

2021 Biographies

Synod Council

LAITY Female Nominee for Synod Council

Vote for 1 (2 -year term)

Ms. Carol Swenson

Ms. Carol Swenson – Our Savior’s, Rockford – North Conference

Occupation: Retired Registered Nurse

Gender: female

Age: 61 or older at the time of election

Primary Language: English

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I have served as President, Secretary, Member-at-large, Director of Worship and Music and Director of Operations for the Church Council. I currently serve as usher, communion server, and a member of the Sacristans Committee. I lead and participate in Bible Studies, conduct blood pressure checks and work with the quilt-making group.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I serve as a night Chaplain at a hospital in Rockford. I have served as Chair of the Advisory Board for the Center for Learning in Retirement (CLR) which is a program through Rock Valley College. I served on the state LSSI Board of Directors (1986-1992). I have served through the NIS: Synod Consultation Committee 2005-2011, the Bishop's Task Force on Health and Wellness 2006-2013, and the Ministry Support Committee 2015-present, and the NIS Finance Committee 2017-present.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I have been privileged to serve on the NIS Synod Council and the more that I learn of the work being done to fulfill God's mission, the more I am inspired to be involved in any way that I am able.

What are your priorities for this ministry?

1. To serve and support the NIS staff during the changes that are being required due to the pandemic.
2. To speak about the work of our Synod in our region.
3. To be an active Council member who strives to faithfully serve God and his people.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe that God has created me and all that exists. He guides and strengthens me on my faith journey, as well as in all aspects of my life. I live with an attitude of gratitude for all that has been provided to me through God's guidance and vision. I want to share the good news of Christ, as well as my time and talents, with others.

LAITY Female Nominee for Synod Council, Person of Color

Vote for 1 (2 -year term)

Ms. Monique Castillo

Ms. Monique Castillo – Immanuel, Rock Falls – Central Conference

Occupation: Administrative Assistant

Gender: Female

Age: 30 - 45 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Hispanic/Latinx

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: 2013-2019 Served on Church Council as Secretary, Faith Formation Liaison and Worship Liaison. Chaperoned 3 Youth Gatherings and 2 MYLE events

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Active member of the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce as committee member for Professional Woman's Network and Hispanic Business Leaders. Organized several fundraising events for various organizations.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? To continue to be a liaison between my congregation and the Synod to share the works and resources of the Synod.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To continue to learn about the resources provided by the Synod and grow in my spirituality.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? Ask God for wisdom. Believe God without doubt. Thank God no matter what.

LAITY Female Nominee for Synod Council, Young Adult Vote for 1 (2-year term)

Ms. Taylor Ufkin

Ms. Taylor Ufkin – Immanuel, Dixon – Central Conference

Occupation: Self Employed

Gender: Female

Age: 18 - 29 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Sunday school teacher, Vice President and secretary for a group at Immanuel, and I worked at Immanuel for two years.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I was a teacher at a local daycare for two years, and I helped with setting up field trips and organizing the daily schedule for the age group I was in.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I believe that I would bring a new prospective to the group to help bring the younger generations into the churches.

What are your priorities for this ministry? My priorities for this group is to gain a understanding for how the logistics of the church work and to bring ideas to the group.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe that in order for us to truly understand God's mission we must love one another unconditionally. This would include the earth and its resources. To love unconditionally means to accept one another, flaws and all. I believe that Jesus' death on the cross frees us to love as he has loved us.

LAITY Male Nominee for Synod Council**Vote for 1 (2-year term)**

Mr. Ryan Mackey

Mr. Ryan Mackey – Trinity, Manlius – Central Conference**Occupation:** Collaborative Learning Student and Vicar**Gender:** Male**Age:** 30 - 45 at time of election, June 18, 2021**Race and Ethnic Origin:** Caucasian**Primary Language:** English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I am a student at Wartburg Seminary and a synodically authorized minister serving at Trinity in Manlius. I lead the congregation by preaching the gospel, shaping liturgy, planning and leading Christian education, and am currently facilitating an update to our constitution. Prior to entering seminary, I served six years as Parish Ministry Coordinator at Immanuel in Dixon. Before being employed by the church, I served on the congregational council, including a term as vice president.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I have served on several non-profit boards including Bright Beginnings Christian Daycare and Buddy Bags of Dixon. While working for Sinnissippi Centers Inc., I was part of a planning team that coordinated several community wellness events at Sauk Valley area churches and at Sauk Valley Community College.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I feel a strong call to serve the larger church. One of the greatest assets of being a member of the ELCA is the relationship between congregations and the larger church bodies, especially the synod. I am passionate about strengthening those relationships. The work of the Synod is critical to the health of our congregations and churchwide alike, and I bring to the table an objective eye and ear and a passion for learning about the inner workings of the church while shaping the vision for the church's future.

What are your priorities for this ministry? The Synod has taken great steps in the last several years to increase the availability of resources for youth leaders and rostered ministers and has made great efforts to connect regularly with all congregations. I would like to help further the Synod's connections and relationships with congregations in some of the more remote areas of the Synod.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe that by God's grace, through the work of the Holy Spirit, and by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are free from the power of sin and death. We are free to serve others with the love and compassion offered to us through Christ. "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Gal. 2:20, NRSV)

Rostered Minister Female Nominees for Synod Council Vote for 1 (2-year term)

The Rev. Cathy Daharsh

The Rev. Cathy Daharsh – Bethany, Crystal Lake – Northeast Conference

Occupation: Senior Pastor

Gender: Female

Age: 46 - 60 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I have the gifts and skills of compassionate, creative leadership that contribute to developing a place where people of all ages are encouraged to see God's work in their lives, and to discern ways in which they are called to serve others. My undergraduate degree is in special education and elementary education. My first career was as an elementary teacher and a high school volleyball coach. After teaching I served as a Director of Youth and Family Ministry before becoming a pastor. All these experiences have contributed to my interest in teaching, empowering, and walking with leaders of all ages. I am a pastor who has gifts in administration which helps in developing and encouraging leaders to work together in Christ.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Being a presence in community events, supporting the local food pantry and food trucks, walking with local businesses, and being involved in community causes helps me to develop relationships and discern where our church is called to bring a message of hope and care in Christ. I am the chair of the Faith Leaders in McHenry County which is an ecumenical faith group of leaders that gather to process, support, and connect with one another for our community and the world. Currently, we are collaborating efforts with the IL Food Bank to serve the needs of the poorest areas in our county. In addition, I am involved in a collaborative partnership with Good Shepherd Hospital and other agencies in Cultivating Health Ministries, especially, with our Lantinx brothers and sisters.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I believe that we are in this ministry together and taking time to support the larger church is a sense of call for me. I have walked with the synod through taking systems training courses, joining groups in leadership conversations, and yearly presenting on the topic of administration with the First Call Theological Education Group. I hope by serving on the Synod Council, I could contribute to supporting the mission of the synod and to continue to support leaders in new ways.

What are your priorities for this ministry? My priorities for serving in the ministry of Synod Council is to help lead, guide, and support the mission and goals of the synod. To be a team player that is open to hearing different points of view, but also willing to share different points of view while faithfully keeping Christ at the center of all decisions and recommendations.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? Through Christ's life, death, and resurrection; I believe that God gives us endless possibilities to experience Christ's transformative love, grace, and forgiveness. We are called to trust and rely on God who helps and guides us. We are called to be loving and forgiving people which I believe contributes to an authentic faith filled community that is called to serve.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE Nominees for Synod Council Vote for 1 (1-year term)

Ms. Madi Castell

Occupation:

Gender:

Age:

Race and Ethnic Origin:

Primary Language:

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present:

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present:

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod?

What are your priorities for this ministry?

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say?

Ms. Madi Castell – Cambridge, Cambridge – Southwest Conference

LAITY Female Nominee for Synod Council

Vote for 1 (3 -year term)

Ms. Nancy Lillevold

Ms. Nancy Lillevold – Prince of Peace, Freeport – Northwest Conference

Occupation: Retired Home Services Counselor

Gender: Female

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Have served as President, Vice President, and Secretary in past years. Currently serving as lector, communion assistant, usher, member of Altar Guild, Meals on Wheels Coordinator, member of Memorial Community. Diakonia graduate, currently serving as Diakonia treasurer.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Quota Club of Freeport. Served as its secretary, President, and currently Treasurer. Life member of Illinois Rehabilitation Association serving numerous positions of leadership. Currently Administrator of Friend of Marlene A. Nelson, fund used to assist persons with disabilities reach their vocational goals.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I am currently appointed to the Synod Council and wish to continue in this important ministry of the Synod. After attending only a few meetings, I am excited to be part of how the Synod lives out its Mission.

What are your priorities for this ministry? Provide support to the Bishop, staff, and congregations. Attended Churchwide Assembly in 2019 and am excited to take part in the

ministries of the Synod and Churchwide. I wish to be an active participant in living out the Synod's mission.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? As a child of God, I am very grateful for the blessings God has provided in my life. I believe all that I am is due to God's presence in my life.

LAITY Male Nominee for Synod Council

Vote for 1 (3-year term)

Mr. Jim Spring

Mr. Jim Spring – Bethany, Leland – South Conference

Occupation: History Teacher

Gender: Male

Age: 46 - 60 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I fill in when the Pastor can't be present.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Civic organization leader, involved in Scouts, teach at the local High School

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I like to have input into decisions that our Synod is facing. These are trying times and I think the Church (and the ELCA specifically) has something to say about how our society should move forward. I think that I am in a position to be of assistance in this area.

What are your priorities for this ministry? Making sure that the Church is heard.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe that Christ is the way.

MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT Male Nominees for Synod Council

Vote for 1 (3-year term)

The Rev. Peter Bredlau

The Rev. Andy Tyrrell

The Rev. Peter Bredlau – Trinity, Moline –West Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 46 - 60 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Pastor in 4 congregations; Created and led service trips in 5 states and 3 countries; Worked with food pantries and distribution centers in 2 states; Served 2 campus ministries; Member of Hate & Bias Reporting Task Force at Muhlenberg College; Created

and implemented Safe Child policies and procedures with state guidelines in 2 congregations; Led congregations of 200-2300 members, 70-700 on Sunday, \$100K to \$1.2M budgets; Northeastern PA Synod Gay and Lesbian Task Force (advocates for acceptance and inclusion); Chair of Northeastern PA Campus Ministry Committee; Member of Northeastern PA Committee on Discipline and Leadership Development Committee; Founding grant writer and participant for Project Connect, a \$4M Lilly Grant to encourage young adults to discern religious vocations.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Board member of Congregations United for Neighborhood Action and Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania; taught in college honors program focused on leadership and change for 7 years; Founded and Coached college-level lacrosse and ice hockey programs; Owned and operated public speaking and training business; Board member and player in "Geezer Hockey League".

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? This Synod has been good to me, I want to give back to that gift.

What are your priorities for this ministry? Support leaders and congregations; make the Synod more active and relevant in the day-to-day work of congregations.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? Faith is better caught than taught. I highly regard our education ministries, but without a whole-body connection to the daily living and practices of faith and connection to Jesus, we're missing the point of ministry. We need to feel and experience our faith as much or more than the intellectual belief.

The Rev. Andy Tyrrell – Grace, Richmond – Northeast Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 30 - 45 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Currently I serve as the pastor of Grace in Richmond, IL. I have been blessed to serve in this role since 2011. I have been able to witness so many ways God has been working in our church. Since 2018 I have served as a member on the synod council. From 2012 to 2014 I served as Dean of the Northeast Conference. In 2016 I served as a delegate on the churchwide assembly and was a member of the Bishop's Transition team. Currently I serve on the synod's finance committee and discipline committee. These ministries allowed me to gain perspective on how God is working through the ELCA at a local, national and global level.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: One of my deep passions is serving as the chaplain for the Richmond police and fire departments. I am regularly called to emergencies to offer spiritual and emotional support. I also work closely to serve the needs of the police and firefighters. I often serve at baptisms, marriages and funerals of the first responders and their families.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I have found it very meaningful to serve on the synod council these past three years. I have been blessed to see the larger church work in a variety of different ways. The synod council consists of

wonderful people who are helping lead the church in exciting ways. I would love to continue to be a part of it.

What are your priorities for this ministry? Jesus says those who wish to follow him must be a "servant of all" (Mark 9:35). I believe I am blessed to be a blessing to others. I always have tried to be a collaborative leader. This past year has challenged us all in so many different ways. But I have also found that God is good even when life is not. I am very hopeful about the future of the church and I would love to continue to be a part of the synod council as it seeks to do God's work.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? Through my baptism I have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. God loves me not because of what I do, but because of what Jesus has done for me. Embracing my baptism each day allows me to be free. Free to love as God loves all of us. My hope and prayer is that my life is a blessing to others.

**MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT Male Nominees for Synod Council Vote
for 1 (3-year term)**

The Rev. Mike Thomas

The Rev. Brad Haugen

The Rev. Michael Thomas – Zion, Rockford – North Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 46 - 60 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Zion Development Board Member; Patriots Gateway Community Center - Interim Executive Director; Katie's Cup - Board Member; Zion Outreach - Board Member; Cross Cultural D.C. Trip – Coordinator; Servant Trip Planner (2011-2018)

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Rockford Midtown Market - Team Lead; Rockford Police Chaplain - 2012-2015 Transform Rockford Clergy unity Team - Co-lead; Cars & Coffee - Coordinator

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I've served on other Committees in the Synod and believe those experiences have helped me to be open to serving as needed.

What are your priorities for this ministry? My priorities would be to support the mission of the ELCA and honor the three-fold expression of the church.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? God has called me to inspire and equip people to share the grace of Christ!

The Rev. Brad Haugen – Followers of Christ, Plainfield – East Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 30 - 45 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: All aspects of pastoral ministry: preaching, leading worship, teaching, and pastoral care & counseling. Adult Bible studies and Sunday School as well as Confirmation. An annual Vacation Bible School that serves both the congregation and the community.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Developing partnerships in the community: Hosting a Christian student group from Plainfield North High School; participating in Plainfield Area Chamber of Commerce community fairs; supporting our local food pantries and micro-pantries through congregational food drives.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? During my three years on the Synod Council, I appreciate learning how the Synod's leadership works. I was privileged to be part of that leadership helping make decisions that aligned with the Synod's mission to serve congregations and the ministry of churchwide.

What are your priorities for this ministry? I want to continue to find ways for rostered leaders, congregations, and the Synod to work together. I think there are opportunities for the partnership between the Synod and congregations to become even more active and cooperative - as a pastor on the synod council I want to help develop that partnership even more at the Synod leadership level. Especially during the pandemic we've discovered we really need each other.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? For me, faith is trusting that Jesus has reconciled us to God and to one another. Ephesians 2:13-14 (New Revised Standard Version) puts it best: "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us."

Congregational Life Committee

LAITY Female Nominee for Congregational Life Committee Vote for 1 (2-year term)

Ms. Georgiana Grossman

Ms. Georgiana Grossman - Immanuel, Amboy – Central Conference

Occupation: Retired from CGH Medical Center

Gender: Female

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I have served as Council President; Superintendent of Sunday School; served on Stewardship, Worship, and Evangelism committees; and led WELCA and Bible study. I am

an Assistant Minister for my congregation. I graduated from the Diakonia program in 2009.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: For the past 10 years I and three other people have held community Bingo with lunch one a month for the community. I am one of the founding persons for the Buddy Bag program which provides children with meals on weekends during the school year.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I wish to see not only my home congregation but that all congregations benefit from the ideas and opportunities that this committee makes possible through the Congregational Resourcing Event.

What are your priorities for this ministry? My priorities for this ministry is to support, encourage, and take part in as many areas of this committee as I am able.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? God's written Word and the promises contained in those words are the basis of my faith and that faith in turn is my strength for each day. My motto: I can do everything through him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13

LAITY Male Nominee for Congregational Life Committee Vote for 1 (2-year term)

Mr. Brandon Graves

Mr. Brandon Graves – Salem, Sycamore – Northeast Conference

Occupation: Hospital Worker and Volunteer

Gender: Male

Age: 18 - 29 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Currently: I serve on the Witness committee of Salem, which is basically the Evangelism/Outreach team, the committee does community outreach to help bring in new members to Salem. Serve on the Property committee. I serve as an usher, and fill in Assisting Ministry, and elected to Salem Council in January of 2021. I also served as Parliamentarian for the 2021 annual meeting.

Past: I served on the youth council during high school, I have served on the nominating committee four times in 2008, 2010, 2015, and 2018. I played Trumpet in the Christmas and Easter Brass for 10 years. I have been a voting member from Salem at Synod Assembly in 11,12,14,15,16,17,18,19, and would have been in 2020 as well, also was elected to assembly in 2021. In the past I have helped to interpret the constitution when needed at Salem, helping with constitution revisions in for 2016 and 2019.

In 2017 I was elected to Salem's Senior Pastor Call Committee, which ended in 2018 with the installation of Rev. Preston Fields.

Synod: At the Synod level, I have served on the Synod Outreach committee from 2013 - 2019. As I have previously noted I have attended 8 synod assemblies. Also, at the Synod level I have served on the Synod Assembly resolutions committee in 2015 and 2016.

In 2016, I attended the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans, as a Young Adult voting member, which was a great experience, knowing about how much goes on beyond your congregation and Synod is amazing.

I served on the Synod Nominating committee representing the Northeast conference in 2017 and 2018. As you can see, I love the innerworkings of the church at home and at large.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Currently: I work at the local hospital and have worked there for 10 years. I also am a volunteer at the DeKalb County Nursing Home helping with activities, I have done this for 8 years.

In the past I was Volunteer of the Year in 2011, while I served in the Teenage Group Service (TAGS) at the local hospital.

I am currently pursuing becoming a Registered Parliamentarian, RP, in order to help churches with Roberts Rules of Order.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? As I have written previously, I love the Church. I have always been willing to volunteer my time at it. Having served two terms from 2013 - 2019 on the Outreach Committee, I learned even more about the Northern Illinois Synod. Now, I am a nominee for the Congregational Life Committee, which is a different aspect of our Synod. I have always been amazed by the committee's biggest event the Congregational Resourcing Event, (CRE), every March.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To support the committee, help where needed, and support the tasks ahead of us.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I have been a member of Salem and the ELCA my whole life. I was Baptized at Salem in December of 1992 and confirmed at Salem in 2007. I am Baptized in Christ's name. I always remember that we have to be ready for Jesus when he comes. We don't know when that will be, but just be ready. Continue to do the work he has asked us to do. Amen

ROSTERED MINISTER Male Nominee for Congregational Life Committee Vote for 1 (2-year term)

The Rev. Christopher Lee

The Rev. Christopher Lee – First, Rock Island – West Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 30 - 45 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Biracial or Multiracial

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I come from a background in Youth and Family Ministry and believe Confirmation, despite the horror stories, can be an exceptional opportunity for ministry and outreach!

First Lutheran Rock Island, is a Scandinavian heritage congregation that in 2020 celebrated 150 years of mission and ministry in Rock Island.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I have served on the board for QC Haven of Hope, formerly known as St Joseph the Worker House, for 3 years, part of which was as the interim board chair. We are a ministry that supports, educates and reintegrates women with children into a state of stability and health, meeting them where they are, discerning and addressing needs together, and working towards productive independence in the community.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? The life of the congregation has little to do with what happens within the walls of the church. The role of leaders in the church, is to help congregation members imagine how the life we know/share/have been promised can and should be broadcast widely as an invitation to share in the life we know. We are gathered as congregations, in new, strange, unfamiliar ways. Even so, our gathering is designed for us to be fed and sent.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To serve as best as I am able to enrich the lie of the congregations of the NIS.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? Jesus, in his life, death, resurrection and ascension has opened to way to God for all. Who am I to disagree with what God has done?

LAITY Female Nominee for Congregational Life Committee Vote for 1 (3-year term)

Ms. Carol Johnson

Ms. Carol Johnson – Prince of Peace, Freeport – Northwest Conference

Occupation: Retired Special Education Administrator

Gender: Female

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I currently serve as secretary of our church Council and have been an organist/pianist since I was high school and continue to serve in this role. I have been the choir accompanist in the past. I have served and continue to serve on our church's Preschool board of directors as well as on the Altar Guild.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I am currently President of our local Quota club, which is a small service organization dedicated to serving women, children, and persons with speech or hearing difficulties. I am also a member of the 100 Women Who Care. Since retiring, I have volunteered in our local elementary schools and as the human member of a Therapy Dog team that visits the hospital and Cancer Center (but not since pandemic restrictions, of course). I also volunteer at a local not-for-profit Resale Shop and for a twice-monthly food giveaway.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? As a church musician, worship services have always been an integral part of my faith life. Beyond that, the fellowship of my church member friends has been a blessing to me at Prince of Peace and I feel that my experience can support and enhance the mission of churches throughout the Northern Illinois Synod. I am also very interested in networking with others on the committee to learn ways that we can better minister to the needs of members at Prince of Peace.

What are your priorities for this ministry? I first would like to learn more about the mission and goals of the Congregational Life Committee. Currently, I feel a priority for all of us should be finding creative ways to minister to members safely and remotely while also planning how to re-engage members when we are able to worship and fellowship in person again. Enhancing the worship experience through music for all members is always a priority for me.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe that God has blessed me with love, grace and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit supports and keeps me in that faith so that I can serve God's people in my community and around the world. My response to God is to reflect that love, grace and forgiveness in all my interactions with people.

LAITY Male Nominees for Congregational Life Committee Vote for 1 (3-year term)

Mr. Kent Kindelsperger

Mr. Kent Kindelsperger – Swedona, Lynn Center – Southwest Conference

Occupation: Ice Cream Retailer

Gender: Male

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Have been on the boards of Swedona and Edwards River Ministry and been president of both. I am currently the lay pastor (Synodically Authorized Minister) at Zion Lutheran in North Henderson and have been there close to 5 years.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Jaycee member in Moline for a number of years. I donate to many worthy causes. Have also been an election official and participated on the staff of a political candidate.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? My interest lies in doing the best I can to invigorate rural ministry. I grew up in a farming community, and I hate to see church doors being closed.

What are your priorities for this ministry? Getting people in the pews to understand the joy of being more involved in ministry. It takes everyone to build a congregation.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? Search and find YOUR personal relationship with Jesus Christ so that you can live your life according to the will of God.

Global Mission Committee

ROSTERED MINISTER Female Nominee for Global Mission Committee Vote for 1 (1-year term)

The Rev. Tammy Anderson

The Rev. Tammy Anderson – Bethesda, Morrison – Central Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Female

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: As a pastor, I lead worship and preach every Sunday. So, that has been my primary focus during my years of ministry.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I have been involved in the local ministerial associations, local ambulance as an EMT and trauma debriefer, local community theater, local food pantries, and local service organizations. I will be joining the local Kiwanis as soon as the pandemic is over.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I served my internship in Arusha, Tanzania, and my supervisor was Rev. Solomon Massangwa, who is now the Bishop of the North Central Diocese. I've long had an interest in Global Mission. I have also returned to Tanzania twice since my internship, the last time was for Bishop Massangwa's consecration. I have also served on the Global Mission Committee prior to now, for two terms.

What are your priorities for this ministry? In the past, I found that I was translating Tanzanian culture for others on the committee, especially as it pertained to how we designate funds for ministries in Tanzania. In 2015, I traveled with others from the Committee and with Bishop Wollersheim to Tanzania for Bishop Massangwa's consecration. I would be interested in travel again. The congregation that I currently serve is assigned a sister congregation in Tanzania, but that has not been kept up. We will be restarting that relationship.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe that God is my divine parent who came to earth as his son, to share God's love, grace, mercy and forgiveness through his life and work on earth and his death and resurrection, and that he sent his Holy Spirit to call, inspire and gather us to be his hands and feet in this world by serving one another, loving one another, and sharing the Good News of Jesus.

LAITY Female Nominee for Global Mission Committee

Vote for 1 (2-year term)

Ms. Janel Larson

Ms. Janet Larson – First, Geneseo – West Conference

Occupation: Educator

Gender: Female

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Past: Church council vice-president, youth director, program assistant
Present: Leaders Chairperson for Living Water Via de Cristo board, Chairperson for Spirituality and Wellness ministry. Global Mission Ministry

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Program Coordinator for Quality Lives, Inc. (for adults with special needs), Secretary for Another Child Foundation Board of Directors as well as mission team leader

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? Global missions has been an interest of mine for the past two decades. Sharing Christ's love with our brothers and sisters across the world has become a mission focus. My work locally with immigrants and refugees has heightened awareness of the needs worldwide.

What are your priorities for this ministry? Supporting and encouraging fellow Christians as well as telling their stories to local congregations to bridge the churches.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? As a follower of Christ, I seek to do what is good, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with my God. (Micah 6:8)

LAITY Male Nominee for Global Mission Committee Vote for 1 (2-year term)

Mr. Mike Wadle

Mr. Mike Wadle– Salem, Sycamore – Northeast Conference

Occupation: Retired Teacher

Gender: Male

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I've served as President and Secretary of First's Congregation Council. Longtime member of Social Ministry Team. Hosted Pr. Seth Sululu, son of our Companion Congregation Ketumbeine Lutheran Church in NCD, ELCT. Member of Joint-Executive Committee with Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Voting member of NIS Assembly(s). Voting member of 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Teacher and coach in the DeKalb School District for 30 years. Coordinator of Furniture Moving Ministry under Love INC in DeKalb County.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? In 2001, my wife Sharon and I hosted Marieth Mlay, an Arusha (now NCD) Diocese secondary school teacher, in March - April. We travelled to Tanzania for the month of June to partner with Marieth in facilitating methodology seminars at Mwangaza Teachers Centre. I returned to Mwangaza another 9 summers, several times with Sharon, including 2010 - 2014, when we also trained Mwangaza's Program Directors and teachers from NCD Lutheran Secondary Schools in methodology for immersing students in the English language while teaching each of the high school subject areas. Through hosting Tanzanian teachers and clergy and our time partnering with both in Tanzania, we have established and invested in life-long partnerships.

What are your priorities for this ministry? 1. To invest in the orientation of GMC members, NIS Council members, and members of NIS congregations to a. the history of global partnerships already in place and b. the existing opportunities for individuals and congregations to participate and grow within those partnerships. and 2. to learn new perspectives and consider new opportunities brought forth by existing and new GMC members which will grow existing partnerships and give birth to new relationships.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe that I am to develop my God-given gifts to the fullest and to share those gifts to the best of my ability with my brothers and sisters near and far.

ROSTERED MINISTER Female Nominee for Global Mission Committee Vote for 1 (2-year term)

The Rev. Chris Schoon

The Rev. Chris Schoon– St. John's, Somonauk – South Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Female

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I serve St. John's Lutheran Church in Somonauk where I enjoy leading worship and administering the sacraments. It is and has been an honor to serve God's people as pastor.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Somonauk and the surrounding area has a vibrant ecumenical group of church leaders of which I am a part. In the past (prior to Covid-19) I have participated in an ecumenical worship and prayer services. I have also participated in Growing Hope Globally's annual Fall Celebration. St. John's houses the local food pantry.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? This past year we have learned that we are truly a global village. Global Missions and the way we do church in the future is a passion and concern of mine.

What are your priorities for this ministry? There is so much to learn from other cultures and our Mission Partners. Having an open mind and willingness to dialogue in order to learn from each other is important.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe in the Triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is our creator, redeemer and sanctifier. Each one of us lives in God's love, grace and forgiveness every day.

LAITY Male Nominee for Global Mission Committee Vote for 1 (3-year term)

Dr. Alan Esker

Dr. Alan Esker– Good Shepherd, Lena – Northwest Conference

Occupation: Physician

Gender: Male

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Church council and as a spouse of a pastor just about anything that needed to be done at the moment.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Community events locally and medical mission trips to Peru

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? Traveling to both India and Tanzania I have seen first-hand the positive impact by our synod throughout the world. However, I was especially moved by the faith of our brother and sisters half-way around the world.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To see ourselves work beyond our local church walls to keep spreading the faith. Congregations need to know the amazing work we have and will continue to support.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? To follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ and as a physician to Treat often, Cure sometimes and Comfort always.

ROSTERED MINISTER Female Nominee for Global Mission Committee Vote for 1 (3-year term)

The Rev. Makayla Dahleen

The Rev. Makayla Dahleen – St. Paul's, Sterling – Central Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Female

Age: 18 - 29 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I have a passion for Interfaith and multicultural engagement and have lead many interfaith events and conversations in the churches I have served. I have also been the primary leader for children, youth, and family ministry.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: My call is built on collaboration with the other local ELCA congregations and ecumenical partnerships for worship, VBS, and service camps throughout the community. This summer I will be a leader in our local service camp. I also volunteer on a regional level with the Illinois Poor People's Campaign.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? My faith and relationships have been transformed through friendships with people from different countries and religious backgrounds and through my trips abroad, especially to Saini, Egypt; Haiti; and India. I hope to support opportunities for others to be transformed through relationships, service, and hospitality with our partners around the world, especially our companion synods.

What are your priorities for this ministry? I hope to help promote our ELCA partnerships with our companion synods and help people build relationships. Providing opportunities for hospitality and cultural sharing can help us consider our own culture and society in new ways. I hope to encourage events and travel opportunities that create lasting friendships of mutual service and transformation.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? As Lutheran Christian, my faith is my trust in God's love and grace made manifest in our savior Jesus Christ. I practice my faith by trying to live in a way that follows Jesus' teachings to love God, my neighbor, and all of creation.

ROSTERED MINISTER Male Nominee for Global Mission Committee Vote for 1 (3-year term)

The Rev. Tucker O'Leary

The Rev. Tucker O'Leary – Grace, Knoxville – Southwest Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 18 - 29 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: In my current site we are highly focused on ways that we can support Knox county, most specifically with requirements of food. We also aid LSSI with clothing items in the winter and the Lutheran World relief fund.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Most of my interests align with advocacy for marginalized communities. I have a strong draw to use my platform as a Euro-American pastor to uplift the voices of native individuals of Turtle Island and find ways for reconciliation.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? To be honest it hadn't crossed my mind until I was asked. That being said, I eagerly accepted my name to be thrown in the pot because of how this ministry will play into my strengths of reaching out to marginalized communities and discovering larger ways that we can live out Christ's mission for this world.

What are your priorities for this ministry? My first priority is to be a sponge. To soak up all that I can from those who have been on the committee longer and from those whom have come before. My second priority will be to see where my congregation aligns with Global mission to get more churches involved beyond the occasional donation that has been the norm across synods.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? My faith is ever expanding and growing much expanding and opening of mindsets in this world. I seek to see the Kingdom of God on earth and our first step is to care for our neighbors.

Ministry Support Committee

ROSTERED MINISTER Female Nominee for Ministry Support Committee Vote for 1 (1-year term)

The Rev. Sharon Rogers

The Rev. Sharon Rogers – First, DeKalb – Northeast Conference

Occupation: Pastor, semi-retired

Gender: Female

Age: 46 - 60 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Former Associate Pastor at Light of Christ Lutheran Church in Algonquin (12+ years), former Associate in Ministry for Youth and Family at Salem Lutheran in Sycamore (8 years), MDiv internship at Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University and First Lutheran, DeKalb. Doctor of Ministry in Spiritual Transformation (2015) from Northern Seminary. Certification: Motions of the Soul iEnneagram Practitioner (2020)

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Adjunct professor in the Master of Leadership in Ministry at Judson University having taught Developing as a Leader in Ministry course. Serve on Christian Ministry Advisory Council at Judson University since 2015. Served as practicum supervisor (2013-2016) and internship supervisor (2018) for Christian Ministry undergraduate students at Judson.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? My background lends itself to the mission of the Ministry Support Committee: "Enabling Christians of the Northern Illinois Synod to realize their call to ministry as both lay and professional workers." I have gained margin in my life to serve on this Committee and having been asked to serve, have prayerfully discerned the opportunity and have the desire to do so for the good of the Northern Illinois Synod and the glory of God.

What are your priorities for this ministry? My priorities would begin with reading past reports of the work of the committee and listening to current work of the committee. I will learn how the committee provides resources, support, and continuing education within our synod, in cooperation with other synods, agencies, and institutions within the ELCA and the Church and then engage in discernment to make informed recommendations for consideration as priorities for the Committee.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? Our God is a promise keeper who is not removed from our everyday lives. God's sovereign plan for humanity includes sending Jesus to teach us God's will and ways. Jesus suffered death on our behalf and then was raised from that death, imparting to us the assurance of eternal life. God's will incorporates our prayers and actions. God listens to our quiet thoughts, spoken words, anguished cries and joyful praises. Though exalted above us in every way, God listens, cares and acts on our behalf in ways that I find often surprise us. The Scripture passage that has guided my life is Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge God and God will direct your paths."

LAITY Male Nominee for Ministry Support Committee

Vote for 1 (2-year term)

Mr. Jim Cantrell

Mr. Jim Cantrell – Peace, Morris – East Conference

Occupation:

Gender:

Age:

Race and Ethnic Origin:

Primary Language:

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present:

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present:

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod?

What are your priorities for this ministry?

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say?

**ROSTERED MINISTER Female Nominee for Ministry Support Committee Vote for 1
(2-year term)**

The Rev. Jen Beamsley

The Rev. Jen Beamsley – St. John, Joliet – East Conference

Occupation: Senior Pastor

Gender: Female

Age: 46 - 60 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Serving as Senior Pastor of St. John, Joliet. Worship, Stewardship, Head of Staff, Pastoral Care, Vision and Administration, Congregational Care. Past experience includes Youth and Family Ministries. Current Chair of Ministry Support, member of Bishop Advisory Committee. I am a former mentor and group leader for new pastors, and formerly served as a NIS Social Ministry member.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Presently: informed and engaged Joliet community member. Former: mentor at a local grade school; former Band Parent; former Cheer Leader Parent, large supporter of local schools, businesses, and community spaces.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? Rostered and professional church staff steward the mission of God's congregations with faithfulness and tenacity. The Ministry Support committee, in collaboration with the Office of the Bishop, is asking the question: "What might help Rostered persons lead in this time, and how can we care for our spiritual well-being?" God's guidance and peace will forge connections and ways of learning/support for leaders during challenging times. I want to work with others as we learn how to lead, take care of people, and work towards wholeness for all people and creation.

What are your priorities for this ministry? Collaboration between Rostered Leaders and Professional Staff to learn new skills or develop ideas for ministry; creating retreat series for Rostered Leaders; Salary Guideline Development; Support for Professional Church

Leaders (Parish Administrators, Program Administrators, Secretaries, Receptionist, Musicians, etc.); Leadership Development for Shared Collaborative Ministry.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? Romans 14:8 “If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.”

ROSTERED MINISTER Male Nominee for Ministry Support Committee Vote for 1 (2-year term)

The Rev. Doug Liston

The Rev. Doug Liston – Joyful Harvest, Johnsburg – Northeast Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 46 - 60 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: As a pastor, my responsibility within the congregation means that I encourage individuals to take up leadership and support roles for many different functions. I currently serve as National Executive Director of the Diakonia Program, the lay education program endorsed by this synod and ten other ELCA synods. I also serve on the Synod Candidacy Committee, working with individuals seeking roster in the ELCA. Previously, I served on the Theological Education Advisory Committee to the Churchwide Council of the ELCA for four years, seeking to better theological education at both the seminary and lay levels.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I believe education is an important part of caring for community and growing leaders. I have served on the Board of Trustees of the Johnsburg Public Library District for 13 years, the Northern Illinois Library System for 4 years, and the Johnsburg Educational Partnership Foundation for 3 years. Through education, our communities can prosper, and individuals can become the best they can be. Additionally, I currently serve on the board of the Northern Illinois Helping Hands Food Pantry where we serve over 100 families each week.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? Having served as a solo pastor at Joyful Harvest for nearly ten years, I have found that the six sub-committees of the Ministry Support Committee are indispensable in providing the leaders of our synod (both rostered and lay) with the spiritual, educational, and formative background to have them be the best leader they can be. I believe that my skill set would be helpful in furthering those goals.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To continue to build up the support systems of rostered and lay leaders so that, individually and corporately, our faith can grow and continue to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? Such a small space for such a big topic! Paul writes in his letter to the church in Philippi: "I can do all things through him (Christ) who strengthens me." To be completely honest, I could not

begin to accomplish anything without this knowledge and promise. My faith in Christ, in God's grace and forgiveness, the power of God's Spirit working through myself and the congregation that I serve, and the revelation of God's self in the Scriptures - those are the ways that I encounter God in everyday life. Those are the foundation and bedrock of my faith.

LAITY Female Nominee for Ministry Support Committee Vote for 1 (3-year term)

Ms. Julie Eshleman

Ms. Julie Eshleman – St. Mark, Rockford – North Conference

Occupation: Director of Christian Education

Gender: female

Age: 30 - 45 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Children's Ministry/Christian Education (previously as a volunteer teacher, now hold Director position on staff), music (choir, handbells, oboe), chairperson of committee to call an Associate Pastor (2015)

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: IREAD and other tutoring work with elementary students, volunteer docent at Anderson Japanese Gardens, Data Specialist for Rockford Area Moms Demand Action group (gun violence)

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I would like to serve in this way because I know how crucial it is to support people in leadership. Leaders who have a strong support system and ready access to the information and resources that they need are better able to lead with flexibility and creativity. I think 2020 has brought to the forefront the need for broad mutual support across congregations and have been impressed with the work I've seen the Northern Illinois Synod do in this area.

What are your priorities for this ministry? My priorities, beyond working to meet current ministry goals, are to increase the amount of and access to professional development opportunities for lay leaders like myself. I attempted a few times during my first year to find a network of Christian Education/Children's Ministry professionals outside of Facebook but was not successful. I didn't find much in the way of professional development opportunities, either, outside of a conference in California. This event was cost-prohibitive for my family and congregation. 2020 interrupted my further efforts to network locally, but I was delighted by the several conferences and workshops that were offered online. I think the NIS can build on some of those successes for both rostered and lay ministers.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? Assuming a shared Lutheran context for this conversation, I would say that I express my faith through the pursuit of justice and mercy. I believe that, throughout Scripture, God calls us to respond to God's love and salvation by bringing mercy and grace to each other in every way possible. Our work at the individual and community level must be driven by mercy and generosity, and our work at the systemic and governmental levels must be driven by justice and equity. Keeping our focus on the twin goals of justice and mercy ensures that our actions remain faithful to God's call and Jesus's example.

LAITY Male Nominee for Ministry Support Committee

Vote for 1 (3-year term)

Mr. Bill Nelson

Mr. Bill Nelson – First, Geneseo – West Conference

Occupation: Retired

Gender: Male

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I have served on the church council at of my congregation on two occasions, most recently from 2008 through 2014, with two of those years as president. I currently serve on our congregation's Worship and Music Ministry and our Mission Endowment Committee and have served on two call committees and on our Sanctuary Renovation Task Force as chairman. I am very involved in the music ministry of our congregation.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I have served on committees which involved school activities of my children and of committees that have involved local congregations in planning city-wide music events. In addition, I served on the board and as president of my profession's state association.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I want to help those individuals who minister to the needs of our congregations, including rostered leaders and lay leaders. This is especially true in these times of the pandemic where resources of guidance are sought.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To be that source of information for ministers and lay leaders who seek help and information, and to be an encouragement to those individuals who are considering the ministry of the Lutheran church as their vocation.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? We are all God's children, and we are all saved by grace through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

ROSTERED MINISTER Male Nominee for Ministry Support Committee **Vote for 1 (3-year term)**

The Rev. Vince Marolla

The Rev. Vince Marolla – First, Galesburg – Southwest Conference

Occupation: Hospice Chaplain and interim pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 46 - 60 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I have served as a called pastor to congregations in North Dakota. In this Synod, I

have done pulpit supply, served in 2 part-time interim positions and one term call which grew out of an interim. I have 20 years of experience in hospice as a Chaplain, Bereavement Coordinator and Educator.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I have served on a number of Boards in the past. I served on the Board of the Funeral Consumers Alliance while in WI. I have served on the Board of Prairie Players Civic Theatre in Galesburg. I have a special interest in end of life issues and have done extensive teaching on End of Life issues. I also play tuba in musical groups in and around Galesburg.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? Even before COVID brought changes to how we do ministry, Rostered Leaders and congregations were struggling. As congregations in some areas are getting smaller, as there are fewer Rostered Leaders to serve, we need to be creative and look at and develop resources to continue to bring life and vitality to the ministry of Jesus Christ in the Northern Illinois Synod. My experience can help to do that.

What are your priorities for this ministry? When I look at serving on the Ministry Support Committee, I see two areas of priority. The first is to provide resources to assist Rostered Leaders. This can be things from events that provide a chance for education and support to printed resources that can be shared. The second priority is to develop and explore existing resources to help congregations as they face a different future. In the SW Conference, almost half of our congregations are in the Call Process or being served in a non-traditional way. I believe we need to find ways to help congregations to enter into conversation about how we can share ministry to strengthen us all in our ministry together.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? My life of faith springs from my Baptism which is an event that renews me each and every day. I rise up out of the bed each morning as a new creation ready to live and minister in a world of everchanging possibilities. I am empowered by the Holy Spirit to think and pray and minister into that world each and every day. The most important word that I can give the world is that the love of God is without conditions - it is for everyone regardless of race, religious belief, gender, social status, economic status, political affiliation or age. That inclusive word is embodied in Matthew 25 when Jesus talks about the least of these. It is our ministry and mission to lift up the least of these and to share God's word of unconditional love.

Outreach Committee

LAITY Female Nominee for Outreach Committee

Vote for 1 (2-year term)

Ms. Lisa Gerloff-Banker

Ms. Lisa Gerloff-Banker – Grace, Woodstock – Northeast Conference

Occupation: Teacher

Gender: Female

Age: 46 - 60 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Church Council (2017-2023); secretary (2017-18); vice president (2018-2/2021); president (2/2021--); Adult Education Classes -- Teacher and Co-Teacher; Congregational Vitality Team

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Sincere interest in educational development and outreach offerings for all ages in both the church and wider communities.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I believe that just as God meets us where we are, the church needs to continue developing ways of teaching and supporting current and potential new members of the faith community.

What are your priorities for this ministry? Help congregations to remain relevant and vital in a world full of changing demographics and cultural pressures.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe in the words of the Nicene Creed and in the words of 1 John 4:18 "there is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear."

ROSTERED MINISTER Female Nominee for Outreach Committee Vote for 1 (2-year term)

The Rev. Stacie Fidler

The Rev. Stacie Fidler – St. John’s, Rock Island –West Conference

Occupation:

Gender:

Age:

Race and Ethnic Origin:

Primary Language:

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present:

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present:

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod?

What are your priorities for this ministry?

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say?

ROSTERED MINISTER Female Nominee for Outreach Committee Vote for 1 (3-year term)

The Rev. Sarah Wilson

The Rev. Sarah Wilson – St. Barnabas, Cary – Northeast Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Female

Age: 46 - 60 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Prefer not to answer.

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregations I've served include working to define who the congregation is and where God is calling us and then living into that, leading capital campaigns through renovation projects or debt elimination, and walking with church and community members through times of trauma.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I've worked on a countywide domestic violence committee and I served for 6 years on my county's Mental Health Board. I served for many years on the synod's boundaries taskforce.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I believe the Lutheran church offers something the world needs through our theology and our congregations. But the most important people are rarely in church--those who've never heard about Jesus and his grace. Outreach, whether that's on the congregational level or synodical level, is an important way to bring Jesus to those who need him most.

What are your priorities for this ministry? I hope the Outreach Committee can help congregations and their leaders create new ways of reaching out to their communities with the love of God. I also hope this committee can support those newer ministries that are already established in our synod so they can thrive.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? Jesus' words in John 10 sum up the Gospel for me: "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

ROSTERED MINISTER Male Nominee for Outreach Committee Vote for 1 (3-year term)

The Rev. Brandon Nelson

The Rev. Brandon Nelson – GPS Faith Community, MacChesney Park – North Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 30 - 45 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I long for a faith community to be deep and wide. The desire is for us to grow our faith together and connections through small group ministry, fellowship and serving (deep). It is also important for a community of faith to always be growing wide in its openness, inclusion and casting of the gospel message to the community (wide). In my partnering with the faith communities I have served alongside, I work to grow the small group gatherings as well as growing our hearts for our communities. I also work toward outreach efforts to a community in using the space that a community has.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I have worked within the schools wherever I have served to mentor, be a volunteer and to encourage the staff. I also was on the board at the PADS shelter. Have worked within the care ministry within the communities.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I believe the outreach committee has the ability to encourage, partner with and bring the resources of the synod and ELCA to congregations in this moment. To help congregations to dream and redream how they might live into the Kingdom vision for their community and setting.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To find ways to partner and connect communities of faith. Help congregations and leaders to dream God's dreams.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? It all begins, is and ends with God's love. Our beloved-ness is our identity as people of faith. We are wrapped up in God's grace which is what we have to offer the world through story telling and serving.

Social Ministry Committee

LAITY Female Nominee for Social Ministry Committee Vote for 1 (2-year term)

Ms. Annette Petersen

Ms. Annette Petersen – Shepherd of the Prairie, Huntley– Northeast Conference

Occupation: Retired

Gender: Female

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Involved with homeless care and ministry, Food Pantry Support, Boy Scout support, area Artist support

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: All of the above, plus Farmers Market, Community information weekend.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? Social issues are increasingly important and need to be understood (gather data) and discussed in an on-going manner in congregations.

What are your priorities for this ministry? Very important to begin (and or continue) the dialog and information with congregations now.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe that God is active in my life all the time. With Him, I look for him in everyone I encounter.

LAITY Male Nominee for Social Ministry Committee Vote for 1 (2-year term)

Dr. Peter Kivisto

Dr. Peter Kivisto – St. John’s, Rock Island – West Conference

Occupation: Professor, Augustana College

Gender: Male

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Immigration, Race Relations,

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: A range of social justice issues, which in addition to those concerning racism and immigrants and refugees, also includes working on criminal justice issues and human rights issues.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I have been involved in issues involving racial justice with the NIS for some time, and look forward to both continuing that work and engaging with other social ministry issues.

What are your priorities for this ministry? At a time of deep inequality and injustice, the overarching goal is to help provide a Christian vision of a diverse society in which we can be in solidarity with others while addressing the structural reasons that prevent so many from flourishing.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? Faith is only real if it is enacted in a world in need of redemption.

ROSTERED MINISTER Female Nominee for Social Ministry Committee Vote for 1 (2-year term)

The Rev. Carol Soderholm

The Rev. Carol Soderholm – Trinity, Milledgeville - Northwest Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Female

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: creation care committee, Native American justice, African-American justice

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: creation care committee, Native American justice, African-American justice

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I always had a passion for areas of justice, equality and diversity.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To continue to make the USA a more just community...especially my neighborhood and social community

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? Jesus is the center of my life.

ROSTERED MINISTER Male Nominee for Social Ministry Committee Vote for 1 (2-year term)

The Rev. Scott Ralston

The Rev. Scott Ralston – Faith, Forreston - Central Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 46 - 60 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Choir member; Praise Leader; Sunday school teacher; Drama participant and leader; Confirmation design and leadership; Bible study design and leadership; congregation council member; Creation Care for Northern Illinois Synod Chair

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Community Council of churches President; Community worship design and leadership

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? Having been a part of the Social Ministry Committee and chair of the Creation Care subcommittee I have seen the valuable work that the social ministry committee can do.

What are your priorities for this ministry? Enhance and strengthen current programs and find new ways to impact and better the lives of the people of the Northern Illinois Synod.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I am a child of God. Rooted in my faith. I began my faith journey at a young age, and I am proud to say I am still learning and growing today. I do my best to bring the love of Jesus into the lives of the people around me. I fail sometimes, but I try again and again; and I'll never stop. I tell people at my church is that one of the best things you can do in this life is to help someone else come to know Jesus Christ (and that is something that happens not just from what we say but from what we do). Live in Christ, Love God and All Creation, Serve and make a difference.

LAITY Male Nominee for Social Ministry Committee Vote for 1 (3-year term)

Mr. Larry Cording

Mr. Larry Cording – Shepherd of the Hills, Scales Mound – Northwest Conference

Occupation: Retired Teacher

Gender: Male

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Former Shepherd of the Hills council member, Shepherds Table (host and cook) free lunch for all who wish to attend, Steak Fry committee, Men's Bible Study leader, participant in weekly text study with both local clergy and lay people, Stephen Ministry, and Diakonia program

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Galena Lions Club (Sight and Sound Scholarship Chairperson, Leadership in annual Oktoberfest) Founding member of Galena Cultural Arts Alliance, President of the Artist Outlet Hello Galena, Member of Fever River Choral Group

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I think it is important to reach out to our neighbors in any way we can. Sometimes it is easier to start with local involvement and then move to larger opportunities. I was a delegate to the ELCA national convention. Having served in the past on the NI Synod Outreach Committee and the Congregational Life Committee, I look forward to serving on Social Ministry.

What are your priorities for this ministry? My priorities are to work with the various subcommittees and help them in any way we can. I hope to encourage more communication with the subcommittees. I also look forward to participating in the annual CRE Event and the NI Synod Assembly

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? Believing in God and God's love for all people is important to me. The Social Ministry of the ELCA is committed to carrying forward Jesus' example of compassion and caring for those in need. My faith could be described as stated in Micah 6:8 "And what does the Lord require of you? God asks me to act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with my God."

ROSTERED MINISTER Male Nominee for Social Ministry Committee Vote for 1 (2-year term)

The Rev. Jacob Gawlik

The Rev. Jacob Gawlik – St. John's, Sterling - Central Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 30 - 45 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Social Justice; Community Outreach; Theological Interpretation; Liturgical Theology

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I've worked with the SEE Justice Coalition in the Sterling-Rock Falls Community and I'm actively participating with a group of community leaders and pastors who are doing a book study on the topic of Racism.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I currently serve as the Chairperson for the Social Ministry Committee and feel this would be a good opportunity to continue that partnership. I enjoy Theological Interpretation and the work of interpreting Social Statements. I feel it is important as a person of faith to be engaged in

conversation around social issues and to promote social action and advocacy that reflects the faith of the church.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To speak to issues of justice and equality for all persons. To promote peaceful dialogue and discernment around difficult issues. To develop plans that affirm and implement the Social Statements of the church

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? In the Constitutions, Bylaws, And Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America a very important responsibility arises in 7.31.02.a.8. In the same wording it appears again in the Constitution for Synods in S14.12.a.8. And then again in the Model Constitution for Congregations in C9.03.a.8. The responsibility is that every ordained minister shall "speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world." This is risky business and terra incognita all rolled into one. As ordained ministers, persons who have been set apart for the ministry of Word and Sacrament, we have been charged to act as the voice of God's love for the world. Not just some parts, not just some people, but the whole world.

Consultation Committee

ROSTERED MINISTER Male Nominee for Consultation Committee Vote for 1 (2-year term)

The Rev. Frank Langholf

The Rev. Frank Langholf – Emmanuel, Rockford – North Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I have served as a pastor in small and midsize congregations as a solo pastor, senior pastor, and associate.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I have been involved in groups such as PFLAG which are support and advocacy groups for the LGBTQIA+ community. I have been involved in the work of anti-racism and social justice.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I hope to assist rostered leaders, congregations, and the Synod to discern the best resolution to difficult situation that at time arise in the mutual ministry of congregations and leaders.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To listen carefully when called to consult with a congregation and to participate in discern the best solution for each particular situation.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? In the midst of living I trust in the love of God in whom we live and move and have our being, and I seek to do the work I have been called to do so all may experience the fulness of love and life.

LAIITY Female Nominee for Consultation Committee Vote for 1 (6-year term)

Ms. Donna Kelly

Ms. Donna Kelly – Shepherd of the Prairie – Northeast Conference

Occupation: Connections Minister at Shepherd of the Prairie, Huntley

Gender: Female

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: In my lifetime I have participated in every activity and leadership position available from painting walls to teaching Sunday School, to president of 2 congregations, to leading worship and preaching, to youth leadership and teaching confirmation. I currently work fulltime as Connections Minister at Shepherd of the Prairie.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: My husband and served as presenting couple in Lutheran Marriage Encounter for over 20 years and I have served on NIS committees. I have also belonged to several community organizations.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I have had training in conflict resolution through the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. I'm a great believer in conflict resolution and reconciliation, especially in the church.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To find ways to help congregations find ways to reconcile their differences without separation.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe in God as parent and creator, Jesus as son and savior, and Spirit as the force that gives me life and direction. I also believe that God has created and called me to be a reflection of his love to the world and to be a part of his work to bring the kingdom and God's will "on earth as it is in heaven". Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ behind me, Christ above me, Christ below me, Christ in the center.

LAIITY Male Nominee for Consultation Committee

Vote for 1 (6-year term)

Dr. Trenton Ferro

Dr. Trenton Ferro – St. John, Joliet – East Conference

Occupation: Professor Emeritus

Gender: Male

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: American English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Member, Church Council, with special emphases on worship, leadership, program planning and evaluation, ministerial care, Christian education, and adult formation; facilitator, church council planning retreats; adult study leader (over 50 years); primary instructor, Bethel Bible Series; lead instructor and presenter for several congregational-

wide educational endeavors; founder and chair, Visiting Theologian Committee; founder and chair, Adult Ministries committee.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Multiple committee and leadership positions at the university level, including department chair; member, Board of Directors, Vice President, and chair, Conference Planning Committee, Religious Education Association; member, Lutheran Campus Center (Indiana University of PA) Directing Committee, including Pastoral Support Committee and chair, Long Range Planning Committee; offices and committee membership at the local (including president), district, and Society level, Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS); Certified Leadership Facilitator, BHS; troop committee member, district committee member, council committee member, and trainer, Boy Scouts of America; member, Human Services Council of Indiana County, PA, including membership on several committees; board member and Treasurer, Parents for Gifted Education, Rockford; member, Rockford Area Literacy Council; member and chair, Academic Committee, Rockford Lutheran High School; co-founder and advisor, Lutheran Literacy Council of Northern California; member, City Planning Commission, Henderson, NV; member, Kiwanis Board of Directors, Henderson, NV; member, Community Social Services Board of Directors, Henderson, NV; member, District Board of Directors, California and Nevada District (LCMS).

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I wish to continue to offer to the Synod and its members (both congregations and individuals) my professional training and experience that have been developed over a lifetime, including service to the Synod over the last several years. That service includes managing, and teaching at, the East Conference diakonia™ site at St. John, Joliet; serving as a voting member of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly in Orlando, FL, and the 2016 Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans, LA; and serving two terms as a member of the Synod's Ministry Support Committee.

What are your priorities for this ministry? If elected to the Consultation Committee, I will be guided by both my statement of faith (see below) and the Synod Constitution. I commit myself to impartiality and even-handedness throughout any adjudicatory process that may come before the committee.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I am a "dyed-in-the-wool" Lutheran by birth, training, and lifelong commitment and involvement. My faith position can be summarized by Eph. 2:8-10: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one can boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." I believe in the Triune God (as difficult as it is to grasp and attempt to explain that concept): in a Father who so loved a fallen humanity that he was willing to offer his only and beloved Son to suffer, die, and rise again in order to atone for our sins and sinfulness that have separated us from this loving and creating God. The Holy Spirit works through the means of grace (God's Word and the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper) to bring this message of love to me and all believers, convicting us of our sin (Law) and convincing us of his acceptance and forgiveness (Gospel). Consequently, I, and all who have been saved by his loving action, are called upon to love and serve others, both within the Christian fellowship and in the world around us, so that everyone can come to know this loving and gracious God who would have all humanity know the peace that only he can bring.

ROSTERED MINISTER FEMALE Nominees for Consultation Committee Vote for 1 (6-year term)

The Rev. Lu Cantrell

The Rev. Lu Cantrell – Peace, Morris – East Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Female

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I have been pastor for just over 10 years. Prior to that, I served as a director of worship for 17 years. My goal as a leader is to help people find what God has called them to do. Then I feel it is important to encourage and enable them to live into that calling.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I was president and now am treasurer for the Grundy Area Ministerial Association. I have been on the Board of Directors and now serve as executive secretary of Grundy Area PADS. I have been the chaplain for the Channahon Fire Protection District for 4 years.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I have served in several ministries that have challenges to overcome and feel I have been an asset in resolving them.

What are your priorities for this ministry? In this ministry I believe it is important to listen, listen, and listen. To find out the source of the conflict and find creative ways to solve it.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? God loves me so much he sent his Son to die so I might live in eternity forever. This gift of grace is given freely and not anything I deserve or have earned.

ROSTERED MINISTER Male Nominees for Consultation Committee Vote for 1 (6-year term)

The Rev. Eric Lemonholm

The Rev. Eric Lemonholm – Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd – North Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 46 - 60 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Pastoral Leadership

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Community Organizing

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? Yes

What are your priorities for this ministry? Serving as needed

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe in Jesus the Christ, son of God, empowered by the Spirit, present with us in the church community and in the world.

Discipline Committee

LAITY Female Nominee for Discipline Committee Vote for 1 (6-year term)

Ms. Susan Gavle

Ms. Susan Gavle – Bethany, Crystal Lake – Northeast Conference

Occupation: Retired teacher

Gender: Female

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Past President of Congregation; past Vice President of Congregation; Call Committee; Council Recording Secretary 9 years; Confirmation Teacher; Sunday School Director/teacher; Visual Liturgy Committee; Memorial Committee; Social Action Committee.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Active volunteer at CL public Library; Leader of our church quilting ministry

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? As a retiree I have time and energy to serve and after being an active member for almost 40 years, I have a good understanding of how a church functions, at both the positions of leadership, and also as members in the pews.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To be fair, realistic and support collaboration between all parties to resolve the issue presented to the committee.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? Always be open to see where the Spirit is working, opening new paths and providing opportunities to grow and serve.

LAITY Male Nominee for Discipline Committee Vote for 1 (6-year term)

Mr. Maurice Nelson

28A – Mr. Maurice Nelson– First, Geneseo – West Conference

Occupation: Associate with Thrivent

Gender: Male

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Lector, member building and property committee, past council member, on funeral ministry committee, and First Friends committee.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Member of Aisle of Flags committee in Geneseo.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I feel I can be fair and honest in serving on a disciplinary capacity.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To hear all facts and information before making any decisions.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? To be a disciple for Christ in the daily people I have contact with to help in a way I can witness to them.

ROSTERED MINISTER FEMALE Nominee for Discipline Committee Vote for 1 (6-year term)

The Rev. Jill Flynn

The Rev. Jill Flynn – Gloria Dei – North Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Female

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I began my ministry as a lay person serving as the head of Christian Education at my home church. My journey eventually led to seminary and ordination. I am still passionate about Christian education. I have an active interest and history in working with ecumenical partners. At this time I am serving a two point parish of Gloria Dei Lutheran and St. Anskar Episcopal churches which was one of my life-long ministry goals. I have served on the board of Interfaith Chaplaincy in Lake County and ministerium wherever I had been called. In my past life as a business manager I have had much experience in working with people in the aspect of human resources. I served as an interim pastor for ten years and enjoy walking with a congregation in transition. I served on the Board of the Cass County Food Pantry and worked at the distribution days.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Most of my experience has been at the intersection of the church and community - Food pantry, soup kitchen, nursing home and corrections chaplaincy, interfaith initiatives.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I am collegial and enjoy working with a team. I am skilled in conflict management and committed to the best outcome for all concerned.

What are your priorities for this ministry? I hope there is no work for this committee! But if there is I would work towards a solution that is just and fair to all parties concerned, where all are heard objectively.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe in a creator God who shares God's creative ability with us. We work in partnership with the creator to sustain and care for the world for the betterment all life. I believe that the most compelling redemptive characteristic of Jesus is compassion. I have received a gracious call from our Lord Jesus Christ to serve the world the way he has shown us - through love of our neighbor, and service to others, seeking the ultimate good for all, even when it requires sacrifice on my part. I believe that the Holy Spirit sustains and comforts and advocates for us as we attempt to live out our faith and bring the kingdom of God to the here and now.

ROSTERED MINISTER MALE Nominees for Discipline Committee Vote for 1 (6-year term)

The Rev. Nord Swanstrom

The Rev. Nord Swanstrom – First, Pecatonica – Northwest Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Currently serving First Lutheran in Pecatonica. Appreciating all facets of ministry, I continue to fulfill my vocation as Pastor in every aspect of that role in service to others.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Active in Pec Rotary Club, Community Food Pantry, and the Pecatonica Ministerial Association.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I believe that my life experiences and leadership skills in the church and in Public service lend themselves well to assist congregations in sorting out and working through various situations that might arise. I have the knowledge and skills required to serve on this committee.

What are your priorities for this ministry? Priorities for service on this committee would include being a good and careful listener, the ability to discern various issues within the congregation and, in the end, strive for positive resolutions.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? As a baptized child of God, I believe that our God is a loving, welcoming and forgiving God, demonstrated in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are called to serve God and our neighbor as we proclaim the good news of God's love and redemptive grace.

2022 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

Formula Members – to fill the categories of Youth/Young Adult and Person of Color/Person for whom English is not their first language

LAITY Female Nominee, 2022 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member Vote for 1

Ms. Christina King

Ms. Christina King – First, Galesburg – Southwest Conference

Occupation: Pet stylist and Veterinary Technician

Gender: Female

Age: 18 - 29 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Biracial or Multiracial

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I served on my Congregational church council for two years. I was then elected to be the Treasurer for our congregation, I have served in this capacity for 2 years. Currently I serve on our congregations Finance and Endowment committees as an Ex Officio member. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic music ministry was a huge interest of mine in our congregation.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I am the chair of the Galesburg Community Relations Commission. I am on the Governance Board of the Knox County Health Center. Board member for a local preliminary pageant for the Miss America Organization, Treasurer of Galesburg PFLAG, currently serving on the Racial Justice Subcommittee; the Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce, and the Finance committee for the Northern Illinois Synod of the ELCA.

I was also Miss South Carolina Queen USA 2017 where my platform was making healthcare more readily accessible for my fellow transgender individuals. I am your reigning Miss Trans Illinois USA 2020 where my platform is to educate and help create visibility for Transgender individuals throughout the state. I was also a featured guest on the Sacred Inclusion Podcast.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I grew up in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod where I was always an "other". Through my faith journey I have learned the importance of making sure everyone knows they have a voice and a place at the table. I strive to create opportunities and awareness for minorities and feel it is very important that we hold space and that we add diversity to our leadership and voting voices. This in hopes of opening the door to Minority candidates to serve as rostered members and to hopefully add diversity to our synod and church as a whole.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To give voice and representation for the southwest conference of the Northern Illinois Synod and our Synod as a whole. Through this representation, I hope to provide a diversity to our voting body. I hope to also advocate for racial justice, human trafficking outreach, LGBTQ+ justice, rights for people with disabilities, and long-term financial health.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? Through all the adversity I have faced in my life I always look to God and scripture. My mother has had 8 strokes throughout her life. She has always taught/pushed me to always stand up for what is right and stand up for those who have little or no voice. And no one can tell you that you can't achieve your goals if they do " Work harder ". During hard times I always look to our triune God and scripture my favorite being "God is within her, she will not fall." Psalm 46:5. As well as the poem "Footprints" where the Lord said " My precious child, I love you and will never leave you. Never, ever during your trials and testings when you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

LAITY Male Nominees, 2022 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member Vote for 1

Mr. Kurtis Arndt

Mr. Brandon Graves

Mr. Kurtis Arndt – Shepherd of the Prairie, Huntley – Northeast Conference

Occupation: Youth Ministry Intern

Gender: Male

Age: 18 - 29 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: High School Youth; Racial Justice; Confirmation, College Ministry, Mission & Service

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: High School Youth Group, Confirmation, Public Speaking, Racial Justice, LGBTQ+ Justice

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? After much thought of this opportunity, I feel that I can represent a very modern voice when it comes to raising leaders in the church who promote acceptance and love of all types of people.

What are your priorities for this ministry? Promoting acceptance and welcomeness would be my main priority for this ministry. My second would be to create connections to grow with and walk with through ministry for years to come. My third would be to make sure we are constantly reminded that the church is not just for people over a certain age, but a target audience of 12 - 24 should be a focus as well.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? God loved us all, regardless of who we are and what we have done, that he gave his only Son a cross. That cross took on my many mistakes. That cross took on all our mistakes of the past and future to come. That is what love is. My purpose is to promote that love as best I can each and everyday.

Mr. Brandon Graves – Salem, Sycamore – Northeast Conference

Occupation: Hospital Worker and Volunteer

Gender: Male

Age: 18 - 29 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Currently: I serve on the Witness committee of Salem, which is basically, the Evangelism/Outreach team. We do community outreach to help bring in new members to Salem. I also serve as an usher. Am also serving on the 150th anniversary team at Salem. Past: I have served on the Youth Board of Salem during High School, have served on the Nominating committee, now four times, 2008, 2010, 2015, and 2018. I played in the Christmas and Easter

Brass for 10 years. I have been a voting member from Salem at Synod Assembly in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and would have in 2020, as well as attending in 2021. Have also served as a fill in Assisting minister, I also help to interpret the constitution when needed at Salem. In 2016 I helped with the constitution revisions for our constitution, as well as in 2019. In 2017, I was elected to Salem's Senior Pastor Call committee, which ended in 2018 with the installation of Rev. Preston Fields. Currently serving as Property Committee Chair. Synod: At the Synod level, I have served on the Synod Outreach committee 2013-2019, as I have previously noted I have been to quite a few Synod Assemblies. Also, at the Synod level, I have served on the Synod Assembly resolutions committee in 2015 and 2016. In 2016, I attended the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans, as a Young Adult voting member, which was a great experience, knowing about how much goes on beyond your congregation or even your Synod is amazing. Served on the Synod Nominating Committee in 2017 and 2018 representing the Northeast Conference. As you can see, I love the innerworkings of the church at home and at large.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Currently, I work at the local hospital, and have worked there for over 9 years. I also am a volunteer at the DeKalb County Nursing Home and have done that for almost 7 years, which has been a rewarding experience for me. Past: I was Volunteer of the year in 2011, when I was a part of the Teenage group volunteers (TAGS) at the local hospital. Currently working on becoming a Registered Parliamentarian, RP.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I love the innerworkings of the Church, at home and at large. I'm always amazed by the Churchwide Assembly.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To listen, to review all of the materials presented at the Churchwide assembly. Also, to learn, and participate in the innerworkings.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I have been a member of Salem and the ELCA my whole life. I was baptized at Salem in December of 1992 and confirmed at Salem in October 2007. I am Baptized in Christ's name. I always remember that we have to be ready for Jesus when he comes. We don't know when that will be, but just be ready. Continue to do the work he has asked us to do. Amen.

ROSTERED MINISTER Male Nominees, 2022 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member Vote for 1

The Rev. Mack Patrick

The Rev. Tucker O'Leary

The Rev. Mack Patrick – First, DeKalb – Northeast Conference

Occupation: Campus Pastor at Grace Place Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University called through the Northern Illinois Synod Council

Gender: Male

Age: 18 - 29 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I currently serve as Campus Pastor at Grace Place Campus Ministry; we are a Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry serving the Northern Illinois University Community.

Outside of Grace Place, I work with the confirmation students at First Lutheran in Dekalb, help run the Feed My Sheep Food Pantry at Bethlehem Lutheran in DeKalb and provide tech work for First, Bethlehem and Salem in the DeKalb/Sycamore area.

Prior to being called to Grace Place, I served on the Lutheran Youth Organization Board of the Rocky Mountain Synod, was part of a group of youth focused on hunger ministries, attended Synod Assemblies as voting members and visitors and helped with both Jr. High and Sr. High Youth Gatherings at the Synod level. In the Nebraska Synod, I served as a voting member at Synod Assembly, served on the Synod Assembly planning team and was involved in planning both Middle School and High School youth gatherings.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Outside of the congregation I am involved in Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries and am a member of Proclaim. I currently serve as part of the Welcome Duo in Proclaim, focused on welcoming new members into our global community and I serve on the Proclaim Team, an advisory team that focuses on the growing needs of a diverse community. I have served on The tAble planning team for both the 2018 and 2022 cycle. I have been involved in Outdoor Ministry since I was a youth and have worked at both Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp and Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in a variety of leadership positions. I have been involved with panels and presentations that focus on disability ministry and advocacy as well as LGBTQ+ ministry and advocacy both in the public sphere and the church world.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? Since being called to the Northern Illinois Synod I have been amazed at the opportunities both rostered ministers and lay leaders have to utilize their gifts. Serving at Grace Place has given me the opportunity to visit many congregations around the synod as pulpit supply, I have been appointed to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force, I am serving on the Synod Tech Group and was part of the first ever synod wide Longest Night virtual vigil.

These opportunities have shown me all that the synod as to offer and has led me to want to continue being involved in the larger church, and one way to live into that desire is to be a voting member at Churchwide Assembly. Being a voting member at Churchwide Assembly allows me to continue to be part of leading the ELCA in the decisions that will shape and mold the future of our Church.

I not only bring forth a desire for serving the church but my experiences within diverse ministry settings has taught me that church doesn't have to look the same as it once did when the ELCA was formed. I bring to the table a passion for living into God's call, both inside and outside the church walls and we as a Church have the opportunity to live more fully into all of our callings to proclaim the Gospel.

What are your priorities for this ministry? Serving as a voting member at Churchwide Assembly is a huge responsibility, we are tasked with voting on matters that not only affect the churchwide structure as a whole but individual congregations and ministries. My priorities for this ministry is to serve gracefully and faithfully, weighing each and every item that is to be voted on, discerning what God is calling us to. The church is at a pivotal point in society, things need to continue to move forward and I know that I can help lead the charge in making the church a place where we gather not only to be fed through the table and the word but a place where we are sent out to serve the world and to spread the Gospel of Christ.

The church that we grew up with is not the church that will take us into the next era of ministry, it is time to move past compliancy and hold onto the radical call God is issuing to us each and every day. The pandemic has taught us that we do not have to do the same things to be the church, it is time to live into our creative beings and risk something for

the sake of the Gospel. I want to be a voice and a force that helps move the church into a place where we all feel welcome and loved, a place where we are able to fully come to the table and be fed just as Jesus taught us.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe in a God who calls us to serve and to love, to try and try again, to live fully into who we are created to be. I believe in a God who is radical and wholesome, who loves us through grace and welcomes us home with open arms time and time again. I believe in a God who sent God's own Son to save the world, to show us how to love, to heal, to seek forgiveness, show us how to eat and be humble. I believe in a God who is constantly showing up and holding us tight.

My faith at its core is about God's radical love and authentic hospitality, we are not a church made up of perfect people but rather a church of misfits living out God's call in our lives. Each and every day I see my faith lived out in the ways I have been called to serve the church and how I am called to live authentically as myself. Faith is not something I take for granted and I am always open to hearing the Spirit whisper where I am being called to next.

The Rev. Tucker O'Leary– Grace, Knoxville – Southwest Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 18 - 29 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: In my current site we are highly focused on ways that we can support Knox county, most specifically with requirements of food. We also aid LSSI with clothing items in the winter and the Lutheran World relief fund.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Most of my interests align with advocacy for marginalized communities. I have a strong draw to use my platform as a Euro-American pastor to uplift the voices of native individuals of Turtle Island and find ways for reconciliation.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? To be honest it hadn't crossed my mind until I was asked. That being said, I eagerly accepted my name to be thrown in the pot because of how this ministry will play into my strengths of reaching out to marginalized communities and discovering larger ways that we can live out Christ's mission for this world.

What are your priorities for this ministry? My first priority is to be a sponge. To soak up all that I can from those who have been on the committee longer and from those whom have come before. My second priority will be to see where my congregation aligns with Global mission to get more churches involved beyond the occasional donation that has been the norm across synods.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? My faith is ever expanding and growing much expanding and opening of mindsets in this world. I seek to see the Kingdom of God on earth and our first step is to care for our neighbors.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT Nominees, 2022 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member
Vote for 1

Occupation:

Gender:

Age:

Race and Ethnic Origin:

Primary Language:

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present:

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present:

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod?

What are your priorities for this ministry?

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say?

PERSON OF COLOR/PERSON FOR WHOM ENGLISH IS NOT THEIR FIRST LANGUAGE
Nominee, 2022 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member

Vote for 1

Occupation:

Gender:

Age:

Race and Ethnic Origin:

Primary Language:

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present:

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present:

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod?

What are your priorities for this ministry?

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say?