

BIOGRAPHIES

2009 Synod Council Nominees

VICE PRESIDENT Nominees for Synod Council:

Vote for 1 (four-year term)

1A - Mr. Bill Bartlett

1B - Ms. Jerilyn Strohecker

1A - Mr. Bill Bartlett ☩ Christ, Belvidere (North Conference)

Occupation: President, First American Plastics

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: I have been a member of Synod Council for 6 years, a member of the Synod Executive Committee for 3 of those 6 years, and a member of the Synod Finance Committee for 9 years. I have served on congregational councils for 9 years and was president 4 of the 9 years in two different congregations. I have served in stewardship campaigns as either chair or committee member for the past 29 years. I have served as call committee chair two different times in the past and as chair of the building campaign 3 different times. I currently serve as Vice President of Council at Christ Lutheran in Belvidere, IL and as Preschool Board Chair. I also preach each year at different congregations throughout our Synod on stewardship.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Most of my involvement in the community has been on a professional level. I am a senior member of The Society of Plastic Engineers. I served on the Plastic Advisory Committee at Elgin Community College. In the past through my company I have sponsored numerous youth sport activities.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I thoroughly enjoyed my six years on Synod council. I believe my financial background and 40 years of solid business experience is an asset I would like to continue to share. I have a passion for the greater church especially in the area of stewardship and I would like to continue to help by sharing my experiences with congregations in our Synod.

My priorities for this ministry: To help congregations throughout our Synod continue to understand that the church is much more than the four walls of one congregation. That it is a partnership between the congregation, the Synod, Churchwide and globally that constitute the church.

My faith statement: I believe deeply in Christ and I try to live my life as I think he would want me to. I believe we as Christians, have been asked to spread the word to all who will listen, not just in our own backyard, but around the world. Our job is to make Christ known not just in our teaching, but by our actions. We have good news to share, and the world seriously needs that good news.

1B - Ms. Jerilyn Strohecker ☩ St. John's, Pearl City (Northwest Conference)

Occupation: English and Sociology Teacher, Lena-Winslow High School

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: My service at my church began when I became a choir member at an early age. I then graduated from college and began a long career as a church organist. I have taught Sunday school, been a youth leader, assisting minister, lay leader, and church council member. I served the church as its treasurer for three years. I was co-chairman of the Centennial Committee and found the path of our congregation interesting to follow. I served as a member of the Long Range Planning Committee. We recently added a fellowship hall and handicap accessibility to our church. I have served on the Outreach, Worship, and Call Committees in my congregation.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: It is my belief that service to one's community is very important. I have served for many years as the liaison between the school and the local service organizations. I organize student volunteers for these organizations. I also am a mentor to the Highland Community College Servant Leadership team at our school. Students have to develop service projects throughout the local community as well as be a part of a four county project. As a member of the Lena Historical Society, I enjoy volunteering and helping with activities to promote the local history. Four years ago I wrote a program for the 150th Anniversary of our town. It was a wonderful experience researching historical material, creating a program, and working with about 75 people to provide a walk through time.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: Having served on the Northern Illinois Synod Council for two terms, I learned much about the workings of our Synod. I have served on the Synod Worship Committee for six years, and I served on the Executive Committee and the Finance Committee for the synod. I learned about the varied geographic areas of our church as well as the diversity in our many congregations. I belong to a thriving rural congregation who has gone through many stages of development. In the council I have also dealt with the planting of several mission congregations in our growing urban areas. I believe that I bring experience to the position of leadership and with God's help will continue to serve the synod and the people of the NIS.

My priorities for this ministry: I believe that in the NIS we are blessed with many talented leaders both lay and clergy who with our Lord's guidance have helped us to deal with the many challenges we have faced. I also believe that through faith, prayer, and persistence our synod will continue to help those in need through our agencies and institutions as well as the seminary debt challenges. I believe that we need to spread the word to those who have not yet realized the grace of our Lord, and we need to encourage gifted people to serve in ways that are not yet known to them.

My faith statement: I have been raised in a Christian home and have been part of a Christian community for my entire life. I have been helped by the power of God in the many challenges in my life, and I believe he has guided me down paths that I could have never attempted without his help. My church community has provided me with teaching, love, and support many times. I believe that God is sent into each of our lives to guide us and to lead us in paths of service that are at times both frightening and rewarding. I have seen many instances in my life that show that all things are possible with the help of God; I believe that he has many more doors to open for me and all people.

LAY Female Nominees for Synod Council:	Vote for 1 (three-year term)
2A - Ms. Jan Butterfield	
2B - Ms. Beth Nelson Chase	

2A - Ms. Jan Butterfield ☩ First, Freeport (Northwest Conference)

Occupation: Math Instructor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: I have served on various congregational committees including Church Council; Christian Education, as Sunday School Superintendent, teacher, and chairperson; Natural Church Development; Ministry Support; and Memorial Committee. Presently I serve as Church Librarian, Co-Chair of Women of the ELCA, Assisting Minister, and Eucharistic Minister to homebound members

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: I previously served 4 years as president of the NIS Women of the ELCA Board, and 3 years on the NIS Social Ministry Committee. I presently volunteer for the storybook project at Dixon Correctional Center and locally at the Freeport Area Church Cooperative in their resale shop and homeless shelter.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I believe God gives each of us gifts and we are to use them in His service. Through my involvement in Women of the ELCA I learned much about the ministries of our Synod and am ready to learn more.

My priorities for this ministry: To serve to the best of my abilities, to listen and learn, and to share my thoughts and experiences as they relate to the ministries of our Synod.

My faith statement: Having grown up in the Lutheran faith, I believe in God's love and grace, and that He is always with me. As a believer I feel we are all called to act upon our faith and serve others as Jesus taught us.

2B - Ms. Beth Nelson Chase ☩ St. James, Forreston (Central Conference)

Occupation: Vice-president for Mission Support, Wartburg Seminary

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Director of Music, organist, church council, LYO Leader-20 years, Worship and Music chair, WELCA, etc.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Served on Boards regional and national for American Cancer Society, Kiwanis, Performing Arts Guild, volunteer at Pinecrest Community, served as consultant for regional and national organizations in fundraising/development.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: Was asked

My priorities for this ministry:

My faith statement: To live in faithful community wherever placed with family, vocation, ministry opportunities and with those in my daily walk with Christ as the center of all.

LAY Male Nominees for Synod Council:

Vote for 1 (three-year term)

3A - Mr. Walter Farley

3B - Mr. Joel Balch

3A - Mr. Walter Farley ☩ Salem, Sandwich (East Conference)

Occupation: Retired Teacher/Retired Banker

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Congregation council; Treasurer/Secretary; Worship Committee; Choir; Work camp Mission Trips

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Lions Club (40 year member; held offices at local and district level); Community Fund Board of Directors; YMCA Founding Board of Directors; Township; Trustee

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: Now that I am retired and have more time to devote to ministry, I would like to expand my service to The Church beyond my local congregation.

My priorities for this ministry: To expand my knowledge of the work of the NIS; to help educate my home congregation about the ministry of the NIS and the ELCA

My faith statement: I confirm my faith in the words of the Apostles Creed and strive to live my life accordingly.

3B - Mr. Joel Balch ☩ Calvary, Rockford (North Conference)

Occupation: RN

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Past: First Lutheran Kirkland, IL - Youth Director, Sunday School Teacher, Choir, Church Council; Tabor Lutheran Rockford, IL - Youth Director, Sunday School Teacher, Choir, Church Council, Christian Ed. Committee, Worship sub for Pastor Paul Wold; Calvary Lutheran Rockford, IL - Youth Director; Present: Calvary Lutheran Rockford, IL - Council Pres., audio/visual tech, worship sub for Pastor Chuck Olson; Men in Mission

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Northern Illinois Tres Dias board; Leadership and organizational committee that organized and lead the first Tres Dias in Ecuador

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I wish to serve our God and His people. He has recently revealed to me that there is a much bigger church outside the four walls that I worship in.

My priorities for this ministry: To be faithful to God in spreading His Gospel. To be a good steward of the resources He has supplied. Most important would be to encourage and assist churches to be faithful to the Word but to explore new ways to worship and fellowship with one another.

My faith statement: I believe in the Triune God. I believe in the Virgin Birth. I believe in the vicarious suffering and death of Jesus. I believe in the resurrection and that my belief in Him as my Savior ensures my future resurrection and eternal life. I believe the Holy Spirit is present in my life and reveals God's word to me. I believe that the Holy Spirit also supplies me with the gifts I need to serve God well in this life.

LAY Male Nominee for Synod Council:

Vote for 1 (three-year term)

4A - Mr. Nord Swanstrom

4B - No Nominee

4A - Mr. Nord Swanstrom

Occupation: Administrator

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Served Our Savior's as President, Vice President, Chair of Worship and Music Committee as well as Chair of Personnel Committee and Finance Committee. Serve as an Assisting Minister, Stephen Minister, Usher, Lay Reader, Member of Chancel Choir, and Chair of Long Range Strategic Planning Committee.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Member of Rockford Noon Rotary, Rockford Area Chamber of Commerce, Belvidere Chamber of Commerce, Workforce Investment Board for Winnebago and Boone Counties, Owen Township Trustee, Past International President of "Association of Workforce Professionals", and former Illinois State Representative.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I believe that my current service on the Synod Finance Committee and my leadership skills in the church, together with my career in Public Service will enable me to take an active role for ensuring synod council leadership that emphasizes a strong vision for ministry and mission for all congregations large and small.

My priorities for this ministry: To serve on the council to the best of my ability by encouragement and support of Synod ministries.

My faith statement: With a deep and abiding faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, I believe that God is a loving, welcoming, and forgiving God and that through our baptism, He calls us to serve. Through God's gift of grace we are called to respond faithfully in building up the body of Christ.

4B - No Nominee

ORDAINED MINISTER Male Nominees for Synod Council:	Vote for 1 (three-year term)
5A - The Reverend Richard Meier	
5B - The Reverend Carl Rasmussen	

5A - The Reverend Richard Meier ☩ Alpine, Rockford (North Conference)

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Pastor of Alpine, Rockford, since 1995. Pastor of St. Luke - San Lucas, Hialeah, Florida, 1988-95 Missionary pastor, Cruz del Sur, Bariloche, Argentina, 1979-87 Pastor, Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1972-79 Intern pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church, San Jose, California, 1970-71

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Member, Northern Illinois Synod Council at present, executive committee President, Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries, three terms Board member, Division for Global Mission, 1993-99, ELCA Chairman, Christian Community Service Agency, Hialeah, FL; Currently member of the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee at the U.S. Mint in Washington D.C.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I currently serve on our synod council and its executive committee. I feel called to continue participating in this ministry of synod, and believe that God can use my global experience for positive benefit on synod council, especially as we develop our companion church relationships.

My priorities for this ministry: To maintain healthy dialogue between the synod and its congregations. To encourage priority of benevolence, that the Church is greater than any one congregation; to foster companion church relationships with partners at home and around the world.

My faith statement: I believe in the Triune God, with Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I believe that God has given us the Church to carry out His mission, and that we are called and privileged to have part in it.

5B - The Reverend Carl Rasmussen ☩ First, Kirkland (Northeast Conference)

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Called as a servant of God's Word and a shepherd of God's people (a parish pastor), I lead and serve my congregation through all the traditional roles of the ordained ministry. I also visit our pre-school during the week, telling Bible stories to the children and singing Christian songs with them. And I have served for many years as both a participant and a leader/director in vocal, choral, and instrumental music. As Martin Luther said, "God has preached the gospel through music, too."

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: A key community involvement for me has been collegiality with the pastor of Kirkland United Methodist Church, gathering our two congregations together for occasional joint worship and for year round community service (the Kirkland Food Pantry). I have served as a community member and parent on various committees and task forces at Kirkland's Hiawatha High School; on boards of directors of non-profit corporations serving senior citizens and people with disabilities; on a community flood relief committee; on the Lutheran Campus Ministry board at NIU; and as secretary/treasurer of the Northeast Conference of our synod. Music in the community (mostly piano accompaniment for students) has also been rewarding for me.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I believe that ministry in the congregation, and ministry in the synod, are one and the same ministry, having more in common than in contrast. The contexts

are different, but the text is the same: God's Word in Old and New Testaments. And text is more important than context.

My priorities for this ministry: To participate with fellow synod council members in servant leadership of the Northern Illinois Synod, guided and strengthened by God's Word in Old and New Testaments.

My faith statement: God's Word, first and foremost, is Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word. The Scriptures are God's Word, because they faithfully proclaim Christ. Preaching and witnessing are God's Word insofar as they are faithful to the Scriptural witness.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE Nominees for Synod Council:

Vote for 1 (one-year term)

6A - Mr. Nicholas Frisella

6B - Ms. Alicia Dailey

6A - Mr. Nicholas Frisella ☩ Shepherd of the Valley, Rockford (North Conference)

Occupation: Student

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: I have always been an active participant at my church - regularly attending both worship, Sunday school and evening Bible studies. For many years now I have also read the Scripture lessons during worship and since I was confirmed have been serving as an assisting minister as well. I have been active in my youth group, helping out with both service projects and fellowship activities.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: I have been active at my school, having been on both the golf and bowling team. I am currently in accelerated Algebra and English and have always been on the honor roll. The Kiwanis Club of Rockford recently honored me, along with other high school students, at an Honors Luncheon, recognizing us for our "exceptional dedication, leadership and outstanding service".

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I am interested in learning more about the church at work at the synod level. I realize my church is one piece of the picture and want to see how the larger church body is able to do so much more than just one congregation. This will help me to learn more about Christianity and will allow me to use my gifts and my perspective as a youth to serve Christ.

My priorities for this ministry: I want to learn more about leadership in the church and how youth can have a stronger voice.

My faith statement: I believe and worship in God and his Son, Jesus. I believe the Holy Spirit guides me every day. I also believe that the Bible is God's Word and that God made and loves us all.

6B - Ms. Alicia Dailey ☩ Salem, Sycamore (Northeast Conference)

Occupation: Student; Babysitter; Seasonal Employee at Jonamac Orchard

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: I am a Confirmation junior guide, a Salem Youth Group officer, I help write the Salem Youth Group newsletter, I deliver homebound communion, and I have VBS volunteer.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: I was in Girl Scouts for nine years and received my bronze award; I have been in the newspaper club at my school for two years and the Spanish club for three years.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I would like to serve on the Synod council because I would like to share my views from a youth's perspective.

My priorities for this ministry: I would like to help the church keep the focus on Jesus while keeping young people interested in attending.

My faith statement: I believe that Jesus is always there to help and guide me and that he will help me make the right decisions in whatever I do.

2009 Congregational Life Committee Nominees

LAY Female Nominee for Congregational Life Committee:

Vote for 1 (three-year term)

7A - Ms. Georgiana Grossman

7B - No Nominee

7A - Ms. Georgiana Grossman ☩ Immanuel, Amboy (Central Conference)

Occupation: retired CGH Medical Center after 20 years

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Sunday School teacher for about 25 years; Past Sunday School Coordinator; Serving on Stewardship, Worship, and faith formation committees; past president of church council; served on church council for 9 years;

Diakonia student in Peru and will graduate from the program July 18, 2009; coordinator of the Peru Diakonia site; assistant minister; past co-president of Building fund committee for new addition; member of WELCA and past president of our WELCA.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Relay for life co-chairman for congregational relay team; helped with local food bank; member of Lioness of Illinois; past president, Vice-president and treasurer of Petunia City Quilt Club (member for 10 years); involved in Quilts for Kreider residents.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: The people who come to church need to be more than pew warmers. We are to carry the message of salvation out into the world. The members of the church's congregation are Christ's hands and feet in this life. In order to carry the message out into the world, congregation members need to be revitalized and equipped with the right tools. I feel that education through Bible study and small group's involvement are vital to congregational life. Since not all people learn in the same manner some small groups would need to be action orientated or hands on learning. All levels of involvement, from our youth to our senior members, are needed for a vibrant congregational life.

My priorities for this ministry: I think that small group ministry is one way for our congregations to be revitalized. In small groups the members form relationships and really get to know one another. Unique bonds are formed. Education from the youngest members to the senior members should be promoted in our congregations. Our synod has many excellent educational programs for congregations that need to be promoted within the congregations. Likewise congregations need to know about and take part in the missionary programs of their church, community, and synod.

My faith statement: I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and son of the living God. Through his suffering and death on the cross he has paid the price for my sins. It is by God's grace and my faith in the promise of the cross that I have been reconciled with God. I am saved by grace through faith.

7B - No Nominee

LAY Male Nominee for Congregational Life Committee

Vote for 1 (three-year term)

8A - Mr. George Davis

8B - No Nominee

8A - Mr. George Davis ☩ St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oregon (Central Conference)

Occupation: Facilities Director, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Have served on Mutual Ministry Committee. Helped form a Youth Ministry program. Have been Vice-President of Council and will be Past Council President Also I'm starting a "green team" at St. Paul I have worked for the Church as a Head Custodian at Grace LaGrange IL for 22 years and Lutheran Outdoor Ministries for 5 years; a total of 27 years working for the Church. I also have been a member of the Synod Green Team and a speaker at eight of the Mission Gatherings

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Have helped in different ways with Watoto Builds, Kiwanas, and currently working with Ogle County Hospice on their new building.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I talked with Pastor Tom Otis and he recommended I submit my name for this committee to have a member of the Green team on Congregational

Life Com. I feel with my long history with the church I have things to share. I also think the CRE events are very important to the life of the congregations and wish to assist with them.

My priorities for this ministry: To make sure the synod continues to keep Greening on screen for congregational life. After being a speaker at eight synod mission gatherings I would like to see it continue. That and help with the CRE and the way it benefits congregations and its members.

My faith statement: My faith is strong in my everyday life of my church, my family, and my friends. I wish to spread my faith in anyway I can and share my life's faith journey.

8B - No Nominee

LAY Male Nominees for Congregational Life Committee: 9A - Mr. Jeffrey Schneider 9B - Mr. David Roinas	Vote for 1 (three-year term)
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9A - Mr. Jeffrey Schneider ✝ Our Saviors, Rockford (North Conference)

Occupation: Manager

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Finance Committee for a number of years; past Treasurer of the Church; past Stewardship Committee leader and committee member; past President/VP of the Congregation; currently finance and implementing audio-visual system, building wide.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Social ministry; Youth sports group leadership; business groups; scholarship programs

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I have experience in this ministry and would like to share ideas with other Congregations. Also, being in the middle of an audio/video implementation has given me a new perspective on the needs and interactions among various constituencies within the church.

My priorities for this ministry: My priorities for this ministry and Congregational Life in general are to increase the opportunities for members to become more "connected" and engaged with their Congregation at the Church at large. I would like to see more forums where members from various churches share ideas to help create "best of breed" solutions.

My faith statement: My faith is guided by John 3:16 - That Christ died for me and for all people. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." This is the sentinel belief that guides my daily life.

9B - Mr. David Roinas ✝ Faith, Rochelle (Central Conference)

Occupation: Mechanical Inventory Analyst

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: I am the current director of our church choir and choir chimes groups at Faith for the past three years. I also serve as organist once a month at Faith (out of three) and will play more soon as one of our organist is moving. I also help out as organist at First Lutheran in Lee and St. John's in Creston when I can. I am active in other areas of worship with the church serving as reader and many times as cantor. I am active in teaching music to the SS kids and recently director our SS Christmas Program in 2008. I currently lead our Worship Committee and am the editor of our Church Newsletter. I have been at Faith about 3 plus years. Prior to Faith, I was a member of St. John's in Creston where I served as organist for almost 15 years actively participating in worship and music in all areas of our small congregation.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: In my community I am an active member of Vince Carney Community Theatre active as a cast member, backstage worker and director. I have been in the past a participant in Big Brother Big Sisters and Focus House. I am a member of the Creston Booster Club where I serve as the kitchen chairman for our local three day festival. I recently have started looking for more ways to get involved in more of the community events and activities outside of my local church.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: Being a part of worship and congregational life has been very important to me in the past and present. I am looking for more ways to get involved and learn from others as well as things that we do on the Synod level that I can bring back to my congregation and maybe spark a large participation in our Worship and Congregational Life. I think the work done on the Synod level is important to our local congregations and I want to be a part of that.

My priorities for this ministry: To be an active participant and learn from the experiences. To maybe create new ideas or expand on traditions to bring people back to church and the congregational life experience not only at the Synod level but locally. To bring worship and other congregational life activities back to being a priority in people's lives again, not a burden or option on Sunday morning.

My faith statement: I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe that the gift of God's grace is freely offered to me and is not based on my works I do but that because of His gift of grace, I am called to serve and be a part of the ministry of the church. I believe in the forgiveness of sins and that all have sinned. I believe in the power of prayer, that communicating to God our needs and or joys are important even though he knows them already.

2009 Global Mission Committee Nominees

LAY Female Nominees for Global Mission Committee:

Vote for 1 (two-year term)

10A - Ms. Helen Meier

10B - Ms. JoDonna Moss

10A - Ms. Helen Meier ☩ Alpine, Rockford (North Conference)

Occupation: Retired RN and retired church musician

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Church Musician- organ; Husband and I were missionary to Argentina 1979-1987; Diakonia graduate; Children's Music Programs director; Creative Minister Coordinator; Contemporary Worship Director; Contemporary Worship Director; Ladies Retreat Ministries.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Swedish American Hospital Volunteer Chaplain; Tres Dias - Via de Cristo Retreat Ministries; Kairos Prison Ministry.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I was born into missions. I served as a missionary. Because of living and traveling all over the world especially in South and Central America, I have always felt as an international citizen rather than just of one country. We all share the same heavenly Father, so I want to meet, advocate, share and walk with as many of my brothers and sisters as God gives me a chance to do. As a retired critical care nurse I am very interested in health issues especially regarding moms and children.

My priorities for this ministry: Follow Jesus' example of accompaniment. What a great idea is companion synod, companion congregations and companion schools! However, needs must be equally defined by those who are in a companionship relationship. See new avenues for service.

My faith statement: I believe in God as a loving creator of ALL mankind. I believe in Jesus Christ as God's only Son. I believe that God's purpose for me is to love and serve Him and love and serve ALL His children. Even though sin has caused much pain and chaos, I believe that He intends us to live in peace as much as possible. And I believe that I have received many blessings from my heavenly Father, and I want to share as much as I can in return.

10B - Ms. JoDonna Moss ☩ St. John, Joliet (Southwest)

Occupation: Teacher

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Director of Contemporary Vocal Ensemble, Youth Director, Kingdom Weekend (Music), Sunday School Teacher, Teacher Exchange Mwangaza Class '04 and returned '06, NIS Global Sub-committee member for the past 4 years.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Key Club, Sweet Adelines International, Community Theatre, Community Chorus, High Coach (Badminton, Volleyball)

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: Mwangaza experience brought so much to my Spiritual Growth, I have dedicated myself to serve God in many ways, outreaching to students in the low income school districts.....and then over seas in Tanzania.... I would love to continue helping serve God in that ministry.

My priorities for this ministry: I would like to continue to be an active part in the Global mission subcommittee, possibility pursuing other areas of concern.....

My faith statement: God spoke to me as a very young child, through my family and church leaders. He wanted me to use all of skills and talents to serve him. There is nothing that I won't do to please God..... I

feel led to help others in the educational field...being able to travel to Africa was such a God Send, I totally felt the power of God while I was there.....and then when I came back. I will continue to serve God in any way I can,

LAY Male Nominees for Global Mission Committee:

Vote for 1 (two-year term)

11A - Mr. John Califf

11B - Mr. David Lonsway

11A - Mr. John Califf ✠ St. John's, Rock Island (West Conference)

Occupation: Development Directory at LOMC, Tour leader

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Over 40 years I have been a member of four ELCA congregations and served on Church councils for 20 years including 6 terms as president. Also I have served on Stewardship, Finance, Christian Education and Social Ministry committees. I have also served as Sunday school superintendent and coordinator for adult forums. I have been a delegate to at least 10 Synod conventions.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: I serve on the board and grants committee chair for Kiwanis, President of the Thrivent Board; Vice-President of the Transitions Mental Health board and the Quad Cities Habitat for Humanity Board. I serve as chair of the Jenny Lind Chapel Ad-Hoc committee, the Global Missions Committee and Danish Mission Hospital subcommittee of the NIS. I assist with the companion Synod program at St. Johns in Tanzania.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: Having traveled to 70 countries beginning with eight trips to South Viet Man from 1972-1975, where I worked with an international child placement agency, I have a passion for learning from and supporting people in other countries. I believe in the Accompaniment model of being partners in Ministry. I have learned from people I have met on synod trips to Laos, Tanzania and India that I could give.

My priorities for this ministry: Educate and inform NIS congregations about the companion church program. Encourage support and prayer for our brothers and sisters in Christ in India and Tanzania. Encourage congregations to use the accompaniment model of ministry. My goal is for all members of NIS to understand global ministry, appreciate all we have and learn from others.

My faith statement: Yet, O Lord, you are our father we are all clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Isaiah 64:8. This Bible verse describes my relationship to God, I believe the Holy Spirit has put in places and circumstances I never would have planned or expected to be. I was supposed to be a lawyer. Instead I became a Social Service administrator doing ministry with the Lutheran Church.

11B - Mr. David Lonsway ✠ Our Saviors, Rockford (North Conference)

Occupation: Semi Retired Accountant

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Present - Chairman of Companion Congregation Subcommittee; Co-Chairman of Nominating Committee; Member of Endowment Committee and Mission Committee. Past - Chairman of Personnel Committee; Member of Special Gifts Committee; Member of Church Council

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: None significant. Member of several clubs and organizations in the community but with no current leadership,

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I feel a calling to be involved in global mission. I have traveled the world extensively and know that many others are not nearly as blessed as we are in America. Christ said, "To whom much is given, much is expected". We are all called to mission in the body of Christ. As a member of the Global Mission Committee, I feel we can make a difference by establishing and nurturing relationships with people of lesser means around the world and providing financial help and spiritual encouragement.

My priorities for this ministry: I have a particular interest in India and the newly signed Companion Synod Covenant with the Arcot Lutheran Church of India. I would very much like to be involved with the implementation of this covenant. I have traveled to India twice (in 2007 and 2008) and, for several years, have been a member of the "India Team" of the Global Mission Subcommittee. I feel we need to strengthen our bond and relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ in India.

My faith statement: I believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I accept Jesus Christ as my own personal Savior. I believe God has given us the gift of Grace and offers the promise of eternal life. I believe God has called each of us to be His servants here on earth to serve mankind and spread the Good News of the Bible.

LAY Male Nominees for Global Mission Committee:

Vote for 1 (one-year term)

12A - Mr. Peter Thomas

12B - Mr. Art Milton

12A - Mr. Peter Thomas ☩ Our Saviors, Rockford (North Conference)

Occupation: Consultant

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: 2008 Congregational Vice President, Council (3x), Call committees, Youth Leader

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Convener of Rockford Bonhoeffer Study Group, formerly Young Life head Club leader, member of Gideons International

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I have a strong interest and commitment to Global Ministry. Have been a supporter for many years of Lutheran partners in Global Ministry, Family has sponsored 5 students (3 at a time) in LPGM Indian (Tamil Nadu) Boarding schools.

My priorities for this ministry: Wish to expand current synod partnership with ARCOT Lutheran church, companion congregation relationships and other global ministry projects

My faith statement: My Christian faith is the central strength in my life.

12B - Mr. Art Milton ☩ Trinity, Moline (West Conference)

Occupation: Teacher of English, Chess Coach, Rock Island High School, Retired

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Stewardship Committee, Global Mission Team, Council Nominating Committee, Choir, ad-hoc Musician Search Committee

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Organizing Committee, annual Rock Island Old-Fashioned Labor Day Parade, 24 years; Member, Rock Island Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I have been active on the NIS Global Mission Subcommittee since 1996, and chair since 2005; In working with teachers in our companion in Arusha, Tanzania, and in touring the Arcot Lutheran Church in Tamil Nadu, India, I have experienced the power of Christ working through Lutheran churches and organizations as they both worship God and help others in God's Name. I enjoy hearing of others work with Lutherans overseas. I enjoy helping NIS focus its help through and from its members.

My priorities for this ministry: Connecting NIS and its members and congregations with Lutherans outside the United States; working through synod and congregational partners, ELCA-Global Mission, missionary sponsorships, and other mission agencies; fostering current NIS partnerships with the Arusha Diocese of the ELC-Tanzania and with the Arcot Lutheran Church in Tamil Nadu, India; organizing NIS Global Mission work as an effective full NIS committee; using teams and/or subcommittees.

My faith statement: Humans fell from God the Creator's favor, through their own imperfection and their denial of the Holy Spirit. God sent his Son Jesus Christ to die for each of us, thus redeeming our place within His grace, IF each of us individually accepts Christ's sacrifice for our sins. Though good works do not earn us a place in God's grace, true Christians do help others in Christ's name, out of the power of their belief in God's promises. God does answer our prayers, but not always clearly and not always in ways we expect.

LAY Male Nominees for Global Mission Committee:

Vote for 1 (three-year term)

13A - Mr. David Peterson

13B - Dr. John Prabhakar

13A - Mr. David Peterson ☩ Living Waters, Crystal Lake (Northeast Conference)

Occupation: Retired (Sales, Customer Service, Engineering)

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Stewardship, Worship and Music, Church Council, Organ Search Committee, Sunday School Teacher, Choir Member, Social Ministry

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Food Pantry board member, Community Choir, Toast Masters Officer, 4H Tech team leader, Boy Scouts

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: Having served in the US Peace Corps in Ghana, I am vitally interested in Global Missions and the impact we can have with those in other countries, and the resources they can offer us as well.

My priorities for this ministry: Education of our congregations about Global Missions and how we can learn from each other; working together to further the Kingdom of God here and abroad.

My faith statement: To let the light of Christ shine through me to all that I meet.

13B - Dr. John Prabhakar ☩ Faith, Rochelle (Central Conference)

Occupation: Retired Surgeon

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Member of Congregational Council; adult Sunday school coordinator

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Rotary club - President-elect; Chairman of Rochelle Planning & Zoning Commission

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I am interested in Global Mission. I have done 11 short term medical missions. I have been part of the delegation to Tanzania and Arcot Lutheran Church in India. I would like to contribute to *Make Christ Known* to the best of my ability here and all over the world.

My priorities for this ministry: Accompany churches in India and Tanzania walking together in faith. Promote health care in hospitals affiliated with our companion Synods.

My faith statement: I am a baptized child of God, sealed by the Holy spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever offering & dedicating my life to God for God to use me in ministry according to God's will.

ORDAINED MINISTERS Female Nominees for Global Mission Committee: Vote for 1 (one-year term)

14A - The Reverend Jane McChesney

14B - The Reverend Kathleen Burkheimer

14A - The Reverend Jane McChesney ☩ Calvary, New Windsor, (Southwest Conference)

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Worship and music, pastoral care, health advocacy, healing, and counseling, transformational and cooperative/shared ministry and mission outreach. Serve on the Southwest Conference-West Conference Foods Resource Bank Growing Project Committee, and on planning committee for FRB Annual Gathering to be held at Augustana College, August, 2009. Have served on the Synod Worship Committee for 9 years; served on the Synod Ministry Support Committee for 3 years, and on the First Call Theological Education Task Force of Ministry Support.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: I have served on the Executive Board of Illowa Lutheran Coalition, Vice President two years; designed and co-chaired two Choral Fests for the Coalition; Mercer County Family Violence Council, Red Cross Heroes Committee; serve on the Crisis Team for Sherrard Community School District #200; ecumenical ministry of Presbyterians and Lutherans Serving (9 congregations in our rural community)

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: We are called to advocate and enact justice for all people, show God's mercy and love through our words and deeds, and to do God's Work with Our Hands. We are global brothers and sisters in Christ and called to love one another as Christ loves us. I believe that I am called to live in relationship with God and with the whole body of Christ, and through Global Mission, I will have the opportunity to help make those connections and build those relationships.

My priorities for this ministry: To increase relationship-building with congregations, encouraging partnerships with Arusha Diocese and Arcot Diocese congregations, and to encourage and education congregations on mission opportunities through mission outreach in projects like Foods Resource Bank, Lutheran World Relief, World Hunger, and to be biblically responsive to Christ's command to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the imprisoned, and to serve the least of these, our brothers and sisters around the world as well as in our neighborhoods and communities.

My faith statement: Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. Baptized, marked with the cross of Christ, and sealed with the Holy Spirit, I am called to be a witness and proclaimer of the saving grace and mighty works of God, and the good news of Christ's life, death, and resurrection

14B - The Reverend Kathleen Burkheimer ☩ Trinity, Milledgeville (Northwest Conference)

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: As pastor of a small parish I'm a generalist (worship, Christian Ed, evangelism, etc). The theme I return to is baptism in Christ - what it means for daily living. In all the congregations I've served I've made a special effort to lift up & support ELCA World Hunger Appeal, Disaster Relief and Lutheran World Relief.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Through out my ministry I've been involved in Girl Scouts. I have and continue to participate in ecumenical ministry and when possible in interfaith ministry.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: From the beginning of my ministry I've been concerned with how easy it is to think of church as "my congregation" (as its bldg) rather than in terms of the church on earth and the people of God like wise, it is easier to be compassionate with neighbors who are near rather than away; we are called to care for the vulnerable no matter the location.

My priorities for this ministry: Learn - Teach- Help the synod and congregations grow in the stated goals.

My faith statement: God comes down for the salvation of the world. I can not keep from telling.

ORDAINED MINISTER Female Nominee for Global Mission Committee: Vote for 1 (two-year term)

15A - The Reverend Raket Evenson

15B - No Nominee

15A - The Reverend Raket Evenson ☩ New Life, Bolingbrook (East Conference)

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: At New Life my primary areas of responsibility are outreach, worship-music, and youth and family. I'm also very interested in care of creation and greening initiatives. Also I served two years at a volunteer in the Marshall Islands through Jesuit Volunteers International and took a course at the Lutheran World Federation.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Women's Issues; Take back the night rally; Domestic abuse shelter's; Nature & Environment

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I think there is much to learn from our global partners, especially in evangelism and community. I would like to learn from our mission partners and also learn from them how the U.S. partner churches can best accompany and serve.

My priorities for this ministry: My priorities would center on relationship - strengthening and developing global partnerships as well as celebrating our relationship as family in Christ.

My faith statement: I believe Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior and that this changes everything.

15B - No Nominee

ORDAINED MINISTER Male Nominees for Global Mission Committee: Vote for 1 (one year term)

16A - The Reverend Roger Hurlbut

16B - No Nominee

16A - The Reverend Roger Hurlbut ☩ Good Shepherd, Lena (Northwest Conference)

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: As a pastor, I offer leadership in worship, pastoral care, Christian Education, Evangelism, Stewardship and administration. Specifically, I've accompanied confirmation students during SALT Camp at LOMC these past four years and integrated their learning about service and leadership in their stewardship towards their own congregation and community. I've led the youth in sharing their experience in service with the congregation through scripted power point presentations. I've given several Global Mission presentations on Laos and India for the congregation, community and Northwest Conference.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: I am active as treasurer of the Lena-Winslow Ministerial Association and as coordinator of the Lena Living Center worship schedule. I also share leadership in the administration of the local food pantry. In the past, I've been a coordinator of a volunteer

chaplaincy ministry, president of a ministerial association, conference dean, and treasurer on the board of directors for a non-profit community health/education service provider, member of the Mendota Lutheran Home Board and a member of a local Lions Club.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I chaired and/or served on the Synod Professional Leaders Conference Planning Committee for 10 years. I also served on the Synod Nominations Committee. Presently, since I am not serving on a Synod committee or board, I welcomed this nomination as an opportunity to serve in a new area for which I also have a passion. I was part of Bishop Wollersheim's travel group to Laos in 2005 and to India in 2008. It was a joy for me to witness first hand what God is doing through the Lutheran Church in these two countries.

My priorities for this ministry: My hope on the Global Missions committee is to discern where the Spirit is leading me specifically and what gifts I am being called to offer. Generally, I hope to help continue and strengthen our Companion Synod relationships with the Arusha Diocese in Tanzania and the Arcot Lutheran Church in India.

My faith statement: Through baptism into Jesus Christ, I am saved by grace and called to be a disciple of Christ. In response to God's grace in Christ, I seek the Spirit's guidance into specific places and ways of service. As the early disciples were commissioned by the Risen Christ to "Go and make disciples of all nations..." I am called to be in relationship with the Holy Spirit who makes all believers one in Christ and shows no partiality. I am called to be in companionship with all believers in Christ and reflect this unity in Christ to the world.

16B - No Nominee

ORDAINED MINISTER Male Nominee for Global Mission Committee: Vote for 1 (three year term)
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17A - The Reverend Philip Mathai

17B - No Nominee

17A - The Reverend Philip Mathai ☩ Trinity, Lanark (Northwest Conference)

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: I have been the pastor of Trinity Lutheran, Lanark for the past two years.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: I have been in the Lanark community for the past two years and have been very active in the local council of churches and their various activities.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I have my roots in India and come from a family that has been involved in missions in India for three generations, so missions has been a passion from my early days of ministry even while in India. Growing up in a mission context and being personally aware of the impact and significance of missions in India would be the primary reason for wanting to be involved in the area of ministry of the Global Missions Committee.

My priorities for this ministry: Bring about an awareness of the involvement of the ELCA and the NI Synod in missions around the world. Encourage

My faith statement: I believe that in baptism God made me God's own and in grace justified me a sinner, and continues to sustain my faith through Word and Sacrament. Life in its fullness is what is offered to us on the cross where we least expect to find it, and we are sent out into the world as witnesses and agents of the crucified one.

17B - No Nominee

2009 Ministry Support Committee Nominees

LAY Male Nominee for Ministry Support Committee:

Vote for 1 (three-year term)

18A - Mr. Steven Hawk

18B - No Nominee

18A - Mr. Steven Hawk ☩ First, Geneseo, (West Conference)

Occupation: Church Business Administrator

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Church Council, Finance Committee, Sanctuary Choir, Contemporary Worship Leader, Worship Leader, Lector, Committee on Church Staffing and Personnel

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: 14 years as School District Board Member, Chairperson of Finance and Personnel for school District, Past Board President of School Board, 5 years as Director for the State of Illinois Association of School Boards, Member of National Association of Church Business Managers, Member of Churches United of the Quad Cities, Member of SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management), Public Speaking and Event Planning

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I believe with my experience as a church business administration and as manager of accounting and human resources I have the background in church business, human resources, leadership planning and support to all areas of ministry, to be an effective member of the ministry. My 30 years of financial planning, salary planning and benefit planning combined with leadership and management provide the background to support the ELCA ministries

My priorities for this ministry: To be an active team member and provide experiences to help develop the ELCA's support to our synod membership. To work hard, to research issues and bring to the table an informed mind; to be a vital team member

My faith statement: Every moment of my life is a living testimony to our Lord Jesus Christ. Be it our words, our thoughts, our actions, we are the Body of our Lord and that we are to live in life as an example of His love and life.

18B - No Nominee

ORDAINED MINISTER Female Nominee for Ministry Support Committee: Vote for 1 (three-year term)

19A - The Reverend Sharon Rogers

19B - No Nominee

19A - The Reverend Sharon Rogers ☩ Light of Christ, Algonquin (Northeast Conference)

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Currently, as Associate Pastor at Light of Christ, I provide leadership and oversight for Children and Student Ministries; Congregational Care Ministries including spiritual guidance, specialized care partnerships, and pastoral care; Community Care Ministries including adopt-a-school program, other local, national and international serving opportunities; as well as participate on Church Council and worship teams, and provide worship leadership and preaching.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: In the larger Christian community I serve as a Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University Board Member and am Vice-President for Lutheran Campus Ministry of Illinois. I have served at a Spiritual Director for the Northern Illinois Tres Dias women's weekends and R.O.C.K. (Reaching Out to Christ's Kids) teen retreats. I also volunteer packing meals with Feed My Starving Children. I have served in a variety of leadership positions in my home congregation, Faith Lutheran in Rochelle, as an Associate in Ministry in the area of Youth and Family Ministry at Salem Lutheran in Sycamore, intern at First Lutheran in DeKalb, and interim campus pastor at Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University. In past years I have served on the board of the NIS Lutheran Youth Organization and have led groups of youth on national and international mission and study trips. I was also a voting member at the 2001 Churchwide Assembly. Over the years I have also served in my local community as an elected park district official and in a variety of leadership roles in organizations my three children were involved with from school to scouts to sports organizations.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I am familiar with the work of most of the subcommittees of the Ministry Support Committee and have experienced being shepherded by the ministry efforts of the Candidacy Committee within our synod twice, once in the process which led to my being rostered as an Associate in Ministry and a second time in the process toward service as an Ordained Minister. Further I have received support in both rostered positions through First Call Theological Education and the annual Professional Leaders Conference. Having served as a lay professional and clergy I am familiar with the salary guideline recommendations developed through a subcommittee of the ministry committee. I have been an advocate with regard to availability of the Employee Assistance Program for church workers who are not participants in the ELCA Board of Pension program. The Advent and Lenten retreats for synodical leaders which are the work of the Spiritual Formation subcommittee have been an important part of the support I have taken advantage of as a rostered leader. My familiarity with the various ministry efforts of this committee along with my being a resource person and desire to serve has equipped me to join in the efforts to provide resources, support, and continuing education within our synod, in cooperation with other synods, agencies, and institutions within the ELCA and the Church.

My priorities for this ministry: Through presence and prayer, with a listening ear and discerning heart, to continue fulfilling the mission of this committee to support Christians of the Northern Illinois Synod in realizing and supporting their call to ministry as both lay and professional workers.

My faith statement: Growing out of an understanding of who I am as a child of God I seek in the words of Proverbs 3:5-6 to trust in the LORD with all my heart, and not rely on my own understanding. In all my ways I seek to acknowledge God who directs my steps.

19B - No Nominee

ORDAINED MINISTER Male Nominees for Ministry Support Committee: Vote for 1 (three- year term) 20A - The Reverend Michael Thomas 20B - The Reverend Kurt Hansen

20A - The Reverend Michael Thomas ☩ Living Waters, Crystal Lake (Northeast Conference)

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: I have served as the Mission Pastor at Living Waters Lutheran Church since 1998. I continue to serve as worship leader, preacher, teacher, vision keeper, equipment manager and encourager to a group of Christians here at Living Waters. I completed the Doctor of Ministry Preaching Program in 2008 at the Lutheran School of Theology.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: While serving at Grace in Loves Parks from 1994-1998 as the Associate Pastor, I served on the Board of the United Way, President of the Parks Ministerial Board and member of the Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries Board. My experience with First Call Theological education was very helpful while there, being mentored by Pastor Denver Bittner. I led a workshop in 2008 on Natural Church Development for the current group of First Call Theological pastors. I also have been a mentor and coach for other pastors in the synod. I currently participate in the Crystal Lake Ministerial gatherings, serve with our teens at our community Food Pantry and take teenagers on Youth Works servant trips.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I served two terms on the Synod Outreach Committee and have an appreciation for the work of the synod committees. In leading workshops at the CRE on prayer, evangelism and preaching, I'm confident that churches and pastors need to work collaboratively in developing a mission focus to ministry. Over the past ten years at Living Waters, I've helped develop our Leadership Handbook and Employee Handbook. This includes developing a Mutual Ministry focus and a Sabbatical program. These guidelines have provided clear expectations and support for staff and leaders in mission partnership.

My priorities for this ministry: In 2008, I served as Interim Mission Director for the Northern Illinois Synod and continue to work with the Director for Evangelical Mission in supporting the Mission Pastors in the synod at the Mission Developers lunches. I think we need to continue to strengthen the leadership network among all rostered leaders through the various subcommittees of the Ministry Support Committee in order to develop mission focused ministries in the synod.

My faith statement: My mission is to inspire, equip and mobilize people to share the grace of Christ. God has claimed me and called me to build my life on the grace of Christ, as revealed through the scripture and experienced in the Church

20B - The Reverend Kurt Hansen ☩ (Northwest Conference)

Occupation: Interim Pastor; Assistant to the Bishop

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Interim Ministry, Teaching, Preaching, Ethics, Social Ministry, Conflict Management

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: CROP Walk, Hunger Ministry, Ecumenical relations, political dialogue

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: In hopes of meshing my gifts and skills with the Synod's needs for service

My priorities for this ministry: I will serve in whatever capacity is needed

My faith statement: I continue to believe that there is nothing more powerful in the universe than the forgiving and redeeming love of God, made available to all through the ministry, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, who I have come to know as the Christ of God.

2009 Outreach Committee Nominees

LAY Male Nominees for Outreach Committee:

Vote for 1 (three-year term)

21A - Mr. Harold Markuson

21B - No Nominee

21A - Mr. Harold Markuson ☩ Calvary, Moline (West Conference)

Occupation: Retired U.S. Air Force

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Evangelism, Social Services, Computer programming and documentation, Bible history, and education. I have an A.A.S. Degree in business computer programming and have done programming for main frame computers and PC's. I have experience in Micro Soft Office word, excel, access, power point programs.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Social Services such as Veteran Assistance Commissions, Veteran Affairs, Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, Township General assistance and helping with home medical equipment needs through a Loan closet.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: Because I have had training in evangelism that has given me new ideas on how to witness and to present evangelism to the community. I served on the evangelism committee at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Atwater, California and my current church for the past three years

My priorities for this ministry: To inform and offer the unchurched population a new or different approach to Christianity that they can understand and not be intimidated by words and programs that they don't understand or comprehend, and to spread God's word and understanding to all.

My faith statement: I have been a Lutheran all of my 66 years. I once thought of being a pastor but God led me on a different path which was according to his wishes for me. I believe we are saved by faith alone and that we do good works because of that faith and not to be saved or obtain anything for yourself but because it is what God wants you to do, especially to Love one another as yourself and to Love our Neighbor. I have attended Living Waters Via De Cristo and currently completing Diakonia and know God will lead me to any new areas in my life to serve others.

21B - No Nominee

ORDAINED MINISTER Female Nominee for Outreach Committee:	Vote for 1 (three-year term)
22A - The Reverend Nichole Johnson	
22B - No Nominee	

22A - The Reverend Nichole Johnson ☩ St. John, Joliet (East Conference)

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: I am currently the one of four pastors on staff and the mission developer as we seek to develop a second campus to serve the people of west Joliet and south Plainfield. My areas of focus in this congregation are: outreach and evangelism, adult education and discipleship and social ministry. I also have gifts in visioning and administration.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: I am a member of the Plainfield Ministerial Association and am involved and volunteer at the Plainfield Interfaith Food Pantry which serves most of the Plainfield school district. We also have our own food pantry at the church and am involved with its planning and administration as it falls under my leadership. I am also guide our daybreak ministry that feeds the homeless in Joliet as well as our health and human service ministries like blood drives, etc.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I believe I can bring a lot of gifts in this ministry area to the table. I wear a mission developer hat as well as have a passion for social ministry. I love the church and appreciate all its expressions and want to do my part in service to the wider church.

My priorities for this ministry: I would like to learn and listen first but hope that we can work together to help all congregations articulate their mission in exciting ways in the world. I hope this ministry can be a support to all congregations of this synod as we seek to proclaim Christ in word and deed. I am excited and challenged by the committee's work.

My faith statement: I believe in the triune God who is found in all the world even those places that seem on the outside to defy God. I believe God's love is best expressed in God's grace most notably God's gift of Christ crucified and risen. I believe that through the Holy Spirit we are guided to a fuller understanding of God's work in the world and our participation in it. I believe our job as followers of Christ is to be in service to God's people and world. God's love for us naturally leads us to love others and to seek to find ways to build relationships with all. I believe this to be the church's job and I am privileged to be a part of it.

22B - No Nominee

ORDAINED MINISTER Male Nominee for Outreach Committee:	Vote for 1 (three-year term)
23A - The Reverend Paul "PJ" Malin	
23B - The Reverend John Leaf	

23A - The Reverend Paul "PJ" Malin ☩ Cross of Glory, Homer Glen (East Conference)

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: As a leader in the congregations I have served, I helped to start and develop programs that engage members in reaching out to the community, as well as various people groups in the community – i.e. Apartment Outreach Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, RISEN Program (Religious Instruction for those with Special Education Needs), Website Ministry, Saturday Services (worshiping through service on Saturdays), etc. With each of these ministries I recruited leaders from within the congregation who have gifts and a passion for this particular outreach, met with leaders for brainstorming and planning, offered training and resources for the leaders, supported the ministry with my time and presence, and identified point people who were ready and willing to take ownership of the ministry. I have also worked with congregations to develop a holistic picture of mission that not only involves reaching out, but also involves becoming a community of faith that can serve, welcome, nurture, develop, and send those we reach out to. For more see: <http://crossofglory.com/about/mission>.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: I have been in my present community for about nine months. I am involved in the local ministerial alliance. We meet regularly for prayer, discussion, and support. We worked together to plan an ecumenical Thanksgiving service and an ecumenical Cross Walk event for Good Friday. I have also developed a good relationship with the reporters of our local newspapers. I write a monthly column for the Homer Horizon Newspaper. See: <http://www.homerhorizon.com/1editorialtablebody.lasso?-token.searchtype=authorroutine&->

[token.lpsearchstring=Pastor%20PJ%20Malin](#). In 2009 we began our Saturday Services (worshiping through service on Saturdays) at Cross of Glory. Part of this ministry has involved partnering with local service organizations – food pantry, crisis shelters, animal shelter, services for those with special needs, prison, etc.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: Outreach and Ecumenism are two areas of ministry that I am very passionate about and believe I am gifted in. I have served in congregations that were both in the process of redevelopment and Natural Church Development. I believe I could be a helpful participant on this committee, but I also believe I have a lot to learn and would greatly value the opportunities for education and growth that would come with being on the Outreach Committee.

My priorities for this ministry: The four goals stated in the Ministry Profile sound like great goals. I think it is a wonderful priority of our church to offer education and assistance to leaders who are seeking to redevelop congregations and reach out to communities. Another great priority is helping reestablish connection with our brothers and sisters of other faith traditions

My faith statement: I believe that *God loves us and is with us*. God's love and presence is bigger, deeper, and wider than we can imagine or comprehend. It is unconditional, undeserved, unfailing, and unmatched. From the beginning of time God has revealed and displayed God's love and presence. But the clearest and most amazing revelation of God's love and presence was in the person of Jesus Christ. In Jesus, God humbled God's self and became human. God came to our level in order to communicate that God loves us and is with us. With his life, death, and resurrection Jesus embodied the Good News that God loves us and is with us. God has found various ways of coming to my level in order to convey that *God loves me and is with me*. I have had several mentors who reached out to me, showed an interest in me, spent time with me, gave me the space to ask tough questions, shared their faith with me, helped me see the gifts God has given me, and set me free to spread the Good News to others. My deepest desire in ministry is to be that kind of mentor, shepherd, leader, and person of faith who reaches out to others, shows a genuine interest in people, spends time with others, provides people with the space to ask pressing questions about faith and life, shares my faith, helps others see the gifts God has given them, and sets people free to use these gifts to spread God's loving presence.

23B - The Reverend John Leaf ☩ Faith, Moline (West Conference)

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: As a parish pastor, I have been involved in all aspects of parish life. I believe one of my strengths was in visitation. I was very committed and intentional in visiting members in nursing homes and those who were homebound. I also did visitation in the homes of members and visited in homes of those who were new in the community. Another strength was in the area of worship. I enjoy being with people in their everyday life. Since retirement, I have served as visitation pastor at Faith Lutheran in Moline. I am presently serving my 5th interim. I have served on Synod nominating committee. I have also served on the board of directors for various Lutheran Nursing Homes. I am presently doing volunteer chaplaincy and lead in worship at IN-TOUCH which is an adult day care center and ministry of LSSI. I am also serving on Jenny Lind Chapel Operating Committee. I sing in the Synod Choir at Synod Assembly.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: I sing in the Orotorio Society of Augustana College in Rock Island, IL. I also have helped the in-coming freshman class move into the dormitories at Augustana College. I attend many of the activities at Augustana College. I am a member American Scandinavian Association in the Quad Cities. I have walked for world hunger (CROP WALK) and Walked in support of those who have breast cancer

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I believe outreach and evangelism will be crucial areas of ministry in the years to come. Intentional inviting others to worship and belong will be the number 1 focus in the next few years.

My priorities for this ministry: One of the top priorities would be to help provide training and resources for the outreach ministry teams of congregations in the Northern Illinois Synod.

I believe one of the priorities will be to help provide resources and training to congregations in the area of outreach and evangelism.

My faith statement: I am child of God because of my baptism. At my baptism, I became a member of the family of God in Jesus Christ. One of the verses of Scripture that defines my faith is from Ephesians 2:8-9 which reads: "For by grace you have been saved through faith and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast"

2009 Social Ministry Committee Nominees

ORDAINED MINISTER Female Nominee for Social Ministry Committee: Vote for 1 (three-year term)

24A - The Reverend Marcia Strahl

24B - No Nominee

24A - The Reverend Marcia Strahl ☩ First, Chadwick (Northwest Conference)

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Presently serving on Stewardship, Nominating and Consultation Committees

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Chaplain in Civil Air Patrol and member of CAP, and Blackhawk critical incident stress management teams for support of first responders.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: "Care for returning Veterans" is a new ELCA ministry sponsored by the ELCA office of Federal Chaplaincies that fits under the general umbrella of this committee.

My priorities for this ministry: Congregation and its Social Ministry areas; food pantry, golden meals, and ministry to military members & families.

My faith statement: Using my gifts wherever I'm led.

24B - No Nominee

ORDAINED MINISTERS Male Nominees for Social Ministry Committee: Vote for 1 (three-year term)

25A – The Reverend Robert Franek

25B – The Reverend Robert Peterson

25A - The Reverend Robert Franek ☩ Faith, Wataga (Southwest Conference)

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: I am interested in helping congregations become communities of moral deliberation where open and honest conversation can be had in a safe environment as tough questions and complex realities are wrestled with in the hope and promise of the gospel

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: I am interested in encouraging legislative representatives at state and national levels to pass laws that are just and steward resources in care of humanity and the natural world. I am currently serving as President of the ROWVA Area Ministerium.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: To share my passion for theological reflection on the complex realities and participate in efforts to educate and work towards ending World Hunger. I am excited about the mission and ministry of this committee especially in promoting discussion on ELCA Social Statements, working toward ending World Hunger and racism, and living "greener."

My priorities for this ministry: To encourage and promote discussion of the ELCA Social Statements; to encourage advocacy on state and national levels; to encourage and promote giving to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and educate people on issues related to World Hunger; to encourage "greener" living in congregational and daily life.

My faith statement: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

25B - The Reverend Robert Peterson ☩ St. John, Joliet (East Conference)

Occupation: Retired Minister

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: as pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran church in Joliet I helped to develop a program called humans engaged in loving purpose, better known as the H.E.L.P. food pantry. It involved a coordinated effort between all area agencies (including catholic charities, Salvation Army, hill memorial center, and area churches). When I was vice president of H.E.L.P., we were a part of the primary group that enabled catholic charities to develop hospice and the homeless shelter for the city of Joliet.

I have also served on the will county free clinic board, participated in the aids ministry program, and for 7 years (until the school district changed it's guidelines) held a tutoring program in our church for the children of parks school,

My greatest feeling of fulfillment in my call to the congregation, was leading the church into a partnership with our synod in the establishment of Santa Cruz Lutheran Church, which was housed in our building. This established a real support for the Hispanic community of our neighborhood, which is now the majority of Bethlehem's one mile radius.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: I want to continue and help to expand the leadership roll of synod in congregational self examination. This examination would include the development of a better understanding of the community needs in and around that congregation and its community.

Also, looking back has given me greater insight about what needs to be done in English/Spanish speaking congregations. This would enable me to help with the integration and transitions of these congregations, including the social ministry aspects of both congregations.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: Other than for pet projects, I believe that social ministry is on the back burner of most congregations. I would like to help turn up that flame by working with congregations and the synod in using the tried and true programs readily available, integrating programs from other denominations and communities along with developing new and sometimes difficult ways of reaching out. Every rural, small town and urban congregation has it's special needs and abilities. How they can respond to their environment and community requires great effort and commitment. I would enjoy helping to develop this effort and commitment.

My priorities for this ministry: Social ministry has always been a number one priority in my ministry

My faith statement: My theology is conservative, my social action is liberal

ORDAINED MINISTERS Male Nominees for Social Ministry Committee: Vote for 1 (three-year term) 26A – The Reverend Don Knowles 26B – The Reverend Lee Laaveg

26A - The Reverend Don Knowles ☩ Immanuel, Earlville (South Conference)

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: As pastor I am involved in all areas of the congregation.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Within the community I currently volunteer as a driver with the local ambulance service and with the High School Band Boosters. I chair the local CROP Committee and serve on the board of the Mendota Lutheran Home. I am also the co-chair of the NIS Green Team.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: As a co-chair of the Green Team I am already related to the Social Ministry Committee. As a member of the committee the connection between the Green Team and the Social Ministry Committee and the awareness of "stewardship of creation" concerns could be strengthened.

My faith statement: I believe that for the sake of all people Christ died for the forgiveness of sin. As redeemed children of God through Christ, we are called as individuals and as communities of faith to share God's radical love through our words and our actions.

26B - The Reverend Lee Laaveg ☩ Our Savior's, Rockford (North Conference)

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Senior Pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran since January 2007, served parishes in North Dakota and Iowa.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Rotarian, Past Community Childcare Board (Forest City, IA), Past Waldorf College Board of Directors, Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries Board of Directors

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: As followers of Jesus Christ, we are to love people in tangible ways which not only concretely offer assistance in their lives, but also stir hope within them for the future. Jesus had a heart for the poor, the oppressed, the widows, and the powerless. We can do no less.

My priorities for this ministry: Raise awareness and work to alleviate poverty and hunger. Assist prisoners to re-enter society in a manner which empowers them to succeed as citizens. Promote social justice and fight racism. Build collaborative partnerships with congregations and those working for social justice.

My faith statement: I am grateful to God for grace poured out daily to us through His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. I rejoice to know that I am a child of God, marked with the cross of Christ. I pray that the Spirit lead me so that the character of Jesus be formed in me. As a follower of the Lord Jesus, I desire to share his light and love in a way which blesses others. I look for ways to invite people to discover the grace of Jesus and live trusting Christ's love.

2009 Consultation Committee Nominees

LAY Female Nominees for Consultation Committee:

Vote for 1 (six year term)

27A - Ms. Anna Fischer

27B - Ms. Susan Gayle

27A - Ms. Anna Fischer ☩ Bethlehem, DeKalb (Northeast Conference)

Occupation: Retired primary teacher

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Education; church council; library; public relations (articles for local paper); church women; property committee

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: League of women voters; Democratic Party; CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I was asked. Because of conflict in our congregation my experience maybe helpful.

My priorities for this ministry: Resolution of the conflict and growth and understanding for those involved.

My faith statement: I believe in Jesus Christ to be my Savior and that we are all called to serve - where needed.

27B - Ms. Susan Gayle ☩ Bethany, Crystal Lake (Northeast Conference)

Occupation: Retired teacher

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Past President of Council, past VP of Council, 9 ½ years recording secretary of church council, past participant of Christian Education & Stewardship Committees, constitution review & revision committee, taught VBS, confirmation, Sunday school, chair of first intern committee & currently active in the usual - reader, usher, greeter, and altar care.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: I have been involved in teaching/education and just finished in December of 2008

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I feel that when asked to serve, a person should respond, especially if they have the time (which I do), mobility (which I do), interest, & skills.

My priorities for this ministry: I have been involved in a "healthy" and growing congregation which gives me the knowledge and perspective of what can & should be. I have also served & observed times in our congregation when there were breakdowns and struggles. This dual perspective could be very helpful.

My faith statement: I am continually amazed at how blessed I am. Each "call" from God to serve has opened new insights to my faith and Lutheran theology. God is good!

LAY Male Nominee for Consultation Committee:

Vote for 1 (six year term)

28A - Mr. Richard Brynteson

28B - No Nominee

28A - Mr. Richard Brynteson ☩ Zion, Rockford (North Conference)

Occupation: Retired, Financial Industry

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: I have been a member of Zion Lutheran Church for 65 years. I have served on the Church Council on three (three year term) different occasions. I have served as Church Council President on two different occasions. I served as a Sunday School Teacher for

over nineteen years. In addition I have served on numerous committees including Budget and Stewardship. I have served as a Delegate to the Synod Assembly numerous occasions.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: have served on numerous community civic & charity Boards of Directors. I have held the position of President or Treasurer during most of these services. I have also served as International President of Cosmopolitan International and companion organization The Cosmopolitan Diabetes Foundation. I have served for 16 years as the Campaign Treasurer for our Illinois 16th District Congressman Manzullo. I am currently Immediate Past President and Membership Chairman for the Swedish Historical Society.

I was employed in the Banking Industry for 46 years, including 40 years at the former First National Bank of Rockford. During my service at First National Bank I served as President of The First Rockford Development Corporation. I retired as Senior V.P. of Underwriting.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I have served on numerous Northern Illinois Synod Committees that encompass the past twenty years. They include Salary Guidelines, Candidacy (including Chairman) 12 years. I am currently serving on the Discipline Committee. I believe I have developed a good background of the functions of the Illinois Synod. I believe I served successfully with both Rostered & Lay leaders & members. I believe I bring experience needed to address conflicts and related matters of the committee.

My priorities for this ministry: I come to the committee with no priorities or agenda. I will serve as required by the rules and regulations that govern the committee. I believe I have the ability to listen and extract facts from emotions.

My faith statement: I acknowledge my own sinfulness but believe and accept the Grace of God to wipe those sins away. With great love for my God I await any lay call he might put forward. Here am I Lord, SEND ME.

28B - No Nominee

ORDAINED MINISTERS Female Nominees for Consultation Committee: Vote for 1 (six-year term)

29A – The Reverend Christine Stienstra
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29B – The Reverend Katie Gallagher

29A - The Reverend Christine Stienstra ☩ Shepherd of the Hills, Scales Mound (Northwest Conference)

Occupation: Assistant to Bishop Wollersheim

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: As both a lay person and as a pastor, I think I have served in nearly every capacity of a congregation at one time or another.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Currently, I am not involved in our community. In the past I have served as a volunteer with the Girl Scouts, the Red Cross, the Lions, youth softball coach and as chaplain with the Hospice of the Rock River Valley.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I believe that I am a good and empathic listener and that I have the skills to sort through the issues and to make valid recommendations to the congregations which are involved in the consultation process.

My priorities for this ministry: If elected to this position and if called upon to serve, I would take the time that is necessary to do the job well. I would listen during the interviews to the best of my capabilities. I would work with the other members of the team to get at the root issues and then make recommendations based on those issues.

My faith statement: I believe that God has created me and all that exists. I also believe that God loves me and all of creation with a love greater than it is possible for me to comprehend. Because of humanity's sin we kept separating ourselves from God's love. Because of God's great love for us, God became one of us - Emmanuel - in Jesus the Christ and because of Christ's great love for us, he suffered and died on the cross for me and for all of creation. I believe that because of Jesus' death and consequent resurrection, I have been given a new life and that I can now live in close relationship with God. I believe that the Holy Spirit is continuously active in my life and in the world and that the Holy Spirit is constantly calling me into that closer relationship with God the Father and calling me into a deeper faith and is also calling me into new challenges and opportunities.

29B - The Reverend Katie Gallagher ☩ Alleluia!, Naperville (East Conference)

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: I am the connections pastor at Alleluia! Lutheran Church and help in connecting members and visitors into the life of the congregation.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Volunteer in Children’s School; visit nursing homes with my dog; teaching horseback riding and spending time with Cocoa my horse.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I was asked.

My priorities for this ministry: To be available for consultation when the need arises.

My faith statement: Living in God’s amazing grace.

ORDAINED MINISTERS Male Nominees for Consultation Committee: Vote for 1 (six-year term)

30A – The Reverend David Lawson

30B – The Reverend Robert Pearson

30A - The Reverend David Lawson ☩ Our Savior’s, Rockford (North Conference)

Occupation: Retired Pastor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Northern Indiana Youth Confirmation Camp Committee; Indiana/Kentucky Tri-County Pastoral Counseling member, Lebanon, IN; President of the Burlington, IA Chapter of the United Nations Association; Director of Services & coordinator of a ten county transportation & Meals on Wheels program for the Black Hawk County Council on Aging of Waterloo, IA; South East Iowa Synod Social Ministry Chair; South East Iowa Nominating Committee; South East Iowa Synod Global Missions committee; formed the 1st South East Iowa Synod Companion Congregation connection (Bombo, Lutheran Tanzania & Gloria Dei Lutheran, Durant, IA); joined South East Iowa Synod’s Companion Congregation’s 1st Tanzanian visit; planning committee for Tanzanian Bombo Lutheran choir’s South East Iowa Synod tour & convention concert

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: President of Durant, IA Chamber of Commerce; Jaycee member; Rotary Club member; shared in community worship & service experiences with 8 different congregational denominations from Durant & Wilton, IA communities.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I would hope to be helpful in reestablishing positive, constructive relationships within the life of the Synod.

My priorities for this ministry: I would hope to assist in establishing transparent and honest understanding and communication among various parties.

My faith statement: I believe that God’s purposes are most clearly and carefully fulfilled as we open ourselves to God’s real presence that we see and affirm in the life of Jesus Christ.

30B - The Reverend Robert Pearson ☩ Calvary, Moline, (West Conference)

Occupation: Retired Pastor; Retired US Army Chaplain

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: My experience in ministry since ordination in 1962 includes starting a new congregation in Upstate New York, membership on the New York Synod Stewardship Committee, then serving an urban congregation in Rochester. Next came 28 years active duty as a US Army Chaplain, with duty in peacetime and wartime settings, serving both in chapels and as unit chaplain. During military service I earned a Masters degree in Guidance & Counseling from Long Island University, Brooklyn, NY. My last Army assignment was at Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois. After Army retirement I was an interim pastor for eight congregations in our synod which I transferred to in 1990. I served on Calvary's Personnel & then Mutual Ministry Committee for almost 8 years, had one three year term on the congregation council, and was congregational treasurer for two years

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: I am the Secretary of the Illinois Conference of Churches (ICC). I'm in the 3rd year representing our Synod to the ICC. Before that I represented Churches United of the Quad City Area to the ICC for 6 years. I served one term on the Churches United Board, and two years as their Treasurer. I am on their Finance Committee, having served since 1995. Churches United is 135 congregations doing ministry together on both sides of the Mississippi to include 3 hot meal sites, 22 food pantries, jail ministry, a women's shelter, and individual emergency needs assistance. I have been a member of the United Township Ministerial Association for 16 years. I am in my 6th year as a member of the Jenny Lind Chapel Endowment Trust, and 5th year as Chairperson (Andover, IL).

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I've seen both military chapel congregations and civilian congregations upset with fellow members to the point that gospel proclamation suffers and people are hurt. I have helped both civilian and military chapel congregations get back on track. I served as the Command Chaplain of the US Army's Pershing nuclear missile command in Germany. One of my duties was to establish relations with local clergy, many of whose members were active demonstrators and protestors of our presence. By God's good gift I was able to do that, to the point that I was asked to lead worship two different times in German congregations (fortunately the Pastor was a good translator!) That command had to deal with conflict consultations all the time in a highly charged emotional and political climate. I have Masters Level training in counseling beyond the theological degree. I spent 28 years counseling soldiers, and family members in the Army. I was always on my Army commander's staff. Often I listened to his concerns privately. Decisions they face are not always easy or comfortable. I have helped eight congregations through the process of change of pastoral leadership which is not easy for them. I feel my life's ministry is all preparation for membership on the Consultation Committee.

My priorities for this ministry: To help congregations move through the consultation event toward wholeness by not becoming emotionally involved in the issue at hand, while remaining very concerned and attentive, listening well and reflecting back to ensure I've understood the data presented. In the process I would urge individual members to maintain respect for, and the dignity of, each person, even -or especially - those whose opinion differs from theirs. The goal is healing, not who wins, so the congregation can move forward in ministry.

My faith statement: I believe that God loves me. In Baptism he came and claimed me as his own. When my emotions may tell me otherwise I remember that I am baptized into his grace, so that means his forgiveness and love showers down upon me. Now it is for me to care to share that with others.

2009 Discipline Committee Nominees

LAY Female Nominees for Discipline Committee:

Vote for 1 (six-year term)

31A - Ms Lori Mueller

31B - Ms. Erin Clark

31A - Ms. Lori Mueller ☩ Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Rockford (North Conference)

Occupation: Homemaker

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Currently I am the team leader for our Worship and Music Team and a member of our Outreach Team. I am a member of the choir and church council, bake communion bread and help organize a hospitality room on election days (our church is a polling place). In the past I have taught Sunday school (both adults and children), led small group Bible studies and was the team leader for our TIME (Together in Mission Engagement) team. I am especially interested in exploring with others what it means to be a missional church in the 21st century.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: I am the president of Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries, a coalition of ELCA churches in the Rockford Area, and have been a board member for several years. I am president of the North Winnebago County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. I volunteer at my children's school when needed. For the last four years I've been a member of the planning committee to develop Katie's Cup, a coffee bar in one of Rockford's struggling neighborhoods, dedicated to serving excellent fair trade coffee and building community through warm hospitality and welcome and providing opportunities for people of diverse backgrounds to gather for conversation around issues related to faith, books, current events and important issues of the day.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I wish to serve on this committee because I would like an opportunity to serve the broader church. I believe my experience as a licensed clinical social worker would allow me to be of some assistance in this capacity.

My priorities for this ministry: 1. To be available if and when I would be needed. 2. To be a good listener. 3. To be a good team player. 4. To be thoughtful and diligent in considering all information from everyone involved. 5. To make decisions based in prayerful deliberation with others on the committee. 6. With God's help and to the best of my ability be grace-filled and have a Christ-like heart for all with whom I work.

My faith statement: "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God...for God is love...So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love and those who abide in love abide in God and God abides in them" (1 John 4:7-8, 16). I am a lifelong Christian and my faith is a work in progress--and will be until the day I die. This verse from 1 John articulates for me the essence of my faith right now in my life. God is Love. God doesn't just love, God isn't just loving. God IS Love. Love is the essence of God. Because God is Love, God had to "come down" to be with God's creation--to be physically part of it in the person of Jesus. Jesus showed us God. Jesus showed us Love. Love that was willing to suffer, sacrifice, be humiliated and die for us--for me! Jesus also showed us that NOTHING can defeat Love. To be loved like this changes my life! In the body of Christ, I've experienced this love that accepts me for who I am, with all my imperfections. For me, living a Christ-centered life is not a duty or obligation nor is it a set of rules to be followed. When we know deep in our being how much we are loved, our response is to love back. And how do we love God back? By loving everything God loves: the earth and ALL creation--no exceptions. We love God when we live and worship in community and do everything we can to care for the earth and for each other. The world becomes our family, our community. There is no one or no thing outside the love of God. Following Jesus isn't easy and doesn't guarantee a problem free life. But there is a certain joy that doesn't necessarily have to do with happiness that comes when we "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with [our] God."

31B - Ms. Erin Clark ☩ St. Paul, Oregon (Central Conference)

Occupation: Social Worker

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: On the congregational level, I have worked with the LYO, the learning committee and on the congregation council. I have also served as sacristan at my college, planned youth events and aided in planning of worship.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: As a social worker, I frequently have been involved with fundraising efforts, including the Special Olympics. In the community where I grew up, I worked with a Youth Planning committee. Currently, through my work, I participate in the Juvenile Justice Committee for two counties. I am a member of Lutheran Advocacy and have served as a congressional intern. Often my interests in the community center around the work I am involved with as a social worker.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: My experiences as a social worker and my participation in Lutheran Advocacy have given me a sense of justice and mercy, which I would bring to this ministry. I often deal with families in crisis and difficult issues through my work, and hope to aid in bringing healing.

My priorities for this ministry: Ensuring that individuals are heard and seeing that faithful Christians receive due process

My faith statement: I believe that we are called through our baptism in Christ to stand up for and with our brothers and sisters. This call includes actively pursuing the alleviation of poverty, injustice, and oppression as they occur in the world. Jesus is the prime example of using the privilege one has to create awareness and effect change- while working with individuals who are affected by injustice, no matter the form it takes. God calls us to do justice. I believe this call is a call to action. The word "do" means to act or achieve. I believe that justice is the goal that must be sought through action rather than inaction, through speaking rather than remaining silent, and through work rather than words. Working for social justice is about treating all we encounter as we would our family, friends, and our God. Social justice is about acting because it is faithful and right- not because it is convenient or beneficial. Working toward a more just world is a vital part of our faith, demonstrated through the acts of Jesus.

LAY Male Nominees for Discipline Committee:

Vote for 1 (six-year term)

32A - Mr. Orv Kersten

32B - Mr. Mark Peterson

32A - Mr. Orv Kersten ☩ Alpine, Rockford (North Conference)

Occupation: Retired NIU Professor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Church Council in two Northern Illinois Synod congregations; Stewardship; Social Ministry; Drama Ministry; Choir; Lector

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Sports official for high school swimming and girls' softball; official for collegiate swimming at NCAA level; get out the vote phone bank participant for local and national elections

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: Previous experience as Personnel Chair for 6 years at Departmental level Personnel Committee, two years as chair; University-Wide Faculty Grievance Committee, five years, chair for three, reporting directly to the University President of Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

My priorities for this ministry: Providing fair hearings for all sides as well as full resolution for each perceived problem, ensuring that each side has advocacy.

My faith statement: As a confirmed and dedicated Lutheran, I believe in Christ-centered education, service to the church, and faithful participation in worship and outreach. I am a firm believer in all ecumenical pursuits. I most highly value my times when I am lector at worship and have opportunities to share my faith.

32B - Mr. Mark Peterson ☩ Zion, Rockford (North Conference)

Occupation: Naprapath (back therapy)

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Contemporary worship leader; church council; youth leader; Intern support committee chair; building/grounds chair

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: youth; volunteer at "On the Waterfront" for 7 years

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: have always enjoyed the counseling, psych area

My priorities for this ministry: fairness, compassion

My faith statement: I serve my Lord faithfully because I'm able.

ORDAINED MINISTERS Male Nominees for Discipline Committee:	Vote for 1 (six-year term)
33A - The Reverend Bruce Booher	
33B - The Reverend Len Hoffmann	

33A - The Reverend Bruce Booher ☩ First, Plano (East Conference)

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Solo parish pastor for 27 years. Lay leader (including Congregational Treasurer) for several years before ordination.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: President of Rotary Club; Past Board member of YMCA and Family Services; actively involved in ecumenical groups.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I was asked, and I seek to share my time and talents with the church on synod and churchwide levels as well as in the congregation.

My priorities for this ministry: To listen to and pray for everyone concerned; to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance to properly apply both Law and Gospel to the situations.

My faith statement: By God's grace I am a disciple of Jesus Christ and a child of God. By God's grace, I seek to learn, grow and serve as a disciple and child of God. The Bible is God's Word for us and is the norm and standard for faith and teaching.

33B - The Reverend Len Hoffmann ☩ Shepherd of the Valley, Rockford (North Conference)

Occupation: Associate Director for Gift Planning, ELCA Foundation

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Lead Pastor; Associate Director for Gift Planning, ELCA Foundation

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Social Ministry Organization Board's of Directors; President, Trinity Day Care, Inc. Board

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I have an excellent understanding of the theological and organizational foundations of the ELCA and have had significant experience in handling personnel matters.

My priorities for this ministry: To serve the synod at the behest of the Bishop.

My faith statement: Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry are the foundations of my faith and service to our Savior Jesus Christ.

ORDAINED MINISTERS Male Nominees for Discipline Committee: Vote for 1 (six-year term)

34A - The Reverend David Hedlin

34B - The Reverend Ron Voss

34A - The Reverend David Hedlin ☩ Peace, New Lenox, (East Conference)

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Pastor - preaching, teaching, outreach, administration

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Help lead a major ongoing community effort to help youth succeed in life called Asset Building

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I've been blessed and am grateful to serve

My priorities for this ministry: To help people come to good conclusions

My faith statement: God's love is made known in Jesus, in creation, in the on-going world around us (including the church!). It is our privilege to respond with thanksgiving & service.

34B - The Reverend Ron Voss ☩ Followers of Christ, Plainfield (East Conference)

Occupation: Pastor

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Biblical study, outreach, stewardship, administration

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I was asked to do so

My faith statement: The Apostles Creed