

SYNOD COUNCIL OFFICERS

Treasurer

1. Ross Eichelberger

Demographics:

Lay Leader

Male

Caucasian

Conference:

Southwest

Congregation Membership:

St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie

Current Vocation:

Vice President Benefits Administration,
Portico Benefit Services

Church Activities and Leadership:

St. Andrew Church Council (Vice
President, 2013, President – 2014)
Minneapolis Area Synod Council (2016 to
present)

Other information:

I seek ways to grow my faith through
involvement in the Church and its many
great ministries.

Secretary

1. Erik Haaland

Demographics:

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Male

Caucasian

Conference:

South Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

Christ Church Lutheran, Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

Associate Pastor, Christ Church Lutheran

Church Activities and Leadership:

In the congregation, preaching and
worship leadership, outreach and social
justice ministries, pastoral care, and adult
and youth education. Also, Synod
Nominating Committee and Candidacy
Committee

**Community Activities and
Leadership:**

I have been connected to the work of
Lutheran Social Service of MN, in
particular Metro Homeless Youth Services
and Refugee Services.

Other information:

Before serving Christ Church Lutheran I
served for three years as Pastor at Holden
Village in Washington State. My husband
Daniel and I live in St. Paul, where we are
grateful to be connected to friends and
family, including a number of nieces and
nephews. Being outdoors (including
tending our small garden) brings me great
joy.

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. Eric Hoffer*

Demographics:

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Male

Caucasian

Age: 37

Conference:

North Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

Salem Lutheran, Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

Pastor

Church Activities and Leadership:

Minneapolis Area Synod Council; EcoFaith Organizing Team; Part of MAS Faith Practices and Leadership Practices Cohort; Luther Seminary CPL student supervisor

Community Activities and Leadership:

Webber-Camden Neighborhood (Mpls) Association Board Secretary; Volunteer in the Victory Neighborhood (Mpls); Volunteer with the Camden Collective community food share

Other information:

I love God, love people, and believe in the importance of the gathering as the body of Christ. I do believe that the Church should be faithfully evolving--rooted in tradition, driven by relationship, and using the lenses of community organizing.

2. Karina Vincent*

Demographics:

Youth Lay Leader

Female

African American

Conference:

Northwest Hennepin

Congregation Membership:

First Lutheran, Crystal

Current Vocation:

Student

Church Activities and Leadership:

Vacation Bible School

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

3. Jacqueline Thone*

Demographics:

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Female

White

Age: 61

Conference:

Western Waters

Congregation Membership:

Alleluia Lutheran, St. Michael

Current Vocation:

Pastor

Community Activities and Leadership:

Partner with CROSS Food Shelf and Wright County Community Action on hunger initiatives in the community. Have served on the Minneapolis Synod New Starts Team and Audit and Finance Committee.

Other information:

I have been married to Jeff for 40 years and have two adult children. My son is also a pastor in Sioux Falls, SD. My daughter is a contractor who owns her own business in South Minneapolis. Before becoming a pastor, I served in Children, Youth & Family ministry for 13 years, which is where I learned to love the BWCA.

4. Wondimu Sonessa*

Demographics:

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Male

Black

Current Vocation:

In call process, former pastor at Our Redeemer Oromo, Minneapolis

Church Activities and Leadership:

Prior to coming to Minnesota, I served in the EECMY with different capacities: CYM section coordinator of Illubabor Bethel Synod (IBS) (2005-2007), executive secretary of the IBS (2007-2009), Instructor at Mekane Yesus Seminary (2009-2011), Dean of theology at MYS (2011-2012). Since my arrival in Minnesota, I have served as CYM section coordinator (2013-2018).

Community Activities and Leadership:

I have been participating in various activities organized by the Ethiopian immigrant communities in Twin Cities. I always encourage Christians' proximity of presence among those seeking justice and peace in the public sphere whereby the church can maintain its identity as the church for others.

Other information:

I also write theological articles for publication in journals analyzing various themes pertaining to church/state relations, church's role in society, and the significance of contextual theology for the global church. In these articles, I intend to bridge the gap between intellectual theological discourses and the experiences of grassroots ethnic Christians, whereby the concern for ecumenical connections and the future of global Christianity can be given renewed attention.

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

5. Cheryl Chatman

Demographics:

Lay Leader
Female
African American
Age: 70

Conference:

North Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

Redeemer Lutheran, Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

Retired

Church Activities and Leadership:

Churchwide Council Member, Board Development Committee, Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity Committee, MAS Misconduct Task Force, Racial Healing Group, Leaders of Color Gathering Committee; Church Fellowship Chair, Christian Education Committee, Sunday School Teacher & Summer School Leader, Women Bible Study & Book Club Leader

Community Activities and Leadership:

Augsburg University Board of Regents; NAACP (St. Paul & State) Executive Committee; Vice President of the Association of Black Women in Higher Education; Age Friendly & Equity Alliance, Ramsey County; Everybody's In Organization; and on planning committees for a variety of community events.

Other information:

I love taking time to spend with elders, shut-ins and children.

6. Siri Strommen

Demographics:

Minister of Word & Sacrament
Female
Caucasian
Age: 46

Conference:

Bloomington

Congregation Membership:

Atonement Lutheran, Bloomington

Current Vocation:

Pastor

Church Activities and Leadership:

I have been the solo pastor at Atonement Lutheran Church in Bloomington for over seven years.

Community Activities and Leadership:

I served as Dean of the Bloomington Conference for the last six years, and try to stay involved in interfaith relationships in the metro.

Other information:

I hope to support all the ways the Minneapolis Synod can be both responsive as well as visionary in our church today. There are many necessary shifts happening that will lead to new birth and a better community for all. I hope to be a part of this process.

CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

1. Dawn Strommen

Demographics:

Lay Leader

Female

Caucasian

Age: 75

Conference:

394 Corridor

Congregation Membership:

Mount Olivet Lutheran, Plymouth

Current Vocation:

Psychologist at Reimann Counseling Clinic

2. Bonnie Welshons

Demographics:

Lay Leader

Female

Caucasian

Age: 62

Conference:

394 Corridor

Congregation Membership:

Saint Barnabas Lutheran, Plymouth

Current Vocation:

Retired

3. Mark Tiede

Demographics:

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Male

Caucasian

Age: 52

Conference:

South Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

St. John's Lutheran, Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

Pastor

AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY CORPORATION

1. Ian McConnell

Demographics:

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Male

Caucasian

Age: 37

Conference:

Crosstown

Congregation Membership:

Normandale Lutheran, Edina

Current Vocation:

Associate Pastor to Emerging Generations

3. Sally Daniels Herron*

Demographics:

Lay Leader

Female

Caucasian

Age: 65

Conference:

Northwest Hennepin

Congregation Membership:

Valley of Peace Lutheran, Golden Valley

Current Vocation:

Retired

2. Ian Heseltine

Demographics:

Lay Leader

Male

Caucasian

Age: 23

Conference:

Central

Congregation Membership:

Tree of Life, Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

Interim Program Coordinator for
Vocational Fellowship,
ELCA Young Adult Ministry

4. Ashley Osborn*

Demographics:

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Female

Caucasian

Age: 36

Conference:

Northwest Hennepin

Congregation Membership:

Valley of Peace Lutheran, Golden Valley

Current Vocation:

Pastor

AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY CORPORATION

5. Madeline Kinn*

Demographics:

Lay Leader

Female

White

Young Adult:

Conference:

Rum River

Congregation Membership:

Zion Lutheran, Anoka

Current Vocation:

Life Enrichment Director at Havenwood of
Burnsville Senior Living

6. Joseph Crippen*

Demographics:

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Male

Caucasian

60

Conference:

Central

Congregation Membership:

Mount Olive Lutheran, Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

Pastor

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

For information only - these positions were elected at Conference Assemblies

1. Justin Lind-Ayres

Minister of Word &
Sacrament

Conference:

Central

Congregation Membership:

Grace University Lutheran, Minneapolis

2. Sally Daniels Herron*

Lay Leader

Conference:

Northwest Hennepin

Congregation Membership:

Valley of Peace Lutheran, Golden Valley

3. Kristen Capel

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Conference:

South Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

Nokomis Heights Lutheran, Minneapolis

4. Anne Schaeffer

Minister of Word & Sacrament:

Conference:

Western Waters

Congregation Membership:

Elk River Lutheran, Elk River

5. Jeff Heiderscheit

Minister of Word & Sacrament

Conference:

394 Corridor

Congregation Membership:

Saint Barnabas Lutheran, Plymouth

DEANS

For information only - these positions were elected at Conference Assemblies

1. Joe Orner

Conference:

Bloomington

Congregation Membership:

Peace Lutheran, Bloomington

2. Bonnie Wilcox

Conference:

North Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

First Lutheran Church, Columbia Heights

3. Ashley Osborn

Conference:

Northwest Hennepin

Congregation Membership:

Valley of Peace Lutheran, Golden Valley

4. Kris Tostengard Michel*

Conference:

South Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

Bethlehem Lutheran, Minneapolis