

2022 Biographies

revised 5-27-2022

Synod Council

SYNOD SECRETARY, Synod Council Vote for 1 (4-year term)

The Rev. Julie Monnard
The Rev. Dr. Doug Liston
The Rev. Andrew Kayes
The Rev. Lu Cantrell

The Rev. Julie Monnard – Calvary, New Windsor – Southwest Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Female

Age: 30 -45 at time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: My special interests in ministry include biblical storytelling and intergenerational ministry. During the pandemic, I learned how to record and edit worship videos followed by learning how to live stream. I also have created an Access database for managing church membership information. Currently, I am working with committees to reinvent paused ministries.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I have offered a women's retreat for local parish nurses. During the pandemic, I created VBS videos and activity kits for children in our congregation and the community. When the preschool in our building failed a fire marshal's inspection, I did everything I could to ensure that changes were made so they could stay. I also volunteer with a local living history group.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? Every time I have volunteered to serve a new role in our synod, I have enjoyed meeting new people and sharing ministry skills in new ways. Serving on Synod Council will be a new way for me to engage in our Synod's ministry. This position will utilize all of my administrative skills, including my attention to detail, proficiency editing documents, and thorough organization.

What are your priorities for this ministry? My priority is to accurately and concisely record minutes for the synod council, executive committee, and synod assembly. I will carefully submit approved minutes to the churchwide office as needed. I also look forward to sharing my voice on the council.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit has called me to the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and the Church has affirmed this call. Fully trusting in Christ's saving grace for the world, I seek to show others what that means for us in today's world. By creatively engaging the Bible, we

can discover how the Holy Spirit is already working through and around us. Together, we can embody God's love for our neighbors.

The Rev. Dr. Doug Liston – Joyful Harvest, Johnsburg – Northeast Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 61 or older at time of election

Primary Language: English

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I have two areas of interest that I believe have high priority for the lives of members of our congregation(s): helping people grow in their faith through Christian Education and getting people to live out their faith by engaging the world. To encourage faith education in our congregation (and beyond), I currently serve as Executive Director for the Diakonia Program, a lay education program in ten ELCA synods, as chairperson for the NI Synod's Candidacy Committee, and have served as a member of the ELCA's Theological Education Advisory Committee. To help people live out their Christian calling, Joyful Harvest has begun to work with many new outreach ministries to serve those in need: Homes for Hope in Tijuana, Mexico; Bernie's Book Bank, Helping Hands Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, Mats for the Homeless, and numerous others. "For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works..."

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I currently serve on the Board of the Helping Hands Food Pantry and the Board of Directors for The State Bank Group. In the past, I have served on the Johnsburg Public Library District Board of Trustees, the Northern Illinois Library System Board of Trustees, and the Johnsburg Educational Partnership Foundation Board of Trustees.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I believe that Synod Secretary is an important role within the functioning of the Synod. With nearly forty years of experience in a variety of areas and positions, both secular and within the Church, I have a broad-based skill set that will allow me to keep the many tasks of Secretary of the Synod in order. I am able to multitask well and will be able to meet the numerous deadlines and priorities which this position entails.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To provide a well-documented history of the activities of the synod.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I guess if I boiled my statement of faith down to a simple sentence, I would say: "God's infinite love for us is greater than our finite sins." I think that might be the distilled essence of the Gospel message: God has done everything that's needed to clear the way for us to have a loving relationship with the Creator. And everything we do from here on out, should be our way of saying "thank you" for God's actions.

The Rev. Andrew Kayes – Emmanuel, Oregon – Central Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 30 – 45 at time of election

Primary Language: English

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Use of tech and media in ministry. Feeding ministries. Expanding vision of the local congregation as part of wider (universal) church.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I have served in many capacities within church structures. As a lay member, VP and financial secretary. As an ordained minister, the treasurer and president at Grace Place in DeKalb. As Dean and Secretary of the Central Conference, and on a few committees and task forces (Climate Change, Ministry Support, Nominating, Constitution).

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I have been encouraged to consider that some of my gifts may be appropriately put to use in the role of Secretary. I believe that to be the case. I would like to be as effective as possible when giving time and energy to the wider church.

What are your priorities for this ministry? Building and maintaining healthy community relationships and actionable, identifiable responses to human needs locally and globally.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? The Christ event assures us of Jesus' authority on matters of salvation, creation, and the age to come. We have been called by God, in accordance with Christ's witness, and sustained by the Spirit, to engage humanity and all of creation with the dignity God has gifted each of us. In other words, we are called to love God, neighbor, and all God has created. We are all, always, sinners who are being saved by the grace of God alone.

The Rev. Lu Cantrell – Peace, Morris – East Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Female

Age: 61 or over at time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: As pastor, I lead the congregation with our congregation Council team. There are times when it is necessary for me to lead alone, but I prefer the team approach.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I have served as a board member and recently the Executive Secretary for Grundy Area PADS for 7 years. I have been a member of the Grundy Area Ministerial Association for 9 years and have held the offices of both President and Treasurer. I have served as the Support Services Coordinator for the Channahon Fire Protection District for 5 years.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? Working with a council myself, I see how important it is at all levels of the church. I want to bring my gifts and skills to support the synod by serving on the council. More specifically, I feel called to serve as secretary of the synod council.

What are your priorities for this ministry? As we are coming out of the pandemic, I know leaders have been stretched way beyond their limits. I would like the council to be able to assist our leaders in any way possible. Also to govern the synod in a way that shows good stewardship of what God has given us.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? Saved by grace alone!

LAITY Nominees for Synod Council

Vote for 1 (3 -year term)

Ms. Janice Forrest
Ms. Kay Johnson

Ms. Janice Forrest – Zion, Rockford – North Conference

Occupation: Site Director, Patriots Community Center

Gender: female

Age: 61 or over at time of election

Primary Language: English

Race and Ethnic Origin: African Descent

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: have been a coordinator the Nursery, our Worship on Wednesday (WOW) program, Assisting Minister, Preached, Reader, volunteer with the food distribution during covid and coordinated the Fourth of July Family Fun Fest and the Easter Egg Hunt in partnership with Patriots Gateway Community Center. I've served on the Multicultural Committee for many years at Zion, attending the Intergenerational Crosscultural Trip to D.C. in 2018. I'm attending the Civil Rights Trip from Zion summer to Alabama. I've helped with Burmese families connect to resources and coordinate our Thanksgiving Turkey basket program and Christmas Ham basket programs. I serve on the Zion Outreach Board of Directors, supporting the Ruthie's Kitchen food program.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I have been the Site Director at Patriots Gateway Community Center since 2018. We have partnered with the Rockford Midtown Market to sell the produce from Patriots that the kids grow. I serve on the Zion Development Board of Directors. I have been the Buddy House Outreach Coordinator since 2010, helping the residents maintain occupancy and find resources for their living condition (food, utility support, prescriptions, etc.). I work with Angelic Organic Learning Center at the Blackhawk Courts Farm and Garden. I have serve since 2020 on the Board of Directors at Crusader Clinic. I've helped support teenagers in probation, doing community hours through the court system.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I have been involved as a Lutheran at Zion in Rockford since 2010, continuing to learn more about the history of the church and growing in my leadership. I have attended the Synod Assembly and Congregation Resourcing Event. With the completion of the Diakonia Program in the Northern Illinois Synod in 2019, I have been discerning how to serve the church in various ways. Serving on the Synod Council would give me the chance to learn more about the work of the church and how we become more inclusive.

What are your priorities for this ministry? I hope to be able to offer my experiences from the black community in order to help the Northern Illinois Synod be more intentional in outreach to the growing diverse populations around us. I hope to learn more about the Synod Council responsibilities and offer my willingness to serve.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I love Jesus! I love the way I've been called to serve God's children.

Ms. Kay Johnson – All Saints, Byron – Central Conference

Occupation: Retired

Gender: female

Age: 61 or over at time of election

Primary Language: English

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Congregation Council (Past-president, Outreach Chair and Fellowship Chair. Past WELCA Convener. Currently Church Council Vice-President and Stewardship Chair, Altar Guild President. I volunteer as reader, greeter, usher, assisting minister, offering counter, and media operator,

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Kiwanis Club of Byron - President, Vice-President. Our primary concern is children. I helped create "Sack Lunch Saturday" a pop-up pork chop sandwich lunch event three times a year, which helps raise funds for scholarships and donations to local non-profits. We also work with the Byron Police Department in their "Operation Santa" event which provides Christmas gifts to underprivileged children in the Byron area. Pre-pandemic we held "Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus" to raise funds and toy donations for this event and hope to return to that event in 2022. We also hold "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny" to raise funds for our scholarships and donations to local non-profits.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I have served on the Congregational Life Committee for two terms. I want to be of service to the Synod in a capacity that will allow me to work with committees and others throughout the Synod.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To serve to the best of my ability to advance the ministry of the Synod and the greater Church.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? As a born and raised Lutheran, I feel my statement of faith would be in the words of the Apostles Creed.

LAITY Nominee for Synod Council

Vote for 1 (3-year term)

Mr. Chris Patterson

Mr. George Sanchez

Mr. Chris Patterson – Faith, South Beloit – North Conference

Occupation: Coach

Gender: Male

Age: 30 – 45 at time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Youth Ministry and Confirmation, Praise and Worship Music, Lay leadership/ministry

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Youth Sports, Youth Gatherings

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I am a long time Lutheran and have never served at anything other than at my church of membership. Being a pastor's spouse, I have a unique view of how the church works. I can see the struggles of the Pastors, I see the struggles of congregations, but I am still removed from these views, and can see more of the whole picture. A good friend (and pastor) asked me to serve, because I am a layperson that knows both "sides of the fence". That is a compelling reason to offer to serve.

What are your priorities for this ministry? My first and foremost duty is to do what I feel a Christian should do (love the neighbor, love the oppressed, and love each other), my priority is to apply this to every decision. Ask the questions, "is this good for the Synod/Whole church of Christ?", "is this good for the pastors?", "is this good for the people of God? " The church should never make decisions that harm, only help. We have had many instances in the past where we have not done this. My goal is to try and help the church be, the embodiment of Christ in the world.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? My favorite Verse is John 15:12. It is the bedrock of my faith. to me the whole of Christian teachings comes down to Jesus' final Commandment "Love each other as I have loved you." When looking out for the other in love, you can't be wrong. I strive every day to love my fellow humans, the earth, and all of creation. Jesus told us to love, because the world always needs more love.

Mr. George Sanchez – New Life, Bolingbrook – East Conference

Occupation: retired

Gender: Male

Age: 61 or over at time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Council Member, Council President, Sunday school teacher, Lay Server, St. Barnabas Ministry, served as voting member at 4 Churchwide assemblies and many Synod assemblies.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Youth Baseball Coach, Cub Scout Leader, American Legion Adjutant, American Legion Chaplain

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I have spent many years working with the Synod Anti-Racist Team, served on the Congregational Life Committee for 6 years, served on Synod Council for 6 years, served on the Outreach Committee for 6 years and currently finishing a 3-year term. What are your priorities for this ministry?

What are your priorities for this ministry? I would like to keep working on the Synod's Racial Justice Team.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe that the Word of Christ is for all people regardless of what language or national origin or color of skin.

Rostered Minister Nominees for Synod Council Vote for 1 (3-year term)

The Rev. Dr. Pam Marolla

The Rev. Shellie Knight

The Rev. Dr. Pam Marolla – First, Galesburg – Southwest Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Female

Age: 46-60 at time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I have been serving the church since I was a 15-year-old organist in my home congregation. In 2020 I completed my Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Leadership and Mission. I believe our call is to discern what and where God is leading us. I love discerning with others, what God's mission is for us in this time and place. Full inclusion and community outreach are high priorities. I believe our synod needs to be dealing with situations that require adaptive change rather than technical. We cannot move into the future better by trying harder at doing the past.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Our congregation has become Reconciling in Christ, is reaching young adults, the hungry, and the homeless in our community. Our congregation is continually learning that if we are looking to serve Jesus in "the least of these" (Mt 25) God provides what is necessary. In our community, I am also involved in ecumenical and interfaith conversations. I am very involved in community music and theater, with piano, organ, French horn, or on boards of directors. Before the pandemic, I performed a dedicatory organ concert at FLC with the Knox College Brass Ensemble. I am a member of the local Habitat for Humanity board, having served as board member and volunteer in other communities where I have lived, and also led several international builds in El Salvador.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I have been serving First Lutheran since 2012. I have a heart for sharing the gospel and a love for the church. My areas of strength are in strategy, development, empathy, and the ability to contextualize. All of these are grounded in gratitude for the grace, mercy, and love of God made known to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. I believe my experience and passion would be a good addition to the Synod Council.

What are your priorities for this ministry? Listen, learn, discern. Ministries are changing in ways we have never experienced before. What are the most important ways to be congregations and synod together in connected ways in Northern Illinois? What gifts can we bring to the table together? How might we use them to best glorify God?

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? God is love, intimate, and infinite. We are called by Jesus to love and serve God and neighbor as Jesus did. The Spirit of God provides what we need to love and serve, and calls together the community, providing the faith, joy, and courage to continue. "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." (1 Jn. 4:18)

The Rev. Shellie Knight – St. John's, Pearl City – Northwest Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Female

Age: 46 - 60 at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Areas of special leadership and interest in my previous and current call include enriching worship experiences through creative liturgy and use of imagery; creating spaces for exploration of spiritual and contemplative practices; leading small groups with various areas of focus; walking with the congregation to educate and erase the stigma of substance use disorder and become a place of healing for all persons in recovery and their families; work with ecumenical partners to address food insecurity in our communities.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Areas of special leadership and interest in the communities in which I live and serve - both past and present- include working with faith communities and community stakeholders to address the crisis of substance use disorder and how to create safe places for persons in recovery from addictions (across a wide spectrum) through which they can be transformed and thrive in new and abundant life through God's grace in Christ Jesus. I currently serve on the board of Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery (Northern IL counties), board of the Fellowship of Recovering Lutheran Clergy, on the advisory team for the Center of Addiction and Faith, and am the founder of recoveryally.org

Another area of special leadership and interest is addressing the problem of food insecurity in the community and within the school population. I am currently leading a project to create an on-site food pantry inside the public school that would be accessible to all children as a resource.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I am honored to have been nominated, and truly wish to serve God's Church in whatever way the Holy Spirit calls me to. I am most interested in being a part of the Synod council as an integral part of the Body of Christ that each congregation is connected to. I feel that I could lend a unique perspective to the Synod council that would create synergy and inspiration as we stretch and grow as the Church in the 21st century given the complexity of the world around us.
What are your priorities for this ministry? 1. Make sure that all voices are represented at the table. 2. Listen for the needs of the Church in the Northern IL Synod. 3. Discern the voice of God, remain Gospel centered, and follow the Holy Spirit in all decision and policy making.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe in God, my heavenly parent, who created me and loves me out of death in sin to new life in Christ so much that he sent his beloved, Jesus, to teach me how to live a life centered on loving and serving the most vulnerable populations, and who died on the cross for the forgiveness of my sins. I am accompanied by God's Holy Spirit who is my comforter, the deep peace within my soul, source of enduring strength, and inspiration of my faith as a baptized child of God.

**MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT Nominees for Synod Council Vote for 1
(3-year term)**

The Rev. Scott Benolkin
The Rev. Frank Langholf

The Rev. Jamie Gallagher

The Rev. Scott Benolkin – Shepherd of the Valley, Rockford – North Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 30 – 45 at time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I have led Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Rockford for the last six years. In the wider church in that time I have participated as a member of the Synod's Congregational Life and Worship Committees, convened the North Conference's Reformation 500 task force, and founded a book discussion group through the Crossings Community (www.crossings.org).

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Following a previous career designing emissions trading markets for the EPA, I maintain particular interests in science and technology, economics, and care of creation.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? An ongoing challenge for Christ's church is "speaking the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15). Our mission in the gospel suffers when either we gloss over the truth or fail to speak it from a place of love. The Synod Council is uniquely positioned to listen and to speak the truth in love with our bishop, our congregations, and our community. At this pivotal moment for the church in Northern Illinois, I would like to be part of a Synod Council that strives to practice just that for the sake of the world.

What are your priorities for this ministry? The Synod Council should identify, build support for, and marshal resources for mission opportunities across Northern Illinois. This means working closely and collaboratively with the bishop and congregations. This also means overcoming impediments to mission, some of which are inherent in the structure of the church. We are all in this together, and so we must be accountable to one another.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? This I believe: the triune God who is love is giving life to us and to this world; through Jesus Christ God is giving new life to the dead; and through the Holy Spirit God is commissioning us in that dying and rising to new life for the sake of the world.

The Rev. Frank Langholf – Emmanuel, Rockford –North Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 61 or over at the time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I have served as a senior, solo, and associate pastor in small to midsize congregations which were in urban to rural settings. I have focused on spiritual formation, youth and young adults, and contextual ministry.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I have been involved with support of the LGBTQIA+ community through a variety of community organizations. I have been involved with pursuing racial equity, ecology, and currently ending gun violence and mass incarceration. I am also active in interfaith work and spirituality.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I would like to assist the Synod as it engages in a new day. I believe that the whole church, the ELCA, Synods, and congregations are in a time of transition. This is a time of crisis and opportunity. I would like to partner with our newly elected Bishop to enter into a new day.

What are your priorities for this ministry? My priority while serving on Synod council is to be open to the movement of the Spirit as we find our way in this time. I hope to not only provide leadership with the Synod but also to empower congregations to find their way in doing the work they are called to do in their particular communities.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe that we live, move, and have our being in Divine Love which is revealed in Christ, which breathes in and through us (and all things) as the Spirit, forgiving and freeing us to care for people, the planet, and peace.

The Rev. Jamie Gallagher – First, Monmouth – Southwest Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 46-60 at time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I currently serve on the World Hunger Sub-Committee and the Creation Care Sub-Committee. I have participated in the Care Creation working team that has developed the worship resources for a Season of Creation for the last three years. I have worked on the Cycle to Synod event hosted by the World Hunger Sub-Committee.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: serve as a leader with my sons' Boy Scout troop. I have volunteered at my children's schools for various events.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I wish to serve on Synod Council to represent the Southwest Conference. I am looking forward to working with the council and the future bishop in creating ministries that truly connect the synod to all corners of the synod and help congregations feel more connected to each other and the synod office.

What are your priorities for this ministry? My priority is to ask the synod council to have its meetings held in different conferences throughout the year, and to have council members visit the congregations of that host conference when they are there. The word "Synod" means to walk together, and we can create opportunities for that walking together.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? My faith begins with the grace of God, which grants me new life each day. God's grace aligns me with God's kingdom values, and then through my imperfections, allows me to strive to reach those values in my daily living. I believe the church is also renewed each day by the same grace, and through its own imperfections, God's grace aligns the church with God's

kingdom values. The Holy Spirit unites us to walk together, acknowledging our imperfections and empowering us as we strive together in living according to God's kingdom values.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE Nominees for Synod Council Vote for 1 (1-year term)

Mr. Luke Snyder – St. Mark, Rockford – North Conference

Occupation: Student

Gender: Male

Age: Under 18 at the time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I've been an alter server, manage the av tech room, have helped teach Sunday school, and have participated in service projects.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I'm involved in academic bowl and model united nations and I have recently started a project to raise money for the victims of the current war in Ukraine.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I was asked if I was interested by my pastor, and I thought it would be an opportunity to learn more about the work the church does as well as provide my perspective as a youth member.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To learn as much as I can

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? My faith is a very important part of my life. I went through confirmation, and now attend worship, adult forum, and my church's youth group all of which has helped me to build my relationship with God and my congregation and deepen my faith.

Congregational Life Committee

LAITY Nominee for Congregational Life Committee

Vote for 1 (3-year term)

Ms. Melissa Rojas

Ms. Melissa Rojas – Trinity, Mt. Morris – Central Conference

Occupation: Non-Profit Executive Director

Gender: Female

Age: 30-45 at time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I have served as both a Director of Youth and Family Ministries at Christ

Community in Columbia, Illinois and Christian Education Director at Trinity in Mt. Morris, Illinois. I am the Director for Vacation Bible School each summer, Co-director of our Strong Girls 2 Women Camp, and a member of the Creative Worship Committee at Trinity. I am a member of the Northern Illinois Synod Youth Committee. I have also completed the Diakonia Program through the Northern Illinois Synod. As a youth I was a member of the Lutheran Youth Organization for the Northern Illinois Synod, and as a young adult I served on two music ministry teams through Youth Encounter.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I am the Executive Director for the Mt. Morris Senior Center. I am a Village Board Member for the Village of Mt. Morris. I also serve as the Vice President for Loaves and Fish Food Pantry in Mt. Morris and as a member of the Board of Directors for Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center. I am a member of P.E.O. supporting education of women, the Let Freedom Ring Committee for our annual community festival, and a member of the Encore! Mt. Morris Steering Committee to bring arts into our town.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I am honored to have the opportunity to potentially serve the Northern Illinois Synod on the Congregational Life Committee. I believe that I have ideas that could be used in our individual congregations. I grew up at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt. Morris, so I have always loved this Synod and the churches and people here. I like to think outside of the box and serve in any way that I can. I enjoy meeting new people and learning new things everyday. I am excited for this opportunity!

What are your priorities for this ministry? My priorities as a member of the Congregational Life Committee would be to support congregations in the Northern Illinois Synod through the youth and worship of their congregation. I believe the youth are the church of now as much as the people who have been in the congregation for 20 years or more. When it comes to worship, I love liturgy and our traditions, but I also believe there is room for growth and innovation in worship in Northern Illinois Synod Congregations.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I have been a member of Lutheran Churches for my entire life, but my faith really became my own when I was a young adult. Through many different experiences, I learned to truly rely on God and his plan for my life. I spend time with God everyday, and I know that his plan for me is good and that he will equip me to serve in whatever way he calls me.

ROSTERED MINISTER Nominee for Congregational Life Committee Vote for 1 (3-year term)

Deacon Laura Gorton

Deacon Laura Gorton – Christ, Belvidere –North Conference

Occupation: Associate Minister

Gender: Female

Age: 30 – 45 at time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Education, youth ministry, music, worship leadership, social ministry connections with local and global organizations

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Board member of Womanspace in Rockford, IL; trainer for Safeguarding God's Children

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I have a strong passion for equipping lay ministers and rostered leaders to lead education, children, and youth ministry programs well. I have a long history of serving with children and youth ministry programs.

What are your priorities for this ministry? Providing opportunities to equip lay ministers and rostered leaders with the skills they will need to lead programming and ministry well.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe God created everything in heaven and earth. I believe God sent Jesus, God's Son, to earth to experience life fully. I believe Jesus walked the earth and spoke truth to power. He was arrested, tortured, and executed for failing to bend to the will of the leaders of His time. I believe Jesus rose after three days for our sins. I believe the Holy Spirit continues to move throughout the world and the church, equipping us to make Christ known to all those in our midst in our daily walks of faith.

ROSTERED MINISTER Nominee for Congregational Life Committee Vote for 1 (3-year term)

The Rev. David Eflandt
The Rev. Scott Stolberg

The Rev. David Eflandt – Messiah, Port Byron – West Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 46-60 at time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: I am a former middle school band and choir director. This has meant that expressing our faith through music has been a major interest of mine. I also am a certified power and boundaries educator through the ELCA and have facilitated multiple boundaries workshops in synods and in two of our ELCA seminaries. I have also spent time in congregations doing my best to help form a new understanding of stewardship that is not focused only on finances, but instead uplifts our stewardship of all our treasures as a response to God's amazing grace.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: As a former educator, I have found ways to connect to our local school districts, both as a substitute for the music teacher, and as a pastoral care provider to educators and first responders. COVID19 has made this a bit challenging, but I still have a passion for connecting our faith to our everyday lives, especially in our communities.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? My background as an educator and musician, as well as my passion for healthy boundary keeping, I am very interested in serving in these capacities in our synod.

What are your priorities for this ministry? I would see the following as priorities if chosen to serve: 1) Encourage others in our synod, both lay and rostered, to steward their gifts of time and talents in new ways, 2) Encourage our synod staff to regularly offer boundaries workshops as continuing education events, 3) Encourage our synod leadership to support and connect our youth leaders in meaningful and supportive ways

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? The core tenet of my belief rests on God's unearned, unmerited and unbound grace for us as individuals and for the world. From the baptismal font, we are claimed as God's children, and promised abundant and overflowing forgiveness and love to accompany us throughout our lives; a promise that continues into life eternal. There is no insider or outsider in God's eyes, and the table of grace is set for all to provide strength for our daily journey of faith. God's grace, both proclaimed and received in the sacraments, is real and has the power to transform the lives of all God's children. This grace frees us from seeking our own good, and frees us to steward our gifts of time, talents and finances as proclamation of the Good News in the things that we say and do. There is room in God's house for all of us, and there is no end to God's grace. God's steadfast faithfulness in Christ is there for the world as it was yesterday, and as it will continue to be forever. Amen!

The Rev. Scott Stolberg – Our Savior's, Rockford – North Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 61 or over at time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Youth and Family

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Katie's Cup Board; Rejoicing Spirits; Second Sunday

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? To support Congregations in their ministries and bring opportunities to those same Congregations. (Like CRE)

What are your priorities for this ministry? Be part of the CRE event and share other ideas and skills with Congregations.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe in God the Father. I believe in God the son, Christ, crucified and risen. I believe in the Holy Spirit, moving in and through us and moving us.

Global Mission Committee

ROSTERED MINISTER Nominee for Global Mission Committee Vote for 1 (3-year term)

The Rev. Tammy Anderson

The Rev. Tammy Anderson – Bethesda, Morrison – Central Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Female

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: As a pastor, I lead worship and preach every Sunday. So, that has been my primary focus during my years of ministry.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I have been involved in the local ministerial associations, local ambulance as an EMT and trauma debriefer, local community theater, local food pantries, and local service organizations. I will be joining the local Kiwanis as soon as the pandemic is over.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I served my internship in Arusha, Tanzania, and my supervisor was Rev. Solomon Massangwa, who is now the Bishop of the North Central Diocese. I've long had an interest in Global Mission. I have also returned to Tanzania twice since my internship, the last time was for Bishop Massangwa's consecration. I have also served on the Global Mission Committee prior to now, for two terms.

What are your priorities for this ministry? In the past, I found that I was translating Tanzanian culture for others on the committee, especially as it pertained to how we designate funds for ministries in Tanzania. In 2015, I traveled with others from the Committee and with Bishop Wollersheim to Tanzania for Bishop Massangwa's consecration. I would be interested in travel again. The congregation that I currently serve is assigned a sister congregation in Tanzania, but that has not been kept up. We will be restarting that relationship.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe that God is my divine parent who came to earth as his son, to share God's love, grace, mercy and forgiveness through his life and work on earth and his death and resurrection, and that he sent his Holy Spirit to call, inspire and gather us to be his hands and feet in this world by serving one another, loving one another, and sharing the Good News of Jesus.

ROSTERED MINISTER Nominee for Global Mission Committee Vote for 1 (3-year term)

The Rev. José Cortes

The Rev. José Cortes – Messiah, Aledo – Southwest Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 61 or over at time of election, June 18, 2021

Race and Ethnic Origin: Latino

Primary Language: Hispanic

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Mission through word and community involvement.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Evangelism and community service to the needy

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? Am interested in working with the Synod in a new way.

What are your priorities for this ministry? Stewardship, Bible Study, Mission work

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe that Christ is the solution for most of the world's problems. Following his sacred teachings, we will create a world where peace, love, and justice will overcome prejudice, inequality, and oppression of others.

Ministry Support Committee

LAITY Nominee for Ministry Support Committee Vote for 1 (3-year term)

Ms. Barb Stark

Ms. Marianne Barstow

Ms. Marianne Barstow – St. Barnabas, Cary – Northeast Conference

Occupation: Retired

Gender: Female

Age: 61 or older at the time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Church Council, Mutual Ministry Team, Worship & Music, Finance Secretary

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Brownie Troop leader

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? After having been the Interim Assistant during our congregation's call process, I believe I can speak from both a lay and interim assistant perspective of the challenges faced by rostered and lay persons alike.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To provide resources for lay and rostered ministers to have balance in their lives

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe that God is the giver of all the things in our lives. I believe that Jesus Christ died for my sins and in doing so provides us with everlasting life for believers. I believe the Holy Spirit guides me to make the right decisions for how I can be a better person and make the world a better place for all of God's creation.

Ms. Barb Stark – First, Mt. Carroll – Northwest Conference

Occupation:

Gender: Female

Age:

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present:

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present:

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod?

What are your priorities for this ministry?

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say?

ROSTERED MINISTER Nominee for Ministry Support Committee Vote for 1 (3-year term)

The Rev. Jill Flynn

The Rev. Dr. Sharon Rogers

The Rev. Dr. Sharon Rogers – First, DeKalb – Northeast Conference

Occupation: Pastor, Adjunct Professor, Judson University

Gender: Female

Age: 61 or over at time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: 20 years rostered ministry in the ELCA as an Associate in Ministry in Youth and Family Ministry at Salem Lutheran, Sycamore and Associate Pastor at Light of Christ, Algonquin with oversight of children, youth, adult discipleship, and serving ministries locally, nationally, international. Interim Intern at Lutheran Campus Ministry @ NIU, intern at First Lutheran, DeKalb.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Current adjunct professor in the Master of Arts in Ministry and Leadership degree program at Judson University teaching "Developing as a Leader in Ministry" for those in professional ministry; Former a community leader in Matthew 25:40 homeless ministry in Elgin; Current member of the area leadership team for Team World Vision committed to providing clean water in places that don't have access; Current participant in racial justice group at First Lutheran.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? My doctoral studies were examining and fostering spiritual health of church leaders. I have a longing to assist in fostering resilient ministry among church ministry leaders. This is part of the work of the ministry support committee to which I can contribute.

What are your priorities for this ministry? Assisting the Bishop's office in supporting First Call Theological Education for our leaders. Continuing the work begun in the subcommittee on boundaries and self-care that I was a part of in 2021-22 as a one year member of this committee.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? Our God is a God of love who reaches out to us with grace and invites us to ongoing Christlike transformation and to join in sharing God's love in a broken world for the sake of others.

The Rev. Jill Flynn – Gloria Dei, Rockford – North Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Female

Age: 61 or older at the time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Since I was a young adult, I have been active in and passionate about Christian education, ecumenism, and social ministry. As a pastor I have continued to stress these areas in my ministry. I love planning and leading educational events, worship, and sacramental ministry. I have taught the Christian Education course and Proclamation for the Synodically Authorized Ministers and Diakonia.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Board of Directors of Lake Co. Interfaith chaplaincy, Geographic Parish committee in Central/Southern IL Synod, outreach and support of Rock House Kids, Family Peace Center (for survivors of domestic violence), Shelter Care and Carpenter's Place in Rockford. Mayor's Faith Leaders conferences.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I believe rostered ministers and lay leaders need to be publicly supported by the synod. It is helpful to have continuing education events planned and made available to all. As a former business manager I have experience in negotiating salaries and defining salary and benefit guidelines and I think many rostered leaders and their congregations need support in that area.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To plan and publicize continuing ed. opportunities that are timely, affordable, and convenient for our rostered ministers and lay leaders. To review salary/benefit expectations and help leaders and congregations navigate and negotiate in a fair manner. Would love to help plan the Professional Leaders Conference.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe in a creator God who loves all of creation, a redeemer who reconciles us to this God and a Holy Spirit who gives us life, grants us wisdom, and breathes life into all of our activities as we seek to follow Jesus Christ and glorify our Creator God. I believe that the church is the body of Christ on earth and exists to carry on the ministry of Jesus.

Outreach Committee

LAITY Nominee for Outreach Committee

Vote for 1 (3-year term)

Ms. Nancy O'Connor

Ms. Sharon Beksell

Ms. Nancy O'Connor – Grace, Richmond – Northeast Conference

Occupation: Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Gender: Female

Age: 61 or older at the time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Children's Ministry, Church Council, Assistant Minister, Reader

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: food pantry

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I believe God is calling me to be of service in whatever way is needed.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To serve in whatever way is needed.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe in God and I believe God. He is who He says He is and He can do and does do what He says He can. God lives in us, around, us and through us as pure love. He never leaves us. He sent His only son, Jesus, to live among us and to teach us God's Word. Jesus died on the cross to forgive us and save us from our sins so that we may live forever in Heaven with Him. When Jesus died He sent His Holy Spirit to meet us right where we are but to not leave us the same. We are who God says we are. Our paths are lit by God's signs always. We need only to believe, watch and listen. The love of God is deeper, wider, higher, and far more powerful than we can possibly imagine.

Ms. Sharon Beksel – United, Rockford – North Conference

Occupation: Retired

Gender: Female

Age: 61 or over at time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Served as director of pastoral care for two years and a Synodically Authorized Minister for 1.5 years, both under the guidance of a rostered minister. Have served on evangelism and stewardship committees as well as taught confirmation.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: I currently serve as a hospice volunteer. Before retirement, I managed Intouch Home Care Service of LSSI which provided non-medical services for seniors in Stephenson and Jo Daviess Counties. I was a Barnabas minister at PA Peterson in Rockford for several years and served as treasurer.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? We are called to share Christ's awesome love with one another. I'd like to learn and brainstorm with others how we can creatively share God's love within our communities.

What are your priorities for this ministry? Encourage and assist congregations to think "outside the box" in sharing God's love in their communities. Embolden members to feel comfortable in sharing their faith stories.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? God's never ending, inclusive love is for all. I don't have to earn that love. Through Jesus Christ, we are

made new, our sins are forgiven. We are freed from the fear of death and promised eternal life with God.

LAITY Nominee for Outreach Committee

Vote for 1 (3-year term)

Mr. Don Kenney

Mr. Don Kinney – Christ, Belvidere – North Conference

Occupation: Retired Boy Scouts of America Executive.

Gender: male

Age: 61 or over at time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: American English, midwestern dialect

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Evangelism, Global Missions committees

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Immigration related issues

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? To learn from other parts of our synod, and also to share ideas and methods.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To regain initiative and engagement with church partners in mission following a pandemic slump.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? God the Creator is so far beyond our understanding that he had to be born as one of us, an infant member of the most despised and persecuted race on earth, to teach us and love us, and to die for us by our own hand, and then be raised from death, so that we can know his personal, eternal, saving love for us.

LAITY Nominee for Outreach Committee Vote for 1 (3-year term)

Mr. Dave Musser

Mr. Dave Musser – Shepherd of the Valley, Rockford – North Conference

Occupation: Full time air handler

Gender: Male

Age: 61 or over at time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Presently serving in my third year on church council. In my second year as outreach coordinator for the church. Have served in youth leadership in the Assemblies of God and United Church of Christ denominations. Second year Diakonia graduate.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Co-founder and Co-Director of the Rockford chapter of Laundry Love a national organization which provides clean clothes and bedding for those in need. We are currently in our sixth year.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? My belief is strong that our churches are missing out on the spiritual gifts that those on the outside of our organization can bring to bear in order to make our church body stronger. The harvest is indeed plenty and I feel strongly that now is the time to step up our evangelism to bring the good news to those who are lost in this wilderness of life we are all traversing together.

What are your priorities for this ministry? To develop new and innovative ways to reach people. Continue to build on the online presence we have had to begin in order to operate during the pandemic. Have accompanying ministries like Laundry Love spread through the Synod. Outreaches that interact directly with the people are of a specific priority to me. Educate and prepare our churches to receive and integrate new people into our church families.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? Father, Son, Holy Spirit, one God three in one. Creator, savior, counselor, and comforter. Always present, nurturing, guiding, and leading. Nothing can separate.

ROSTERED MINISTER Nominee for Outreach Committee Vote for 1 (3-year term)

The Rev. Bob Stark

The Rev. Bob Stark – First, Mt. Carroll –Northwest Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 61 or over at time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Outreach to those in our community and beyond. Equipping the congregation - Stephen Ministry, diakonia, Hybrid Church, Care giving ministries. Worship experience

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Board member and vice president of Great River Outreach since 2018; Establishment of Shepherd's Table in Scales Mound IL; Mount Carroll Ministerial Association; Mount Carroll Chamber of Commerce board member (past)

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I believe that reaching out with a servant's heart and creating atmospheres of goodwill and trust will lead to strong relationships. Most of these have to be built one person at a time and must never be rushed. Through these relationships we can introduce people to Christ and show them the love and grace he brings into our lives and the lives of everyone.

What are your priorities for this ministry? I heard once that the doors of our church swing out. I believe that this needs to be a priority for our ministries. It is easy for us to have congregational events, but our focus needs to move beyond our walls. It is often difficult for us to want to try new experiences for fear of failure but that's what it will take to engage people outside of our walls. We can learn from each other. Communications between our churches needs to get better particularly around new ideas for joint outreach and sharing resources.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I am called by the Holy Spirit to faith in Christ, kneeling at the cross with Christ, sent to equip, feed and shepherd God's people to build life-giving relationships that witness to the love of Jesus Christ in tangible ways, while sharing the Good News of salvation with all.

Social Ministry Committee

LAITY Nominees for Social Ministry Committee

Vote for 1 (3-year term)

Ms. Joan Soltwisch
Ms. Carol Wahlstrom

Ms. Joan Soltwisch – Resurrection, Channahon – East Conference

Occupation: Dave Soltwisch Plumbing, Inc. Owner with husband David

Gender: Female

Age: 61 or over at time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Generational activity planning/participation/hosting: Friday At The Farm, V.B.S., Choir, Retreat at Hoover Forest Preserve, W.E.L.C.A. Bible Study, Book Study, Movie Night, Field Trips, Mission.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Hosted Human Trafficking Workshops, 20 year + 4-H leader, Land Resource and Development Committee, Seward Township. The Conservation Foundation's Kendall County Advisory Panel. Aux Sable Creek Watershed activist, Daughter's of Abraham Book member. N.A.A.C.P. member Joliet, IL. Citizens Advisory Panel, Lyondell and Nouryon Chemicals I.L.C. Past: Domestic Violence, Groundwork Shelter work.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? I feel that it is important to share, as the Justice, East Conference Rep. for NISynod W.E.L.C.A., and active community member, what I have learned in the area of Creation Care, Racism, Domestic Violence, Women's Studies. and Children's Education. It was amazing working with the "Raising White Kids," Bringing Up Children In A Racially Unjust America" book study. Being a part of the Social Ministry Committee and Sub Committee was exciting and fulfilling! Hosting workshops at Congregational Resourcing Event was productive too.

What are your priorities for this ministry? I believe that the Social Ministry and Sub Committees succeeded in accomplished great work, during a very difficult times, in the last three years. The priority of standing with strong faith ethics and working to care for creation, was and is critical. Racism, causing great disparity, continues to scar and prevent children of God to live as God intended, which is contrary to anything that Jesus ever stood for. The Anti-Racism Committee worked very hard in difficult times and succeeded in putting together great work. I would like to continue to be part of this justice team work!

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I believe that God has chosen me to work with nature, children, family, church, community, and abroad, to speak truth to power and practice justice. I believe that God's greatest gift to us is just how much each of us is truly loved!

Ms. Carol Wahlstrom – Resurrection, Channahon – East Conference

Occupation: Registered nurse and mental health therapist

Gender: Female

Age: 61 or over at time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Christian Education; Friends in Need; Parish nursing; Communion assistant; Camp nurse

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: Board of Directors, ADV/SAS; Sexual Abuse Treatment; Suicide Prevention; Vicarious Trauma, that's caring for the caregiver; My therapy practice has focused on people with concurrent mental health and physical health issues.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? This committee seems like a place where my faith and expertise can come together

What are your priorities for this ministry? Caring for pastors, caring for rural communities as resources become reduced.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? Accept each person in your life as a gift; Live a life of service; Be thankful.

ROSTERED MINISTER Nominee for Social Ministry Committee Vote for 1 (3-year term)

The Dr. Rev. Chuck Olson

The Rev. Dr. Chuck Olson – Calvary, Rockford – North Conference

Occupation: Pastor

Gender: Male

Age: 61 or over at time of election

Race and Ethnic Origin: Caucasian

Primary Language: English

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in your congregation(s), both past and present: Calvary has had a strong orientation to caring for its neighborhood.

Please list areas of special leadership and interest in the community, both past and present: The children of Calvary's past and current neighborhoods are of special concern - and outreach. In our former location we had The Jesus Club after school outreach with worship, learning, and hot homemade suppers. In our current location we have free guitar lessons, guitars, and guitar concerts for our neighborhood - and all.

Why do you wish to serve in this area of ministry in the Synod? Outreach is the beating heart of our faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus' last word on this earth was - GO.

What are your priorities for this ministry? Evaluate and meet needs of congregations as they seek help for their outreach.

If you were asked to give a statement of your faith, what would you say? I came into our faith at a horrible time in my life, pleading for help - and the Lord Jesus came with his peace. SO I want to come to those in need - and bring his peace.