Report of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee was convened on December 9, 2017, at the Synod Center for Ministry. Subsequent meetings were held at the Center, by conference call, and by email. The committee’s task was to nominate persons to be considered for election at this assembly to positions mandated by the current synod constitution and by-laws and also by the governance proposal that will be before the synod assembly. Thus, it was necessary to create two potential ballots, one for use if the proposal were to be approved and the other in case it is not. The committee authorized a “Star Search” asking for “the gift of names” to coincide with the Festival of the Epiphany—persons who could be considered for nomination to various positions of service. It is this committee’s hope that, if the proposed governance system is approved, persons in the synod will recognize both the opportunity and responsibility they will have to offer names to the committee in future years.

Nominations for the conference synod council positions in the current governance model were received from the respective conferences. The committee created a second ballot for the synod council under the proposed model with the goal of having two persons nominated for each position. With the exception of the at-large positions which are used to fulfill the representational/diversity requirements of the constitution, the committee was successful. The committee also nominated Randy Willman for a second term as synod secretary. A table created by synod staff was used showing elections through 2032(!) to assure that we began now a process that would meet all the requirements in future years.

Each Conference nominated a pastor and a layperson for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member positions. The nominating committee secured additional candidates as well to provide two names for each position and to meet diversity goals for Churchwide Assembly Voting Members. This process was complicated due to voting member allocations mandated by the recent Churchwide Assemblies. This synod was allocated 18 voting members of which at least 60% are lay. This delegation is also to consist of 10% people of color or whose primary language is other than English and 10% youth/young adults. In addition, each synod is to elect an additional person of color and an additional youth/young adult. This synod will be allotted, therefore, 20 voting members for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. The Bishop and the Synod Vice-President are included in that number by virtue of their office.

Nominees were secured for the Synod Discipline Committee and the Synod Consultation Committee. The proposed governance model calls for the nominating committee to be elected at the synod assembly and two names are placed in nomination for each of these six positions.

With praise to God, who equips and calls each to particular service, the committee wishes to thank conferences, Deans, and the many others who offered names to be considered for service in and through this synod. We are grateful to those who considered the opportunity to be nominated and especially to those who consented to be nominated.

Special thanks is given to Val Harlynn, Communications Assistant, for receiving biographical nomination forms for the pre-assembly report, to Pastor Paul Ostrem, synod staff advisor. Thanks is also expressed to the members of the committee who served well:

Randy Willman, Synod Secretary  
Jenny Winn  
Pastor Kathy Roys  
Karen Goedekin  
Craig Foss  
Nicholas Wuertz

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Mark C. Urlaub, Committee Chairperson
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Synod Council – Secretary
\(\text{elect one - (4 year term)}\)
1. Randy Willman

Synod Council – Pastors
\(\text{Area Subdivision #1}\)
Pastor – elect one (4 year term)
1. Pastor Katherine Werner
2. Pastor Christian Johnson

\(\text{Area Subdivision #3}\)
Pastor – elect one (4 year term)
1. Pastor Greg Friedrich
2. Pastor Kathleen Wohlers

\(\text{Area Subdivision #5}\)
Pastor – elect one - (2 year term)
1. Pastor Amy Diller Guida
2. Pastor Karen Ullestad

At-Large
Pastor – elect one - (2 year term)
1. Pastor Gemechisa Mosa

Synod Council – Lay
\(\text{Area Subdivision #1}\)
Lay Female – elect one - (2 year term)
1. Deb Husak
2. Marita Rouse

\(\text{Area Subdivision #2}\)
Lay Male – elect one - (4 year term)
1. Marty Rathje
2. Erik Ullestad

\(\text{Area Subdivision #3}\)
Lay Female – Elect one - (4 year term)
1. Kris Elgin
2. Gloria Smallwood
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Area Subdivision #4
Lay Male – Elect one - (2 year term)
1. Ted Sturgeon
2. Rich Wessels

Area Subdivision #5
Lay Female – elect one - (4 year term)
1. Donna Darnell
2. Lisa Willey

Area Subdivision #6
Lay Male - elect one - (4 year term)
1. Paul Schnack
2. Mark Witte

At-Large
Lay Female – elect one (2 year term)
1. Suah Borsay

Lay Male – elect one - (4 year term)
1. Will Negron

Lay Youth Male – elect one - (2 year term)
1. Noah Aanestad
2. Dalton Hill

Lay Youth Female – elect one - (2 year term)
1. Katie Garner
2. Cienna Pangan

Synod Nominating Committee

Area Subdivision #1
Nomination Committee – elect one
1. Kristi Swanson
2. Terri Westendorf

Area Subdivision #2
Nomination Committee – elect one
1. Pastor Nate Liedtke
2. Pastor Jack Mithelman
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**Area Subdivision #3**
Nominating Committee – elect one
1. John Grunwald
2. Chuck Pietscher

**Area Subdivision #4**
Nominating Committee – elect one
1. Larry Kudej
2. Doug Turley

**Area Subdivision #5**
Nominating Committee – elect one
1. Linda Kortemeyer
2. Lynda Miller

**Area Subdivision #6**
Nominating Committee – elect one
1. Pastor Judy Heinrich
2. Pastor Will Layton

**Synod Discipline Committee**
Pastors – elect 2 (6 Year term)
1. Pastor Bob Bekkerus
2. Pastor Paul Hermansen
3. Pastor Joan Swander
4. Pastor Sarah Trone Garriott

Lay – elect 2 (6 year term)
1. Marsha Arens
2. Martha Bonte
3. Mari Haley
4. Jamie Kuiken

**Synod Consultation Committee**
Pastor – elect 1 (6 year term)
1. Pastor Phil Harkey
2. Pastor Elaine Olson

Lay – elect 1 (6 year term)
1. Nancy Beaderstadt
2. Kathryn Bly
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Pastors: (13) – 6 will be elected
1. Pastor Rodney Bluml
2. Pastor Cindy Breed
3. Pastor Christine Cowen
4. Pastor Amy Diller Guida
5. Pastor Zach Johnson
6. Pastor Dan Kuckuck
7. Pastor Russ Lackey
8. Pastor Jealaine Marple
9. Pastor Jeremy McElvain
10. Pastor Joel Nau
11. Pastor Eliezer Ortiz
12. Pastor Joan Swander
13. Pastor Kathleen Wohlers

Lay Male: (8) – 5 will be elected
1. Isak Werner Anderson
2. Dave Goos
3. Logan Lee
4. Joe Lindsay
5. Jon Runaas
6. Joe Obleton
7. Gideon Paul
8. Lyle Stirling

Lay Female: (9) – 5 will be elected
1. Liz Ashing
2. KarrieAnne Burke
3. Madena Burman
4. Amanda Stevenson-Cosgrove
5. Holly Knouse
6. Abbie Larson
7. Mary Merulla
8. Sarah Louise Thorn
9. Britany Thorpe
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Synod Council – Current System

Conference 3 (lay male) – Larry Kudej
                         Doug Turley

Conference 5 (lay male) – John Bonte

Conference 4 (Pastor) – Pastor Wade Reddy

Conference 9 (lay female) – Gloria Smallwood

Youth – female – Katie Garner
               Cienna Pangan

Clergy At-Large – Pastor Jealaine Marple
Synod Council-Secretary

Name: Randy Willman

Congregation/Town: Zion Iowa City

Present-Previous Employment/School:
I have started by thirty-fifth (35) year of law practice and have been an attorney at Leff Law Firm in Iowa City since 1989.

Service - Church and Community:
I recently completed a two-year term as President of the Church Council at Zion Lutheran Church. I continue to serve in other worship capacities as well. In the Iowa City Community, I am a member of the Rotary Club of Iowa City AM; a member of Elks 590 and in my profession, I continue to serve on the Iowa Supreme Court Grievance Commission; Iowa State Bar Judicial Administration Committee; Iowa State Bar Family Law Section Member; Iowa State Bar Examination/Grading Group.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position:
My faith and service in behalf of the church is important to me and I am honored to be considered for this position. I believe that my practice and board experience will assist me with the duties and responsibilities expected for this position. Thank you for considering me.
Synod Council-Area Subdivision 1, Clergy

Name: Pr. Katherine Werner

**Congregation/Town:** Bethesda Lutheran Church, Ames

**Present-Previous Employment/School:** Chaplain/Dept. Coordinator, Mary Greeley Medical Center, Ames IA, (2006/2014-present)
Interim Campus Pastor, Iowa State University, Ames IA (2007)
Pastor, Bethany Lutheran Church, Kelley IA, (2004-2006)
Interim Associate Pastor, Light of Christ Luth Ch, Algonquin IL (2002-03)
Associate Pastor, University Lutheran Church, East Lansing MI (1996-2001)
Vicar, Grace Lutheran Church of Lily Lake, St. Charles IL (1994-1995)
Chaplain Resident, Bronson Methodist Hospital, Kalamazoo MI (1992-93)

**Service -Church and Community:** Mid-Iowa Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Response Team; SEIA Synod LEAD Team; Co-President, Ames High School Band Boosters Treasurer; Flying Monkeys Foundation

**Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position:** As hospital/hospice chaplain I function in the stressful and emotionally charged environments of a constantly changing healthcare system, possessing the unique ministry lens of being theologically trained yet living daily in a lay person's world. Compassion combined with critical decision-making skills are gifts I bring to the table.

Name: Pr. K. Christian Johnson

**Congregation/Town:** Gilbert Lutheran Church, Gilbert

**Present-Previous Employment/School:**
11/2016-present – Gilbert Lutheran Church, Gilbert, IA
08/1995-11/2016 – First Lutheran Church, St. James, MN
08/1989-08/1995 – Garfield Lutheran Church, Madison, MN

**Service -Church and Community:** SW MN Synod ELCA Board for Ministry (member and chair); SW MN Synod ELCA Candidacy Committee (member and chair); St. James Volunteer Ambulance Service, St. James, MN; YSS Mentor, Gilbert Elementary School, Gilbert, IA; civic service organizations (Rotary, Lions); community advisory boards (library, school facilities, community education, etc.)

**Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position:** The chief gift I bring to this position is a love for the Church and God’s people. Gathering us around Word, water, bread and wine, the church invites us to love and serve God by loving and serving the neighbor; helps us tell the old story in new ways; and connects faith with daily life.
Synod Council-Area Subdivision 3, Clergy

Name: Pr. Greg Friedrich

Congregation/Town: First Lutheran, Fairfield

Present-Previous Employment/School:
Pastor First Lutheran Church Fairfield 2016 - Present, Hospice Chaplain, “Hospice of the Midwest” Des Moines, Hospice Chaplain “Saint Jude Hospice” Des Moines, Associate Pastor Luther Memorial, Des Moines, Director of Pastoral Care, Lutheran Homes Muscatine, Interim Administrator, Lutheran Homes Muscatine, Director of Pastoral Care, Bethany Lutheran Homes, LaCrosse, WI, Parish Pastor in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa

Service -Church and Community:
Current Board Member Lord’s Cupboard, Current Member of Jefferson County Hunger Dialogue, Current Coordinator for Community Supper, Past Board Member Habitat for Humanity, Past chair of Synod Assembly Planning Committee, Past Dean of Conference 5 and 8, Past Chair of Elderly Service Board, Member Iron River Community Betterment Group, Facilitator Alzheimer’s and related Dementia Support Group

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position:
1. Ability to work with a variety of people.
2. Ability to listen to all sides of an issue.
3. Commitment to the mission of the church
4. Faithful to the Gospel.
5. Open to change
6. Ministry to both physical and spiritual needs to those considered to be on the fringes of society.

Name: Pr. Kathleen Wohlers

Congregation/Town: Peace Lutheran Church West Burlington

Present-Previous Employment/School:
Peace Lutheran Church, West Burlington, Pastor 2014 - Present
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Wilton, Wisconsin, Pastor 2012 - 2014
Meridean Lutheran Church Mondovi WI. And Little Plum Lutheran Church, Pepin, WI. Pastor 2008 - 2012
Synodically Authorized Minister, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin 2002 - 2008
Early Childhood Program Administrator and Teacher, Eau Claire, WI. 1987 - 2002

Service -Church and Community: SEIS Church in Society Commission, Burlington Area Bridges Out of Poverty Staying Ahead Mentor, Burlington Area Council of Churches, Burlington Area CROP Walk, Community Garden, Worship Leader at several Nursing/Assisted Living communities, Bread for the World member/Advocate. Contemplative Outreach of Des Moines County, Salvation Army Meals, work with Masomphenya - Vision Women and Girl Empowerment Foundation Malawi, Africa

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I care deeply about the ELCA and its future. With my experience and passions for the church I bring a strong desire to assist in the work of our synod, supporting congregations, pastors, staff, and lay leaders. I have a strong connection with this conference, and past experience serving on synod council in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin.
Name: Pr. Amanda (Amy) Diller Guida

Congregation/Town: All Saints (Davenport) and St. James (Bettendorf)

Present-Previous Employment/School:
2017-present: Pastor at Together in Christ Parish (comprised of All Saints and St James Lutheran Churches
2015-2017: Resident Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church
*Pre-2015 includes a long and colorful history in foodservice management.

Service -Church and Community:
2016-Coordinated food for the Southeastern Iowa Fall Theological Conference
2017-Updated Supply Pastor list for the Southeastern Iowa Synod
2015-present: Pastoral presence at Weert’s funeral home

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I am good at problem solving and processing information quickly. I make decisions in a timely manner and can find consensus in a group. Last but not least, I am good at making people laugh, which is definitely needed at voting assemblies.

Name: Pr. Karen Ullestad

Congregation/Town: Zion Lutheran Church, Davenport

Present-Previous Employment/School:
Pastor Zion Lutheran, Davenport
Pastor Lutheran Church of the Master, Bedford, OH
St. John Lutheran Church, Highland Heights, OH

Service -Church and Community: Member of Board of Habitat of Humanity –QC; Participate in Churches United and Quad Cities Interfaith; Serve on Synod’s Global Mission Committee; Serve on Synod’s Discipline Committee

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: Many years in the church have provided me a variety of opportunities to see God’s people at work. My experience includes leadership in music, global mission and Word and Sacrament. I value our Lutheran heritage and am willing to be challenged with new ways God is calling us to proclaim God’s love.
Synod Council-At-Large, Clergy

Name: Pr. Gemechisa Mosa

Congregation/Town: St. John's Lutheran Church, Des Moines

Position Sought: Synod Council, Clergy – At-Large

Present-Previous Employment/School: have been serving as a staff chaplain at UnityPoint Health Des Moines for 10 years; served on the congregational council of St. John’s Lutheran Church, Des Moines.

Service -Church and Community: served on the HCI Care Services Board of Directors

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I continue to marvel and be amazed by what God is doing among and through His people within our synod and beyond to renew lives, feed the hungry, restore the displaced and broken, and to inspire hope and mercy. Being an immigrant myself, I trust that God will continue to inspire my lived-experiences to advocate for the creation and support of welcoming communities and multi-cultural ministries for refugees and the persecuted. As a minister called to Specialized Pastoral Care (chaplaincy), I would seek to support the synod’s efforts that would enhance networking and collaboration between congregations and social institutions in the community.
Synod Council-Area Subdivision 1, Lay Female

Name: Debra Husak

Congregation/Town: St. John, Tama

Present-Previous Employment/School: Lennox Mfg., Marshalltown – Cost Analyst – 33 years

Service -Church and Community:  
   Church council – Treasurer.  
   Women of ELCA Cluster 2 treasurer.  
   South Tama County Food Pantry secretary.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: Willingness to say yes when asked.

Name: Marita Rouse

Congregation/Town: Fjeldberg Lutheran Church, Huxley, IA

Present-Previous Employment/School: ISU - Freshman Advisor/Instructor, Teacher - Family and Consumer Sciences (Spencer, IA)

Service -Church and Community: Southeastern Iowa Synod Council Member (finance committee); Fjeldberg Lutheran Church - worship volunteer, church council and task force member, teacher; Community - Board member/treasurer for the Madrid Home, Past President of Ballard Dollars for Scholars

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: Having served on the synod council the past 4 years, I bring experience and knowledge to the position. In addition, my sense of being church together lends itself to the nature of council decisions and the mission of the synod and the ELCA.
Synod Council-Area Subdivision 2, Lay Male

Name: Martin Rathje

Congregation/Town: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Ankeny

Present-Previous Employment/School: Retired. Previously worked for Principal Financial Group, 1976-2013

Service - Church and Community:
Church – Stephen Minister; Member of HTLC Advocacy Committee, Call committees; Congregation chair person for three different terms; stewardship and building committees; Strategic Planning committee; Chair of Transition Task Force; Bible study and small group leader and attendee;

Community –
- Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) volunteer counselor and member of Metro Speakers Bureau – mission is to provide objective information to individuals about Medicare health insurance.
- Vice Chairman of the board of The FreeStore Inc – a non-profit whose primary mission is to help victims of domestic violence start new lives.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: Eager to follow Jesus’ instruction to be passionate for social, economic and racial justice and willing to work hard to try to make that happen wherever and whenever we can. Intellectually curious.

Name: Erik Ullestad

Congregation/Town: Capitol Hill Lutheran Church, Des Moines

Present-Previous Employment/School:
- Youth & Music Director - Capitol Hill Lutheran Church, Des Moines (2015-present)
- Congregational Resource Developer - Sparkhouse / Augsburg Fortress (2014-present)
- Family Life & Youth Director - Windsor Heights Lutheran Church, Des Moines (2003-2015)
- Youth & Family Minister - St. Paul Lutheran Church, Orion, IL (2001-2003)

Service - Church and Community:
- ELCA Youth Ministry Network Board of Directors (2012-present)
- ELCA Youth Gathering - Synod Coordinator (2006-2012)
- Youth basketball coach (2013-present)

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I have a deep love of the church and a strong desire to help this synod support congregations, staff, and lay leaders. I’ve been active in a wide variety of church-related capacities in all three expressions of the church for the past 20 years.
Name: Kristin (Kris) Elgin

Congregation/Town: First Lutheran Church, Centerville

Present-Previous Employment/School: Retired, Oskaloosa Schools, Elementary Teacher

Service -Church and Community: Southeastern Iowa Synod Women of the ELCA – vice –president; Cluster #9 – Chairperson; Member, Oskaloosa Friends of the Library Board; Worker – Food Cupboard.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: As an elementary teacher for 30 years, I am organized and know the importance of working with others. I’m a good listener and try to see all sides of an issue. Being a member of the SWO Board for 6 years, I’ve worked with many people in the synod.

Name: Gloria Smallwood

Congregation/Town: St. Paul’s Lutheran, Albia

Present-Previous Employment/School: St. Paul’s Lutheran as Adm. Assist. 9½ years
Kings Kid’s Preschool as Teachers aide 7 yrs
Program Beta as Office Assistant 5 yrs
Bookkeeping Business 10 years

Service -Church and Community: WELCA treas. & co-chairman, Church Council: past president and treasurer, Missions Task Force, Worship Task Force, Christian Ed.: Sunday School teacher and VBS coordinator
Kings Kids board as Treasure & Pres.
PTO as Pres. & Treasure
Jr. High Band Parent Treasurer & Fund raiser
High School Band Parent Treasurer & Fund raiser

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I am a practical problem solver, good listener; but am not afraid to examine the whole issue. I am able to articulate a global view to local context. I have a passion for Jesus.
Synod Council-Area Subdivision 4, Lay Male

Name: Ted Sturgeon

Congregation/Town: Gloria Dei, Cedar Rapids

Present-Previous Employment/School: My present occupation is at Midamar Corporation, an export company located in SW Cedar Rapids. I have worked there since 2011, in the warehouse. I also have interned at a local law office as a paralegal, as a part of my degree from Kirkwood in Paralegal Studies, which I finished in 2015. In addition, I have worked as a part-time job coach for Systems Unlimited from 2013-2017. They are a disability advocacy organization based out of Iowa City. In 2007, I finished my M.A. degree from LSTC in Chicago, in Systematic Theology/World Religions.

Service -Church and Community: My service to the church and community includes attending the Synod Assembly as a Youth and Adult Delegate from my home church in Ely, Iowa. I have also participated in the church choir, youth group, and Bible Study. At my current church, Gloria Dei in Cedar Rapids, I have attended the leadership retreat the past couple of years. Also, I’ve sung in the church choir, bell choir, and helped run the Adult Education Committee. Currently, I am a member of the Evangelism committee. In the community, I’ve tutored international students at the Catherine McCauley Center, and helped adult readers through Kirkwood’s Adult Literacy program.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: My particular gifts to this position include attentive listening skills. I am also committed to the global church as I have volunteered in Germany and participated in mission service trips to Russia, India, and Sri Lanka. My undergrad degree is from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa in Communication/Linguistics and German

Name: Richard Wessels

Congregation/Town: First Lutheran Church, Conroy

Present-Previous Employment/School: Thys_Motor_Company: Belle_Plaine Iowa; Toreklson Motors Elgin, Iowa; Windridge Implement’s, Elkader Iowa; Lang’s Dairy Decorah, Iowa; Hub City Implement Oelwein, Iowa

Service -Church and Community: I have been involved with first Lutheran church in Conroy for 3 years now and have been volunteering in all sorts of church activities. I have been on the church council for 2 years and enjoy working with our council and pastor. Prior to this I was involved with the St. Peter Lutheran Church in Eldorado Iowa, where I was on the church council for 8 years including 2 years as president.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I feel that I am very organized dealing with day to day church business and work very well with all types of people. I believe in, giving back to our community the gifts which have been given to me.
Synod Council-Area Subdivision 5, Lay Female

Name: Donna Darnall

Congregation/Town: Faith Lutheran Church, Eldridge

Present-Previous Employment/School: Retired—worked for the State of Iowa before retiring, while working served on several special projects drafting new programs and writing code to implement the programs.

Service -Church and Community: Confirmation mentor since 200. On church council for 6 years. On Memorial Committee. Go on yearly mission trip to work at Lutheran Lakeside. Went on youthworks mission trip to Kansas City, KS.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I have a deep love and commitment to my faith. I am willing to make the commitment to serve our synod where needed.

Name: Lisa L. Willey

Congregation/Town: St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church, Davenport

Present-Previous Employment/School:
2011-Present: St. Mark Ev. Lutheran Church, Davenport; Office Coordinator
2002-2011: Creative Communications for the Parish, Bulk Order Representative
2001-2002: Pettymark Hallmark, Sales Clerk

Service -Church and Community: For several years now I have worked with the youth of our congregation as the Youth Group Co-Coordinator. I love our kids! They are fantastic young people with open hearts and gracious attitudes. They have allowed me to walk with them (sometimes run!) on their faith journey. I volunteer to teach confirmation and help plan curriculum at St. Mark when the help is needed. Each year our Youth Group takes a “Group” Mission trip, where they help repair houses or churches in communities across the Midwest. I have been fortunate enough to join the youth for some of these trips. I am the Secretary on the Board of Directors for St. Mark Preschool, which is a Christian early education program designed to provide a space for children to play, laugh, learn, develop their faith, and prepare them for elementary school.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: As a church office coordinator, understanding that people have different lenses with which to view the world and faith is essential for effective ministry. While taking a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education, I learned this valuable lesson and use it as my guide daily. While working with others, it is vital to maintain an open mind and have a willingness to cooperate.
Synod Council-Area Subdivision 6, Lay Male

Name: Paul Schnack

Congregation/Town: St. Paul’s – Clinton

Present-Previous Employment/School: Senior Vice-President at First Central State Bank, DeWitt, IA since August of 1999.

Service -Church and Community: President of the Church Council the past 2 years and still on the council this year. Have served every executive position on the council. Serve on several boards in the Clinton and DeWitt communities. Board member of the Lincolnway Community Foundation, Clinton Baseball Club, Inc., Treasurer of the DeWitt Noon Lions Club, and Board President of Skyline Center, Inc. in Clinton. Serve on the United Way of Clinton County’s Citizen’s Review Committee.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: Financial knowledge, due to 30 years in the banking industry. Having served on the church council and held all of the executive positions the knowledge and workings of the church. I have served on the Reference and Council committee for the synod previously.

Name: Mark E. Witte

Congregation/Town: Faith Lutheran – Calamus

Present-Previous Employment/School: President – Witte Ready Mix Concrete, Inc. - Retired

Service -Church and Community: President of Faith Lutheran Church for years
DeWitt Community Hospital Foundation president
Genesis Philanthropy board member
First Central State Bank director

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I work well with people having served as the congregational president for a great number of years and as a manager of a ready mix concrete plant.
Synod Council-At-Large, Lay

Name: Suah Borsay

Congregation/Town: First Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids

Present-Previous Employment/School:
Sr. Business Application Support Analyst – Transamerica /Aegon 2007- present
Clinical Application Support Analyst – University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics 2005-2007

Service -Church and Community:
- Female At Large for the SE Iowa Synod Council 2016-2018
- Hunger Team Member – First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa 2017- present
- Cedar Rapids/Marion CROP Planning Committee -present
- Volunteer CROP Walk Fund Raiser for the past 3 years
- Rider’s Club of America – Volunteer driver - provide rides for seniors to go to church and other appointments 2014 to present
- Habitat for Humanity - volunteer worker for the past 2yrs
- Currently working on a project creating New-born kits for Global Health Ministries to send to rural hospitals in Liberia. I occasionally transport donated items to Global Health Ministries in Minnesota.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: As an immigrant in this country, I know the outreach of the ELCA first hand, because I have experienced the work and power of God through the church in the US and Africa. I bring to this position a different perspective at a global level. I have the gift of empathy and discernment which gives me the passion to serve our church and community. I look forward to discussing and finding new ways that will positively impact our synod.

Name: William Negrón

Congregation/Town: St Stephen Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids

Present-Previous Employment/School:
Medical Supply Tech at the Iowa City Veterans Administration
Sales in family business, Corozal Puerto Rico
Seminarian with the order of the Friar Minor of Francis of Assisi

Service -Church and Community: I am fairly new at my current spiritual home but in my previous congregation, I have helped with the youth ministry and community outreach for the elderly. I helped creating a pantry for the ones in need around our church. There was joint effort with the catholic church and we’d go cleaning the yards for the elderly, changing light bulbs... Just maintenance to their houses.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I graduated with a bachelor’s in philosophy at Bayamon Central University. Looking to pursue my PhD at the University of Iowa. While studying undergrad I was part of the student senate and we worked to ensure that all the students were getting the best education possible according to their mayor. We restructured the curriculum and reformed them to match the times and the demands of a changing Puerto Rico.
Synod Council-Youth, Male

Name: Noah Aanestad

Congregation/Town: Zion Lutheran Church, Iowa City

Present-Previous Employment/School: Iowa City West High School

Service -Church and Community: Volunteered at Free Lunch Program in Iowa City; usher at church; volunteer coach of youth baseball team

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: Dedicated, great at communicating and hard-working.

Name: Dalton Hill

Congregation/Town: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Vinton

Present-Previous Employment/School: No previous employment; Junior in high school

Service -Church and Community: at church, I acolyte and participate in our LYO group. In the community, I participate in boy scouts and do service projects along with school choir and sports.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: With boy scouts, I have held multiple positions including scribe which entails lots of note taking also leadership training.
Name: Katie Garner

Congregation/Town: Faith Lutheran Church, Eldridge

Present-Previous Employment/School: - Pleasant Valley High School (Sophomore)
  - Advanced math, science, and English
  - Track/Cross Country
  - Babysitting: past 4 years for local family, with boys currently 5 and 7
  - Piano: lessons past 10 years, participated in NFMC Festival 5 years
  - Horseback riding: local shows and fairs
  - 4-H member: 7 years, held following offices: Treasurer, Secretary and photographer
  - Girl Scouts-4 years

Service -Church and Community: -
VBS volunteer, help with Sunday School, 2017 SMA Conference volunteer: watched special needs children so parents could attend conference, ditch cleanup with 4-H group, 2017 Rooted Mission trip: SE IA Synod and Grand Canyon Synod

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I’m not afraid to talk to adults, am comfortable in new situations and willing to express my views even if they conflict with group.

Name: Cienna Pangan

Congregation/Town: Redeemer Lutheran, Bettendorf

Present-Previous Employment/School: From September, 2016, until August, 2017, I worked at Chick-fil-A in Davenport, Iowa. There, I had the opportunity to work alongside a diverse group of individuals to serve others. I learned a lot about how to problem solve in stressful situations and how to accomplish tasks with people of conflicting personalities. Now, my attention is more focused on school and extracurriculars, but I still use the skills I picked up from my previous job every day.

Service -Church and Community: I am a current representative of Spartan Assembly, the student council at my high school. Through this student-led organization, I work with fellow members to improve both our school and its surrounding community. Over the past few months, we have been raising money for various cancer research foundations as a part of the State Student Council Project. This year, I am the co-chair of a committee to host a game night raising money for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. I am very excited to bring my experience working to improve my local community to the Synod Council.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: One interesting qualification I have is my extensive musical background. Growing up with music as a constant part of my life, I think I have gained a unique perspective. I have acquired different skills from singing in choirs, playing in bands, and conducting the marching band as a drum major.
Synod Nominating Committee, Area Subdivision 1

Name: Kristi Swanson

Congregation/Town: Fjeldberg Lutheran Church, Huxley

Present-Previous Employment/School: Mary Greeley Hospital, Ames, currently on sabbatical
Maquoketa State Bank, Maquoketa, Genesis Hospital, Davenport

Service -Church and Community: Congregation: Christian Education, Evangelism, Youth Activities, Mission trip guide, social ministry, Women of the ELCA, Congregational President, Cluster president, Sunday school teacher, National Youth Gathering, Mission trip to Mexico, Delegate to Churchwide Assembly and Synod Evangelism team.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I have worn many hats and served with many folks across our synod and in our ELCA. The church has sent to many training events to learn more about our church and it’s future. Working with people teaches you the gift of listening and binding everyone’s gifts into one.

Name: Terri Westendorf

Congregation/Town: St. Paul, State Center

Present-Previous Employment/School: I am currently in my 26th year of teaching at the St. Francis Catholic School in Marshalltown, Iowa. I am a part time Physical Educator and a part time classroom assistant. I am also the Head Volleyball Coach at East Marshall High School. I started my coaching career at Marshalltown High School, where I coached softball and volleyball. I coached for 25 years at a variety of levels and finished as the Head Volleyball coach last 11 years of employment.

Service -Church and Community: At St. Paul, I have had the opportunity to serve on the Board of Education and the Board of Deacons. I am passionate for our youth and love to teach religious education and help lead VBS activities during the summer. I am also an active member of our bell choir and help with many services as a worship assistant and altar guild. I have joined the Lead Team to examine the calling of our church and how we can best serve our neighborhood. I have enjoyed being a part of a gospel quartet called 5 for 1. Our quartet is comprised of ladies from my school, church and community that have a common love for the Lord and music. We sing at a variety of church and community functions throughout the year.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I am passionate about my service to the Lord and would like to help my church in any way I am called.
Synod Nominating Committee, Area Subdivision 2

Name: Pastor Nate Liedtke

Congregation/Town: New Life, Norwalk

Present-Previous Employment/School: Present – Previous Employment:
- Pastor at New Life Lutheran Church in Norwalk from Jan. 2010 to present.

Service -Church and Community:
- President of the Norwalk Area Ministerial Association May of 2013-Present.
- Member and “Chair” of the SEIA Synod Rostered Leader Support Commission until it dissolved in 2017.
- Active in coaching various youth sports for our children.
- Run our 2 children from practice to games to events and other social activities
- Walk our 2 family dogs to keep them from destroying our home :). 

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I’m eager to support and encourage a variety of individuals to participate in the variety of synod ministries and see a great need for robust involvement. I’d like to see committed involvement in synod ministries, but also have a deep desire for the boards/cohorts and commissions to be advancing the mission of the synod and greater church.

Name: Pastor Jack Mithelman

Congregation/Town: Indianola

Present-Previous Employment/School:
- Lead Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church
- Interim Pastor, Christ the King Lutheran Church
- Campus Pastor: Grand View University
- Pastor, Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

Service -Church and Community:
- SE IA Synod Peace Not Walls Subcommittee, SE IA Synod Council
- Middle East Peace Education Coalition, Indianola Rotary Club, Des Moines Choral Society

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: Since the ELCA functions interdependently with congregations, synods, and church-wide activities, it is vital that our synod consistently puts forward strong candidates for leadership. It is my hope that by having spent a significant amount of time in the synod I might be in a position to raise up such leaders from among us.
Synod Nominating Committee, Area Subdivision 3

Name: John Grunwald

Congregation/Town: First Lutheran, Fairfield

Present-Previous Employment/School: Present – Technology Director for Fairfield Community School District

Service -Church and Community: Choir member, member of call committee last round, contact person for our sister congregation in Tanzania, tech person for our church.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I don’t know that I have particular gifts or qualifications to bring to this position. I listen well and feel that I am good at bridging the gap between differing points of view. I am a hard worker and like to help people succeed.

Name: Chuck Pietscher

Congregation/Town: First Lutheran, Keokuk

Present-Previous Employment/School: City of Keokuk, WRRF Superintendent

Service -Church and Community: Church council/teacher/choir, Lee County Foster Care Review Board, Keokuk Fine Arts Council

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position:
Name: Larry Kudej

Conregation/Town: Gloria Dei Lutheran, Cedar Rapids

Present-Previous Employment/School: Appointed by Governor Branstad and approved by Senate to Iowa Board of Corrections (Policy Oversight Board for Department of Corrections) in 2013 and reappointed to 4-year term in 2015. December 31, 2011 Retired as Attorney from US Department of Justice/ US Attorney’s Office Northern District Iowa.

Service -Church and Community: Currently serve as Stephen Minister, usher, and teller at Gloria Dei. Formerly served in various capacities, including Church Council President, Council Member, Chair of Social Ministry Team, Chair of Adult Education Team, and Land Task Forces.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: Have held a number of positions within my congregation. Been a delegate to the Synod Convention three times. Have been involved in numerous volunteer activities since retiring. A firm believer that as a Christian I am here to serve others.

Name: Doug Turley

Congregation/Town: Ascension Lutheran Church, Marion

Present-Previous Employment/School: Senior Systems Engineer, Rockwell Collins, Cedar Rapids, IA

Service -Church and Community:

• Previous Church Service
• ALC Congregation President 2013 - 2014
• ALC Congregation Vice President 2011-2012
• Sunday School Teacher - Rotational Program (2005-2017)
• Mutual Ministry Member (Pastoral Support Team) (2007-2009)

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position:

• I would bring a servant heart and willingness to get involved
• I possess strong practical skills, am responsible, trustworthy and loyal
• I am also sensitive and warm and good at connecting with others
• I am but a “novice” Christian and will work in whatever capacity for the good of the ELCA (SE Iowa Synod) and to the glory of God.
Synod Nominating Committee, Area Subdivision 5

Name: Linda Kortemeyer

Congregation/Town: Grace Lutheran, Davenport

Present-Previous Employment/School:
- Board Secretary of the Davenport Community School District 1995 to 2009
- Board Treasurer of the Davenport Community School District
- Author of two books with Xlibris Online Publishing
- Business Owner – Typing Services
- Business Teacher for Eastern Iowa Community College

Service -Church and Community:
- Church Council at Grace Lutheran in Davenport
- Sunday School Teacher; Member of the Adult Choir; WELCA and Naomi Circle; and Funeral Committee at Grace Lutheran
- Southeastern Iowa SWO, WELCA Treasurer (2014-2019)
- Thrivent Financial Branch Officer and Advocate; Action Team Leader
- Member of CASI; Volunteer for various organizations over 40 years

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: In my experiences working or volunteering, I believe having the ability to work cooperatively with a diverse group of people is key. People bring a wide range of opinions and abilities to a committee. Good leaders are equipped to notice and use selected talents in order to get work finished in an efficient period with desired results. A leader has to be organized, time conscious, and a decision maker for projects. My background in the community, the State of Iowa, and broader locations has given me a knowledge base to work with people and develop positive relationships. Hopefully these skills will be an asset to this committee.

Name: Lynda Miller

Congregation/Town: Faith Lutheran, Eldridge

Present-Previous Employment/School: Retired Worked for an electrical contractor as office manager

Service -Church and Community: SEIA Women of the ELCA Board, presently, Secretary. Faith-Altar Guild, Secretary of Women of Faith Board. Belong to Eldridge Lions, and the Big 6 Studebaker Club

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I have been involved with many duties at church and SEIA women’s board. I have been on nominating committees as well.
Name: Pastor Judy Heinrich

Congregation/Town: First Lutheran Church, Maquoketa

Present-Previous Employment/School:
- Minister at Faith Lutheran in Andover, IA
- Church Musician
- Music Teacher and Choral Director

Service -Church and Community:
In these last 20 years of ordained ministry in SEIA I have served the larger church in these ways
- Internship Supervisor
- Dean of SEIA Conference V
- Member of SEIA Synod Council
- Voting member of ELCA Churchwide Assembly
- Chairperson—SEIA First Call Theological Education Committee

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I have been living and serving in SEIA synod for over 20 years and have become acquainted with many faithful servant of Christ throughout the Synod in this time.

Name: Pastor Will Layton

Congregation/Town: St. John’s/St. Donatus; St. Paul’s/La Motte

Present-Previous Employment/School:
- July 2017-Present: Pastor, St. John’s & St. Paul’s
- September 2016-May 2017: Chapel Sexton, Wartburg Theological Seminary
- September 2015-September 2016: Vicar, Atonement Lutheran Church, Syracuse, NY
- May 2015-August 2015: Wartburg Seminary Maintenance crew
- 2013-2015: Work Study positions at WTS: Research assistant to Dr. Ralph Quere; Papua New Guinea Museum Student Assistant
- 2012-2013: Green Iowa AmeriCorps, Dubuque, IA
- 2011-2012: Eco-Justice Fellow, National Council of Churches, Washington, DC

Service -Church and Community:
- Dubuque Bike Coop: Steering Committee Member & Volunteer
- LaMotte Fire & Rescue: Chaplain & volunteer firefighter

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: My main qualification is a willingness to serve. As a new pastor in the synod, this will give me an opportunity to get to know the workings of the synod and the leaders within it. I also am serious about parliamentary and constitutional matters.
Synod Discipline Committee

Name: Pastor Bob Bekkerus

Congregation/Town: St. Mark, West Des Moines

Present-Previous Employment:
Pastor – St. Mark Lutheran Church, West Des Moines
Pastor – Living Waters Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND
Pastor – United Lutheran Church, Langdon, ND

Service beyond the Congregation: Our family volunteered at the New Life Shelter in Fargo, ND regularly in our previous call.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I believe I can be a helpful part of discerning needs and issues around discipline for the Synod.

Name: Pastor Paul Hermansen

Congregation/Town: Bethany, Burlington


Service beyond the Congregation: Chaperone for special needs persons. Chess club teacher. Served on several boards and community committees. Involvement as a mentor in several faith based schools. Spiritual director since 2012.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: Have a desire and ability to listen to all perspectives of a conflict. Have had nearly 40 years in the parish of addressing various people issues that arise from day to day interaction of human beings.
Synod Discipline Committee

Name: Pastor Joan Swander

Congregation/Town: St Paul Lutheran, State Center

Present-Previous Employment:
Pastor - St Paul Lutheran, State Center, 2009 - present
Pastor, Lord of Life Lutheran, Wichita KS
Pastor, Grace Lutheran, Weatherford, OK
Registered Dietitian

Service beyond the Congregation:
Dean, Conference 2 SEIA Synod
Marshall County Thrivent Board
Marshall County Hunger Ministries
Commission for Church and Society, SEIA Synod

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I strive to bring a non-anxious presence into tense situations. I strive to listen carefully to both what is said and what is left unsaid, ask clarifying questions, and prayerfully discern God’s guidance and direction. I seek to understand all sides of an issue.

Name: Pastor Sarah Trone Garriott

Congregation/Town: Windsor Heights, IA

Present-Previous Employment:
Pastor, Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church Bergton, VA 2008-2013
Associate Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church Clive, IA 2013-2017
Coordinator of Interfaith Engagement, Des Moines Area Religious Council 2017-present

Service beyond the Congregation:
Board of Directors Luther Care Services 2016-present
Board of Directors Lutheran Lakeside Camp 2017-present
Fund Development Team, Lutheran Services in Iowa 2017-present
Unity Point CPE Advisory Board 2017-present
Dean of Conference 10 (West Metro Des Moines) 2015-present

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I felt called to ministry after learning about the great harm many experienced in the church around issues of sexual assault and domestic violence. In many cases pastors and other congregational leaders were perpetrators or enablers of abuse. Historically, the church’s response (or lack thereof) has only compounded the hurt. I feel called to be part of the church’s work to address boundary violations, hold perpetrators accountable, and engage in truth telling.
Synod Discipline Committee

Name: Marsha Arens

Congregation/Town: St. Stephen Lutheran, Urbandale


Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I am not sure I have any specific qualification or gifts for this particular position. I will pray that the Lord leads me to make good and wise discussion for all people.

Name: Martha Bonte

Congregation/Town: Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Clinton

Present-Previous Employment: Faculty Emeritus at Eastern Iowa Community Colleges, Adjunct Faculty currently teaching a Humanities course for Eastern Iowa Community Colleges

Service-Church and Community:
- Former Vice President of the Southeastern Iowa Synod
- Former Secretary of the Southeastern Iowa Synod
- Former Synod Council Member and Cabinet Chair for the Southeastern Iowa Synod
- Former Congregational Council member, Strategic Planning Committee member, and Sunday School teacher and superintendent at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Clinton
- Currently serving as assisting minister, reader, crucifer, member of the Social Ministry committee, member of the WELCA Rebecca Circle, chair of the Student Aid Committee, and bell choir member at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Clinton.
- Present Board member for Information, Referral and Assistance Services in Clinton and the River Bluff Community Foundation

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: The synod experience I listed above gives me knowledge and experience that would be helpful in the position of serving on the Synod Discipline Committee. I am often told I am a good listener. I also served as Chair of the Academic Appeals Committee at Clinton Community College for many years.
Synod Discipline Committee

Name: Mari Haley

Congregation/Town: St. Paul, State Center

Present-Previous Employment: I have been an educator for the past 25 years. I’ve taught preschool through second grade and have been working as an instructional coach for the last 2 years. I’ve also been a technology club leader for the last 6 years.

Service-Church and Community: I’ve been a member of St. Paul Lutheran for my whole life. I’ve served as a Sunday School teacher, bible school leader, Deacon and as the congregation president.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I’ve served my congregation as president through an update of our constitution as well as through the call process during a time of upheaval. My current job requires me to work with individuals, small groups and large groups of adults and help lead them to improving their teaching.

Name: Jamie Kuiken

Congregation/Town: First Lutheran Church, Fairfield

Present-Previous Employment: Respiratory Therapist – Cardiopulmonary Rehab Department, Ottumwa Regional Health Center, Ottumwa, IA

Service-Church and Community: I have been a very active volunteer in the Fairfield community and in our church over the last 40 years. From girl scout leader and troop organizer, Sunday school teacher to various boards and committees including Jefferson county hospital board member for 12 years- treasurer 6 years, Fairfield Education Foundation board member – secretary 2 years. I served on church council for 3 years – 1 year as secretary and another as president.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I feel a strong desire to give back to the church and community. I have been in several leadership positions and do not shy away from uncomfortable situations. I try to look at both sides and not jump to conclusions. I have 5 grown children so I am very organized and efficient. I usually complete a task as soon as possible.
Name: Pastor Phil Harkey

Congregation/Town: Immanuel, Camanche & Chancy, Clinton

Present-Previous Employment:
10/2017 - Present Pastor of 2-point parish in eastern Iowa
3/2017-9/2017 On Leave from Call
10/2014-2/2017 Pastor of congregation in Southeastern New Jersey
2/2010-9/2014 Pastor of congregation in Georgia

Service beyond the Congregation:
Police Chaplaincy training
US Coast Guard Auxiliary

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I have read and studied extensively in the area of church conflict, as well as Family Systems theory as it applies to congregational dynamics. In addition, I have experience in dealing with congregations in conflict, both as a lay leader and as a pastor.

Name: Pastor Elaine Olson

Congregation/Town: St Paul Lutheran Church, Davenport

Present-Previous Employment:
1. Spiritual Director in Private Practice, Bettendorf, IA (current)
2. Pastor, St. Andrew Lutheran Church/Lutheran Campus Center, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL, 2009-2015.
5. “g’mma gazing” www.elaineolson.com (blog)

Service beyond the Congregation:
1. Spiritual Direction/Counseling leading workshops and retreats in prayer practices, non-defensive communication, meditation
4. Training as a Bridge Builder with Peter Steinke

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I have a professional background in issues of professional boundaries and ethical sexual behavior, bridge building in congregational conflicts, personal and community discernment, transitional process and non-defensive communication. I am able to listen well, be part of a team, affirm process for problem solving, integrate various concerns and invite consensus.
Synod Consultation Committee

Name: Nancy Beaderstadt

Congregation/Town: St. Mark, Davenport

Present-Previous Employment: I retired in 2011, after working 38 years for the Tank Automotive Command (TACOM) on the Rock Island Arsenal. My days are now happily filled with grandchildren, volunteering for church and community, and day trips with my husband.

Service-Church and Community: Serving on the Stewardship Committee and Council at St. Mark; member of Corporate Board for Luther Properties (elderly housing); secretary of HOA; Thrivent congregational Advocate for St. Mark; volunteer at East Side Mission, Davenport.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I have served in a variety of leadership and consultation roles both within the church and in my past work environment. I feel I have learned something from every situation, especially in listening with compassion and responding with understanding.

Name: Kathryn Bly

Congregation/Town: St. John’s Lutheran, Grinnell

Present-Previous Employment: Retired (1981-2001 full-time, 2001-2011 part-time) I worked at Kirkwood Community College library as a work-study student supervisor and head of circulation department. Previous employment included: Corrections Officer for the state of Minnesota (working with teenage girls) and substitute teaching.

Service-Church and Community:
Church: (20+ years at Hope-CR and 4 Years and St. John’s) Church Council president. Served on many committees, organized after school programs. Currently on Caring Teams, WELCA retreat leader; 2 terms on board of SEI Women of the ELCA-currently Human Trafficking Committee Delegate to Church and Synod Assembly Triennial.
Community-Volunteer work, Faith in Action, Red Cross, Mental Health committees, Currently-hospital volunteer, League of Women Voters, speaker on Human Trafficking, Christmas Share worker, Lutheran Day on the Hill.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: B.A. in Sociology from the University of Minnesota, I feel my gifts include strong leadership and problem-solving skills, a positive attitude and a love of working with people along with a deep faith in God.
Name: Pastor Rodney Bluml

Congregation/Town: St. Paul Lutheran, Anamosa

Present-Previous Employment: Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran, Anamosa, IA. Program Coordinator and Spiritual Director, Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center, Hiawatha, IA; Faith Formation Director & Pastoral Associate, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Marion IA; 17 years.

Service beyond the Congregation:
Officer for the Anamosa Ministerial Association.
Facilitator of Ecumenical Text Study in Marion, IA, 18 years.
Leader of Holy Land pilgrimages.
Core Team member of Linn Mar H.S.’s Show Choir Fundraiser, Supernova.
Mayor Appointed Member of Marion, IA “Tree Board.”
Affiliate Member of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, LaCrosse WI.
Recent Member of Linn County Interreligious Council.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position:
Spiritual Direction Training in Presencing/Listening; 30 years ecclesial service; Innovative work with St. John’s Bible; Respect for tradition and emerging needs; Focus on common good and justice; Competence & Integrity; Master degrees in Theology and Divinity; Experience in different cultures; Married 22 years; View from a bicycle

Name: Pastor Cindy Breed

Congregation/Town: Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach, Iowa City, Gloria Dei, Iowa City

Present-Previous Employment: Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach Chaplain, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City IA, 1997-present; Chaplain, Covenant Medical Center, Waterloo, IA, 1995-96; Associate Pastor, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls IA, 1991-95; Co-Pastor, St Peter and St Paul Lutheran Parish, Creston and Leigh NE, 1986-1991, Music Teacher, St. Joseph High School, Kenosha WI 1980-82, Vocal Music Teacher, Shullsburg Public Schools, Shullsburg WI 1978-80

Service beyond the Congregation: Association of Professional Chaplains, Member, Certification Committee member; Member of Chamber Singers of Iowa City, Iowa City IA; Member of Kirkwood College Community Band, Cedar Rapids; Previously – Conference 7 Dean, member of the Synod Council, voting member of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: Serving outside of the congregational setting (hospital chaplaincy) gives me a unique perspective on the church and its ministry. I have a particular desire to help congregations become more inclusive in their ministries, to include all people in their congregations and in their outreach.
Churchwide Assembly, Voting Member, Clergy

Name: Pastor Christine Cowan

Congregation/Town: Immanuel Lutheran, Ogden

Present-Previous Employment: I am in my first call as a pastor, at Immanuel Lutheran, since 2014. Previously interned at Bethesda Lutheran in Ames, IA. I received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing in 1976 and served as an RN in pediatric and neonatal nursing for 20 years total. I received an MA in Nursing from University of Iowa in 1989. A homemaker while raising three children, I became a studio artist for 10 years, painting and teaching private art students in drawing, pastel, and watercolor painting. Founding member of Creative Artists Studio of Ames and served on its board of directors. I was signature member, vice president and later president of the Iowa Watercolor Society (2006-2009). I received a certificate in Spiritual Direction from St. Joseph's Spirituality Center in 1999 before entering the Distributive Learning program of Luther Seminary, graduating in 2014.

Service beyond the Congregation: I shave made a total of 6 trips to that area in various service capacities. I am the Local Area Representative for Bright Stars of Bethlehem. In Ogden, I serve on a small auxiliary board, Friends of the Manor, to improve the quality of life of residents at that nursing home.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: Love for God and God’s people; Good listening skills; Continued connection with clergy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land as well as lay people of various faiths working on humanitarian and advocacy projects in the Global Church; A passion for human rights and abundant life for all people; Administrative experience and attention to detail

Name: Pastor Amy Diller Guida

Congregation/Town: All Saints (Davenport) and St. James (Bettendorf)

Present-Previous Employment: 2017-present: Pastor at Together in Christ Parish (comprised of All Saints and St James Lutheran Churches; 2015-2017: Resident Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church; *Pre-2015 includes a long and colorful history in foodservice management.

Service beyond the Congregation: 2016-Coordinated food for the Southeastern Iowa Fall Theological Conference; 2017-Updated Supply Pastor list for the Southeastern Iowa Synod; 2015-present: Pastoral presence at Weert’s funeral home

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I am good at problem solving and processing information quickly. I make decisions in a timely manner and can find consensus in a group. Last but not least, I am good at making people laugh, which is definitely needed at voting assemblies.
Churchwide Assembly, Voting Member, Clergy

Name: Pastor Zach Johnson

Congregation/Town: St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids

Present-Previous Employment:
- Pastor – St. Andrew Lutheran Church Cedar Rapids, IA 2015 – 2018
- Pastor – Faith Lutheran Church Evansville, MN 2012 – 2014
- Interim minister – South Loop Campus Ministry Chicago, IL 2011 – 2012
- Intern – St. Mark Lutheran Church Mount Prospect, IL 2010 - 2011
- Assistant to the Dean of Chapel – Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago 2009 - 2010

Service beyond the Congregation:
- Southeastern Iowa Synod Anti-Racism Team 2016-2018
- Volunteer Chaplain – St. Luke’s Hospital Cedar Rapids, IA 2016 – 2018
- Northwestern Minnesota Synod Council Member 2013 – 2014
- Northwestern Minnesota Synod Worship Committee Member 2012 - 2014

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: Critical listener; prayerful discernment; great interest in ELCA polity; youthful energy; open-mind; sound Lutheran theological education; a love for Jesus and proclaiming the gospel; outgoing; effective speaker; and a great advocate for the ELCA.

Name: Pastor Dan Kuckuck

Congregation/Town: St. Stephen, Urbandale

Present-Previous Employment: Pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Urbandale (2013-present)
- Pastor in residency at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Davenport (2011-13)

Service beyond the Congregation:
- Member of FreeIndeed Steering Committee (2016-present)
- Member of First Call Theological Education Committee (2015-present)
- Internship Site Supervisor (2014-present)
- Chair of the Outside Council of Woman at the Well UMC (a prison congregation) (2015-2017)
- Interim Dean of Conference Ten (2015)

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: Because I’m still in the first half of my life of ministry, I’m excited to be a part of discerning the ELCA’s ministries for the years to come. I have a particular passion for equipping all people (lay and rostered) for ministry and will bring that passion to the assembly.
Name: Pastor Russ Lackey

**Congregation/Town:** Grand View University & Luther Memorial Church, Des Moines

**Present-Previous Employment:**
Sr. Campus Pastor, Grand View University, Des Moines, IA  
Pastor, Luther Memorial Church, Des Moines, IA  
Sr. Pastor, Reformation Lutheran Church, Westminster, CA  
Youth Director, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

**Service beyond the Congregation:** I served as an urban missionary for World Impact in Los Angeles, CA. I assisted my wife with PTO and Girl Scout duties as assigned (by her). I have coached youth baseball teams and am a great “chair stacker” for Heartland Youth Choir Events.

**Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position:** I work with college students at Grand View University and believe the church needs to make decisions with them in mind. My sense is that too often young adults are the one group whose voices are least heard in our deliberations.

Name: Pastor Jealaine Marple

**Congregation/Town:** Elvira Zion Lutheran, Clinton

**Present-Previous Employment:**
Dec 2013 - Present: Solo Full time Minister of Word and Sacrament, Elvira Zion  
July 2011 - November 2013 Admissions Specialist, Wartburg Theological Seminary  
July 2007 - May 2011 Student, Wartburg Theological Seminary

**Service beyond the Congregation:**
- Northeast Community School District (Goose Lake, IA) Image Committee  
- Clergy At-Large representative, Southeastern Iowa Synod Council

**Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position:** I am passionate about serving God and serving God’s church and I will take that passion with me to Milwaukee. I love the church and all of her greatness and flaws. As a bonus, I’ll be using social media so you can keep up with us! Thanks for the nomination!
Name: Pastor Joel Nau  
**Congregation/Town:** St. Paul, Winterset

**Present-Previous Employment:**
2009 – Present: Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Winterset, IA  
2006-2009: Campus Pastor, Lumen Episcopal-Lutheran Campus Ministry, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT  
2006-2001: Campus Pastor/Associate Pastor, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Salt Lake City, UT  
1998-2001: Associate Pastor, Richland Lutheran Church, Richland, WA

**Service beyond the Congregation:**

**Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position:** Having served as a campus and parish pastor, I am particularly interested in encouraging young people to participate in the life of the church. From my experiences in numerous church organizations, I appreciate the role of discernment and listening as we seek God’s future for our church and world.
Name: Pastor Eliezer Ortiz

Congregation/Town: Redeemer, Indianola

Present-Previous Employment: Redeemer Lutheran Church, Indianola

Service beyond the Congregation: Care Initiatives, hospice volunteer

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: Past experience

Name: Pastor Joan Swander

Congregation/Town: St Paul, State Center

Present-Previous Employment:
Pastor, St Paul Lutheran, State Center 2009 - current
Pastor, Lord of Life Lutheran, Wichita KS
Pastor, Grace Lutheran, Weatherford OK
Registered Dietitian prior to seminary

Service beyond the Congregation:
Commission for Church and Society, SEIA Synod
President, Marshall County Thrivent Board
Marshall County Hunger Ministries
Dean, Conference 2 of SEIA Synod

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I appreciate being a member of the ELCA and that our faith is lived out in the local congregation, synod, and larger church. Each expression helps us live out our faith in unique ways. I bring gifts of deep listening, asking good questions, and prayerful discernment of issues.
Name: Pastor Kathleen Wohlers

Congregation/Town: Peace Lutheran Church, West Burlington

Present-Previous Employment:
Peace Lutheran Church, West Burlington, Pastor 2014 - Present
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Wilton, Wisconsin, Pastor 2012 - 2014
Meridean Lutheran Church Mondovi WI. And Little Plum Lutheran Church, Pepin, WI. Pastor 2008 - 2012
Synodically Authorized Minister, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin 2002 - 2008
Early Childhood Program Administrator and Teacher, Eau Claire, WI. 1987 – 2002

Service beyond the Congregation:
SEIS Church in Society Commission, Burlington Area Bridges Out of Poverty Staying Ahead Mentor, Burlington Area Council of Churches, Burlington Area CROP Walk, Community Garden, Worship Leader at several Nursing/Assisted Living communities, Bread for the World Member/Advocate, Contemplative Outreach of Des Moines County, Salvation Army Meals, work with Masomphenya - Vision Women and Girl Empowerment Foundation Malawi, Africa

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I care deeply about the ELCA and its future. As a second career pastor, I bring a unique understanding to being the Body of Christ in today’s world, with a willingness to participate and be engaged, faithfully trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
Churchwide Assembly, Voting Member, Lay Male

Name: Isak Werner Anderson

Congregation/Town: Bethesda Lutheran, Ames

Present-Previous Employment: Ames High School Senior, Aunt Maude’s --- Cook, Vesuvius Wood-fired Pizza --- Cook

Service-Church and Community: Served on two Call Committees, frequently play in worship band and read Gospel lessons

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I have been a member of two call committees in a congregation with large and consistent staff turnover in recent years, experiencing changes in pastoral and congregational dynamics. I’ve traveled with youth groups to mission trips in Detroit and Chicago, shaping my unique insight into the workings of the Church.

Name: David Goos

Congregation/Town: First Evangelical Lutheran, Newton, Iowa


Service-Church and Community: Currently on Church Council for the 3rd time since 1982, Past President of the Congregation, Currently the Church Treasurer, Worship Leader for our Contemporary Services, Served as Stewardship Chair during 2017 and 2003 through 2005, Call Committee Chair in 2012, Sunday School Teacher for 5 years, Past delegate to Synod Assemblies including the 1987 Assembly when the vote to merge the ELCA and ALC took place. Managing Partner of Neighbors Helping Neighbors which began in the fall of 2017. This group provides free laundry services, a meal, and hygiene kits to homeless and those struggling financially in the Newton community. Past President and member of the Newton YMCA, Past President and former member of the Newton Athletic Booster Club, Past Chair and former member of the Skiff Medical Center Foundation Board for 22 years, Past President and former member of the Newton National Management Association

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: Skilled speaker and presenter Knowledgeable in the areas of financial management Passionate about the ministry of the Church Good listener with the ability to build consensus Graduate of Wartburg College
Churchwide Assembly, Voting Member, Lay Male

Name: Logan Lee

Congregation/Town: St. John’s Lutheran Church, Grinnell

Present-Previous Employment: Currently an assistant professor of economics at Grinnell College.

Service-Church and Community: I served as a delegate to the Oregon ELCA statewide convention while in graduate school. I lead a bi-weekly group called pub theology that brings together people of a variety of faith backgrounds to discuss how Christianity can and should shape our thinking about modern political and philosophical issues. I have also presented to the Grinnell Ministerial Association on growth and sustainability.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: As a 30-year-old father in the church, I can bring an important perspective that is often underrepresented at synod conventions. As an economist, I spend most of my time considering both the benefits and unintended consequences of new policy ideas.

Name: Joe Lindsay

Congregation/Town: Grace Lutheran, Davenport

Present-Previous Employment: Present: Realtor at Ruhl & Ruhl Realtors, Bettendorf for 23 years
Chief Financial Officer & Co-Owner Mutual Med, Davenport for 7 years
Corporate Controller at general Car and Truck Leasing System Davenport for 12 years

Service-Church and Community:
Current: President - Church Council @ Grace Lutheran, Davenport
Past member of the Candidacy Committee - Southeastern Iowa Synod
Past member of the Social Ministry Committee - Southeastern Iowa Synod
Past President of Churches United of the Quad Cities - Serving 130 Christian congregations in the metro Quad City area
Past President - Alumni Council @ Luther College / Present member of the Luther College Alumni Council
Past member of the Parents Council at both Iowa State University and Luther College

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: A history and desire to serve others while spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.
Name: Jon Runaas

Congregation/Town: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Washington

Present-Previous Employment: I am the vocal music instructor at Washington High school, teaching choir, voice lessons, various music history classes, and I also am assistant speech coach and help with the school musicals. Our department also hosts All State auditions every year and Solo/Ensemble Contest.

Service-Church and Community: Unfortunately, with the above job description, I can’t do as much service as I would like. I have helped in the past with Habitat with Humanity and enjoyed it quite a lot.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: In all things, I try to seek out others’ points of view, weighing their insights against my own. I try to compare my own opinions and beliefs to those I see illuminated in scripture. As a pastor’s son, I have spent my life dealing with the inner workings of churches.

Name: Joe Obleton

Congregation/Town: Zion Lutheran Church, Davenport

Present-Previous Employment: Retired from the counseling department at Blackhawk college in Moline, IL after 28 years. Since retiring I coach basketball and football at Williams intermediate school in Davenport.

Service-Church and Community: Since being a member of Zion, I have served as a middle school Sunday school teacher and member of the choir.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I am a retired college counselor. I have been trained as a union contract negotiator and arbitrator. I retired from Black Hawk College as the chair of the counseling department. I am past president of Davenport NAACP.
Churchwide Assembly, Voting Member, Lay Male

Name: Gideon Paul

Congregation/Town: Des Moines

Position Sought: 2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member

Present-Previous Employment: Deezee Manufacturing INC since 2002-present

Service-Church and Community: I am chairperson of south Sudanese Union of Churches in Iowa. Elected September 2016-present.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: 13 years of service as Sudanese lay minister at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church from December 2004 to present and 9 years in management at Deezee manufacturing from July 2007-present. Plus a year and half as a South Sudanese Union of churches chairman in Iowa from September, 2016 to present.

Name: Lyle Stirling

Congregation/Town: Good Shepherd, Bloomfield

Present-Previous Employment: I was the 7-12 grade choral Director of David County Schools in Bloomfield beginning in the fall of 1969 and was in that position for 35 years and then retired. For the next 14 years I was a substitute teacher in that same district. This past fall, 2017, I was asked to return to the 7th-12th choir director but only half-time because no one had applied when the previous teacher resigned.

Service-Church and Community: David County Fine Arts Council Board of Directors for many years. Two of those years serving as a president. I continue to serve on that board. Davis County retired school personnel since my retirement. During that time, I have served as president 3 years. Bloomfield Optimist Club for 11 years. I have served as president of the club 3 years. I now am a Lt. Governor of Iowa District. Chairperson of the Spectrum Center for the Arts, a branch of the Davis County Arts Council. Volunteer director of the Davis County Community Choir. Coordinator of the Bill Riley talent show for the Davis County Fair for the past 3 years.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I’m not sure I have any special gifts that I bring to this position or that I am fully qualified for it. I do have a strong faith and rely on my Lord and savior to get me through this day, lots of times. I have always thought I would like to be an active part in helping to make decisions for the ELCA and this might be my opportuning. If selected to this position. I will ask God to help and guide me through this important time of decision making for the ELCA.
Name: Liz Ashing

Congregation/Town: St. John’s Lutheran, Grinnell

Present-Previous Employment: Grinnell High School (10th grade), July 2017-Present; Prairie Firs Gymnastics Recreational Coach

Service-Church and Community: Caroling at an assisted living home in Grinnell. Band Buddy-mentor for younger student.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I am thoughtful, compassionate, and open to new ideas. I like to do research and listen to both of an argument before I come to a conclusion. I am curious and love to learn!

Name: KarrieAnne Burke

Congregation/Town: Memorial Lutheran Church, Nevada and St. Paul, Davenport

Present-Previous Employment: I graduate May of 2016 with a BSW in Social Work and Religion from Wartburg College. I am currently employed through Family Resources in Davenport IA. My position is a shelter and housing advocate at the Safepath Domestic Violence shelter.

Service-Church and Community: After graduating from college I did a year of service through the Lutheran Volunteer Corps. I worked at a homeless shelter in Tacoma, WA. I have also done volunteer work with many food banks throughout my high school and college years. Additionally, I was a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for two years in college.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I am very compassionate and empathetic person who is dedicated to helping others. I am a good listener and appreciate what everyone has to say. My qualifications include working with disadvantaged populations in three different shelters. While working at all of the shelters. I participated in lobby/legislative days to advocate for the rights of those poverty or less advantaged. I am admitted to making a difference in society.
Name: Madena Burman

Congregation/Town: Lutheran Church of Hope, West Des Moines

Present-Previous Employment: I currently serve as a Hospice Chaplain for Suncrest Home Health and Hospice in West Des Moines, IA and am a first-year seminarian at Luther Theological Seminary. Previous employment includes: Missions Coordinator at Lutheran Church of Hope; Administrative Assistant at Lutheran Church of Hope; Research and Remediation Analyst, Prefund Analyst, Short Sale Negotiator, and Loan Adjustment Specialist all at Wells Fargo; Business Development Coordinator at Veridian Credit Union

Service-Church and Community: United Way Leader, University of Iowa Mentor, Hospital Visitor

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I have and utilize the spiritual gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and discernment. I served on various prayer teams: weekend prayer team, intercessor prayer team, and inner healing prayer team. I have served as an Alpha host, Deaconess, and AWANA leader. I am currently a prayer ministry intern at the Lutheran Church of Hope.

Name: Amanda Stevenson-Cosgrove

Congregation/Town: Bethany Lutheran, Burlington

Present-Previous Employment: I currently work as a receptionist at Dr. Mary Schilling McManis’s office, a local dentist. I am also employed at Bethany Lutheran as the Director of Youth & Family. Past employment includes: The Burlington Area YMCA, Burlington Trailways and the Burlington Hawk Eye.

Service-Church and Community: I volunteer at the local animal shelter, and in past years helped run the kennel sponsorship program there, serve meals at the Salvation Army, participate in the local Paint-a-thon (painting houses of those in need)

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I am an open-minded and faithful person. My Lutheran faith is very important to me and to be able to represent our synod at the church wide would be a responsibility I take seriously.
Churchwide Assembly, Voting Member, Lay Female

Name: Holly Knouse

Congregation/Town: Wayne Zion Lutheran Church, Monticello

Present-Previous Employment: I am currently employed as the Director of Christian Education at Wayne Zion Lutheran Church in Monticello, Iowa. I was certified in Youth and Family Ministry at Wartburg Seminary through the Center for Youth Ministries. I was previously employed as the Director of Youth and Family Ministry at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Monticello, Iowa.

Service-Church and Community:
I have served on a steering committee and volunteered for years at our local food pantry, lead several Campfire groups, and was the vice president of the Jones County Safe and Healthy Youth Coalition. I am currently training to be a captain for volunteers at our ELCA National Youth Gathering in June. I am a member of the planning team for our Synod’s ConFest. I was a member of the Children’s ministry network in our synod. I volunteer with the speech department at our local high school and I volunteer to teach Junior Achievement at the Anamosa Middle School.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I have insight into today’s youth that will be leading our Church in the future. I also feel that I will represent and give a voice to rural congregations from our Synod. I network regularly with members of many Churches throughout our Synod.

Name: Abbie Larson

Congregation/Town: Seeds of Faith, Lisbon

Present-Previous Employment:
Lisbon Community High School in Lisbon, Iowa (Graduation May 2019)
Babysitting/Nanny (Summer 2017 - present)
Tutor (2017)

Service-Church and Community:
Sunday School music leader - grades K - 8th
Vacation Bible School - assistant crew leader / volunteer
God’s Work Our Hands - volunteer
Jump Rope for Heart - volunteer
Project 60 - volunteer
Seeds of Faith Council - nominating committee

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: Ask others to describe me and I believe you would hear things such as organized, quiet leader, positive outlook, and thinks of others. These qualities are expressed through work with my home congregation, volunteer activities and working with our National Honor Society.
Churchwide Assembly, Voting Member, Lay Female

Name: Mary Merulla

Congregation/Town: Zion Lutheran Church, Iowa City

Present-Previous Employment: I am the Minister of Vocation at Zion Lutheran Church in Iowa City. My work is relational, entrepreneurial, and contextual. My focus is on ministries with and among children, youth & families; educational, health & wellness initiatives; welcome & hospitality; new members, and engaging people in relationship with one another, in relationship to service, and in relationship to community. Previously, I was with Mercer Administration, as Vice President/Manager, Specialty Services servicing a combined total of more than 45,000 participants. I have a strong successful background in building and leading teams, fiscal management, and project management.

Service-Church and Community: My daughter and I volunteer at the Iowa City Animal Shelter. I have served on Guild of the Preucil School of Music, been an instructor for Junior Achievement for 5+ years, organized and ran our elementary school’s bike rodeo for a number of years, and was active in the annual United Way campaign for my previous employers. I get to spend every Friday with my parents who have been married for 73 years, and spend free time with my family.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I have discerned that my calling is to help others consider their calling. I do this through careful listening, through active collaboration, through the empowerment of the laity, through paying attention.

Name: Sarah Louise Thorn

Congregation/Town: St. John’s Lutheran Church, Des Moines

Present-Previous Employment: Currently self-employed as a consultant working with businesses and associations. Previous employment includes over 20 years at Pioneer Hi-Bred based in Johnston, Iowa where she held a series of progressively responsible management positions.

Service-Church and Community: Elected to St. John’s Congregational Council in 2014, Thorn is in her fourth year serving as a Council member and her second year serving as the Council Secretary. Other current service includes the Planning Team for WIRED (Women Interested in Renewal, Education and Discovery), Companion Parish Committee, and a Beloved Community cooking team. Current community involvement includes sitting on the boards of Youth Policy Institute of Iowa and Greater Des Moines Chapter of Association for Women in Communications. She is also a Polk County Master Gardener.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I am a life-long Lutheran. As a dedicated team member, I strive to bring diverse ideas together in a collaborative manner to accomplish our shared mission. Once accepting a responsibility, I am committed to fulfilling that obligation I often step up to take a leadership role.
Churchwide Assembly, Voting Member, Lay Female

Name: Britany Thorpe

Congregation/Town: Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (LCGS), Des Moines

Position Sought: 2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member

Present-Previous Employment: Iowa Legislative Services Agency (LSA) Admin. Services Assistant (Production / Editing Unit) 9/12/2016 — Present Assistant Manager, Carlisle Subway 6/24/2013 — 7/07/2017 Co-Editor of the Oneota Review (Luther College literary magazine) 9/30/2015 — 5/25/2016

Service-Church and Community: Drama Co-Leader of Luther College Vision Team (FOCUS [student service]) 8/25/2013 — 5/01/2016, Administrative Volunteer for 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering (Detroit), Pastoral Asst. at St. James Lutheran Church (Johnston, IA) 6/10–08/25/2015, Animal Lifeline of Iowa (ALI) Special Needs Shelter Volunteer 10/30/2016 – Present

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: Communication Studies / English double major (Luther College 2016), Pastoral Asst. / Congregation SE IA Synod Delegate (2015 – Present), Lutheran Youth Organization Elected Representative (2010 — 2012), President (Elect) of Luther College Performing Arts Committee, (Student Ambassador of LC at campus events / New York student delegate) Particular Gifts: Enthusiasm, Youth, Passion, Creativity, and Ethics
Synod Council, Conference 3, Lay Male

Name: Larry Kudej

Congregation/Town: Gloria Dei Lutheran, Cedar Rapids

Present-Previous Employment/School: Appointed by Governor Branstad and approved by Senate to Iowa Board of Corrections (Policy Oversight Board for Department of Corrections) in 2013 and reappointed to 4-year term in 2015. December 31, 2011 Retired as Attorney from US Department of Justice/ US Attorney’s Office Northern District Iowa.

Service -Church and Community: Currently serve as Stephen Minister, usher, and teller at Gloria Dei. Formerly served in various capacities, including Church Council President, Council Member, Chair of Social Ministry Team, Chair of Adult Education Team, and Land Task Forces.

Vice-Chair of Older Iowans Legislature; Vice-chair and former Chair of Johnson County Task Force on Aging; Vice-chair Advisory Council for Heritage Area Agency on Aging; Volunteer docent Czech Museum and Library; Elder Law Section Council of Iowa State Bar Association; and Member Federal Practice Committee ISBA.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: Have held a number of positions within my congregation. Been a delegate to the Synod Convention three times. Have been involved in numerous volunteer activities since retiring. A firm believer that as a Christian I am here to serve others.

Name: Doug Turley

Congregation/Town: Ascension Lutheran Church, Marion

Present-Previous Employment/School: Senior Systems Engineer, Rockwell Collins, Cedar Rapids, IA

Service -Church and Community:

- Previous Church Service
- ALC Congregation President 2013 - 2014
- ALC Congregation Vice President 2011-2012
- Mutual Ministry Member (Pastoral Support Team) (2007-2009)

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position:

- I would bring a servant heart and willingness to get involved
- I possess strong practical skills, am responsible, trustworthy and loyal
- I am also sensitive and warm and good at connecting with others
- I am but a “novice” Christian and will work in whatever capacity for the good of the ELCA (SE Iowa Synod) and to the glory of God.
Name: John Bonte

Congregation/Town: Zion Lutheran, Clinton

Present-Previous Employment/School:
Present: Adjunct Chemistry Instructor, Clinton Community College
1976-2014 Full time Chemistry Instructor, Clinton Community College
(Dean 1997-2000)
1969-2017 Graduate Teaching/Research Assistant, Iowa State University

Service -Church and Community:
President, Zion Lutheran Church, in the 80’s and 2014-2016
Secretary, Conference 5, 2008-Present
Serve as Assisting minister, Communion Helper, Bread Baker, Reader, In the Choir, Choir and Bells.
Serve on Building and Grounds and Worship Committee
On Martin Luther King Committee for the Community and am RAGBRAI Coordinator for the Riverbend Bike Club

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I have a continuing interest in the affairs of the greater church beyond the congregation. I served as a voting member of the 2009 Church Wide Assembly and have attended other assemblies as a visitor. I would like to think that I listen to various viewpoints and weigh them against what my understanding of God’s will for the group. I have some knowledge of Parliamentary Procedure and try to play by the rules.
Synod Council, Conference 5, Pastor

Name: Pastor Wade Reddy

Congregation/Town: Wayne Zion Lutheran, Monticello

Present-Previous Employment/School:
Pastor, Wayne Zion Lutheran Church, Monticello, IA 2015 to present.
Licensed NHA of the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, Sioux Falls, SD 1992 – 2012 served in the communities of Battle Lake, MN and St. Croix Falls, WI.
Licensed NHA, North Ridge Care Center, New Hope, MN 1985 – 1992 served as assistant administrator & director of operations.

Service -Church and Community:
Monticello & Anamosa Ministerial Associations 2015 to present. Assisted MMA in receiving 501 c 3 status as a public charity in 2016. Currently manage MMA Neighbor Helping Neighbor Program to help individuals & families with utility and rent assistance, gas vouchers for medical appointments, emergency funds for transients and mental-health vouchers.
Organized the St. Croix Valley Senior Citizens Center and acquired their 501 c 3 status as a social organization in 2002.
Served on two hospice boards: Lakeland Hospice of Ottertail County, MN and Heartland Hospice of Polk County, WI 1993 – 2003.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: Experienced management oversight of health care services geared to geriatrics and end of life care; a special emphasis of developing human resources in a Christ-centered environment. Skills of governance in organizations with regulatory oversight. Served with integrity to campaign for resource development funds; raised a $250,000-dollar endowment.
Appendix 1

Synod Council, Conference 9, Lay Female

Name: Gloria Smallwood

Congregation/Town: St. Paul’s Lutheran in Albia

Present-Previous Employment/School:
St. Paul’s Lutheran as Adm. Assist. 9 ½ years
Kings Kid’s Preschool as Teachers aide 7 yrs
Program Beta as Office Assistant 5 yrs
Bookkeeping Business 10 years

Service -Church and Community:
WELCA treas. & co-chairman, Church Council; past president and treasurer, Missions Task Force,
Worship Task Force, Christian Ed.: Sunday School teacher and VBS coordinator
Kings Kids board as Treasure & Pres.
PTO as Pres. & Treasure
Jr. High Band Parent Treasurer & Fund raiser
High School Band Parent Treasurer & Fund raiser

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I am a practical problem solver, good
listener; but am not afraid to examine the whole issue. I am able to articulate a global view to local
context. I have a passion for Jesus.
Name: Katie Garner

Congregation/Town: Faith Lutheran Church, Eldridge

Present-Previous Employment/School: - Pleasant Valley High School (Sophomore)
  - Advanced math, science, and English
  - Track/Cross Country
  - Babysitting: past 4 years for local family, with boys currently 5 and 7
  - Piano: lessons past 10 years, participated in NFMC Festival 5 years
  - Horseback riding: local shows and fairs
  - 4-H member: 7 years, held following offices: Treasurer, Secretary and photographer
  - Girl Scouts-4 years

Service -Church and Community: -
VBS volunteer, help with Sunday School, 2017 SMA Conference volunteer: watched special needs children so parents could attend conference, ditch cleanup with 4-H group, 2017 Rooted Mission trip:
SE IA Synod and Grand Canyon Synod

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I’m not afraid to talk to adults, and comfortable in new situations and willing to express my views even if they conflict with group.

Name: Cienna Pangan

Congregation/Town: Redeemer Lutheran, Bettendorf, IA

Present-Previous Employment/School: From September, 2016, until August, 2017, I worked at Chick-fil-A in Davenport, Iowa. There, I had the opportunity to work alongside a diverse group of individuals to serve others. I learned a lot about how to problem solve in stressful situations and how to accomplish tasks with people of conflicting personalities. Now, my attention is more focused on school and extracurriculars, but I still use the skills I picked up from my previous job every day.

Service -Church and Community: I am a current representative of Spartan Assembly, the student council at my high school. Through this student-led organization, I work with fellow members to improve both our school and its surrounding community. Over the past few months, we have been raising money for various cancer research foundations as a part of the State Student Council Project. This year, I am the co-chair of a committee to host a game night raising money for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. I am very excited to bring my experience working to improve my local community to the Synod Council.

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: One interesting qualification I have is my extensive musical background. Growing up with music as a constant part of my life, I think I have gained a unique perspective. I have acquired different skills from singing in choirs, playing in bands, and conducting the marching band as a drum major.
Appendix 1

Synod Council-At-Large, Clergy

Name: Pastor Jealaine Marple

Congregation/Town: Elvira Zion Lutheran, Clinton

Present-Previous Employment:
Dec 2013 - Present: Solo Full time Minister of Word and Sacrament, Elvira Zion
July 2011 - November 2013 Admissions Specialist, Wartburg Theological Seminary
July 2007 - May 2011 Student, Wartburg Theological Seminary

Service beyond the Congregation:
• Northeast Community School District (Goose Lake, IA) Image Committee
• Clergy At-Large representative, Southeastern Iowa Synod Council

Qualifications or particular gifts you bring to this position: I am passionate about serving God and serving God’s church and I will take that passion with me to Milwaukee. I love the church and all of her greatness and flaws. As a bonus, I’ll be using social media so you can keep up with us! Thanks for the nomination!