

Report of the Synod Nominating Committee



The following biographical data, with names listed alphabetically, is provided for all synod-related positions for which there are elections at the Synod Assembly. The code related to the various descriptors is:

1. Congregation Membership, 2. Current Occupation, 3. Education Background.
 4. The ministry of every congregation has an impact on the mission of our synod. With this in mind, into what kind of ministry would you like to see your congregation focus its energy in the next 3 years?
 5. What gifts do you have to contribute to this type of ministry?
 6. List your 3 most significant leadership positions.
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1. SYNOD COUNCIL AT LARGE – rostered woman.

Rostered woman.

a. **ROHLOFF, KATHERINE C.**

1. Immanuel, New Auburn.
2. Pastor.
3. M.Div. Wartburg Theological Seminary.
4. Since the pandemic started, social services have been stretched too far and everybody's struggling more than before. I think we as a church need to focus on practical ministry: feeding the hungry, helping the vulnerable, at the moment. In an exhausted world, we can offer others a chance for a true sabbath that way.
5. I can read a budget and have an analytical turn of mind. I try to ask good questions, and I believe the goal of writing policies is to create robust safety nets for the vulnerable.
6. I am greatly fulfilled by my role as a pastor. I have enjoyed serving on synod council before, and I've been assisting in creating the synod reading group recently.

2. SYNOD COUNCIL AT LARGE – rostered man.

Rostered man.

a. **BRITTON, REV RUSSEL.**

1. Celebration, Sartell.
2. Pastor.
3. St Olaf College '98, Luther Seminary '14.
4. Grateful for the current energies and direction of our congregation, I hope our coming years include continuing the successful food distribution ministry to the community (CLC Free Store) every other Tuesday; offering vibrant youth ministry programming for all ages levels; and extending worship offerings at different times and locations to make worship widely available. May we also courageously engage any Holy Spirit surprises!
5. The Holy Spirit compels me to love and lead with faith, hope, love, and levity. By grace, the peace and presence of Christ inspire me to work from my strengths and diligently improve through listening and learning. I strive to curate environments of collaboration within the places and organizations I am privileged to serve. Faithfulness leads me to authentically offer excellence which dignifies tradition while embracing sacred new possibilities.
6. 1) Conference Dean, SW Washington Synod 1/21-6/23, 2) Board of Directors, Peninsula Behavioral Health, WA 11/19-4/24, 3) Board of Directors, Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, CO 1/15-12/20.

3. SYNOD COUNCIL AT LARGE – youth or young adult.

Youth or young adult.

- a. no nominee.

4. SYNOD COUNCIL – Glacial Ridge Conference – 3-year term – lay woman.

- a. No nominee elected. (vacant).

5. SYNOD COUNCIL – Lakeland Conference – 3-year term – rostered woman.

- a. HANDEL-JOHNSON, DEACON BRENDA - Big Grove, Crow River, Grace Parish.

6. SYNOD COUNCIL – Minnesota Valley Conference – 3-year term – lay man.

- a. ENGEL, PAUL - Scandian Grove, Norseland.

7. SYNOD COUNCIL – Prairie Conference – 3-year term – lay person.

- a. No nominee elected. (vacant).

8. SYNOD COUNCIL – Scenic Valley Conference – 3-year term – rostered man.

- a. KROGSTAD, REV LOWELL - St John, Morgan & St Luke's, Franklin.

9. SYNOD COUNCIL – Watonwan River Conference – 3-year term – lay man.

- a. No nominee elected. (vacant).

ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

July 28 – August 2, 2025; Phoenix, Arizona

1. CWA VOTING MEMBER – AT LARGE – rostered woman.

a. OLSON, REV JANINE.

1. Gethsemane, Dassel.
2. Pastor.
3. Master of Divinity.
4. We live into the greatest commandment to love God and love our neighbor. Each Sunday we are reminded that God has called us to love all neighbors, no exceptions! Whether we're feeding the children of the community during the summers or stocking the food pantry outside our front doors, there are no barriers to God's generosity through this congregation. As we move into the future, we listen to the community to find new ways to share God's love.
5. Through several needs assessment processes, I've helped congregations find where God is calling them in this next step in their ministry. Once those needs are determined I help members of the congregation find their unique God given gifts to complete the tasks. An important part of my role as a Pastor is to help each person uncover their God given gifts so that no one person is left to accomplish the task of ministry. It requires all of us!
6. 1) Member of SCSU LuMin Board 201-2017, chair: 2014-2017. 2) Member of Equipping Congregations Day Team, 2013-2019, chair: 2016-2019. 3) Current and past member of Synod Assembly Planning Committee 2009-2015, chair: 2012-2015.

b. ULLAND-KLINKNER, REV KATHLEEN.

1. Our Savior's, New Ulm.
2. Pastor.
3. BA and Master of Divinity.
4. Engaging adults of all ages in faith formation through bible study, service, and community building. It's important to meet people where they are at in their faith and offer a variety of ways to help them grow. As they grow in their understanding of what it means to love and serve God and God's world, it impacts their daily life and that in turn impacts our world. It is in following the example of Jesus that we can make a difference in our world.
5. My gifts include building trusting relationships with people of all ages, passion in sharing the Gospel with people from all walks of life, and willingness to learn new ways of doing ministry.
6. 1) Senior Pastor, Our Savior's. 2) Chairperson of Watonwan County Food Shelf. 3) Many youth committees in our synod and community in my 23 years as a Director of Youth/Christian Education.

2. CWA VOTING MEMBER – AT LARGE – lay woman, person of color or primary language other than English.

a. UKAONU, SUSAN.

1. Atonement, St Cloud.
2. Billing representative.
3. Some college.

3. CWA VOTING MEMBER – AT LARGE – lay man.

a. MARKFORT, QUENTIN.

1. Peace, New London
2. Youth Ministry Director (Peace & Faith Lutheran Churches, New London & Spicer).
3. Bachelor of Arts; Concordia College, Moorhead, MN.
4. I really see a need for young adult ministry in the churches that I serve. This is something I believe is not only something my churches struggle with, many churches across all denominations. Churches are really good at supporting youth and young families, but those years in between tend to get lost. If we're going to grow the church into 2024-25 and beyond, I believe this is something most of our churches should consider.
5. I really value networking with people. I enjoy making connections with all kinds of God's people. I think one of the ways we can reach that specific age group is with multiple platforms of social media. At both the churches I serve, I help with social media. I dream of having small group for this age group, and would love to help get those going, as many most young adults I've worked with value those smaller groups of people to connect with.
6. 1) Board Chaplain, SW MN Synod Lutheran Youth Organization, 2) Secretary/treasurer, New London-Spicer Ministerial Association, 3) Member, Renville Lions Club.

4. CWA VOTING MEMBER – AT LARGE – rostered man, person of color or primary language other than English.

a. UKAONU, REV CHIMEZIE.

1. Atonement, St Cloud.
2. Chaplain/Clergy – St Cloud, VA.
3. Master of Divinity.
4. Internal: Focus on expanding authentic caring community; External: Expanding engagement with the neighbors.

5. Pastoral and organizational leadership.
6. 1) Congregation Pastor of a rural farming community in ND, 2) Member, Synod Council & Executive Committee of the Eastern North Dakota Synod, 3) Chaplain, St Cloud VA.

5. **CWA VOTING MEMBER – AT LARGE – rostered man.**

a. **KADEN, REV BRYANT.**

1. Gloria Dei, Redwood Falls
2. Pastor (I manage a factory of codependency).
3. B.A., Midland Lutheran College (2004), M.Div., Wartburg Theological Seminary (2008).
4. Proclamation of God’s all encompassing love and grace in Christ through word and deed; Outreach to youth and families; Renewal of creation and communities through faithful stewardship.
5. My heart, mind, spirit, and strength, but only insofar as Christ works through me by the power of the Holy Spirit. I pray a lot (so many prayers). I try to listen with curiosity rather than simply as a prelude to expressing my own preconceived ideas. I try to be faithful in my responsibilities. I try to manage my need to be needed. I try to let go of my desire to control things. I fail. Lord, have mercy if this depends on me and my gifts.
6. 1) Spouse with Lindy and father to Martin, Matthew, and Macy, 2) Lead Pastor, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 3) Liaison for Prairie Fire Preaching Community.

b. **TAFFE, REV BRYAN.**

1. St Paul’s, Lowry.
2. Pastor.
3. Master of Divinity.
4. As the congregation I serve continues to grow, I hope to see us get to know one another better. We can then use our newfound connections with one another to get to know our surrounding communities and ministry partners and continue to grow in ministry outside of our church walls.
5. I am a welcoming person that strives to find common ground with everyone I meet and serve. I try my best to use my gifts to build bridges among people that do not yet know each other well. I hope to learn more about the Churchwide process and build connections, understanding, and relationships throughout churchwide, synodical, and congregational expressions of the church.
6. 1) Pastor, St Paul’s, Lowry, 2) Lowry Fire Department Chaplain, 3) Senior Pastor, Prairie Star Lutheran Parish – Bryant, Willow Lake, and Vienna, South Dakota.

6. **CWA VOTING MEMBERS – CROW RIVER CONFERENCE – rostered man.**

Rostered Man.

- a. **EVANSON, REV THOMAS – Voting member.**
- b. **BRAVINDER, REV PAUL – First alternate.**
- c. **ASTRUP, REV MARK – Second alternate.**

7. **CWA VOTING MEMBER – CROW RIVER CONFERENCE – lay man.**

Lay Man.

- a. **EVENSON, KEITH – Voting member.**
- b. **NELSON, DAVID – First alternate.**
- c. **RADKE, LEON - Second alternate.**

8. CWA VOTING MEMBERS – GLACIAL RIDGE CONFERENCE – lay woman.
Lay woman.
 - a. **No nominee elected**- Voting member.
 - b. **No nominee elected** – First alternate.
 - c. **No nominee elected** – Second alternate.

9. CWA VOTING MEMBERS – GREAT RIVER CONFERENCE – rostered woman.
Rostered woman.
 - a. NELSON ROENFELDT, REV KIRSTEN - Voting member.
 - b. PETERSON, REV ALLISON – First alternate.
 - c. CHRISTOFFELS, REV STEPHANIE – Second alternate.

10. CWA VOTING MEMBERS – GREAT RIVER CONFERENCE – lay man.
Lay man.
 - a. NELSON ROENFELDT, STEVE - Voting member.
 - b. PETERSON, BRUCE – First alternate.
 - c. MARTIN CHAFFEE, BILL – Second alternate.

11. CWA VOTING MEMBERS – LAC QUI PARLE CONFERENCE – lay man.
Lay man.
 - a. MARTIN, SHAWNN - Voting member.
 - b. SANNERUD, MARK – First alternate.
 - c. **No nominee elected** – Second alternate.

12. CWA VOTING MEMBERS – LAKELAND CONFERENCE – rostered woman.
Rostered woman.
 - a. THUL, REV JENNIFER - Voting member.
 - b. ASK, REV SEYWARD – First alternate.
 - c. MESHKE, REV LISA – Second alternate.

13. CWA VOTING MEMBERS – GREAT RIVER CONFERENCE – lay man.
Lay man.
 - a. VEGA, BRYAN - Voting member.
 - b. OSTBY, TIM – First alternate.
 - c. HANSON, BRAD – Second alternate.

14. CWA VOTING MEMBERS – MINNESOTA VALLEY CONFERENCE – lay woman.
Lay woman.
 - a. JOHNSON, JODI - Voting member.
 - b. **No nominee elected** – First alternate.
 - c. **No nominee elected** – Second alternate.

15. **CWA VOTING MEMBERS – PRAIRIE CONFERENCE – rostered man.**
Rostered man.
 - a. KROHNKE, REV AUSTIN - Voting member.
 - b. BOLLERUD, REV LEVI – First alternate.
 - c. No nominee elected – Second alternate.

16. **CWA VOTING MEMBERS – PRAIRIE CONFERENCE – lay man.**
Lay man.
 - a. No nominee elected - Voting member.
 - b. No nominee elected – First alternate.
 - c. No nominee elected – Second alternate.

17. **CWA VOTING MEMBERS – SCENIC VALLEY CONFERENCE – lay man.**
Lay man.
 - a. NELSON, JAN - Voting member.
 - b. No nominee elected – First alternate.
 - c. No nominee elected – Second alternate.

18. **CWA VOTING MEMBERS – SHETEK CONFERENCE – rostered man.**
Rostered man.
 - a. ROBERTS, REV ADAM - Voting member.
 - b. DUFFY, REV CHAD – First alternate.
 - c. HALLQUIST, REV JEREMY – Second alternate.

19. **CWA VOTING MEMBERS – SHETEK CONFERENCE – lay man.**
Lay man.
 - a. BUSMAN, ANDREW - Voting member.
 - b. LUCAS PETERS-SMITH, AUSTIN – First alternate.
 - c. No nominee elected – Second alternate.

20. **CWA VOTING MEMBERS – WATONWAN RIVER CONFERENCE – lay woman.**
Lay woman.
 - a. No nominee elected - Voting member.
 - b. No nominee elected – First alternate.
 - c. No nominee elected – Second alternate.

