

# Elections



# Synod Vice President



**Gail Kiyomura**  
**Conference 2, Bridges**  
*Member of St. Paul*  
Oakland, CA

*Why I Wish To Serve:* I feel called to serve as Vice President of this Synod to assist the Bishop, the staff, and Synod Council as we continue to work towards a more inclusive and diverse church. I currently serve on Synod Council as an at-large representative, on the Stewardship Disciplining Team, on the Anti-Racism Task Force, and was an adult representative to the Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee. Outside of my time with the Synod. I am the Deputy Director of Human Resources/Risk Manage for the City of Stockton.

If elected, I would bring my experience in human resources and risk management to work with the Bishop, Bishop's staff, and Synod Council to discuss, deliberate, and act on the challenges and opportunities facing this church, including recruiting a group of diverse, valued, potential leaders - especially our youth

and young adults - for positions throughout the Synod - on Council, on our Disciplining Teams, and on our various synodical committees.



**Elaine Whitney**  
**Conference 5, San Francisco Peninsula**  
*Member of St. Francis*  
San Francisco, CA

*Why I Wish To Serve:* I am currently serving as the Vice President of our Synod. I have spent time in discernment and prayer about seeking this term. My hope is to represent our Synod's move towards greater voice for women and people of color in the wider Church. I am deeply committed to our meeting the needs of people in our communities, our work for peace and justice, and our sharing of the grace that God has given us freely. As Vice President, I have been successful in managing the meetings using Parliamentary Procedure. I have worked with the Executive Committee to prepare Council activities as well as respond to personnel matters and property management. I am ready to devote another term in office to support the work of Synod committees, Disciplining Teams, Congregations, Conference Deans, and Synod Staff. I support the ministry of our Bishop and am ready to help with the election of a new Bishop in 2020. I wish to

serve because I feel called to this office.

# **ELCA Churchwide**

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## **Redwood Mountain (1)**

**No Nominations Received.**

## Bridges (2)



### **Edward (Ned) O'Donnell**

*Clergy at Trinity Lutheran*

Oakland, CA

*Why I Wish To Serve:* We live in challenging and exciting times as the Church is re-formed and led by the Spirit to respond to God's world and people in new ways. Much seems unclear or unrecognized to us, yet God's reign continues to draw near. This brings me much hope! I celebrate 25 years of ordained ministry this year. I have served as pastor of congregations and been a chaplain/manager in hospital and hospice setting. Today, I find myself in a unique position as I continue to serve. I have 2 part-time calls: 1 is to a small, but mighty congregation in Oakland that knows all too well the struggles of many churches and yet continues in strong ministry to its neighbors and world, the other is to a collaborative Lutheran ministry (5 congregations) where I serve as chaplain/pastor of 4 underserved nursing homes whose residents are spiritually diverse and journey in faith. The uniqueness of these calls is that they put me both in and out of the Church, enabling a wider vision of God's world

and the Church's response. This, as well as my love and hope for Christ's Church is what I would bring to our Churchwide Assembly.

## Capitol Valley (3)



### **Mary Tidwell**

*Member at Lutheran Church of the Master  
Sacramento, CA*

*Why I Wish To Serve:* Representing our congregation and the Sacramento area would be an honor. Having served as President of church council for the past two years, it is obvious that there is much to be done churchwide to supporting aging and new ministries.

## Sierra Nevada Foothill (4)



### **James Allen**

*Clergy at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
Reno, NV*

*Why I Wish To Serve:* I have a passion for serving the broader church and bring the perspective of a pastor under 40. At present, I serve as Co-Lead Pastor at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Reno, NV. We are an R.I.C. congregation with a passion for special ministry and advocacy.

In the past, I have served on Synod Council (in the Southeastern Synod) and as part of the young rostered ministers gathering for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

# San Francisco Peninsula (5)

## Joshua Hayes

*Middle Circle Founding Member*

San Francisco, CA

**Why I Wish To Serve:** I have been an ELCA lifer. My path has given meaningful experiences in youth group, at the national youth gathering, through a deeply impacting campus ministry, and helping to dream up new ways of addressing the spiritual needs of my peers through the Sierra Pacific Synod's innovative Mission Development project, Middle Circle, alongside Pr. Anders Peterson. I have represented Middle Circle and First United Lutheran Church at the past three Synod Assemblies, including assisting with worship opportunities and assembly workshops. I feel the ELCA has a theology and disposition which can truly make an impact in this day and age. If elected to participate in the churchwide assembly, I would bring a unique perspective as someone who clearly sees the challenges now and in the future. We are a church with an important message, theology, and values. I believe we need to share grace and fellowship with our neighbors now more than ever. I would be thrilled and honored to serve the Sierra Pacific Synod at church. If elected to the above position, I am willing to serve.



## Michael Angeletti

*Member of First Lutheran Church*

Palo Alto, CA

**Why I Wish To Serve:** As a member of First Lutheran Church in Palo Alto, I am excited at the chance to represent our congregation as a voting member of the Churchwide Assembly. I serve as a member of our church council and volunteer regularly with other FLC members to help needy individuals and families in our community. I would like to serve as a voting member because I believe that the important work done by the assembly is a direct reflection of our values as Lutherans in the 21st century and a response to our calling as true servants of Christ. I also believe that the work of the assembly is a means to transform our faith and our confidence in God's grace into real action. I would be honored to represent our congregation in that effort.

## EL Camino Real (6)



### **Laurie Gaumer**

*Member at Christ the Good Shepherd*  
San Jose, CA

*Why I Wish To Serve:* I have thought about serving as a Church-wide Voting Member more than once over the years. However, this is the first time it has come to the forefront...someone asked if I would consider this possibility. So, after consideration, I said "yes." Were I elected, I believe this would be a wonderful opportunity to see the church workings at an even wider level; I have a good deal of experience at the congregational and Synodical levels. And, upon returning, I would welcome the chance to share my experience of Church Assembly attendance, the decisions made in the course of the Assembly, upcoming issues at play within the church, and a sense of our direction as we continue to move ahead with God's work in the world with other members in my Conference...



### **Barbara Grace**

**Conference 6, El Camino Real**  
*Member of St. Timothy*  
Monterey, CA

*Why I Wish To Serve:* I think it will be exciting to be part of the larger ELCA community as we strive to serve God from a worldwide perspective. I then hope to share this experience with our congregation at home, so ELCA becomes even more meaningful to us.

# Mt. Diablo (7)

**No Nominations Received.**

## Sierra Centra Valley (8)



### **Sylvia Mueller**

*Clergy at Light of Christ Lutheran*

Turlock, CA

*Why I Wish To Serve:* I would love the opportunity to attend the Churchwide Assembly not only to participate in the decision-making of this body, but also to bring back what I learn to the congregation that I serve and the congregations in my conference. I currently serve as the Dean of Sierra Central Valley Conference. I believe that we are a stronger church when we do church together.

## Central San Joaquin Valley (9)



### **Danielle Haar**

*Member at Hope Lutheran Church*

Fresno, CA

*Why I Wish To Serve:* To listen, discern, and prayerfully participate in where the church is heading in the future. Grow in faith as we worship together. My leadership skills will continue to grow as I observe the leaders of the ELCA. Finally, come back prepared to share with members of Sierra Pacific Synod congregations.

Thank you for your consideration. It was truly a blessing to serve as a delegate to the constituting Churchwide Assembly. I know this opportunity would be a blessing also.

# Person Under 30 Years of Age

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**Catherine Slabough**  
**Conference 3, Capitol Valley**  
*Member of the Incarnation*  
Davis, CA

*Why I Wish To Serve:* Serving as the Young Adult Representative for our Synod would be a responsibility I would be privileged to have and would fulfill to my greatest ability. Through my work with SPSYC as President and last summer's communication internship at our Bishop's office, I have established relationships with many people in our Synod and I truly believe in our mission and could represent it well. As I've entered my college years at Cal Lutheran, I have expanded my knowledge of interfaith work and been more in tune with the National Church. I currently hold an internship with the ELCA Young Adults Church Office representing California on their social media platforms. This internship has broadened my scope and allowed me to connect with and learn more from those in the National Church. I believe Young Adults play a crucial role in progressing the Church forward. I can confidently say that the work I want to do in life

is with the National Church, creating change and pushing the Church to grow. These gatherings are what keep my faith alive!

# Person of Color / Primary Language other than English

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## **Tuhina Rasche**

**Conference 5, San Francisco Peninsula**

*Clergy of Grace Lutheran Church*

San Francisco, CA

*Why I Wish To Serve:* I am willing to tell the truth about our denomination. There is a problem with the institutional church, especially when it comes to matters of “diversity” and “inclusivity.” In a denomination that is over 96% white, I’m not only willing to ask the leadership of the ELCA why this continues to be, but I have also been active in challenging the ELCA’s constitution to be more honest about our lack of diversity and what can we as the Body of Christ do to move past talk and take action to not only acknowledge these truths, but to also address them. Attending Churchwide Assembly is not just a great honor, but it is also a great responsibility to take an active part in the future decisions of our denomination, to profess both the beauty and the brokenness we see in the world, and to profess our Lutheran theology as a true gift and not a mere cultural artifact.

# Synod Council Young Adult

## **Nicholas Hayes**

**Conference 2, Bridges**

*Member of Trinity*

Alameda, CA

*Why I Wish To Serve:* I want to run for the young adult position on Synod Council because I want to be more involved with my Lutheran faith. I serve on several committees in my home church as well as holding a position on my home church's council. I have experience being on Synod Council because I joined the Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee and was elected last year to serve as the youth representative to the Synod Council. I am now aging out of that position, since I am graduating from high school and would still like to be on council. Therefore, I am running for the young adult position. I feel that being so young, and a member of the next generation, I can contribute new ideas and new ways of looking at problems that not everyone may think of.