

Synod Council, Boards & Committees 2010 Report of Nominations

2011 Churchwide Assembly

1-Northwest Conference – Lay Male

Merlyn V. Johnson, Hope – Sioux Center

I've advocated participation in many areas of responsibility, fulfilling these requirements and then moving on to another area encouraging others to participate. My first wife and I were charter members of Hope, Sioux Center. I served as Chairman of the council two different times, I was a member of the two different building committees. My present involvement is on the Stewardship committee. I am a member of the Sioux Center Chamber of Commerce, I mow commercial lawns, and drive a pickup with a gooseneck trailer to transport light hogs and goats.

I've always been interested in the workings of the national church.

David A Kuehl, Trinity Evangelical – Sibley

I grew up in the Lutheran faith. I attended and graduated from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD with a degree in biology. During the past few years as a member at Trinity Lutheran, I served as the Director of Vacation Bible School, as a board member of the LOGOS youth group, and as a member of the church seasonal decorating committee. I am in my second year as a member of the church council. I was on the education committee for one year and was elected vice president in January. One of my duties as vice president is to oversee the memorial funds. I retired from teaching biology at the Sibley-Ocheyedan High School last spring. Presently, I am an adjunct college biology instructor for Northwest Iowa Community College. My wife, Arlene, and daughter Katie, are active in our church. Katie will be a freshman at Augustana College this fall.

I was asked to consider this nomination by Pr. Scott Meyer. I believe everyone needs to serve God when an occasion presents itself.

2- Little Sioux Conference - Lay Female (young adult)

No nomination

3 – Lakes Area Conference – Clergy

Rev. Luther Thoresen, Pastor – Zion and Lost Lake, Ruthven

I was born at Osage, Iowa, graduated from high school there, being the son of an Iowa farmer and his wife. After attending Waldorf (Forest City, Iowa) and Luther (Decorah, Iowa) Colleges and completing a major in biology, I attended Wartburg Seminary (Dubuque, Iowa) and was ordained in 1981. I served six years of pastoral ministry at Holy Cross Lutheran in Wheaton, Illinois. Then, in 1987, I moved to my current call at Ruthven, Iowa (Zion-Lost Island Lutheran Parish). I am married to Paula and we have three adult children, Ben, Jessica; and Alena.

During my time in the Western Iowa Synod, I have served

- a term on WIS Board for Congregational Life,*
- a term on WIS Council,*
- several terms as Lakes Area Conference Dean or Chaplain,*
- a term on WIS Board for Ministry (term to be complete May 2011),*
- several years on WIS Worship Team,*
- as faculty for the "Leadership Program for Musicians."*

For professional enrichment, I participated in an "Apprenticeship in Sacred Storytelling" with Robert Bela Wilhelm, Th.D (1994-1997) and was a participant in the "Leadership Program for Musicians."

4 – Waldorf Conference – Lay Female

No nomination

5 – Greater Plymouth Conference – Lay male

Jeff Neary – St. John, Merrill

6 – Twin Lakes Conference – Clergy

No nomination

7 – Knutson-Goldfield Conference – Lay Female

Marjorie J. Dvorak – Our Saviors, Humboldt

Family and Consumer Science teacher in local high school, Church Council member, chairman of the Education Board, former chairman of the Stewardship Board. I have been on the WIS ABC Committee and served as the WIS conference moderator. In my congregation I have been a member of the choir, youth choir director, adult Bible study leader, and high school Sunday

school teacher. I have participated in numerous dramatic presentations for Lent and Advent and directed several all-church drama productions. I have been the chairman of the OSL WELCA and director of the OSL Bible school. I was a Girl Scout leader for 12 years, Boy Scout committee and merit badge advisor. I was lead negotiator for the teachers and president of the Humboldt teacher's union.

I was asked to run for this position by the church president because he thought I would be a good choice for the position. I have no preset agenda that I wish to push. I am willing to listen to all sides before I make a decision.

Christy A. VanDeventer – First Lutheran, Algona

I served multiple terms on Council and as Council secretary and president. I was Conference 7 representative, past secretary, past president; laywoman delegate to the WIS Assembly and the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in the past; active in First Lutheran groups: Priscilla Circle, Senior Choir, Front Row Singers, director of New Beginning Bells. In the community I have been a teacher (Algona Community Schools), past president and secretary of various profession and community organizations: YMCA Board, ITAF, Lakeland TAG, Algona Association of Educator, member of ISEA, and DKG.

I am honored by the nomination. I have always been interested in being a part of the church's growth and policy development based upon God's Word and prayer.

8 – Twin River Valley Conference – Clergy

Rev. Dr. Michael Kroona, Pastor – Trinity, Webster City

Married to wife Shelby for 33 years. 3 grown children and three grandchildren.

Churches

1988-1991 Associate Pastor Estherville Lutheran, Estherville, IA

1991-2007 Pastor Trinity Lutheran, Merville, IA

2007-Present Lead Pastor Trinity Lutheran, Webster City, IA

During the 1990's served on:

Board for Congregational Life, (and chaired) Social Ministry committee, ABC committee, Assembly Planning committee.

During ministry in Merville active in the Sioux City Area Conference 9.

Studied from 2004-2007 receiving Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Preaching from Luther Seminary.

2007-2008 Teacher, WIS Lay School of Theology, Worship and Proclamation

Active and involved in Fort Dodge Forum and Twin Rivers Conference.

I feel serving at Churchwide would be both an honor and a privilege. I would appreciate and enjoy the opportunity to serve at Churchwide assembly as the voting member from Western Iowa and the Twin Rivers Conference. I would give the issues and material under consideration due prayer and thought. I feel I bring a breadth of experience as long time solo pastor yet also experience in staff situations as an associate and now as lead pastor. I also bring a depth of biblical and theological study, reflection and action.

Rev. John Sersland, Associate Pastor – St. Olaf, Fort Dodge

9 – Sioux City Conference – Clergy

Rev. Delwyn L. Olivier, Pastor – Augustana, Sioux City

I have served as Pastor of Augustana Lutheran Church in Sioux City since March 1, 2000. I have previously served Conference 9 as Chaplain for four years and have served on the Synod Worship Committee. I was honored to be the organist for Synod Assembly 2008 in Storm Lake.

I practiced psychiatric nursing for several years in the 80's and 90's. In that role, I have had the privilege to walk with people as they struggle with all forms of mental illness. I am a good listener and try to keep an open mind on issues.

I am very concerned about what is happening to the Body of Christ as a result of decisions we have made since becoming the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I am sad that because of important conclusions reached at Churchwide assemblies, people and congregations have chose to withhold benevolence and leave the ELCA. As a voting member to the Churchwide Assembly, I will study the resolutions and will carefully listen to the discussion on the various issues. I will seek the leading of the Holy Spirit before voting.

Rev. Mark Groves, Pastor – New Life, Sergeant Bluff

Conference 11 – Lay male (youth)

Alex R. Paulsen – St. John, Carroll

Active in St. John Youth Group. Often give "children's sermon" at Sunday worship.

I accepted this nomination because my pastor encouraged me.

Conference 12 – Clergy

Rev. Yvonne Marshall, Pastor – Our Savior’s, Council Bluffs

Conference 13 – Lay Female

No nomination

Person of Color or Language other than English

No nomination

Synod Secretary (2014)

Rev. Dr. David E. Cox, Interim Pastor - St. Luke Evangelical, Sioux City

I have acquired gifts and skills that would benefit the synod. I am committed to working with others who desire to create an organization that works from the grassroots level, and allows for greater cooperation and communication to others. The Secretary position is uniquely placed within the synodical organization to assist with communication, as well as interact with the Synodical Staff for good order and cooperation within the synod. I sense that I would offer strong organizational skills, and that I would be useful to our common ministry as the Western Iowa Synod.

I have served as an Intentional Interim Pastor under call to the WIS Council for the last six years. I have been a person actively involved in educational, retreat, leadership and administration pursuits within congregations and in community events. I have served on Synodical Boards and Committees, Consultation Teams, as Chair of a Synodical Constitution Committee, as a trained Parliamentarian, and as a Conference Dean in other ELCA synods previous to serving in the Western Iowa Synod. As a part of these ministries I have also served as the Ecumenical Officer of a synod, and as a representative to the Illinois Conference of Churches. I have also served as the secretary of community groups and organizations during my ministry of 30 years as an ELCA pastor. I have served in a variety of settings and venues, from small country rural to large city suburban congregations, and as a solo pastor, team pastor, associate pastor and lead pastor.

Karen S. Post, Lay person - Immanuel, Titonka

I have been challenged and blessed to serve in recent years on the Western Iowa Synod Council and other synod committees. I now offer my gifts to serve the synod in the position of Synod Secretary.

Western Iowa Synod Council (At Large) 2008 – present, Western Iowa Synod Council (Waldorf Conference) 2005 – 2008, Western Iowa Synod Executive Committee 2006 – present, Western Iowa Synod Finance Committee 2005 – present, Immanuel WELCA treasurer, Immanuel WELCA secretary, school board member, vice-president and president

Nominating Committee

3 – Lakes Area Conference – Lay Female (2011)

Jana J. Mathisen – St. John’s, Cylinder

Past offices held in congregation: Deacon, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Board of Education, Sunday School Superintendent

4 – Waldorf Conference – Lay Female (2011)

No nomination

8 – Twin River Valley Conference – Clergy (2011)

Rev. Jim Zuehls, Pastor – Christ, Fort Dodge/Washington, Duncombe

9 – Sioux City Conference - Lay Male (2011)

No nomination

12 – Council Bluffs Conference - Clergy (2011)

No nomination

Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel

2 – Little Sioux Conference - Lay Female (2012)

Susan D, Entriken – Bethlehem, Cherokee

I have been VBS director for 3 years, Sunday School teacher, newly elected Church Council, and confirmation instructor for two years. I am currently in my second year of seminary at Luther

Seminary and pursuing a MA in Child, Youth, and Family Ministry – AIM. I am president of the PTA for one year and a stay-at-home mom for 12 years.

I have accepted this nomination to gain more knowledge about the ELCA and to serve my church in another way.

8 – Twin River Valley Conference - Clergy (2012)

Rev. Jim Davis, Pastor

Calvary, Barnum; Zion, Gowrie; Fulton, Moorland; UCC/Congregational, Moorland

13 – Southern Hills Conference - Lay Male (2012)

No nomination

Synod Council

Synod Council youth Lay Male (2012)

Chad E. Borchers - St. Paul, Holstein

Lutheran Youth Organization, Youth Delegate to Western Iowa Synod Assembly, Shingling at Bible Camp, VBS, Planting Trees, Luther League, Peasants Forever and pick up trash with Luther League, Tanzania Mission Trip, Community Musicals and Cantatas, Raised Gourds and Pumpkins for Church Missions, Church choir and Cantatas, Sing at local nursing home

Tyler Matthew LaPlant - St. Mark, Sioux City

I want to make a difference in my church, whether it be big or small.

Boy Scouts, Church Council, Synod Assembly '09, High School Youth Leader, Wavebreakers at Lutheran Lakeside Camp, Sunday School helper

Synod Council young adult Lay Female (2012)

Amanda J. DenBeste – Trinity, Sioux City

I think this could be a great opportunity to serve the church in a different capacity than I have before. It bears great responsibility and I am honored to have been nominated.

Synod Level: Since 2003 I have been a member of the Synod LYO Council and have been active in planning and leading Junior High and High School synod youth gathers and synod assembly youth events. I have also been the WIS coordinator for the national youth gatherings in 2004.

Congregation Level: I am currently the Middle School youth director and a active member of the praise team, bell choir, and Miriam Circle.

Synod Council PCL (2013)

No nomination

1 – Northwest Conference - Clergy (2013)

Rev. John Wolf, Pastor - Bethlehem and Our Saviors Lutheran, Inwood

Presently serving as Conference Chaplin of Conference #1; Former, Facilitator for Intentional Interim Pastor Group

I accepted this nomination Because the conference wanted someone to serve and I am willing.

3 – Lakes Area Conference - Lay Female (2013)

No Nomination

12 – Council Bluffs Conference - Lay Male (2013)

No nomination

Consultation Committee

5 – Greater Plymouth Conference - Lay Male (2016)

No nomination

6 – Twin Lakes Conference - Lay Female (2016)

No nomination

9 – Sioux City Conference - Clergy (2016)

Rev. Mark Groves, Pastor – New Life, Sergeant Bluff

13 – Southern Hills Conference - Clergy (2014)

No nomination

Committee on Discipline

6 – Twin Lakes Conference - Lay Male (2015)

No nomination

12 – Council Bluffs Conference - Clergy (2015)

No nomination

Report of Conference Elections to Board Positions:

Board for Congregational Life

8 – Twin River Valley Conference - Lay Female (2014)

No report

Board for Mission

3 – Lakes Area Conference - Lay Male (2014)

Brian Campbell – Bethany, Emmetsburg

9 – Sioux City Conference - Lay Male (2014)

John M. Glant III – St. Luke, Sioux City

11 – Nishna Valley Conference - Lay Female (2014)

No report

Board for Ministry

4 – Waldorf Conference - Clergy (2014)

No report

13 – Southern Hills Conference - Lay Female (2014)

No report