



## 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 12.51.31. states:

A Nominating Committee, elected by the Churchwide Assembly, shall nominate at least one person for each position for which an election will be held by the Churchwide Assembly and for which a nominating procedure has not otherwise been designated in the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church.

ELCA bylaw 19.21.02. provides:

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

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

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

### Work of the committee

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger and the Office of the Secretary provide staff services to the Nominating Committee of the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA bylaw 13.41.05.). On behalf of the committee, the 2016 Nominations Workbook was produced and distributed online to encourage the participation of all ELCA members in identifying potential leaders for this church. An online biographical form was used to gather information about each of those named.

The Nominating Committee met in person and by conference call to review the elections to be conducted by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, to discern the leadership needs of this church, to issue invitations for possible nomination and to assemble the slates included in this report.

### Notes about restrictions on nominations

Nominations reflect this church's commitment to inclusive representation as explained in Chapters 5 and 6 of the ELCA constitution. Vacancies are identified according to mandatory categories: Ordained Minister, Lay Female, Lay Male, PC/L (persons of color or whose primary language is other than English) and Y/YA (youth and young adults). Nominees born since August 10, 1998, are eligible to be elected as youth, and nominees born on or since August 10, 1986, are eligible to be elected as young adults by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

The Nominating Committee tracks whether someone whose term is ending on a board or committee is eligible to serve another term in that position. If the Nominating Committee has chosen to nominate that person (\*) for another term, if authorized, or for nominees from church bodies with which this church is in a relationship of full communion, only one person need be nominated (ELCA bylaw 19.21.02).

For the Church Council and the Nominating Committee, the constitution requires that at least one or two persons from each region be elected (ELCA constitution 19.02. and 19.21.01.). The Nominating Committee endeavors "to ensure that every synod has at least one person serving on the Church Council or churchwide boards, committees, task forces, or other groups. Among those persons elected by the assembly, no more than two persons from any one synod shall serve on the Church Council or any one board, committee, task force, or other group" (ELCA bylaw 19.21.04.). The constitution assigns each of this church's nine regions with a number and each synod within each region a letter.

## ELCA Regions and Synods

### REGION 1

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

### REGION 2

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

### REGION 3

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

### REGION 4

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

### REGION 5

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

### REGION 6

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

### REGION 7

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

### REGION 8

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

### REGION 9

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

Ms. Susan M. Berg, *chair*

The Rev. Eric N. Carlson, *chair-elect*

## Alphabetical Listing of Nominees

Nominee	Council, Board or Committee	Region/Synod	Vita Page
<b>- A -</b>			
Adams, Joyce D.	Nominating Committee	7F	<a href="#">71</a>
Anderson, Kevin D.	Committee on Appeals	8G	<a href="#">60</a>
Austin, Hilton M. Jr.	Church Council	9D	<a href="#">26</a>
<b>- B -</b>			
Baerwald, Kathryn E.	Mission Investment Fund	8G	<a href="#">30</a>
Baker, Zachary C.	Nominating Committee	3G	<a href="#">73</a>
Bellefeuille, Christine M.	Committee on Discipline	3G	<a href="#">64</a>
Bledsoe, Halle E.	Church Council	6F	<a href="#">27</a>
Boone, Felecia A.	Church Council	3G	<a href="#">19</a>
Boston, Linda	Committee on Discipline	2A	<a href="#">61</a>
Boyken, Quentin R.	Church Council	5D	<a href="#">23</a>
Brokering, Mark	Publishing House of the ELCA	Episcopalian	<a href="#">56</a>
Burk, Lisa A.	Church Council	7G	<a href="#">21</a>
<b>- C -</b>			
Carpenter-Gonia, Colleen M.	Church Council	8F	<a href="#">22</a>
Chatman, Cheryl T.	Church Council	3G	<a href="#">19</a>
Chillison, Robert J. II	Mission Investment Fund	2B	<a href="#">33</a>
Cimerol, Robert J.	Church Council	7E	<a href="#">25</a>
Copeland, Adam J.	Board of Pensions	Presbyterian	<a href="#">47</a>
Currell, Daniel G.	Publishing House of the ELCA	3H	<a href="#">53</a>
Curry, Yehiel	Committee on Discipline	5A	<a href="#">62</a>
<b>- D -</b>			
Dexheimer, John A.	Board of Pensions	7B	<a href="#">45</a>
Dolich, Maritza Torres	Committee on Discipline	7E	<a href="#">62</a>
Drew, Janette E.	Board of Pensions	2A	<a href="#">38</a>
<b>- E -</b>			
Enko, Peter J.	Board of Pensions	4B	<a href="#">41</a>
<b>- F -</b>			
Fairchild, Adam M.	Church Council	8F	<a href="#">28</a>
Fallon, Michael F. Jr.	Mission Investment Fund	7A	<a href="#">35</a>
Fiebrink, Mark E.	Mission Investment Fund	9E	<a href="#">36</a>
Flynn, Robert T.	Nominating Committee	2B	<a href="#">72</a>
Flynn, Robert T.	Publishing House of the ELCA	2B	<a href="#">54</a>
Fowler, Fritz E.	Committee on Appeals	7F	<a href="#">57</a>
<b>- G -</b>			
Gable, Dena M.	Church Council	8C	<a href="#">17</a>
Garcia, Raul III	Nominating Committee	3G	<a href="#">73</a>
Gehret, Donn M.	Mission Investment Fund	1D	<a href="#">35</a>
Gordon, John I.	Committee on Discipline	7F	<a href="#">68</a>
Grindle, Julie P.	Nominating Committee	7D	<a href="#">71</a>
<b>- H -</b>			
Hacker, Brandi Jo	Nominating Committee	6E	<a href="#">70</a>
Hart, Roy E.	Nominating Committee	6F	<a href="#">74</a>
Hausman, Cheryl Meinschein	Committee on Appeals	7E	<a href="#">58</a>
Haywood, Diana G.	Board of Pensions	9B	<a href="#">39</a>
Heintz, Frederick H.	Mission Investment Fund	6D	<a href="#">36</a>
Helmke, Mark S.	Board of Pensions	4E	<a href="#">46</a>

Hemstead, Louise A.	Committee on Appeals	5L	<a href="#">59</a>
Hoffman, John R.	Board of Pensions	3G	<a href="#">42</a>
Huebner, Chad M.	Church Council	5F	<a href="#">16</a>
<b>- J -</b>			
Jennings, James J.F.	Church Council	7E	<a href="#">25</a>
Jewett, Carolyn D.	Church Council	5J	<a href="#">20</a>
Johnson, Bruce E.	Board of Pensions	9A	<a href="#">43</a>
Johnson, Corinne R.	Committee on Discipline	5G	<a href="#">64</a>
Josef-Maier, Clare	Committee on Discipline	1B	<a href="#">65</a>
<b>- K -</b>			
Kaelin, Robin B.	Committee on Discipline	6F	<a href="#">66</a>
Kangas, Joel T.	Committee on Discipline	3B	<a href="#">67</a>
Kirkland, Lori A.	Board of Pensions	3I	<a href="#">40</a>
<b>- L -</b>			
Le Blanc, Emilee M.	Church Council	6A	<a href="#">27</a>
Lopez-Vega, Martin J.	Church Council	9F	<a href="#">18</a>
Luong, Nathan V.A.	Nominating Committee	3F	<a href="#">69</a>
Lutter, Paul E.	Committee on Discipline	3F	<a href="#">63</a>
<b>- M -</b>			
Mack, John E. Jr.	Mission Investment Fund	7A	<a href="#">29</a>
Marquardt, Johanna (Jody) T.	Committee on Discipline	1D	<a href="#">66</a>
McLellan, Jennifer M.	Committee on Appeals	7A	<a href="#">57</a>
Micovsky, Andrea	Church Council	7G	<a href="#">21</a>
Miller, Heather	Mission Investment Fund	5D	<a href="#">31</a>
Moehlman, Louis	Nominating Committee	2C	<a href="#">72</a>
Moench, Pamela S.	Board of Pensions	Methodist	<a href="#">48</a>
Morse, Christine M.	Publishing House of the ELCA	3G	<a href="#">52</a>
<b>- N -</b>			
Nerdig, Dave A.	Church Council	5F	<a href="#">16</a>
Nolte, Joseph T.	Church Council	5D	<a href="#">23</a>
<b>- O -</b>			
Opgrande, Paul M.	Mission Investment Fund	1C	<a href="#">34</a>
Otterman, Jeffrey M.	Committee on Discipline	3C	<a href="#">63</a>
<b>- P -</b>			
Paulsberg, Roger W.	Mission Investment Fund	5A	<a href="#">34</a>
Peck, Lisa J.	Publishing House of the ELCA	4B	<a href="#">51</a>
Pederson, Gary A.	Church Council	9D	<a href="#">26</a>
Penvose, Bryan L.	Nominating Committee	6E	<a href="#">74</a>
<b>- R -</b>			
Retamoza, Manuel	Nominating Committee	2C	<a href="#">69</a>
Roth, Frank A.	Board of Pensions	7F	<a href="#">46</a>
<b>- S -</b>			
Salber, Thomas W.	Committee on Discipline	7F	<a href="#">68</a>
Schlouch, Samuel F.	Nominating Committee	5B	<a href="#">75</a>
Schnekloth, Clint	Publishing House of the ELCA	4C	<a href="#">49</a>
Schwartz, Leon J.	Board of Pensions	5D	<a href="#">44</a>
Shermoen, Steven M.	Committee on Discipline	3E	<a href="#">67</a>
Shock, Kevin T.	Church Council	8C	<a href="#">17</a>
Skelton-Bendtsen, Brenda F.	Church Council	5J	<a href="#">20</a>
Smith, Christine M.	Publishing House of the ELCA	5K	<a href="#">52</a>
Smith, Pamela I.	Publishing House of the ELCA	9D	<a href="#">50</a>

Sparapani, Ervin F.	Church Council	5G	<a href="#"><u>24</u></a>
Stumme-Diers, Paul W.	Board of Pensions	1B	<a href="#"><u>37</u></a>
Swanson, Elizabeth-Ann (Becky) I.	Board of Pensions	6F	<a href="#"><u>40</u></a>
Swenson-Reinhold, Samuel P.	Nominating Committee	8G	<a href="#"><u>75</u></a>
<b>- T -</b>			
Tatum, Lorie B.	Church Council	9F	<a href="#"><u>18</u></a>
Tiede, Kathryn A.	Nominating Committee	3H	<a href="#"><u>70</u></a>
Troutman, Susan P.	Mission Investment Fund	9C	<a href="#"><u>32</u></a>
<b>- V -</b>			
Vos, James B.	Board of Pensions	3G	<a href="#"><u>45</u></a>
<b>- W -</b>			
Wagner, Emma K. Watkins-	Church Council	8F	<a href="#"><u>22</u></a>
Branch, Michele E.	Publishing House of the ELCA	Methodist	<a href="#"><u>55</u></a>
Winchell, Kim M.	Committee on Discipline	6B	<a href="#"><u>65</u></a>
Wirtanen, Philip L.	Church Council	5G	<a href="#"><u>24</u></a>
<b>- Y -</b>			
Yetman, Jill	Publishing House of the ELCA	1B	<a href="#"><u>51</u></a>
Yoos, Sara	Committee on Discipline	1B	<a href="#"><u>61</u></a>
<b>- Z -</b>			
Zimmann, Seth M.	Church Council	8D	<a href="#"><u>28</u></a>

## Church Council

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

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly elected 11 council members who had been nominated by synods and whose terms end in 2017. That assembly also adopted a new structure for the Church Council that included a range of 33 to 45 members in addition to the four officers and the chair of the Conference of Bishops.

As the ELCA prepared for its transition from a biennial to a triennial election cycle, the 2013 Churchwide Assembly elected members to the maximum number, ensuring that, when the terms of continuing members ended in 2015 and 2017, the membership of the council would remain within its range.

Eleven synods have named nominees for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly to consider for election to the Church Council. The Nominating Committee has nominated two female youth from Region 6 and two male youth for possible election to the council.

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly will elect about half of the Church Council members, with 16 synods naming nominees, in accordance with a triennial election cycle.

**Restrictions:** For tickets 1–11, nominations to the Church Council are made by designated synods. Floor nominations can be made only by the designated synods and only in the event that one of the nominees no longer is eligible for election. The nominations of the Delaware-Maryland Synod are to be youth or young adults.

One youth position must be from Region 6. Nominees from the Southwestern Washington (1C) and Sierra Pacific (2A) synods and the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5K) are not possible at this time.

### Slate of Nominees – Synod Nominations

1. **Ordained Minister (*Northeastern Iowa, 5F*)**
  - A. Pr. Chad M. Huebner, Decorah, Iowa
  - B. Pr. Dave A. Nerdig, Jewell, Iowa
2. **Ordained Minister (*Allegheny Synod, 8C*)**
  - A. Pr. Dena M. Gable, Somerset, Pa.
  - B. Pr. Kevin T. Shock, Pleasant Gap, Pa.
3. **Ordained Minister (*Caribbean Synod, 9F*)**
  - A. Pr. Martin J. Lopez-Vega, Dorado, Puerto Rico
  - B. Pr. Lorie B. Tatum, Charlotte Amalie, U.S. Virgin Islands
4. **Lay Female (*Minneapolis Area Synod, 3G*)**
  - A. Ms. Felecia A. Boone, Minneapolis, Minn.
  - B. Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman, Minneapolis, Minn.
5. **Lay Female (*Greater Milwaukee Synod, 5J*)**
  - A. Ms. Carolyn D. Jewett, Milwaukee, Wis.
  - B. Ms. Brenda F. Skelton-Bendtsen, Milwaukee, Wis.
6. **Lay Female (*Slovak Zion Synod, 7G*)**
  - A. Ms. Lisa A. Burk, Torrington, Conn.
  - B. Ms. Andrea Micovsky, Windsor, Ontario
7. **Lay Female (Y/YA) (*Delaware-Maryland Synod, 8F*)**
  - A. Ms. Colleen M. Carpenter-Gonia, Aberdeen, Md.
  - B. Ms. Emma K. Wagner, Baltimore, Md.
8. **Lay Male (*Southeastern Iowa, 5D*)**
  - A. Mr. Quentin R. Boyken, Windsor Heights, Iowa
  - B. Mr. Joseph T. Nolte, Des Moines, Iowa

9. **Lay Male (*Northern Great Lakes Synod, 5G*)**
  - A. Mr. Ervin F. Sparapani, Norway, Mich.
  - B. Mr. Philip L. Wirtanen, Ironwood, Mich.
10. **Lay Male (*Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, 7E*)**
  - A. Mr. Robert J. Cimerol, New Tripoli, Pa.
  - B. Mr. James J.F. Jennings, Bangor, Pa.
11. **Lay Male (*Southeastern Synod, 9D*)**
  - A. Mr. Hilton M. Austin Jr., Lilburn, Ga.
  - B. Mr. Gary A. Pederson, Peachtree City, Ga.

#### **Slate of Nominees – Youth Nominations**

12. **Lay Female (*Y*) (*Region 6*) [Three-Year Term]**
  - A. Ms. Halle E. Bledsoe, Cincinnati, Ohio (6F)
  - B. Ms. Emilee M. Le Blanc, Dearborn, Mich. (6A)
13. **Lay Male (*Y*) [Three-Year Term]**
  - A. Mr. Adam M. Fairchild, Westminster, Md. (8F)
  - B. Mr. Seth M. Zimmann, Mechanicsburg, Pa. (8D)

#### **Continuing members of the Church Council**

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton  
 Secretary Wm Chris Boerger  
 Treasurer Linda O. Norman  
 Bp. William O. Gafkjen, chair of the Conference of Bishops

##### **Ordained Minister**

Pr. Elizabeth E. Ekdale, San Francisco, Calif. (2A) [2017]  
 Pr. Vicki T. Garber, Lakeside Park, Ky. (6C) [2017]  
 Pr. Joyce M. Graue, Raymond, Minn. (3F) [2019]  
 Pr. Stephen R. Herr, Gettysburg, Pa. (8D) [2017]  
 Pr. Peder J. Johanson, Brodhead, Wis. (5K) [2019]  
 Pr. Loren D. Mellum, Moorhead, Minn. (3D) [2017]  
 Pr. Linda Nou, Olympia, Wash. (1C) [2019]  
 Pr. James H. Utt, Winchester, Va. (9A) [2019]  
 Pr. Michael R. Ward, Fletcher, N.C. (9B) [2019]

##### **Ordained Minister (PC/L)**

Pr. William E. Flippin Jr., Atlanta, Ga. (9D) [2019]  
 Pr. William O. Voss, Gering, Neb. (4A) [2019]

##### **Ordained Minister (Y/YA)**

Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson, Bismarck, N.D. (3A) [2019]

##### **Lay Female**

Ms. Christine P. Connell, Staten Island, N.Y. (7C) [2017]  
 Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson, Tulsa, Okla. (4C) [2019]  
 Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli, San Diego, Calif. (2C) [2019]  
 Ms. Pamela E. Pritt, Hillsboro, W.Va. (8H) [2017]  
 Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford, Evanston, Ill. (5A) [2019]  
 Ms. Leslie Swenson, Fairbanks, Alaska (1A) [2019]

##### **Lay Female (PC/L)**

Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis, Worthington, Ohio (6F) [2017]

##### **Lay Female (Y/YA)**

Ms. Maren Hulden, Moorhead, Minn. (3D) [2019]

##### **Lay Female (PC/L) (Y/YA)**

Ms. Amanda E. Briggs, Oakland, Calif. (2A) [2019]

##### **Lay Male**

Mr. Paul G. Archer, Dearborn, Mich. (6A) [2017]  
 Mr. Allan J. Bieber, Rochester, Minn. (3I) [2019]  
 Mr. Reid A. Christopherson, Garretson, S.D. (3C) [2019]  
 Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson, Colorado Springs, Colo. (2E) [2017]  
 Mr. James M. Hushagen, Tacoma, Wash. (1C) [2019]  
 Mr. John W. Lohrmann, Walla Walla, Wash. (1D) [2019]  
 Mr. John M. Pederson, Mayville, N.D. (3B) [2017]  
 Mr. Vernon Veal, Bloomington, Ill. (5C) [2019]

##### **Lay Male (PC/L)**

Mr. Clarence M. Smith, Boston, Mass. (7B) [2019]

##### **Lay Male (Y/YA)**

Mr. Hans E. Becklin, Middleton, Wis. (5K) [2019]

## **Mission Investment Fund**

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

At its April 2015 meeting, the Church Council elected the Rev. John E. Mack Jr., Ms. Heather Miller and Mr. Fernando Mercado to a one-year term expiring in 2016 and authorized Mr. Warren M. Hanson to continue serving on the board for 2015-2016. This was necessitated by the transition from a biennial to a triennial election cycle.

All trustees whose terms expire in 2016 are eligible for re-election by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

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

### **Slate of Nominees**

#### **14. Ordained Minister (PC/L)**

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

#### **15. Lay Female**

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

#### **16. Lay Female**

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

#### **17. Lay Female**

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

#### **18. Lay Male (PC/L)**

- A. Mr. Robert James Chillison II, Los Angeles, Calif. (2B) \*

#### **19. Lay Male**

- A. Mr. Paul M. Opgrande, University Place, Wash. (1C)
- B. Mr. Roger W. Paulsberg, Chicago, Ill. (5A)

#### **20. Lay Male**

- A. Mr. Michael F. Fallon Jr., Haddonfield, N.J. (7A)
- B. Mr. Donn M. Gehret, Spokane, Wash. (1D)

#### **21. Lay Male**

- A. Mr. Mark E. Fiebrink, Naples, Fla. (9E)
- B. Mr. Frederick H. Heintz, Sylvania, Ohio (6D)

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## **Continuing Trustees of the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA**

### **Ordained Minister (PC/L)**

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

### **Lay Female (PC/L)**

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

### **Lay Male**

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



## **ELCA Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services)**

Trustees of the ELCA Board of Pensions (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 in the election of a trustee from a church body with which this church is in a relationship of full communion; up to two such trustees may serve as long as they are not from the same church body.

At its April 2015 meeting, the Church Council elected Mr. John R. Hoffman to a one-year term expiring in 2016 and authorized Ms. Janette E. Drew, Ms. Lisa A. Kro, Ms. Kathleen K. Mooney and Ms. Jill A. Schumann to continue serving on the board of trustees for 2015-2016. This was necessitated by the transition from a biennial to a triennial election cycle.

All trustees whose terms expire in 2016 are eligible for re-election by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

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

**Restrictions:** Nominees from the Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A) are not possible at this time.

The 2016 Churchwide Assembly must elect three plan participants(†), including at least one lay plan member or lay recipient of plan benefits.

### **Slate of Nominees**

#### **22. Ordained Minister (Plan Participant)**

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

#### **23. Lay Female (PC/L)**

- A. Ms. Janette E. Drew, Walnut Creek, Calif. (2A) \*

#### **24. Lay Female (PC/L)**

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

#### **25. Lay Female**

- A. Ms. Lori A. Kirkland, Rochester, Minn. (3I)
- B. Sr. Elizabeth-Ann (Becky) I. Swanson, Columbus, Ohio (6F) †

#### **26. Lay Male**

- A. Mr. Peter J. Enko, Overland Park, Kan. (4B) \*

#### **27. Lay Male**

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

#### **28. Lay Male**

- A. Mr. Bruce E. Johnson M.D., Roanoke, Va. (9A) \*

#### **29. Lay Male**

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

#### **30. Lay Male**

- A. Mr. John A. Dexheimer, Stamford, Conn. (7B)
- B. Mr. James B. Vos, St. Louis Park, Minn. (3G)

**31. Lay Male**

- A. Mr. Mark S. Helmke, San Antonio, Texas (4E)
- B. Mr. Frank A. Roth, Ardmore, Pa. (7F)

**32. Full Communion (Plan Participant)**

- A. Pr. Adam J. Copeland, St. Paul, Minn. (Presbyterian) †

**33. Full Communion**

- A. Ms. Pamela S. Moench, St. Louis, Mo. (Methodist) \*

†Plan participant

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**Continuing Trustees of the ELCA Board of Pensions**

**Ordained Minister**

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

**Lay Female**

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

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

**Lay Male**

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

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

## **Publishing House of the ELCA**

Trustees of the publishing house 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 in the election of a trustee from a church body with which this church is in a relationship of full communion; up to two such trustees may serve as long as they are not from the same church body.

At its April 2015 meeting, the Church Council elected Mr. Daniel G. Currell to a one-year term expiring in August 2016 and authorized Mr. Robert D. Hahn, Ms. Rosemary R. Ohles and the Rev. Winston D. Persaud to continue serving on the board of trustees from August 2015 to August 2016. This was necessitated by the transition from a biennial to triennial election cycle.

All trustees whose terms expire in 2016 are eligible for re-election by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

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

### **Slate of Nominees**

#### **34. Ordained Minister**

- A. Pr. Clint Schnekloth, Fayetteville, Ark. (4C) \*

#### **35. Ordained Minister**

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

#### **36. Lay Female**

- A. Ms. Lisa J. Peck, Overland Park, Kan. (4B)
- B. Ms. Jill Yetman, Seattle, Wash. (1B)

#### **37. Lay Female**

- A. Ms. Christine M. Morse, Long Lake, Minn. (3G)
- B. Ms. Christine M. Smith, Waunakee, Wis. (5K)

#### **38. Lay Male**

- A. Mr. Daniel G. Currell, Eagan, Minn. (3H) \*

#### **39. Lay Male**

- A. Mr. Robert T. Flynn, Woodland Hills, Calif. (2B) \*

#### **40. Full Communion (PC/L)**

- A. Pr. Michele E. Watkins-Branch, Englewood, Colo. (Methodist)

#### **41. Full Communion**

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

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## **Continuing Trustees of the Publishing House of the ELCA**

### **Ordained Minister (PC/L)**

Pr. José R. Valenzuela, Phoenix, Ariz. (2D) [2017]

### **Lay Female**

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

### **Lay Female (Y/YA)**

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

### **Lay Male (PC/L)**

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

## **Committee on Appeals**

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

The 2009 Churchwide Assembly elected two ordained ministers, one lay female and one lay male to a six-year term that ended in 2015.

In accordance with continuing resolution 20.64.A13., at its November 2015 meeting, the Church Council elected the Rev. Cheryl Meinschein Hausman, the Rev. E. Roy Riley, Ms. Louise A. Hemstead and Mr. Kevin D. Anderson to serve on the Committee on Appeals until the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. These individuals are eligible for re-election by the assembly, having served less than half a term.

The process invoked by continuing resolution 20.64.A13. will be repeated in 2017, and the 2019 Churchwide Assembly may complete the transition to a triennial election cycle by electing half of the committee's membership.

### **Slate of Nominees**

#### **42. Ordained Minister (YA)**

- A. Pr. Fritz E. Fowler, Philadelphia, Pa. (7F)
- B. Pr. Jennifer M. McLellan, Allendale, N.J. (7A)

#### **43. Ordained Minister**

- A. Pr. Cheryl Meinschein Hausman, Fleetwood, Pa. (7E) \*

#### **44. Lay Female**

- A. Ms. Louise A. Hemstead, La Farge, Wis. (5L) \*

#### **45. Lay Male**

- A. Mr. Kevin D. Anderson, Gaithersburg, Md. (8G) \*

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## **Continuing Members of the Committee on Appeals**

### **Ordained Minister**

Pr. Julie A. Ebbesen, Minneapolis, Minn. (3G) [2019]  
Pr. Mark R. Ramseth, Bozeman, Mont. (1F) [2019]  
Pr. Paul R. Swanson, Happy Valley, Ore. (1E) [2017]

### **Ordained Minister (PC/L)**

Pr. Kimberly A. Vaughn, Hamilton Square, N.J. (7A) [2017]

### **Lay Female**

Ms. Kristina D. Garabedian, Fresno, Calif. (2A) [2019]

### **Lay Female (PC/L)**

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

### **Lay Male**

Mr. Mark E. Johnson, Sammamish, Wash. (1B) [2019]  
Mr. Robert W. Tuttle, Washington, D.C. (8G) [2017]

## Committee on Discipline

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

The continuing membership of the committee, after the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, will consist of 14 ordained ministers, seven lay females and seven lay males, which is within its required range and composition. However, the assembly may elect four ordained ministers, two lay females and two lay males to bring the committee to its maximum membership. The 2019 Churchwide Assembly may then complete the transition to a triennial election cycle, electing half of the committee's members.

**Restrictions:** Nominees from the Southwest California (2B), Saint Paul Area (3H), Central States (4B), Northeastern Ohio (6E), New England (7B), Allegheny (8C) and Florida-Bahamas (9E) synods are not possible at this time.

### Slate of Nominees

#### 46. Ordained Minister (PC/L)

- A. Pr. Linda Boston, San Francisco, Calif. (2A)
- B. Pr. Sara Yoos, Bothell, Wash. (1B)

#### 47. Ordained Minister (PC/L)

- A. Pr. Yehiel Curry, Riverdale, Ill. (5A)
- B. Pr. Maritza Torres-Dolich, Allentown, Pa. (7E)

#### 48. Ordained Minister

- A. Pr. Paul E. Lutter, Austin, Minn. (3F)
- B. Pr. Jeffrey M. Otterman, Yankton, S.D. (3C)

#### 49. Ordained Minister

- A. Pr. Christine M. Bellefeuille, Golden Valley, Minn. (3G)
- B. Pr. Corinne R. Johnson, Wallace, Mich. (5G)

#### 50. Lay Female (Rostered)

- A. Sr. Clare Josef-Maier, Seattle, Wash. (1B)
- B. Ms. Kim M. Winchell, Saginaw, Mich. (6B)

#### 51. Lay Female

- A. Ms. Robin B. Kaelin, Hamilton, Ohio (6F)
- B. Ms. Johanna (Jody) T. Marquardt, Wenatchee, Wash. (1D)
- C. Ms. Holly L. Schmitt, Munhall, Pa. (8B)

#### 52. Lay Male

- A. Mr. Joel T. Kangas, Fargo, N.D. (3B)
- B. Mr. Steven M. Shermoen, International Falls, Minn. (3E)

#### 53. Lay Male

- A. Mr. John I. Gordon, Lafayette Hill, Pa. (7F)
  - B. Mr. Thomas W. Salber, Philadelphia, Pa. (7F)
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## **Continuing Members of the Committee on Discipline**

### **Ordained Minister**

Pr. Jay E. Denne, Sioux City, Iowa (5E) [2017]  
Pr. Michael A. Dubsky, Sykesville, Md. (8F) [2019]  
Pr. Robert R. Henderson, Chagrin Falls, Ohio (6E) [2017]  
Pr. David J. Klawiter, Owatonna, Minn. (3I) [2017]  
Pr. John D. Kreidler, Kearney, Mo. (4B) [2019]  
Pr. Laurie A. Natwick, Moorhead, Minn. (3D) [2017]  
Pr. Duane C. Pederson, Oxford, Conn. (7B) [2019]  
Pr. JoAnn A. Post, Northfield, Ill. (5A) [2017]  
Pr. Rebecca R. Richie, Canfield, Ohio (6E) [2019]  
Pr. Vicki A. Taylor, Deer River, Minn. (3E) [2017]  
Pr. Rita G. Tweed, Palm Harbor, Fla. (9E) [2017]  
Pr. Deanna M. Wildermuth, Mercer Island, Wash. (1B) [2017]

### **Ordained Minister (PC/L)**

Pr. Dinah E. Dutta, Lawrence, Kan. (4B) [2019]

### **Ordained Minister (Y/YA)**

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

### **Lay Female**

Sr. Sylvia S. Countess, Knoxville, Tenn. (9D) [2019]  
Ms. Kathy Patrick, Bellaire, Texas (4F) [2017]  
Ms. Nancy M. Reed, Luray, Va. (9A) [2019]  
Ms. Cheryl G. Stuart, Tallahassee, Fla. (9E) [2017]

### **Lay Female (PC/L)**

Ms. Kathleen V. Elliott Chillison, Los Angeles, Calif. (2B) [2019]

### **Lay Female (Y/YA)**

Ms. Anna K. Helgen, White Bear Lake, Minn. (3H) [2017]  
Ms. Hannah L. Knauss, Martinsburg, Pa. (8C) [2019]

### **Lay Male**

Mr. John Emery, Fond du Lac, Wis. (5I) [2019]  
Mr. Kevin K. Fitzgerald, Pasadena, Calif. (2B) [2017]  
Mr. Ronald C. Gubrud, Dallas, Texas (4D) [2019]  
Mr. Henry Harms, Springfield, Ill. (5C) [2017]  
Mr. William R. Lloyd Jr., Somerset, Pa. (8C) [2017]

### **Lay Male (PC/L)**

Mr. Todd A. Perkins, Detroit, Mich. (6A) [2019]

### **Lay Male (Y/YA)**

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

## Nominating Committee

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

If the 2016 Churchwide Assembly elects the maximum number of members to the Nominating Committee, the 2019 Churchwide Assembly may complete the transition to a triennial election cycle and elect half of the committee's members. The regional requirement will make it more important for the Church Council to identify nominees by region.

**Restrictions:** Nominees from Region 1 are not possible at this time. Additional nominees from Regions 3 and 8 must be paired on a ticket with someone from that region.

At least one member must be elected from each of Regions 2, 3 and 6. At least one youth or young adult must be elected.

### Slate of Nominees

#### 54. Ordained Minister (PC/L)

- A. Pr. Manuel Retamoza, San Diego, Calif. (2C)
- B. Pr. Nathan V.A. Luong, Saint Peter, Minn. (3F)

#### 55. Ordained Minister

- A. Pr. Brandi Jo Hacker, Madison, Ohio (6E)
- B. Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede, Lino Lakes, Minn. (3H)

#### 56. Lay Female (Region 7)

- A. Ms. Joyce D. Adams, East Lansdowne, Pa. (7F)
- B. Ms. Julie P. Grindle, Baldwinsville, N.Y. (7D)

#### 57. Lay Male (Region 2)

- A. Mr. Robert T. Flynn, Woodland Hills, Calif. (2B)
- B. Mr. Louis Moehlman, Garden Grove, Calif. (2C)

#### 58. Lay Male (Region 3)

- A. Mr. Zachary C. Baker, Minneapolis, Minn. (3G)
- B. Mr. Raul Garcia III, Brooklyn Park, Minn. (3G)

#### 59. Lay Male (Region 6)

- A. Mr. Roy E. Hart, Lancaster, Ohio (6F)
- B. Mr. Bryan L. Penvose, Valley City, Ohio (6E)

#### 60. Lay Male (Y/YA)

- A. Mr. Samuel F. Schlouch, Rock Island, Ill. (5B)
- B. Mr. Samuel P. Swenson-Reinhold, Fairfax, Va. (8G)

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### Continuing Members of the Nominating Committee

#### Ordained Minister

Pr. Eric N. Carlson, Clive, Iowa (5D) [2019]  
Pr. Ruth E. Hamilton, Atlanta, Ga. (9D) [2019]  
Pr. Stephen A. Keiser, Philadelphia, Pa. (7F) [2019]

#### Lay Female

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

#### Lay Female (PC/L)

Ms. Linda M. Chinnia, Baltimore, Md. (8F) [2017]  
Ms. Stacy D. Kitahata, Seattle, Wash. (1B) [2019]

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

#### Lay Female (Y/YA)

Ms. Emily Isensee, Vancouver, Wash. (1C) [2019]

#### Lay Male

Mr. Jordan Krey, Quincy, Mass. (7B) [2019]

#### Lay Male (PC/L)

Mr. Tommie L. Robinson Jr., Washington, D.C. (8G) [2019]

# 1. Church Council: Ordained Minister (*Restricted to Northeastern Iowa Synod, 5F*)

## A. The Rev. Chad M. Huebner

Northeastern Iowa Synod (5F)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
First Lutheran Church (ID: 10907) - Decorah, IA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
NEIA Synod Candidacy Committee  
Ohio Multi-Synodical Candidacy Committee  
North Carolina Synod Assembly Resolutions Committee
- 3) *Education*  
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Master Of Divinity  
Ohio University, Bachelor Of Fine Arts
- 4) *Employment*  
Senior Pastor, First Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1973
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

It is an exciting time to be the Church, and I feel called to be a part of the conversation and work that God, by the Holy Spirit, is calling us into.

I am proud of the work the ELCA has done, and continues to do to live out our baptismal calling. I am excited about the work we are doing to build closer relationships with other Christians, and also tearing down walls of fear and misunderstanding with our sisters and brothers from other faiths. I am passionate about the ongoing work of including those on the margins in the life and ministry of the Church. I have passion for raising up leaders that will embrace the richness of our tradition with eyes focused ahead on the new things God is doing.

I have served 17 years as a Pastor in various contexts. I have gifts for discernment, community/team building, leadership, communication, organization, and a deep love for Christ and the Church that I believe to be valuable tools to add to the others God is calling to serve in this capacity

## B. The Rev. Dave A. Nerdig

Northeastern Iowa Synod (5F)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
Bethesda Lutheran Church (ID: 11012) - Jewell, IA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
Riverside Conference Dean, Northeastern Iowa Synod  
Southeastern Iowa Synod Council & Executive Committee Member  
Conference One Dean Southeastern Iowa Synod
- 3) *Education*  
Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD, Bachelor Of Arts  
Luther Theological Seminary, St Paul, MN, Master Of Divinity  
Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, IA, Master Of Sacred Theology
- 4) *Employment*  
Pastor, Bethesda Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1954
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

A church that is healthy in all of its expressions as congregation, synod, and the whole ELCA is vital for the proclamation of the good news of Jesus in word and deed. The Church Council promotes that health as connecting tissue between those expressions. My experience within the church and my personal gifts have prompted me answer a request to consider a call to serve on that council.

I have served in a variety of ministries and settings. I served as youth worker, and as assistant, solo, senior and co-pastor. I served in communities of under 1500 and in metropolitan areas. I served a congregation with weekly attendance of 25 and was senior pastor of a congregation with over 600 weekly worshippers. I studied at Tantur in Jerusalem and twice visited our companion parish in Tanzania. To the council I bring the gifts of listening, collaboration, discernment, creative problem solving, humor, and the ability to weave grace into relationship and structure.



## 2. Church Council: Ordained Minister (*Restricted to Allegheny Synod, 8C*)

### A. The Rev. Dena M. Gable

Allegheny Synod (8C)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

Mount Zion Lutheran Church (ID: 01354) - Somerset, PA

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

Conference Dean

Allegheny Synod Global Mission Team

Allegheny Synod Worship Team

#### 3) *Education*

Bemidji State University, Bachelor Of Arts

Wartburg Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity

#### 4) *Employment*

Pastor, Lavansville-Bakersville Lutheran Parish

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1981

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

It is an exciting time of change in the church. I look forward to discerning together a way into the future, always focusing on the hope we have in Christ. I believe it is an important part of our ministry to work together, listen, and focus on the mission we are given.

I have had the opportunity to work with global mission teams in two synods. In Seminary I also had the opportunity to study particular work for justice and peace through a historic relationship with the church in Namibia. From this work, I bring the practice of listening to global perspectives, an understanding of the Church as one that works together in all places, and a strong desire to strengthen our mission for the sake of the world.

As a member of churchwide council I would hope to gain greater insight into the work we do as a denomination, help to be a bridge of communication from churchwide to my congregations and synod, and work to continue a focus on proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ in all that we do.

### B. The Rev. Kevin T. Shock

Allegheny Synod (8C)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

St Mark Lutheran Church (ID: 01222) - Pleasant Gap, PA

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

Allegheny Synod Council

Lutheran Council for Campus Ministry at Penn State Board

Dean, Nittany Conference, Allegheny Synod

#### 3) *Education*

Juniata College, Bachelor Of Arts In Ed.

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Master Of Divinity

#### 4) *Employment*

Pastor, St. Mark Lutheran Church

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1975

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

At various points in my faith formation, I have encountered people whose experiences are different from my own. Through them I learned the importance of listening well. There are people in our own church body who have much to teach us, but whose voices often go unheard. As a member of Churchwide Council, I will push us to listen more intently to People of Color, people whose cultural heritage comes from outside of northern Europe, and the LGBTQ+ community. Our Lutheran theological roots, heard through a variety of perspectives and experiences, can lead us into a broader place of justice and peace for all people. I look forward to what God will reveal to us, and the greater work that God will call us into, as we honor more voices in our church body.

On Allegheny Synod Council, I gained some courage to share ideas and raise questions that would stretch us in our vision for the work that God in Christ is calling us to. I hope to continue that work on Churchwide Council.

### 3. Church Council: Ordained Minister (*Restricted to Caribbean Synod, 9F*)

**A. The Rev. Martín J. Lopez-Vega**  
Caribbean Synod (9F)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Getsemaní (ID: 00009) -  
Dorado, PR
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
At the present time serving as full time Pastor  
at the present time President of Latino Lutheran Ministry  
Association  
At the present time Member of the Latino Team Strategy
- 3) *Education*  
Evangelical Seminar of Puerto Rico, Master Of Divinity  
Interamerican University of Puerto Rico, Bachelor Of  
Business Admin
- 4) *Employment*
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1968
- 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?*

The sense of God calling in my life, mission and Service to the E.L.C.A. is a process of daily discernment, reflection and prayers. Listening to the long of the peoples and reassurance the grace of God in their lives.

The sense of God calling through the Church Council is to hear that the church has to say about issues that are directly affecting us and address them under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

But not all is spiritual. I like team work, sharing thoughts and ideas and develop them in a structured way. English may not be my first language but, I am capable of listening to others and express my feeling and thought. I am a respectful and sincere person.

In experience life has given me enough. In the ministry I have almost four years as ordained pastor and one year as president of the Latino Lutheran Ministry Association as well in LTS. Also I have the full desire and trust in God to serve with my hand, skills, and experience in His work.

**B. The Rev. Lorie B. Tatum**  
Caribbean Synod (9F)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
Frederick Lutheran Church (ID: 00001) - Charlotte Amalie, VI
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
ASCENSION LUTHERAN, LOS ANGELES, CA (YOUTH AND FAMILIES MINISTRY)  
MESSIAH LUTHERAN, LOS ANGELES, CA (INTERNSHIP-CALLED PASTOR)  
ETHNIC MINISTRIES COORDINATOR, SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
- 3) *Education*  
LA SOUTHWEST COLLEGE, Associates Degree In The Arts  
BIOLA UNIVERSITY, Bachelor Of Science  
PACIFIC LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, Teem Program
- 4) *Employment*  
PASTOR, FREDERICK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1963
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
African American/Black Non-Hispanic
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English

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

I have always felt a sense of call in the ministries of advocacy and social justice. As a result, I believe "we who are many are one body, and each member belongs to one another". That said, since the formation of the ELCA in 1988, there was a 25 year goal for our church to be 10% multicultural. After 28 years, the ELCA has only become 3% multicultural. I believe there is a need to be more intentional with our energy and effort throughout our church to achieve this modest goal.

I have served in the city of Los Angeles as faith-rooted, multi-faith community organizer and policy advocate in the program areas of parent engagement in public schools, recidivism reduction for ex-offenders and consumer education with emphasis on public utilities.

In the ELCA, I have served as congregation redeveloper, youth and families minister, synod coordinator for ethnic specific ministries and national president of the African Descent Lutheran Association.

#### **4. Church Council: Lay Female (*Restricted to Minneapolis Area Synod, 3G*)**

##### **A. Ms. Felecia A. Boone**

Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)

##### *1) Congregational membership*

Calvary Lutheran Church (ID: 03132) - Minneapolis, MN

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

Calvary Council - currently serving

##### *3) Education*

Wartburg College, Bachelor Of Arts

##### *4) Employment*

HR Representative, Sr./Senior Learning and Development  
Consultant, Hennepin County

##### *5) Year of birth*

1969

##### *6) Ethnicity*

African American/Black Non-Hispanic

##### *7) Primary Language*

English

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

I started to feel rumblings of a call to work more fully in the church last summer during our pastor's sabbatical. We called a pastor couple to minister with us specifically about racial justice. Jerrett and Laura were instrumental in holding space for those few of us of color in the congregation to share our stories of racial injustice not only in the secular world but the Christian community as well. I feel called to illustrate that Lutheran doesn't only mean White Scandinavian; I grew up in and was educated in Lutheran institutions. For these reasons and many others, I currently serve on my church council and executive committee as well as our racial equity committee. I want us to be authentically radically welcoming of all God's children. I believe that I have a lot to learn about the national working of the church and I have a lot to share in personal experience as well as professional. As an adult educator of many topics, I'm most passionate about leadership, diversity, & trust.

##### **B. Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman**

Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)

##### *1) Congregational membership*

Redeemer Lutheran Church (ID: 03030) - Minneapolis, MN

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

Minneapolis Stewardship Committee  
Assistant Director of Colleges and Universities  
North Carolina Synod Council

##### *3) Education*

University of North Carolina @Greensboro, Doctor Of  
Education  
Iowa State University, Master Of Science  
Bethune-Cookman College, Bachelor Of Science

##### *4) Employment*

Executive Vice President and Dean of Diversity, Concordia  
University

##### *5) Year of birth*

1953

##### *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 love to be introduced to opportunities and possibilities that connect to my purpose in life, then to experience where and how my purpose will be further fulfilled in these new & unexpected ways. I believe that serving on Church Council will provide avenues that connect to my purpose, which is always unfolding.

My preparation for election to the church council has been developing through the strong skills and experiences I've acquired over the past years in my roles as director of various programs and organizations, as Assistant Director for Colleges and Universities of the ELCA, and currently as Executive Vice President and Dean of Diversity at Concordia University, St. Paul. I've served on numerous boards, such as Lutheran Social Services; Luther Seminary; LINC, Twin Cities; Lutheran Education Foundation of Minnesota; Minnesota American Council on Education Network; and on the planning committee of numerous conferences, training and community events.

## 5. Church Council: Lay Female (*Restricted to Greater Milwaukee Synod, 5J*)

### A. Ms. Carolyn D. Jewett

Greater Milwaukee Synod (5J)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

All Peoples Gathering Lutheran Church (ID: 30144) -  
Milwaukee, WI

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

Women Ministry  
WELCA Board  
Women Sunday School teacher

#### 3) *Education*

Springfield College, Bachelor Of Science

#### 4) *Employment*

Neighborhood Minister, All Peoples Lutheran Church

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1961

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

African American/Black Non-Hispanic

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

God calling for me is to work with the people in the community around 2nd and Clark. The Church provide a safe haven for them. It is a place where they can come together and talk about housing, unemployment, and what is happening in their community.

I help them by listening, offering them a meal, food and understanding of what they are going thru. I like to motivate them because of my past dealings with drugs, homelessness and just being a part of their community.

I can give my opinion of what it means to be Black in a organization of Whites and share my opinion of what need to be changed from a perspective of being a member for over 20 years.

### B. Ms. Brenda F. Skelton-Bendtzen

Greater Milwaukee Synod (5J)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

All Peoples Gathering Lutheran Church (ID: 30144) -  
Milwaukee, WI

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

Served as preschool Sunday School teacher at local congregation  
Capital campaign committee, Resurrection Lutheran  
Capital campaign committee, Atonement Lutheran

#### 3) *Education*

University of Missouri, Bachelor Of Science

#### 4) *Employment*

President, Siebert Lutheran Foundation

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1955

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

My background in marketing, communications and change management/people management, primarily in the private sector, brings a perspective to issues within the church that is sometimes lacking. The scope of the change needed within our Church, our congregations and ourselves in order to reach the Millennials with the message of God's saving love is dramatic, far beyond the imagination of what our human brains can comprehend. I believe we need to rely on the best data and research available about how to connect with Millennials and the more diverse face of the global majority, put those practices into place and get ourselves out of the way in order to let the Holy Spirit work. God has granted me with the gifts to ask questions and challenge the status quo, using data as evidence of the need for change. If the ELCA does not really want to consider systemic change, I would not be a good choice: my passion is not around maintaining the status quo. I leave the rest to God.

## 6. Church Council: Lay Female (*Restricted to Slovak Zion Synod, 7G*)

### A. Ms. Lisa A. Burk

Slovak Zion Synod (7G)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 05560) - Torrington, CT

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

treasurer

vice president

#### 3) *Education*

#### 4) *Employment*

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1962

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I have felt the tug of God calling me into mission and service for twenty-five years. I have served on the congregational level as assisting minister, council president, bible study member and participant in youth, educational activities and church events. As a teacher/dorm parent for learning-different high school children for 17 years I was able to involve students in church activities. I experienced wider mission in the church by participating at Synod Assembly and events and through 3 Slovak Zion Synod mission trips and was able to see global projects and meet with our global companions. As a registered nurse and Advance Practice Registered Nurse I value how our Code of Ethics guides us in holistic care and values spirituality in the life of our patients. As I reflect on the various ways that God has called me to serve in the church and through my vocation, I see that these various experiences are ways in which God has prepared me for further service in the wider church.

### B. Ms. Andrea Micovsky

Slovak Zion Synod (7G)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

Nativity Lutheran Church (ID: 05534) - Windsor, ON

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

Church Council Vice President

#### 3) *Education*

University of Economics, Bratislava, Slovakia, Master Of Business Administration

#### 4) *Employment*

Assistant Branch Manager, BMO Bank of Montreal

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1961

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I was nominated for the term on the ELCA Church Council. It was not something I openly thought about or directly considered. I put my trust that everything He places in my life is everything that I can handle.

I am a leader—this is not a glorified admission but Rev. a simple fact. I still lead my adult children and help them develop not because it's necessary but because they demand it. I lead my church and give my time to help it succeed. I lead my branch and all those thriving in its walls to successes. I lead because God instructs me to lead. He places me in instances of leadership and instructs me to use my faith, my heart and my intellect to make decisions. With faith in God and constant prayer I try to do all of these things. What sort of gifts and skills do I bring? I bring the voice of a mother. The voice of a wife. A church council member. A congregation member. A woman of faith. The member of a small, ethnic Synod. A woman of business and a child of God.

## 7. Church Council: Lay Female (Y/YA) (Restricted to Delaware-Maryland Synod, 8F)

**A. Ms. Colleen M. Carpenter-Gonia**  
Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
St Paul Lutheran Church (ID: 10255) - Aberdeen, MD
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
Practice Discipleship Coach, DEMD Synod
- 3) *Education*  
California Lutheran University, Bachelor Of Arts  
Goucher College, Master Of Arts
- 4) *Employment*  
Director of Student Ministries, St. Paul's Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1991
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I've always felt called to serve in the larger church because I have a deep love for systems as a whole and for working for a system that works for the "sake of the world."

In terms of skills, gifts and experiences, I feel as though my strengths are a strong and natural ability to vision, connect, network, and lead. I also love being sent into the world, and working for others. I have a deep love for God and others - especially those who are least, last and lost. I have always felt passionate about the church and it's place in the world because expressing and experiencing God is something that is part of who I am.

**B. Ms. Emma K. Wagner**  
Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
St Michael Lutheran Church (ID: 10459) - Baltimore, MD
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
LYO Mentor  
Intern with ELCA World Hunger  
Church Council
- 3) *Education*  
The Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia, Master Of Arts  
Towson University, Bachelor Of Science
- 4) *Employment*  
Community Services Engagement Coordinator, Bobby Henon,  
City Councilman
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1990
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I recently graduated with a Masters of Arts in Public Leadership from LTSP. Before attending seminary, I knew I wanted to put my faith in action. It's not traditionally "lutheran" of me, but I've always thought, "What's the point of your faith if you aren't using it to better the world?" I am interested in advocacy and public policy, have worked with the LAMPA, and am using my skills learned at seminary and in undergrad working with communities in Northeast Philadelphia. I have experience mentoring the music team of the Lutheran Youth Organization, a group of about 50 high schoolers that plans and runs our synod's youth events. Growing up in Baltimore city, a place I deeply love, has given me an urban perspective on church issues. I love that the only ELCA church in my neighborhood is known as the "God is Love" church because of the large glowing sign on the steeple. If chosen to serve, I will eagerly bring my city loving, people loving, and church loving to the office.

## 8. Church Council: Lay Male (*Restricted to Southeastern Iowa Synod, 5D*)

### A. Mr. Quentin R. Boyken

Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

Windsor Heights Lutheran Church (ID: 10924) - Des Moines, IA

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

Congregational President

Call Committee Chair

Congregational Capital Appeal Co-Chair

#### 3) *Education*

Iowa State University, Bachelor Of Business Admin

University of Michigan Law School, Doctor Of Jurisprudence

#### 4) *Employment*

Member / Partner, Belin McCormick, P.C.

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1954

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I could offer and apply perspective gained through a wide range of experiences that include:

- growing up in a rural north central Iowa town, and staying in touch with the hometown and agriculture through serving on the hometown bank board;
- 3 years as a CPA/auditor for a national accounting firm before attending law school;
- 33 years of private law practice first as a litigation attorney and then as a corporate and M&A attorney;
- diverse volunteer leadership positions and activities including community education, Des Moines' successful neighborhood housing revitalization program, Iowa's governmental information technology initiatives and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation;
- unique international experiences gained as Honorary Consul for Norway for Iowa since 1990 and from serving 4 years on the TAGLaw Advisory Board (TAGLaw is a worldwide alliance of independent law firms); and,
- most importantly, service to Windsor Heights Lutheran Church as noted above.

### B. Mr. Joseph T. Nolte

Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (ID: 10922) - Des Moines, IA

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

Stewardship Vice-Chair/Chair, Prince of Peace

Nominating Committee, Southeastern Iowa Synod

Board of Directors, Lutheran Campus Ministry at Iowa State University

#### 3) *Education*

Mount Mercy College, Bachelor Of Arts

William Penn University, Master Of Business Administration

University of Wisconsin-Madison Graduate College, No Degree Earned

#### 4) *Employment*

Director of Development--Gift Planning, Iowa State University Foundation

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1974

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I am excited at the prospect of this call to ministry. As a "new Lutheran" (raised Roman Catholic and joining the ELCA as an adult), I find so much excitement, hope, and joy in our church. There are great opportunities for the ELCA to grow among others who were like me. I hope I can assist in shaping the way we reach those people with the news of God's grace.

I hope to bring management and governance skills learned through 20 years of nonprofit work, both staff and board, and through a masters in business leadership. I have worked to build community in diverse populations and I have worked as a fundraising professional. I have worked in many roles in the church, including as an advancement officer at Lutheran Services in Iowa, as a Sunday school teacher and youth choir director in my congregation, and as president of the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Iowa State board. I hope to lift up the role of ministry and continue to build God's work through our hands.

## 9. Church Council: Lay Male (*Restricted to Northern Great Lakes Synod, 5G*)

### A. Mr. Ervin F. Sparapani

Northern Great Lakes Synod (5G)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

Bethany Lutheran Church (ID: 06865) - Norway, MI

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

Vice-President, Bethany Lutheran Church, Norway, MI  
President, St. John ELCA Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI  
Trustee, Board of Directors of Trinity Lutheran Seminary

#### 3) *Education*

Northern Michigan University, Bachelor Of Science In  
Education  
Eastern Michigan University, Master Of Arts In Education  
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, Doctor Of Philosophy

#### 4) *Employment*

Professor of Middle/Secondary Teacher Education/Dr., Saginaw  
Valley State University

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1944

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

God prepares his people in many ways. In various leadership positions and other opportunities, I have developed excellent listening skills, diplomatic skills, and visioning skills. I understand that there is more than one way to “see” a situation, and that it takes prayerful examination to know what God wants done.

Also, I have had the privilege to travel extensively throughout the United States and in foreign countries. I have also lived in a foreign country (Taiwan) and lived in various parts of the U.S., both rural and urban. This (as well as being a university professor/teacher for many years) has helped me understand diversity issues, particularly related to issues of racial and gender diversity, which I believe are important concepts to understand at this juncture in the ELCA, nationally and internationally.

I am constantly studying God’s word and seeking His guidance through prayer, which, I believe, are most important. Throughout my life, God has been preparing me for this.

### B. Mr. Philip L. Wirtanen

Northern Great Lakes Synod (5G)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

St Paul Lutheran Church (ID: 06834) - Ironwood, MI

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

Northern Great Lakes Synod Council  
Christ Lutheran Parish Council; Pres., V-Pres, Member  
St. Paul Lutheran Church Council; President

#### 3) *Education*

Gogebic Community College, Associate Bachelor Of Arts  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Bachelor Of Science  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Master Of Science

#### 4) *Employment*

Senior Vice - President, Divisional Manager, Wausau Insurance

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1944

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I have never not been a Lutheran. Born into, raised in and maintaining through my life the faith that has served me well. It seems only fair that I should find ways to repay the benefits that God's grace has provided over my life.

A primary challenge for the Church is to be a living testament of relevancy to the lives of people. We must be a safe harbor for those in distress, a moral guide for those seeking direction, a lamp for those looking for spiritual enlightenment and a clear voice preaching the Word. The world is changing at an exponential speed and the Church is challenged, not only keep up but, to lead.

While my faith life has always been in the ELCA or its predecessor churches my work life has been in the corporate world. I understand how good results get achieved. It is critically important to have the Church Council, the ELCA Board of Directors, comprised of competent, committed and conscientious people. I feel that I can contribute to the work of the Church Council.



## 10. Church Council: Lay Male (*Restricted to Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, 7E*)

### A. Mr. Robert J. Cimerol

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7E)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

New Life Lutheran Church (ID: 30078) - New Tripoli, PA

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

Witness and Service Ministry Team, NEPA Synod  
World Mission Team, New Life Church  
Stewardship Committee, Christ Church

#### 3) *Education*

#### 4) *Employment*

Partner/Title Agent, First United Land Transfer

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1959

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I believe the Bible to be stories written by people throughout the ages inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit. These stories are of God and God's people and His relationship with them and their relationship with each other. From all that is written I am most inspired by the words of Jesus calling us into our daily lives, especially at the 25th Chapter of Matthew. There Jesus makes it clear how each of us is to respond to those he calls "the lease of these." From this I try my best to be intentional in caring for those who have less and to encourage others to do the same. We need to be the church that goes beyond the walls of our church buildings and out into the world. Ministering to and with those in our neighborhoods and beyond.

I am a partner in a small business where my Christian faith provides daily guidance on how we care for each other and how we care for the consumer. Loving everyone no matter the circumstances or financial cost. Treating all with respect and justice.

### B. Mr. James J.F. Jennings

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7E)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (ID: 00888) - Bangor, PA

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

Church Council - Prince of Peace Evan. Lutheran, Bangor, PA  
Church Council - Prince of Peace Evan. Lutheran, Bangor, PA  
Finance Committee - Prince of Peace Evan. Luth., Bangor, PA

#### 3) *Education*

Bucknell University, Bachelor Of Science In Business Admin

#### 4) *Employment*

Senior Manager - Everyday Planning and Allocation, Party City Corporation

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1964

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

As I have prayed about this nomination, I feel strongly that this is a calling to do God's work in the greater Church. God works in mysterious ways, some that are not always clear to us at first, but that are revealed to us as only God can if we have faith in God. I'm not sure that I know at this time exactly what God has in mind, but I am committed to being open to exploring it.

My church experience includes 4-3 yr terms on my church council, serving 6 years as Pres., 3 years as VP, and 1 year as Sect. I currently serve on the Finance (9 yrs, 7 as Chair) and Mutual Ministry (4 yrs) committees, and previously with Worship & Music and Staff Support. I also serve as a worship asst, and various other ways at our worship services. My work is in retail and my primary skills include building teams and identifying how to evolve our business practices to improve our customer experiences and to help our field operations staff, skills that could cross over nicely to this opportunity.

## 11. Church Council: Lay Male (*Restricted to Southeastern Synod, 9D*)

**A. Mr. Hilton M. Austin Jr.**  
Southeastern Synod (9D)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
All Saints Lutheran Church (ID: 16223) - Lilburn, GA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
Congregational President  
Synod Council  
Ventures Stewardship Leader
- 3) *Education*  
University of Tennessee  
  
No Degree Earned
- 4) *Employment*  
Regional Manager, Syms Corp
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1950
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English

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

Since my retirement in 2011, God has consistently opened opportunities to serve this church. In serving on the Southeastern Synod council, it became apparent how important the ministry of the wider church is to the mission of God in the world. Serving as a Ventures stewardship leader has been an amazing experience just seeing the change in thinking as people began connecting their offerings to God's mission in the world and their personal relationship with God.

Having spent most of my career in upper management, I have a gift for seeing the gifts of others and helping them make the most of those gifts. I also bring a good understanding of how businesses, both profit and non-profit, successfully grow a sustainable model.

God has gifted me with great faith and a love for His Church that continues to drive my service. The last few years my ministry has been driven by our call to a ministry of reconciliation; and I look forward to the opportunity to bring that gift to the wider church

**B. Mr. Gary A. Pederson**  
Southeastern Synod (9D)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church (ID: 07404) - Peachtree City, GA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
ELCA SE Synod, Synod Council member  
ELCA Churchwide Assembly voting member (four assemblies)  
Songwriter, GraceFlock praise band, 32 songs (CCLI), played at 20 congregations in nine states
- 3) *Education*  
University of Minnesota, Bachelor Of Science  
Pennsylvania State University, Master Of Science  
Pennsylvania State University, Doctor Of Philosophy
- 4) *Employment*  
Research Leader and Supervisory Geneticist, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1954
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English

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

We each have strengths and weaknesses. The key is recognizing them. I'm a scientist. My strength is understanding details...church business, constitution, bylaws, reports, and discussions on minor details that do matter. Strengths that fit this position well. My life's journey has helped me "be Lutheran" in many ways. Born and raised Lutheran in a small rural church in Minnesota; then to a college campus church in Pennsylvania; then a charter member and building chair in a Mississippi mission church; and finally to a large suburban church in Georgia. These experiences help me understand the situations many ELCA churches face in this changing world. I hope to help ELCA come together. We find it easy to split into various factions...large vs. small, dreams vs. fiscal reality, contemporary vs. traditional, faith vs. proof, facilities vs programs, wants vs. needs. But God is why "we are church together". Let's discover as a church "together" that it really is all about God. That is my hope.

## 12. Church Council: Lay Female (Youth) (Region 6) [Three-Year Term]

### A. Ms. Halle E. Bledsoe

Southern Ohio Synod (6F)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (ID: 04676) - Cincinnati, OH

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

ELCA Youth Leadership Summit  
Jacobs Porch Southern Ohio Synod Retreat  
Southern OH Synod Something More Equipping Event

#### 3) *Education*

Kings High School

#### 4) *Employment*

#### 5) *Year of birth* 2000

#### 6) *Ethnicity* Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language* English

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

I didn't know how God was calling me until I attended the Youth Leadership Summit. I know that I have seen the ways God has called me. I have been called to mission to share God's message to people and show the great works he does in people's lives. I feel called to encourage more opportunities for youth growth and leadership within the ELCA. This opportunity will help me fulfill what God has called me to do. Being apart of the council will create an environment where I can fully use all the gifts that God has given me and can grow into a strong and empowered leader within the National Church.

God has blessed me with many great skills and gifts. I am a great speaker, well organized and can look at things through a youth/young adult mindset. As a leader within my school I can bring my experience of communicating and working with others to the Church council. I can also add a sense of what youths believe and what encourages them to become more involved within the ELCA.

### B. Ms. Emilee M. Le Blanc

Southeast Michigan Synod (6A)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

Hope Lutheran Church (ID: 02788) - Dearborn, MI

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

Sunday school teacher  
Member of Outreach Committee  
Lector

#### 3) *Education*

#### 4) *Employment*

Buser, Cornwell's Turkeyville

#### 5) *Year of birth* 1999

#### 6) *Ethnicity* Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language* English

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

I have been nominated by the Southeast Michigan synod for a three-year term on the Churchwide Council. I accepted this nomination to live out my call as a baptized child of God. I am an active disciple in my church and my synod. I am interested to serve the larger body of Christ and to share a new perspective. I am a very active member in my church. I am a lector in worship as well as a Communion Assistant. I have recently completed my second year as a Sunday school teacher. I joined the Outreach Committee at my church last year. I also help with a program that we started at my church last year called Welcome Wednesdays. This program is for all kids to come and eat lunch and enjoy a craft once a week. As a daughter of a pastor, I have been a part of three different churches. This has shown me different perspectives from each congregation. This experience would allow me to grow as a baptized child of God and help the church as a whole.

### 13. Church Council: Lay Male (*Youth*) [Three-Year Term]

#### A. Mr. Adam M. Fairchild

Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F)

1) *Congregational membership*

Grace Lutheran Church (ID: 02633) - Westminster, MD

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

Lutheran Youth Organization- one of the 5 team leaders for the 2015-2016 school year

Synod Day Planning Team for the 2015 ELCA National Youth Gathering

Participation as a worship leader within one of my church's 4 weekly services.

3) *Education*

North Carroll High School

4) *Employment*

5) *Year of birth*

1999

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I witnessed God's work in a more global, diverse setting at the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering. Joining 35,000+ Lutherans inspired me to spread the work of God to communities beyond our church walls. I also shared my faith story with 500+ youth at Proclaim Story Day. I talked about my experience with brain surgery and saw how my experience with God could help others in their own faith journeys. I have strong leadership, organizational, and decision-making skills. I am a leader within SGA and NHS. This year I served as a peacemaker in helping students and adults deal with a difficult budgetary decision to close our high school. I am a leader within the LYO of the DEMD synod. Meeting and working with other young people across my synod has enabled me to develop Christian friendships and to live out my faith alongside others. I have close adult spiritual mentors who have strengthened my faith. As a result I have an even stronger commitment to the mission and ministry of the ELCA.

#### B. Mr. Seth M. Zimmann

Lower Susquehanna Synod (8D)

1) *Congregational membership*

Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 01508) - Mechanicsburg, PA

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

Voting member, Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly

ELCA Global Mission (son of ELCA missionaries in Jerusalem)

3) *Education*

Anglican International School, Jerusalem, No Degree Earned

Gettysburg High School, Unknown

4) *Employment*

, n/a (student)

5) *Year of birth*

1999

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

In my sixteen years of life, I have been active in the ministries of five congregations and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg because of my parents' in three states and two continents. I have grown to love my involvement with the church, especially with the youth. The trip to Detroit last summer was one of the pivotal moments in my life.

In the fall, I will be entering my freshman year at Gettysburg College on the Abraham Lincoln Scholarship with a dual major in physics and public policy. I am graduating from Gettysburg in the top 10 percent of my class as a National Merit Commended Scholar. Previously while attending school in Jerusalem, I received the Dean's Award for my activities with Palestinian Lutherans and the expat community. I give thanks to God for my gifts and seek to serve!

I would be humbled and excited to serve on the church council, as I see it as a means of better serving the church both at home and in the world. Thank you for your consideration.

## **14. Mission Investment Fund: Ordained Minister (PC/L) (*Incumbent*)**

### **A. The Rev. John E. Mack Jr.**

New Jersey Synod (7A)

#### *1) Congregational membership*

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

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

NJ Synod Council

Crossroads Camp Board Member

NC Synod Council

#### *3) Education*

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Master Of  
Divinity

Wagner College, Bachelor Of Arts

#### *4) Employment*

Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church

#### *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?*

As a youngster going through confirmation class I remember my pastor teaching that stewardship involves “three T’s” time, talent, and treasure. God has given us these things to nurture and care for especially treasure, the gift of economic stewardship.

God has given us the responsibility of caring for the church. Often times, the upkeep of the church facility can become a financial hardship for a congregation. For many congregations, mission is hindered because they lack financial resources. Through my experience in several congregational settings, I know the importance of having an organization like the ELCA Mission Investment Fund to assist congregations.

I have experience of overseeing financial grant giving as I served on a special Endowment Committee. I also served on the board of Agape/Kure Beach Outdoor Ministries. My board and committee service have allowed me to gain experience in being a good steward of organizational financial resources.

## 15. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Female (*Incumbent*)

### A. Ms. Kathryn E. Baerwald

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

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

Augustana Lutheran Church (ID: 02637) - Washington, DC

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

ELCA Council  
Lutheran World Federation  
Mission Investment Fund

#### 3) *Education*

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

#### 4) *Employment*

Chief Philanthropy Officer, National Lutheran Communities &  
Services

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1950

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

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

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

## 16. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Female (*Incumbent*)

### A. Ms. Heather Miller

Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

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

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

Vice President of the Southeastern Iowa Synod  
President of Faith Lutheran Church, Clive, Iowa  
Vice President of Faith Lutheran Church, Clive Iowa

#### 3) *Education*

St. Olaf College, Bachelor Of Business Admin

#### 4) *Employment*

Chair of the board, CEO (Freedom Financial Bank) and Chair of the board (Vision Bank), Freedom Financial Bank and Vision

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1975

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

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

## 17. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Female (*Incumbent*)

### A. Ms. Susan P. Troutman

South Carolina Synod (9C)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

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

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

Mission Investment Fund Board of Trustees and Audit

Committee

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Board, Treasurer

Invitation to Service Committee, SC Synod

#### 3) *Education*

Presbyterian College, Bachelor Of Science In Business Admin

#### 4) *Employment*

Chief Operating Officer/CFO, NovusWay Ministries (formerly  
Lutheridge+Lutherock)

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1961

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

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

After first working in the for-profit sector, in 1988 I stepped into an accounting role in my home church that changed my outlook on work and sense of calling. I have since been blessed to continue my "journey" and work with assurance that I am called to service and leadership equipped with unique gifts.

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



## **18. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Male (PC/L) (*Incumbent*)**

### **A. Mr. Robert J. Chillison II**

Southwest California Synod (2B)

#### *1) Congregational membership*

Ascension Lutheran Church (ID: 13865) - Los Angeles, CA

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

Mission Investment Fund Board of Trustees

Southwest California Synod Council(Executive Committee)

California Lutheran Homes and Community Services (Bd.  
Chair)

#### *3) Education*

Wayne State University, Bachelor Of Business Admin

Wayne State University, Master Of Business Administration

#### *4) Employment*

Director, Winners' Circle, Front Porch

#### *5) Year of birth*

1943

#### *6) Ethnicity*

African American/Black Non-Hispanic

#### *7) Primary Language*

English

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

I served over 30 years as a bank commercial loan officer managing a loan portfolio of over \$100 million making decisions on the extension of credit and providing services to meet the needs of my clients. I have been blessed to serve a term on the MIF Board of Trustees and have used my God-given skills and energy to serve my congregation (various boards including elementary school board and 3 terms as congregational president) and my community (formerly on the board of a large non-profit senior housing company-including one term as board chair- and the governing board of a 3 hospital health system). Upon retiring from banking, I accepted my present position of Director, Winners' Circle, a program developed to perform assessments of Front Porch retirement communities to determine if services provided to our residents measure up to our standards and goals: are we doing the right things and are we doing them well.

## 19. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Male

### A. Mr. Paul M. Opgrande

Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

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

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

Southwestern Washing Synod Vice President  
Mt Cross Lutheran Church Presdident  
Mt Cross Lutheran Church Member of the Council

#### 3) *Education*

Concordia College, Bachelor Of Arts  
City University, Master Of Business Administration

#### 4) *Employment*

President and Chief Executive Officer, Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Community

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1947

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

As a life long Lutheran, I have been involved in the social ministry of this church for many years and have been blessed with the presence of God in all aspects of my life. As an executive with a social ministry organization, I have witnessed first hand the impact that the Mission Investment Fund has had on the work of this church. It would be a privilege for me to be called to serve on a board whose sole focus is to support the ministry of the agencies and institutions of this church.

My business background, particularly in the areas of investments, finance, and new construction financing would serve me well as a member of the Board of Trustees. I have been involved in securing financing, both public and private for the past thirty years and understand the complicity of that process. Also, as an investor in the Fund for many years, I understand the benefits that such investments have, both to individual organizations and to the work of the church as a whole.

### B. Mr. Roger W. Paulsberg

Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

Evangelical Lutheran Church of St Luke (ID: 20052) - Chicago, IL

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

Lutheran Services of America  
Lutheran Life Communities

#### 3) *Education*

North Dakota State University, Bachelor Of General Studies

#### 4) *Employment*

President/CEO, Lutheran Life Communities

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1952

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I have been called to the ministry in the field of long-term care and housing for the past 35 plus years. I have grown up in this field since a young child; my Father was a Lutheran Administrator and my Mother was a Director of Nursing. The love and passion for caring for older adults was instilled in my heart by the example of both of my parents and their heartfelt dedication and love to this ministry of aging and healthcare.

As the current President with Lutheran Life Communities for 27 years, I have worked with multiple boards of directors and have focused on strategic planning, operations, fund raising, financing of close to \$500 million for our new construction and renovations at our six campuses located in Illinois, Indiana and Florida.

## 20. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Male

### A. Mr. Michael F. Fallon Jr.

New Jersey Synod (7A)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
Lutheran Church of Our Savior (ID: 03751) - Haddonfield, NJ
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
Chair, Memorial Gifts Board, LCOS Haddonfield  
VP Church Council, Chief Lay Officer, LCOS Haddonfield  
Financial Secretary, LCOS Haddonfield
- 3) *Education*  
Villanova University, Associate Degree In The Sciences  
  
Tuck School Executive Education, Certificate
- 4) *Employment*  
Vice President Finance, Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1960
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English

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

All people of faith are called to use their God-given talents in support of God's church and its ministries. As a financial professional and CPA, I have been extremely fortunate to be able to answer God's call to service as part of the leadership team of the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church. I believe I am called to share my expertise in overseeing the financial reporting, financial operations, risk management, audit, compliance and administrative functions of this \$9 Billion organization within my own church as an expression of the gratitude for all God has provided to me and my family. The MIF is an important area of ministry to help enable church growth. I would be able to assist the leadership of the organization in carrying out their ministry from a financial perspective, a client perspective (as our church both has a loan from MIF as well as investments), as well as a fellow church staff person.

### B. Mr. Donn M. Gehret

Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod (1D)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
Central Lutheran Church (ID: 13007) - Spokane, WA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
EWAID Synod Council & Finance Committee & Executive Committee  
Congregation Pres/VP/Treasurer/Council Mbr  
Riverview Lutheran Retirement Community Board of Directors
- 3) *Education*  
US Navy Data Processing, Certificate  
Spokane Falls Community College, Certificate  
Whitworth College, Certificate
- 4) *Employment*  
Accountant / IT Manager, Rowand Machinery Company
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1960
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English

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

I have always been active in my local congregation. About 12 years ago I began to feel that God was calling me to use my expertise and my work ethic to help the wider church wherever I could. A lady in my local congregation was active in our synod and encouraged me to run for synod council. After six years I wasn't ready to stop and I jumped at the opportunity to serve out a term for a person that was unable to continue serving. After that my synod D.E.M encouraged me to continue serving by becoming a Ventures Leader. God has called me to be a lay leader in many different areas of the ELCA. I am honored to be considered to serve on the Mission Investment Fund Board of Trustees.

## 21. Mission Investment Fund: Lay Male

### A. Mr. Mark E. Fiebrink

Florida-Bahamas Synod (9E)

1) *Congregational membership*

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

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

Serving Others Ministry Team - Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Several ELCA Congregation Church Councils  
Stewardship Campaign Leader - St John Lutheran Church

3) *Education*

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

Last Position - President, Wausau Insurance, Liberty Mutual Insurance

5) *Year of birth*

1951

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I'm excited about combining my Christian faith, my actuarial and financial background and my management and board experience in the insurance industry to serve on the Mission Investment Fund Board.

I believe I am called to worship the Lord and serve others. I am currently doing so in Naples, Florida as the Leader of the Serving Others Ministry Team at Emmanuel Lutheran Church and as a tutor at both Champions for Learning and Grace Place in Southwest Florida to enrich the environment for learning and help provide pathways out of poverty by educating children and families.

I believe God is also calling me to combine my faith and financial expertise to work as a member of the Board for the Mission Investment Fund. This role is a great fit for me because faith and finance are at the core of the Mission Investment Fund. I care deeply about serving others with integrity, prudently managing resources and conducting business with full transparency and accountability.

### B. Mr. Frederick H. Heintz

Northwestern Ohio Synod (6D)

1) *Congregational membership*

Olivet Lutheran Church (ID: 04719) - Sylvania, OH

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

Congregation Council/President (1996-1999, and currently)  
Northwestern Ohio Synod Funding Task Force/Appeal Chair  
Voting Member, ELCA Churchwide Assembly

3) *Education*

Capital University, Bachelor Of Arts  
Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Master Of Divinity  
The American College

4) *Employment*

Substitute Teacher (Toledo Public Schools) - Consultant, Self-employed

5) *Year of birth*

1953

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

My career path has included 12 years as a parish pastor (rural, suburban, and downtown/urban), 15 years as a financial advisor with a faith-based institution (including charitable specialist), and 8 years as the Executive Director of the Lutheran Social Services Foundation (overseeing endowment, nurturing relationships, and major and estate giving officer). Currently, I am a substitute teacher in Toledo Public Schools (K-12) and am contracted with Lutheran Homes Society to nurture relationships and as a development officer.

God has provided me with a rich variety of experiences. I believe I have a skill in asking thoughtful and incisive questions. I am open to alternative perceptions, new opportunities, and different solutions than I might have envisioned. I pray that the MIF might continue to be a valuable tool to investors and a valuable resource to congregations and institutions. To that end, I am willing to serve.

## **22. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Ordained Minister (*Incumbent, Plan Participant*)**

### **A. The Rev. Paul W. Stumme-Diers**

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

#### *1) Congregational membership*

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

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

Synodical Bishop, Greater Milwaukee Synod  
LSS WI/UM Board member  
Pilot Synod (GMS) for BOP Wellness Initiative

#### *3) Education*

Pacific Lutheran University - Political Science, Bachelor Of Arts  
Wartburg Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity

#### *4) Employment*

Pastor, Bethany Lutheran Church

#### *5) Year of birth*

1960

#### *6) Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### *7) Primary Language*

English

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

I am firmly committed to the mission and ministry of the ELCA, and recognize our Board of Pensions as being a faithful extension of this ministry. I have been impressed by the service provided by the BOP to its members, including the care and attention our family was given during my wife's bout with breast cancer ten years ago; the compassion and the resources we received were deeply appreciated. I also am grateful for the recent focus upon well ness in our plan, and its proactive and preventive approach to health care. The perspectives I hope I bring are through my experience as a synodical bishop, where I felt a true collaboration with the BOP. Also, in my positive experiences as a recipient of the services of the BOP, both through a family health crisis, but also through the emphasis on wellness. I have a pretty good head for numbers.

## **23. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Female (PC/L) (*Incumbent*)**

### **A. Ms. Janette E. Drew**

Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)

#### *1) Congregational membership*

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church (ID: 05062) - Walnut Creek,  
CA

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

President, Church Council

#### *3) Education*

Pepperdine University, Master Of Science In Business Admin  
California State University Stanislaus

#### *4) Employment*

Consultant, Self

#### *5) Year of birth*

1956

#### *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?*

My 25+ years of banking and finance related jobs together with my professional education provide the experience and understanding needed to contribute and provide guidance and leadership to the Lutheran body. I do believe it is God's work, my hands and my hands are willing and able. I have held several leadership positions both in the business community and in the Lutheran community. I am currently a trustee of the board of Portico and have the opportunity to continue my service and am grateful and willing to be of service.

## **24. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Female (PC/L) (*Incumbent*)**

### **A. Ms. Diana G. Haywood**

North Carolina Synod (9B)

#### *1) Congregational membership*

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

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

Current Vice President of the Synod

Past Congregation President

Current Chair of African Descent Strategy Synodical Task Force

#### *3) Education*

Hampton University - Mathematics, Bachelor Of Arts

#### *4) Employment*

Director of Data Administration, Retired from UNC-General Administration

#### *5) Year of birth*

1948

#### *6) Ethnicity*

African American/Black Non-Hispanic

#### *7) Primary Language*

English

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

A strong commitment to modeling love, hope and service and giving of my time to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ are guiding principles in my life. The love of God, love of neighbor, and energy for ministry continues to lead me into exciting areas. I serve as Vice President of the North Carolina Synod, on synodical committees and love working in my small home congregation. Processing details and using the specifics to identify requirements, limitations and general scope of projects have always been helpful when working on committees, both related to the church and in my professional life. I direct a group and know the importance of always being a good listener, being impartial and objective, and respecting others while eagerly striving to be aware of and address matters of inclusivity and fairness. I enjoy working on teams and committees. With a background in systems analysis, statistics and research, I am technical, analytical and process oriented.

## 25. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Female

### A. Ms. Lori A. Kirkland

Southeastern Minnesota Synod (31)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

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

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

Chair of Mutual Ministry

Church Council President

Chair of Endowment Committee

#### 3) *Education*

Rochester Community College - Business, Associates Degree  
In The Arts

Winona State University - Accounting, Bachelor Of Arts

Winona State University, Master Of Business Administration

#### 4) *Employment*

Management Consultant - Owner, Kirkland-Jones

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1959

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I interact with the Executive Teams and Board of Directors of a wide array of corporations, including healthcare. My work includes guidance in maximizing the performance of an organization, using measures to evaluate performance and identify areas for improvement, developing solutions to policy and process issues faced by the organization and looking at what is needed to remain competitive in the marketplace. Many times this requires the analysis of data and information. I often help to reconcile the perspectives of executives from various parts of the organization when they are not all on the same page. I try to offer objective insight to work toward creating a more effective organization. Within our congregation I have served in numerous capacities ranging from Pres. of the Church Council (3 years) to Sunday School teacher. I understand the dynamics of working with people and respect the diversity of opinions that we as individuals have.

### B. Sr. Elizabeth-Ann (Becky) I. Swanson

Southern Ohio Synod (6F)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

Redeemer Lutheran Church (ID: 13139) - Columbus, OH

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

Deaconess Community board and committee member

(communications, governance, community life)

ISAAH clergy caucus (Minneapolis Area Synod)

Bridgebuilders and healthy congregations consultant

(Minneapolis/St. Paul synods)

#### 3) *Education*

Augsburg College - Music, Bachelor Of Arts

Luther Seminary, Master Of Sacred Music

#### 4) *Employment*

Director of Contextual Education, Assistant Professor of

Pastoral Theology, Trinity Lutheran Seminary

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1961

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I served bi-vocationally for over 25 years in the areas of worship & music and corporate leadership and development. I served on boards of directors for small, secular non-profits as well as on the board for the Deaconess Community ELCA. My corporate experience has influenced my leadership ability in the church, my faith life and work in the church has influenced my leadership in the secular corporate sphere. I am responsible and conscientious about commitments I make. I know enough to take fiscal responsibility along with the rest of the board. I ask good, and sometimes hard questions aimed at making sure decisions align with values and goals and are carried out in ways that reflect those values and ethics. I bring the real-life perspective of a lay professional, rostered leader and students information. I have passion for the church and strive to equip our leaders to be the bold, courageous and faithful follower-leaders of Jesus Christ.



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

### **A. Mr. Peter J. Enko**

Central States Synod (4B)

#### *1) Congregational membership*

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

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

Past Church Council Member of Immanuel Lutheran Church

Past Endowment Trust Fund Committee Member

Past Stewardship Committee Member of Immanuel

#### *3) Education*

College of William and Mary - Psychology, Bachelor Of Arts

,University of Virginia - Psychology, Master Of Arts

University of Virginia, Doctor Of Jurisprudence

#### *4) Employment*

Partner, Husch Blackwell

#### *5) Year of birth*

1964

#### *6) Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### *7) Primary Language*

English

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

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

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

### **A. Mr. John R. Hoffman**

Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)

#### *1) Congregational membership*

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

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

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

#### *3) Education*

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

#### *4) Employment*

Regional Managing Director, Principal Financial Group

#### *5) Year of birth*

1977

#### *6) Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### *7) Primary Language*

English

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

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

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

### **A. Mr. Bruce E. Johnson M.D.**

Virginia Synod (9A)

#### *1) Congregational membership*

St Philip Lutheran Church (ID: 06156) - Roanoke, VA

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

Church council, Board of Elders, Chair of council and/or elders  
Congregational representative to Synod

#### *3) Education*

Stanford University - Biology, Bachelor Of Arts  
UCLA School of Medicine, Doctor Of Medicine

#### *4) Employment*

Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs; Attending Physician,  
Carilion Clinic/VTC School of Medicine

#### *5) Year of birth*

1950

#### *6) Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### *7) Primary Language*

English

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

I'm willing to serve and eager to contribute to ELCA with whatever skills, insight and knowledge I can bring. I have experience working with Boards of both regional and national scope, including positions as treasurer and president. I work daily with issues of education, health care, and managed care. My wife had the pleasure of serving on an ELCA Churchwide committee, so I am familiar with the expectations of time and productivity of lay representatives on committees. As a physician, I am continuously involved with staff and patients on issues related to health care, insurance, managed care, assisted living and care, disability, benefits, and (to a degree) retirement planning. I have a working knowledge of current national policy issues related to health care. I am familiar with the wide range of issues related to educational institutions, including non-medical institutions. In recent years, I helped draft and modify social responsibility policies.

## **29. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Lay Male (*Incumbent*)**

### **A. Mr. Leon J. Schwartz**

Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D)

#### *1) Congregational membership*

St Paul Lutheran Church (ID: 11214) - Winterset, IA

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

Currently serving on the Reference and Counsel Committee for the Southeastern Iowa Synod

Led project to update governing documents and taught confirmation at St. Paul Lutheran

At a previous congregation served as president, treasurer, council member, Sunday school teacher

#### *3) Education*

Drake University - Ingugural class of Certified Public Managers (CPM) Program

Iowa State University, Bachelor Of Liberal Studies

Drake University - Financial Resource Management emphasis, Master Of Public Administration

#### *4) Employment*

Vice President of Client Relations and Communications, ICON Integration and Design, Inc

#### *5) Year of birth*

1956

#### *6) Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### *7) Primary Language*

English

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

I feel that I am being called to serve as a trustee and excited about this call as it is an opportunity for me to share my God-given gifts and experiences in a concrete manner within the ELCA. I bring deep pension administration experience from my service as COO of the \$22 billion, 330,000 member Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System. In that role, I provided leadership and overall responsibility for all information technology, financial reporting, auditing, budgeting I accounting, human relations, facilities management , purchasing, and other support functions for IPERS. All discussions and decisions would be driven by the knowledge that funds entrusted to Portico are for the exclusive benefit of the members and their beneficiaries. I would serve as an independent trustee with no personal stake in any of the benefits offered.

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

#### A. Mr. John A. Dexheimer

New England Synod (7B)

1) *Congregational membership*

St John Lutheran Church (ID: 03471) - Stamford, CT

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

St. John's Finance Committee member - 15 years

St. John's Financial Secretary - 12 years

3) *Education*

University of Minnesota, Bachelor Of Science

Harvard Business School, Master Of Business Administration

4) *Employment*

President, LightWave Advisors, Inc.

5) *Year of birth*

1954

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I served in numerous board roles for both public corporations with substantial assets, small firms, investment funds and several non-profits. I have significant experience and context of best practices in board governance and addressed a range of complex topics. I served on a range of committees: audit, compensation, investments, executive, external relations and nominations. My background has involved complex financial transactions, employee and external policies, litigation and working closely with both internal and external legal counsel. I have become increasingly involved in community service efforts both direct in the field and at board/advisory levels—I consider it important to contribute and see serving on this Board as a continuation of how I can be of service. I bring a mix of financial background, entrepreneurial insights and a focus on sound governance. In 2003 I co-authored an article on corporate governance for a magazine entitled “directorship.”

#### B. Mr. James B. Vos

Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)

1) *Congregational membership*

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

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

Westwood Luth., Current Council President & Foundation

Trustee, firm Stewardship & Youth Comm. Chairs

Minneapolis Service Corp, Board member (Minneapolis Synod, real estate-related subsidiary)

LSS - Various volunteer roles

3) *Education*

Gustavus Adolphus College - Economics / Political Science,

Bachelor Of Arts

Univ. of Minnesota / Carlson School of Business - Corp.

Finance/Banking, Master Of Business Administration

4) *Employment*

Principal, Cresa - Minneapolis

5) *Year of birth*

1962

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

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

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

#### A. Mr. Mark S. Helmke

Southwestern Texas Synod (4E)

1) *Congregational membership*

MacArthur Park Lutheran Church (ID: 05908) - San Antonio, TX

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

ELCA Church Council  
Synod Vice President  
ELCA Attorneys Association

3) *Education*

University of Illinois - Political Science, Bachelor Of Arts  
University of Texas School of Law, Doctor Of Jurisprudence

4) *Employment*

General Counsel, Tower Life Insurance Co.

5) *Year of birth*

1954

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I have had the opportunity to serve the church in a variety of leadership positions. Professionally I have experience in the design and operation of group insurance and benefit plans, particularly group health plans. A legal perspective based on 30+ years of practicing law, and knowledge of the ELCA from service in a variety of capacities.

#### B. Mr. Frank A. Roth

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)

1) *Congregational membership*

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

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

Mbr of St.Paul's for 30 years; served as President of Congregation and Cong. Council 3 terms  
Member of Board of Directors of Liberty Lutheran Services  
Chaired served on numerous Congregational Committees (Stewardship, Social Ministry, & Pastoral Call)

3) *Education*

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

4) *Employment*

General Counsel & Secretary, Lehigh University

5) *Year of birth*

1958

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

As a baptized, confirmed and lifelong member of ELCA congregations, I am very familiar with, and strive to live and serve and help others consistent with the tenets and teachings of the Lutheran faith. As a practicing attorney for 32 years, 28 of which have been as counsel for non-profit, tax-exempt entities, I have a thorough understanding of the fiduciary responsibilities of serving on the board of directors of a non-profit, tax-exempt entity, including entities which oversee the administration of employee benefits and retiree benefits. I will add that my parents are both retired public school teachers, so I grew up appreciating my parents' sense of being called to teach and choosing a profession that was not a high paying profession but was deeply rewarding because of its ability to improve the course of people's lives. This gives me an appreciation for the importance of employee benefits and retirement benefits for those who choose to work in the non-profit sectors.

## **32. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Full Communion (*Plan Participant*)**

### **A. The Rev. Adam J. Copeland**

Full Communion

#### *1) Congregational membership*

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

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

Thrivent, member of Chapter board  
Service in several national Presbyterian Church committees  
Frequent speaker at congregations, synods, etc. regarding  
stewardship

#### *3) Education*

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

#### *4) Employment*

Director, Center for Stewardship Leaders, Luther Seminary

#### *5) Year of birth*

1983

#### *6) Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### *7) Primary Language*

English

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

I have a passion for faith and finances, and as a faculty member at Luther Seminary work with students pursuing leadership in Christian communities. My role leading the Center for Stewardship Leaders calls me to research, publish, and speak on topics including financial wellness, community support, congregational leadership, and money-related ministry. With God's help, I strive to be a committed, responsible, faithful leader in my teaching ministry, and I would bring an ethic of servant leadership and care for the neighbor to the board. I would bring my perspective and experience as 1) a Presbyterian pastor with a deep appreciation for the ELCA, 2) a young adult with an interest in leadership, technology, and new media, and 3) a teacher committed to preparing my students for the church God is always making new. Finally, I serve at an institution that partners with Portico Benefit Services, so I would bring the perspective of a participant in the plan.

### **33. Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services): Full Communion**

#### **A. Ms. Pamela S. Moench**

Full Communion

*1) Congregational membership*

The Gathering United Methodist Church, United Methodist

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

N/A as a FCP

*3) Education*

Wells College, Bachelor Of Arts

Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Master Of  
Business Administration

*4) Employment*

Vice President - Director of Investments, The St. Louis Trust  
Company

*5) Year of birth*

1954

*6) Ethnicity*

Caucasian

*7) Primary Language*

English

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

I have had 30 years of investment experience managing large corporate retirement plans. For the last 4 years, I have been a member of the Fiduciary Committee of the United Methodist Church's General Board of Pensions. I believe my skills and experience would be of value to those who are charged with providing secure retirement benefits to those who have served God through their ministry.



### **34. Publishing House of the ELCA: Ordained Minister (*Incumbent*)**

#### **A. The Rev. Clint Schnekloth**

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C)

##### *1) Congregational membership*

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

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

Pastor, East Koshkonong Lutheran Church  
Missionary, Kosice, Slovakia  
Freelance author, Augsburg Fortress

##### *3) Education*

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

##### *4) Employment*

Lead Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

##### *5) Year of birth*

1972

##### *6) Ethnicity*

Caucasian

##### *7) Primary Language*

English

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

It is an honor and privilege to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Publishing House of the ELCA. I have the incredible opportunity to work closely with Augsburg Fortress staff and authors across the many publishing platforms of this great publishing house. As a parish pastor, I bring experience using curricular materials, worship material, and Fortress Press titles. As an author, I have written for a wide range of publications at AF, including Spark, Whirl, Book of Faith, Sundays & Seasons, and Fortress publications. As a media consultant and specialist, I bring awareness of the special opportunities and challenges of publishing in a new media era. As a seminary faculty person, blogger, and reader, I bring experience publishing in theology and church leadership. This, together with my extensive experience in creating, curating, and administering content for social media use across the ELCA, makes me uniquely able to bring a range of gifts/skills the board has identified as needs.

### **35. Publishing House of the ELCA: Ordained Minister (*Incumbent*)**

#### **A. The Rev. Pamela I. Smith**

Southeastern Synod (9D)

##### *1) Congregational membership*

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

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

Augsburg Fortress Board of Trustees  
Southeastern Synod Worship Committee  
Florida Bahamas Synod Candidacy Committee

##### *3) Education*

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Master Of Divinity  
Stetson University College of Law, Doctor Of Jurisprudence  
Valparaiso University, Bachelor In Social Work

##### *4) Employment*

Pastor, First Evangelical Lutheran Church

##### *5) Year of birth*

1953

##### *6) Ethnicity*

Caucasian

##### *7) Primary Language*

English

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

I sense God's call to continue serving on the Board of Trustees in the gratification I receive and the excitement I feel as a result of working with the many highly talented and dedicated people at Augsburg Fortress, both on the working team and on the Board of Trustees. Among the gifts that I bring is my perspective as a parish pastor with a very strong interest in faith formation and the thoughtful and strategic development of materials that support the parish and the family in that regard. We must continue to create new and innovative ways to share and communicate the good news of Jesus to a changing world. The years that I have spent in the corporate environment also have given me a practical understanding of the business and legal aspects of this ministry of the ELCA.

### 36. Publishing House of the ELCA: Lay Female

#### A. Ms. Lisa J. Peck

Central States Synod (4B)

1) *Congregational membership*  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church (ID: 07821) - Overland Park, KS

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
Metro Lutheran Ministries Board of Directors  
Various Congregational Service

3) *Education*  
University of Kansas, Bachelor Of Science  
Graceland University, No Degree Earned

4) *Employment*  
VP-Business Technology Manager, PNC Bank

5) *Year of birth*  
1965

6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*  
English

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

Over the years my church involvement has included music, Sunday School, and volunteering at soup kitchens. As my professional career has advanced I have discovered a more spiritually fulfilling way to serve using my gifts of leadership, fiscal accountability, and management. In 2006 I was invited to serve on the board for Metro Lutheran Ministry in Kansas City. My first board meeting will forever be etched in my mind as I witnessed a severe leadership shortage. The organization was on the brink of financial disaster, contemplating closure, and had lost favor with granting bodies in the city. We elected officers that night and there was no one aligned to serve as Treasurer. As I looked around the table, I quickly assessed that my career in financial services made me most qualified. With hesitation, I offered to serve. That's where we began the journey to turn MLM from its present state to a new, vibrant future. The gifts I bring to the church are the same as I bring to business

#### B. Ms. Jill Yetman

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

1) *Congregational membership*  
Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church (ID: 12983) - Seattle, WA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
Church Council Member  
Transition Team  
Catechumenate team member (Sponsor, catechumenate...)

3) *Education*  
University of Washington, Master Of Arts  
University of Maryland, Bachelor Of Arts In Ed.  
Lancaster University, No Degree Earned

4) *Employment*  
Product Manager / Technology Manager, University of Washington

5) *Year of birth*  
1971

6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*  
English

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

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." F. Buechner. As much as ever, our world is hungry for the loving grace of "renew[ed] Christian life and community." If my mix of experience, talents, and light sense of humor would further that mission, I would be honored to be a part it.

At the UW, I manage a complex software development program where I find joy in identifying creative technical solutions and building and leading effective teams. I also enjoy strategic planning and outreach that drives successful adoption of the software. Every year, we have far exceeded the expectations of UW leadership and continue to expand our program. Our project was awarded over \$1M by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and received the 2014 Campus Technology's Innovator Award.

I would welcome the chance to use my gifts and knowledge to more directly serve the mission of the ELCA.

### 37. Publishing House of the ELCA: Lay Female

#### A. Ms. Christine M. Morse

Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)

1) *Congregational membership*

Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 03055) - Long Lake, MN

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

Board of Trustees - GAC

Board member Trinity Lutheran Foundation

Holder of C. Charles Jackson Chair

3) *Education*

Gustavus Adolphus College-BA Acctg., Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*

CEO & Chairman of the Board, Margaret A. Cargill

Philanthropies

5) *Year of birth*

1954

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I have been an active member of the Lutheran Church my entire life. I have participated in the music program, call committees, capital campaign committees, and the Foundation Board of Directors, the church has been a constant presence for me. I was blessed to attend Gustavus Adolphus College (GAC), graduating with a degree in accounting and had a long career in management at Cargill. This experience prepared me well for my current career in philanthropy. At each point of transition, I believe God has been guiding me. My years on the Board of Trustees of GAC included participation on the Finance Committee, President and Call committees and serving as Vice Chair of the Board. I now serve as CEO and Chair of the Boards of three foundations created by Margaret A. Cargill. I helped Margaret create two Foundations during her lifetime to channel her donations, Anne Ray Charitable Trust and Akaloa Resource Foundation. A third foundation, MAC Foundation, was created at her death.

#### B. Ms. Christine M. Smith

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5K)

1) *Congregational membership*

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

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

Endowment Committee/Long Range Planning

Committee/Parish Life

Church Council

Call Committees (3 of them)

3) *Education*

University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, Bachelor Of Business Admin

4) *Employment*

Principal, Consulting, Baker Tilly Virchow Krause

5) *Year of birth*

1965

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

My faith and involvement in the ELCA is a critical part of all aspects our family's life. This sense of a faith-based grounding and my call to service has only expanded as the years pass. The importance of living our faith and proactively stewarding the gifts we are given becomes more apparent to me as I witness the challenges of faith-based organizations and the increasing needs and opportunities in our communities and nation.

During a 25 year career of service within or in support of public and/or not for profit organizations, I have gained immense skills in innovating, advocating and messaging important steps to ensure long term viability, alignment of mission with margin, and enhanced quality of programs and services provided by a variety of organizations. Specifically, I have had the great honor of assisting my church, and my clients (human service agencies, the ELCA, higher ed institutions, governmental entities) to define critical roadmaps required for sustainability.

### **38. Publishing House of the ELCA: Lay Male (*Incumbent*)**

#### **A. Mr. Daniel G. Currell**

Saint Paul Area Synod (3H)

#### *1) Congregational membership*

Easter Lutheran Church (ID: 07364) - Eagan, MN

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

5th grade church school teacher

Church Christmas pageant director (with my wife)

Trustee at Gustavus Adolphus College

#### *3) Education*

Gustavus Adolphus College, Bachelor Of Arts

University of Chicago, Doctor Of Jurisprudence

#### *4) Employment*

Director, Client Solutions, Novus Law LLC

#### *5) Year of birth*

1972

#### *6) Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### *7) Primary Language*

English

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

My most intense areas of work have been in research and publishing (at my prior employer, CEB, for 16 years), children's ministry, higher education (on the boards at Gustavus and Midland University) and understanding the market dynamics of changing industries - particularly industries deeply affected by new technologies (as law, higher ed, and publishing all are). This list is a mix of things I'm passionate about, things I have just happened to stumble into, things I'm great at and things that frankly I'm probably not great at. But it has become my life - and it's been clear to me that I can serve the Kingdom through this mix of experiences and skills. I feel God's call in that, in the opportunity to see in my life history so far a preparation for what God calls us to do together in the world. The relevance to Augsburg-Fortress is high - a firm impacted by digitization, evolving channels, social/religious change, and yet continuing to work to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **39. Publishing House of the ELCA: Lay Male (*Incumbent*)**

#### **A. Mr. Robert T. Flynn**

Southwest California Synod (2B)

##### *1) Congregational membership*

St Luke Lutheran Church (ID: 05087) - Woodland Hills, CA

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

Member of St. Matthews, North Hollywood Church Council

Secretary of St. Matthews, North Hollywood Church Council

AFP Board Member

##### *3) Education*

Haverford College, Bachelor Of Arts

Yale Divinity School, Master Of Arts In Religion

##### *4) Employment*

Editor in Chief, previously Sales & Marketing Manager, Getty Publications

##### *5) Year of birth*

1968

##### *6) Ethnicity*

Caucasian

##### *7) Primary Language*

English

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

I've served on the Augsburg Fortress Board from November 2010 to the present. Since the fall of 2013, I've been chair of the Development Committee. In that role, I serve on the Executive Committee. Also, I was part of the Executive Compensation Task Force that was formed to study and make recommendations concerning that issue in 2014.

I feel blessed to be able to use my experience from a 20+ year career in this field to serve the church. The ELCA points everyone to God's love, and it's important to me to work to strengthen it in the ways that I can. AFP assists the church in communicating the love of God through high quality materials that facilitate worship and music, that aid in teaching the faith to children and adults, and that give theologians and scholars the ability to communicate new insight and ideas. These are critical functions for the church, and a vital publisher can help keep the church strong. I hope that you will give me the opportunity to continue to serve.

## **40. Publishing House of the ELCA: Full Communion (PC/L)**

### **A. The Rev. Michele E. Watkins-Branch**

Full Communion

#### *1) Congregational membership*

St. Mark UMC-Chicago, United Methodist

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

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminar, Board of Trustees  
Center for the Church and the Black Experience, Board of Visitors

#### *3) Education*

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity  
Howard University, Bachelor Of Science  
Kellogg School of Management, Certificate

#### *4) Employment*

Schlussmann Professor of Methodist Studies & Assistant  
Professor of Theology, ILIFF School of Theology

#### *5) Year of birth*

1984

#### *6) Ethnicity*

African American/Black Non-Hispanic

#### *7) Primary Language*

English

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

Augsburg Fortress has a number of constituencies of which the clergy and local church leadership are of utmost importance. As a former pastor and active layperson, I cherish the opportunity to be involved in the strategic thought processes of institutions that are leading the charge in ensuring the church and the academy both speak to the growing changes and faith challenges of the 21st century.

## **41. Publishing House of the ELCA: Full Communion (*Incumbent*)**

### **A. Mr. Mark Brokering**

Full Communion

*1) Congregational membership*

Church of Our Savior, Episcopal Church

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

Adult Education, St. Mary the Virgin

*3) Education*

St. Olaf College, Bachelor Of Arts

University of Minnesota, Master Of Arts

*4) Employment*

, Self-Employed

*5) Year of birth*

1952

*6) Ethnicity*

Caucasian

*7) Primary Language*

English

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

My father was a Lutheran pastor who worked at Augsburg for more than a decade and published books with numerous publishers, including Augsburg, Fortress, and Concordia. I feel like I grew up in Augsburg Publishing House and that's probably how publishing got in my blood. I've spent more than 35 years working in the publishing industry and almost half of those years were focused on religious publishing (Winston-Seabury Press and Harper San Francisco). I feel that I have a great deal of experience to offer the Augsburg Fortress board and staff and I feel very privileged to have had the chance to serve on the board these past three years.



## 42. Committee on Appeals: Ordained Minister (YA)

### A. The Rev. Fritz E. Fowler

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

University/Incarnation Lutheran Church (ID: 00422) -  
Philadelphia, PA

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

Mission Assessment Team  
Campus Pastor  
Young Adult Pastor

#### 3) *Education*

Kingswood University, Bachelor Of Arts  
Gettysburg Seminary, Master Of Divinity

#### 4) *Employment*

Pastor, University Lutheran Church

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1988

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

Throughout my ministry, I have had experiences that, if called upon, will enable me to serve faithfully and professionally. My gifts include communication skills, the willingness to speak truth in tough situations and to listen to all sides of an issue carefully and with integrity. As a campus and congregational pastor, I have the opportunity to counsel individuals on a wide variety of issues ranging from discernment to conflict resolution. These experiences allow me to analyze a problem from a variety of viewpoints, which will prove valuable on this committee. I seek to serve on this committee because I take to heart the words set forth in our Social Statement on Church in Society, namely, "to defend human rights and to work for freedom, justice, peace... and good order in public life." If I am elected to serve on this committee, I will bring with me a pastoral sensitivity to the concerns of all involved and seek to find the best resolution for both the individual and the wider church.

### B. The Rev. Jennifer M. McLellan

New Jersey Synod (7A)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

Calvary Lutheran Church (ID: 10260) - Allendale, NJ

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

Discipleship and Witness Team  
Mission and Advocacy Table  
Bus Captain ELCA Youth Gathering

#### 3) *Education*

Bethany College, Bachelor Of Arts  
Luther Seminary, Master Of Divinity

#### 4) *Employment*

Pastor, Calvary Lutheran Church

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1987

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

My call to the ELCA started before I became a pastor. First, I was encouraged in leadership roles by my church as a youth. Second, I discovered my passion for Christ at Rainbow Trails, an ELCA camp. Since then, I attended an ELCA college (Bethany), an ELCA seminary (Luther), was endorsed by the ELCA as a Mission Developer and Redeveloper, and now I serve as solo pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church in Allendale, NJ. I have participated in congregational and synodical events across the nation and have benefited from the ELCA body in many ways.

I recognize the opportunity to serve on the Appeals Committee as a way that I can give back to my church that has given me so much, this time at a churchwide level. I have specific skills in collecting and organizing information in order to identify relevant patterns. I believe these gifts along with empathy and striving for justice (as promised in my baptismal call) will serve the Appeals Committee of the ELCA well.

### **43. Committee on Appeals: Ordained Minister (*Incumbent*)**

#### **A. The Rev. Cheryl Meinschein Hausman**

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7E)

*1) Congregational membership*

Christ Lutheran Church (ID: 00558) - Fleetwood, PA

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

NE Penn Synod Executive Board/Synod Council

ELCA CWA Voting Member (1995, 2013)

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia Board

*3) Education*

Gettysburg College, Bachelor Of Arts

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Master Of  
Divinity

*4) Employment*

Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church

*5) Year of birth*

1955

*6) Ethnicity*

Caucasian

*7) Primary Language*

English

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

God has called me to places I never would have predicted. Spending 15 years on Synod Staff, working in Candidacy, Sexual Misconduct Prevention and serving as liaison to legal counsel as lawsuits arose helped me to develop an unusual skill set which I believe would contribute to this committee's work. God also has gifted me with an ability to handle detail, which should be helpful as well. In thanksgiving for all God has given me, it is important to me to share my gifts and skills in the work of the wider church.

#### **44. Committee on Appeals: Lay Female (*Incumbent*)**

##### **A. Ms. Louise A. Hemstead**

La Crosse Area Synod (5L)

##### *1) Congregational membership*

Bethany Lutheran Church (ID: 14704) - La Farge, WI

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

ELCA Church Council

ELCA CC Executive Committee

Bethany Lutheran Church Sandhill - Officer

##### *3) Education*

University of Wisconsin, Bachelor Of Science

Viterbo University (in progress), No Degree Earned

##### *4) Employment*

Chief Operating Officer, CROPP Cooperative/Organic Valley

##### *5) Year of birth*

1960

##### *6) Ethnicity*

Caucasian

##### *7) Primary Language*

English

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

We are called to use our gifts to serve God in many ways. This can be from active congregational membership to administrative duties. For the past 6 years I have enjoyed the work of the Church Council participating in several committees, Audit, Budget and Finance, Mission Funding, and the Executive Committee; these experiences in accompaniment with my experience as an executive is supportive of nomination to this committee.

I have had a rich career as the COO for Organic Valley which serves 1800 farm families and employs nearly 800 people. In this role I have dealt with many very human relation issues, which are sensitive and need to have the utmost care and consideration.

Additionally I am nearing completion of my Master's Degree in Servant Leadership; As a member of the Committee on Appeals I would bring a strong sense of ethics, fairness and consideration of the matters presented.

## **45. Committee on Appeals: Lay Male (*Incumbent*)**

### **A. Mr. Kevin D. Anderson**

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

#### *1) Congregational membership*

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

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

Trustee, Portico Benefit Services  
Secretary, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
Member, Churchwide Committee of Hearing Officers

#### *3) Education*

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

#### *4) Employment*

Partner, National Tax Office, BDO USA, LLP

#### *5) Year of birth*

1953

#### *6) Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### *7) Primary Language*

English

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

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

## 46. Committee on Discipline: Ordained Minister (PC/L)

### A. The Rev. Linda Boston

Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

Lutheran Church of Our Savior Inc (ID: 13978) - San Francisco, CA

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

#### 3) *Education*

United Theological Seminary, Doctor Of Ministry  
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Master Of Divinity  
San Francisco State University, No Degree Earned

#### 4) *Employment*

, Retired - Ordained Clergy SPS 2A

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1950

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

African American/Black Non-Hispanic

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

God continues to call me to ever increasing levels of faith and work in ministry. I believe by this action God has chosen to call me to assist in furthering the work of the church in the area of church discipline. We are a church that continues to work diligently and earnestly in dealing with ethical issues involving disputes and disagreements within the body of Christ. God has gifted me with insight and experience to assist the church in this area of ministry. Areas of skills and expertise:

Pastoral & Lay leadership - Pastoral care and counseling -  
Intentional Interim Ministry

Continuing education:

- Conflict resolution
- Organizational dynamic and human behavior,
- Personal and professional boundary issues
- Cultural Competency and Ethnic Diversity
- Congregational ministry assessment/analysis

Knowledge of official policy governing disciplinary proceedings: Vision and Expectations/ Definition & Guidelines for Discipline/ELCA Constitution: Ch 20 Consultation and Discipline

### B. The Rev. Sara Yoos

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

Light of the Cross Lutheran Church (ID: 16238) - Bothell, WA

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

n/a

#### 3) *Education*

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Master Of Divinity

#### 4) *Employment*

Pastor / Mission Developer, Northwest Washington Synod  
ELCA

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1988

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Asian/Pacific Islander

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I am a new pastor / mission developer in the ELCA. I have accepted this nomination in an openness to the work of the Spirit, should the church seek my service through the work of this committee. I promise to listen attentively and compassionately to the issues that arise, and to bring grace and sensitivity to all parties involved.

## 47. Committee on Discipline: Ordained Minister (PC/L)

### A. The Rev. Yehiel Curry

Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
Shekinah Chapel (ID: 90129) - Riverdale, IL
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
Volunteer Camp Director for SIMBA and MYLA Camp (congregation)  
Policy and Organizing board member Comm Renewal Society  
Planning Team Member for MYLE / Youth Gathering
- 3) *Education*  
LSTC, Master Of Divinity  
Lewis University
- 4) *Employment*  
Mission Developer / Pastor, Shekinah Chapel
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1972
- 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?*

Prior to being called to minister with the ELCA, I spent four years as Regional Vice President (RVP) with Primerica Financial Services (2003-2007). I supervised, trained, and developed as many as 19 agents. I still currently hold 3 investments licenses which require annual reporting, compliance testing and evaluation through the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD). As an RVP I routinely investigated and reported customer complaints and made recommendations on a case by case basis.

Immediately after graduating from Lewis University I served as a Mental Health Profession. I provided counseling and case management to youth and adults with a concentration on drugs addiction, abuse and poverty.

I think my life's journey could provide a unique perspective to this committee and I would be honored to serve if selected.

### B. The Rev. Maritza Torres Dolich

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7E)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church (ID: 00351) - Allentown, PA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
Northeastern PA Synod Candidacy Committee
- 3) *Education*  
Lutheran Theological Seminary Philadelphia, Master Of Divinity  
Drexel University, Bachelor Of Science
- 4) *Employment*  
Pastor of Outreach, Christ Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1957
- 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?*

As creatures of God we are conceived with an innate "anhelo" or yearning for God. God calls and leads us through the power of the Holy Spirit throughout our entire mortal existence. God's call arrives no matter our willingness to respond to it or not. God's call also challenges our perceived readiness for a particular task. The church community, our colleagues, family, friends and even our doubters take notice of our lives as we grow, fall, learn and respond to life's joys and challenges over time. And then, as if on cue, the call, the question, the challenge arrives. "Speak Lord, your servant is attentive," has been a constant prayer in my life this past year. This is the second time I have been asked to be on this committee in recent months. So here I am at the juncture of yearning, call and response. Even as I tremble I accept. I bring my presence, my brokenness, my stillness, & my ability to listen and discern grounded & rooted in God's unconditional love for what God has create.Re

## 48. Committee on Discipline: Ordained Minister

### A. The Rev. Paul E. Lutter

Southeastern Minnesota Synod (3I)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
St Olaf Lutheran Church (ID: 11714) - Austin, MN
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
Nominee, Bishop, Southwestern Minnesota Synod ELCA  
Nominee, Bishop, Western Iowa Synod, ELCA  
Nominee, President, Wartburg Seminary
- 3) *Education*  
Luther Seminary, No Degree Earned  
Luther Seminary, Master Of Divinity  
UW-Superior, Bachelor Of Science
- 4) *Employment*  
Senior Pastor, St Olaf Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1971
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

The majority of the work done by the Committee on Discipline involves listening to and speaking into the pain of, and out of hope for the world, and in this case as an institution as much situated in the left-hand kingdom as in the right, the Church. Listening and speaking at the nexus of despair and hope is exciting work to me.

As a theologian, my work centers primarily in the ways that lament is speech that is both despairing and hopeful. As a writer, I pay particular attention to the ways that despair and hope frame and are framed by the narratives we speak and live. As a pastor, I hand over the grace, mercy, and love of God in Jesus Christ in a way that speaks the truth in love. As a teacher, I listen for nuance in the narrative of God's grace at work in people's lives. As someone concerned for justice, I listen to the voiceless. As a member of Christ's body, I join the polyphonic presence of God's grace on the loose in the world through use of my gifts however I can.

### B. The Rev. Jeffrey M. Otterman

South Dakota Synod (3C)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 13747) - Yankton, SD
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
Support To Ministries Conference Dean  
St James Lutheran Belle Fourche SD Pastor  
Hope Lutheran Church Plainwell MI Pastor
- 3) *Education*  
California Baptist University, Bachelor Of Arts  
Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Master Of Divinity  
Washtenaw Community College, Certificate
- 4) *Employment*  
Associate Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1964
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I received a certificate for mediation training in 2004. I have been elected to two terms of service for our local school board. I say this that I was elected because I care about people and take considerable time to listen and make good judgements related to the people I serve.

The Discipline Committee is a very difficult position that might require lots of time. I am willing to serve.

## 49. Committee on Discipline: Ordained Minister

### A. The Rev. Christine M. Bellefeuille

Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)

1) *Congregational membership*

Valley of Peace Lutheran Church (ID: 03035) - Golden Valley, MN

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

Chair of the Deans  
Synod Council  
Synod Executive Committee

3) *Education*

Concordia College - Moorhead, Bachelor Of Arts  
Luther Seminary - St. Paul, Master Of Divinity  
Luther Seminary - St. Paul

4) *Employment*

Pastor, Valley of Peace Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*

1960

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

As the public face of the people of God active in the world, those who work in and for the church are called to represent the Gospel in loving, inclusive and respectful ways. The work of the Gospel gets painfully disrupted when boundaries are violated and people are harmed: be it sexual, legal or ethical. The breach of trust does great damage to congregations, the individual parties involved and their families. Perhaps because of the intimacy and trust necessary to be church, such violations are particularly wrenching. It would be an honor to work to support the church, those who are called before the committee and those they have harmed from a perspective of loving detachment, necessary justice and a commitment to achieving shalom in the lives impacted.

### B. The Rev. Corinne R. Johnson

Northern Great Lakes Synod (5G)

1) *Congregational membership*

Gethsemane Lutheran Church (ID: 06871) - Wallace, MI

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

Synod Council  
Synod Leadership Support Committee  
First Call Colleague Group Coordinator

3) *Education*

Albion College, Bachelor Of Arts  
Luther Seminary, Master Of Divinity

4) *Employment*

Pastor, Gethsemane and St. Stephen's Lutheran Churches

5) *Year of birth*

1977

6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

7) *Primary Language*

English

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

God has called me to serve in my synod in a number of capacities through my thirteen years of ordained ministry. I am currently serving on the Synod Council and the Synod Leadership Support Committee. I used to be the coordinator for First Call Colleague groups, and I served for many years as the chair of the Synod Evangelism Committee. I often serve as chair of the Synod Elections Committee. I also served the ELCA on the Task Force for Studies on Human Sexuality.

I have served twice as an interim minister in my synod, and one of those times was during a time of crisis in a congregation where the pastor was removed and defrocked. I believe that my service on the synodical and churchwide levels, combined with my experience in ministry, have prepared me to serve on the Committee on Discipline.



## 50. Committee on Discipline: Lay Female (*Rostered*)

### A. Sr. Clare Josef-Maier

Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
Queen Anne Lutheran Church (ID: 12985) - Seattle, WA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
Women & Justice social statement task force
- 3) *Education*  
Seattle University, Master Of Arts  
Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor Of Arts
- 4) *Employment*  
Mental Health Counselor, Lutheran Counseling Network
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1987
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

In my vocation as a rostered deaconess, I am called to hold space both for deep listening and the action of justice. My work as a therapist requires me to adopt a stance of best assumptions and intentions for all parties of a given situation, and the analytical imagination to consider what might be the best-possible response to a conflict or misconduct.

### B. Ms. Kim M. Winchell

North/West Lower Michigan Synod (6B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
Our Saviour Lutheran Church (ID: 02778) - Saginaw, MI
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
Synodical call to specialized ministry (equipping clergy / lay for caring for creation)  
ELCA Study Trip to Nicaragua, Jan. 2009, climate change/hunger/poverty  
Resource person, author, workshop leader on earthkeeping - synodical & churchwide
- 3) *Education*  
University of Michigan, Bachelor Of Science  
Marygrove College, Master Of Arts In Ministerial Studies
- 4) *Employment*  
Diaconal Minister for Earthkeeping Education and Advocacy, North/West Lower MI Synod, ELCA
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1954
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have had wide experience at both the synodical and churchwide levels among both clergy and lay; and I had the privilege of serving as a voting member at the ELCA 2009 Churchwide Assembly. I am similarly blessed to be a voting member at this year's CWA. I love this church! I am a life-long Lutheran. I have been, and continue to yearn to be, "well used by the Spirit" to be a part of the healing of the world. My life experiences have been rich, and further deepened, in my time of "family leave" as a diaconal minister (since June 2013). I am also a spiritual director. All of these things contribute to my sense of call to serve in this church. I believe I have a heart for compassion and justice, and an ability to listen well and deeply, especially in difficult circumstances ... and to listen with both my heart and my mind, to others and to the Spirit's promptings.

## 51. Committee on Discipline: Lay Female

### A. Ms. Robin B. Kaelin

Southern Ohio Synod (6F)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
Zion Lutheran Church (ID: 13203) - Hamilton, OH
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
Deacon, Elder, Secretary, Currently Youth Deacon at Zion  
Current President of Southern Ohio WELCA & S.OH Council member  
Synod LYO Advisor
- 3) *Education*  
University of Cincinnati, No Degree Earned
- 4) *Employment*  
Orders Administrator, Hamilton Safe Gunnebo
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1958
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Other Heritage
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

We have a God who forgives us and gives us grace. I am well grounded in scripture, Yet I see it as the Living Word of God and as I have studied and prayed throughout my service. I have seen God blow a fresh breath of spirit through the ELCA. I believe my strength would be to look at Appeals with new eyes. I have worked in situations where confidentiality is a must and discretion is necessary. My ability is to not focus on the negative but to build up and support. These will be gifts needed for a position on this board. While I only have one year of college, I am well read and I have been an active disciple, teaching, leading, church council as deacon and elder, and Youth leadership for over 20 years. I have been in the same church for those years so I am aware of the forbearance that can come to play in situations. In that time, we have had 4 pastors and one interim pastor. I understand the need for Paradigm shifts.

### B. Ms. Johanna (Jody) T. Marquardt

Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod (1D)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
Grace Lutheran Church (ID: 13044) - Wenatchee, WA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
Adult Choir Director (5 congregations)  
Adult Bible Study Leader  
Church Council
- 3) *Education*  
Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor Of Arts  
Utah State University, Master Of Science
- 4) *Employment*  
Education Coordinator, Wenatchee River Institute
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1950
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

Growing up, I was immersed in Lutheranism: My father was a professor at Concordia, Seward, NE. I attended Lutheran elementary school (K-5). From 1961-64, I lived in Thousand Oaks, where my father was on the first faculty at California Lutheran College. I attended Concordia High School, Seward. At PLU, I was vice president of a sophomore service sorority, Associated Women Students president, and Executive Vice President of ASPLU. I graduated Magna Cum Laude in biology. In 2013, I was inducted into the PLU Athletics Hall of Fame.

I married Clarence Marquardt, an LCMS pastor (Concordia, St. Louis, 1970) in 1975. I was a pastor's wife for 37 years in four parishes in KS, MN, and WA. We have four children. I taught biology for 17 years at Emporia High School in KS and held local and state offices in NEA. I was NABT Outstanding Biology Teacher of KS in 2002. I joined the ELCA when my husband retired in 2012. I continue to serve in various capacities in my new congregation.

## 51. Committee on Discipline: Lay Female

### C. Ms. Holly L. Schmitt

Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod (8B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
Messiah Lutheran Church (ID: 06577) - Munhall, PA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
SWPA Synod Council and Executive Committee  
Congregation Council Representative  
Chairperson of the Communications Committee of SWPA Synod
- 3) *Education*  
Community College of Allegheny County  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- 4) *Employment*  
Business Technical Analyst, Gateway Health Plan
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1979
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English

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

I have always felt a calling to serve the church. I began serving on my congregation council at the age of 18 and served as their president from 2011-2016. I have taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. I continue to work with the youth of our congregation in various ways.

I currently serve on Synod Council and the Executive Committee as well as a synod sacristan and member of the audio/visual team. I love to serve on committees of the church and synod and look forward to expanding that service to include the national church.

I possess strong conflict resolution skills and use them daily in my full-time position. I am highly motivated and possess great listening and organizational skills as well as a willingness to learn as much as I can.

## 52. Committee on Discipline: Lay Male

### A. Mr. Joel T. Kangas

Eastern North Dakota Synod (3B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
St John Lutheran Church (ID: 05279) - Fargo, ND
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
EaND Synod Council  
Churchwide Voting Member  
EaND Candidacy Committee
- 3) *Education*  
Concordia College Moorhead MN, Bachelor Of Arts  
University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Doctor Of Dental Surgery
- 4) *Employment*  
Dentist/Owner Kangas Hardy Dental PC, Kangas Hardy Dental PC
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1956
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have been deeply involved with my local congregation and the Eastern North Dakota Synod for many years. As a health professional, I practice with a deeply held recognition of and appreciation for high ethical standards. As a mentor to pre-dental and dental students, I emphasize the importance of conducting one's self with the highest level of professionalism. As a Candidacy Committee member for the past ten plus years I am aware of the gifts and weaknesses that those desiring to be rostered leaders in the ELCA bring to the table. I believe I have the relational skills and the emotional intelligence to fairly and competently work with individuals who come before the Committee on Discipline for failing to uphold the accepted expectations of the ELCA. Thank you for your consideration.

### B. Mr. Steven M. Shermoen

Northeastern Minnesota Synod (3E)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
First Lutheran Church (ID: 02959) - International Falls, MN
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
First Lutheran Church Council  
First Lutheran Church Council (3 years but dates are an estimate)
- 3) *Education*  
University of North Dakota, Doctor Of Jurisprudence  
University of North Dakota, Bachelor Of Science
- 4) *Employment*  
owner, Steven M. Shermoen Law Office
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1949
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I have often pondered how I could better serve the Lord and my church. Although I know very little about the Committee on Discipline, I was indirectly requested to place my name in nomination by Bishop Aitken, who I knew for many years when he was the pastor of my congregation. I greatly respect his judgment and if he feels I might be of some service in this role, I welcome the opportunity.

I have been married to Nancy for 42 years and we have 3 children and 3 grandchildren. I have been a practicing attorney in Int'l Falls for 35 years and served on many boards and committees with involvement in a wide range of community activities. I was an Army officer, youth coach and community college law instructor. My legal career included 30 years as a part time Public Defender and now I am City Attorney. My legal experience and work as a mediator exposed me to much conflict and how to work toward resolution. I am blessed with a love of God and a desire to be honest, fair and hard working.

### 53. Committee on Discipline: Lay Male

#### A. Mr. John I. Gordon

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
St Peter Lutheran Church (ID: 00712) - Lafayette Hill, PA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
Legal Counsel, SE PA Synod  
Congregational Council - St. Peters  
Congregational Council - Good Shepherd
- 3) *Education*  
University of New Hampshire, Bachelor Of Arts  
New York University  
Villanova Law School, Doctor Of Jurisprudence
- 4) *Employment*  
Attorney, Law Office of John I. Gordon
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1954
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

I believe that I am called to serve our church. Over the last 8-10 years, I have represented our Synod on numerous occasions in a great variety of legal issues that have confronted both the synod and some of its congregations. I have also provided pro bono services to my congregation, St. Peter's of Lafayette Hill, for well over ten years. I believe that my experiences in dealing with constitutional issues and other church related challenges will allow me to contribute further on the Committee on Discipline, if so called.

\*7b: Master's in Urban Planning

#### B. Mr. Thomas W. Salber

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (ID: 00652) - Philadelphia, PA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
Church Council/President  
Synodical Candidacy Committee  
Synod Council
- 3) *Education*  
Philadelphia Community College, Associate Degree In The Sciences
- 4) *Employment*  
RN Case Manager, Visiting Nurses Association
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1958
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

Have been involved and a voice for those underserved; in my profession I am a HIV nurse involved in over 30 years causing me to a voice in the Church bringing awareness to this disease and showing that the church has in place in dealing and fighting this: to being loving and Compassionate as Jesus would do

The church has helped me to grow in my leadership in the church. I am an active member in my congregation where we are involved in refugee resettlement. Around the church the community has changed and it is reflective in our membership having much more diversity in ur congregation and trying ways to get our African friends involved in the life of the church.

One of the greatest joys I have at this time is the honor of being called and serving on our Synodical Candidacy Committee working and discerning individuals in their call to ministry

## 54. Nominating Committee: Ordained Minister (PC/L)

**A. The Rev. Manuel Retamoza**  
Pacifica Synod (2C)

1) *Congregational membership*  
St Andrew Lutheran Church (ID: 13971) - San Diego, CA

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
National Youth Gathering 2018-Tech and Talent  
Lutheran Retreats Camps and Conferences Board of S.  
California  
National Youth Gathering 2015-Tech and Talent

3) *Education*  
Luther Seminary, Master Of Divinity  
Seattle Pacific University, Bachelor Of Arts

4) *Employment*  
Associate Pastor of Youth Family and Social Ministry, St.  
Andrew's Lutheran

5) *Year of birth*  
1970

6) *Ethnicity*  
Latino/Latina

7) *Primary Language*  
English

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

I discovered many years ago that the call of God into the work and ministry most often means being called to places that I could not even imagined being and discovering gifts for ministry that I didn't know I had. This would include the ELCA and Youth Ministry both which 17 years ago if I was told that I would be in either I would have denied it. Yet, this is where I find myself today and I have learned to look for those calls where God can call me to serve in ways that I could not have imagined for myself. I am open to new ideas and creativity but also have great reverence for our Lutheran Identity and Polity. I believe my ministry location on the south west coast about as far from Chicago and the Twin Cities can also be a gift to the Nominating Committee. Another gift that I claim is both being a 1st generation Mexican American and a tribal/voting member of the Western Band of Cherokee tribe. Growing up bridging these two family cultures has been Invaluable in ministry.

**B. The Rev. Nathan V.A. Luong**  
Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F)

1) *Congregational membership*  
Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 03125) - St Peter, MN

2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
Southwestern Minnesota Synod Lilly Grant Implementation Team  
St. Paul Area Synod Assembly Lead Page  
Churchwide Voting Member-St. Paul Area Synod

3) *Education*  
Augsburg College, Bachelor Of Arts  
Luther Seminary, Master Of Divinity

4) *Employment*  
Associate Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church

5) *Year of birth*  
1986

6) *Ethnicity*  
Asian/Pacific Islander

7) *Primary Language*  
English

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

I have always found great life and energy in the work that we do as the larger church. When we look at the church as a whole, I find great hope in the work that the spirit is doing to renew and rebirth our church. Given that, I feel called to participate in whatever way the Holy Spirit places into my path.

I bring to the work of the nominating committee an ability to connect and see the gifts people have been given, and to empower them to know where they can be a gift to the church. Being a minority, I bring a keen sense and desire for diversity in leadership roles. As a clergy in a predominately rural synod, I also realize the need for diversity not only in racial, but in age, gender, social, and geographical areas as well. In identifying people to serve in leadership positions, we must keep the wisdom of experienced people while also incorporating and raising up the next generation of leaders. As with everything, we always need to be aware of the Holy Spirit and its guidance.

## 55. Nominating Committee: Ordained Minister

### A. The Rev. Brandi Jo Hacker

Northeastern Ohio Synod (6E)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

Trinity Lutheran Church (ID: 04591) - Madison, OH

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

Northeastern Minnesota Synod Council  
Churchwide Assembly Volunteer  
Northwest Lower Michigan Synod Council

#### 3) *Education*

The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Master Of Divinity  
Hiram College, Bachelor Of Arts In Ed.

#### 4) *Employment*

Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1982

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

As a Rostered Leader in the ELCA, I feel called to serve on the Nominating Committee because I believe in the work we do together in Christ as a church body. I believe it is important to be intentional about seeking out candidates for each open position, especially by encouraging and empowering those who might have not served the wider church before.

I have served as a pastor for the past seven years in congregations of Northeastern Minnesota and Northeastern Ohio. Between the two synods I have served in a variety of ministry settings. Throughout college I worked in outdoor ministry in North West Lower Michigan.

### B. The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede

Saint Paul Area Synod (3H)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

Living Waters Lutheran Church (ID: 30028) - Lino Lakes, MN

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

ELCA Churchwide Council  
Southern Seminary Advisory Council  
Lutheran Campus Ministry of the Twin Cities board

#### 3) *Education*

Lutheran Southern Theological Seminary, Master Of Sacred Theology  
Harvard Divinity School, Bachelor Of Divinity  
Macalester College, Bachelor Of Arts

#### 4) *Employment*

Director of Church Partnership and Philanthropy, Lutheran Social Service of MN

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1968

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I have been blessed to serve the church in various ways in a number of geographical locations. From graduate school in the Northeast to Seminary in the South, from "between times" work in Ohio to ordained ministry in Minnesota and South Carolina, I have met many people in many places. Supervising seminary students and interns has been a joy for me in various locations, as well, as has participation in ecumenical ventures. Through many moves and a range of experiences, I have been blessed to see the church at work in a variety of settings.

One of my favorite parts of ministry work is helping match individuals and their gifts to the needs of a particular ministry. Serving on the nominating committee would fit in with this beautifully, allowing me to function as a "connector" between the faithful and the ministries to which they are called.

I would be honored to serve in this capacity.

## 56. Nominating Committee: Lay Female (*Region 7*)

### A. Ms. Joyce D. Adams

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

Faith Worship Center (ID: 30854) - NULL, NU

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

SEPA Synod Council

Faith-Immanuel, Congregational Council President

African Descent Lutheran Association-President

#### 3) *Education*

Penn State University, Certificate

University of Illinois, Master Of Counseling

Temple University, Bachelor In Social Work

#### 4) *Employment*

Warden, Philadelphia Prison System

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1951

#### 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?*

After serving my local synod, congregation and on the ADLA national board, I feel a call to share and apply the knowledge and experience I have gained working on the ELCA board. It is only through service to the church that I have gained a fuller understanding of my gifts and God's Plan for my life. I feel my call is to be a bridge, connecting people who in the past did not feel there was a place for them in service to the church with information on ways they can be of greater service to the church and community. In particular, the nominating committee has a responsibility to work in identifying members of ELCA congregations with skills and talents that will assist the church in its mission. It is my desire to make sure all members of the ELCA feel that they have opportunities to serve.

I feel a desire to be of servant and leader in the church, and share the joy, I gained doing what I believe is God's work. I will be bringing gifts of administration, organization, and compassion

### B. Ms. Julie P. Grindle

Upstate New York Synod (7D)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

St Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church (ID: 06984) -  
Baldwinsville, NY

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

Principal Musician for Upstate NY Synod Assembly

#### 3) *Education*

Valparaiso University, Bachelor Of Music

Indiana University, Master Of Church Music

#### 4) *Employment*

Director of Music Ministries, St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1970

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I have a passionate desire for our church to be led by people who are grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, while also leading and making decisions for our church with eyes wide open to the realities of what it means to be church in 2016 and beyond.

As a member of the Nominating Committee, I will have the opportunity to participate in discussions that discern who those servant leaders are. Through my work on the Advisory Board of the Institute of Liturgical Studies and as President-Elect of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, I have come into contact with countless people who would serve our church with faith and integrity.

I thank you in advance for this opportunity to serve the God's people.



## 57. Nominating Committee: Lay Male (*Region 2*)

### A. Mr. Robert T. Flynn

Southwest California Synod (2B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
St Luke Lutheran Church (ID: 05087) - Woodland Hills, CA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
Augsburg Fortress Board of Trustees  
Secretary of Church Council, St. Matthews LC, North Hollywood  
Finance Committee, St. Matthews LC, North Hollywood
- 3) *Education*  
Haverford College, Bachelor Of Arts  
Yale Divinity School, Master Of Arts In Religion
- 4) *Employment*  
Editor in Chief, J. Paul Getty Trust
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1968
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

For the past three years, I've served as Chair of the Board Development Committee (BDC) of the Augsburg Fortress Board of Trustees. The BDC recruits new members, orients them to the board, and nominates members for leadership positions on the board. Through that work I have had to think carefully about what is needed for successful governance and have, with my colleagues, recruited a wide range of accomplished, engaged, and diverse candidates. I'd be honored to use my experience in this area to work with the Nominating Committee.

I have also met many faithful, talented people across the ELCA as I accompany my spouse, Bishop Guy Erwin. Through these experiences, I've learned much about the exciting work of the church that I could bring to bear on the Nominations Committee.

Finally, I love this church, I think good governance is crucial to its health, and I would execute my responsibilities with care and thoughtfulness.

### B. Mr. Louis Moehlman

Pacifica Synod (2C)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (ID: 05102) - Garden Grove, CA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
Pacifica Synod Council  
President of Lord of Life Student Congregation CLU  
LYO President for Pacifica Synod
- 3) *Education*  
California Lutheran University, Bachelor Of Science In Business Admin  
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
- 4) *Employment*  
Sr. Customer Service Representative, Enterprise Rent A Car
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1992
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Asian/Pacific Islander
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English
- 8) *What are the gifts, skills, experiences and areas of expertise that you would bring to this work?*

As I continue my education at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, I bring with me a degree in management as well as years of industry experience in management and leadership. With this, I bring my understanding of the importance of having leaders who play to their talents and gifts. I believe that strong leaders who are influential in their communities are individuals who can act ethically and mercifully.

I understand the importance of having a strong nominating committee. My calling into the ministry has helped me identify that my true passion is in helping to navigate our leaders to places where they can uphold the values of this church and flourish. Nominating candidates who are able to engage faithfully in God's work will help to ensure that we have a solid foundation for our congregations to engage globally and ensures that we have provided a stronghold for the next generation of the ELCA.

## 58. Nominating Committee: Lay Male (*Region 3*)

### A. Mr. Zachary C. Baker

Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (ID: 11851) - Minneapolis, MN

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

Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of South Carolina  
Lutheridge Camp Counselor  
Sunday School teacher at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN

#### 3) *Education*

University of South Carolina, Bachelor Of Arts

#### 4) *Employment*

Communications and Graphic Design Coordinator,  
ReconcilingWorks

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1990

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I'm here as a result of "E" in "ELCA."

I grew up in the Southern Baptist Church, and after trying to change my sexual orientation in high school via reparative therapy, ran into Pastor Frank Anderson from the Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of South Carolina. He told me that there were Christians who believed that God wasn't ashamed of who I was. This life changing good news allowed me to experience a renewal and warmth I hadn't felt in a long time. With baby steps I began re-engaging scripture and church tradition to see how I might be able to live my life openly with integrity.

I feel called into mission and service, because I'm still a seeker of truth and want other oppressed communities to know the life giving hope I found in a welcoming and inclusive ELCA space. I feel I could use my network of connections in region 3 to nominate candidates who share this evangelical calling.

### B. Mr. Raul Garcia III

Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

Family of God Lutheran Church (ID: 03240) - Brooklyn Park, MN

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

Lord of Life Lutheran, Maple Grove, Mn  
All Saint Lutheran, Minnetonka, Mn

#### 3) *Education*

Texas Lutheran University, Bachelor Of Arts  
Luther Seminary, Master Of Arts

#### 4) *Employment*

Pastoral Associate, Family of God Lutheran Church

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1974

#### 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?*

As a rostered associate in ministry I firmly believe that I am called to word and service. Not just to serve my brothers and sisters in Christ but also to serve the ELCA in a larger capacity. I believe that I have the experience and leadership skills to help the larger church. I love serving my congregation in Brooklyn Park, MN but I also love this church as a whole and being nominated for a committee I would be greatly honored.

## 59. Nominating Committee: Lay Male (*Region 6*)

### A. Mr. Roy E. Hart

Southern Ohio Synod (6F)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

St Peter Lutheran Church (ID: 04524) - Lancaster, OH

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

Southern Ohio Synod Council Secretary (current)

Voting Member at 2011 Churchwide Assembly

Southern Ohio Synod Candidacy Committee

#### 3) *Education*

Ohio State University, Bachelor Of Arts

Capital University Law School, Doctor Of Jurisprudence

#### 4) *Employment*

Attorney at Law, Self-employed

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1950

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

In response to the many blessings God has provided, I am called to service in building up the body of Christ. Service to the Church takes many forms, and service upon the Nominating Committee is an effective way to build up the body of Christ by identifying and lifting up those persons who have the ability to lead the Church.

I believe that I have been gifted with listening skills and the ability to work with a variety of people in various settings in order to achieve positive results.

### B. Mr. Bryan L. Penvose

Northeastern Ohio Synod (6E)

#### 1) *Congregational membership*

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (ID: 13318) - Valley City, OH

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

VP of Synod Council, Northeast Ohio

Church Council President, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Valley City, Ohio

Medina Area Cluster Coordinator, Northeast Ohio Synod

#### 3) *Education*

Furman University

Washington & Jefferson College, Bachelor Of Arts

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University, Doctor Of Jurisprudence

#### 4) *Employment*

Attorney and Partner, Koblentz & Penvose, LLC

#### 5) *Year of birth*

1975

#### 6) *Ethnicity*

Caucasian

#### 7) *Primary Language*

English

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

I love God, His whole church, and the ELCA! I give thanks to God for the many ways He has blessed all of us in abundance and has blessed me as a father, son, brother, attorney, employer, high school baseball coach, and as a leader in my home congregation and in the Northeast Ohio Synod of the ELCA. Thanks be to God!

Yet, I have wrestled with and resisted at times throughout my life to understand how God might be calling me. I know that my sense of call is different than what my father and brother have experienced as pastors in the ELCA, but I pray, place my trust in God, know that God is calling me to serve in other ways.

It is my hope that through serving on the Nominating Committee, that I might offer my experiences and spiritual gifts back to God in helping to lift-up others who are discerning their own sense of call to be leaders in the ELCA and looking for ways to serve God's people.

## 60. Nominating Committee: Lay Male (Y/YA)

### A. Mr. Samuel F. Schlouch

Northern Illinois Synod (5B)

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
St James Lutheran Church (ID: 02060) - Rock Island, IL
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
President of Congregation Council  
Youth Advisory Member, ELCA Church Council  
Advisory Member, Board of the Lutheran Youth Organization
- 3) *Education*  
Augustana College, Bachelor Of Arts
- 4) *Employment*  
Director of Public Relations, Augustana College
- 5) *Year of birth*  
1988
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English

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

In my time as an active member of the ELCA, I have served in various capacities throughout the three expressions of the church. In my work at an ELCA-related college, I continue to be amazed by the gifts and blessings that God bestows on our students, many of whom do not have an intentional relationship with Him. Just as I see those gifts and talents that our students are called to put into service during and following their time at Augustana College, I hope to be able to identify those with gifts and talents that would serve God as part of the Nominating Committee.

### B. Mr. Samuel P. Swenson-Reinhold

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

- 1) *Congregational membership*  
Lord of Life Lutheran Church (ID: 10359) - Fairfax, VA
- 2) *Congregation, Synodical, or Churchwide Service Activities*  
St. Stephen Lutheran Church Youth Leadership Program  
St. Stephen Lutheran Church Youth Representative at the Florida-Bahama Synod Assembly  
Youth Representative on the Metro DC Synod Council
- 3) *Education*  
Lyman High School  
WT Woodson High School
- 4) *Employment*  
BASE Staff Counselor, Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia
- 5) *Year of birth*  
2000
- 6) *Ethnicity*  
Caucasian
- 7) *Primary Language*  
English

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

Through my interactions within the church and through other outreach and ministry initiatives, God has shown me that my gifts lie heavily within building relationships, working with people, and empowering them to do what they are designed and built to do. God uses PEOPLE to do God's work, and enabling and empowering the right people to do that work is my passion and what God has called me to do. I have worked as a leader for my fellow youth within two different churches, providing perspective into different systems and giving me insight into how different systems can work to serve the same purpose - love God, love people, make disciples. The Boy Scouts of America gave me the opportunity to grow as a leader and as a young man, giving me the tools which I garnered my Eagle rank from. The importance of emphasizing God in our communities and especially in our youth is a value that stays true with me.