

Augsburg Corporation

A. Christine Lee Anderson

Lay Leader

Conference:

North Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

First Lutheran, Columbia Heights

Current Vocation:

Substitute Teacher, Mounds View Public Schools (Retired Minneapolis Public Schools Teacher)

Church Activities and Leadership:

Spiritual Formation Committee (Stewardship), Senior Pastor Call Committee, Previous work with VBS, Sunday School, Confirmation, Church Council, and Worship & Music Committee.

Community Activities and Leadership:

In my semi-retirement status, I choose to volunteer at my church. I just finished a term on my townhome board.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

Serving at my church is very important to me. As a teacher, I like to keep up with current education issues. I am fortunate to be involved with my two lovely granddaughters. I study God's word through Bible Study Fellowship.

B. Matthew Bersagel

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Conference:

Southwest

Congregation Membership:

Crown of Glory, Chaska

Current Vocation:

Pastor

Church Activities and Leadership:

*Pastor, Crown of Glory
Dean, Southwest Conference
Chair of Minneapolis Area Synod Deans*

Community Activities and Leadership:

Justice, One-Community, Isaiah, Love Inc.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I am very fond of Augsburg University, the mission, goals, diversity and leadership.

Augsburg Corporation, continued

C. Rebecca Bithow

Lay Leader

Conference:

Northwest Hennepin

Congregation Membership:

St. James, Crystal

Current Vocation:

Nursery Care, St. James Lutheran

Church Activities and Leadership:

Nominating Committee, worship music vocal soloist, Lenten worship speaker on racism and the Ten Commandments, Families Moving Forward volunteer, small group ministry, youth ministry volunteer

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I have four children (15, 14, 12, and 8) and am raising them in the church because it is my faith that has provided the strength I need for daily life. I want my children to be blessed and empowered with the same faith and strength. My church family supports, encourages, and empowers me. I serve in the church because God has called me to do so.

D. Jane Buckley-Farlee

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Conference:

Central

Congregation Membership:

Trinity Congregation, Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

Pastor, Trinity Congregation

Church Activities and Leadership:

Active in Central Conference; sponsored a refugee family with our mission partner churches (Mt Olivet in Plymouth, Nokomis Heights, St. Peder's) and the Islamic Civic Society of America/Dar Al-Hijrah.

Community Activities and Leadership:

Participant and Committee member in the West Bank Business Association; engaged in Cedar-Riverside interfaith conversations and activities; attending and/or speaking at Cedar-Riverside community gatherings, press conferences, etc.; intentionally building relationships with Cedar-Riverside mosques; partnering with Augsburg College on a variety of initiatives in Cedar-Riverside.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

Serving in Cedar-Riverside and working side by side with the people in the neighborhood has opened my eyes to the radical inclusivity of God. It is a joy to share God's grace in Cedar-Riverside.

Augsburg Corporation, continued

E. Patricia J. Cina

Lay Leader

Conference:

Western Waters

Congregation Membership:

Trinity Lutheran, Monticello

Current Vocation:

Retired

Church Activities and Leadership:

Committee positions, church council, Learn, Lead, & Launch project, choir, women's organization

Community Activities and Leadership:

Food Shelf volunteer, Wright County History Center Volunteer

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I feel much gratitude for the education I received at Augsburg and what that education has meant for my life. I was a teacher and a librarian, and now in my retirement, I have time to give back to Augsburg, my church, and my community.

F. Kjell Ferris

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Conference:

394 Corridor

Congregation Membership:

Peace Lutheran, Plymouth

Current Vocation:

Pastor, Peace Lutheran, Plymouth

Church Activities and Leadership:

Luther Seminary Alumni Council, 2008-2014; Eco-Faith ministries and Connect the Drops; Augsburg University's Pastoral Leadership and Administration Program

Community Activities and Leadership:

Volunteer work with Spring Lake Park Schools, Rice Creek Watershed District, City of Fridley

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I care deeply about the mission of Augsburg University, and I am honored to serve.

Augsburg Corporation, continued

G. Diane M. Goulson

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Conference:

Southwest

Congregation Membership:

Redeemer Lutheran, Henderson

Current Vocation:

3/4 time solo pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Henderson, and 1/4 time solo pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Belle Plaine, MN

Church Activities and Leadership:

Participate in Southwest Conference meetings and events. Attend and participate in annual theological conferences. Participate in weekly multid denominational text study; Chair of LeSueur-Henderson Ministerial Association. First call in New Prague area for many "unchurched" for weddings, baptisms, and funerals. I have worked as chaplain at local hospital and my first call was into specialized ministry at the Northfield Retirement Community as their first full time pastor and chaplain.

Community Activities and Leadership:

Participate in local community theater productions, and as clergy support in local PFLAG group.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I love the C(c)hurch. The focus in my ministry has always been God's grace.

H. Joyce Peterson

Lay Leader

Conference:

South Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

Holy Trinity Lutheran, Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

Retired

Church Activities and Leadership:

Serve on the Nurturing Committee, active as a lay minister, attend Bible studies, involved in the "Encore" group, assist with funerals

Community Activities and Leadership:

Looking at activities and involvement with the Sanctuary Movement at our church, or other churches, as appropriate. Am a member of Holy Trinity's Writer's Circle.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I have been a member of Holy Trinity since 1978, have served on church council several times, and was chair of the South Minneapolis Conference for two terms.

Consultation Committee

A. Amy J. Chalupnik

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Conference:

Rum River

Congregation Membership:

Lord of Life, Ramsey

Current Vocation:

Associate Pastor for Faith Formation

Church Activities and Leadership, Community Activities and Leadership, and Other Information You Would Like to Share:

Pastor Amy is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College and Luther Seminary. Along with her current call to LOL, Amy occasionally volunteers with the Bison Baseball Association, the Buffalo Rotary, Let's Go Fishing with Seniors, local Boy Scout Troop, and Feed My Starving Children.

Utilizing varied skills, Amy looks forward to serving in new ways for our Synod. Described as "poised and graceful with impertinence, able to work with persons with discordant views, and non-anxious non-reactive", Amy believes that God's grace means we can be graceful in our differences.

Amy and her husband of 20 years, Jason, live in Buffalo, along with their two teenage boys, Tommy and Danny. Periodically the family grows, as they regularly hosts Rotary International exchange students. Amy enjoys vegetable gardening, vocal music, baseball, watching movies, traveling, and playing cards.

B. Susan Engholm

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Conference:

Southwest

Congregation Membership:

Trinity Lutheran, Watertown

Current Vocation:

Pastor (on leave from call), Spiritual Director

Church Activities and Leadership:

Because I am on leave from call, I offer pulpit supply to area congregations. I am also a spiritual director and offer individual direction as well as retreats. Within the work of the larger church, I have enjoyed serving the past two years as a "process builder" for the upcoming women and justice social statement, "Faith, Sexism, and Justice".

Community Activities and Leadership:

Over the years I have participated in Safe Avenues, a domestic violence shelter, and Green Lake Lutheran Ministries. This past year I was honored to be invited to Kosovo to participate in an international interfaith conference. The topic of the 2016 conference was the role of women in promoting Interfaith dialogue and preventing violent extremism.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I was ordained in 2003 and have served in a variety of settings including associate pastor, chaplain at a treatment center, and interim pastor. I currently reside in Watertown with my husband Jeff and our dog Beverly.

Consultation Committee, continued

C. Randall Romsdahl

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Conference:

Northwest Hennepin

Congregation Membership:

St. James Lutheran, Crystal

Current Vocation:

Senior Pastor

Church Activities and Leadership:

Serving as pastor

Community Activities and Leadership:

Lead Christian spiritual retreats twice a year at the Minnesota Correctional Facility for Women at Shakopee.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I've been ordained for almost 10 years, serving first at St. John's Lutheran in Shakopee and now at St. James Lutheran in Crystal. My first vocation was working as a corn, soybean and hog farmer after finishing high school. After earning a BS in agricultural business at Iowa State and a Juris Doctor degree at Harvard Law School, I practiced law at Cargill Incorporated for 15 years. I then experienced a call to pastoral ministry and after completing the Masters of Divinity program at Luther Seminary, began my third vocation, serving as pastor.

D. Mark Vinge

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Conference:

Northwest Hennepin

Congregation Membership:

House of Hope, New Hope

Current Vocation:

Senior Pastor

Church Activities and Leadership:

Audit committee, 4 Peer Groups, Isaiah MN Previously: Synod Council, Conference Dean, Nominating Committee, Stewardship Visitor, Global Mission Committee, Unite Committee, Mission partner

Community Activities and Leadership:

New Hope Community mayor's prayer breakfast, Minnetonka police chaplain, MAYHEM Lock-In, Sanctuary Church Movement

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

The church is Christ's gift to us, the more we treasure that gift the more treasure we will discover. I seek to make good use of my gifts, knowing full well that I am fully dependent on the grace of God. A good sense of humor goes a long way.

Consultation Committee, continued

E. Jason Wahlstrom

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Conference:

Northwest Hennepin

Congregation Membership:

Holy Nativity Lutheran, New Hope

Current Vocation:

Senior Pastor

Church Activities and Leadership:

*Synod Hunger Team, Lutheran School of
Theology at Chicago alumni board, previous
member of Synod Leadership Table and
Synod Council*

Community Activities and Leadership:

Volunteer for Robbinsdale School

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

*I live in Crystal with my wife and two
children. I am in my tenth year at Holy
Nativity in New Hope.*

Synod Council Lay Female

A. Rebecca Bithow

Lay Leader

Conference:

Northwest Hennepin

Congregation Membership:

St. James, Crystal

Current Vocation:

Nursery Care, St. James Lutheran

Church Activities and Leadership:

Nominating Committee, worship music vocal soloist, Lenten worship speaker on racism and the Ten Commandments, Families Moving Forward Volunteer, small group ministry, youth ministry volunteer

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I have four children (15, 14, 12, and 8) and am raising them in the church because it is my faith that has provided the strength I need for daily life. I want my children to be blessed and empowered with the same faith and strength. My church family supports, encourages, and empowers me. I serve in the church because God has called me to do so.

B. Emma Kasiga

Lay Leader

Conference:

South Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

MN Swahili Congregation, Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

Finance Professional at African Development Center

Church Activities and Leadership:

Volunteer Youth Director, attended the last two Youth Gatherings, the last one with a total of 26 participants and my 6 month old son!

Community Activities and Leadership:

Board member Books for Africa, Project Zawadi, and WISE; MAS Mission Table

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

Originally a Lutheran from Tanzania, and having worked for Lutheran Youth Encounter for 7 years, I am blessed to have worked hard with other Tanzanians in Minnesota to form the Minnesota Swahili Congregation and to be their link to the Minneapolis Area Synod by serving on the Mission Table. I am married and the mother of two.

Synod Council Clergy Female

A. Kaitlyn Forster

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Conference:

Western Parks and Lakes

Congregation Membership:

St. John's Lutheran, Mound

Current Vocation:

Associate Pastor

Church Activities and Leadership:

Sharing the gospel of Christ through word and sacrament, and helping the congregation (myself included) discern their gifts so that we may share God's love in the world.

Community Activities and Leadership:

Currently, I am in a season of life where my community activities are centered around my 4 month old and how they work into our family schedule. It is a new discernment process on where/how to share my time, energy and resources.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I am a new mom who loves to read and run, and in the winter those occur at the same time while on a treadmill. As someone who has studied sociology, I love seeing patterns and traits in groups of people, and making connections between those around me. And, secretly, I am very systematic and organized, even though the top of my desk would appear otherwise.

B. Brenda L. Froisland

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Conference:

South Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

Bethel Evangelical, Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

Lead Pastor

Church Activities and Leadership:

MAS Reference and Counsel, convener of South Minneapolis Strategy, participant in Intercultural Development Inventory process, former voting member and visitor of churchwide assemblies

Community Activities and Leadership:

Member of Reconciling Works, president of Grandview Estates Townhome Association, Community Emergency Response team member for City of Minneapolis, newly connected to Isaiah MN, former leader of Lutherans Concerned- Twin Cities

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I value working collaboratively with local congregations, being involved in interfaith work for education, justice and equity. I strive to live out a radical welcome for all, and appreciate who we are as a church. In my free time I enjoy fishing, spending time with my wife, family, children, and youth, and engaging in conversations with people who think differently than I do.

Synod Council Clergy Female, continued

C. Diane M. Goulson

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Conference:

Southwest

Congregation Membership:

Redeemer Lutheran, Henderson

Current Vocation:

3/4 time solo pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Henderson, and 1/4 time solo pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Belle Plaine, MN

Church Activities and Leadership:

Participate in Southwest Conference meetings and events. Attend and participate in annual theological conferences. Participate in weekly multid denominational Test study; Chair of LeSueur-Henderson Ministerial Association. First call in New Prague area for many "unchurched" for weddings, baptisms, and funerals. I have worked as chaplain at local hospital and my first call was into specialized ministry at the Northfield Retirement Community as their first full time pastor and chaplain.

Community Activities and Leadership:

Participate in local community theater productions, and as clergy support in local PFLAG group.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I love the C(c)hurch. I would bring a rural, small town insight to the council. I was born and raised on a farm in southern MN.

D. Gale Reitan

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Conference:

Western Waters

Congregation Membership:

Spirit of Joy, Buffalo

Current Vocation:

Pastor

Church Activities and Leadership:

Promote congregational involvement with Seed of Hope International Ministry, local food shelf, Love INC Big Woods, ELCA World Hunger Relief, and the Youth Gathering

Community Activities and Leadership:

Delano School volunteer, library volunteer, Love In The Name of Christ, Big Woods, Fountain Lake Association

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

As a second career pastor I have served small town, inner city, and suburban congregations. I have a deep appreciation for harnessing the power to accomplish God's work with our collective congregations. As voting number to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly and after utilizing the synod's Bridge Builder process, I am called to serve at the synod level.

Synod Council Youth Position

A. Nicholas Menth

Lay Male, Youth

Conference:

Rum River

Congregation Membership:

Cross of Hope, Ramsey

Current Vocation:

Full Time High School Student; works at the DFL State Headquarters.

Church Activities and Leadership:

Youth Liaison on Cross of Hope Church Council; Youth Voting Member for Synod Assembly.

Community Activities and Leadership:

Speech, Debate, and Robotics Teams, Blaine High School.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

Nick is a great communicator and works well with groups. He believes strongly in being a representative of youth in the church to help bring their concerns and perspectives to the table. In Nick's words, "Nick. it's simple, it's quick, I should be your pick!"

Synod Council Incumbents

A. Valerie Brown–Greenly

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Conference:

Rum River

Congregation Membership:

Peace Lutheran, Coon Rapids

Current Vocation:

Senior Pastor

Church Activities and Leadership:

*Dean of Rum River Conference,
Synod Council*

Community Activities and Leadership:

Working with our local mosque to increase understanding between cultures. The formation of high school leadership team to promote the growth of healthy young leaders in our church and community.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I enjoyed being on Synod Council for a first term, and it would be an honor to serve on Synod Council for a second term. Thank you for your consideration.

B. Joseph J. Crippen

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Conference:

Central

Congregation Membership:

Mount Olive Lutheran, Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

Pastor

Church Activities and Leadership:

Member of Synod Council, member of Reference and Counsel Committee of the Synod; served on ELCA Church Council 2001 - 2007; served as member and chair of the Program and Services Committee, ELCA Church Council

Community Activities and Leadership:

At various times have served on community center boards, campus ministry boards, led local ministerium, and so on.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I've really enjoyed serving on Synod Council. We're in an exciting time as we work together as God's presence in this city, and I'm glad to be a part of that work in this way!

Synod Council Incumbents, Continued

C. Doug Mork

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Conference:

Northwest Hennepin

Congregation Membership:

Cross of Glory Lutheran, Brooklyn Center

Current Vocation:

Lead Pastor

Church Activities and Leadership:

Ministry with diverse cultures, justice ministries, healthy systems; Synod Council MAS Public Voice Committee

Community Activities and Leadership:

President of the Board, Interfaith Worker Justice, Chicago; Isaiah MN; Twin Cities Social Cohesion Initiative

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I believe the Spirit is taking the church to a very new place. I think it involves work for justice, public witness, deep engagement around issues that matter, and opportunities for connection. I don't think buildings or structures will be as important. I think there will be lots of surprises!