

## **Nominations – 2021 Synod Assembly**

*Codes: CA=Congregational Activities, past (including previous congregations) and present; SA=Synodical Activities, past (including other synods and predecessor church bodies; OA=Other Activities, Hobbies, Activities; C/D=Clergy, Deacon; L=Lay; F=Female; M=Male; PCL=Person of Color or Whose Primary Language is Other than English.*

### **SYNOD COUNCIL**

#### **Conference 2**

#### **Elect One - TWO Year Term**

**Bonnie Klos.** St. Paul, Port Huron. C/F.

CA: All pastoral duties, Natural Church Development leader, Tune-In and Wake-Up leader with LEAD. SA: Current Synod Council Member and Executive Committee Member, LEAD coach, Stewardship For All Seasons participant, serve on ELCJHL task force, and serve on ELCA Coaching Central Cohort, Conference 2 chair for the Rise Up campaign, Works with Rostered Women Organization. OA: Volunteers at Mid-City Nutrition in Port Huron, Cooperative Ministries with Blue Water Area Churches.

**Dee (Darcy) Reis.** St John, Romeo. C/F

CA: All pastoral duties. SA: Participate in weekly conference clergy group. OA: Board Member Samaritan House, Washington, MI, Romeo Schools Reproductive Health Advisory Committee.

#### **Conference 3**

#### **Elect One - THREE Year Term**

**Niklaus Schillack.** Beautiful Savior, Bloomfield Hills. C/M.

CA: All pastoral duties. SA: Synod Finance Team Member and Synod Compensation Guidelines Task Force. OI: White Lake Twp Zoning Board of Appeals, President EMU Alumni Association, Former Commissioner Lapeer Housing Commission.

#### **Conference 6**

#### **Elect One - TWO Year Term**

**Shavaugh Joyce.** Revelations, Detroit. L/F PCL

CA: Church council. SA: current synod council member, member of BRRICK, ACTS in Common Secretary.

**Conference 7**  
**Elect One - TWO Year Term**

**Jim Kroll.** Good Hope, Garden City. L/M

CA: Worship Planning, Church Council, Assisting Minister. SA: Licensed Lay Ministry, Discipline Committee, Former Gathering Co-Manager. OA: Michigan Council of Teachers of English, Boy Scouts of America, Seats and Feet Sock & Underwear Drive.

**Helen Liesenberg.** St Paul, Dearborn. C/F

CA: Substitute presiding pastor, Choir, Women's Bible Study. SA: Served as Interim Pastor, Served on Disciplinary Committee in SoCal West Synod, Served as Bishop's Ecumenical Representative in SoCal West Synod. OA: Serve and organize weekly Vespers at Henry Ford Village, Preach occasionally at Sunday Ecumenical Services at Henry Ford Village, former Chairperson of Protestant Women's Guild.

**Maggie Priestaf.** St. Paul, Dearborn. D/F.

CA: No current positions but in the past have served in multiple areas including education, worship, membership, and music. SA: Candidacy Committee, Disciplinary Committee, Stated Supply. OA: Serve on the Board of Dearborn Pastoral Counseling Center and currently serve in Dearborn Area Interfaith.

**Conference 8**  
**Elect One - TWO Year Term**

**Rob Zahn.** Hope, Farmington Hills. C/M

CA: All pastoral duties.

**Conference 9**  
**Elect One - THREE Year Term**

**Rusty Ward.** Christ, Monroe. L/M.

CA: Current church council member, current church council president, Lay Minister. SA: Current Synod Council Member, Nominations Committee Member, past synod assembly delegate. OA: Currently leading effort to expand the food pantry capacity and capability, past involvement in Big Brother Big Sister program, past volunteer with Michigan Humane Society.

**Conference 11**  
**Elect One - THREE Year Term**

**Joel Brandt.** Trinity, Clawson & Prince of Glory, Madison Heights. C/M

CA: All pastoral duties at Trinity, Clawson and Prince of Glory, Madison Heights. SA: returning to the SEMI Synod after calls in Colorado and NY, 20 years previously in SEMI Synod. OA: Food Pantry and Homeless Shelter ministries while in NY, Ecumenical Ministries SEMI, CO, and NY.

**Matthew Bode.** Zion, Ferndale. C/M

CA: All pastoral duties, Intern supervisor. SA: Instructor Licensed Lay Ministry Academy, past Dean conf. 6, past member of Diocesan Council, Episcopal Diocese of MI. OA: Ferndale PD Clergy Advisory Board, Ferndale Public Schools Sex Education Advisory Board.

**Youth (14-19 Years)**  
**Elect One - Two Year Term**

**LeBlanc, Jakob.** Hope, Dearborn. L/M.

CA: Lector, past Sunday School Teacher, OA: Served lunches at Cumc N.O.A.H. Project

**Young Adult (18-30 Years)**  
**Elect One - Two Year Term**

**Joyce Partyka Staib.** St Peter, St. Clair. F/C.

CA: Co-pastor. SA: Current member of Synod Council, Synod Nominations Committee, SEMI Synod Worship team, past delegate to Churchwide Assembly.

<p><b>The Synod Council</b> is the governing body of the synod that is empowered to make decisions on behalf of the synod between annual assemblies. Normally this body meets 5-6 times a year.</p>
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## CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

### Male Clergy

#### Elect One – Six Year Term

**Ken Grant.** Genesis, Detroit. C/M.

CA: All pastoral duties. SA: Teach The Church History module for LLM, participant in Stewardship for All Seasons training, Speaker at 2017 Synod Assembly. OA: Board Member GenesisHOPE, participant in Mack Alive! Program.

### Female Clergy

#### Elect One – Six Year Term

**Susanna Muzzin.** Amazing Grace, Warren. C/F.

CA: All pastoral duties. SA: Member of Conference 4, Writing Team for Worship at the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering, Past Mentor for LEAD process. OA: Current MCREST Volunteer, past SOS Volunteer, Community Cares Coalition Planning Team.

### Lay Male

#### Elect One – Six Year Term

**Todd Perkins.** Love Rising/Detroit. L/M PCL

CA: Men's Small Group, former congregation president Gracious Saviour, Merger and Finance Committees Spirit of Hope, SA: Former Synod Treasurer, Synod delegate, Founding Member of Namaste Men's Group. OA: Board Member Samaritas, Co-Creator and Fundraiser for the Technician Scholarship Award, Meals on Wheels volunteer with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

### Lay Female

#### Elect One – Six Year Term

**Linnea Nurmi.** King of Kings, Lake Orion. L/F

CA: Have served as a church council member and as president of the church council, former member of the Call Committee. SA: Have represented King of Kings at past synod assemblies, As a youth, was a member of District/Synod Youth Board. OA: BSA Troop 284, Host family for exchange students with YFU, Relay for Life.

## DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

### Male Clergy

#### Elect One – Six Year Term

**Luther Martell.** Christ, Sterling Heights. C/M.

CA: All pastoral duties. SA: New to SEMI Synod but has previous experience with some committee in Southwest California Synod.

### Female Clergy

#### Elect One – Six Year Term

**Colleen Nieman.** St Paul, Dearborn. C/F

CA: All pastoral duties. SA: Internship supervisor, participate with AAPARO, former Samaritas foundation Trustee. OA: Dearborn Area Interfaith Network, Blessings in a Backpack – Dearborn, President Rotary Club of Dearborn.

### Lay Male

#### Elect One – Six Year Term

**Richard Czubaj.** Kings of Kings, Lake Orion. L/M.

CA: current Choir member, former Call Committee Chair. OA: Current volunteer mediator with Oakland Mediation Center, led three Thrivent Action Teams.

**Brent Russell.** All Saints, Hartland. L/M. CA: Liturgical Singer/Leader, Property Committee, Support of Pastor (Spouse), Flint Water Assistance, National Youth Gathering (Detroit) Photographer, Former Ohio Synod Camp Medical Volunteer/Advisor. OA: Greyhound Retired Rescue (GEM), Northwestern Ohio Leukemia Soc. Photographer, Retired Ohio Volunteer Fire Dept. Firefighter/ EMT

### Lay Female

#### Elect One – Six Year Term

**Ellen Batkie.** Holy Cross, Livonia. L/F.

CA: Church Council Vice President, Stewardship Team, Choir. SA: Finance Team Member, Former Synod Council Member, Rise Up Campaign Team. OA: Hearts, Hands & Voices, Program Coordinator, Samaritas Foundation, Executive Committee and Audit Committee.

**Joyce Brooks.** Gracious Saviour, Detroit. L/F PCL.

CA: Church Council, Women of Gracious Saviour, Food Pantry Coordinator. SA: Past Synod Council Member, President SEMI-WELCA, LLM. OA: Pres. Bethune Community Council, Member of 2<sup>nd</sup> Pct. City Relations, Member of 12<sup>th</sup> Pct. City Relations.

## Churchwide Assembly--2022

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### Elect One – Clergy Male

**Branden Hunt.** St Philip, Trenton C/M PCL

CA: All pastoral duties. SA: Candidacy Committee, BRRICK Team, Diversity Task Force, Board Member FedUp Ministries. OA: St Philip food pantry, Trenton Visionaries and Stakeholders, Pastoral/funeral services for community.

**Jim Fogle,** Celebration, Westland. C/M

CA: Founding pastor Celebration Lutheran Church, all pastoral duties. SA: Synod Council member, Licensed Lay Minister Supervisor, former chair of the worship committee. OA: Wayne Westland Clergy Association, past president Kiwanis, past president Marquette Clergy Association.

### Elect One – Clergy Female

**Anna Taylor-McCants.** Fed Up Ministries, King of Kings, Ann Arbor. C/F

CA: Pastor of Mission Development King of Kings, Mission Developer & Pastor Fed Up Ministries. SA: BRRICK Second Sunday Cinema Chair, Co-Chair Hunger Team, Diversity Task Force Member. OA: Volunteer and organize with NARAL, grant writing and support with Sugarbrook Neighborhood in Ypsilanti.

**Darcy Reis.** St John, Romeo. C/F.

CA: All pastoral duties. SA: Participate in weekly conference clergy group. OA: Board Member Samaritan House, Washington, MI, Romeo Schools Reproductive Health Advisory Committee.

### Elect One – Lay Male

**Thomas Nieman.** St Paul, Dearborn. L/M

CA: Team Lead Audio/video/streaming, Musician, Worship Committee Member. OA: Extra-Life.org supporter, Dearborn Acoustic Night Monthly Music Event – Founder and Host, Past Dearborn Rotary Fishing Derby Volunteer.

### Elect One—Lay Female

**Sonja Markwart.** All Saints, Hartland. L/F

CA: Congregation Vice President. SA: Synod Secretary, Synod Attorney, former synod council member. OA: Family Promise of Genesee County.

### Elect One— Female Lay Person of Color or whose first language is other than English

**Monique Taylor-McCants.** King of Kings, Ann Arbor. L/F PCL

CA: Volunteer regularly with Fed Up Ministries, participant (lector, prayers) in online worship. SA: BRRICK Member, Fed Up Volunteer, Hoping to start an ADLA Chapter with other black leaders. OA: Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley Volunteer.

**Elect One— Male Lay Person of Color or whose first language is other than English**  
**Darrell Dennis.** Beautiful Savior, Bloomfield Hills. L/M PCL.  
CA: Youth Director/Minister of child and Student Faith Formation. SA: Volunteer at SEMI Synod Gathering, Musician at SEMI Synod Gathering, Camp counselor at Living Water Ministries. OA: Volunteer with We Are One Body, former student organization at Wayne State, Volunteered with Living Water Ministries.

**Elect Two – Youth Female (must be under 18 at the time of election)**