

2020 Synod Assembly Nominations

Nominations can be submitted until 6:30 pm on 11/6/2020 at
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeeSxAx-70IoMuF5G_KUYn0SQd2d5HCZpLAYvikdkmlprUsw/viewform?usp=sf_link

This document will be updated by 9pm on 11/6/2020 to include any additional candidates nominated before the deadline of 6:30.

CONSULTATION COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS – 6-year term non-renewable

Lay Female

Pat Andeen – First Emanuel, Portland

Congregational Activities: Assisting Minister, Sanctuary Choir, Adult Forum

Synodical Activities: None currently

Ministry Gifts I will bring to this position: Prior to retirement: Clinical Social Worker with clinical and administrative supervision of Geriatric Mental Health Services (35 employees) for a large Community Mental Health Center, Service on multiple nonprofit boards of directors, Service on multiple congregational committees: Call Committee, Parish Nursing, Worship and Music, Capital Campaign.

Lay Male

John Buessler—Spirit of Grace, Beaverton

Congregational Activities: Current: Sound/Media/Technology, Special Projects Past: Steering Team (president), Personnel Team, Financial team

Synodical Activities: none

Ministry Gifts I will bring to this position: 1) See creative opportunities/solutions in a problem situation, 2) Have multicultural experience from living in Europe 4 years and speaking a 2nd language (Dutch), 3) Provide objective analysis of a situation even when things get complex and emotional.

Clergy Male

Erik Post – Springfield Lutheran, Springfield

Congregational Activities: solo pastor at Springfield, started September 2003 ...

Synodical Activities: Latino Ministry Team

Ministry Gifts I will bring to this position: Trained in and experienced with implementing Family Systems Theory in congregational settings ("Healthy Congregations" Peter Steinke, Ed Friedman et. al.); continue to use perspectives/education from spiritual direction training; 34+ years experience as parish pastor, and colleague to clergy, in four different Oregon Synod cluster locations

Tom Dodd, Emmaus Lutheran, Eugene

Congregational Activities: Lead adult education classes, serve on the stewardship committee, volunteer at Camp Lutherwood

Synodical Activities: none at present

Ministry Gifts I will bring to this position: good listener, 40 years of experience in pastoral ministry, encourager

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS – 6-year term non-renewable

Lay Male

Mike Franklin – Grace, Corvallis

Congregational Activities: Just moved into Oregon Synod, rejoining Grace after 41 years absence. Previous congregation (Holy Trinity - Nashville) congregation council, congregation president, Sunday morning worship volunteer coordinator, stewardship committee

Synodical Activities: In previous synod (Southeastern Synod) at varying times, personnel committee chair, synod statistician, consultation committee, synod council, voting member of churchwide assembly

Ministry Gifts I will bring to this position: First of all, a desire to serve and further the effectiveness in which we all serve God's kingdom which is really a passion, not a gift. With that, I would consider my gifts first a sense of church and knowledge of "how things work" from the ELCA through the synod and into the congregation. Second, a long history of learning of the symbiosis between the congregation and pastor - how strong that relationship can be and at the same time, how fragile it can be. Finally, hand in hand with the first "gift," is my sense of process. Once a relationship is broken, there are ways, typically long and hard to fix, but when irreparably broken, steps that must be taken that while painful, are the only way to bring about a sense of wholeness to both parties, given the situation that may exist.

Tom Martin – Resurrection, Portland

Congregational Activities: Church Council, Worship Committee, musician, and usher

Synodical Activities: Candidacy Committee and Synodically Authorized Ministry Program

Ministry Gifts I will bring to this position: Compassion, discernment, and commitment to our Sacred Texts

Lay Female

Sami Oser – Trinity, Gresham

Congregational Activities: Assisting minister, usher, lector, Stephen Ministry Leader, Call Committee member

Synodical Activities: Synodically Authorized Ministry program, Initial Interviewer for Candidacy Committee

Ministry Gifts I will bring to this position: 1) A good listener and ability to listen to both sides of an argument, 2) Fair, 3) Faith in the process.

Cherry Harris – Prince of Life, Oregon City

Congregational Activities: music ministry, sanctuary arts, social justice

Synodical Activities: None

Ministry Gifts I will bring to this position: I have held various leadership positions in the past, including church council president. I'm a retired labor representative for a local labor union where I spent a great deal of time representing employees under disciplinary scrutiny, and spent 20 years writing and bargaining labor contracts.

Jennifer Bash – Spirit of Grace, Beaverton

Congregational Activities: **Congregational Activities:** I have served on the Personnel Committee and the Steering Team for my church in the past. I am currently a Co-Leader for the Racial Justice Team.

Synod Activities: none at this time

Ministry Gifts I will bring to this position: Three gifts I would bring to this work are integrity, trust, and compassionate listening.

Jennifer Trom – St. Andrew, Beaverton

Congregational Activities: As a member of our congregation's staff (Parish Manager) my role is to support people in ministry. Currently much of my time is spent as the tech lead

ensuring online worship (YouTube livestream and zoom), participating in two teams specific to ministry during the COVID-19 pandemic (Reopening Team and Caring Ministries Team), and soon launching new platforms for our website and database to improve communication among staff and lay leaders, the congregation, and the community.

Prior to serving on staff, I was involved as a member of the congregation by singing in the choir, working with children and youth ministry, creating the monthly newsletter, and participating in a pastoral call process.

Synod Activities: I represent our congregation in the Disaster Preparedness and Response effort. I also serve on the Synod Personnel Committee.

Ministry Gifts I will bring to this position: As a lifelong Lutheran and PK (Preacher's Kid) I had a window into both church leadership and membership, giving me the gift for seeing both the fullness of community as well as the potential for dysfunction when guidelines are unknown or ignored.

I have an ability to sort through policy documents (yes, I read every word!) to understand both the spirit of the policies as well as the real-life applications.

I understand that when a person makes choices that are hurtful to others, it often comes from their own hurtful experiences. This understanding allows the gift of compassion.

Clergy Female

Barbara Punch – Story Dwelling, Bend

Congregational Activities: Attending

Synod Activities: None at the present time

Ministry Gifts I will bring to this position: Retired parish pastor; experience business manager; trained spiritual director

Suellen Bahleda—Gethsemane, Portland

Congregational Activities: Parish Pastor for 10+ years in Alaska and Portland

Synod Activities: Dean of Mt. Hood Cluster

Ministry Gifts I will bring to this position: Energetic and hopeful.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE – 3-year term, once renewable

Lay Female

April Breden-Locke – Spirit of Grace, Beaverton

Congregational Activities:

Synod Activities:

Ministry Gifts I will bring to this position:

Lay Male

Damon Vold – United, Eugene

Congregational Activities: Liturgical arts team, occasional assisting minister, past council member, past synod assembly delegate (many times), property committee, parent of children active in the congregation, loud singer.

Synod Activities: Assembly delegate for United several times.

Ministry Gifts I will bring to this position: I am a life-long Lutheran and a PK. I have a firm grounding Lutheran theology and traditions and endeavor to use this framework in the decisions I make in all aspects of my life. I have a graduate certificate in nonprofit management, which has taught me a great deal about the healthy (and unhealthy) ways in which organizations can function. With two budding Lutherans in my house, I am deeply invested in the future of our faith community.

SYNOD COUNCIL – 3-year term, once renewable

Columbia Coast Cluster—Lay Female –

Julie Burpee - First, Astoria

Congregational Activities: I am the Sexton. I am a lector. I am a Confirmation mother.

Synod Activities: I cook food for potlucks when Synod members come to visit!

Ministry Gifts I will bring to this position: Peacemaker, Writer, Listener

Emerald Cluster – Lay Female –Becky Shurson – Central, Eugene

Congregational Activities: Serve on Endowment Committee and altar guild, and participate in handbell choir and women’s Bible study. Recently participated in the congregation's small-group study of "Me & White Supremacy" by Layla Saad.

Synod Activities: Served on the Election Committee of the 2019 Oregon Synod Assembly. Served as voting member to 2014 and 2016 Pacifica Synod assemblies in southern California prior to becoming an Oregon resident.

Elected and currently serving (2017-2021) as vice president of the churchwide executive board of Women of the ELCA, a separately incorporated organization of the ELCA.

Previously served as secretary of the churchwide executive board of Women of the ELCA (2014-2017).

Ministry Gifts I will bring to this position: Administration – ability to formulate and carry out plans necessary to fulfill a purpose without stifling the vision of others

Service – ability to gladly work behind the scenes to respond to the needs of a situation

Faith – ability to sense the Spirit at work and trust its leading without knowing where it intends to go

Young Adult – Victoria Hart – Zion, LaGrande

Congregational Activities: secretary for church council, small group leader, Sunday School teacher

Synod Activities: Echo Learning Communities, Synodically Authorized Ministers cohort

Ministry Gifts I will bring to this position: curiosity/wonder, critical/creative thinking, discussion/solution-focused

South Coast Cluster (Lay Female)—Mary Shultz, Faith, North Bend

Congregational Activities: Social Ministry, Choir, Lutheran World Relief

Synod Activities: Quilt Auction for World Hunger, Hospitality

Ministry Gifts I will bring to this position: Dedication to Social ministry, Willingness to volunteer, Being a good listener.

Vineyard Cluster (Clergy Female)—Leah Stolte-Dorfler, Immanuel, Silverton

Congregational Activities: Prayer, study and preaching, teaching, worship planning and leadership, blogging as a means of making and maintaining connections, pre-marital work/weddings, baptisms, funerals, church administration, creating space for and equipping others for leadership, {wider} community engagement and service, standing with our neighbors, asking questions/listening, wondering and dreaming about how to be the church into the future...

Synod Activities: Weekly online community with my colleagues, weekly text study, Latino Mission Development, Synod Council

Ministry Gifts I will bring to this position: I come with questions.

I am interested in listening to others.

I am excited about how the Spirit is swirling in Christ's Church

At Large (Clergy Male)—Manual Borbon , Mid-Willamette Valley Latino Ministry

Congregational Activities: - Mission Developer serving the community in Silverton, OR.

- Leading Immanuel's Sunday Spanish service at Silverton OR.

- Serving and providing pastoral care to Immanuel's Latino community.

Synod Activities: - Rostered Leader and Latino Mission Developer for the Oregon Synod Mid-Willamette Valley Latino Ministry.

- Oregon Synod Council member at large (2017-2020)

- Member of the Oregon Synod's Latino Ministry Table.

Ministry Gifts I will bring to this position: - Mexican cultural knowledge and experience working and engaging with Latinos.

- Strong pastoral care for the people I serve.

- Communicational skills (bilingual) and a teamwork oriented attitude.