



Metropolitan Chicago Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

2021 SYNOD ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS RESOURCE

Ecclesiastical/Nominating Ballot

The nominations for Vice President (lay) and Secretary (lay or rostered) will happen on the first ballot for those offices.

You will be asked to provide the following information about the candidate:

Name
Congregation
Phone Number
Other identifying information

If you are planning to nominate someone for one of these offices, please ask them in advance of the assembly.

General Ballot

At this year's assembly we are electing members of congregations in our synod to variety of positions:

- 2022 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members
- Synod Council
- Committee on Consultation
- Committee on Discipline

In order to ensure a diversity of representation in a broad number of categories required by our constitution, the Nominations Committee has delineated certain positions to be filled by certain conferences, genders, roster/lay, person of color/language other than English.

Some of the slots will have only one candidate, others will have more than one.

The final slate of candidates and updated biographical information will likely be released just before the assembly but this guide will help you prepare in advance.

KEY:

* -- nominated at a meeting of their geographic conference

PC/L --- person of color or primary language other than English

2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS

LAY FEMALE

A. Selene Partida (Near West)* PC/L

Selene Partida

Unity Lutheran Church, Berwyn (Near West)
Social Media

Congregational Involvement: Leader (current)

Community Involvement: Community Activist (current)

Personal Statement: I believe in sharing the love of God through the gospel and in actions and been part of the church Gods family.

LAY FEMALE

A. Ariolye Frost (Northeast)* PC/L

B. Claire Embil (Northeast) PC/L

Ariolye Frost

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Chicago (Central)

Musician

Congregational Involvement: Music assistant (current), Council member (current)

Personal Statement: I am very interested in the process of the churchwide organization and want to have more insight and impact.

Claire Embil – no biographical information

LAY FEMALE

A. Sherry D'Agostino (West)*

Sherry D'Agostino

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wheaton (West)

Registered Nurse

Congregational Involvement: Call Committee twice, Church Council

Personal Statement: To learn more about the the larger church, and how decisions are made, how the leadership structure works in the ELCA.

LAY MALE

- A. Ismael Calderon (North)* PC/L
- B. Donal Barlow (North)

Ismael Calderon

Sagrado Corazón, Waukegan (North)
Seminararian

Congregational Involvement: Church Council President

Personal Statement: I am interested in serving in this way because I have experience working with leaders (in multicultural churches, public, private and the third sector); reporting, working on decision-making process, policy, and budgeting. I am also willing to continue to learn these topics at the churchwide ELCA level.

Donal Barlow

St. Stephen, Antioch (North)
Special Education Teacher

Congregational Involvement: President of Church Council, Church Council, Team Leader-- Stewardship Team (current), Member - Education Team

Community Involvement: Special Education Teacher Waukegan (Current), Special Education Teacher-- Charter Schools in Chicago, Open Arms Mission – volunteer (current), Habitat for Humanity-- volunteer

Personal Statement: I am interested in continuing my own growth in faith. I am interested in mission, and the church serving ALL-- people of color, immigrants, disabled, LGBATQ etc. And in bringing the spirit of the Churchwide Assembly to my synod, and congregation.

LAY MALE

A. John Nicholas (Northwest)*

John Nicholas

All Saints, Palatine (Northwest)

Public Works Supervisor

Congregational Involvement: Council President (Current), Council Vice President,
Synod Assembly Voting Member

Synodical Involvement: Constitution Committee (Current)

Community Involvement: School District Advisory Committee Member

Personal Statement: I found all aspects of Synod Assembly highly rewarding. The opportunity to be a part of the process at the Churchwide Assembly would be remarkable.

LAY MALE

- A. Zachary Howell (Southwest)*
- B. Rodger Jones (South) PC/L

Zachary Howell

Bethany Lutheran Church, Lemont (Southwest)
Regional Account Supervisor, Major Accounts at Dealer Inspire

Congregational Involvement: President (Current), Church Council (Current),
Evangelism Committee [includes Website and Social media] (current),
Church Council Vice President

Synodical Involvement: Synod Assembly Voting Member 2019

Community Involvement: Campaign Manager, Citizens for Ryan Kwasneski (Local
Trustee Election), Habitat for Humanity Volunteer (Current), High School Football Coach,
Fellowship of Christian Athletes sponsor

Personal Statement: I'm wanting to connect & learn from those who saw
unprecedented times as a call from God to think bigger, connect more deeply, and
prioritize community.

Rodger Jones

Bethel, Chicago (Central)
Seminarian

Congregational Involvement: Synodically Authorized Minister (Current), President, Vice
President, Team Leader Young Adults

Synodical Involvement: Synod Council (Current)

Personal Statement: I would like to go to represent young adults of color

LAY

A. Angela Bell (Southwest)

B. Elisabeth Trost (Northeast)

Angela Bell

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Palos Heights (Southwest)
Stay At Home Mother

Congregational Involvement: WELCA Treasurer, Bell Choir Member (Current), Worship Assistant (Current), Choir Member (Current)

Churchwide Involvement: Member of Executive Board of Women of the ELCA, Churchwide Assembly Voting Member '16, '19

Personal Statement: Angela has the experience and knowledge gained through her leadership in the WELCA Executive Board and various congregations to make thoughtful, prayerful and faithful decisions.

Elisabeth Trost

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Chicago (Northeast)
Educator - I lead professional learning on ESL/Bilingual Education

Congregational Involvement: Sacristan (current), church council member, mutual ministry member, Sunday school, bible school teacher

Community Involvement: Board of Directors - Seraj Library Project

Personal Statement: I'm a lifelong Lutheran and care deeply about the state of the church and the future of the church. I would like to take part in the conversations and the decision making around those topics.

LAY

A. Frank Imhoff (Northwest)

Frank Imhoff

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Elgin (Northwest)

Retired

Congregational Involvement: Constitution committee (current),
Radio Ministry host (current)

Churchwide Involvement: Manager for official documentation - Office of the Secretary,
Associate director - ELCA News Service

Community Involvement: Chair - Elgin Township Democrats,
Parliamentarian - Elgin Township Democrats (current)

Personal Statement: I've attended every ELCA Churchwide Assembly but never as a voting member. I delight in worship. I love the people and their business as church.

ROSTERED FEMALE

A. Pr. Erin Clausen (Near West)

B. Pr. Julie Grafe (West)

Pastor Erin Clausen

St. James, Western Springs; Christ, Clarendon Hills (Near West)

Pastor

Congregational Involvement: Pastor of covenanted congregations

Synodical Involvement: Secretary - Metropolitan Chicago Synod 2017-2021 (current)

Churchwide Involvement: Churchwide Assembly Voting Member '19

Personal Statement: I'm always excited and honored to serve the synod. As secretary, CWA offers the opportunity to connect with and learn from secretaries around the church.

Pastor Julie Grafe

Our Savior, Aurora (West)

Pastor

Congregational Involvement: Pastor (current); Vicar/Intern-Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Northfield, IL; Ministry in Context Seminarian- St. Philip Lutheran Church, Glenview, IL; Adult Leader, 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering

Churchwide Involvement: Churchwide Assembly Voting Member '19

Community Involvement: Board of Directors member, RefugeeOne (current)

Personal Statement: I'm passionate about serving and joining other leaders in discussions about the work the church needs to address and do in our ever-changing world.

ROSTERED FEMALE

A. Pr. Alison Bengfort (Northeast)

Pastor Allison Bengfort

St. John's Lutheran Church of Wilmette, IL (Northeast)

Pastor

Congregational Involvement: Pastor (current)

Community Involvement: North Cook/Lake County Cluster Leader for the Poor People's Campaign (current), Steering Committee Member of The Justice Project (current)

Personal Statement: I would like to connect with colleagues and lay people, learn more about churchwide functioning, and participate in the governance of the larger church.

ROSTERED MALE

A. Pr. Jason Glombicki (Central)*

B. Pr. David Elliott (West)

Pastor Jason Glombicki

Wicker Park, Chicago (Central)

Pastor

Congregational Involvement: Pastor (current), Congregation President (current)

Synodical Involvement: Synod Council (current), Co-leader of the synod's guidelines and response to COVID-19 (current), Member of Fund for Mission board (current), Member of the Constitution Review Committee (current)

Churchwide Involvement: Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, 2009 & 2011, Memorials Committee, 2009, Internship Supervisor for Candidacy (current)

Community Involvement: Member of Wicker Park Committee (current)

Personal Statement: As a younger, gay clergy-person at a congregation of mainly 20-/30-somethings, my experiences would be helpful as the ELCA strives to welcome all God's children.

Pastor David Elliott

Lutheran Church of the Master, Carol Stream (West)

Pastor

Congregational Involvement: Pastor (Current)

Synodical Involvement: Social Ministry Committee - Northern Illinois Synod

Community Involvement: Rotary Club - Carol Stream (Current)

Personal Statement: Building and maintaining relationship with the wider church body is something that is not only important to me personally but a goal of the congregation I serve. Not that this is the only way, but it can certainly be a strong way to show how we are a significant part of a larger church.

ROSTERED MALE

A. Pr. Andrew Bell (Southwest)

B. Pr. Nathan Klein (Southwest)

Pastor Andrew Bell

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Palos Heights (Southwest)
Pastor

Congregational Involvement: Associate Pastor (current), Lead Pastor

Synodical Involvement: Dean -- TX/LA Gulf Coast synod, Elections Committee -- TX/LA Gulf Coast synod

Churchwide Involvement: Churchwide Assembly Voting Member '16

Personal Statement: Andrew has a passion for the church and teaching others.

Pastor Nathan Klein

St. Stephen, Midlothian (Southwest)
Pastor

Congregational Involvement: Pastor (current)

Synodical Involvement: Southwest conference co-dean (current)

Community Involvement: LSSI Associate Board Member (current)

Personal Statement: I am always in wonder at the reach, complexity, and breadth of the wider church. I would be honored to see and take part in the larger church in this way, through serving as a voting member at churchwide assembly.

ROSTERED

A. Pr. Lester White (South)* PC/L

Pastor Lester White

Salem, Chicago (South)

Pastor

Congregational Involvement: Minister of Word and Sacrament (current)

Synodical Involvement: Co-Dean, South Conference (current), Spiritual Director with students at LSTC, Intentional Interim Pastor

Churchwide Involvement: Rostered Ministers Gathering Team, "Rekindle the Gift Within", African Descent Leadership Association Board, ADLA, Coach, Mission Developers and co-convenor synod interims

Community Involvement: CAPS (current), Park Manor Neighbors (current)

Personal Statement: I am committed to making the difference in the quality of our spiritual life so it is on everyone's agenda. Baptized we live!

PERSON OF COLOR/PRIMARY LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH

- A. Loretta Northcutt (South) PC/L
- B. Yvette Newberry White (South) PC/L

Loretta Northcutt

Christ the Mediator, Chicago (South)
Hallmark Care Advocate

Congregational Involvement: Church Council President, Church Council Vice-President, Church Council Financial Secretary

Community Involvement: Nextdoor.com South Chicago Northwest Neighborhood Lead (current)

Personal Statement: I feel led to be a part of Churchwide Assembly 2022 and to represent the South Conference. I "consider it pure joy" to "be church."

Yvette Newberry White

Bethany, Chicago (South)
Accountant

Congregational Involvement: Congregation President (current), Senior Assisting Minister (current), Chair, Worship Ministry, Congregation Treasurer

Synodical Involvement: Synod Treasurer (Current), Synod Council and Executive Committee (current), Committee for Bishop Election, African Descent Strategy Team

Churchwide Involvement: Staff Accountant - Deaconess Community of the ELCA (current), Mission Investment Fund - Accountant, Office of the Treasurer - Staff accountant,

Personal Statement: As synod treasurer, I find it informative to attend the Assembly, to attend the Treasurer's luncheon and to actively participate/be informed in the work of the Churchwide Assembly.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT

- A. Kayshawn Colbert Jones (Near West) PC/L

- B. Emily Martinez (Near West) PC/L

Kayshawn Colbert Jones

Gethsemane, Cicero (Near West)
High school student

Congregational Involvement: Junior Council

Community Involvement: Chicago Children's Choir

Personal Statement: I really love helping people in our community and making sure they feel that God is present with the. I want to represent Metro Chicago youth and show that we have a voice and that anyone can have a voice to speak.

Emily Martinez

Gethsemane, Cicero (Near West)
Student

Congregational Involvement: Junior Council

Community Involvement: Youth Group Leader, Honors Classes at School

Personal Statement: I would love to go because I not only love to travel but because I think I have really good ideas. It would be an honor to meet in such a special event with such a variety of people. It would be a great eye opener and would let me have such a good experience.

SYNOD COUNCIL

LAY FEMALE

A. Kristina Adamczewski (Near West)*

Kristina Adamczewski

Unity Lutheran, Berwyn (Near West)

ESL Teacher, Berwyn South School District 100

Congregational Involvement: Chair, Worship & Music (current), Sunday School Teacher, Evangelism Team, member

Community Involvement: Girl Scout leader, Food pantry volunteer (current), Volunteer tutor (current), Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana - delegate to the national convention

Personal Statement: I would like to help our synod become more diverse and welcoming. I will advocate for speakers of other languages and people of color.

LAY FEMALE

A. Nancy Arnesen (West)*

Nancy Arnesen

St Paul Lutheran, Wheaton (West)

College Professor

Congregational Involvement: Handbell Choir Director and member, Assisting Minister (current), Church Council member, and Secretary (current), Serving Board member

Personal Statement: As a lifelong Lutheran, I am committed to the work of the synod and the ELCA; I would value an opportunity to serve the church beyond the congregational level.

ROSTERED FEMALE

A. Pr. María Rojas-Banda (Near West)* PC/L

Pastor Maria Rojas-Banda

Misión Luterana Unidad de Berwyn, Berwyn IL (Near West)

Pastor

Congregational Involvement: Internship "intern", Pastoral Care minister, Mission developer (current)

Synodical Involvement: Mission Developer (current)

Personal Statement: I am interested in serving this way, to represent the diversity on our synod and to share the Latinx perspective and context.

ROSTERED MALE

A. Pr. Joel Lohafer (Northwest)*

Pastor Joel Lohafer

Christ Lutheran Palatine (Northwest)

Pastor

Congregational Involvement: Pastor (current)

Synodical Involvement: Conference Dean (current)

Personal Statement: I have valuable experience as a parish Pastor for 32 years. I love parish ministry! This is an opportunity for serve our Synod in a new way, and I would consider it an honor to be elected.

LAY

A. Ivan Perez (Central) PC/L

Ivan Perez

St Luke's of Logan Square (Central)

Project Manager

Congregational Involvement: Congregation Council President, Call Committee Chair, Capital Campaign Chair, Finance Committee

Synodical Involvement: Synod Council Executive Committee (current), Another Pebble Antiracism Ministry (current), Churchwide Assembly Voting Member '91, '93, '95, '99, '19, Youth Convo Coordinator

Churchwide Involvement: Church Council, Church Council Budget & Finance Committee, ELCA National Youth Gathering Synod Coordinator (3X),

Community Involvement: Palmer School Local School Council Chair (current), Leadership Team, Chicago Regional Organizing for Antiracism (CROAR) (current), Spanish Action Committee of Chicago, US Census Enumerator

Personal Statement: I am called to lovingly agitate my church to live into its professed values. I am compelled to participate as we seek new and equitable ways of doing ministry in an ever-changing world. I bring with me a lifetime of service, my lived experience and the various "worlds" that I live in daily.

LAY

A. Robert Langlois (Northwest)

Robert Langlois

Holy Trinity - Elgin (Northwest)

Retired

Congregational Involvement: Council President (current), Chair of service committee (current), Vice-president of council, Worship leader (preacher, usher, radio announcer) (current)

Community Involvement: Board of Elgin Cooperative Ministries (current), Coordinator of Soup Kettles in Elgin (current), Board of City Council, Elgin Area Pandemic Assistance Committee - Faith Based Chair (current)

Personal Statement: Bob is a valued community leader in the Elgin area. He works tirelessly on behalf of the homeless and hungry by advocating that they have clean, safe places to eat and rest. He is open to learning new ideas and wants to be useful to the church and community.

COMMITTEE ON CONSULTATION

LAY FEMALE

A. Barbara Hiller (Northeast)

Barbara Hiller

St. Paul's Evanston (Northeast)

Retired Educator (Teacher, Principal, Asst. Supt.)

Congregational Involvement: Call Committee Member, Council Member, Council President (current)

Community Involvement: retired educator, Interim Superintendent of Schools- Evanston, Principal Coach- first year Principals, Board member- Youth Opportunity Org.

Personal Statement: I am a strong believer in active listening and supporting, with respect, different perspectives. Caring and confronting requires patience and confidentiality based in courageous conversations- work I have done in many school districts.

LAY MALE

A. Thomas Weglarz (North)

Thomas Weglarz

Holy Spirit, Lincolnshire (North)

Retired Project Leader

Congregational Involvement: Member of the Mission Site Profile Team, Member and then Chair of the Caring Community Task Force, Member of the Internship Committee, Stephen Ministry Leader and Stephen Minister in a previous congregation

Community Involvement: Vice-President of the Town Place Midrise Condominium Association

Personal Statement: I am looking for a new way to serve the church. My listening skills and ability to thoughtfully consider situations will be useful here.

COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE

LAY

A. Wayne Giampietro (North)

Wayne Giampietro

Holy Spirit, Lincolnshire (North)

Attorney at law

Congregational Involvement: Member, Church Reopening Committee (current), Church Council

Community Involvement: Chicago Council of Lawyers (current), Illinois State Bar Association (current)

Personal Statement: I have handled many matters of the kind considered by this committee. I believe that I have the background to assist with considering these issues.

ROSTERED FEMALE

A. Pr. Melody Eastman (West)

Pastor Melody Eastman

Grace Lutheran Church, Glen Ellyn (West)

Pastor

Congregational Involvement: Pastor (Current)

Synodical Involvement: West Conference co-dean, Synod representative to Board of Directors, LSTC, Clergy Misconduct Prevention Workshop Leader,

Churchwide Involvement: ELCA representative to Board of Directors, Lutheran Services in America, ELCA Congregation-Based Organizing Team, Voting member, Churchwide Assembly

Community Involvement: Coordinator, Greater Northwest Chicago CROP Walk, Administrative Team co-chair, United Power for Action and Justice, President, DuPage Sponsors

Personal Statement: I was involved in the synod's earliest work on healthy boundaries and want to continue to support the synod's healthy functioning and the well-being of its congregations and leaders.

ROSTERED FEMALE

A. Pr. Carla Powell (Central)

Pastor Carla Powell

United in Faith, Chicago (Central)

Pastor

Congregational Involvement: pastor (current), associate pastor

Synodical Involvement: dean -- Central Conference (current), co-dean -- Northeast Conference, Consultation Committee member, Working Group on the Middle East - member & special projects

Churchwide Involvement: ELCA disability ministries - grant reviewer (current)

Community Involvement: Reconciling Works - local Chicago chapter, site supervisor - Read to Learn adult literacy program-current, PTA member and Vice President

Personal Statement: I hope to help discern with the wider community and the rostered leaders the best way to navigate these very sensitive and challenging moments in ministry.

ROSTERED MALE

A. Pr. Josh Evans (Northeast)

Pastor Josh Evans

St. Philip, Glenview (Northeast)

Pastor

Congregational Involvement: Pastor (current)

Synodical Involvement: Liturgy Team (current), Companion Synod Advisory Team [interim chair through August] – (current)

Churchwide Involvement: Coordinator for Global Service

Personal Statement: It is important that rostered ministers and their congregations serve one another in healthy ways for the sake of the gospel. I also believe it is important to have LGBTQIA+ representation on this committee, given the ways that "discipline" has been used against LGBTQIA+ rostered ministers in the past.