

REPORT of the SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2019 Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly

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.

2019 Southwestern Minnesota Synod Nominees (In alphabetical order)

1. SYNOD COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT – 4-year term, lay male/female **(vote for one)**

a. HENRIKSEN, KRISTY

1. First, Pipestone
2. Child of God, wife, mother, church & community volunteer
3. B.A. Luther College Decorah, Iowa
4. *Rural Ministry in the 21st Century-exploring new ways to minister to all people in our rural communities. Looking at changing demographics, new challenges, new neighbors.
*Outreach to all people-locally, nationally, and worldwide.
*Spiritual Growth for all God's people taking place in and out of the church building. It doesn't end with the Rite of Confirmation.
*Intergenerational Ministries to "pass on the faith" to future generations.
5. I attended the Hope in the Heartland workshop in Sioux Falls with a team from my congregation. I am willing to listen to all points of view, think things through, make a plan, and follow through to completion. I am willing to try to new things and get others involved in the plan. I have a love of Outreach and Mission projects and would love to develop new ones that are needed. I was deeply involved with the Passing On Faith initiative.
6. 1) President-SW MN SWO Women of the ELCA. 2) Chairperson-Shetek Lutheran Ministries Quilt Auction Committee. 3) Organizer and first Chairperson of the Pipestone County Relay For Life.

b. SCHRADER, BLAIR

1. Living Waters, Sauk Rapids
2. Scrum Master
3. BA - English, Gustavus Adolphus College, MS - Technical Communication, Utah State University

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4. I agree, each congregation impacts the larger mission of the synod. Likewise, if we want the congregations to impact the synod mission, we need to be sure the mission is clear and understood. As a member of the synod council, it would be important to represent that mission and work with the congregations to help identify their gifts and strengths, and therefore how they can support the synod, building and working together.
5. My daily work requires that I listen and guide team members by asking the right questions. No one person has all the right answers all the time. My role is to coach teams to work collaboratively and consider various options from differing perspectives. We must own our work and be willing to adjust, as well.
6. 1) Living Waters Lutheran Church council president and secretary, 2) Great River Rotary member and past president, 3) In my daily work as Scrum Master, I coach 4 software development teams.

c. WOODBERRY, FERMAN

1. Salem, Jackson
2. Light Industrial Worker
3. B.A. in Art from Gustavus Adolphus College
4. 1) I believe that community outreach is very important; we tend to focus on our immediate needs sometimes forgetting that we have been called to go out into the world as God’s hands and feet. 2) Continuing Education for all age groups – after confirmation most of us do not continue to build up our faith. Study and meditation of the Word strengthen us within and equip us to journey out.
5. I have been a Stephen’s minister, a member of this synod’s Anti-Racism Team, served on church councils, currently serve on our Synod Council, the Engaging Leaders Board and I am the V.P. of SW MN Synod Lutheran Men in Mission. I am guided by my faith in God, my loving nature and discerning mind. I have taken several leaps of faith in my lifetime and this would be a huge one for me. However, I believe that with God’s help and the prayers of others I can perform said duties.
6. 1) Husband/Father: I try to be a servant leader in my home, 2) Director of Security at MSU Moorhead: learned how to handle change, 3) Synod Council: opportunity to have a voice in the workings of our synod.

2. SYNOD COUNCIL SECRETARY – 4-year term, lay/clergy, male/female (vote for one)

a. KUEHL, DEACON ERIN

1. First, St James
2. Deacon
3. BS in Recreation and Leisure Studies, Deacon
4. I feel that each congregation has its own personality and gifts. We all work to raise up leaders and work for justice, but in so many ways. In my opinion continuing to support those in need by walking alongside them hearing their stories and teaching to be stewards. Modeling this in our youth and children’s ministries is of utmost importance. Actions speak louder than words.
5. The gifts I have come from serving on Synod Council and knowing the governance of the larger church.
6. 1) LYO Adult Leader (starting a new group in South Central, WI, 2) Full- & part-time Deacon for 18 years, 3) Synod Council Representative (SW MN Synod).

b. ZASTROW, REV ANN

1. Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish, Belgrade
2. Pastor
3. M.Div.

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4. I would like all three congregations to look at their role in both the parish and the community.
5. I have been a member of the Synod Council for 3 years, and filling in as interim Synod Council Secretary for most of this year.
6. 1) Associate Pastor, Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish, 2) Synod Council Member 2015-2018, 3) Teacher.

3. SYNOD COUNCIL TREASURER – 4-year term, lay/clergy, male/female **(vote for one)**

a. ENGBRETSON, CHUCK

1. Celebration, Sartell
2. Retired
3. BA – Accounting from Luther College, 1973
4. Deemed not applicable; left blank intentionally.
5. Deemed not applicable; left blank intentionally.
6. 1) 2000 – 2015 – CFO and CAO for Array Services Group, Inc. of Sartell, MN, 2) 1988 – 2003 CFO for Security Financial Group, Inc. of St Cloud, MN, 3) 1973-1988 – CPA with Peat, Manwick, Mitchell & Co. (now KPMG), leaving as Audit Partner.

4. SYNOD COUNCIL AT LARGE – 3-year term, clergy female **(vote for two)**

a. BERNDT-DRYER, REV MAGGIE

1. Bethlehem, Hills
2. Pastor
3. M.Div.
4. One focus is on fostering a culture of hospitality within our faith community and learning how we can move from being a "friendly church" to one where meaningful friendships are built. Another is changing the way we do youth ministry to a more sustainable model that does not rest on only one person. Finally, discovering ways we can use our gifts to meet the needs of our neighbors.
5. My strongest gifts are communicating clearly, listening deeply, big-picture thinking, celebrating successes, practicing gratitude, and reminding others (and myself!) that the Spirit is at work and has given us what we need to be God's church here and now.
6. 1) Solo pastor at Bethlehem, 2) Founding member of Basement Dwellers Improv Comedy, 3) Wartburg Seminary Chapel Staff (Sacristan).

b. FALENSCHEK, REV MAGGIE

1. Gustavus Adolphus College
2. Chaplain and Director of Campus Ministries
3. B.A. Concordia College (2011), M.Div. Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (2015)
4. My work in campus ministry often does not fit the mold of traditional congregational ministry, yet, many of the students I work with will be (if they aren't already) leaders in their congregations. In the next three years, I am focused on continuing to cultivate an inclusive worshipping community, uplifting and empowering the leadership of our student body, and engaging in student-facing ministry that is both intercultural and intersectional.
5. I bring strong gifts in community organizing and practice a ministry of presence. My attentiveness to detail and level-headed approach to challenges make me a great team player. I am new to the synod and bring a fresh set of eyes and passionate energy to our work together.

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- 1) Synod Assembly Planning Team (Central/Southern IL, 2018), 2) Mission and Development Team (Central/Southern IL, 2018), 3) Student-Body President (PLTS, 2014-15)

c. ROUTH, REV SHARI

1. God's Greater Glory Parish (rural Princeton)
2. Pastor
3. M.Div.
4. God's Greater Glory Parish is a two-point parish in a rural setting. Participating in the Hope for the Heartland event, I hope to see the parish continue to discover the gifts in which they are blessed while reaching out to their neighbors with God's love.
5. Some of the gifts that I bring to ministry are positivity, empathy, helping people to grow and see possibilities, and building bridges of connectedness. I enjoy working as part of a team, and find joy in knowing we are part of something larger than ourselves.
6. 1) Pastor, God's Greater Glory Parish, rural Princeton, MN 2018 to present, 2) Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Fairwater, WI 2013-2017, 3) Associate Pastor, Immanuel-Trinity Lutheran Church, Fond du Lac, WI, 2003-2013.

5. SYNOD COUNCIL AT LARGE – YOUTH – 2-year term

(vote for one)

a. HAUSKEN, LEIF

1. Cross of Calvary, Olivia
2. Student
3. 10th grade in high school
4. I would like to see my congregation give more opportunities for youth to grow in their faith so they become lifelong members and the next generation of our church.
5. I would say I have gifts in leadership and an open mind for new ideas presented. I also really enjoy working with computers. So I have good troubleshooting skills and that could come in handy. In addition, I'm not afraid to ask questions.
6. 1) Teens in Ministry (TIM) Team at Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church, 2) Drive Team for BOLD Robotics, 3) Secretary on Student Council at BOLD High School.

b. SEINLE, LOGAN

1. Christ, Slayton
2. Student
3. Murray County Central High School
4. I enjoy an evangelical outreach ministry. I believe that our only job as Christians is to simply spread the word that our God exists, and that He is holy, righteous, kind, merciful, loving, and just. This seems like the most upfront way of doing so.
5. I have a strong enthusiasm to spread the word of our Lord and it is my #1 priority. I hold based ideologies and I can use them to the best of my ability for good.
6. 1) Small Group Leader at Senior High Youth Gathering, 2) Spokesperson for Knowledge Bowl Team, 3) Ranked in the top 5 in my class.

6. CONSULTATION COMMITTEE – 6-year term, lay male **(vote for one)**

a. **THUL, OLIVER**

1. *No bio at time of printing*

7. CONSULTATION COMMITTEE – 6-year term, clergy female **(vote for one)**

a. **HOVLAND, REV MARY**

1. Co-Chaplain at Bethesda Care Center
2. Pastor
3. University of Minnesota, Luther Seminary
4. As co-chaplain at Bethesda Care in Willmar I am called to give loving spiritual care to residents and staff. In worship and Bible study I am called to proclaim the good news of Jesus, the hope within each of us. I affirm that each of us has gifts to share from our first breath to our last earthly breath. I am richly blessed as the residents tell me of their great faith in Jesus which I hold sacredly in my hands.
5. Gifts of preaching, teaching, caring encouragement, listening, compassion, willingness to walk the journey of life with others.
6. 1) Serving as Co-Chaplain at Bethesda Care for 1.5 years, 2) Served as Pastor for Parish Care at Vinje Lutheran, Willmar, 8 years, 3) Served as Pastor of Maynard, Wang Lutheran Parish, 15 years.

8. DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – 6-year term, lay male **(vote for one)**

a. **HACKER, LOREN**

1. Our Saviour's, Canby
2. School Administrator
3. BS, M. Ed., Specialist – Ed. Admin.
4. Building a greater respect and tolerance for diversity to counter hateful rhetoric and violent acts in our world.
5. My education and experiences as a teacher, principal & superintendent have prepared me to serve as a volunteer in this ministry of support.
6. 1) School Superintendent of Canby MACCRAY, & Hancock.

9. DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – 6-year term, lay female **(vote for one)**

a.

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

a. **BRANSOY, DALE** – River of Hope, Hutchinson

11. SYNOD COUNCIL – Great River Conference – 3-year term – lay male **(vote for one)**

a. **DURHEIM, BEN** – Salem, St Cloud

12. SYNOD COUNCIL – Shetek Conference – 3-year term – lay female **(vote for one)**

a. **HENRIKSEN, KRISTY** – First, Pipestone