

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

(S9.01.01.a1) It shall be the responsibility of the Synod Assembly to elect voting members to the Churchwide Assembly, officers of the Synod, members of the Synod Council, members of the Consultation Committee, and members of the Committee on Discipline. Two nominees shall be presented for each position by the Synod Nominating Committee, along with biographical information for each nominee.

(S9.03) There shall be a Synod Nominating Committee consisting of the bishop of the synod or his/her representative, two persons chosen by the Synod Council from its own membership, and one member elected by each conference, to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

The Nominating Committee gathers information from congregations and conferences for elections to take place at the Synod Assembly. This year, elections include Secretary, Synod Council, Consultation Committee, and Churchwide Assembly. Nominations are listed below.

Nominating Committee members include, Bishop Miller, Rev. Sam Leister, Rev. Mindy Bartholomew, Rev. Dan Warntz, Rev. Andrew Weaver, Rev. Carol Johnson, Ms Eileen Stauffer, and Mr. Jonathan Moser.

This year, elections include Secretary, Synod Council, Consultation Committee, and Churchwide Assembly. Nominations are listed below.

Secretary (4-year term begins on September 1, renewable once)

- †S8.31. The secretary shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The secretary shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The secretary may be either a layperson or a rostered minister.
- †S8.51. The terms of office of the officers of this synod shall be as follows:
 - b. The vice president and secretary of this synod shall be elected to a term of four years and may be reelected. The officer shall serve until a successor takes office.
- †S8.52. The [term of the Secretary] shall begin on the first day of the third month following election or, in special circumstances, at a time designated by the Synod Council.

The responsibilities of Secretary include keeping and distributing minutes of all meetings of the Synod Assembly and Synod Council, attest documents signed and sealed by the bishop, classifying and arranging all important papers and documents and depositing them in the archives of the synod, certifying the list of members to the Churchwide Assembly elected by the Synod Assembly.

Nominees (*=incumbent)

Secretary	Rev. Lisa Barnes
------------------	------------------

Synod Council Members (3-year terms begin on August 1, renewable once)

(S9.01.01) c. Synod Council

- 1) *Synod Council members, excluding the officers and youth member, shall be elected in such a way that approximately one-third of the terms expire in any given year.*
- 2) *The nominating committee shall strive to maintain inclusivity on the synod council through the nominating process.*
- 3) *The nominating committee shall also strive to have synod Council membership reflect the demography and geography of the synod.*
- 4) *The youth and young adult members shall each be a confirmed member of a congregation whose age is as defined by the ELCA churchwide expression.*

S10.01.01. Membership

- a. *The Synod Council shall consist of 16 members, including the officers, at least one of whom shall be a youth and one a young adult. Membership shall conform to the standards of representation of the ELCA.*
- b. *With the exception of the bishop, officers of the synod and youth member, no more than one lay member of any congregation shall serve on the Synod Council at any given time.*

S10.01.02. Term of Office

- a. *Each adult member elected to the Synod Council shall be elected for a term of three years. Each member shall serve no more than two consecutive terms. One-third of the members shall be elected by the Synod Assembly each year.*
- b. *Synod Council term begins August 1.*

- c. *Each youth member elected to the Synod Council shall be elected for a term of two years. Each youth member shall serve no more than two consecutive terms.*

There are seven seats up for election this year: two rostered leaders (pastor or deacon) for a full term, two lay persons for full terms, one secretary, one youth, and one young adult. The Nominating Committee considers the balance of men and women on council, as well as the geographic range of the synod when selecting nominees to serve on Synod Council. ELCA representational principles call for at least 45% of the Synod Council be men and 45% women.

Nominees (*=incumbent)

Rostered – full term (three years)	
*Rev. James Park Bricker	Rev. Kathryn Moran

Lay – full term	Lay – full term
Mr. Thomas Avery	*Ms. Wendelin Davis
Mr. Dale Chomas	Ms. Theresa Meisinger

Youth – full term	Young Adult – full term
Ms. Ellie Schaeffer	Mr. Slone Smith

Consultation Committee

Normally two persons from each conference, one lay and one ordained, serve for six-year terms, not-renewable.

(S11.02) The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of at least six persons and not more than 12 persons, of whom half shall be Ministers of Word & Sacrament and half shall be lay persons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection.

There are four positions needed to elect this year. Nominations were sought from the Juniata Valley Conference (rostered), Middle Creek Conference (rostered), West Branch Conference (rostered), and Tulpehocken Conference (lay female): Term expires in 2030.

Nominees

Rostered – Juniata Valley Conference	Rostered – West Branch Conference
Rev. Samuel Leister	Rev. Harold Rinker
Rostered – Middle Creek Conference	Lay female – Tulpehocken Conference
Rev. Ann Zimmerman	Ms. Pamela Rhoades

Committee on Discipline (elections in odd-numbered years, or to replace in even-)

Normally two persons from each conference, one lay and one ordained, for six-year term, not-renewable.

(S11.03) The Committee on Discipline of this synod shall consist of twelve persons of whom six shall be Ministers of Word & Sacrament and six shall be lay persons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection.

Nominees

Lay male – Juniata Valley Conference	Rostered – Tulpehocken Conference
Mr. Robert Reed	Rev. Karla Leiby
Rostered – Middle Creek Conference	Lay female – Tulpehocken Conference
Rev. Paul Kampa	

NOMINEE IDENTITY INFORMATION**SYNOD COUNCIL – SECRETARY**

Lisa Barnes – Follmer Parish, Potts Grove.

Current Employment: Pastor, Follmer Lutheran Parish, Milton, PA.

Past Employment: Pastor, United in Christ Lutheran Parish, Mount Pleasant Mills and Richfield, PA; Director of Community Engagement, Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ; Pastor, St. John Lutheran Westville, NJ; Pastor, Good Hope Lutheran Church, Garden City, MI.

Church Leadership: Synod Council, 2022 to present; Committee on Discipline, 2024 to present.

Community Leadership: I currently spend a lot of time studying the intersection between food and faith connecting that to ministry in the church and beyond.

SYNOD COUNCIL

Thomas Avery - United, Sunbury.

Current Employment: Retired.

Past Employment: 20 years in construction industry then 25 years in railroad industry, last 15 years serving as Director of Operations for North Shore Railroad based in Northumberland, PA.

Church Leadership: Council member x numerous terms; Head usher x numerous years; have served on offering counting team 30+ years; Property Committee x 40 years; Finance and Stewardship committees x numerous years; Fellowship and special events committee x 25 years; Men in Mission group x 20 years

Community Leadership: Obtained Eagle Scout rank as a youth and served in scouting leadership approximately 15 years (not recently).

James Park Bricker – Trinity, McAlisterville.

Current Employment: Retired.

Past Employment: Little Valley Presbyterian Church, part-time; Trinity Lutheran Church, McAlisterville; Assistant to Bishop of Central Pennsylvania Synod Trinity Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg; Christ's United Lutheran Church, Millmont.

Church Leadership: Synod Council; Chair, Bishop's Discernment Team; Liaison: Camp

Mount Luther/Synod Council; Camp Mount Luther Golf Tournament Team; Congregational Mutual Ministry Team.

Community Leadership: Secretary: Juniata County Democrats

Dale Chomas – First, Watsontown.

Current Employment: President/CEO of Watsontown Dental, P.C.

Past Employment: I have been practicing dentistry in Watsontown since 1990. Currently, part-time in preparation for eventual retirement.

Church Leadership: Property committee, First Lutheran Church, Watsontown.
2nd V.P. of Susquehanna Conference Trustees of the United Methodist Church (resigned prior to becoming a member of First Lutheran Church, Watsontown); certified Lay Speaker of the United Methodist Church (past).

Community Leadership: Past Treasurer Cub Scout Pack 3610; Boy Scout Troop 610 (past); American Red Cross of Upper Northumberland County; President (past) Central PA Chamber of Commerce; past Chairman of the Board; part-time Organist; First Presbyterian Church, Watsontown (current).

Wendelin Davis – St. Peter, Mountain Grove.

Current Employment: Employed for 22 years by Steve Shannon Tire Co Inc as an accounts receivable clerk. I'm looking towards reducing full-time hours to part time later this year.

Past Employment: For 29 years I was the office manager for Herbein Electric Service in Ashland.

Church Leadership: Completing 1st term on Synod Council, Served previously on Synod Council, Consultation Committee, Lay Ministry Board
Serving on St Peter's Council - currently as Secretary, previously as President. Taught grade school Sunday School classes for many years. Authorized Lay Worship Leader since 2011 serving USS congregations.

Community Leadership: As family responsibilities increased due to illness, I've stepped back from actively participating in community organizations.
From January-Palm Sunday I volunteer with the Davis Chapel, a very small Methodist Congregation, making candy Easter Eggs as a fundraiser. This Chapel is next to our property and I enjoy visiting with the other volunteers while we weigh, roll, dip and package the eggs.

Kathryn (Katy) Moran – Christ, Lewisburg.

Current Employment: Pastor at Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lewisburg.

Past Employment: Pastoral Intern at United in Christ Lutheran Church, Lewisburg, PA
Youth Director at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, Burke, VA
Camp Counselor/Area Director, Lutheridge, Arden, NC

Church Leadership: I serve as the pastor at Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church. I work with the various committees, the church council, and the staff of the congregation.

Community Leadership: I serve on the Camp Mount Luther Board, the synod's Candidacy Committee, and the First Call Theological Education planning team.

SYNOD COUNCIL – YOUTH**Ellie Schaeffer** – Salem, Selinsgrove.**Current Employment:** 9th grader at Selinsgrove Area High School (2024-2025).**Church Leadership:** Singer in Praise Band, Junior Counselor at Day Camp (VBS), Event and Congregational Outreach Coordinator for the Youth Ministry Team, Acolyte, Worship leadership (National Youth Gathering), Lector, Self Care Sanctuary Volunteer, Church Soloist, Technology Team (Salem), Leader at Faith Lab, Alter Guild, Church Choir, Renew Planning/Execution Team, Youth Chaplain.**Community Leadership:** Soprano Section Leader for Choir, Speech and Debate Team (States/Nationals Qualifier), Student Council, Exquisite Minds Society, Educators Rising, French Club, Tennis Team, Musical (Mamma Mia).**CONSULTATION COMMITTEE****Samuel Leister** – Messiah, Mifflintown.**Current Employment:** Called Clergy for Messiah Lutheran Church, Mifflintown.**Past Employment:** Juniata County School District – elementary teacher, elementary principal, Director of Technology.**Church Leadership:** Parish Planning Council: various boards as well as vice president and president. Sunday School teacher – youth and adult leader, Youth group advisor, Synod Council member, Authorized Lay Worship Leader.**Community Leadership:** Cub Scout and Webelos Den Leader, Juniata County Historical Society board member, Mifflintown Lions Club, 1st PA Rifle Civil War Reenacting Company (Bucktails).**Harold “Dutch” Rinker** – Zion, Renovo.**Current Employment:** Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Renovo.**Past Employment:** Pennsylvania State Police Trooper, Lieutenant, retired. United States Air Force Military Working Dog Handler, Sergeant.
Church Leadership: Called pastor of Zion Church; West Brance Conference secretary; Greater Renovo Area Council of Churches member; Upper Susquehanna Synod Election Committee member.**Community Leadership:** Director, Clinton County Police Camp Cadet; Director, Walnut Street Christian School Spring soccer program grades 3-12; Head coach, Walnut Street Christian School girls soccer team; Volunteer/presenter, Pennsylvania Military Museum, Boalsburg, Pa.**Slone Smith** – Messiah, Mifflintown.**Current Employment:** Organist and Pianist at Messiah Lutheran Church, Mifflintown. I work at a small restaurant, Crème Stop in McAlsiterville.**Church Leadership:** Director of Worship and Music; Organist and Pianist.**Community Leadership:** Member of Greenwood Community Band.**Ann Zimmerman** – Zion, Sunbury.**Current Employment:** Retired but also offer Sunday supply on occasion.**Past Employment:** Teacher for 22 years at Shikellamy School District. Served at Trinity Herkimer, NY for 13 years. Returned to Upper Susquehanna and served as an interim in several churches in Middle Creek and Tulpehocken Conference.**Church Leadership:** Retired pastor; served on the Global Team of USS for seven years;

Community Leadership:

served as secretary for the Middle Creek Conference.

Served as secretary on the Haven Ministry Board for six years. I also serve as secretary for the HOA of Oakwood Grove Development in Selinsgrove. I also volunteer at The Takery, a food give-away program in Sunbury, once a month.

COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE

Paul Kampa – Faith, Richfield.

Current Employment: Interim – Faith Lutheran Church, Richfield; Trinity Lutheran Church, Cowan; Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Middleburg.

Past Employment: Pastor – St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Licking Creek; Christ United Lutheran Church, Millmont; St. John Lutheran Church, Belleville.

Church Leadership: Retired Pastor.

Karla Leiby – St. John, Northumberland.

Current Employment: Pastor at St. John's since 8/1/2021. This position includes staff oversight for 4 staff members. Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership Formation since Jan. 2023 which includes chair of Candidacy Committee and Lay Ministry Institute Board Liaison.

Vicar at St. John's 2018-2021 through Co-operative Learning Program at United Lutheran Seminary. Past experience leading Youth, Vacation Bible School, Bible Studies. ALWL 20012-2018.

Past Employment: Registered Nurse since 1993 holding positions in leadership and management since 1999: Director of Nursing 1999-2005; Program Director- Senior Director for Electronic Health Record at Geisinger Medical Center 2005-2018.

Church Leadership: (E.g., council/committee membership, leadership in congregation, etc.) Pastor at St. John's since 8/1/2021. This position includes staff oversight for 4 staff members.

Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership Formation since Jan. 2023 which includes chair of Candidacy Committee and Lay Ministry Institute Board Liaison.

Vicar at St. John's 2018-2021 through Co-operative Learning Program at United Lutheran Seminary. Past experience leading Youth, Vacation Bible School, Bible Studies. ALWL 20012-2018.

Community Leadership: (E.g., scouting, boards, neighborhood activities, etc.)

S. Luther Savidge Trust Board Member Camp Courage Volunteer Camp Mount Luther Chaplain and Nurse.

Robert G. Reed, III – Messiah, Mifflintown.

Current Employment: Battalion executive and administrative officer, 2nd Battalion, 112th Infantry Regiment, Pennsylvania Army National Guard (PAARNG), Lewistown, PA

Past Employment: Enlisted 1993, rifleman to recon team leader, Staff Sergeant E6; commissioned 2007, platoon leader to operations officer, Major, O4, PAARNG.

Church Leadership: No previous leadership roles.

Community Leadership: VFW life member.

Mary Jane Snyder – Pine Street, Danville.

Current Employment: Retired.

Past Employment: RN - Night Supervisor, Grandview, Danville, PA (15 years); RN - Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, PA.

Church Leadership: Secretary of Council, Property Committee, Caring Committee, Hospitality Committee, worship service minister, lay communion visitation ministry, President WELCA chapter, Secretary WELCA chapter, Seafarers ministry, preparing and serving meals, fund raisers.

Community Leadership: Danville-Riverside Food Bank, Good Samaritan Mission, The Community Singers.

Eileen Stauffer – Salem, Selinsgrove.

Current Employment: Retired.

Past Employment: Susquehanna University Bookstore Selinsgrove Area HS Media Center.

Church Leadership: WELCA president, Altar guild, Hospitality and Sympathy/Get Well committees

Community Leadership: Volunteer at Mustard Seed Selinsgrove Downtown decorating, Executive Board Snyder County Historical Society.