

Churchwide Assembly Voting Alternates

Philip Blanding

Lay Leader

Conference:

North Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

*Salem Evangelical Lutheran,
Minneapolis*

Current Vocation:

Semi-retired social worker

Church Activities and Leadership:

Council member

Community Activities and Leadership:

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

*I am gay and the full inclusion, participation,
and affirmation of the GLBT community
within the church is imperative to me.*

Paul E. Bohnsack II

Lay Leader

Conference:

Crosstown

Congregation Membership:

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, Hopkins

Current Vocation:

Attorney, self-employed, home office

Church Activities and Leadership:

*choir; former president and vice president;
former chair social justice committee;
drafting constitution, bylaws, foundation
governing documents; service on pastoral
call committee*

Community Activities and Leadership:

*past bar association activities (memorial
committee); past condominium and town
home activities*

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

*looking forward to retirement at the end
of 2018; keen interest in politics and social
justice; enjoy travel*

Churchwide Assembly Voting Alternates, Cont.

Sheryl Bousu

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

394 Corridor North

Congregation Membership:

Lyndale Lutheran, Maple Plain

Current Vocation:

*Pastor, Lyndale Lutheran,
Maple Plain*

Church Activities and Leadership:

Women's ministry, youth ministry, children's ministry, synod assembly in the past as a lay leader, Nat'l Youth gathering leader both as cong. lay staff and parent volunteer, served on staff of several congregations as director of children, youth and family ministry, coordinator and/or volunteer numerous congregational outreach projects.

Community Activities and Leadership:

Work with neighborhood watch group, leadership and volunteer positions in local schools, cancer society volunteer, FMSC, girl scout leader, Food shelf volunteer, coordinator of community coat & school supplies drives.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I am a first call, second career pastor, answering God's call to Word and Sacrament after 20+ years serving in children, youth and family ministry. I am passionate about intergenerational opportunities. I am feeling called to ministry related to gun violence control and racial justice issues, discerning how I might best answer that call as I serve my current congregation.

Dan Collier

Lay Leader

Conference:

394 Corridor North

Congregation Membership:

St. Barnabas Lutheran, Plymouth

Current Vocation:

Retired

Church Activities and Leadership:

Former Sunday School teacher; Eucharist Minister; served on various church committees; volunteer with Seniors & Friends and Families Moving Forward

Community Activities and Leadership:

Former board member Seven Dreams Education Foundation; former member New Hope City Council; former Mayor city of New Hope; volunteer at Feed My Starving Children

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I believe it is important to serve. Service allows others to see how you live your Christian faith and is an important tool to spreading the word of Jesus Christ.

Churchwide Assembly Voting Alternates Cont.

Susan Eng

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

Central

Congregation Membership:

Grace University Lutheran, Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

Program Director for congregation-based organizing—ELCA Churchwide

Church Activities and Leadership:

*Member—Synod Mission Table
Member-Congregation's Race Equity Team*

Community Activities and Leadership:

DFL Party participation; ISAIAH leader; MN "New Seniors' Foundation" sponsoring committee

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I'm currently writing a book for Fortress Press on the role of women in faith-based organizing. I have 2 delightful grandchildren!

Gordon Folke

Lay Leader

Conference:

Central

Congregation Membership:

*Grace University Lutheran,
Minneapolis*

Current Vocation:

Consultant—Self-employed Financial Analyst. Studying to become an LADC (Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor)

Church Activities and Leadership:

Participate in worship and adult education; serve as lay representative to the synod

Community Activities and Leadership:

Recovery community, Board Secretary of New Brighton Alano Society; volunteer at St. Paul Area AA Intergroup

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I would love to serve the Synod by actively listening and engaging with others in community. My particular passion is engaging and serving in the recovery community.

Churchwide Assembly Voting Alternates, Cont.

Diane Goulson

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

Southwest

Congregation Membership:

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Henderson

Current Vocation:

Solo Pastor for 7 years.

Church Activities and Leadership:

Lead and preach at @ 90 worship services a year; Education of confirmation youth and adults; Learn, Lead, Launch Program; Augsburg University Synod Representative; Participate in SW MAS conference meetings; Congregational contact with Urban Immersion and Beacon Cooperative — Families Moving Forward; Chair (2 years) and Secretary (3 years) of Le Sueur — Henderson Ministerial; Work 2x month at Le Sueur Food Shelf

Community Activities and Leadership:

Active in Generations Community Theatre Company, New Prague; Book Club member; Alto in The Noteables— Le Sueur Community Choir

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

A lifelong Lutheran I have not attended a Churchwide Assembly. I like to push peoples' norms. I have worked hard to connect my socially and physically isolated congregation with local communities, congregations, and the Church. I have more energy and ideas than most people expect out of a 59 year old woman. I see the Church of the future being people taking the church as their own — as an essential part of their everyday life.

Claudia Hanson

Lay Leader

Conference:

Northern

Congregation Membership:

Long Lake Lutheran, Isanti

Current Vocation:

Anoka-Hennepin #11 Substitute Teacher (transitioning out), Housewife

Church Activities and Leadership:

Council Representative 4 years; Alpha Coordinator 3 years; Stephen's Ministry Facilitator 1 year (Stephen's Minister); Facilitator Infertility group 2.5 (?) years; Co-taught Network & Shape; Life Keys Participant (on Staff at Lord of Life in Nowthen); Leadership Training; Writing articles for monthly congregational publications; Congregational Life and Stewardship Teams; Taught Sunday School, Confirmation, Choir (years) Special music (lots); Lenten Dramas; Office volunteer; (general stuff - whatever was needed at the time - I was born Lutheran!) :)

Community Activities and Leadership:

Member at Alliance Francais; Mom helper for multiple schools - Class parties, field trips, bowling score keeper/helper (5years); Taught Community Ed - Intro/Travel French

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I love decorating/coordinating change and especially passionate about Christmas decor. I have a love for "all things French" - the language, people and culture. I enjoy travel (especially with my hubby of 32 years) and connecting with people.

Churchwide Assembly Voting Alternates, Cont.

John Hanson

Lay Leader

Conference:

Northern

Congregation Membership:

Long Lake Lutheran, Isanti

Current Vocation:

Director of Strategic Sourcing at Medtronic PLC (Mounds View, MN)

Church Activities and Leadership:

President of Luther League at Valley of Peace Lutheran (Golden Valley, MN), Stewardship Committee leader at Redeemer Lutheran (Fridley, MN), Social Ministry Committee leader, VP of Congregation and Council of Elders at Lord of Life Lutheran (Ramsey, MN)

Community Activities and Leadership:

Volunteer on multiple Habitat for Humanity projects and Special Olympic events, appointed by the County Board of Commissioners to represent the business community on the Anoka County Community Health Advisory Committee for past 15+ years (Anoka, MN)

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

The Lutheran Church has been a strong influence on my life from early on. My parents were active in the church, and I managed to string together 8 years of perfect attendance at Sunday School back in the days when they tracked it and awarded little pins at the end of each year (still have them). The extended family was also a major influence, as my Grandfather was a Lutheran Minister, and my Uncle also felt the call and became an ordained Minister in his mid-40's after a successful business career.

Gary Kinkel

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

Southwest

Congregation Membership:

St. John's Lutheran, Shakopee

Current Vocation:

Senior Pastor, St. John's Lutheran

Church Activities and Leadership:

All that goes with being a Senior pastor!

Community Activities and Leadership:

I am still finding my way into the Shakopee community.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I am a theologian of the church, was a professor for many years. I am deeply committed to the church's faithfulness, identity and integrity as a Christian.

Churchwide Assembly Voting Alternates, Cont.

Michael LaMotte

Lay Leader

Conference:

Northwest Hennepin

Congregation Membership:

St. James Lutheran, Crystal

Current Vocation:

Printer (Production/General Manager)

Church Activities and Leadership:

Council President, Sunday School, confirmation, Prison Ministry, Assistant Minister, Youth activities, small group, Bible study, Mission and Ministry, families moving forward, Care for Creation, general volunteer, Social justice and racism.

Community Activities and Leadership:

Coached youth soccer, Christmas toy distribution

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I grew up at St. James. I was Baptised, went to Bible school, was confirmed, and married at St. James. Long family history within the church. Siblings, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles all worshipped at St. James. My family and I love the outdoors, especially camping!

Robert Lindstrand

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

Rum River

Congregation Membership:

Advent Lutheran, Anoka

Current Vocation:

Senior pastor, Advent Lutheran

Church Activities and Leadership:

Voting Member at Churchwide 2013, Chair of Synod Peer Ministry Team 2016, Chair of Bishop Election Committee 2017

Community Activities and Leadership:

Member of Anoka Ministerium, volunteer at Feed My Starving Children, Host of Rum River Pastor's Text Study 2010-2017

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I have served as an ordained pastor for thirty-six years in a variety of settings and have great love for the people of the Church and the work of God's Kingdom. I like long walks and jazz.

Churchwide Assembly Voting Alternates, Cont.

Kris Tostengard Michel

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

South Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

Bethlehem Lutheran, Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

Pastor, Bethlehem Lutheran

Church Activities and Leadership:

*Pastor, previously Children's Ministry
Director*

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I served on the ALC staff prior to the merger that formed the ELCA 30 years ago and have served in parish ministry since then. I love the church and am interested in the evolution of its voice in society and role in people's lives. I am married and have two young adult children.

Patricia Joyce Middeke

Lay Leader

Conference:

Southwest

Congregation Membership:

Immanuel Lutheran, Eden Prairie

Current Vocation:

Retired

Church Activities and Leadership:

Choir, Quilting Group, Proof-reading the bulletin on a rotating basis, Prayer Shawl, volunteer with funeral committee, Thrivent advocate, member of a Faith Group and Bible Study.

Community Activities and Leadership:

*ESL volunteer, local leader of Citizen's Climate Lobby (environment group),
Community Sewing group*

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

Churchwide Assembly Voting Alternates, Cont.

Andrea Mwalilino

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

South Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

*Minnesota Swahili Christian Congregation,
Minneapolis*

Current Vocation:

*Pastor, Minnesota Swahili Christian
Congregation (ELCA)*

Church Activities and Leadership:

*Leading worship, organizing congregational
events, funeral and wedding planning,
spiritual conferences*

Community Activities and Leadership:

*Leading and coordinating all congregational
events like community BBC), organizing
fundraising to help people with funerals and
travels to Tanzania for those who lost their
parents or other relatives.*

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

*I am originally from Tanzania and served the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania
(ELCT) since 1991, before coming to the US
in 2004. I am married and blessed with 5
children; 4 girls and 1 boy.*

Kathie Nycklemoe

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

Bloomington

Congregation Membership:

St. Stephen Lutheran, Bloomington

Current Vocation:

Pastor at St. Stephen Lutheran

Church Activities and Leadership:

*Teacher/Mentor for Spiritual Director
Certification Program at Southern Seminary,
Retreat Leader, Clergy Coach, Convener of
Spiritual Practices group, previously served
on Peer Group Leadership Team, First Call
Group Mentor, Candidacy Committee*

Community Activities and Leadership:

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

*My greatest joys include being with others
as they listen for God in all areas of
life, second only to being with my family as
our children come and go and find their way
as young adults.*

Churchwide Assembly Voting Alternates, Cont.

Susan Schnickel

Lay Leader

Conference:

South Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

St. Peder's Lutheran, Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

Retired teacher

Church Activities and Leadership:

Journey Toward Racial Justice committee, Member of Partnership Team with Trinity, WELCA- MAS former treasurer, LSS trained mentor for Partnership sponsored relocation of Somali refugee family, Global Companion Table, traveled to companion synod Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria in 2008, communion assistant, usher, scripture reader, money counter

Community Activities and Leadership:

Meals on Wheels, Sheridan Project

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

A life goal of mine is to be an encourager. I work hard to maintain relationships and bring people together.

Pamela Stalheim Lane

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

Northwest Hennepin

Congregation Membership:

Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran, Robbinsdale

Current Vocation:

Pastor, Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran

Church Activities and Leadership:

Dean of NW Hennepin, Candidacy Committee, Internship supervisor, Police Chaplain, Robbinsdale Chamber, Pastor Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran

Community Activities and Leadership:

South West High Robotics mentor, parent volunteer at SW high school music and other programs.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I enjoy people and am happy to serve God through the various expressions of the church. I particularly like to mentor and build up the body of Christ for mission.

Churchwide Assembly Voting Alternates, Cont.

Mary Steege

Lay Leader

Conference:

Rum River

Congregation Membership:

Peace Lutheran, Coon Rapids

Current Vocation:

Retired

Church Activities and Leadership:

Stephen Ministry Leader, Endowment Board, Infusion Choir, Women of Peace, Office Volunteer

Community Activities and Leadership:

Ten year tenure on Spring Lake Park School Board, Six year tenure on Alexandra House Board of Directors, Four year tenure on Lion's Foundation Board for Spring Lake Park (scholarship distribution), attended Triennial Conference 2014 & 2017 for WELCA, current tutor with Reading Partners at Bethune Elementary School in Minneapolis.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I look forward to the possibility of attending the next ELCA Church-wide Assembly in Milwaukee as a new experience that will expand my understanding of and present opportunities for me to learn more about the world-wide ELCA Church. It would be wonderful to be with fellow believers and feel the power of presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst as we discuss and make decisions together.

Durk Thompson

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

Western Parks and Lakes

Congregation Membership:

Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran, St. Louis Park

Current Vocation:

Pastor, Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran

Church Activities and Leadership:

Community Activities and Leadership:

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

Churchwide Assembly Voting Alternates, Cont.

Bob Victorin-Vangerud

Lay Leader

Conference:

South Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

Christ Church Lutheran, Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

*Instructor, Philosophy and World Religions,
Inver Hills Community College, Inver Grove
Heights, MN*

Church Activities and Leadership:

*Past Congregation Council President;
Member, Racial Justice Task Force; Member,
Nominating Committee; Assisting Worship
Leader*

Community Activities and Leadership:

Minneapolis Parks and Rec Baseball Coach

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

*I would be excited to represent Christ Church
Lutheran and the Minneapolis Area Synod
at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. I see the
church as a witness to grace and justice in
the world and think we have important work
to do.*

Susan Vikstrom

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

North Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

Christ English Lutheran / River of Life

Current Vocation:

*Pastor, serving both Christ English Lutheran
and River of Life in North Minneapolis in
shared staffing paradigm.*

Church Activities and Leadership:

Any and all that are needed

Community Activities and Leadership:

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

*I have served in small-town MN, but I feel a
strong call to inner city ministry, and I did
my seminary internship in North
Minneapolis. I strive to be a voice for justice
issues.*

Churchwide Assembly Voting Alternates, Cont.

Jason Wahlstrom

Minister of Word and Service

Conference:

Northwest Hennepin

Congregation Membership:

Holy Nativity Lutheran, New Hope

Current Vocation:

Senior Pastor, Holy Nativity Lutheran

Church Activities and Leadership:

*Minneapolis Area Synod Hunger Committee,
Minneapolis Area Synod Consultation
Committee*

Community Activities and Leadership:

Volunteer, Robbinsdale Area Schools

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I have been married 19 years, ordained 17 years, a parent for 14 years, served in the Minneapolis Area Synod for 14 years, served at Holy Nativity for 10 years, and lived in Crystal for 3 years.

Susan Wallager

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

Rum River

Congregation Membership:

Zion Lutheran, Anoka

Current Vocation:

Pastor, Zion Lutheran, Anoka

Church Activities and Leadership:

Former Dean of the Rum River Conference

Community Activities and Leadership:

*Speaker for North Metro Grief Coalition,
Caregiver Support Group Facilitator with
Family Caregiver Connection, Anoka County*

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

Churchwide Assembly Voting Alternates, Cont.

Lois Woolard

Lay Leader

Conference:

Western Waters

Congregation Membership:

Word of Peace Lutheran, Rogers

Current Vocation:

Retired

Church Activities and Leadership:

Social Ministry (past); Deo Gloria Ladies singing group; Vacation Bible School; volunteer funerals

Community Activities and Leadership:

Cross Food Shelf, Bible study with Pastor

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I was a Flight Attendant for 36 years with Northwest Airlines

Martin R. Woolard

Lay Leader

Conference:

Western Waters

Congregation Membership:

Word of Peace Lutheran, Rogers

Current Vocation:

Retired

Church Activities and Leadership:

Ushering; Vacation Bible School; helping with church bulletins and newsletter; Men's Bible Group studies

Community Activities and Leadership:

Cross Food Shelf

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

Worked 43 years in Printing Co.

Churchwide Assembly Voting Alternates, Cont.

Tom Zarth

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

Crosstown

Congregation Membership:

Oak Grove Lutheran, Richfield

Current Vocation:

*Pastor, Oak Grove Lutheran,
Richfield*

Church Activities and Leadership:

*Former Conference Dean, Candidacy
Committee*

Community Activities and Leadership:

*Richfield Housing Vision Task Force,
Richfield Band Shell Planning Committee*

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

*I'm a husband and a father of four. In 35
years of ministry, I've never been to a
Churchwide Assembly.*