*)**
A. Ms. Melissa Marie Bedell, Upstate New York Synod (7D)
B. Ms. Ashley N Procanyn, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7E)
- 44. Lay Woman (*Restricted to Region 2 or 7*)**
A. Ms. Joy R. Grace, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)
B. Ms. Myrna Jean Wells-Ulland, Grand Canyon Synod (2D)
- 45. Lay Woman**
A. Ms. Sydney Brinkman, Northeastern Iowa Synod (5F)
B. Ms. Kylie Oversen, Eastern North Dakota Synod (3B)
- 46. Lay Person (*Restricted to Region 1*)**
A. Mr. John Sander Christensen, Alaska Synod (1A)
B. Mx. Emily Rebecca Sue Leckie, Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)
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Continuing Members of the Committee on Discipline

Minister of Word and Sacrament

The Rev. Stephen R. Herr, Lower Susquehanna Synod (8D)
The Rev. Richard D. Sheridan, Metropolitan New York Synod (7C)
The Rev. Breonna E. Tavenner Roberts, Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F)

Minister of Word and Sacrament (PC/L)

The Rev. Angela T. Khabeb, Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)
The Rev. Herb Wounded Head, South Dakota Synod (3C)

Minster of Word and Service

Deacon Bonnie J. Beadles-Bohling, Oregon Synod (1E)
Deacon Diane C. Schwiger-Alexander, Southern Ohio Synod (6F)

Lay Woman (YA)

Ms. Moriah Reichert, Indiana-Kentucky Synod (6C)

Lay Woman (PC/L; YA)

Ms. Mira P. DeGroat, Northwestern Minnesota Synod (3D)

Lay Man

Mr. Jeffrey Akerson, Nebraska Synod (4A)
Mr. Mark D. Steiner, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod (8G)

Lay Man (YA)

Mr. Wyatt S. Meyer, Greater Milwaukee Synod (5J)

Lay Man (PC/L; YA)

Mr. Louis Y. Moehlman, Eastern North Dakota Synod (3B)

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is responsible for providing nominees for each open committee position that will be elected by the Churchwide Assembly. 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 one 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 continuing membership of the committee consists of three rostered ministers and three lay men. The 2025 Churchwide Assembly will elect three rostered ministers, five lay women, and one lay man.

Restrictions: Additional nominees from the Rocky Mountain Synod and the Southeastern Synod are not allowed at this time.

Slate of Nominees

47. Rostered Minister (*Restricted to Region 1*)

- A. The Rev. Susan Marie Halvor, Alaska Synod (1A)
- B. The Rev. Martin Duane Wells, Northwest Intermountain Synod (1D)

48. Rostered Minister (*Restricted to Region 2 or 8*)

- A. The Rev. Nicole Raddu Ferry, Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)
- B. The Rev. Moses Paul Peter Penumaka, Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)

49. Rostered Minister (*Restricted to Region 5*)

- A. The Rev. Anthony F. Acompañado, Greater Milwaukee Synod (5J)
- B. The Rev. Lukas E. Harris-Ferree, Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

50. Lay Woman (*Restricted to Region 1*)

- A. Ms. Carolyn Beth Adams, Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)
- B. Ms. Kasey Miranda Schultz, Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

51. Lay Woman (*Restricted to Region 2*)

- A. Ms. Diane L. Brauer, Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)
- B. Ms. Karen Michele McClain, Southwest California Synod (2B)

52. Lay Woman (*Restricted to Region 3*)

- A. Ms. Kristine Kay Bjorke, Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)
- B. Ms. Kathy Fick, Eastern North Dakota Synod (3B)

53. Lay Woman (*Restricted to Region 4*)

- A. Ms. Elizabeth Ann Dieringer, Southwestern Texas Synod (4E)
- B. Ms. Susan Humphrey, Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C)

54. Lay Woman (*Restricted to Region 6 or 9*)

- A. Ms. Ginger Mildred Cutrell, Southeastern Synod (9D)
- B. Ms. Jillan Marie Russell, Northwestern Ohio Synod (6D)

55. Lay Man (*Restricted to Region 8*)

- A. Mr. Kevin D. Anderson, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod (8G)
- B. Mr. John Henderson, Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F)

Continuing Members of the Nominating Committee

Rostered Minister (PC/L)

The Rev. Jonathon Hemphill, Southeastern Synod (9D)
The Rev. Kwame Pitts, Upstate New York Synod (7D)

Rostered Minister (YA)

Deacon Amanda Randall, South Dakota Synod (3C)

Lay Man (PC/L)

Mr. Christopher A. Vergara, Metropolitan New York Synod (7C)

Lay Man (YA)

Mr. Matthew Lang, Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D)
Mr. Ethan A Roberts, Southern Ohio Synod (6F)

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 both from the same church body.

Restrictions: Additional nominees from the Minneapolis Area Synod and the Metropolitan Chicago Synod are not allowed at this time. Additional nominees from Region 3 and may be restricted.

Slate of Nominees

* Incumbent

† Plan participant

56. Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Congregational Leadership; Finance*)

A. The Rev. Hans Eric Becklin, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7E)†*

57. Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Health Care Administration*)

A. The Rev. Kathie Bender Schwich, Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)†*

58. Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Social Ministry Organization Leadership*)

A. The Rev. Thomas Paul Schlotterback, Montana Synod (1F)†*

59. Minister of Word and Service (*Congregational Leadership*)

A. Deacon Kayla Elizabeth Smrt, Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)†

60. Lay Woman (*Health Care Policy Administration*)

A. Ms. Carla Jean Borchardt, South Dakota Synod (3C)

61. Lay Woman (*Marketing and Communications*)

A. Ms. Angela Dejene, Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)*

62. Lay Woman (*PC/L; Insurance; Health and Managed Care*)

A. Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis, Southern Ohio Synod (6F)*

63. Lay Woman (*Benefits Administration; Deferred Compensation*)

A. Ms. Amy Johnson, Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)

64. Lay Woman (*Strategic Philanthropic Giving; Board Governance*)

A. Ms. Elizabeth Baran Wagner, New Jersey Synod (7A)

65. Lay Man (*PC/L; Investments*)

A. Mr. Vincent Paul Brown, Pacifica Synod (2C)*

66. Lay Man (*Regulatory and Governmental Affairs; Legal*)

A. Mr. Kyle Joe Gilster, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod (8G)

67. Lay Man (*Executive Leadership; Health and Human Services*)

A. Mr. Ted W. Goins, North Carolina Synod (9B)†*

68. Lay Man (*Global Health Compliance; Legal*)

A. Mr. Brett A. Kraemer, Southwestern Texas Synod (4E)*

69. Lay Man (*Investments*)

A. Mr. Todd Jason Maloy, Central States Synod (4B)*

70. Lay Man (*PC/L; Accounting Management; Legal*)

A. Mr. Felix Daniel Mercado de Jesus, Caribbean Synod (9F)*

71. Full Communion (*Digital Health; Health Care Administration*)

A. The Rev. Adam John Copeland, Presbyterian Church (USA)

72. Full Communion (*Global Actuarial*)

A. Mr. Richard Dale Hall, The United Methodist Church

Publishing House (Augsburg Fortress)

Trustees of the Publishing House of the ELCA (Augsburg Fortress) 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 both from the same church body.

Restrictions: Additional nominees from the Sierra Pacific Synod, Lower Susquehanna Synod, and Delaware-Maryland Synod are not allowed at this time. Additional nominees from Region 2, Region 3, and Region 8 may be restricted.

Slate of Nominees

*Incumbent

- 73. Minister of Word and Sacrament (*PC/L; Business Leadership; Inclusive Marketing*)**
 - A. The Rev. Stacy Lynn Chavis, Lower Susquehanna Synod (8D)
- 74. Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Author and Publishing Expertise*)**
 - A. The Rev. Shauna Hannan, Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)
- 75. Minister of Word and Service (*Non-profit Leadership*)**
 - A. Deacon David Hope-Tringali, Lower Susquehanna Synod (8D)
- 76. Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Campus Ministry, Senior Pastoral Leadership*)**
 - A. The Rev. Adam Patrick White, Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)
- 77. Lay Woman (*PC/L; International Marketing; Corporate Sales*)**
 - A. Ms. Ileana (Lilly) Kimmelshue, Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)*
- 78. Lay Woman (*Author, Theological and Social Ethics; Board Governance and Strategic Leadership*)**
 - A. Ms. Cynthia Diane Moe-Lobeda, Northwest Washington Synod (1B)
- 79. Lay Woman (*Senior Organizational Management; Strategic Leadership*)**
 - A. Ms. Shelly Ann Talcott, Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F)*
- 80. Lay Woman (*Executive Non-Profit Leadership; Board Management and Development*)**
 - A. Ms. Jenifer Kay Ward, Northeastern Iowa Synod (5F)
- 81. Lay Woman (*PC/L; Corporate Strategic Planning; Marketing and Communications*)**
 - A. Ms. Cheryl Geneva Williams, Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F)*
- 82. Lay Man (*PC/L; Academic Research and Author; Digital Media Innovator*)**
 - A. Mr. Michael Chan, Northwestern Minnesota Synod (3D)*
- 83. Lay Man (*Finance and Audit Expertise; Senior Organizational Leadership*)**
 - A. Mr. Kurt Barneson Galvez, Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)*
- 84. Lay Man (*Executive Non-Profit Leadership; Board Management and Development*)**
 - A. Mr. Michael Alan Miller, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin (5H)*
- 85. Lay Man (*Senior Corporate and Finance Leadership; Information Technology Corporate Entrepreneur*)**
 - A. Mr. John Erik Opgrande, Saint Paul Area Synod (3H)
- 86. Lay Man (*PC/L; Corporate Strategic Planning; Corporate Acquisitions and Mergers*)**
 - A. Mr. Brook Selassie, Virginia Synod (9A)*
- 87. Full Communion (*PC/L; Higher Education Senior Leadership*)**
 - A. The Rev. Joy J. Moore, The United Methodist Church*

Mission Investment Fund

Trustees of the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA are elected to one six-year term and shall not be eligible for consecutive re-election. The board of trustees has a range of nine to 12 persons 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 both from the same church body.

The term of trustees of the Mission Investment Fund was changed by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly from the possibility of three three-year terms to one six-year term. To effectuate this transition, the Church Council voted (CC25.04.23a) to adopt bylaw 17.30.B25. that divides “the [Mission Investment Fund] trustees to be elected by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly into two classes, one class elected to three-year terms and one class elected to six-year terms.”

The length of the term to which each nominee is nominated is indicated following each nominee’s name.

Restrictions: Additional nominees from Region 1, Region 5, and Region 9 may be restricted.

Slate of Nominees

*Incumbent

88. Minister of Word and Sacrament [three-year term]

A. The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Northwest Washington Synod (1B)*

89. Lay Woman (PC/L) [six-year term]

A. Ms. Liza Canino, North Carolina Synod (9B)

90. Lay Woman [three-year term]

A. Ms. Krista H. Kapp, Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)*

91. Lay Woman (PC/L) [six-year term]

A. Ms. Monica R. Powers, Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)

92. Lay Woman [three-year term]

A. Ms. Julie E. Swanson, Virginia Synod (9A)*

93. Lay Man (PC/L) [three-year term]

A. Mr. Randall Foster, Southwest California Synod (2B)*

94. Lay Man [three-year term]

A. Mr. Warren W. Hanson, Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)*

95. Lay Man [three-year term]

A. Mr. Joseph T. Nolte, Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D)*

96. Full Communion [three-year term]

A. The Rt. Rev. Ruth M. Woodliff-Stanley, The Episcopal Church (USA)*

Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation)

Trustees of the Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation) are elected to a maximum of three consecutive three-year terms. The board of trustees has 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. 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 both from the same church body.

Restrictions: Additional nominees from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod are not allowed at this time. Additional nominees from Region 2 and Region 3 may be restricted.

Slate of Nominees

*Incumbent

97. Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Legal*)

A. The Rev. Franklin Thomas Espegren, Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)*

98. Minister of Word and Sacrament (*PC/L; Governance*)

A. The Rev. William Edward Flippin, Southeastern (9D)*

99. Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Governance*)

A. The Rev. Anthony Robert Prinsen, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod (8G)

100. Minister of Word and Sacrament (*Development*)

A. The Rev. Kathleen O'Keefe Reed, New England Synod (7B)*

101. Lay Woman (*Investments and Financial Planning*)

A. Ms. Mary Beth Baron, Grand Canyon Synod (2D)

102. Lay Woman (*Finance*)

A. Ms. Naomi M. Horsager, Saint Paul Area Synod (3H)*

103. Lay Woman (*Legal*)

A. Ms. Heather L. Marx, Southeastern Minnesota (3I)*

104. Lay Woman (*Finance*)

A. Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford, Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)*

105. Lay Woman (*Legal and Financial Administration*)

A. Ms. Pamela Fetzer Vetter, Southwestern Texas Synod (4E)

106. Lay Man (*PC/L; Marketing and Communications*)

A. Mr. Roberto C. Lara Aranda, Metropolitan New York Synod (7C)*

107. Lay Man (*Accounting and Financial Services*)

A. Mr. Gregg Alan Draeger, Southeastern Minnesota Synod (3I)

108. Lay Man (*Investments*)

A. Mr. Bruce Douglas George, New England (7B)*

109. Lay Man (*Audit*)

A. Mr. Mark Fenner Stauffer, Pacifica Synod (2C)*

110. Lay Man (*Development*)

A. Mr. Andrew Steele, Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F)*

111. Full Communion (*Development*)

A. The Rev. Lisa Carol Bennett, The Episcopal Church (USA)

Biographies

1. Church Council: Lay Woman

Restricted to PC/L; Alaska Synod (1A)

A. Ms. Kathleen LaVonne Bourdon

Alaska Synod (1A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Our Saviors Lutheran Church - Nome, Alaska
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Our Savior's Lutheran Church church council
Our Savior's Lutheran Church Women's Group
Our Savior's Lutheran Church Youth Group
- 3) *Education*
California Lutheran University, Bachelor of Arts
Walden University, Master of Arts in Education
- 4) *Employment*
Project REMOTE Coordinator - Kawerak, Inc.
- 5) *Year of birth*
1967
- 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?*
I was born and raised in the rural community of Nome, Alaska by two amazing, hard-working, resilient parents. As I've gotten older, I can appreciate and understand the lessons my parents imparted on me. A huge gift was faith, fostered throughout my childhood at home and church, but also through the strict ways of being via Inupiaq traditional values demonstrated and expected by my Dad and Elders at our church. I am learning more of the beautiful Inupiaq language that brings to life love that is divine and a much broader understanding of traditional values. My willingness to serve comes from my parents. Whatever work I do, it is my opportunity to love people. I would like to be a part of the ELCA Church Council to love our greater community and share the perspective of Alaska Native values and language to help create oneness. I am insightful, creative, innovative, and have been told by Elders that "your brain works good." I am willing to serve if elected with an open heart.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

B. Ms. Deborah Maria Nyquist

Alaska Synod (1A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Christ Lutheran Church - Soldotna, Alaska
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
AK Synod ELCA Coach
AK Synod Nominating Committee
Christ Lutheran Church, Soldotna bell choir
- 3) *Education*
Univ of MN, Duluth, Bachelor of Science in Education
Western Governors Univ, Master of Arts in Management
- 4) *Employment*
Owner / Consultant - Thrive Consulting LLC
- 5) *Year of birth*
1963
- 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?*
As a lineal descendent of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and 30-year resident of Alaska, I bring my connection to the land, people and all of my relatives (plant, animal, water) to every conversation and decision. My husband and I are blessed to have raised our children on Dena'ina land in Kenai, AK. We enjoy hiking, fishing and wild harvesting and are proud grandparents to our 2-year-old granddaughter Babaamaadizi. Baabi fills me with hope when together we identify flowers and pick spruce tips, etc. I am a justice warrior for those whose voice is not heard: the earth; my colonized and dispossessed relatives; the plants, animals and water who are frequently seen as disposable resources. Upon resignation as the Wellness Director for a tribal health organization where I successfully integrated Alaska Native traditional healing and spiritual care into the healthcare system, I started my consulting company whose mission is collaborating to create thriving communities.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

2. Church Council: Rostered Woman

Restricted to Northwest Intermountain Synod (1D)

A. The Rev. Ann M Bjorklund

Northwest Intermountain Synod (1D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
New Day Lutheran Church - Idaho Falls, Idaho
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Synod Council, Northwest Intermountain Synod
ELCA Systems Academy
Congregational Resource Team, Southwestern Minnesota Synod
- 3) *Education*
Midland Lutheran College (now Midland University), Bachelor of Arts
United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, New Day Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1968
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 my experiences as an interim pastor, a VA Chaplain, 8 units of CPE, being part of the ELCA Systems Academy, and presently serving a Reconciling in Christ congregation as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community help me provide some diversity and perspectives that not everyone may possess. I also believe that rural and smaller congregations in the Midwest and West need representation. I recently completed a term on the Northwest Intermountain Synod Council, giving me a greater view into the workings of the Synod. I also served in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod assisting several congregations in conflict. In my current ministry, we are expanding our support of the LGBTQIA+ community through presence at PRIDE & other events, & using church space for support groups. Our congregation is very active with the Community Food Basket and the Soup Kitchen, and I'm part of our ecumenical ministry group. Sharing the love of God and advocating for others is part of my call.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I am a member of the LGBTQIA+ community. I believe this allows me to walk in and understand some spaces that others might not. I can speak to some things that the LGBTQIA+ community experiences, including spiritual abuse and mistreatment by "religious" people and institutions. People are also concerned about discrimination, and even harm, in their daily lives. I am also serving a .75FTE call because my congregation is unable to afford a full time pastor. Middle class education doesn't mean middle class income. We need to think of ways that we support those in ministry and also think outside the box regarding what ministry looks like.

B. The Rev. Barbara R Rossing

Northwest Intermountain Synod (1D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Faith Lutheran Church - Leavenworth, Wash.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Northwest Intermountain Synod Eco-Faith Leadership Team;
synod assembly Bible study leader
Lutheran World Federation Executive Committee,
Theological Studies Chair
Augsburg Fortress Publishers board, The Living Lutheran Magazine Advisory Committee
- 3) *Education*
Harvard Divinity School, Doctor of Theology
Yale Divinity School, Master of Divinity
Luther Seminary, Lutheran Year
- 4) *Employment*
Bible (New Testament) Professor; environmental ministry coordinator, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
- 5) *Year of birth*
1955
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 seminary professor and public theologian, I bring scriptural and theological expertise to help the church discern and address God's calling in our world. I have served as theological resource person for two churchwide assemblies; co-organized a teaching theologians' statement to support the ELCA 2009 decision for full inclusion of LGBTQ people; led Bible studies at Lutheran World Federation and synod assemblies; now serve on the board for Lutherans Restoring Creation, working for climate healing and justice. The Lutheran World Federation Executive Committee gave me skills in ecumenism, strategic planning, governance, global church accompaniment, anti-racism work, and advocacy for the marginalized. I love encouraging young leaders, including through the ELCA candidacy process. It would be an honor to serve on the Church Council at this "kairos moment" when the world needs our bold Lutheran witness to counter perils such as Christian nationalism, with a prophetic message of hope.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

3. Church Council: Rostered Man *Restricted to Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)*

A. The Rev. Moses Paul Peter Penumaka Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
University Lutheran Chapel, Berkeley, Calif.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Synod Council member, Sierra Pacific Synod
President Association of Asian and Pacific Islanders ELCA
Theological Round Table
- 3) *Education*
Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, Calif., Doctor of Theology
United Theological College, Bangalore, India, Master of Theology
United Theological College, Bangalore, India, Bachelor of
Theology
- 4) *Employment*
Director of TEEM and TEIL and Senior Lecturer, California
Lutheran University
- 5) *Year of birth*
1960
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Asian/Asian American/South Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific
Islander
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
After serving the ELCA and our seminary in Berkeley for the past 19 years, I have discerned a call to serve at the national level. I have been an advisory member to the Church council, member of task force for authentic diversity, education debt, Theological Round Table, and various committee and task forces. I would like to be on the decision making bodies. I would like to identify persons of color who could serve our church and make our ELCA more diverse, inclusive and promote equity and justice. I strongly believe that am committed to promote gifted leaders, especially leaders of color and leaders from marginalized communities, indigenous wisdom keeper who can make a difference, I have a wider net work of theologically trained leaders who will bring their gifts for the church. I will consider it a great honor and call to serve the national church by identifying gifted leaders to serve the church. I have prayed about my discernment and I am deeply convinced. Glory be to God.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I grew up in poverty in India, I am a person of color and have been preparing persons of color and marginalized leaders to serve our church. Nominating committees could identify leaders of color and leaders from marginalized communities to be part of ELCA to make our church more diverse, inclusive and make justice and equity to all God's people. I am deeply committed to this task as we more towards a renewed community of faith.

B. The Rev. Kristofer Shurson Rhude Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - San Jose, Calif.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Pastor of Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, San Jose, Calif.
South Central Synod of Wisconsin Synod Council Youth Representative
- 3) *Education*
Harvard Divinity School, Master of Divinity
University of Wisconsin, Master of Science in Education
Luther Seminary, Master of Arts in Ministerial Studies
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1992
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 pastor, I am called to connect people with God and each other, and I have found joy in that work in WI, BC, MA, and now CA. We Lutherans are stewards of a faith which our ancestors shepherded, and which we are blessed to leave to future generations. But as a young, first call pastor, the decisions made by this Council will form the church that I intend to pastor for decades to come. Our ancestors brought us here, but the church's future is still my own generation's. The ELCA is making momentous decisions in the coming years, especially as the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church presents its recommendations. I am proud of our church. But I also know transformation is needed to address the collective sins of racism, sexism, and homophobia which have plagued our church since its founding. I wish to serve at this inflection point in our beloved church's history, because I believe we need leaders who both value our traditions and will take necessary risks to reform our church.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

4. Church Council: Lay Woman *Restricted to Pacifica Synod (2C)*

A. Ms. Nancy A. Marlin
Pacifica Synod (2C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St. Andrew's Lutheran - San Diego, Calif.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Call committee co-chair, Bethlehem Lutheran, Iowa
Worship and prayer volunteer: Lenten speaker, prayer ministry, usher
Interfaith immigrant visitation (SOLACE): visited immigrants in detention weekly
- 3) *Education*
State University of NY – Binghamton, Bachelor of Arts
Oklahoma State University, Master of Science
City University of NY, Doctor of Philosophy
- 4) *Employment*
Professor and Provost Emerita, San Diego State University
- 5) *Year of birth*
1952
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 service because I have been blessed by God with relevant gifts and experiences: Leadership. I have been responsible for budgets in the hundreds of millions and for thousands of employees and understand fiduciary responsibility and legal proceedings. I have been elected or appointed to national leadership roles and have done extensive public speaking as well as led numerous delegations abroad. Compassion. I have been a member of non-profit boards that care for vulnerable communities including immigrant advocacy groups. As the recipient of a kidney transplant, I volunteer to help kidney patients. Humility. The gift of humility has enabled me to meaningfully move organizations forward. The Church Council requires more than expertise to be effective, and my interpersonal humility allows me to listen more than I speak and to propose compromises that respect multiple perspectives. I would be honored to serve as we continue to re-form our beloved reformation church.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I do not identify as a member of these groups; I do identify as a strong ally of these groups. Interestingly, for me such identification began in church. Following my confirmation, which was when only boys could be acolytes, I struggled to become what I am told was the first girl acolyte in the then-LCA. A few years later, I was proud to attend the 1970 LCA convention as a youth delegate at which I did what I could to advocate for the ordination of women. As the first woman to serve in almost all my professional roles, the sexism I experienced has sensitized me to the many other forms of conscious and unconscious bias and discrimination experienced by historically marginalized groups, which motivated me to take action to promote their true inclusion.

B. Ms. Terri Lynn Robertson
Pacifica Synod (2C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
First Lutheran Church - Fullerton, Calif.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
ELCA YMN Network Co-Op Program Team
First Lutheran, Fullerton Church Council Member
Pacifica Synod LYO/Youth Team Adult Advisor
- 3) *Education*
CA State Univ Long Beach, Bachelor of Business Admin
- 4) *Employment*
Executive Asst for Finance & Administration, Pacifica Synod, ELCA
- 5) *Year of birth*
1962
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 member of the ELCA since 1992 (after growing up in the LCMS), I am drawn to and proud of our church's ministry and service throughout the world. I appreciate and am thankful for our acceptance of ALL persons and the focus we have speaking out against injustice. My time on staff of the Pacifica Synod and in leadership roles in my home congregations over the years has opened my eyes to the challenges we face both now and looking forward. I want to be a part of making a difference in our church and in our world. I have a strong financial background, am detail-oriented, and open to new ideas and methods. I am a good listener and respect the viewpoints and ideas of all people.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I do not identify as a member of any of these groups.

5. Church Council: Lay Man

Restricted to Northwestern Minnesota Synod (3D)

A. Mr. Timothy Hiller

Northwestern Minnesota Synod (3D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Dilworth Lutheran Church - Dilworth, Minn.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
NW MN Mission Advancement Committee
NW MN Candidacy Committee
Worship Bands
- 3) *Education*
University of Chicago, Doctor of Theology
Yale Divinity School, Master of Arts In Religion
Hendrix College, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Philanthropy officer, Sanford Health Foundation
- 5) *Year of birth*
1981
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
Prior to entering the world of philanthropy, I studied Christian theology and ethics at the University of Chicago and Yale Divinity School. My Ph.D. research examined the development of Martin Luther's account of value in the self and world. With this academic background, I bring a deep understanding of theological and historical perspectives that shape faith and community leadership. In addition to teaching theology at local colleges for a few years and serving as the interim campus pastor at Concordia in 2016, I have lived out my commitment to the church through my work on the NW Minnesota Candidacy committee, the NW Minnesota Mission Advancement Committee, and through my local congregation, where I lead confirmation classes, Bible studies, and play bass in the worship band. I have experience in fundraising, community outreach, and in strategic planning, equipping me to contribute effectively to the Council's discussions and decision-making processes.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

B. Mr. Dean Leonard Monke

Northwestern Minnesota Synod (3D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Fergus Falls, Minn.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Finance Committee and Synod Rep.
Bethlehem Lutheran Church President of Council
Our Saviors Lutheran Church President of Council
- 3) *Education*
Mankato State University, Master of Public Administration
University of Washington, Master of Arts in Management
St. Olaf College, Bachelor of Education
- 4) *Employment*
Administrator, Fergus Falls Public Schools
- 5) *Year of birth*
1958
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 sister, daughter, and now spouse all serving in the ELCA Lutheran Ministry, and they offer their talents and abilities to God each and every day. I am a life long member of the Church and currently retired from public education. I have the time, energy, and commitment needed to serve the church as a Council member. I believe our church needs to embrace any changes that can help with church wide growth while still remaining steadfast to our Lutheran theology. I am very proud of my current family members that serve the Church in their roles, and I would be honored to serve as a Council member.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

6. Church Council: Lay Man *Restricted to Nebraska Synod (4A)*

A. Mr. Jeffrey Dennis Akerson Nebraska Synod (4A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Immanuel Lutheran Church - Bellevue, Neb.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Church Council President, Immanuel Lutheran Church
Neb. Synod video production on "Being a Spiritual Council"
ELCA Committee on Discipline
- 3) *Education*
University of Nebraska, Associate Degree in the Sciences
University of Nebraska Medical Center, Doctor of Medicine
- 4) *Employment*
Assistant Professor, Chief Medical officer Bellevue Medical Center, University of Nebraska Medical Center
- 5) *Year of birth*
1958
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 lifelong member of the Lutheran community and a dedicated servant of Christ, I am honored and excited to be considered for the Churchwide Council. Called to church leadership over 25 years ago and actively involved in our church at both local and synodical levels, I bring experience, passion, and commitment to this position. Throughout my journey within the ELCA, I have served in various capacities, including church council, Sunday School and men's group leader, worship leader, active participant on boards and committees, leadership of long-range planning teams, and conductor of church council retreats across the Nebraska Synod. These experiences have deepened my understanding of the diverse needs and aspirations of our congregations and have inspired me to advocate for unity, justice, and compassion within our denomination. With God's grace and guidance, I am confident that we can continue to proclaim the Gospel, nurture discipleship, and bear witness to God's redeeming love.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

B. Mr. Matthew Allan Schur Nebraska Synod (4A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Southwood Lutheran Church - Lincoln, Neb.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Parish Ministry Associate, Peace Lutheran Church, Plymouth Neb.
Music Director, Lutheran Center at University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Youth Director and Pastoral Assistant, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Lincoln Neb.
- 3) *Education*
Truman State University, Bachelor of Arts
Luther Seminary, Master of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Hospice Spiritual Care Coordinator, Tabitha Health
- 5) *Year of birth*
1974
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
My first response when asked to consider a nomination to church council was "Me? Really? Why?" But then, a tug like a still, small voice reminded me that I have a variety of experiences that would help me bring a unique perspective to the council. I am a layperson with a theological education, allowing me to consider issues from a lay point of view but with a strong Biblical foundation. I've worked for an ELCA church camp and an ELCA campus ministry, giving me an insider's look at the needs and gifts of those serving arms. I've served as a lay staff member in a variety of congregations, providing me with congregational leadership experience. Most importantly for me, however, is that between my work with people experiencing homelessness and my current work in hospice, I have developed a huge heart for the most vulnerable and underrepresented members of society—and the church. I see this position as a concrete way to help the ELCA keep its focus on our ministry with "the least of these."
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
As a person living with depression and bipolar disorder, I have an invisible disability that gives me a unique perspective on mental health, especially as it is regarded in the church. As much progress as we have made, there is still a long way to go in the way many Christians regard mental health and how it interacts with faith. For example, a common belief is still that if a person had a stronger faith, they wouldn't be depressed. Being on this end of those sorts of attitudes helps me empathize with other groups whose experiences and realities are misunderstood, erased, or regarded as "less-than."

7. Church Council: Rostered Man

Restricted to Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C)

A. The Rev. Steve Evans

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, ELCA (4C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Our Lord's Lutheran Church – Oklahoma City, Okla.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Synod Council, AR-OK Synod
Discipleship Committee Chair, AR-OK Synod
- 3) *Education*
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, Our Lord's 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?*
God has always given me the gifts to be where God calls me to be. I trust the same will be true if God calls me to be here.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I feel the ELCA is in the position it is, because of people who look like me, white, male. Please, vote for the Rev. Alvaro Nova Ochoa, from our synod, for this position. His perspective will lead us much more in a Way of Christ direction.

B. The Rev. Alvaro Nova

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, ELCA (4C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Comunidad de Esperanza - Tulsa, Okla.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Comunidad de Esperanza
Holy Angels, OCCA
- 3) *Education*
Wartburg Theological Seminary, Teem Program
Holy Cross Seminary OCCA, Master of Divinity
Instituto Teologico De America Central, No Degree Earned
- 4) *Employment*
Mission Developer, AR-OK Synod
- 5) *Year of birth*
1969
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Latin(o/a/é)/Latin-x/ Hispanic
- 7) *Primary language*
Not English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
As a baptized man belonging to the family of God, and with my own life experience, I am called to transform my faith into life actions that allow me to witness the gospel in this present world. For the last 30 years, approximately, I have been committed to Christianity by developing mission projects in South America, Central America and North America. I am confident that I have the necessary skills and knowledge to contribute to the positive development of the present and future of our church if I will be elected as a member of the board of ELCA.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
As son of a very poor Hispanic family in Colombia and raised with a perspective of faith as developing actions based on love, and then doing missionary work in 5 different countries with different cultures and different languages I believe that I can bring to the board a multicultural vision enriched with all aspects of human diversity

8. Church Council: Lay Woman

Restricted to PC/L; Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod (4F)

A. Ms. Maria Edna Campos

Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod (4F)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Christ the King Lutheran Church - Houston, Texas
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Christ the King Lutheran Church
San Francisco Del Pueblo
Abiding Savior Lutheran Church
- 3) *Education*
Lutheran Seminary of the South
University Texas at Austin
San Jacinto College south, Associate Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Public relations and political Consultant, Edna Campos and Associates
- 5) *Year of birth*
2003
- 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?*
As a TX Mexican-American child with very active Grandmothers in the Catholic/Pentecostal churches I heard the Holy Spirit's call. As a teen mom I was the primary faith teacher to my daughter and son; both are active in their congregations. As a mystic I have been God's heart/hands in the community with people who are marginalized and those unwilling to give up power. Today I serve as a bilingual Lay Chaplain/ Community of Hope Lay Eucharistic minister/ assisting minister/server/usher. Simultaneously I am a member on the Launch Committee and active member in a parallel restart (Houston Latino community) and member of the Synod Mesa Latina. Previously I served as Pastor, Nuestro Salvador (first Latino congregation)/Synod Council/ Outreach/Latino Ministries/Anti-Racism/co-chaired Multi-cultural committees/4 times churchwide voting member/ MDiv candidate, and numerous church-wide task forces. God's gifts--writing/music/public speaking/fundraising/opening doors, equip me to serve churchwide/globally.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

B. Ms. Deidre D Hayes

Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod (4F)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Bethlehem Lutheran Church - New Orleans, La.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Texas-LA Synod Council Member
Bethlehem Lutheran - Council President
Bethlehem Council Member and President
- 3) *Education*
Loyola University, Bachelor of Arts
Tulane University, Master of Social Work
UTK - Doctor in Social Work, Doctor of Philosophy
- 4) *Employment*
Professor of Practice, Tulane University
- 5) *Year of birth*
1964
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Black/African American/African Descent
- 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, I believe in the vision and purpose of the Lutheran Church. Understanding the importance of uniting individuals and communities as a people of God is crucial to our work as Christians. The ELCA values are aligned with how I live my personal and professional life. The willingness to be open to people who are different or hold different beliefs is important to how we continue to exist and thrive. I appreciate the Lutheran Church's willingness to take risks for the greater good, and in taking risks we serve as examples and leaders of the faith-based community. My experience as a Social Worker has prepared me to be on the Council because I can listen, reflect and assess objectively. My expertise as a therapist allows me to engage individuals and work within systems. I am a Qualified Mediator, trained in trauma-informed approaches, and restorative practices. These skills help me to process, assess and inform in an inclusive environment.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I am a Black female, raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. I believe my experiences navigating systems as a black female offer a useful perspective of leadership in the church. Bethlehem Lutheran is one of the few historically Black ELCA Churches. We serve the communities with the Community Table and participation in local community-based advocacy groups. These connections and intersections are important voices that can add to the conversation.

9. Church Council: Rostered Man

Restricted to Central/Southern Illinois Synod (5C)

A. The Rev. Ryan Howard Anderson

Central/Southern Illinois Synod (5C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St John Lutheran Church - Springfield, Ill.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Council Member, Central Southern Ill. Synod (also on Finance, Nominating, and Discipline Committees)
Dean, Northern Conference, Central-Southern Ill. Synod
Interim Administrative Pastor, All Saint's Parish (part-time in addition to full-time call)
- 3) *Education*
Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill., Bachelor of Arts
Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Conn., No Degree Earned
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Lead Pastor, St John Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1983
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 experience, congregational and synod councils have a great deal of opportunity for setting the tone of ministry across their expressions of church, and for using governance structure to augment and enhance the ministry of the gospel. I am excited to learn about such opportunities at the ELCA Church Council level, and to work to take such opportunities for the church. The gifts I bring: 1) open heart, mind, and ears...a council acts on behalf of the whole body, not unilaterally. 2) I enjoy and have a mind for church governance structures, constitutions, bylaws, Roberts Rules, and accompanying systems and processes. My geeky nature in this regard will be a boon to you. I am also fun, though that may seem to you a paradox. 3) I love the Church and good order, but I love Christ and his Spirit still more.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I DO NOT represent a historically underrepresented group as defined above. I am a white, natural-born U.S. citizen, cisgender, male nearing his middle years and not living with any disabilities. However, I do strive to be anti-racist, an ally, and inclusive. I am trying to do the work, and I am willing to help the Church do the work.

B. The Rev. Adam Joel Dichsen

Central/Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA (5C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Faith Lutheran Church - Jacksonville, Ill.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches President
Conference Vice Dean
Elm City (Independent Living for Adults with Disabilities) ethics committee
- 3) *Education*
Truman State University, Bachelor of Science
Truman State University, Bachelor of Arts
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1979
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
The center of my call lies squarely in the grace of God I experience in Creation, community, sacramental living, and God's Word. I strive to bear witness to this call and come alongside others to help them discover, celebrate, and rest in God's presence and call in their lives. I realize this is not easy as there is so much brokenness in our lives and the world around us. Through a recent health trauma in my family, I found myself angry at God, struggling to keep faith, and unable to pray. The Body of Christ surrounded my family, prayed on our behalf, and bore witness to the Spirit who kept faith for us. While our journey continues in shades of trust and fear, we are all the more aware of our need for prayer, community, and the love of Christ we embody to one another. On churchwide council, I would help us remember these shared struggles and our call to shine the light and life-giving promise of the gospel into leaders, members, congregations, communities, and the world.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

10. Church Council: Lay Man

Restricted to South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5K)

A. Mr. Andrew William Stevens

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5K)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Luther Memorial Lutheran Church - Madison, Wis.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Candidacy Committee, South Central Synod of Wisconsin
Innovation Leadership Team, ELCA Churchwide
Synod Council, Sierra Pacific Synod
- 3) *Education*
University of Chicago, Bachelor of Arts
University of California, Berkeley, Master of Science
University of California, Berkeley, Doctor of Philosophy
- 4) *Employment*
Assistant Professor of Agricultural and Applied Economics,
University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 5) *Year of birth*
1990
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
Reflecting on my baptismal promises, I feel called to serve God's faithful people and strive for justice and peace as a member of the ELCA Church Council. As the ELCA discerns how best it can share the Good News of Jesus and do God's work, I believe the Church Council needs members who can engage with the Church's work both theologically and structurally. I bring a distinct generational perspective and leadership experiences from congregations and synods across the ELCA. I have served on a synod council (Sierra Pacific), on a candidacy committee (South Central Wisconsin), and five times as a Churchwide Assembly voting member (St. Paul Area, Sierra Pacific, Southeastern, and South Central Wisconsin synods). These experiences have illustrated the many challenges we face as church together for the sake of the world. But our individual challenges share many commonalities that suggest how we might respond to them them effectively through the Churchwide expression of the ELCA.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

B. Mr. Paul Waelchli

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5K)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St. Paul Lutheran Church - Beloit, Wis.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Trinity Lutheran Church, Fort Atkinson WI
Faith Lutheran Church, Marion IA
- 3) *Education*
University of Minnesota–Duluth, Bachelor of Science
Clarke University, Master of Arts in Teaching
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, Master of Library
Science
- 4) *Employment*
Director of Libraries, University of Wisconsin–Whitewater
- 5) *Year of birth*
1977
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 calling is always evolving and renewed in different contexts. For 20 years, the calling of service was in teaching and coordinating Sunday School. I served in a variety of roles across five different congregations working with children of all ages. Journeying with them as they learned and discovered their faith provided ways to strengthen the engagement and future of each congregation. Through my professional life, I developed skills in administration and management. These experiences provided a lens to understand and navigate congregational structures and dynamics. While the context is different, interpersonal relationships, personalities and politics exist in every organization. Being able to see the 10,000 ft. view while understanding the impact on individuals is meaningful for churchwide actions. Now I am provided with the opportunity to serve while holding the joy and faith of childhood in one hand while balancing the strategic organization realities in the other.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I acknowledge my historical privilege's as a heterosexual, white male. As a parent of someone in the LGBTQ+ community, I have had to face that privilege while learning and supporting my child through their own journey.

11. Church Council: Lay Woman

Restricted to Southeast Michigan Synod (6A)

A. Ms. Kelle Shawn Shepherd-Bhavsar
Southeast Michigan Synod (6A)

B. [The synod will provide a nominee from the floor of the Churchwide Assembly]

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Hope Lutheran Church - Farmington Hills, Mich.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Modern Worship Leader
Jesus & Justice Project
- 3) *Education*
Rochester College/University, Bachelor of Business Admin
Lawrence Technological University, Master of Science in
Business Admi
Luther Seminary, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Project Manager/ Account Manager, ZF
- 5) *Year of birth*
1973
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Black/African American/African Descent
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
As a Christian, who is DEI Certified, my sense is that God is calling me to ensure that diverse people groups know about the power of grace and love that is being taught in our churches. Moreover, that God/our communities are more loving than fundamentalist churches (where i come from) can know. Finally, that we are a church that can move by and through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit....however She Wills us. Main Point: But People have to know...!
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
African American, Female, LGBTQ

12. Church Council: Rostered Man

Restricted to Southern Ohio Synod (6F)

A. The Rev. Chad Michael Huebner Southern Ohio Synod (6F)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Christ Lutheran Church - Athens, Ohio
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Southern Ohio Synod Council
Southern Ohio Synod Candidacy Committee
Churchwide Council
- 3) *Education*
Ohio University, Bachelor of Fine Arts
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1973
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 my call is to serve the whole Church and use my gifts wherever they can be of service. Over the last 25 years, I have served five congregations in five Synods. I have served on the candidacy committee in three of those Synods and served two terms as chair. I served a partial term on Churchwide Council and chaired the Planning and Evaluation Committee until moving from NE Iowa to the Southern Ohio Synod during Covid. I am currently serving on the Southern Ohio Synod Council and candidacy committee, and I am an ELCA level 1 coach. I believe my previous experience on Churchwide Council offers institutional memory and the benefit of understanding the intricacies and challenges that face the ELCA today. I believe my love for Jesus, the Church, and the variety of my past and current leadership experiences have developed my communication, interpersonal, problem-solving, critical thinking, organizational and planning skills and that they will serve the Church well.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

B. The Rev. David Jansen Kamphuis Southern Ohio Synod (6F)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church - Hilliard, Ohio
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Hilliard Area Ministerium Convener
Action Clergy Caucus Chair
Mahoning Valley Association of Churches Board Member
- 3) *Education*
Calvin College, Bachelor of Arts
Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1988
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 called to preach the gospel and speak on behalf of the poor and oppressed within the Lutheran Church. I firmly believe that the ELCA, and Lutheran theology in general, has a message that the world desperately needs. In a world that is often cruel and harsh the message of the free grace of Jesus Christ needs to be proclaimed. Part of God's work in the world involves the church and it is only through participating in the institutions of the church (like church council) that we can further this mission. I bring a variety of experiences of church to the work of church council. I have served as pastor in both urban and suburban contexts. I have served and worked with institutions working for justice in both places and so I have clear sense of the practical work that needs to be done in working for justice and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. I have also been to the Gamaliel Network's organizer training and have experience in community organizing.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

13. Church Council: Lay Man

Restricted to Metropolitan New York Synod (7C)

A. Mr. Roberto Carlos Lara Aranda

Metropolitan New York Synod, ELCA (7C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St Peter's Lutheran Church of Manhattan - New York, N.Y.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Member of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC – ELCA)
Board Trustee of the ELCA Foundation
President of the Latino Ministries Association of the ELCA
- 3) *Education*
Columbia University in the City of New York, Master of Science
Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes y Literatura, Bachelor of Fine Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Director of Communications—Global Outreach, Fetzer Institute
- 5) *Year of birth*
1982
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Latin(o/a/é)/Latin-x/ Hispanic
- 7) *Primary language*
Not English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
I feel called by God to serve on the ELCA Church Council, building on the mission and ministry experiences I've had. As President of the Latino Ministries Association, I have worked to amplify voices of the underrepresented and build bridges in our church. On the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church, I join others in reimagining how our denomination can faithfully reflect God's inclusive love. As a trustee on the ELCA Foundation Board, I help steward resources to sustain ministry. As Director of Dance at Saint Peter's Church in Manhattan, I learned to express faith creatively and build community through the arts. As co-chair of the Metro New York Synod Anti-Racism Committee and Assistant to the Bishop for Communications & Development, I have led initiatives for equity and inclusion. These diverse experiences have honed my gifts in communications, leadership, and advocacy—I am eager to share these gifts on the Church Council as a servant-leader committed to justice, and inclusion.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
As a queer Latiné immigrant, I know what it means to be on the margins of the church. When I first encountered the ELCA, I was unsure of my place, but the church welcomed me and affirmed my identity. That grace transformed my faith and ignited my passion to help others on the margins find the same belonging in Christ. Rooted in my identity and faith, I have led advocacy efforts in the ELCA, so that our church reflects all God's people. These experiences taught me to navigate cultural differences and challenge injustice with compassion. I bring a needed perspective to leadership, informed by lived experience, to ensure underrepresented voices are heard. I know that representation matters—when leadership reflects those it serves, it gives hope to people who feel unseen. In every decision, I will strive to help our church become more inclusive and equitable, mirroring the diversity of God's kingdom.

B. Mr. John David Litke

Metropolitan New York Synod, ELCA (7C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St Peters Evangelical Lutheran Church - Huntington Station, N.Y.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
synod treasurer
synod vice president
task force for rostering ministers of word and service
- 3) *Education*
MIT, Bachelor of Science
Johns Hopkins, Doctor of Philosophy
- 4) *Employment*
Building Administration. /Bookkeeper, st. peters lutheran church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1944
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
I excel at strategic planning, both programmatic and financial. Have authored multiple study documents for the synod on these topics. i have also helped more than 30 congregations in the synod with their financial and management practices.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

14. Church Council: Lay Man

Restricted to Lower Susquehanna Synod (8D)

A. Mr. Moses Kavishe

Lower Susquehanna Synod (8D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Trinity Lutheran Church - Camp Hill, Penn.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Member of Committee on Appeals church wide
Member of Committee on Appeals Synod
- 3) *Education*
Messiah University, Bachelor of Business Admin
- 4) *Employment*
Commissioning Eng, Apollo MCE
- 5) *Year of birth*
1989
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Black/African American/African Descent
- 7) *Primary language*
Not English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
The gifts I bring include leadership, Management, strong communication skills, and a deep commitment to fostering inclusive and welcoming spaces. My experiences in leadership roles within a church and outside of church, working within diverse communities, and collaborating across different faiths or service-oriented contexts have shaped my approach to mission and ministry. I also bring a heart for social justice and an understanding of the importance of both internal church growth and external outreach. In this work, I would draw upon my ability to listen, discern, and act with intentionality, seeking opportunities for growth, healing, and unity within both the church and the broader community.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
Through my perspective, I can contribute to ensuring that the voices of marginalized groups are heard, respected, and prioritized in decision-making processes. I bring a passion for advocacy, particularly in creating spaces where diverse identities are not only acknowledged but celebrated. This includes advocating for policies and practices that foster accessibility, equity, and opportunities for all people, regardless of their background, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, or citizenship status. Furthermore, my experiences have strengthened my ability to collaborate with others to find solutions that honor the dignity and worth of every person. I am committed to helping the church move forward in its work of reconciliation, healing, and building a more just and inclusive community for all.

B. Mr. Charles R Roberts

Lower Susquehanna Synod (8D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St Mark Lutheran Church - Harrisburg, Penn.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Director, Youth Ministry Certification School at LTSG
ELCA Youth Gathering Planning Team Lead
Congregational Youth Director
- 3) *Education*
Lock Haven University, Bachelor of Fine Arts
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, No Degree Earned
- 4) *Employment*
Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry, Lower Susquehanna Synod
- 5) *Year of birth*
1962
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 blessed to work in all three 'expressions' of the ELCA, during my ministry. The opportunity to walk alongside leaders at churchwide, synod, and in congregational ministry have offered a perspective on the institution that is unique. I have accompanied three-four generations of young leaders as they have matured in their own discipleship, and I continue to serve in faith formation with those in the first-third of life. This has allowed me a perspective of the body of Christ that is ever evolving and reforming, which I believe will help inform any work I may do with churchwide council as we explore where the Spirit is leading us as an institutional body. I have also been actively involved in leadership within the ELCA Youth Ministry Network, a para-church organization, that affords me the opportunity to engage with and learn from a wide variety of rostered and non-rostered peers from across the ELCA. I believe the variety of perspectives I am exposed to will serve me well.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

15. Church Council: Rostered Man

Restricted to West Virginia-Western Maryland (8H)

A. The Rev. Daniel Collins

West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod, ELCA (8H)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Trinity Lutheran Church - Martinsburg, W.Va.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
WV-WMD Synod Council
WV-WMD Continuing Education Committee
United Lutheran Seminary Technology Committee
- 3) *Education*
Messiah University, Bachelor of Arts
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, No Degree Earned
United Lutheran Seminary, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1997
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
The ministry we share in the ELCA is a vast patchwork of diverse call stories. I believe that mine provides me two helpful forms of insight for Church Council. Firstly, I came to Lutheranism as a young adult, coming out of a fundamentalist Baptist upbringing. This helps me understand the cultural phenomenon of Evangelicalism, and how to reach out to the fastest growing body of Christians in the United States, because they deeply desire the free gift of God's grace, too, which is so often mangled by works-righteousness and partisan political posturing in their churches. It also cautions me against those same pitfalls in our own denomination. Secondly, I am a first-call pastor in Appalachia. While I've only served for a few years, I believe I can speak to the potent struggles facing many of our first-call rostered leaders, especially in underserved regions of the country. The ELCA is not only urban and suburban, but rural, and we would be well-served to consider that reality.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

B. The Rev. Richard T Egtvedt

West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod, ELCA (8H)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Shepherd of The Hills Lutheran Church - McHenry, Md.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Christ Lutheran Church (Inner Harbor), Choir; Baltimore, Md.
First Lutheran Church Dayton; Church Council Dayton, Ohio
American Church Berlin; Berlin, Germany
- 3) *Education*
Michigan State Univrsity, Unknown
University of West Florida, Master of Public Administration
Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Mission Developer & Pastor, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1960
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
My email address speaks to how God has & continues to call me to serve within the world. "2kingsrick" reflects how God called me to serve my first career in the USAF before calling me into my developer/pastoral career in the ELCA. My time in Berlin taught me the importance of ecumenism and interfaith work. My service as "Chief Chaplain" for the National Lutheran Association (NLAS) on Scouting promotes Lutheran faith-based programs including Lutheran awards within Scouting America, Girl Scouts of America, American Heritage Girls, 4-H & Campfire USA. I recruit Lutheran clergy, deacons, seminarians, and scouting trained laity among ELCA, LCMS, and other Lutheran national bodies and seek national body approval for them to serve as Jamboree Chaplains for National and special youth serving events. NLAS is one of 3 extant pan-Lutheran organizations (Global Reach, LWR & NLAS). As a trained analyst, program mgr. & geographer (BA) I'm experienced in planning, development & coastal zone work.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I am a 100% disabled U.S. Air Force veteran with multiple disabilities after a total of 26.5 years of service. I was sexually abused by my Advisor in Scouting from age 14-16. I kept this secret for almost 50 years because I didn't want to embarrass my parents, and because of my call to serve in the U.S. military, I was afraid my Childhood Sexual Abuse (CSA) would preclude me from serving my nation under the rules, in-place, throughout my military service. Especially considering my desire to serve as a military intelligence officer. While spending 10 years working with local Appalachian veterans, including those with PTSD, I've also served as a Veteran's Administration "train-the-trainer" for the former Rural Clergy Training Program (Community Clergy Training Program). I recently discovered I'm suffering PTSD myself, due to my CSA. Over this year I've discerned how my CSA impacted my life, how I'm not alone in this, & how I've begun finding new futures, after surviving "Dark Nights".

16. Church Council: Lay Woman
Restricted to PC/L; YA; Virginia Synod (9A)

A. Ms. Jillian Colleen Stierwalt
Virginia Synod (9A)

B. *[The synod will provide a nominee from the floor of the Churchwide Assembly]*

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St Andrew Lutheran Church - Portsmouth, Va.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Va. synod council
- 3) *Education*
Nansemond River HS, No Degree Earned
- 4) *Employment*
Server/ Certified Trainer, Longhorn Steakhouse
- 5) *Year of birth*
2001
- 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?*
God blessed me with a strong voice and bravery to speak truth to power like Esther. I believe that my voice can bring a unique perspective that the ELCA can benefit from, as an Afro-Arab 22 year old LGBTQ+ woman, to help promote healthy inclusivity, diversity, and to show people God's love in the modern age. I grew up in the ELCA tradition and been blessed to watch our Church make so much progress. It would be a blessing to be able to be part of said progress so God's love may be felt by others who may have previously been ostracized by the church or would not know where to look for it.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

17. Church Council: Lay Person

Restricted to Financial Expertise

A. Ms. Patricia P Harper

Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St Stephen Lutheran Church - Chicago, Ill.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Council President
Council Financial Committee Chair
- 3) *Education*
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Bachelor of Science
Loyola University
North Park University, Certificate
- 4) *Employment*
Marketing Director, W.B. Olson, Inc.
- 5) *Year of birth*
1958
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Black/African American/African Descent
- 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. I grew up in the inner city and was raised at Bethel Lutheran Church in Englewood under Pastor Sherwood Nelson- After attending college and marriage, I joined Trinity Lutheran Church in Evanston where I raised my daughter. I have served the church throughout my life. This included mission trips as a youth and chaperone as an adult. I served/serve on council at both Trinity Lutheran Church and St Stephen's Lutheran Church. I have had wonderful examples of what it is to serve God's people through my family and church. I bring not only my life of service to the church, but also my financial experience. I attended Loyola University where I studied Accounting/ Auditing & Business Law to meet the requirements needed to become a Certified Public Accountant. Which I obtained. Being an accountant along with my BS Degree in Economics has served me and the business that I have work for well.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I am an African American female with a wide range of experience that cover a large spectrum. I have worked in both large and small institutions, for profit and nonprofit over the years. I think this allows me to be well balanced in my perspectives as well as serving the church

B. Mr. Mark R Roskopf

Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Messiah Lutheran Church - Vancouver, Wash.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Messiah Lutheran Church Treasurer
Messiah Lutheran Church Leadership Team
- 3) *Education*
University of Wisconsin, Bachelor of Business Admin
DePaul University, Master of Science in Business Admin
- 4) *Employment*
Controller, LS Networks
- 5) *Year of birth*
1961
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 blessed me with many gifts, particularly with my acumen with numbers, accounting and financial matters. I have been fortunate to help my congregation as a leader and the congregation treasurer. Through my gifts, I have been able to help guide the congregation and the Leadership team to understand the resources we have available and how to best use those in the ministries of our congregation. I would be honored to use my gifts to help the churchwide organization manage similar issues with the goal to ensure the best use of the resources in the churchwide ministries.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
Not applicable

18. Church Council: Lay Person

Restricted to Legal Expertise

A. Mr. Frank Albert Roth

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St Paul Lutheran Church - Ardmore, Pa.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Board of Pensions dba Portico Benefit Services
St. Paul's Congregational Council member
St. Paul's Congregational Council, President
- 3) *Education*
Harvard Law School, Doctor of Jurisprudence
Lehigh University, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
General Counsel & Secretary, Board of Trustees, Lehigh University
- 5) *Year of birth*
1958
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 lifelong Lutheran, I feel called to serve the Church's three expressions – my congregation, synod, and the ELCA. I have been Congregational Council President, a Synod Assembly lay delegate, and, since 2016, on the Portico Board of Trustees. My Portico Board service has expanded my understanding of ELCA governance and the tenets of our Lutheran faith that are reflected in our Church's governance. I have practiced law for 41 years, 37 of which are as counsel to large tax-exempt, non-profit organizations and I seek to apply this knowledge to serve the ELCA. I practice law as a Lutheran, by asking the Holy Spirit to guide me to use God's gifts to do God's work. My awareness of the challenges facing the Church - including declining membership and resources, the need to support mission congregations, the support of social ministry to address poverty and hunger, and the importance of welcoming all of God's people - have strengthened my sense of call to serve God and the Church.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
While I am not a member of these groups, I fully support the ELCA's constitutional commitment to inclusion and the full participation of historically underrepresented groups in Church governance. I fully support and live these values in my personal life and in my professional life as a higher education lawyer and teacher.

B. Ms. Spencer Sanders

Southwest California Synod (2B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Olivet Lutheran Church - Hawthorne, Calif.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Olivet Church Council
- 3) *Education*
University of San Francisco, School of Law, Doctor of Jurisprudence
- 4) *Employment*
Business and Legal Affairs Coordinator/Attorney, Skydance Media
- 5) *Year of birth*
1994
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Black/African American/African Descent
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
Growing up in the church, I saw how involved my family was in making our church a home for others, and I knew God would call me to serve as well. I have had the pleasure of serving on my congregations church council for the past 5 years. As my time comes to a close on our council, I have been looking for opportunities to continue serving beyond my current position when this opportunity was presented to me. As an attorney, I will bring expertise in reading, writing, and understanding of legal issues, including the interpretation of various church constitutions. With this role of not only being an attorney but also a young adult, I will bring a fresh perspective and open communication into the discussions of the future of the Lutheran Church. I believe that God has called me to serve in this position and presented this opportunity so that I may assist in the mission of bridging the gap and disconnection between the church and young adults.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

19. Church Council: Lay Woman

Restricted to Youth; 3-year term

A. Ms. Evelyn Marie Parvin Fuller

Southeastern Synod (9D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Beth-Eden Lutheran Church - Louisville, Miss.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
SESLYO
- 3) *Education*
Not specified
- 4) *Employment*
Student, Starkville High School
- 5) *Year of birth*
2008
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
I love the ELCA because we are so inclusive and focus on helping and healing all of god children, just as Jesus did. While leading on SESLYO I have learned to use my voice to represent those of gods children whose voices might be overlooked otherwise. I will bring an openness and curiosity to helping lead the Church through this next chapter of our walk with Christ. I hope to bring a fresh perspective to Churchwide Church Council and to further learn and lead the church of tomorrow.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

B. Ms. Emma Lynn Witt

South Dakota Synod (3C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Peace Lutheran Church - Sioux Falls, S.D.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Church Council
South Dakota Synod Assembly
The Gathering
- 3) *Education*
Sioux Falls Christian High School
- 4) *Employment*
Student
- 5) *Year of birth*
2008
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 had a strong sense of faith and a desire to share it with the community and those around me. I believe that this opportunity is the next step in my journey to grow in my faith and with God. I have a gift of Leadership, which has been seen by my church and community. This has allowed me to be part of my church council as the youth representative, along with being given the chance to lead during confirmation. Along with Leadership I also have a strong willingness to serve. This has lead me to go on a mission trip to North Carolina, along with going to the youth gathering and many other local service opportunities. I also have a passion for music which I have been able to show though opportunities given at church. Such as singing for church and playing bells. Along with these things I am a very open-minded and understanding person who enjoys working in groups. I have been able to use these gifts and more both in and outside of the church.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
Though I don't consider it a major disability I have been diagnosed with dyslexia. This has had major affects and caused hardship in my life. Thanks to the support of family and mentors I have been able to overcome challenges and help others with dyslexia.

20. Church Council: Lay Man

Restricted to Youth; 3-year term

A. Mr. Benjamin James Caseley

Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows - Tacoma, Wash.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
2024 ELCA Youth Gathering
- 3) *Education*
Not specified
- 4) *Employment*
Lifeguard, YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties
- 5) *Year of birth*
2008
- 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?*
All throughout my life, the Church has been the place where I learn, where I have community, and where I come closer to God. Many people have stood out to me as examples of what it means to be Christ's church on Earth, from pastors, family, teachers, and leaders in class, athletics, and scouting. These people have defined what it means to live out God's call, and I feel that call to serve the ELCA as a Youth Representative. I was initially surprised when the opportunity was presented to me, but I believe that God has given me the skills and confidence to serve in this way. Through my interactions with youth faithful and astray, inside the Lutheran Church and out, I have a sense of what young people need from the Church. The Church's message of Christ's love, so radically different from the valuation and judgement that young people experience online and in their daily lives, has led me to a vision for what the Church can be for all. I would be honored to serve as a Youth Representative.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
Despite not presenting as stereotypically queer, I am a bisexual man dating a transgender man. My family, my church, my school, and my community have always supported me, so being queer has never been a major focus of my life or identity. However, through my relationships with others I see the hurt and rejection that so many others experience by their own families, schools, and churches. At the mere mention of my faith they fell hesitant to talk further. I know what the Church has been for me, and I know what it has been and can be for youth today. Our world is so focused on labels and identity that we lose sight of our equal birthright to the love of God. Through a well-informed, faithful sense of mission we can further this love into communities ostracized by the hate and "grace if" of mainstream American Christianity. I believe it is the call of faithful young people within and outside the Church to take part in this mission.

B. Mr. Gabriel Thor Shafer

North Carolina Synod (9B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St John's Lutheran Church - Salisbury, N.C.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Youth Works
block Work
VBS
- 3) *Education*
Gray Stone Day School
- 4) *Employment*
NA
- 5) *Year of birth*
2011
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 deepest parts of my heart, I have always felt a great and profound calling to serve and make a difference in the world and make it a better place for all people, whether they be gay, poor/in a state of poverty, people with disabilities, or people who may be a different skin color than me, as they all deserve equal treatment in God's name. I have many gifts, such as my way of leadership that makes everyone feel welcomed and a part of the team, even if I don't fully know them. I try to get to know them better and help them succeed. I am very open to opinions and facts; I will not form an opinion until I know everything, which is a useful skill as it helps me base opinions on facts and what I believe, not public sway. I have skills in many things, such as multitasking and balancing things in my everyday life. I am a sports person. I do soccer and swim, and I play club and school soccer, which sometimes is very hard because I might have two practices in a day and some homework,
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
Continued from question #8: but I always finish on time and get the support that I need. I served at a children's home for poor people, and there was one thing I noticed and felt was unfair and unjust: all of them were black, which is really sad. Even today, where all of these movements are trying to help them, they are still being treated badly and in poverty. While in reality, all people are people of color to some people, and everyone should be treated just the same as God is the only one above someone. Now, onto the areas of expertise I could bring to this board. I would say that I have strong opinions, I am good with numbers. Finally, I am always uplifting, and if someone in the group is having a bad day, I can help lift their spirits and make them have a better day so they can serve and love with a better attitude.

21. Committee on Appeals: Minister of Word and Sacrament

Restricted to Region 7

A. The Rev. Sara J Anderson

New England Synod (7B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Emanuel Lutheran Church - Manchester, Conn.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Forward leadership Community- Co-creator/facilitator
Chaplain to summer staff, Camp Calumet
New England Synod Discipline Committee
- 3) *Education*
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Master of Divinity
Stonehill College (1998-2002): Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Associate Executive Director, Calumet Lutheran Ministries
- 5) *Year of birth*
1980
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Arab/Middle Eastern
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
It's hard to be 'called' to appeals and disciplinary work but as an undergraduate, my communication major focused on interpersonal communication. I've joked my most useful course for my future ministry as a parish pastor and synodical leader was "Hostage negotiation". In all seriousness, communication, forgiveness, reconciliation and justice work help to make us whole. I have gifts of compassionate directness, healthy boundaries, and an ability to move people through the hard conversations toward action. In forward leadership and my work as a chaplain to summer staff, I've led hours of training in holding difficult conversations and held them. In my ministry as a synodical leader, I've facilitated mediations and conflict resolutions for individuals and congregations. It's a skill and a passion to bring healing through the hard things.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I'm perceived as European decent/white with all its privilege but I am also the great granddaughter of Armenian Genocide survivors and identify as Arab/Middle Eastern. My Armenian heritage deeply impacts my faith and call, the Armenian Diaspora arose from the death of 1.5 million Armenians. We are the embodiment of what it means to be a resurrection people.

B. The Rev. Susan Stephanie Salomone

Upstate New York Synod (7D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St Michael's Lutheran Church - Camillus, N.Y.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
First English LC/Syracuse -Council Pres (2x), Altar Guild, Head Counter, Food Pantry, Clothes Closet
Upstate NY Synod Conference Dean - Central Crossroads Conference
ELCA Human Sexuality Taskforce - member
- 3) *Education*
LTSG/United Lutheran Seminary, Master of Divinity
O.C.M. BOCES, Certificate
Alfred University, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, St. Michael's Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1963
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 described below how I view my call to serve as a potential member of the churchwide council. I think my gift of a different perspective will be of value to the church. I believe in thinking 'outside the box', coming up with new and creative ways to "be church". As an older student in seminary, I had the benefit of learning from younger students, who viewed rostered ministry in a new exciting way. Listening, learning, praying and discerning are all part of moving forward and making decisions that are in the best interest of all. I prefer to work cooperatively as a team, rather than going it alone. I find it difficult to describe my own gifts, skill and areas of expertise, because I just view these as me just being me. However, I have been described by colleagues, supervisors and lay persons as someone who takes initiative, natural leader, welcoming, hospitable, interested, present, organized, dependable, informal, caring, authentic and confident.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
As a person who identifies as part of the LBGTQIA+ Community, I believe that I have a prophetic voice and a different perspective that would be critical as the council meets to consider items and actions that affect the whole church. So often, this community has been left out of the conversation (talked about, but not with) specially in recent years since tolerance and acceptance SEEMS to be present. During my 30 plus years of being Lutheran, I have been an ordinary local church member, a seminary student, a member of a controversial taskforce, an ordained rostered pastor and now a conference dean. I have experienced all of these through the lens of being part of LBGTQAI+ community. These experiences have run the gamut from awful to awesome. I truly believe that the work of the church council, requires that a person from this community, be an engaged, faithful, discerning, authentic and be willing to speak truth to power. After all, God is always doing a new thing!

22. Committee on Appeals: Rostered Minister *Restricted to Region 9*

A. Deacon Rebekah L Forst North Carolina Synod (9B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Holy Comforter Lutheran Church - Belmont, N.C.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Synod Gathering Champion
Children Youth and Family Listening Panel
- 3) *Education*
Wartburg Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity
Lenior Rhyne University, Bachelor in Social Work
- 4) *Employment*
Deacon of Discipleship, Holy Comforter Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1992
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 deacon in the ELCA, I feel a call to mission through being in the world. Deacons are called to push boundaries, and to be with people in the middle of injustice and heartache. I feel called to mission through accompaniment. The ELCA speaks confidently of the importance of healthy leaders. As someone who has had the gift of a sabbatical and working in a congregation long term, I know why being a healthy leader is crucial to the health of a congregation. I have worked with youth for the entire 8 years I have worked in ministry. This skill set has taught me what accompaniment and healthy boundaries with people mean, and teaching healthy boundaries are vital. Teaching boundaries means that you have to have hard conversations that involve reconciliation, correction, and boundaries.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

B. The Rev. Christopher Russell Hermansen Southeastern Synod (9D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Epiphany Lutheran Church - Suwanee, Ga.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Conference Dean
Diversity and Justice Task Force
Boundary Inclusion and Education Planning Team
- 3) *Education*
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity
Concordia University, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, Epiphany Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1978
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 had a strong passion to work for agreement and resolution especially in the face of disagreement and differences. I believe I have the ability to hear differing perspectives from an unbiased perspective and to see an individual's perspectives. To work toward reconciliation has always been a goal in my ministry and personal life.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

23. Committee on Appeals: Rostered Minister

Restricted to Region 3

A. The Rev. Justin Charles Boeding Southeastern Minnesota Synod (31)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
United Lutheran Church - Red Wing, Minn.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Faith Lutheran, Dodge Center
- 3) *Education*
Not specified
- 4) *Employment*
Senior Pastor, United Lutheran
- 5) *Year of birth*
1976
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 for the opportunity to serve as the Senior Pastor at United Lutheran and would be willing to serve the larger church in any capacity that is helpful.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

B. The Rev. Henry Wesley Burt Southeastern Minnesota Synod (31)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Grace Lutheran Church - Albert Lea, Minn.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Supply Pastor, East Falls Presbyterian Church
Supply Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Newark, N.J.
Supply Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Weehawken, N.J.
- 3) *Education*
St. Olaf College, Bachelor of Arts
Princeton Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity
Princeton Theological Seminary, Doctor of Philosophy
- 4) *Employment*
Associate Pastor, Grace Lutheran
- 5) *Year of birth*
1994
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 newly-ordained pastor, I would like to develop in my administrative capacities and institutional knowledge. A representative of ELCA Churchwide reached out to me, encouraging me to apply as a nominee for the Committee on Appeals. I happily agreed to, as I believe having a better feel for church discipline can enrich my pastoral sensibilities, especially as I am more comfortable in the pastoral care realm. I understand that church discipline and pastoral gentleness go hand-in-hand in ministry and this position would allow me to better integrate the two.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

24. Committee on Appeals: Rostered Minister

A. The Rev. Tracie L Bartholomew

New Jersey Synod (7A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St Bartholomew Lutheran Church - Trenton, N.J.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Chair, Conference of Bishops
Committee member - Future Directions
- 3) *Education*
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminar, Master of Divinity
James Madison University, Bachelor of Science
- 4) *Employment*
Bishop, New Jersey Synod [term ending Aug. 31, 2025]
- 5) *Year of birth*
1963
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 Committee of Appeals will make use of my commitment to serve beyond the local congregation/synod as well allow me to work with a group of people committed to insuring our standards around discipline are fair and equitable.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

B. The Rev. Shelley Rae Wickstrom

Alaska Synod (1A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Lutheran Church of Hope - Anchorage, Alaska
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Conference of Bishops Roster Committee
ELCA Church Council Liaison Bishop
Pacific Lutheran University Board of Regents
- 3) *Education*
Wartburg Seminary, Master of Divinity
California Lutheran University, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Former Bishop, Alaska Synod
- 5) *Year of birth*
1957
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
This ELCA Committee on Appeals tends to equity in our processes, policies and the people impacted by them. This committee exists as part of our collective care for God's people through consideration of disputed concerns. This committee is not a legislative body but works within ELCA policies and procedures for the good of the whole and respect of individuals. Serving as a synod bishop, churchwide staff person deployed to regional service, congregational pastor and mission developer would offers experience with our policies and procedures. Living among people of ethnic and economic diversity would hopefully bring perspective to the rich variety of hopes, disappointments and promise of our people and use of our policies.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

25. Committee on Appeals: Lay Woman

A. Ms. Katherina Elizabeth Farrow

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Fellowship Lutheran Church - Tulsa, Okla.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Fellowship Lutheran Church
- 3) *Education*
Oklahoma State University, Bachelor of Arts
Oklahoma City University School of Law, Doctor of Jurisprudence
- 4) *Employment*
Student Success Coach, City Year Americorps
- 5) *Year of birth*
2001
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 pursuing a juris doctorate degree to pursue a career in public service and ultimately serve those who are less fortunate or are facing untoward circumstances in the legal system.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
Pansexual woman

B. Ms. Alice R Senechal

Eastern North Dakota Synod (3B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Sharon Lutheran Church - Grand Forks, N.D.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Eastern North Dakota Synod, synod attorney
Sharon Lutheran Church, congregation president for two years and member of various ministry teams
- 3) *Education*
University of Minnesota, Doctor of Jurisprudence
North Dakota State University, Bachelor of Science
- 4) *Employment*
United States Magistrate Judge, United States District Court
- 5) *Year of birth*
1955
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
Through the ELCA Attorneys Association, I have become more aware of matters involving church governance, and I have looked to find ways in which I can use my legal skills to further the mission of the ELCA in all its expressions. Because of my judicial position, I can no longer advise or represent any church entity., so I look for other avenues of service. Both the Committee on Appeals and the Committee on Discipline require members skilled at listening to many voices when called to resolve conflicts. In my roles as a magistrate judge, lawyer, mediator, and congregational leader, I have strengthened my listening skills and developed gifts to recognize the many factors that may have led to conflicts. And I have come to recognize that church conflicts are unique and deeply personal to those involved. I also have experience serving on committees addressing matters of professional ethics in the legal profession. I want to use my gifts and skills to serve God by serving the ELCA.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
NA

26. Committee on Appeals: Lay Woman

Restricted to Region 5

A. Ms. Kate English

Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection - Marion, Iowa
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Worship Band
Middle School Sunday School
- 3) *Education*
University of Northern Iowa
Wartburg College
- 4) *Employment*
Compensation Specialist, Green State Credit Union
- 5) *Year of birth*
1966
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
HR, Music, negotiation
S.S. Curriculum.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
As a mother of a transgender daughter, I can bring that perspective.

B. Ms. Deborah Banks Williams

Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Bethel Lutheran Church - Chicago, Ill.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Bethel Lutheran Church Treasure
Metro Chicago SWO Treasure
Women of the ELCA Executive Board Member
- 3) *Education*
Wilbur Wright College, Associate Degree in the Sciences
HUD office of Housing Counseling, Certificate
- 4) *Employment*
Associated Director of HUD Programing and Housing, Oak Park Regional Housing Center
- 5) *Year of birth*
1958
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Black/African American/African Descent
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
God called me use my free willing gift to help other and he put me in the position to serve other and to make an impact in the world. My gifts are with finance and as a leader I help with the youth been on youth gathering and support the little children in Summer Camp activities, I use my gifts at church, home and work. I am a good listen and also very passionate on the thing I do. I will give my all with every job and commitment and assignment that I have. I am a believer that God will walk with me always.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I am a Person of Color. and also work for A HUD Agency , I have taken a sworn oath to work with all people no matter what their income is, or where they stand in light or this world.. I do have to follow the Fair housing act. which do not let me discriminate against anyone. especially on the grounds of ethnicity, sex ,age or disability , Plus that is not in God plans for me.

27. Committee on Appeals: Lay Man ***Restricted to Region 1***

A. Mr. Paul G Dodds

Southwestern Washington Synod, (1C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Messiah Lutheran Church - Vancouver, Wash.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Endowment Committee
Intern Committees
Congregational Council
- 3) *Education*
Lewis & Clark Law School, Doctor of Jurisprudence
Portland State University, Bachelor of Science
- 4) *Employment*
Attorney, Brownstein Rask, LLP
- 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 was a practicing civil litigation attorney for 30 years. My practice included appellate work, and I am quite familiar with appellate practices and procedures. After retiring in 2018, I have done legal consulting work. I would like to engage in another area where I can use my legal background. I have served on numerous boards, committees, and councils at the congregation level since becoming involved in ELCA churches in 1993, only some of which are listed in Item #9. The position on the Committee on Appeals seems to me a good fit. Thank you for your consideration.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

B. Mr. Eric Edward Nord

Montana Synod (1F)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Hope Lutheran Church - Anaconda, Mont.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Montana Synod Legal Counsel
Montana Synod Council
King of Glory Lutheran Church, Billings, Mont. President
- 3) *Education*
Carleton College, Bachelor of Arts
Boston University Law School, Doctor of Jurisprudence
- 4) *Employment*
Attorney, Crist, Krogh, Alke & Nord
- 5) *Year of birth*
1963
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 do what I can for the Church and try to bring my skills as a lawyer to help in any way I can.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

28. Committee on Appeals: Lay Man

Restricted to Region 2

A. Mr. Ralston Henry Deffenbaugh

Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church - Estes Park, Colo.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church
Lutheran World Federation Assemblies, parliamentary & legal adviser
Namibian Lutheran Bishops, legal adviser during transition to independence
- 3) *Education*
Harvard Law School, Doctor of the Science Law
University of Colorado, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Assistant General Secretary for International Affairs and Human Rights, Lutheran World Federation
- 5) *Year of birth*
1952
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 deeply committed to my church, the ELCA, and look for opportunities to serve. I would bring to the Church Council my experience in the global Lutheran communion, especially as the LWF's in-house legal adviser; as well as my 18 years experience leading the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

B. Mr. Jay Beebe Simonson

Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Bethany Lutheran Church - Cherry Hills Village, Colo.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Bethany Lutheran
Hope Methodist
- 3) *Education*
University of Colorado, Doctor of the Science Law
Colorado State University, Bachelor of Arts
Stanford Univeristy (1980-1981):
- 4) *Employment*
First Assistant Attorney General, Colorado Department of Law
- 5) *Year of birth*
1961
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
I practiced law for 31 years before retiring in 2021. I prosecuted and defended in both civil and criminal courts. In retirement I have been a part time investigator of workplace claims. I believe my legal skills and experience may be of service .I have experience with employment matters. I also supervised a team of attorneys and staff while acting as a First Assistant Attorney General for the State of Colorado. I also supervised young attorneys while a Judge Advocate General for the USAF (both active and reserve for a total of 27 years. I have extensive experience in workplace supervision and personnel matters that I would hope could be of benefit in this committee position.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

29. Committee on Appeals: Lay Person

Restricted to Region 3; YA

A. Ms. Lacy Elizabeth Tooker-Kirkevold

Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Diamond Lake Lutheran Church - Minneapolis, Minn.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Interim Program Director at Luther Park Bible Camp in Danbury, Wis.
Board Member of the Minneapolis Area Synods Eco Faith Team
ELCA Young Adult Fall Climate Summit Participant
- 3) *Education*
None Specified
- 4) *Employment*
Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, Diamond Lake Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1995
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 Lutheran young adult, I feel called to be a voice for change in the church, to show that young people have the skills, desires, and ability to be the hands and feet of Christ in this every changing world. Before I started as the director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry at my current congregation, I was an activist and organizer. I know how important systems of checks and balances are in our democracy and in any governing system like churchwide. I am choosing to apply to the committee on appeals because I believe that I can bring a strong sense of justice and compassion to this roll. With my background as an organizer, I know how to look at an issue or a policy from multiple angles to be able to find the route that will lead to the best outcome for all. This committee is doing important work in holding people and systems accountable and I believe that I will be an asset as a younger voice with unique perspectives.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I am both neurodivergent and queer which gives me a unique perspective both in the world and in the church. I have experienced both inclusion and contempt over my identities. I know what it means to have systems fail you and what happens when people in power abuse their power to target specific groups. That is why I feel like my voice is needed on this committee, if we are going to hold people and systems accountable, the committee needs to be made up of multiple voices from diverse backgrounds and experiences.

B. Ms. Madeline Cecelia Trosvig

South Dakota Synod (3C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Sioux Falls, S.D.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
YAGM
Camp Counselor
Call Committee
- 3) *Education*
Augustana University, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Faith Formation Coordinator, Our Savior's Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
2000
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 be in community and live out love. As a young adult who has had the opportunity to explore my calling in various ELCA settings, I've come to understand the importance of teamwork and trust, especially when it comes to church staff and teams. My year as a volunteer in Central Europe with YAGM has had a big impact on my life and call. It also deepened my ability to listen with empathy and intention. One of my greatest gifts is my sensitivity—something I once saw as a weakness. But through my experiences in the ELCA, I've come to recognize my emotions as both holy and needed. I am also deeply committed to learning. While I'm not yet well-versed in this particular area of the ELCA, I'm eager to grow in my leadership and discern my path, including the possibility of seminary. As I continue to explore all corners of this church, I would love the opportunity to deepen my understanding of the institution I have chosen to be part of.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I am someone who is exploring their sexuality. I truly think sexuality is fluid and it's something I'm continuing to exploring and discover in myself.

30. Committee on Discipline: Rostered Minister *Restricted to Region 1*

A. The Rev. Bergen Anders Nelson Eickhoff Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - Snohomish, Wash.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Proclaim Relator to the ELM Board
Churchwide Voting Member from SWMN Synod
Synod Champion for SWWA Synod
- 3) *Education*
St. Olaf College, Bachelor of Arts
Luther Seminary (St. Paul), Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Associate Pastor for Children, Youth, and Family Ministry and
Outreach, The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
- 5) *Year of birth*
1992
- 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?*
Rostered Leaders hold a remarkable power over the wellbeing of the people they serve. When wielded responsibly, this power brings renewal and life to churches. When wielded poorly, it brings desolation to churches. When the church aligns responsibility, transformation, and relationship, resurrection results. The way we allow for alignment is through systems of accountability. Countless congregants have told me that they are Lutheran because of accountability structures. Many of these are youth and young adults. I trust their words. But accountability is hard. It requires an appreciation for the totality of a situation and the uncertainty that permeates the greatest understanding. I cannot claim to be especially wise or confident in my judgment. But I do feel called to do the complex both/and work of accountability and discipline. And I know that I am called to support accountability in every form so that responsibility, transformation, and relationship may align in our church.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I am bisexual and nonbinary, and it was through my faith that I discerned and embraced these identities. Living publicly as a bisexual, nonbinary person has given me a taste of resurrection, transfiguration life. I believe that my identities give me an embodied both/and perspective that makes the Lutheran expression of Christianity feel natural. I find myself always operating in the liminal space of Law/Gospel, Sinner/Saint, Bound/Free. To me, this is liberation that frees me to live with confident curiosity in an endlessly complex creation. My identities also provide me with a distinct empathy for people long harmed and excluded by the church. I faced obstacles in the candidacy process, felt betrayed by my seminary, and have felt unsafe in church spaces. This experience gives me an impetus for maintaining the boundaries and structures that promote safety in the church. Lastly, my identities give me empathy for the young people forging the ELCA's present and future. Each generation shows higher rates of LGBTQIA+ identities, with bisexual and nonbinary identities especially on the rise. I am inspired by the younger generations' witness to embodied transformation, and carry the courage they proclaim into my leadership.

B. The Rev. Sara Funkhouser Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Luther Memorial Lutheran Church - Seattle, Wash.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
President of the Lutheran Campus Ministry Board at the
University of Washington
NWWA Synod Bishop's Convocation Planning Team
ELCA Discernment Mentor
- 3) *Education*
Concordia College-Moorhead, Minn., Bachelor of Arts
Wartburg Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1996
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 committed to see the church grow into its future, and part of that is addressing any harm that has been done in the name of God and the church. I spent two and a half years as a nursing home chaplain, in addition to serving in congregational ministry, which has really developed my active listening skills. Most of my best conversations about life and faith have occurred with people who will never step foot in a church again because of the harm that has been done to them or the ones they love. I have a deep sense of justice, but also empathy and curiosity. As a leader who brought up in the church as we have focused on reconciliation, it is important in my leadership to recognize that reconciliation cannot happen if the cause of the harm is not addressed. I have also been trained as a coach in the ELCA, which has deepened my ability to actively listen and develop thoughtful questions.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I identify as both a queer woman and as someone who in neurodiverse. I know what it means to not be fully included by church institutions and to have people try to invalidate my experiences, which deepens my sense of empathy, but also my emphasis on inclusivity and justice. Because of my neurodiversity, I often focus a lot on analyzing others and the reasons they have for what they are doing. My brain can help me see multiple perspectives and often is able to find creative solutions.

31. Committee on Discipline: Rostered Minister *Restricted to Region 6*

A. The Rev. Michael Vance Johnson
Southeast Michigan Synod (6A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Love Rising Lutheran Church - Detroit, Mich.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Love Rising Lutheran Church
Member synod anti-racism team
- 3) *Education*
Adrian Collge, Bachelor of Arts
Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, Love Rising Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1962
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Black/African American/African Descent
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
With racism, sexism, classism and homophobia raging its ugly head in this country and in the church I have never felt a deeper sense of mission and calling to do God's work.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I am the only African American pastor in the Southeast Michigan synod. The feeling of isolation that that brings gives a perspective that is hard to explain to most white people.

B. The Rev. Sarah Anne Moore
Northeastern Ohio Synod (6E)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Messiah Lutheran Church - Ashtabula, Ohio
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
ULS Student Council Secretary
ULS Student Council Vice President
ULS Gettysburg Campus Representative
- 3) *Education*
United Lutheran Seminary, Master of Divinity
University of Cincinnati, Bachelor of Arts
Southern Illinois University, No Degree Earned
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, Messiah Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1995
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
Part of my call has always been the knowledge that the Church can and must be better than it has been in the past. One of my gifts is the ability to have very difficult conversations with compassion and accountability.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
While I do identify as asexual, it has had minimal impact on how I am treated. As someone who was diagnosed with chronic depression as a child, I am very aware that we often assume far too much about each other based on what we see.

32. Committee on Discipline: Rostered Minister

Restricted to Region 1 or 9

A. The Rev. David Henry Brauer-Rieke Oregon Synod (1E)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Central Lutheran Church - Portland, Ore.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Bishop Oregon Synod ELCA
Pastor Atonement Lutheran
Pastor Christ the King Lutheran
- 3) *Education*
Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity
Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Interim Pastor, Messiah 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 was asked to consider nomination by Jessica Potts of the Nominations Committee. I believe by service as both a pastor and a bishop would lend perspective for this work. Many in my family, my father when he was alive, and both my brother and my sister, have lived and worked as attorneys. While not an attorney myself I believe my indirect familiarity with issues of rule and legal proceedings would be of help. As a bishop I have been in disciplinary proceedings with pastors and congregations, so I have that experience to refer back to.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

B. The Rev. Mardy Ringer Southeastern Synod (9D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St Mark Lutheran Church - East Point, Ga.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Synod Assembly
African Descent Lutheran Association
Lutheran Disaster Ministry
- 3) *Education*
Morris Brown College, Bachelor of Music
Pacific Lutheran, Theological Seminary, Teem Program
Lenoir-Rhyne University, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, St Mark Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1976
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Black/African American/African Descent
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
I remember as a child, standing in front of the mirror and delivering what I thought was a sermon, titled "God Can Do It." I now see that this was the beginning of my journey, a calling to ministry that shaped my life long before I understood it. Growing up as the youngest child of a single mother, church became our sanctuary, providing support and community. Although we didn't start as Lutherans, my journey took a pivotal turn in adulthood when I became a keyboard player. This decision led me to discover the ELCA, where I found a true spiritual home. For the first time, I grasped what it meant to be called to serve. Embracing this new purpose has transformed my life; I now joyfully share God's love with others. As a Lutheran pastor, it's an honor to witness God's grace and transformative power in the lives of many. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and to be a vessel of His love in the world.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
As a person of color, I believe I offer a unique perspective that reflects a minority voice. My experiences and challenges related to diversity can contribute positively to the growth of the ELCA, and I think they would be valuable to the committee.

33. Committee on Discipline: Rostered Minister *Restricted to Region 5*

A. The Rev. Brittany Megan Barkus
Northern Great Lakes Synod (5G)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
All Saints Lutheran Church - Wakefield, Mich.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Young Adult Steering Committee
YAGM Volunteer & Alum leader for events
Global Church Together Committee for Northeast IA Synod
- 3) *Education*
Wartburg Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity
Valparaiso University, Bachelor of Science
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, PSALM Shared Ministry
- 5) *Year of birth*
1995
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 God is calling me into service through the work on this board because of the need for equitable and just hearings when there is an issue. I believe my experiences that I have had of working with people from around the world that have different perspectives than mine have prepared me to listen and provide input that is fair and promotes a path to healing for those involved. As a former teacher, I also have experience in policies surrounding keeping children safe and have taken courses that teach churches how to uplift that work as well. I can remain calm in situations that are tense and am committed to hearing all sides of a story in a case.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I am a member of the LGBTQIA+ community and identify as lesbian and queer. Being a part of this community in the Church, especially as a leader has been hard because I have not often been welcomed and have had to remain closeted in many situations. I know the frustrations that come with being overlooked and underrepresented, but I also know that I have privilege as a white individual. These perspectives allow me to walk with people where they are at in their journeys while others may be inclined to shy away.

B. The Rev. Nate Montover
Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection - Marion, Iowa
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Hope Lutheran Church
Gloria Dei
Augustana College
- 3) *Education*
WTS, Master of Divinity
WTS, Master of Sacred Theology
LSTC, Doctor of Philosophy
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
- 5) *Year of birth*
1972
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 happy to serve in any way needed.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

34. Committee on Discipline: Rostered Minister *Restricted to Region 7 or 9*

A. The Rev. Hannah Claire Norem
North Carolina Synod (9B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church - Hickory, N.C.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Member
North Carolina Synod Administration Council
Member, ELCA Attorney's Association
- 3) *Education*
Augustana University, Bachelor of Arts
Wake Forest University School of Divinity, Master of
Divinity
Wake Forest University School of Law, Doctor of
Jurisprudence
- 4) *Employment*
Associate Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1996
- 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 both a licensed attorney and a pastor, and I bring both areas of my training to every day of my job as a pastor. I completed a dual MDiv/JD at Wake Forest, so I learned how to be a pastor and a lawyer at the same time. While a Master of Divinity and a law degree might be a strange combination in many spheres, the cross-training I received helped me learn how to listen without an agenda, apply rules and procedures effectively, and use existing structures in life-giving ways that honor the God-breathed dignity of each person. God continues to call me into a life of service for others, so I am honored to be asked to consider serving on a committee of a church that I love so much. I am excited to see what God is calling us into next as church together and will continue to be a part of God's work in the world through the ELCA.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

B. The Rev. Johanna K Rehbaum
Upstate New York Synod, ELCA (7D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church - Pittsford, N.Y.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Chaplain for Candidacy
Lutheran Association of Chautauqua Board Member
Congregational Vitality Assessment Team for conference
- 3) *Education*
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Master of
Sacred Theology
Yale Divinity School, Master of Divinity
Gustavus Adolphus College, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, St. Paul's Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1983
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
I consider myself to be a naturally deep and empathetic listener, striving always to understand both sides of an issue. After enduring a difficult conflict in my first call, I began participation in our synod's Natural Systems Academy, learning about how natural systems can aid in conflict management in congregational systems. I was also trained as a Healthy Congregations facilitator (a conflict resolution program based on Peter Steinke's work with systems in congregations). I would be grateful to use this knowledge and experience to help other congregations manage difficult situations, and serve the larger Church.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

35. Committee on Discipline: Rostered Minister *Restricted to Region 9*

A. The Rev. David Eric Fox Virginia Synod, (9A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church - Hampton, Va.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Chair of VA Synod Assembly Worship Team
Chair of NC Synod Book of Faith/Engage the Bible
- 3) *Education*
Western Carolina University, Bachelor of Arts
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Senior Pastor/Head of Staff, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church & School
- 5) *Year of birth*
1985
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 the gift of listening and understand the importance of accountability. I not only desire for all rostered ministers and synodically authorized ministers to have a safe environment in which to serve, but I also want worshipping communities to feel confident that they are safe with the leader(s) they have called. Confidentiality will be upheld to the highest standard. I understand my role on the Committee of Discipline as a call from the Holy Spirit, confirmed through the vote of the Church. If elected, I recognize that I can only fulfill this responsibility with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
N/A

B. The Rev. Adam Christian Schultz Virginia Synod, (9A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - Lexington, Va.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
VA Synod Bishop Election Committee Member
Region 9 Boundaries and Inclusion Education Advisory Committee and presenter
Organized a child abuse prevention conference for ELCA church leaders in VA Synod & local churches
- 3) *Education*
Furman University, Bachelor of Arts
Mandel Center for Nonprofit Organizations at Case Western Reserve University, Masters in Non-Profit Management
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary at Lenoir Rhine University, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1982
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 bi-vocational pastor in the ELCA. In addition to being a pastor, I serve as a Spiritual Counselor at Project Horizon, our local domestic and sexual violence shelter addressing clients spiritual concerns as it relates to their physical, sexual, emotional, mental, and spiritual abuse. often, clients have issues of spiritual abuse that stem back to traumas that occurred in their churches years ago, and together we work through it. I believe that this work has finely tuned my empathetic listening skills for the victims of all kinds of abuse and maltreatment. Also, in this work, I am an advocate for children and present trainings for faith leaders at an annual child abuse prevention conference. Moreover, I believe that my previous training in nonprofit management also allows me to see and understand organizational systems such as congregations as a whole, synods, and even the greater churchwide body..
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I identify as a gay man. When I first came out publicly, I faced "conditional acceptance" from my family (at least at that time) and rejection from the church denomination in which I grew up (Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod). This was a church whose theology taught me to be ashamed of and hide who I was and mishandled multiple instances of abuse, including sweeping instances within the church under the rug. My excommunication from the LC-MS, while traumatic, taught me more about being the outsider and the marginalized than anything I had experienced up to that point in my life or since, and I believe it helped me to better understand Jesus's radical inclusivity and the transformative power of an honest, full-hearted welcome.

36. Committee on Discipline: Rostered Minister

Restricted to Region 2; PC/L

A. The Rev. Chryll D Crews

Southwest California Synod (2B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church - Inglewood, Calif.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Mission Developer
Executive Board and Synod Council MNYS
Reference and Counsel
- 3) *Education*
CUNY School of Law @ Queen's College, Doctor of Jurisprudence
Alliance Theological Seminary, Master of Arts
Interdenominational Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Supply Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
- 5) *Year of birth*
1964
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Black/African American/African Descent
- 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 will be an asset to the Discipline Committee. I was appointed to a six-panel appeals committee in the MNYS after a church did not choose to follow the bishop's recommendations. This appointment allowed me to use the mediation skills learned in law school. We interviewed all persons who signed up plus the pastor. As a panel we met to review the interviews and made reports and recommendations. Some people shy away from church conflict. However, I firmly believe that helping people through conflict, healing, and reconciliation are vital stages for church growth and strengthens the Body of Christ. I always remind people that the Epistles were written to the church! The skills and gifts for conflict resolution are invaluable and my gifts involve problem solving and administration. As part of my law school curriculum, I interned at the NY Housing Court in Queens and did some community mediation. Bishops trust me with hard assignments, and I rise to the challenge!
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I represent the African-Descent community, and as former Mission Developer and chaplain with 8 CPE credits, I have skills in ministering to diverse communities. I know the importance of listening to minority voices and creating space for a variety of ideas. I'm enriched by those who do not think like me. As a life-long learner, I see difference as an opportunity to learn and grow. I think being well-rounded is a plus for the ELCA with the sensitivity to listen and the courage to speak up when necessary. I see myself as a courageous leader who cares deeply about justice for all.

B. The Rev. Tracy Maria Williams

Southwest California Synod (2B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church - Bellflower, Calif.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Women of the ELCA
- 3) *Education*
PLT, Certificate
California Baptist University, Master of Arts in Psychology
Azusa Pacific University, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, Holy Redeemer
- 5) *Year of birth*
1959
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Black/African American/African Descent
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
I have enjoyed working in this church, I work as assistant to Bishop in that role I have the pleasure of working with many congregations. I assist in conflict resolution and helping to build good relationships.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

37. Committee on Discipline: Rostered Minister ***Restricted to Region 2 or 4***

A. The Rev. Pamela Joan-Swartz Challis
Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Trinity Lutheran Church - Boulder, Colo.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Southwest California Synod Council
Southwest California Synod Executive Committee
Southwest California/Pacifica Synod Candidacy Committee
- 3) *Education*
Olivet Nazarene University, B S in Home Economics/Health
Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Master of Divinity
Lutheran School of Theology, Doctor of Ministry
- 4) *Employment*
Senior Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1957
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
The Committee on Discipline needs humans who are capable of deep discernment, an open mind and heart, and the ability to ask open-ended, probing questions. In addition, the people on this committee must have skills in listening deeply to all of the participants in any given situation and to come in with as few assumptions as possible. I have honed these skills throughout my ministry and most recently as a graduate of Excellence in Leadership here in the Rocky Mountain Synod. I bring a passion for this denomination and its many and varied ministries and a desire for the ELCA to be a denomination of excellence and integrity.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

B. The Rev. Ariel Otterstad
Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod (4F)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Living Word Lutheran Church - Katy, Texas
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Gulf Coast Synod Synod Council Female Clergy Rep
Oregon Synod Youth Representative to Synod Council
- 3) *Education*
United Lutheran Seminary, Master of Divinity
Newberry College, Bachelor of Science
Chemeketa Community College, No Degree Earned
- 4) *Employment*
Associate Pastor for Discipleship, Living Word Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1980
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 two years I have been leading my congregation through a pretty major clergy misconduct scandal. I know how devastating acts that require discipline can be on an organization. I also know that when handled well, the damage can be mitigated. I feel very strongly about holding people accountable when they engage in inappropriate conduct, but also not turning every little complaint into a witch hunt. I believe in supporting victims and putting systems in place to prevent such things from occurring in the first place (if at all possible). I try very hard to remain fair and open and not condemn without proper evidence. I believe in giving grace to those who have made mistakes - although that may not mean restoration to their previous office or call.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
No

38. Committee on Discipline: Lay Man *Restricted to Region 9*

A. Mr. Frederick H. Black

North Carolina Synod (9B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church - Chapel Hill, N.C.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
King of Kings Lutheran, Liverpool, NY; council
West Point Lutheran Services, various responsibilities
including president
Holy Trinity Chapel Hill and NC Synod, various councils
and committees
- 3) *Education*
Howard University, Bachelor of Arts
Syracuse University, Master of Public Administration
- 4) *Employment*
Sr. VP, Black star Strategies, Inc.
- 5) *Year of birth*
1946
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Black/African American/African Descent
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
As a leader and manager, I feel called to continue to serve our Church where I can use my time, talents, and treasures to assist in accomplishing our goals and objectives. Serving on the Fund for Leaders, Global Refuge, and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary has been a blessing and my skills and abilities have proven beneficial.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
As a person of African descent, I value the importance of diversity and a variety of views and perspectives. I have always worked to help all see the bigger picture.

B. Mr. Charles Edward Lifford

North Carolina Synod (9B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer - Gastonia, N.C.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Church Council
- 3) *Education*
Davidson College, Bachelor of Arts
UNCC, Master of Science
Charlotte School of Law, Doctor of Jurisprudence
- 4) *Employment*
Founder, Law office of Charles Lifford, PLLC
- 5) *Year of birth*
1961
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 call to use my experience and skills to serve the ELCA through this board or committee. My career and faith have always been focused on service, justice, and helping others. I bring a unique combination of skills and experiences to this work. With over 30 years in public service—first as a police officer and now as an attorney—have prepared me to handle complex situations with care and fairness. One of my strengths is Leadership: I've served as the Gastonia Police Assistant Chief, President of the local bar, and the Rotary Club of Gastonia. Other strengths are Legal Knowledge, Commitment to Faith and Service, and Teaching / Mentoring: I would use these gifts to support the ELCA's mission, ensuring fairness, ethical decisions, and good governance in everything we do.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I am a married, straight, white male who speaks English and was born in Knoxville, TN, into a middle-class family. While my family was unbroken, I am the first to attend college, complete a long-term career, earn a pension, raise a family (and send them to college), buy a home, and own and operate a professional business. These experiences have shaped my understanding of hard work, perseverance, and the importance of creating opportunities for others. While I may not share all the lived experiences of those the ELCA seeks to intentionally elevate, I deeply respect this mission and bring a commitment to justice, equity, and the empowerment of all.

39. Committee on Discipline: Lay Man *Restricted to Region 4*

A. Mr. David Lee Humphrey

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Joy Lutheran Church - Tulsa, Okla.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Joy Congregational President
Joy Congregational Treasurer
- 3) *Education*
University of Wisconsin, Bachelor of Science Engineering
Texas A&M Corpus Christi State University, Master of
Business Administration
- 4) *Employment*
CEO/President, Advantage Technologies
- 5) *Year of birth*
1955
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 that has answered God's call to church service in 5 different synods and in numerous leadership roles. I am familiar with all levels of our ELCA denomination as my wife and daughter have served on Churchwide Boards (WELCA and National LYO Board) and currently my daughter is the AOK Synod office manager and my daughter-in-law is an ELCA pastor in Metro NY Synod. I skills revolve around analytical analysis and logical thinking. I have a background in Science((Chemical Engineering)) with an MBA in Business and Finance. I have run my own Venture Capital Fund and served as CEO for several companies. I look forward to serving wherever and whenever God calls.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

B. Mr. Anthony Ormsbee-Hale

Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod (4D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Messiah Lutheran Church - Weatherford, Texas
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Member, Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church
- 3) *Education*
Sam Houston State University, Bachelor of General Studies
- 4) *Employment*
Chief People officer, Civitas Senior Living
- 5) *Year of birth*
1992
- 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 calling into mission and service within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is deeply rooted in my commitment to fostering communities where every individual can flourish. Throughout my career in Executive HR and organizational management, I have consistently sought to create environments that reflect the values of care, inclusion, and empowerment—principles that resonate strongly with the Church's mission. I believe that God has called me to serve through this board or committee by utilizing the gifts and skills He has granted me. These include a strategic mindset for navigating complex organizational challenges, a deep understanding of human dynamics and development, and a commitment to ethical leadership. My experience in guiding organizations through periods of change and growth, particularly within community-focused settings like senior living, has equipped me with a unique perspective on how to nurture and sustain mission-driven work.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
My experiences navigating both the joys and challenges of being part of the LGBTQ+ community equip me with the empathy, resilience, and insight necessary to advocate for inclusivity and representation within the church. My personal journey of faith and acceptance has been deeply intertwined with my identity, providing me with a profound understanding of the importance of creating a welcoming and affirming space for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
I am committed to using my voice to support and uplift others in the LGBTQ+ community, ensuring that their needs and concerns are not only heard but also addressed in the church's policies and practices. By sharing my story and the stories of those in similar situations, I can help bridge gaps in understanding and foster a more inclusive and compassionate church environment. This commitment extends to advocating for comprehensive and ongoing education about LGBTQ+ issues among church members and leadership, promoting a culture of love, acceptance, and justice in line with the ELCA's mission and values.

40. Committee on Discipline: Lay Man

Restricted to Region 6

A. Mr. Seth Gee

Southern Ohio Synod (6F)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Peace Lutheran Church - Gahanna, Ohio
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio
- 3) *Education*
Central Michigan University, Bachelor of Music
University of Pennsylvania Law School, Doctor of Jurisprudence
Villanova University Law School, Unknown
- 4) *Employment*
National Tax office Corporate Tax Senior Manager, BDO USA PC
- 5) *Year of birth*
1991
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 spent my entire life being part of the ELCA. As the son of a pastor, I have always been keenly aware of the role the church (and the ELCA in particular) plays in the lives of individual church members and society as a whole. I see this as a pivotal time for the ELCA, as church membership across all denominations is in decline and many people are questioning the value of large institutions. With my formal legal training and experience as a tax attorney, I would bring a perspective of finding ways to empower the ELCA's mission while mitigating risk. I also work closely with accountants and have a strong understanding of financial statements and metrics. Finally, I live in a multi-faith household and understand the need for the ELCA to exist in a pluralistic society while also holding true to its core tenants.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

B. Mr. Josh S. Tatum

Indiana-Kentucky Synod (6C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Indianapolis, Ind.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Synod Attorney, Indiana-Kentucky Synod
Cochair, Indiana-Kentucky Synod Constitutions Committee
Congregation Council, Our Redeemer Lutheran, Indianapolis
- 3) *Education*
Wabash College, Bachelor of Arts
Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Master of Divinity
Vanderbilt University Law School, Doctor of Jurisprudence
- 4) *Employment*
Partner, Plews Shadley Racher & Braun LLP
- 5) *Year of birth*
1980
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
I sense God continuing to call me to serve the Church as a lawyer, helping leaders address problems effectively and implement strategic planning and risk management looking forward. I have experience at the synod and congregation level working closely with lay and clergy leaders. I have become familiar with the structure and standards of the ELCA. I also have experience dealing with issues related to the Discipline Committee with churches in other traditions. The legal perspective and experience, including my theological education, I have would contribute to the committee's work. I sense God's call to assist in that work in that I find work serving the Church rewarding, even when it presents challenging circumstances.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

41. Committee on Discipline: Lay Woman

Restricted to Region 5

A. Ms. Myrtis Jean Brown

Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St Stephen Lutheran Church - Chicago, Illinois
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Interim Congregational President
Metro Chicago Synod Council
Metro Chicago Candidacy Committee
- 3) *Education*
Northern Illinois University, Bachelor of Arts
Columbia College, Master of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Teacher/Administrator, Chicago Public Schools
- 5) *Year of birth*
1943
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Black/African American/African Descent
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
I love God and God's people. I have a passion for God's people and want to be active, a "doer". In this season of retirement, I have welcomed opportunities to "do "God's Work with Our Hands". I have the experience of having served locally in my congregation, as a deacon, helping during worship service as the Lay Assistant. Additionally, I have served as the chairperson for the stewardship ministry. At the Synod level, I had been a member of the Metro Chicago Synod Council and well as the Candidacy Committee. As an educator I know the importance of listening and the role as the teacher and the learner. As we are reminded in scripture: there "time to speak and a time to be silent"(Ecc. 3:7). I have learned active listening skills. From my work on various committees, I have learned how to work within a group; both collaboratively and within the framework of collegiality. I have acquired the lens of discernment when critical decisions must be reached along with thoughtfulness.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I am an African American woman who has lived beyond the "threescore and ten and if by reason fourscore.". I have had the opportunity to live with and worked with people of different ages, and backgrounds. However, we all have a same beginning and will have the same endings. We can and should learn from one another. I see God's work in creation through each of us. I understand and have witnessed confusion and conflict. God's presence remains a constancy. It has sustained us. The work of our church is important. I am glad to be a part of this work.

B. Ms. Catherine Olivia McKenna

Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St Timothy Lutheran Church - Naperville, Illinois
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
University of Iowa Lutheran Campus Ministry, executive board
student inreach position
St Timothy marketing team
- 3) *Education*
The University of Iowa: Geography (Environmental Studies),
Bachelor of Science
The University of Iowa: Art, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Planner/GIS Specialist, Kane County, Illinois
- 5) *Year of birth*
2001
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
My home congregation has seen many pastors come and go, via circumstances of healthy transition, but also via inappropriate relations. Even though the institution of the church has imperfections, I strive to focus on and recognize the human elements that create the church. My dad served as our congregation president during a tumultuous time regarding our head pastor. In viewing his leadership, I learned about the importance of confidentiality, professionalism, and protecting the health of the congregation. While serving on the executive board of my college campus ministry, my student inreach role allowed me to listen to the personal needs of students through their complex college experiences, and work to make all feel comfortable, welcome, and heard. During times of conflict, I strive to be a steady voice to speak for what is most kind, but also just.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
As a member of the LGBTQ community, I want to make the church inclusive for as many people as possible. I am grateful to have been raised in a church that supported my identity before I had even grown into that identity myself, and cultivating this type of environment for other people of underrepresented groups is a priority for me. Not every member of my congregation knows my identity, or agrees with my political beliefs, yet I still have incredibly meaningful relationships with them. I hope that I can be a positive representation of my queer identity and progressive viewpoints when difficult conversations do arise.

42. Committee on Discipline: Lay Woman

Restricted to Region 2; YA

A. Ms. Savannah Kay Jorgensen

Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer - Sacramento, Calif.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Sierra Pacific Synod
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Neenah, WI (East Central Synod of WI)
- 3) *Education*
Valparaiso University, Bachelor of Science
Texas A&M University, Master of Science
- 4) *Employment*
Public Policy and Organizing Manager, League of Women Voters
of California
- 5) *Year of birth*
1997
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
Through my calling into advocacy and accompaniment as vocation and service, I bring a strong awareness toward justice to this committee. I bring my lifelong experiences as an ELCA youth and now young adult to this committee as well, having witnessed the good and the bad of ELCA spaces and leadership while growing up in this church. I carry with me my perspectives not only as a member, but as a woman, a young person, and now a former employee into this role. I feel that God is calling me into service to this committee to lend a perspective of centering justice in the work of addressing any potential harm caused by this church and those serving in it. Additionally, I bring my critical thinking and leadership skills gained throughout my extracurricular and educational journey. In summary, I feel that I am being called into service in a new way in the church and I hope to bring all of my passions, gifts, and experiences to this committee and the church at-large.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
As a young adult woman who only recently came out as gay, but who grew up in this church, I think my perspective may be useful in leadership. As I mentioned in my answers to my calling to this specific committee, I have been a member of the ELCA my whole life. And while there have been many moments of joy as a part of this church, there have also been hard moments and moments when I wish my church would have exemplified justice and inclusion and love better. I still see areas where the church can improve in these regards. By bringing an intersectional justice lens to leadership in this church, I think my perspectives could be helpful.

B. Ms. Sara Jo Larson

Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Abiding Hope Lutheran Church - Littleton, Colo.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Young Adults in Global Mission- Volunteer caller & Small group
Leader
Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, office Assistant & Summer Director
Young Adults in Global Mission, Hungary
- 3) *Education*
Point Loma Nazarene University, Bachelor of Arts
University of Northern Colorado, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
office Administrator, Hope's Promise
- 5) *Year of birth*
2000
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Latin(o/a/é)/Latin-x/ Hispanic
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
I grew up in the Lutheran Church, and have grown up around several nonprofits, my parents starting two that have helped so many people. I just recently served in Hungary with Young Adults in Global mission, and returned home to start working for the same adoption agency my sister and I were adopted through. My relationship with God and the church has been one that has been a roller-coaster, I fully admit. As a young adult, I feel my relationship with God has become one of just trusting where God wants me to go, and to serve. Working with different parts of ELCA, through my life has shaped me to be who I am today. To give grace, love others and to serve those in need, not just the ones I or society deems are in those categories but how Jesus and God want all of us to, is something I want to be and to do for others. This has been modeled for me my whole life, and I chose to go into jobs, my degree in psychology, my involvement in church, to help others.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
The ELCA as a primarily white denomination, has been one of the more welcoming denominations. As a Hispanic/Latina woman, my voice and others are not always heard. I think I can offer a unique perspective as a young adult who is a Hispanic/Latina woman. I obviously would not be speaking on behalf of others but I would potentially be able to offer insight to how my age group, my ethnicity and how women may be thinking in the church and how I am impacted by the church and it's decisions.

43. Committee on Discipline: Lay Woman *Restricted to Region 7*

A. Ms. Melissa Marie Bedell

Upstate New York Synod (7D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Grace Lutheran Church - Johnstown, N.Y.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Synod World hunger (2020-2025)
Synod Council (2021-2025)
Churchwide assembly
- 3) *Education*
United Lutheran Seminary, Certificate
- 4) *Employment*
Intern, King of Kings Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1972
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 an openminded forward thinker who respects all ideas and wants a solid and safe church space for the future of ministry. I am willing to put in my voice and the work of my hands and prayer for it to be so. I have found for some time not only a calling to ministry but a call to service in the wider church. I feel that I can work joyfully and diligently to make a difference in the wider community of believers.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I come from generational poverty and wish to see an understanding as well as an end to such situations. I grew up and still reside in a community that once was a thriving glove industry but is now riddled with drugs and unemployment. I rose up to make a difference in my own life and am now almost a rostered minister an achieving life goals I never thought were possible, through faith and hard work. I want to be a voice for those who feel "less than" and to be able to show that this church lives and breathes what it professes that not only are all welcome, but all have a place and that includes in service to the church at all levels and that everyone is indeed welcome at the table.

B. Ms. Ashley N Procanyn

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7E)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St Paul Lutheran Church - Albrightsville, Penn.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Gather Lehigh Valley Co-Lead
Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp
- 3) *Education*
American University, Master of Arts
Colorado State University, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Assistant Program Manager, ICMA
- 5) *Year of birth*
1998
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
Mission and service has directed the trajectory of my life for about a decade now. God calls me to serve in my community. For me, I understand this call of community with people, and community with God's Creation. I bring compassion, humor, a strong desire to lead by grace, as well as a wealth of experience in the church. I served in high school in my synod, and with the ELCA- in YCLT, and I served in Lutheran Campus Ministry, forming community and critical mass across interfaith divides. Serving at camps taught me patience, perseverance, and showed how intentionality and radical love can be transformative. Today, I work in nonprofit, and lead a Gather. I focus work on environmental sustainability, community justice, and policy. Secular spaces need servant leadership just as much as faith-based. The balance of "the law" and "grace" lead my life on the daily, especially working in a bipartisan sphere where of course, there are going to be challenges and conflict in seeking resolution.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
While I am not a member of these groups specifically, I am a second generation daughter of Eastern European immigrants. I was raised by a single-mom, in rural Appalachia, and these identities absolutely are key in how I approach issues today. Intergenerational living, community support, and growing up in a food desert are now "buzz topics," but for me was a part of daily life. I strongly feel my role and call is to listen, and lift up all marginalized identities, as well as advocate for others in appropriate spaces. It's a bit cheesy, but truly I know we ARE better together. God calls us into community, God calls us into social justice, and God calls us into radical hospitality. Neither of those calls are "comfortable," and we NEED community to rely on. God calls us to be sent out, to be apostles in the world. That's where I try to be.

44. Committee on Discipline: Lay Woman ***Restricted to Region 2 or 7***

A. Ms. Joy R Grace

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd - Coatesville, Penn.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
St. Matthew Lutheran, Springfield, PA
Holy Trinity Lutheran, Wallingford, PA
- 3) *Education*
Drexel University, Bachelor of Science
Kaplan University, Master of Arts In Management
- 4) *Employment*
Project Assessor, Partner Engineering & Science
- 5) *Year of birth*
1966
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
As I gain experience in my faith and with social justice, I increasingly feel called to serve others on a broader scale. I have a tangible sense of God's guidance in the ways I communicate with others. My gifts include patience, excellent communication skills, and team play. I have served as president of my synodical WELCA board, vice-president of my former church's council, and as president and secretary of a liaison organization to the regional PA DCNR. I'm a go-to person at work, due to the quality of my work product and ability to work with (almost) anyone. I'm a mother of 3 adult children, all successfully launched into the world, and all of whom still want to hang out with me! And I'm proud to say that, despite a contentious divorce, my ex-husband and I have maintained a friendship for several years.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
There was a time when my resources were very limited, despite having a supportive family and a good education. I know that it's very easy to forget how it feels to struggle once you've risen above it, and I regularly work to remind myself of the challenges that accompany a low income - beyond the obvious lack of money.

B. Ms. Myrna Jean Wells-Ulland

Grand Canyon Synod (2D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Living Water Lutheran Church - Scottsdale, Ariz.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
President, Churchwide Executive Board Women of the ELCA
Synod Council Member, Grand Canyon Synod
President, Grand Canyon Synod Women of the ELCA
- 3) *Education*
Fond du Lac Tribal & Comm College, Associates Degree In the Arts
The College of St. Scholastica, Bachelor of Arts
College of St. Francis, Master of Science
- 4) *Employment*
Director, Clinic Operations, St. Luke's
- 5) *Year of birth*
1946
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 deep love for this church, its inclusivity and diversity. I've been involved in active lay leadership in all congregations I've been associated with since 1975, in NE Minnesota (Cloquet and Duluth) and at Living Water in Scottsdale. I have deep experience in the Women of the ELCA at all its expressions, including leadership in both NE MN and the Grand Canyon Synod, and now at churchwide. I've served as a congregational president, in SS/VBS education, as a Confirmation mentor, women's Bible study facilitator. I was trained in the BeFriender lay listening ministry. I chaired a recent 3-year capital campaign for our Grand Canyon Synod. My work experience including hiring, evaluating, coaching and disciplining staff in the health care setting. I'm curious and inquisitive and trust my intuitive sense. I bring gifts of strong organizational skills, prayerful reasoning, and a willingness to serve where God calls me. You could describe me as a church nerd.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

45. Committee on Discipline: Lay Woman

A. Ms. Sydney Brinkman

Northeastern Iowa Synod (5F)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St James Lutheran Church - Allison, Iowa
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
W-ELCA Executive Board Member
Synod Vice-President
Congregation ADM
- 3) *Education*
Capri Cosmetology, No Degree Earned
- 4) *Employment*
Cosmetologist, Self-Employed
- 5) *Year of birth*
1959
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 an open mind to the church culture. I have encounter all sets of dialogue as a Parish ADM and servinf on various CW expression. I have the ability to listen without thinking about my response.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

B. Ms. Kylie Oversen

Eastern North Dakota Synod, ELCA (3B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St John Lutheran Church - Fargo, N.D.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Crossroads Lutheran Campus Ministries, Board of Directors
Christus Rex Lutheran Campus Ministry, Student Deacon
- 3) *Education*
University of North Dakota, Bachelor of Arts
University of North Dakota, Bachelor in Social Work
University of North Dakota, Doctor of Jurisprudence
- 4) *Employment*
Partner/Attorney, Schneider Law Firm
- 5) *Year of birth*
1989
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
Outside of service identified above, I have been involved in various committees and volunteer roles within several church communities over the past 17 years. My involvement has primarily been within campus ministry communities, but my civic and community engagement has been local, statewide, and national. Through my church, community, and professional work, my call is in service of children and families, primarily those facing hardship, poverty, addiction, and other battles. My legal work, in particular, brings me into service of individuals with disabilities, families in the child welfare system, children/teens in the juvenile justice system, and individuals and families facing housing or employment discrimination. I am happy to provide a resume upon request. I bring a strong sense of community, with a desire to improve the wellbeing of those around me. I bring multifaceted communication skills, deep experience in organizational leadership, and strong relationship building capacity
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

46. Committee on Discipline: Lay Person

Restricted to Region 1

A. Mr. John Sander Christensen

Alaska Synod (1A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Amazing Grace Lutheran Church - Anchorage, Alaska
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Young Adult in Global Mission (UK)
Young Adult Delegate on Synod Council (Alaska)
- 3) *Education*
Linfield College (now University), Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Project officer for Mental Health & Disability Advocacy, World Council of Churches
- 5) *Year of birth*
1995
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 deep background in all 3 expressions of the ELCA. While I have never been on a congregational council, I have been attending congregational council meetings & synod assemblies throughout my life. I have a basic but firm understanding of Roberts Rules. I have a deep understanding of what the ELCA has been & what it can be. I have been on the Synod Council of the Alaska Synod for 5 years now. I have been one of Alaska's delegates to Churchwide (2022). My current position within the World Council of Churches has given me an even larger perspective on the world, complex organizational structures, policy discussions, advocacy, justice, equity & reconciliation. At the root of all of it, I am a storyteller. I understand narratives. I am a communicator who strives for promoting accountability, ensuring clarity, and who has no problems navigating sensitive issues. I also have a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and thus understand the interworkings of people well.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I am openly someone who deals both with a physical disability as well as mental health issues both in my personal and professional life -- spaces where I don't believe that there currently is nearly enough programmatic focus or visibility of leadership in the ELCA and as a life-long ELCA Lutheran and someone who wants to continue working in church spaces, I very VERY much wish to not only *see* this change but *be* part of this change. There are already members in our congregations who struggle with these things. They should know that they are represented not just in the programmatically fitting committees and focus groups, but across the depth and breadth of the fabric of the leadership of the ELCA -- in all 3 expressions.

B. Mx. Emily Rebecca Sue Leckie

Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Immanuel Lutheran Church (ID: 04896) - Vancouver, Wash.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Youth & Family Coordination (2022-)
Faith & Justice
- 3) *Education*
Weber State University, Associate Degree in the Sciences
Weber State University, No Degree Earned
- 4) *Employment*
Engagement Specialist, Share Vancouver
- 5) *Year of birth*
1993
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 serve on the Committee on Discipline because I believe in fostering a church culture rooted in accountability, justice, and compassion. As a queer and disabled person, I bring a lived understanding of the importance of trust, ethical leadership, and inclusive processes. My experiences have shaped me into a careful listener, a thoughtful communicator, and someone who values fairness and due process. I am committed to upholding ELCA policies while ensuring that the dignity of all involved is respected. I bring skills in advocacy, discernment, and collaborative decision-making, along with a deep desire to help the church embody Christ's call to love, integrity, and restoration—even in the most difficult situations. I also recognize the importance of trauma-informed practices and the need for consistency, transparency, and compassion in disciplinary proceedings.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I identify as both genderqueer and pansexual, and I've been heartened to see greater inclusion and representation of LGBTQIA+ individuals in the church in recent years. It's encouraging to witness the ELCA's growing commitment to welcoming diverse identities into leadership and community life. At the same time, I've noticed a significant gap in representation when it comes to individuals with disabilities. As someone who lives with both physical disabilities and Autism, I bring firsthand experience of the barriers—both visible and invisible—that can limit full participation in church life. I believe this perspective is crucial in shaping a church that is truly inclusive. My presence on a committee would help ensure that accessibility, neurodiversity, and disability justice are part of the conversation at every level of leadership.

47. Nominating Committee: Minister of Word and Sacrament

Restricted to Region 1

A. The Rev. Susan Marie Halvor

Alaska Synod (1A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Lutheran Church of Hope - Anchorage, Alaska
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Multicultural Ministry Representative, Synod Council, Alaska Synod
Member PLTS Advisory Board
Chair, Alaska Synod Anti-Racism Committee
- 3) *Education*
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity
Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Manager, Spiritual Care Department, Providence Alaska Medical Center
- 5) *Year of birth*
1970
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 deep Lutheran roots as well as sharing the perspectives of those who are outside the church. As a hospital chaplain, Lutheran theology is a rich resource when encountering suffering and loss, speaking to the ambiguity and complexity of life and reminding us that death does not have the last word. I've seen many ways of "doing church," having visited and preached at most of our Alaska Synod congregations, as well as preaching at other ecumenical congregations. I bring the perspectives of people who aren't Lutheran, who are unchurched, and who have felt unwelcome or rejected by church. Most of my ministry has taken place outside congregational walls. I'm skilled at supporting and accompanying people through change. I'm curious about what new thing God is doing, and discovering how people and communities find hope, strength and resiliency in difficult times. I have strong managerial skills, and experience in middle management in a large Catholic healthcare organization.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I came out as a lesbian in seminary and have been out through my 20 years of ministry with the ELCA and in the hospital setting. Amplifying diverse voices is one of my passions, and a big reason I live in Anchorage, Alaska, where more than 110 languages are spoken in our school district. We have some of the most diverse schools and zip codes in the nation. I work with a diverse team of chaplains. It's very clear to me that we are stronger, wiser and more reflective of God's creation when we're all at the table. Being honest and vulnerable about who I am has helped to create safe space for others who may feel even more vulnerable. I've observed people change their perspectives after connecting with someone they thought was "other." As church leaders in a divided society, learning to communicate across differences is crucial. My wife is a Navy veteran, now working for the Air Force. She and I are different politically, and I'm grateful for regular practice together in crossing divides.

B. The Rev. Martin Duane Wells

Northwest Intermountain Synod (1D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St Mark Lutheran Church - Spokane, Wash
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
ELCA Discipline Committee
- 3) *Education*
University of Denver, Bachelor of Business Admin
University of Puget Sound, Doctor of Jurisprudence
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Acting Executive Director, Collegeville Institute
- 5) *Year of birth*
1949
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
My dear Synod Bishop nominated me for this role. It is not one I would have picked for myself, but the church needs people to fill roles.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

48. Nominating Committee: Minister of Word and Sacrament

Restricted to Region 2 or 8

A. The Rev. Nicole Raddu Ferry

Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Trinity Lutheran Church - Monument, Colo.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Co- Dean for the North New Mexico Conference in the Rocky Mountain Synod
Candidacy Committee in the Rocky Mountain Synod
Trauma Support Team for the Rocky Mountain Synod
- 3) *Education*
University of Tennessee, Bachelor in Social Work
University of Maryland, Master of Science in Social Work
The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1964
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 very blessed to be part of the Lutheran Church since my baptism in 1964. I attended a Lutheran School through 8th grade and my family was very involved in "all things" church throughout my life. Joining an ELCA Lutheran Church in 1987 allowed me to expand my involvement in serving during worship, serving on the Council, working with youth, and working for three different ELCA churches in various capacities. I was then blessed by the first ELCA church to be asked to discern pastoral ministry. I believe very strongly that our world of church is changing and that God, as God always is, is up to a new thing for the good of the gospel. My many roles in the church and my healthy systems understanding and teamwork in social work has given me an excellent foundation to bring my gifts to this committee. My communication is strong to different groups and systems and yes, I love Jesus and believe our world needs our ELCA presence in times such as this. It would be an honor to serve.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I am not currently representing these voices and yet my childhood and my work in social work gives me clarity about the challenges that poverty or lower income brings.

B. The Rev. Moses Paul Peter Penumaka

Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA (2A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
University Lutheran Chapel - Berkeley, Calif.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Synod Council member, Sierra Pacific Synod
President Association of Asian and Pacific Islanders ELCA
Theological Round Table
- 3) *Education*
Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, Doctor of Theology
United Theological College, Bangalore, India, Master of Theology
United Theological College, Bangalore, India, Bachelor of Theology
- 4) *Employment*
Director of TEEM and TEIL and Senior Lecturer, California Lutheran University
- 5) *Year of birth*
1960
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Asian/Asian American/South Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
After serving the ELCA and our seminary in Berkeley for the past 19 years, I have discerned a call to serve at the national level. I have been an advisory member to the Church council, member of task force for authentic diversity, education debt, Theological Round Table, and various committee and task forces. I would like to be on the decision making bodies. I would like to identify persons of color who could serve our church and make our ELCA more diverse, inclusive and promote equity and justice. I strongly believe that am committed to promote gifted leaders, especially leaders of color and leaders from marginalized communities, indigenous wisdom keeper who can make a difference, I have a wider net work of theologically trained leaders who will bring their gifts for the church. I will consider it a great honor and call to serve the national church by identifying gifted leaders to serve the church. I have prayed about my discernment and I am deeply convinced. Glory be to God.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I grew up in poverty in India, I am a person of color and have been preparing persons of color and marginalized leaders to serve our church. Nominating committees could identify leaders of color and leaders from marginalized communities to be part of ELCA to make our church more diverse, inclusive and make justice and equity to all God's people. I am deeply committed to this task as we move towards a renewed community of faith.

49. Nominating Committee: Minister of Word and Sacrament

Restricted to Region 5

A. The Rev. Anthony F Acompanado Greater Milwaukee Synod (5J)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Ascension Lutheran Church - Waukesha, Wis.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
GMS Candidacy Committee Member
ELCA Youth Gathering Leadership Team
Director of Faith Formation
- 3) *Education*
Wartburg Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity
University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Bachelor of Science
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, Ascension Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1974
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Asian/Asian American/South Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
Through my years of experience serving as both a Director of Faith Formation and a Pastor across three congregations, as well as having served for over a decade in various leadership roles for the ELCA Youth Gathering, I have come to understand the value of identifying, empowering, and encouraging competent, passionate, and deeply faithful leaders at every level in the Church. At this time in my ministry, I believe God is calling me to use the diverse connections I've made throughout the Church to identify and lift up passionate individuals to live more fully into their giftedness and sense of call in faithful service to God.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I believe that my wealth of lived experience as a bi-racial member of the Church and the world can be beneficial in identifying individuals of diverse backgrounds who can help the church become a more faithful reflection of the community God desires.

B. The Rev. Lukas E Harris-Ferree Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Grace Lutheran Church - Evanston, Ill.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Seattle, WA
- 3) *Education*
University of Toledo, Bachelor in Social Work
Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1993
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 that the ELCA will continue to work as a denomination to recognize the ways in which we have not encouraged diversity. I hope that we continue to create space for differing beliefs while clearly defining denominational beliefs, and that we would always speak out against injustice that occurs in our world. I strongly believe that this denomination has many gifts to offer the Church and creates space for diverse thought. The diverse thought present in the ELCA can also make it challenging to stay in community but the diverse thought present proves the denomination's commitment to community. My service on the nominating committee would bring my perspective of diversity and ensure inclusion throughout the nominations we suggest. I have the gift of being connected broadly throughout the ELCA. As a pastor, I often do the work of discerning whose gifts would serve committees well and will translate those skills to this role.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
As a person who identifies as queer and trans, I am represented in one of the historically underrepresented groups. I know the sting of being sidelined in this Church and seeing my community left out or silenced. Therefore, I constantly ask, "who is not at this table that should be?". I will ensure all voices are represented adequately so that we fully represent the diversity present in our beloved Church. It is our Gospel call to create space for all people, especially those of historically underrepresented groups, at the tables of decision-making and power.

50. Nominating Committee: Lay Woman

Restricted to Region 1

A. Ms. Carolyn Beth Adams

Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Messiah Lutheran Church - Vancouver, Wash.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Messiah Lutheran Church Council, multiple terms
Southwestern Washington Synod, ELCA financial task force
- 3) *Education*
Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor of Science
- 4) *Employment*
Regional Gift Planner, Region 1, ELCA Foundation
- 5) *Year of birth*
1959
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 always made opportunities available to me to assist in making His world a better place. As a volunteer in a faith community, or professional providing resources to those wondering how to increase their generosity to His work, my call has been to help in myriad ways. I consider this invitation to make myself available to the Churchwide Nominating Committee another of His opportunities, as he guides my path. Years of podium presentation, workshops and committee work at synod assemblies and with congregations has honed my approach to group work. I am an active listener who engages well with others to focus on the goal/task at hand. I am an enthusiast for ensuring that all voices are heard.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

B. Ms. Kasey Miranda Shultz

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Columbia City Church of Hope - Seattle, Wash.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Columbia City Church of Hope Treasurer
Active Coach and Administrative Assistant for Coach
Northwest (NW WA Synod Coaching)
ELCA Churchwide Voting Member
- 3) *Education*
Boston University, Bachelor of Arts
University of Washington, Certificate
- 4) *Employment*
Recreation Coordinator, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
- 5) *Year of birth*
1995
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 lifelong Lutheran and a firm believer in the power of lay leadership. I have been shaped by years at Holden Village, service through Lutheran Volunteer Corps (in Seattle) and Young Adults in Global Mission (in Madagascar), and the authentic community of my current home church in south Seattle. To this work, I bring an extensive network of contacts across the ELCA, a desire to continue to build and strengthen and build those relationships, and a heart for discernment. I feel called to help this church that I love grow into its calling to welcome all by working to increase representation, inclusion, and accessibility at all levels.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I identify as part of the queer community

51. Nominating Committee: Lay Woman

Restricted to Region 2

A. Ms. Diane L Brauer

Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Community of Joy Lutheran Church - Rio Rancho, N.M.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Faith, Sexism, and Justice: One in Christ Social Statement Task Force
Women of the ELCA Executive Board
Board, Lutheran Campus Ministry of New Mexico
- 3) *Education*
Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor of Arts
Southeast Community College, Associates Degree in the Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Executive Assistant to the Vice Presidents, Regional West Medical Center
- 5) *Year of birth*
1955
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 nominating committee is a call to work towards a church council and ELCA committees that are diverse and inclusive in age, ethnicity, gender, region, and experience. I feel I bring a relatively sound understanding of the work of the church council and the organizational structure of the ELCA. I have lived in several synods and served synodical boards and synod committees in most of them. I feel I have strong organizational skills and communication skills. The best part of serving in these ways was the relationships and the people I have encountered and the faith they have shared that has brought growth in my own faith. We are a church full of amazing, faith-filled people, committed to serving and loving our neighbors at home and across the world. This call to serve is an opportunity to be part of that continuing work.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

B. Ms. Karen Michele McClain

Southwest California Synod (2B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church - Santa Monica, Calif.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
St. Paul's Financial Secretary
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) Board Member
- 3) *Education*
University of California Los Angeles, Bachelor of Arts
University of Southern California, Master of Business Administration
- 4) *Employment*
Manager, University of California Los Angeles
- 5) *Year of birth*
1962
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Black/African American/African Descent
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
Having been baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church, the mission and service to the people of God has been at the core of my upbringing. Having recently served on the LSTC Board of Directors in the capacity of a member of the Marketing and Fundraising Committee, the Campaign Steering Committee, chair of the Communication Speakers Bureau Task Force, and Board Secretary has enhanced my awareness, skills and knowledge in the leadership of the future of the church and the role of the seminary in educating, shaping and molding the future generation of church leaders.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
While acknowledging the role that people of color who came before me played in moving the church forward from whence it came, it would be an honor and privilege to continue to lift up and continue to represent their legacy.

52. Nominating Committee: Lay Woman

Restricted to Region 3

A. Ms. Kristine Kay Bjorke

Minneapolis Area Synod, ELCA (3G)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Lord of Life Lutheran Church - Maple Grove, Minn
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
ELCA Youth Gathering Supplies Manager, Houston TX
Minneapolis Area Synod Staff (5 hours per week) Assistant to First Third CYF
Scholarship Review Board-Trinity Education Foundation-Seattle WA
- 3) *Education*
Luther Seminary, Doctor of Ministry
Luther Seminary, Master of Arts
Lutheran Bible Institute WA, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Grant Director Age to Age Initiative, Capital University
- 5) *Year of birth*
1967
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
My calling into mission and service has been shaped by God's faithfulness and the ever-evolving needs of the Church. I first discerned this call as a camp counselor, where I witnessed the transformative power of faith in young people. Compelled by the Holy Spirit, I equipped myself to minister to youth and their families for the past 30 years. In response to the shifting landscape of the Church, I was led to help congregations faithfully discern how to 'right size' their staffing for sustainable ministry. Through my doctoral work in collaborative ministry, I sought to be a faithful steward of God's mission, preparing for a Church that has yet to be seen. Rooted in Christ's call to equip and build up the body of believers, my vocation continues to be one of accompaniment, innovation, and hope for the future of the Church.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I do not personally identify as a member of the groups listed above—people of color, non-English speakers, individuals of diverse gender identities, those who have experienced poverty, individuals living with disabilities, or those born outside the United States. However, as one called to embody Christ's love and justice, I have sought to steward the leadership and privilege entrusted to me in ways that uplift others. In the spirit of servant leadership, I have worked to create space for those whose voices have been marginalized—not as a token gesture, but through prayerful discernment of their gifts, intentional mentorship, and a commitment to true partnership in the body of Christ.

B. Ms. Kathleen Fick

Eastern North Dakota Synod, ELCA (3B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
United Lutheran Church - Grand Forks, N.D.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
National Lutheran Campus ministry call and board and call committee
Eastern North Dakota Synod ELCA synod council multiple times
Welcoming Committee chair for RIC United Lutheran
- 3) *Education*
Luther College
Clarke College
University of ND-Luther Seminary
- 4) *Employment*
Director/Campus Minister, Christus Rex campus Ministry
- 5) *Year of birth*
1954
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
I network well and have long term friendships across the years that might serve well in the attempt to secure nominees for future openings. C
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I live now with a as visual disability which also offers limited independent mobility.

53. Nominating Committee: Lay Woman

Restricted to Region 4

A. Ms. Elisabeth Ann Dieringer

Southwestern Texas Synod (4E)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Christ Lutheran Church - Georgetown, Texas
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
LWF CSW69 Delegate
LWF Women's Human Right Advocacy Training in Geneva, Switzerland
Young Adult Gathering Small Group Leader
- 3) *Education*
Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
YAGM Short Term Recruiter, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- 5) *Year of birth*
2000
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 passionate about radical inclusion in decision-making and leadership spaces, especially of young adults and people of historically marginalized identities. Through my involvement with and representation of Young Adult Communities in intergenerational spaces, I have had the joy of connecting with a wide array of folks and am empowered to utilize those relationships, experiences, and connections to nominate candidates for meaningful involvement. My role as a Short-Term Recruiter especially equipped me with new connections to synods, congregations, and communities throughout the denomination. Connection is at the core of my vocation, and this would be a meaningful opportunity to leverage both my passions and my gifts.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I identify as a member of the LGBTQIA2S+ community and am passionate about gender justice & radical queer inclusion in religious spaces, especially in leadership roles. As a queer young adult, intersectionality is at the core of how I understand and approach leadership opportunities. of course this includes uplifting other voices in the queer community, but my understanding of "queering" space empowers me to seek out perspectives, leadership styles, and communications styles beyond those that I hold.

B. Ms. Susan Humphrey

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Joy Lutheran Church - Tulsa, Okla
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Arkansas Oklahoma Synod Council
Women of the ELCA Churchwide Board
WELCA Katie's Fund Taskforce
- 3) *Education*
Asbury College (University), Bachelor of Education
Ohio State University, No Degree Earned
- 4) *Employment*
Art Teacher/ Elementary Teacher, Immanuel Lutheran Christian Academy
- 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?*
God has called to serve in many and various ways. I have been a missionary in Indonesian (before marrying a Lutheran), and development associate for Oaks Indian Mission (an ELCA Native American ministry), the president and board member for the Oklahoma Conference of Churches (worked with 17 denominations), an elected lay member for the ELCA delagation to the National Council of Curches, am an active participant in all levels of Women of the ELCA where I currently serve as A-Ok President and on the Katie's Fund Campaign Taskforce. In the that position , I have presented information about the Fund to 8 different Synodical groups in the last year. I bring my passion for ministry and connection to everything I do. I love networking and helping others discern their path. At heart, I consider myself "just an art teacher" but I love organizational challenges. It's how I serve and encourage others to live into their call.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

54. Nominating Committee: Lay Woman

Restricted to Region 6 or 9

A. Ms. Ginger Mildred Cutrell

Southeastern Synod (9D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Trinity Lutheran Church - Tullahoma, Tenn.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Executive Board - Churchwide Women of the ELCA
The Table - Nashville TN - founding member / WELCA founder
- 3) *Education*
The Ohio State University, Bachelor of Business Admin
Murray State University, No Degree Earned
American Society for Quality Control, Educational Specialist
- 4) *Employment*
Division Quality Manager (responsible for six sites), Eaton Corporation - Electrical Division
- 5) *Year of birth*
1947
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
I never considered myself a deeply religious person. My wife of 46 years passed after a long illness in 2022, and I realized life is short. Gender Identity and religion seemed at odds with each other. When I made my decision to transition and live as my authentic self as a woman, I talked to my pastor at TRINITY. He helped me to understand the Lutheran Philosophy of God's Love and acceptance of the inner self, regardless of the exterior. And I began my transition. That fall I attended the 2022 SE Synod WELCA convention as was accepted as a woman by the ladies. Two subsequent Ladies Lutheran Retreat and the 2023 SE Synod WELCA event gave me a sense of purpose. When I was asked to let my name be submitted for an open WELCA EXECUTIVE BOARD position at the 2023 Triennial, I agreed and let God decide. I was elected to the Board and now help guide our inclusion practices. I have since developed a Transgender Experience workshop for cis members.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I am a fully transitioned Transgender Woman, medically, socially, and legally. I believe the LGBTQIA+ community is an untapped resource for growth. But members need to be educated to counter the false narrative of the ultra-conservative right who have usurped God's message and twisted Jesus's words. The transgender community is currently living in fear due to being targeted.

B. Ms. Jillian Marie Russell

Northwestern Ohio Synod (6D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St Paul's Lutheran Church - Waldo, Ohio
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
NWOS Synod Council
NWOS Microgrant Committee
NWOS Female Lay Churchwide Assembly Voting Member
- 3) *Education*
Capital University, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Guest Relations Coordinator, HopeWood Outdoors
- 5) *Year of birth*
1999
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 committees, especially within the wider church, is something that I have always valued and looked up to those who also served. I was sent this application from a dear colleague and as I was thinking over applying for a committee nomination, I felt pulled to do this work. I believe God called me into mission and service in the ELCA through the work of this board or committee because of my life experiences and dedication to all that I do within the church and ELCA. I have served on many committees and boards throughout my life, including both church and non-church related committees and boards. I have seen how much boards and committees can affect the work going on around us and want to ensure that we are taking in account for the decisions that we make and how it affects not only us but others within the organization. I also have been one to stand up for what is right and wrong and not shy away from stating my opinion when it is needed or when I see how it impacts others.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

55. Nominating Committee: Lay Man

Restricted to Region 8

A. Mr. Kevin D. Anderson

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

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - Gaithersburg, Md.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
ELCA Church Council
Committee on Appeals (two short terms)
Portico Benefit Services (Board of Pensions)
- 3) *Education*
University of Michigan Law School, Doctor of Jurisprudence
University of Wisconsin—Whitewater, Bachelor of Business Admin
- 4) *Employment*
Managing Director (formerly Partner), BDO USA, P.C.
- 5) *Year of birth*
1953
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
Over nearly 25 years I have sought and served in ever-increasing levels of responsibility in all three expressions of the church, ranging from congregational president to Synod Council, Synod Secretary, and the churchwide positions set forth above. My Church Council service includes the Executive Committee, Chair of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, member of the Audit Committee, and chair of a temporary committee to revise and update the Church Council's committee structure. I am both a lawyer and a certified public accountant, with more than four decades of professional experience, and I bring these skills and experience to all of my service within the church.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
N/A

B. Mr. John Henderson

Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
All Saints Evangelical Lutheran Church - Baltimore, Md.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church (Pimlico)
African Descent Lutherans Assoc, Region 8 Representative
- 3) *Education*
Univ of the District of Columbia, Bachelor of Arts in Ed.
Southern New Hampshire Univ, Master of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Public Housing Revitalization Specialist, US Dept of Housing and Urban Development
- 5) *Year of birth*
1951
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Black/African American/African Descent
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
I bring administrative and organizational skills as a result of 25+ years' experience in affordable housing development and real estate financing, using tax-credit equity, public and private financing, and New Market Tax Credits as sources of project financing. I serve on community boards, including but not limited to St. Ambrose Housing Aid Services and Mary's House for Older Adults; a non-profit organization serving the LGBTQ+Senior community. I particularly enjoy working with local community organizations in building their capacity and their ministries.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
N/A

56. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Minister of Word and Sacrament
Restricted to Congregational Leadership; Finance [Incumbent, Plan Participant]

A. The Rev. Hans Eric Becklin

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7E)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Trinity Lutheran Church - Reading, Pa.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Benefits ReExamined Task Force
Portico CEO Search Committee
Church Council of the ELCA
- 3) *Education*
Luther College, Bachelor of Arts
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Senior Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1992
- 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 young pastor leading one of the ELCA's most venerable congregations, I bring a unique perspective to the work of Portico. We are able to support a large staff, but acutely feel the pressures of secularization, aging church membership, and a brittle political environment. Through theological reflection and a passion for evangelism, I have been able to bring new vitality, both numerically and spiritually, to the congregations I have served. I also bring financial acumen and a strategic mindset to my work as a pastor, and would be honored to continue to share these gifts with the wider church through Portico. During my first term as a Trustee, I was able to share my gifts as a member of the CEO Search Committee and as a member of the Benefits ReExamined Task Force, helping to recast the benefits offering for the whole church in light of changing circumstances. I also served as chair of the Appeals Committee.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

57. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Minister of Word and Sacrament
Restricted to Health Care Administration [Incumbent, Plan Participant]

A. The Rev. Kathie Bender Schwich

Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Grace Lutheran Church - Mount Prospect, Ill.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Board of Trustees, Portico Benefit Services
ELCA Nominating Committee
Bishop's Consultation Committee
- 3) *Education*
University of Michigan, Associate Degree in the Sciences
Saginaw Valley State University, Bachelor of Arts
Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Chief Spiritual officer, Advocate Aurora Health (retired)
- 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 have leadership experience in all three expressions of this church, having served as a parish pastor, bishop's associate in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, and on churchwide staff as executive assistant to the presiding bishop. In addition, my last call was to a faith based health system affiliated with the ELCA, Advocate Aurora Health Care. This varied experience has served me well in my first two terms as a trustee on the board of Portico Benefit Services.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

58. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Minister of Word and Sacrament
Restricted to Social Ministry Organization Leadership [Incumbent, Plan Participant]

A. The Rev. Thomas Paul Schlotterback

Montana Synod (1F)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
King of Glory Lutheran Church - Billings, Mont.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Portico Benefits Board of Trustees
Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly Planning Committee
Concordia College Board of Regents
- 3) *Education*
Capital University, Doctor of Ministry
Luther Seminary, Master of Divinity
Concordia College, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Foundation President and Vice President of Mission Advancement, St. John's United
- 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?*
I have served as a rostered leader within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) since 1987. Callings of the church and professional appointments have set me into leadership roles within the contexts of congregations, higher education, a philanthropic Foundation, and a large health and human services organization. These varied settings of public service have broadened my life perspectives and sharpened my capacities for critical thinking, strategic planning, sound governance, creative collaboration, and transformational leadership. I have provided thirty-seven years of volunteer service and governance on various boards, committees, councils, and task forces within ELCA Synods, ELCA colleges and universities, an ELCA social ministry origination, and a separately incorporated ministry of the ELCA. As I near completion of my second three-year term of service as a member of the Portico Benefits Board of Trustees, I am humbly willing to serve a final elected term.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

59. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Minister of Word and Service
Restricted to Congregational Leadership [Plan Participant]

A. Deacon Kayla Elizabeth Smrt

Metropolitan Chicago Synod, (5A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Faith Lutheran Church - Glen Ellyn, Ill.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Formation Co-Op
- 3) *Education*
Luther Seminary, Master of Arts
North Park University, Bachelor of Arts
North Park University, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry, Faith Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1997
- 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 Deacon, my calling is to show God's love to the world through service. Being on the Board of Pensions would give me an opportunity to do that by helping support Rostered Leaders in a unique and practical way. My experience with Children, Youth and Family Ministry will help me bring a family-focused lens to the care and support we give to you all. With that, my creativity and adaptability will help guide me and the team as Portico thinks about the future of the church alongside it's benefits program. I'm excited to serve and care for God's people in this way!
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

60. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Woman
Restricted to Health Care Policy Administration

A. Ms. Carla Jean Borchardt

South Dakota Synod (3C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church - Sioux Falls, S.D.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
South Dakota Synod Vice President
South Dakota Synod Secretary
Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota Board of Directors
- 3) *Education*
American Sentinel University:
University of South Dakota, Master of Science
Augustana (College) University, Bachelor of Science Nursing
- 4) *Employment*
Director Professional Practice, Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Center
- 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 am rooted in the knowledge that I am a loved child of God and in my baptism was marked with the cross of Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit. My life is guided by Matthew 22 to love God and neighbor and Micah 6:8 to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God. I have heeded the call to service and leadership through various roles in the congregation and synod. I now feel called to serve the ELCA through the Portico Board of Trustees. Knowledge from serving on church related and professional boards of directors along with professional expertise have prepared me for this role. I am an RN with 40 years-experience in the hospital setting, as a care provider and leader. I bring gifts and skills to the board's work: servant leader mindset, a spirit of curiosity and collaboration, being an engaged learner, the lay perspective with a congregational and synodical lens, and the ability to ask questions to gain clarity and align decisions with organizational goals and values.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

61. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Woman
Restricted to Marketing and Communications [Incumbent]

A. Ms. Angela Dejene

Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Lord of Life Lutheran Church - Maple Grove, Minn.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Global Refuge President's Council
Volunteer, Church School teacher - Lord of Life Lutheran
Lutheran World Federation - UN Commission on the Status of Women
- 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?*
As president and founder of Dejene Communications, I provide management positioning, executive communications counsel and top-tier media placement to forward-thinking non-profit organizations, front-line foundations and for-profit companies who support the vital and urgent mission of better health for all. I feel called to contribute my God-given skills and gifts to the work of Portico Board of Trustees. My professional experience positions me well to contribute in meaningful ways as a strategic thought partner as Portico looks to the future. I am deeply passionate about helping advance the mission Portico as it navigates a shifting landscape. I also strongly believe that I bring an important, diverse perspective to the table as a working professional mother with two young children.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

62. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Woman
Restricted to PC/L; Insurance; Health and Managed Care [Incumbent]

A. Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis

Southern Ohio Synod (6F)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
All Saints Lutheran Church - Worthington, Ohio
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Board of Trustees, Portico Board of Pensions
Vice President, Southern Ohio Synod
ELCA Church Council
- 3) *Education*
FLMI - Life office Management Association, Certificate
HIA - Association of Health Plans, Certificate
Fischer Junior College, No Degree Earned
- 4) *Employment*
Life & Health Chief, Ohio Department of Insurance
- 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 learned early that my duty is to give of my time and talents. I spent many years volunteering in church through hands on activities. My pastor introduced me to the satisfaction of serving through church leadership. I am currently serving the Portico Board of Pensions in my first term as trustee. I have been a member of numerous congregation committees including two call committees and serving as President of the church council. I am also active with my Synod and the ELCA. I have worked in insurance for nearly 50 years as a regulator and with insurance companies. While health products are my specialty, I am very familiar with life and annuity products. My work experience is conducive to continuing my service on this Board. I believe in this church and what it stands for and have dedicated my life to making it and the whole world a better place. Through service, I hope to see a better world in my lifetime.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

63. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Woman
Restricted to Benefits Administration; Deferred Compensation

A. Ms. Amy Johnson

Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Trinity Lutheran Church - Long Lake, Minn.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Atonement Lutheran worship team
American Cancer Society - Hope's Lodge (church organized volunteer activities)
Trinity meal ministry
- 3) *Education*
Concordia College, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Sr. Benefits Director, EMEA, Medtronic
- 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 grew up in the ELCA and would be honored to support the work that they do through service on the Portico board. My professional experiences are closely aligned with Portico's mission and purpose. Portico plays a vital role in providing church staff with competitive and cost-effective benefits while supporting their overall wellbeing. I have worked in human resources for more than 20 years, focused on the design, implementation, and administration of market-competitive global benefit offerings that meet employee and business needs. My expertise is in health, retirement, time away and wellbeing benefits, most recently leading benefits for our Europe, Middle East and Africa region. Globally, we are responsible for an annual benefit program spend of approximately \$1.5B, and accountable for ~50 retirement plans with more than \$5B in assets. I'm particularly compelled by the opportunity to combine my faith and desire to serve others with my passion and experience in employee benefits.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

64. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Woman
Restricted to Strategic Philanthropic Giving; Board Governance

A. Ms. Elizabeth Baran Wagner

New Jersey Synod (7A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church - Princeton Junction, N.J.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Prince of Peace Congregational Council (including as President)
Congregational Call Committee, Chair
United Lutheran Seminary, Board Member
- 3) *Education*
Smith College, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Senior Vice President, Director of Endowment, Foundation & Charitable, Bryn Mawr Trust
- 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?*
Professionally I spend my days helping nonprofits build long-term financial stability, often working together on investment programs with perpetual goals. It has been a great source of joy to me to be able to put those skills to work for Global Refuge in the past and for United Lutheran Seminary today. When Portico began a conversation with me about whether I could serve in the same capacity, I felt that same tug of call - here's a way I can be of use, as I am called to be - multiplied by the fact of Portico's service to so many, including my own beloved pastors. I have never heard anyone describe their pension or 401k administrator as caring, but Portico is, and every Lutheran clergy member I spoke with described feeling deeply and specifically known and cared for by Portico. What an incredible ministry! I was moved by the opportunity to serve in this way, for this impressive organization.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

65. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Man
Restricted to PC/L; Investments [Incumbent]

A. Mr. Vincent Paul Brown

Pacifica Synod (2C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St John's Lutheran Church - Sacramento, Calif.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Lector
Finance Committee
- 3) *Education*
LeMoyne College, Bachelor of Arts
SUNY Albany, Master of Public Administration
- 4) *Employment*
Treasurer, Retired from office of the 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?*

I've served as a Portico Benefit Services Trustee since 2019. I'm currently Vice Chair of the Board, Executive Committee, and Ad Hoc Executive President/CEO Search Committee. I'm a member of the Finance, Investment, and Audit Committees. I previously serve as Vice Chair for the Finance and Investment Committees. My career as a CEO of two CA County Retirement systems, Deputy Exec officer at CalPERS, Chief Deputy CA Department of Finance, COO CA State Controller, and CA Deputy State Treasurer prepared me to meet the Fiduciary responsibility of Portico.

- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

Vince "Vinny" Brown is a black American and is currently Vice-Chair of the Portico Benefit Services Board of Trustees. He is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Sacramento and is married to Ann Boynton. They have two sons Bryce and Alec. Vince was raised in Buffalo, NY by his late parents Edward Brown and Eloise Parker Brown. His parents stressed hard work and the value of education. He graduated from Hutch-Tech High School, which was one of the top public high schools in Buffalo. Vince received a full scholarship from LeMoyne College, one of the 27 Jesuit Universities and Colleges in the US. He graduated in 1974 with his BA in Political Science and last year received LeMoyne's Distinguished Alumnus Award. Vince received a two-year Graduate Assistantship from SUNY Albany. He graduated in 1976 with his master's in public administration. During his 40+ year career, he has served as Chief Deputy Director for the CA Department of Finance for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Assistant Budget Director for the NY Division of Budget for Governor Mario Cuomo. He was Deputy Executive officer for CalPERS and CEO for Alameda and Santa Barbara, County Retirement Systems in CA.

66. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Man
Restricted to Regulatory and Government Affairs; Legal

A. Mr. Kyle Joe Gilster

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

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Resurrection Lutheran Church - Arlington, Va.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Church Council (two times)
Church Council President
- 3) *Education*
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bachelor of Arts
University of Nebraska College of Law
- 4) *Employment*
Partner-Lawyer, Husch Blackwell LLP
- 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 lifelong Lutheran. I have had professional experience which has enabled me to understand how to both serve and lead teams. I believe these skills would be well served on the Portico Board of Trustees. We have a fiduciary responsibility to our clergy to be good stewards of their benefits. It is becoming harder and harder to recruit ministers. We need to make sure that a protected benefit system is an incentive to recruit ministers. Peter Enko, a fellow partner at my law firm and fellow Lutheran previously served on the Portico Board. Pete recommended me for this position. I trust Pete's judgment that this is a great opportunity to serve the ELCA.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

67. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Man

Restricted to Executive Leadership; Health and Human Services [Incumbent, Plan Participant]

A. Mr. Ted W. Goins

North Carolina Synod (9B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St John's Lutheran Church - Salisbury, N.C.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Congregational Council (1992-1996)
ELCA Churchwide Voting Member (2013-2013)
N.C. Synod African Descent Strategy Team
- 3) *Education*
Lenoir-Rhyne University, Bachelor of Arts
Pfeiffer University, Master of Science
- 4) *Employment*
President and CEO, Lutheran Services Carolinas
- 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 have been rooted in the ELCA since birth. My grandparents helped resettle refugees through the Lutheran Displaced Persons Bureau. My Dad and uncle were Lutheran pastors. I was the seventeenth member of my family to attend Lenoir-Rhyne University. I have worked for Lutheran Services Carolinas this time since 1990. The family wanted a pastor; I found my call in Lutheran Social Ministry. That call has also led to service at the local, state, and national level in health and human services and in Lutheran social ministry, including six years on the Lutheran Services in America Board and serving as chair, six years on the board of Global Refuge, and in my first term on the Portico Board. As a founding member of the synod's over 20 yr old African Descent Strategy Team, I, LSC, and the church continue to grow. I would hope to contribute through my personal values and gifts around leadership/ administration: collaboration, innovation, DEI, efficiency, governance, and common sense.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

68. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Man
Restricted to Global Health Compliance; Legal [Incumbent]

A. Mr. Brett A. Kraemer

Southwestern Texas Synod (4E)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Zion Lutheran Church of Helotes - San Antonio, Texas
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Congregation President
Church Council Member
Board of Director, St Luke's Lutheran Health Ministries
- 3) *Education*
Texas Lutheran University, Bachelor of Arts
St Mary's University, Doctor of Jurisprudence
- 4) *Employment*
Director, Global Health Care Compliance, 3M
- 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?*
As a life-long German Lutheran I have grown to appreciate the importance and gratification of serving in our church and broader community. As a lawyer and business executive I enjoy serving in roles that allow me to use my analytical and practical problem-solving skills to help lead organizations. My strengths also include communication, leadership and collaboration. My work and practice experience is focused in the health care industry. This in addition to my legal and compliance expertise provide a perspective that can benefit the Portico BOT.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

69. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Man
Restricted to Investments [Incumbent]

A. Mr. Todd Jason Maloy

Central States Synod (4B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Trinity Lutheran Church - Chesterfield, Mo.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Portico BOT
Congregational Council, Endowment Committee - Trinity Lutheran
Congregational Council, Treasurer - Epiphany Lutheran
- 3) *Education*
Univ of Nebraska, Bachelor of Business Admin
- 4) *Employment*
Director, Trust Investments, Edward Jones
- 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?*
I believe we are all called to be the hands and feet of Christ, sharing our personal gifts in service to God and each other. I try to embody this in everything I do. Through the Church, and Portico in particular, I feel like I've been empowered to combine my financial background and leadership experience alongside other talented individuals with different strengths to help guide an important ministry. Together we have broader perspective and make a greater impact than any one of us alone.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

70. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Man
Restricted to PC/L; Accounting Management; Legal [Incumbent]

A. Mr. Felix Daniel Mercado de Jesus

Caribbean Synod (9F)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Ascención Lutheran Church - Dorado, Puerto Rico
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Ascension Lutheran Church
La Trinidad Lutheran Church
San Pablo Lutheran Church
- 3) *Education*
Luther Seminary, Master of Divinity
Interamerican University of Puerto Rico, Master of Business Administration
Interamerican University of Puerto Rico, Bachelor of Business Admin
- 4) *Employment*
Special Advisor, Puerto Rico Fiscal Agency and Financial Advisory Authority
- 5) *Year of birth*
1973
- 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?*
We all are called to serve in God's ministries into the world. He places us where we are most needed upon our skill, talents and gifts. God has blessed me through our last churchwide assembly in been elected as Portico Services Board Trustee. It has been a wonderful experience to be able to share my professional, personal and faith experience with other members of the Board for the benefits of those men and women that serves through our church and that Portico safeguard their wellbeing, as a reward for their service into our church. Giving you talents and sharing your experience to God's ministry through Portico has been a true blessing. Being able to contribute to the well-being of those ministers, lays and other workers of the church has fill me with blessings, and most important, I am doing my part of Christ Mission to spread his word of hope and love. My experience in business administration, and as a Licensed attorney has been part of my contribution to PORTICO.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

71. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Full Communion
Restricted to Digital Health; Health Care Administration

A. The Rev. Adam John Copeland

Presbyterian Church (USA)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Ecumenical
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Mutual Ministry Task Force
Zumbro Lutheran Church Choir
Portico Benefit Service, Board of Trustees
- 3) *Education*
North Dakota State University, Doctor of Philosophy
Columbia Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity
St. Olaf College, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Sr. Director for Strategy, Center for Digital Health, Mayo Clinic
- 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?*
To the role, I would bring over fifteen years of varied experiences reflecting a dynamic approach to professional growth within and beyond the church. I have served as a pastor and new church developer, for seven years as a professor at ELCA-related schools, and now, for five years, as a healthcare administrator. While subject matter expertise may not be necessary for service, my experience in strategy development at a leading academic medical center would enable me to bring a fresh, informed perspective on healthcare and the future. Strategy has been called, “The art of the possible.” I thrive in places where I work with teams to imagine, assess, and discern their desired future. While I often go about this work in secular settings, I am even more drawn to faith-related groups in which we sense where the Spirit is at work, and how we might join what God is doing. It would be an honor and privilege to leverage my varied skills and experiences to serve Portico and its members.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

72. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Man
Restricted to Global Actuarial

A. Mr. Richard Dale Hall
Methodist

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Ecumenical
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Chairperson, Church Council, Calvary United Methodist Church
Active volunteer, Calvary United Methodist Church Habitat for Humanity
Active volunteer, Calvary United Methodist Church Work Camps
- 3) *Education*
John Carroll University, Bachelor of Science
Capital University, Master of Business Administration
- 4) *Employment*
Managing Director of Research, Society of Actuaries Research Institute
- 5) *Year of birth*
1971
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
My current and past experience as a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries and charter holder of the CFA Institute has given me a deep knowledge of retirement plans, investments, and financial security programs. In addition, I have been active in my faith-based service to my local church and am looking to combine my knowledge, skills, and faith together to provide effective leadership on the Board of Pensions. I have current experience in chairing the Retirement Plan Committee of my employer and understand the types of reviews and discussions that can help provide effective financial and faith-based governance. I feel this position will be a helpful contribution to the ELCA and continue my focus on giving back to the church community.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

73. Publishing House (Augsburg Fortress): Minister of Word and Sacrament
Restricted to PC/L; Business Leadership; Inclusive Marketing

A. The Rev. Stacy Lynn Chavis

Lower Susquehanna Synod (8D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St Peter's Lutheran Church - Lancaster, Penn.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Interim/Pastor, Friedens Lutheran Church
Authentic Diversity Task Force
Director of Theater Arts Ministries
- 3) *Education*
Eastern New Mexico University
Luther Seminary, Master of Divinity
Univ of Alaska, Fairbanks, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Chief Operating officer (Consultant), Kidd International
- 5) *Year of birth*
1963
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Black/African American/African Descent
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
I am an ordained Minister with a passion for the Divine and for justice. I commit to open and honest dialog and to being fully present for this iterative work which requires generative thought, and building scalable, agile models. My knowledge of womanist and liberation theologies provides a lens that would positively add to the board's work and vision. I have an MDiv and an Interdisciplinary Studies BA with business and psychology minors. I am adept at issue identification and mitigation; research, analysis, and resolution; and navigating large, complex data sets. I have more than 20 years' executive management experience. Because of my skills as a Chief Operating officer, I can provide sound operational, regulatory, and financial input as needed. This call will allow me to add my extensive operations, strategic planning, and entrepreneurial knowledge to the wealth of skills and competencies already present. I am grateful for this process and the chance to co-labor in this work!
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
As a Black woman Minister of Word and Sacrament, my ethnicity and gender are underrepresented in ELCA Leadership. While "we are one in Christ," these intersectionalities present unique challenges in ministry, in the denomination, and in the country. Through trainings, mentorships, and work in the synod's Diversity Task Force, I have worked to debunk and re-affiliate oppressive ideologies and beliefs. Also, I am not a lifelong Lutheran. Having attended Episcopalian school and held leadership positions in AME/AMEZ churches, I bring an ecumenical presence and understanding that is also underrepresented. Inclusion of my voice will bring viewpoints that may not have been considered but are aligned with the board's and ELCA's constitutional commitment. Moreover, as AFP continues its drive toward increased inclusion and diversity, my training experience and understanding of the complexities of intersectionalities will aid conversations on single-source perspectives and binary-breaking.

74. Publishing House (Augsburg Fortress): Minister of Word and Sacrament
Restricted to Author and Publishing Expertise

A. The Rev. Shauna Hannan

Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Reformation Lutheran Church - Columbia, S.C.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Moorhead, Minn.
Various Candidacy Committees
ELCA Global Mission Board
- 3) *Education*
Princeton Theological Seminary, Doctor of Philosophy
Luther Seminary, Master of Divinity
Concordia College, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Professor of Homiletics, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University
- 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 am honored to be nominated to serve on the Board of Trustees for Augsburg Fortress. With two decades of experience as a scholar, author, and professor, I have gained insight into the world of academic publishing. Additionally, as an ordained pastor, I have worked closely with the ecclesial and pastoral resources that Augsburg Fortress provides to the Lutheran church and the broader Christian community. My work has spanned Lutheran traditions as well as ecumenical and interfaith contexts. Throughout my career, I have been privileged to serve on numerous boards, task forces, and committees, several of which I have chaired. I look forward to contributing to this board by bringing my experience in leadership, my commitment to collaboration, and my values of responsibility, organization, creativity, and faithfulness to its work.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

75. Publishing House (Augsburg Fortress): Minster of Word and Service
Restricted to Non-profit Leadership

A. Deacon David Hope-Tringali

Lower Susquehanna Synod (8D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Christ the King Lutheran Church - Houston, Texas
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Board of Directors, Lutherhill Ministries
Board of Directors, LEAD
- 3) *Education*
United Lutheran Seminary, Master of Arts in Ministerial Studies
University of Pittsburg, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Executive Director, Tree 4 Hope
- 5) *Year of birth*
1989
- 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 an engaged disciple and peace-builder committed to spreading God's kingdom through effective leadership, preaching, project development, and multicultural engagement, with a focus on making faith and mission accessible to those both on the margins and currently unaffiliated with a faith practice. I was surprised and humbled to receive the nomination to serve on the board of 1517 Media and believe God may be calling me to use my gifts in leadership, development, and multicultural engagement to help Lutheran publishing reach broader audiences and speak meaningfully to those on the margins and individuals who may be religiously unaffiliated.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

76. Publishing House (Augsburg Fortress): Minister of Word and Sacrament
Restricted to Campus Pastor; Senior Pastoral Leadership

A. The Rev. Adam Patrick White

Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church - Waconia, Minn.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Emmaus Leadership Academy
Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministry
- 3) *Education*
Hastings College, Bachelor of Arts
Nazarene Theological Seminary, Master of Arts
Luther Seminary, Doctor of Ministry
- 4) *Employment*
Senior Pastor, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1978
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
Augsburg Fortress, the publishing ministry of the ELCA, is a vital ministry of the church. As a pastor and adjunct professor, I believe this ministry shapes the intellectual and practical formation of our leaders and the worship and Christian Education in our congregations. Having a creative resource ministry that celebrates diversity and remains faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ matters. I will bring my experience as a seminary instructor, parish pastor, and campus pastor to this work. My experiences in diverse ministry settings uniquely equip me to understand how Augsburg Fortress resources function in different settings within the church. I am eager to work for the vitality and continued relevance of this ministry.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

77. Publishing House (Augsburg Fortress): Lay Woman
Restricted to PC/L; International Marketing; Corporate Sales [Incumbent]

A. Ms. Ileana (Lilly) Kimmelshue

Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St John Lutheran Church - Sacramento, Calif,
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Communications Committee
Mutual Ministry
Sunday School
- 3) *Education*
Chico State University, Master of Arts in Management
Florida International University, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
International Marketing Manager, 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?*
It is a true honor to work alongside the dedicated board members and passionate staff at Augsburg Fortress Publishers, supporting their mission to deliver high-quality products that enrich readers' lives. As a seasoned sales and marketing professional with a keen awareness of global business trends, I am privileged to share my experience to guide the board in governing the organization toward optimal performance. With a curious mindset and a commitment to fostering group consensus, I take pride in contributing to a collaborative and forward-thinking board.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

78. Publishing House (Augsburg Fortress): Lay Woman
Restricted to Author, Tehological and Social Ethics; Board Governance and Statagic Leadership

A. Ms. Cynthia Diane Moe-Lobeda

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Central Lutheran Church, Seattle, Wash.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
an invited speaker for synodical assemblies, dean's conferences, church colleges/universities/semina
serving on the Climate Justice Policy Task Force for the LWF, appointed by its Council
serving as theological aadvisor to the Organizing for Mission Cohort
- 3) *Education*
st olaf college, Bachelor of Arts
wesley theological seminary, Master of Arts
union theological seminary, Doctor of Philosophy
- 4) *Employment*
Professor or Theological and Social Ethics, california lutheran university
- 5) *Year of birth*
1954
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
One powerful way in which God works to strengthen faith and build more just, compassionate, and ecologically sound societies is through published books, music, & worship resources. I am moved in particular by the power of books to call forth richer and deeper understanding of God, the world God is creating, and what it means to live faithfully in it. As an inquisitive young reader who delighted in books, an adult who found challenge and enlightenment in books, and a professor with a call to serve church, academy, and broader society, I have receive immeasurable growth in faith from books. My respect for AugsburgFortress is great. When invited to consider nomination for its board, I felt an inner “yes,” that this aligned with my calling. To the board I would bring skills of a published writer (8 books, over 50 articles), experience in the global Lutheran community (LWF) & global ecumenical community (World Council of Chuches), and an ability to catalyze collaboratiive undertakings.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

79. Publishing House (Augsburg Fortress): Lay Woman

Restricted to Senior Organizational Management; Strategic Leadership [Incumbent]

A. Ms. Shelly Ann Talcott

Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
The Canton Mission/Church on the Square - Baltimore, Md.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Church Council
- 3) *Education*
Gustavus Adolphus College, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Chief of Staff, Global Refuge
- 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?*
God is calling me to bring my skill sets of organizational effectiveness, development, and strategy to the board of Augsburg Fortress. Between my professional experience with leadership and boards to my connection to the ELCA, I feel that I bring both the insights and the passion to this opportunity. I also had an early passion for publishing with a degree in English and internships in editing, so I have come full circle!
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

80. Publishing House (Augsburg Fortress): Lay Woman
Restricted to Executive Non-Profit Leadership; Board Management and Development

A. Ms. Jenifer Kay Ward

Northeastern Iowa Synod (5F)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Luther College Lutheran Church - Decorah, Iowa
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
NECU
- 3) *Education*
Vanderbilt University, Doctor of Philosophy
Hendrix College, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
President, Luther College
- 5) *Year of birth*
1958
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 child of families--maternal and paternal--steeped in gospel music performance and ministry in the American South, I always felt a tension between my experience of God and the "official" theologies of my church affiliation. In my Ph.D. program in German, I became more acquainted with the teachings of Martin Luther, although from the perspective of cultural history. When I was a faculty member at Gustavus Adolphus College (ELCA), these disparate threads became woven in my life. I began attending daily chapel, first for the music, and then for the liturgy, and finally for the sense of integration I felt: the theology, the music, the worship experience, the cultural relevance of "church" for a needful society all began to coalesce for me in the ELCA. I began confirmation study and was confirmed in 1999 at Christ Chapel at Gustavus. My call to the presidency at Luther College was informed by this journey, and Augsburg Fortress resources have provided the "travel guide" along the way.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

81. Publishing House (Augsburg Fortress): Lay Woman
Restricted to PC/L; Corporate Strategic Planning; Marketing and Communications

A. Ms. Cheryl Geneva Williams

Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Amazing Grace Lutheran Church - Baltimore, Md.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Amazing Grace Church Council
- 3) *Education*
Johns Hopkins University, Master of Business Administration
North Carolina State University, Bachelor of Computer Science
- 4) *Employment*
CEO, Hudgins Williams Associates LLC
- 5) *Year of birth*
1962
- 6) *Ethnicity*
African American/Black Non-Hispanic
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
I have been blessed over the course of my personal and professional journey to have parents who guided their children into service (my brother has served on NC Synod Council and recently completed service as board chair of LSS of the Carolinas), and with a career that has helped me develop gifts of service -- communication (especially listening), leadership and empathy. I have enjoyed my term of service on the 1517/Augsburg Fortress board and look forward to continuing my service during this time of social, spiritual, environmental, and political transition in the world, and transition at the organization, including board membership.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

82. Publishing House (Augsburg Fortress): Lay Man

Restricted to PC/L; Academic Research and Author; Digital Media Innovator [Incumbent]

A. Mr. Michael Chan

Northwestern Minnesota Synod (3D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd - Moorhead, Minn.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
ELCA Jewish Lutheran Consultative Panel
Teaching Staff at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi, Minn.
Synodically Authorized Interim Minister of Word and Sacrament, Grace Lutheran Church, Kingman, Ariz.
- 3) *Education*
Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor of Arts in Ed
Luther Seminary, Master of Arts
Emory University, Doctor of Philosophy
- 4) *Employment*
Vice President for Mission and Inclusion, Concordia College
- 5) *Year of birth*
1982
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Asian/Asian American/South Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
Augsburg Fortress Publishers has a significant vocation within the larger ecosystem of Christian publishing: to help the world "encounter a loving, gracious God and grow in faith, understanding, and response." As part of that ecosystem, AFP has demonstrated a commitment to fulfilling that mission in a variety of established and emerging media. This is where my gifts as a biblical scholar, theologian of the church, and designer of digital resources will be most useful. My primary gift is in the innovative integration of traditional and emerging media for the sake of the church and the gospel. I have exercised these gifts in a variety of contexts including the design and deployment of an incubator for innovative church leaders, podcast and video production, digital course design, etc. I believe my passion, skillset, and commitment to collegiality will benefit AFP's important work.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

83. Publishing House (Augsburg Fortress): Lay Man

Restricted to Finance and Audit Expertise; Senior Organizational Leadership [Incumbent]

A. Mr. Kurt Barneson Galvez

Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St John Lutheran Church - Sacramento, Calif.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
St. John's Sacramento - Church Treasurer
St. John's Sacramento - Church Council Member
St. John's Sacramento - Catechumenate Leader
- 3) *Education*
Whitworth University, Bachelor of Business Admin
Whitworth University, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Director of Finance, California Chamber of Commerce
- 5) *Year of birth*
1990
- 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 found the ELCA to be a place of welcome and refuge that has allowed me the time and safety to examine my faith and confirm that Christ's love and grace are indeed for me. To this board position, I would bring an inquisitive mind, a hunger for learning and a heart that wants the world to know the saving grace of Jesus. My career as a CPA has equipped me for this service. My 3 years as an auditor with Gilbert CPA's were spent auditing non-profit organizations, learning about their business structures, revenue streams and board management. The following 8 years have been spent working at the California Chamber of Commerce, whose business model includes publishing and distributing HR compliance materials to businesses throughout CA. I've been on the St. John's Church Council since 2019 and the Treasurer at St. John's since 2020, volunteer leadership positions that have given me insight into the world of church finance and the importance of honest and transparent leadership.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

84. Publishing House (Augsburg Fortress): Lay Man
Restricted to Executive Non-Profit Leadership; Board Mangement and Development
[Incumbent]

A. Mr. Michael Alan Miller

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin (5H)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Messiah Lutheran Church - Washburn, Wis.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Augsburg Fortress Pub. Trustee
Church council, parish council, lay ministry leader
Congregation Transition Team 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?*
I have five years of experience on the AFP Board. I belief in the importance of the publishing ministry in serving individuals in life-long faith and purpose development. God is calling me to use my executive management, board development, strategic leadership, and a broad array of church and parish leadership experiences to support and enhance AFP. As Board Development Committee chair I have led board recruitment and organizational development endeavors. I feel called to use my gifts to continue our work to strengthen and diversify the board in support of the vision and leadership of AFP.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

85. Publishing House (Augsburg Fortress): Lay Man

Restricted to Senior Corporate and Finance Leadership; Information Technology Corporate Entrepreneur

A. Mr. John Erik Opgrande

Saint Paul Area Synod, ELCA (3H)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
King of Kings Lutheran Church - Woodbury, Minn.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Hope Lutheran Church Council
- 3) *Education*
North Dakota State, Master of Science
Concordia College, Bachelor of Fine Arts
- 4) *Employment*
CEO / President, John Opgrande
- 5) *Year of birth*
1974
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
Reflecting on the opportunity to serve the greater church community, I am excited about the chance of giving back in a meaningful way. For several years, I have been running a software product and consulting company, navigating the challenges and opportunities that come with growth and change. I also serve as Board President for a non-profit, where I am currently leading a reorganization effort and developing a 10-year vision to make a lasting impact. With a background in business and strong technology acumen, I am passionate about using these gifts to serve organizations that make a difference. Additionally, I am vision-driven and believe that we are called to use our gifts to create lasting change and improve the lives of communities. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute my experience to this role, to help advance the church's mission, and to serve my community.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

86. Publishing House (Augsburg Fortress): Lay Man

***Restricted to PC/L; Corporate Strategic Planning; Corporate Acquisitions and Mergers
[Incumbent]***

A. Mr. Brook Selassie

Virginia Synod (9A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Peace Lutheran Church - Charlottesville, Va.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Peace Lutheran Church, Call Committee Chair
- 3) *Education*
University of Colorado, Bachelor of Science
University of Chicago, Master of Science in Business Admin
- 4) *Employment*
Vice President, Gartner
- 5) *Year of birth*
1965
- 6) *Ethnicity*
African American/ Black Non-Hispanic
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work? I have been a Lutheran all of my life. I enjoy serving God, my family and my community. My skill sets are around executive coaching, helping businesses grow both via building and buying, diagnosing and solving organizational growth and execution barriers. My greater passion is in assisting organizations and people find--and refine--their purpose and achieve their personal and institutional growth goals. My daily and overarching goal is to improve every single day in every possible direction, and be the best possible father, husband and family member through faith, love, presence, optimism and joyful living.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

87. Publishing House (Augsburg Fortress): Full Communion
Restricted to PC/L; Higher Education Senior Leadership [Incumbent]

A. The Rev. Joy J. Moore

United Methodist Church

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Ecumenical
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Fuller Theological Seminary
Duke University Divinity School
First United Methodist Church
- 3) *Education*
National-Louis University, Bachelor of Arts in Ed
Garrett-Evangelical Theological, Master of Divinity
Brunel University/London School of Theology, Doctor of Philosophy
- 4) *Employment*
President and Professor of Homiletics, Northern Seminary
- 5) *Year of birth*
1961
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Black/African American/African Descent
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
I refer to myself as an “Ecclesial Storyteller” focusing my research on understanding the stories behind the sound bites, examining how we use words to narrate the realities of our existence. Today's world has become one of contempt in need of compassion. As a pastor, professor, and administrator, I am more convinced of the need for the church to give witness to the promises of God. In a rapidly changing world where people still sit in the dark to listen to the one under the (stage) lights offer wisdom and hope - whether a campfire or movie theater - it is important for the people of the book to tell our story --and to tell it well. This is the call on my life, I have primarily practiced this as a teacher of preachers. My work at Luther enabled a rich awareness of the way people are listening and learning (FaithLead) and working with AFP seems more important than ever. It is a privilege to serve. Thank you for your consideration.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

88. Mission Investment Fund: Minister of Word and Sacrament *[Incumbent]*

A. The Rev. William Chris Boerger

Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St Mark's Lutheran Church By The Narrows - Tacoma, Wash
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
ELCA Secretary
Board of Trustees, Mission Investment Fund
ELCA Church Council, Region1 Liaison Bishop
- 3) *Education*
Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor of Arts
Concordia Seminary
Christ Seminary-SEMINEX, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Secretary, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- 5) *Year of birth*
1949
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 to see the great diversity and potential of all three expressions of this church. As a pastor, bishop, and churchwide secretary, I know the complexity of our polity and marvel and the gifted members of our church. The Mission Investment fund is to provide funds capital projects for mission expansion and renewal. I have worked directly with the governing documents of all three expressions of this church and have been involved in the review of the governing documents of the separately incorporated ministries. I have a passion for providing governance structure that serves our mission.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

89. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Woman
Restricted to PC/L

A. Ms. Liza Canino

North Carolina Synod (9B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Christ Lutheran Church - Charlotte, N.C.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Board Member, ELCA Foundation Board
- 3) *Education*
Not provided,
- 4) *Employment*
Chief of Staff, Managing Director, TIAA
- 5) *Year of birth*
1976
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Latin(o/a/é)/Latin-x/ 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 wants us to use our gifts to be able to serve our community. My gifts are business-related and could be an asset to the MIF.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

90. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Woman *[Incumbent]*

A. Ms. Krista Hallberg Kapp

Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Luther Memorial Lutheran Church - Chicago, Ill.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Luther Memorial Discipleship Director
Social Justice Committee -Refugee Program
- 3) *Education*
Miami University, Bachelor of Arts
Loyola University Chicago -School of Law, Doctor of Jurisprudence
- 4) *Employment*
Partner, Laurie & Brennan LLP
- 5) *Year of birth*
1973
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 continued interest in serving on the MIF board of trustees to support the needs and goals of the ELCA congregations and investments in capital developments and other needs.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

91. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Woman ***Restricted to PC/L***

A. Ms. Monica R Powers

Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Creator Lutheran Church - Bonney Lake, Wash.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
SWWA Synod
- 3) *Education*
Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor of Arts
Pacific Lutheran University, Master of Arts In Education
- 4) *Employment*
Executive Director, Good Samaritan Foundation, MultiCare
- 5) *Year of birth*
1972
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Asian/Asian American/South Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
The first board I was called to serve was the (formerly) Tacoma Lutheran Home Board as a trustee. I was not yet 30 years old when I was elected. By then I'd already served the synod helping put together synod assembly, engaging with pastors and congregations to build admission from churches at ELCA related universities; primarily, PLU. I was elected to attend Churchwide Assembly in 2019 and some life events prohibited my attendance that year. Working in pandemic in a hospital setting, I've just recently taken time to breathe and pray about what is next. When I got the call asking me to consider the Mission Investment Fund, our country was preparing for inauguration of a new president. I called several friends and colleagues asking for their input to MIF. In my professional role, I've grown a non-profit board and participated as our system expanded from 2 to 5 foundations. Annual governance is part of the work and adapting to change is constant.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
My grandfather served in WWII as a Filipino in the US Army. His service earned him the opportunity to become an American. My daughter is neuro-diverse and our family works daily for her benefit and others who are neuro-diverse. Neither of these is me. Both of these shape my experience in the world. My grandmother, Scotch/Irish background, was told regularly she could not enter a restaurant with her dog (my grandfather). My daughter has to work harder to do just about every activity of daily living, we advocate for her as she also has more gifts to share in kindness than any one can see if they see her diversity first. My son entered the US Coast Guard Academy with an essay he wrote about being the sibling of a neurodiverse person. We know that the diversity of one family member is not just that person, it's the whole of a family and of a community that chooses to act in a way that is inclusive.

92. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Woman *[Incumbent]*

A. Ms. Julie E. Swanson

Virginia Synod (9A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Christ Lutheran Church - Roanoke, Va.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Faith Lutheran Church, Golden CO
Mission Investment Fund Board of Trustees
Lutheran Services in America Board of Trustees
- 3) *Education*
North Dakota State University, Bachelor of Arts
University of South Florida, Master of Arts In Management
- 4) *Employment*
Chief Executive officer, Lutheran Family Services of Virginia (enCircle)
- 5) *Year of birth*
1950
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
Acting justly, showing love and walking humbly with God (Micah 6:8) is a guiding scripture for me. I know I often fall short, but the words are my reminder for how to live. I loved my work as a leader in the Lutheran social ministry system. It was my calling and passion. I am incredibly grateful for the work of ELCA organizations, especially the MIssion Investment Fund. I would be honored to serve again and bring my past experiences in leadership, management, strategic planning, and human resources as a trustee.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

93. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Man
Restricted to PC/L [Incumbent]

A. Mr. Randall Stewart Foster

Southwest California Synod (2B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church - Inglewood, Calif.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Synod Vice President, SWCA
Vice Chair, Board of Regents, CLU/Board Member
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
- 3) *Education*
University of Southern California, Master of Public Administration
California State University, Northridge, Bachelor of Science in Business Admin
- 4) *Employment*
VP Administration and Contracts, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
- 5) *Year of birth*
1953
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Black/African American/African Descent
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
The Mission Investment Fund serves as the ELCA's financial agent, providing funding sources for individuals and congregations with alacrity and purpose. These resources are principally used in the furtherance of God's work through the issuance of loans and certificates of deposit, with yields matching/exceeding market parameters. In essence, these are the resources of God as multiplied and re-channeled, making a definitive difference in congregant lives. Having served on the Board these past three years, I've not only garnered a greater appreciation for the complexities of Church-oriented finance but have through in-depth conversation and decision-making, added to MIF's strategic direction and its institutional achievements through my role as a contributing member of the Board. We are the Stewards of these resources, guided by our biblical mandate to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. These constructs and their subsequent application are both personal and corporate!
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
I am a third generation Lutheran, raised and nurtured in the American Lutheran Church whose Pastor, the late South Pacific District Bishop, The Rev. Dr. Nelson W. Trout, provided through instruction, the precepts of Liberation Theology. I was taught from one who in his lifetime championed the cause of those who struggle whether by lack of means, acceptance, or absence of inclusion. God always sought to intercede on behalf of the least, lost and left out. They, too, through their struggle, sought and searched for the hem of his garment. Knowing in whom our integrity and stature manifest itself is not only empowering, it is enabling. We who are catalogued as above, bring that unique perspective to the table.

94. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Man *[Incumbent]*

A. Mr. Warren William Hanson Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church - Minneapolis, Minn.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Board of ELCA Mission Investment Fund (MIF)
- 3) *Education*
Augsburg University, No Degree Earned
Pratt Institute, Master of Science
Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, Certificate
- 4) *Employment*
President and CEO, Founder, Greater Minnesota Housing Fund (GMHF)
- 5) *Year of birth*
1950
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 motivated in my spiritual and professional and life by by the view that everyone deserves equal economic and social opportunities which I first became sensitive to from my earliest religious education at Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church, through church youth programs and confirmation classes. Early in my youth I committed to working for social justice out of a deep spiritual calling and through association with socially engaged clergy in Minneapolis who were bold in their teachings and faith based community activities to serve those in need, including the poor, the disenfranchised, those who were discriminated against, as well as acted and organized against injustices committed by institutions that needed reform and greater accountability. I continue to work with faith leaders and organizations in my affordable housing career which has been my calling for the past 30 years, in addition to other issues that my faith calls me to in the areas of social, racial and economic justice.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

95. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Man *[Incumbent]*

A. Mr. Joseph T. Nolte

Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church - Des Moines, Iowa
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
ELCA Church Council
Lutheran Campus Ministry at Iowa State University
Prince of Peace Congregation Council
- 3) *Education*
Mount Mercy College, Bachelor of Arts
William Penn University, Master of Business Administration
University of Oklahoma, Master of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Executive Director of Development—International Engagement, Iowa State University Foundation
- 5) *Year of birth*
1974
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
For the last three years, I have served on the board of MIF, learning about this financial ministry, its operations, and its challenges and opportunities. I am excited to serve our church for another three years through MIF, helping to connect MIF to ministries and serve as a voice that centers this ministry on the mission and work of the broader church.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

96. Mission Investment Fund: Full Communion [*Incumbent*]

A. The Rev. Ruth Morse Woodliff-Stanley

Full Communion: Episcopalian

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Episcopal - Charleston, S.C.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Episcopal Church Building Fund
HBCU Committee of The Episcopal Church
Episcopal Church Building Fund
- 3) *Education*
Yale University, Master of Divinity
Columbia University, Master of Science in Social Work
Swarthmore College, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina
- 5) *Year of birth*
1962
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
My experience with building and loan funds and as bishop in The Episcopal Church offer perspectives which I hope are useful to MIF. I am compelled by the mission of MIF to build the church so that present and future generations to encounter Christ and transform the world for the sake of the gospel.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

97. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Minister of Word and Sacrament
Restricted to Legal [Incumbent]

A. The Rev. Franklin T. Espegren

Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St John Lutheran Church - Sacramento, Calif.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Advent Lutheran Church, Citrus Heights, Calif.
- 3) *Education*
California Lutheran University, Bachelor of Arts
UC Law San Francisco, Doctor of Jurisprudence
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Senior Pastor, St. John's 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?*
Called to be part of work of larger church
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

98. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Minister of Word and Sacrament
Restricted to PC/L; Governance [Incumbent]

A. The Rev. William Edward Flippin

Southeastern (9D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St Paul Lutheran Church - Decatur, Ga.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Atlanta, Ga.
St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Columbus, Ga.
Lutheran World Federation Council and ELCA Church Council
- 3) *Education*
Morehouse College, Bachelor of Arts
Emory University, Candler School of Theology, Master of Theology
Ashland Theological Seminary, Doctor of Ministry
- 4) *Employment*
Interim Pastor, St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1976
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Black/African American/African Descent
- 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 to serve in mission and stewardship within the ELCA through my role on the ELCA Foundation Board of Trustees. Since 2023, I have served on the Governance and Audit Committees, committed to ensuring that our endowments grow fivefold in seven years. Rooted in the Gospel of Luke, I am inspired by the call to justice and equity: "The last shall be first, and the first shall be last." As threats to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion persist, I am dedicated to stewarding resources that uplift marginalized communities, reflecting God's mission of justice. I bring expertise in governance, leadership, and financial strategy, ensuring ethical stewardship and long-term sustainability. My ministry is guided by faith-driven generosity, aligning resources with transformational impact. This sacred trust reflects Christ's love, amplifies the voices of the marginalized, and ensures gifts entrusted to the ELCA transform communities and empower future generations.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
As an African-descent rostered leader, I see my role as a gadfly, as Socrates describes in The Republic—challenging the status quo, fostering dialogue, and encouraging innovation. My commitment is to help the ELCA remain authentic in its missional identity, ensuring its governance reflects equity and inclusion rather than relying on strategic statements without true transformation. Genesis chapter 32 offers a model: Esau forgave Jacob, but reparations came from Jacob—not forced, but offered from the heart. Similarly, the ELCA must engage in repairing the breach with actions rooted in humility and love, addressing systemic inequities authentically. I bring this perspective to leadership, advocating for meaningful reconciliation and bold governance that embraces innovation. Together, we can build a church that honors diverse voices, fosters justice, and fulfills its mission with integrity and authenticity.

99. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Minister of Word and Sacrament
Restricted to Governance

A. The Rev. Anthony Robert Prinsen

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

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Emmanuel Lutheran Church - Vienna, Va.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
ELCA Foundation Board Advisor
Virginia Conference Dean, Metro DC Synod
Metro DC Synod Stewardship Committee
- 3) *Education*
Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., Bachelor of Arts
Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, Master of Divinity
Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., Doctor of Ministry
- 4) *Employment*
Lead Pastor, Emmanuel Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*
1971
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 God is calling me to this work to serve with the ELCA Foundation Board as a rostered minister serving a congregation with the experience and skills gained from planning, launching, and growing an endowment over the last five years. My contextual perspective comes from serving in the Metro DC Synod, Southeastern Synod, Eastern North Dakota Synod, and Rocky Mountain Synod which has already been useful in board work as an advisor and member of both the governance and the resource development committees of the Foundation. In a broader sense, I feel called to serve as a leader in the stewardship ministry of the church. I believe we have a very generous church with people serious about growing our ministries and sustaining the quality of those ministries. It has been my pleasure to connect with and encourage other leaders and congregations to help grow their stewardship ministries with and through the ELCA Foundation.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

100. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Minister of Word and Sacrament
Restricted to Development [Incumbent]

A. The Rev. Kathleen O'Keefe Reed

New England Synod (7B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Concordia Lutheran Church - Worcester, Mass
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
ELCA Foundation Trustee (2023-2025)
Vice Chair Gettysburg Seminary Foundation Chair (2007-2013)
Trustee of the Board of Pensions/Portico
- 3) *Education*
Boston University, Bachelor of Science
Lutheran Theological Sem Gettysburg LTSG, Master of Divinity
- 4) *Employment*
Designated Term Minister, Houghs Neck Congregational Church UCC
- 5) *Year of birth*
1953
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
At the pleasure of the Holy Spirit and this Church I have served in a wide variety of congregational settings (small, rural and urban) and institutions (Asst. to Synodical Bishop with portfolios for Finance, Transitions and Congregational Life; LTSG Fund Development). My primary and proven skills relate to assessing needs, honoring tradition, setting goals, and building on God-given assets for sustainable strategic change. Serving my first term as a trustee of the ELCA Foundation, I have chaired the Marketing and Development Committee and served on the Audit Committee. In a second term I would continue to bring my passions for creativity and guard rails to the work of cultivating generosity through planned giving among ELCA members for the future sustainability of the ELCA.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

101. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Lay Woman
Restricted to Investments and Financial Planning

A. Ms. Mary Beth Baron

Grand Canyon Synod (2D)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Grace Lutheran Church - Phoenix, Ariz.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Congregational Finance Team
Grand Canyon Synod Candidacy Committee
Grand Canyon Synod Council, VP
- 3) *Education*
University of North Dakota, Bachelor of Business Admin
- 4) *Employment*
Financial Advisor, Ameriprise Financial
- 5) *Year of birth*
1964
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 by the potential opportunity to combine the professional knowledge I have gained as a financial advisor with a love of serving the larger church. In my role as an advisor, I have long-term relationships with my clients, learning about their financial situations and helping them develop the right plan of action. This allows me to use both my interpersonal and analytical skills. I listen, ask questions, provide insight, and develop action plans. I believe I can use these same skills in being a Board Member. In my last congregation, I worked with the Foundation's Regional Gift Planner to create policy and process for our Endowment, investing \$1.5m into the Ministry Growth Fund. That policy then created a legacy pathway to the Grand Canyon Synod.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

102. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Lay Woman
Restricted to Finance [Incumbent]

A. Ms. Naomi M. Horsager
Saint Paul Area Synod (3H)

1) *Congregation Membership*
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church - Apple Valley, Minn.

2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
GodZone/Kids program, SOTV
Board Member LCOS
Kids program leaders, nursery coordinator, LCOS

3) *Education*
U of MN Duluth, Bachelor of Science

4) *Employment*
CFO and Treasurer, Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies

5) *Year of birth*
1963

6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/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 15+ years in the CFO role, along with years of consulting for nonprofit organizations before that and board/committee service to nonprofit organizations, have given me relevant experience in nonprofit management, diversified portfolio investment operations and oversight, nonprofit governance and development. It would be a privilege to continue to apply my experience and skills to service of the ELCA Foundation.

9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

103. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Lay Woman
Restricted to Legal [Incumbent]

A. Ms. Heather L. Marx

Southeastern Minnesota Synod (31)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Central Lutheran Church - Winona, Minn.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
ELCA Foundation Board of Trustee
- 3) *Education*
Gustavus Adolphus College, Bachelor of Arts
Georgetown University Law Center, Doctor of Jurisprudence
- 4) *Employment*
Attorney, Cozen O'Connor
- 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 have had the tremendous honor to work with the ELCA Foundation Board since 2020, and I have seen first-hand during that time not only how dedicated the staff are to the mission of gift planning and financial stewardship but also how incredible the impacts are from their efforts. I am driven by this mission to find ways to contribute my legal and leadership skills to further the efforts of the Foundation and to fund the beautiful missions of the Churchwide Organization.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

104. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Lay Woman
Restricted to Finance [Incumbent]

A. Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford

Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Trinity Lutheran Church - Evanston, Ill.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Portico Benefit Services
ELCA Church Council
ELCA Foundation Board
- 3) *Education*
Wittenberg University, Bachelor of Arts
University of Michigan, Master of Arts
Northwestern University, Master of Business Administration
- 4) *Employment*
Director, Wintrust Bank, Inc
- 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 have served in director or trustee roles at all levels of Church service except at the Synod level. I served on the Wittenberg University Board of Directors (1993-2006, including as chair, 2001-2005); on the Portico Board (see above), as Congregational president at Trinity Lutheran Church (2009-2010), on ELCA Church Council (see above), and ELCA Foundation, 2021-present. I am pleased to give my financial, audit, investment and governance talents to this Church.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

105. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Lay Woman
Restricted to Legal and Financial Administration

A. Ms. Pamela Fetzner Vetter

Southwestern Texas Synod(4E)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Faith Lutheran Church - Austin, Texas
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Congregation treasurer and Council member
- 3) *Education*
Texas Lutheran College (now University), Bachelor of Business Admin
- 4) *Employment*
Senior Legal Assistant, Patents, Open Text Corporation
- 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?*
I am fortunate to have a family history of faith and service. In particular, I watched my aunt and uncle support Texas Lutheran College (now University) and co-found the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest, above and beyond being faithful members of their congregation and their civic community. Their and my parents' examples of giving time, talent, and treasure nurtured in me the hope of following in their footsteps. My professional positions have been in financial services, executive management, event planning, human resources, and intellectual property, all positions of trust, confidentiality, and legal obligations. A CFO who hired me as his assistant asked me in my interview to name my values. I replied, "Integrity and compassion". I pray for greater compassion and I give thanks for the integrity that was instilled in me. I am grateful that I have been led to the ELCA Foundation and hope to be a valuable and productive servant.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

106. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Lay Man
Restricted to PC/L; Marketing and Communications [Incumbent]

A. Mr. Roberto Carlos Lara Aranda

Metropolitan New York Synod (7C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
St Peter's Lutheran Church of Manhattan - New York, N.Y.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Member of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC)
President of the Latino Ministries Association of the ELCA
Director of Dance at Saint Peter's
- 3) *Education*
Columbia University, Master of Science
Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes, Bachelor of Fine Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Director of Communications, Fetzer Institute
- 5) *Year of birth*
1982
- 6) *Ethnicity*
Latin(o/a/é)/Latin-x/ Hispanic
- 7) *Primary language*
Not English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
I feel called to serve on the ELCA Foundation Board through a deep sense of purpose that intertwines my expertise in marketing and strategic communications with my commitment to justice. Throughout my career, I have witnessed the power of storytelling and strategic outreach in advancing mission-driven work. I believe that effective marketing is not just about visibility—it is about fostering meaningful connections, mobilizing resources, and ensuring that the Church's mission reaches those who need it most. At the heart of this calling is a conviction that the work of the ELCA Foundation is about more than stewardship; it is about equity, accessibility, and sustainability. Ensuring that resources are used to uplift ministries, serve communities, and strengthen the Church's future is, for me, an act of justice. I am particularly passionate about creating pathways for historically underserved communities to fully participate in and benefit from the Church's financial stewardship.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*
As a Mexican immigrant and a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, I bring a perspective shaped by lived experiences that resonate with many of the communities the ELCA is called to serve. My journey navigating both cultural and institutional spaces has given me a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by historically underrepresented groups within the Church. Through my service, I seek to bridge gaps, amplify voices that have been marginalized, and contribute to a Church that fully embodies God's call to justice, equity, and radical inclusion. I believe that by integrating diverse perspectives into the ELCA's leadership, we can create a more vibrant, responsive, and faithful Church that truly reflects the richness of God's people.

107. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Lay Man
Restricted to Accounting and Financial Services

A. Mr. Gregg Alan Draeger

Southeastern Minnesota Synod (31)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Trinity Lutheran Church - Owatonna, Minn.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Trinity Lutheran Church Foundation
Trinity Choir, Brass
Capital Campaign Steering Committees
- 3) *Education*
Macalester College, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen
- 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?*
As a retired CPA with a National Accounting firm, my client and firm leadership experience is a way I can contribute to a faith community that has nurtured me for my entire life. I have experienced the value the ELCA Foundation brings to individual congregations through my work with our local church foundation. I am eager to help further the Foundation's work, to learn, and to continue to support the Foundation financially.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

108. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Lay Man
Restricted to Investments [Incumbent]

A. Mr. Bruce Douglas George

New England Synod (7B)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - Westborough, Mass.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
United Lutheran Seminary Endowment Foundation Trustee
Portico Benefit Services Trustee
Lutheran Campus Ministry - Boston (Fenway)
- 3) *Education*
Central Michigan University, Bachelor of Business Admin
Wayne State University, Master of Business Administration
CFA Institute, Certificate
- 4) *Employment*
Partner, 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?*
Called by God to apply my financial skills and training to church governance and management, I have proudly served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the ELCA Foundation since 2018, and as a member of the Board of Trustees of United Lutheran Seminary Endowment Foundation since 2008. I bring 40 years of financial market experience as an industry practitioner, educator and Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Charter Holder and Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst (CAIA) Charter Holder, I am certified as a Professional Trustee by the Pension Management Institute in the United Kingdom.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

109. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Lay Man
Restricted to Audit [Incumbent]

A. Mr. Mark Fenner Stauffer

Pacifica Synod (2C)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Encinitas, Calif.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Assistant Treasurer, Bethlehem Lutheran Encinitas, Calif.
ELCA Foundation Board Member
Council Member, Bethlehem Lutheran Encinitas, Calif.
- 3) *Education*
Miami University (Ohio), Bachelor of Business Admin
- 4) *Employment*
Vice President, Cardinal Health, Inc.
- 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?*
In this modern world, God needs leaders that bring a variety of skills and experiences. I bring Finance, Audit and Accounting training and experience from work as a former Big 4 Partner and Corporate Finance and Audit executive to those roles to which I am humbly called.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

110. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Lay Man
Restricted to Investments [Incumbent]

A. Mr. Andrew Steele

Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F)

- 1) *Congregation Membership*
Christ Lutheran Church - Baltimore, Md.
- 2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*
Church Council - Christ Lutheran
ELCA Young Adult in Global Mission volunteer
- 3) *Education*
Wittenberg University, Bachelor of Arts
- 4) *Employment*
Chief Development and Mobilization officer, Global Refuge (formerly known as LIRS)
- 5) *Year of birth*
1986
- 6) *Ethnicity*
European Descent/White
- 7) *Primary language*
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences, and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*
It was during my year in South Africa services as a Young Adult in Global Mission when I was first intentional about discerning where God was calling me in the world. Who knew I would be called to a vocation in fundraising non-profit leadership? I have discovered that the gifts and skills I have developed over my career has led me to support God's work in ways I never dreamt. By providing opportunities for people to impact mission and God's work through their generosity has been life-giving to me, and I pray the ministries I have served. I am passionate about creating strong, foundational, support for ministries and hope to assist the ELCA Foundation in achieving its goals to further impact lives and ministries across the church and world, all in Jesus' name.
- 9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*

111. Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation): Full Communion
Restricted to Development

A. The Rev. Lisa Carol Bennett

Episcopal

1) *Congregation Membership*

Ecumenical

2) *Congregation, Synod, or Churchwide service activities*

Saint David's Episcopal Church, Friday Harbor, Wash.

All Saints Episcopal Church, Carmel, Calif.

Epiphany Lutheran and Episcopal Church, Marina, Calif.

3) *Education*

Princeton University, Bachelor of Arts

Episcopal School for Deacons, Bachelor of Divinity

4) *Employment*

Owner / Principal Consultant, The Cornerstone Group

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?*

God calls us to use our inherent, God-given talents and experience in doing His work here on earth. I have experience in philanthropy: as a front-line fundraiser (including in planned giving) for universities, schools, hospitals, and Episcopal churches and a diocese; as an adjunct faculty member teaching adult practitioners in fundraising; and in consulting to scores of not-for-profit organizations. To support philanthropy - in raising and in using donated funds - I developed other, related areas of expertise, too: effective governance, strategic planning, conflict resolution, and non-profit mergers. I believe that I may be able to offer some of this experience to the Foundation in its work to support various ministries of the Lutheran Church.

9) *If you identify as a member of a historically underrepresented group, how might you offer a useful perspective to leadership in this church (optional).*