



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. Congregational Membership
2. Current Occupation
3. Educational 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.

2017 Southwestern Minnesota Synod Nominees

(In alphabetical order)

1. SYNOD COUNCIL – AT LARGE – 3 year term, lay male (vote for one)

a. EKERN, JEWEL

1. United, Lake Lillian
2. Retired
3. B.S. Computer Science University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse
4. Mission beyond Lake Lillian
5. Passion for Global Mission; Relationship building experience with sister congregation in South Africa; Hospitality in hosting guests from sister congregation.
6. 1) Lay school of Theology graduate, 2) Stephen Minister, 3) Church Council

b. WOODBERRY, FERMAN

1. Cottonwood
2. Cabinet Maker
3. B.A. in Art from Gustavus Adolphus College
4. Equipping leaders; it is important that all the saints (God's Children) be equipped to share their gifts with the world and their congregation. We have all been blessed with gifts some of which we are not aware of yet. We need to lift up and encourage each other to step outside of our comfort zones to discover the other talents God has blessed us with. Then we need to trust in God and place ourselves in the position to use said gifts.
5. Listening, Caring, Discernment, the ability to empathize, Stephen's Ministry training, Leadership Development training, Anti-Racism training.
6. 1) Husband/Father: My goal has been to display to my family what servant leadership means to me, 2) Director of Campus Security at MSU Moorhead, 3) Security Coordinator at Saint Cloud State University.

2. SYNOD COUNCIL – AT LARGE – 3 year term, clergy male

(vote for one)

a. MILLER, REV JULIUS

1. Our Redeemer's, Hancock
2. Pastor
3. Bachelor in Accounting, Master of Divinity
4. Objective dialog with other Christians within our denomination and other church bodies. By this I mean that we as a congregation need to focus on listening and learning from the experiences of our brothers and sisters who have different life experiences from ours.
5. My own faith journey and spiritual experience. I am a fourth generation Christian with Asian Indian and English roots. I grew up in India with a very western worldview and lifestyle. As a minority in India and here in the U.S, I have an interesting perspective of life and faith that I would like to share with other Christians.
6. 1) In High School I was class president, 2) Past member of the steering committee for Steven's County, 3) Past secretary of a World Missions Committee.

b. MUELLERLEILE, REV CHRISTIAN

1. Zion, Litchfield
2. Pastor
3. B.A. in Religion, Gustavus; M.Div., Luther Seminary
4. I would like to see my congregation focus on practicing the radical hospitality attested to by Jesus and throughout scriptures. I would like to see us become comfortable welcoming the stranger and embrace our own strangeness in doing so.
5. Strangeness.
6. 1) Meeker Area Ministries Vice Chair, a non-profit agency that provides transitional housing in Litchfield, MN, 2) Shooting Stars 4-H Club President 1987, Steele County MN

3. SYNOD COUNCIL – AT LARGE – Youth

(vote for one)

a. NEMITZ, JACK

1. Our Saviour's, Canby
2. Self-Employed Landscaper
3. Secondary
4. I would like to see the church focus on helping underdeveloped communities in Africa and refugees of the Syrian Civil war. To me, it is important to reach out as far as you can to help and serve. Other parts of the world may need more help than we do. I would like to see us reach out and help other parts of the world.
5. I have always felt comfortable sharing ideas and speaking up to fix a problem. I feel that my life is influenced by my faith. If I feel that I can help somebody I will try to do it to the best of my ability. I love helping people. When you show love to one person they show it to another and another and it starts a chain reaction of showing love.
6. 1) I have helped run a children's vacation bible school & Sunday school, 2) Active in helping with Sunday church services, 3) Helped organize a Youth against Misusing Substances.

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b. PALMER, JOELY

1. Vinje, Willmar
2. Student
3. High School
4. My congregation likes focusing its energy on youth activities. I think it could start looking more into bringing our youth out into our own community along with our trips to larger cities to find places where help is needed. Vinje could also work more to connect with people outside the church doors who aren't a part of our church or a church at all.
5. I love working with the kids at Vinje and in Willmar. Working for the church in the technology area to make lessons and schedules for each season help me learn more about all the people and what they like to do as well as how to get them out of their comfort zones a little to try new things.
6. 1) Technology Leader, 2) 4-H Leader, 3) Worship Team Leader in Choir

4. CONSULTATION COMMITTEE – 6 year term, lay male

(vote for one)

a. GRANDY, THOMAS

1. Glenwood, Glenwood
2. Mathematics teacher at Saint John’s Preparatory
3. B.A. (Math, Religion, Ancient Studies) St Olaf
4. I would like to see Glenwood Lutheran assist its members to continue to engage the global society. I would like us to build on our participation in the ELCA's global service outreach by learning about other cultures, so that we can engage them authentically and work to make our global society more just and peaceful.
5. I would like to see Glenwood Lutheran assist its members to continue to engage the global society. I would like us to build on our participation in the ELCA's global service outreach by learning about other cultures, so that we can engage them authentically and work to make our global society more just and peaceful.
6. 1) Current chair of Glenwood Lutheran’s Deacon Board, 2) Long-time math department representative on Saint John’s Prep Academic Affairs Council, 3) Saint John’s Prep’s Head Baseball Coach, 2008-2016.

b. no nominee at time of printing.

5. CONSULTATION COMMITTEE – 6 year term, lay female

(vote for one)

a. LICHTSINN, KAREN

1. Grace, Lake Benton
2. Retired Accountant
3. BS in Accounting
4. Our congregation is in transition, focusing on our mission and future role in the community. As smaller congregations look forward, we will focus on how to continue to "do church" in the rural areas. But more importantly on following God's lead for our churches. As humans we often believe we have all the answers and try to exert control, but as Christians we need to have faith and "let go", allowing God to use our gifts to do His work.

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5. My personal work and church experience in Finance can assist congregations in shaping their financial future. But I also enjoy talking and working with people, to help them share ideas and to encourage different perspectives. I have also had the opportunity to lead various organizations, within the church and in the community, which provided leadership experience in negotiating and educating groups on new ideas and concepts.
6. 1) Grace Church Council Chair, 2) Grace Congregational Treasurer, 3) Winds of the Prairie Treasurer and Financial Consultant.

b. RATH, JULIE

1. Gloria Dei, Redwood Falls
2. Economic Development Specialist
3. Albert Lea Vocational School, U of M, Waseca
4. Building stronger relationships within membership of all our congregations beyond the Sunday morning service and cup of coffee/fellowship after or before the service. Relationships are built on conversation, trust, and getting to know each other as people and friends, your extended family, and how we do outreach to those who are not inside our church walls in our own community. There are many people in need and feel left out.
5. A good listening, compassionate ear and discerning heart. People sometimes get into situations before thinking about their results of their actions.
6. 1) Synod Personnel Committee, 2) Synod Council Member, 3) Consultation Committee – late 1990's

6. DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – 6 year term, lay male

(vote for one)

a. RANDLEMAN, ERIC

1. Glenwood, Glenwood
2. Healthcare IT Consultant
3. Bachelors of Science in Computer Science
4. I would like to see GLC continue its mission to bring the Word of God to all people, and to serve those in our community near and wide.
5. I have a calm demeanor, my faith is a very important aspect of my life, and I'm loyal to whatever cause I choose to participate in.
6. 1) Class president of my senior high school, 2) Youth Board Member (GLC), 3) Glenwood Fire Department member.

7. DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – 6 year term, clergy male

(vote for one)

a. RUNDQUIST, REV ERIK

1. Svea, Svea
2. Pastor
3. B.A. from Bemidji State; M.Div. from Wartburg
4. Community-oriented outreach
5. I have experience working in many difficult situations. I have good listening skills with intentional emphasis on reconciliation.
6. 1) Pastor at Svea, 2) President Lutheran Campus Ministry at Ridgewater College, 3) Member of Family Promise Fund-raising committee for Kandiyohi County

8. LUTHERAN ADVOCACY OF MN – 3 year term (vote for one)

a. FITZKAPPES, JEFFREY – Trinity, Montevideo

9. SYNOD COUNCIL – Crow River Conference – 3 year term – lay male (vote for one)

a. NELSON, DAVID – First, Sauk Centre

10. SYNOD COUNCIL – Lac qui Conference – 3 year term – clergy male (vote for one)

a. TONN, REV DAVID – First English, Ortonville

11. SYNOD COUNCIL – Prairie Conference – 3 year term – clergy male (vote for one)

a. SNYDER, REV LYLE – St Stephen, Marshall

12. SYNOD COUNCIL – Watonwan River Conference – 3 year term – lay male (vote for one)

a. no nominee at time of printing