



## 2020 BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM:

Pastor identified as possessing the gifts for the office of

### BISHOP OF THE SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD

1. Name:

Anita R. Warner

2. Current Position:

Pastor

3. Congregational  
Membership:

Advent Lutheran Church, Morgan Hill, CA

4. Date of Birth:

December 1, 1963

5. Date and Year of  
Ordination:

April 24, 1994

6. Previous Positions:

Associate Pastor, Advent Lutheran Church, Morgan Hill, CA, 1994-1999

Assistant Director and Instructor, Materials Characterization Laboratory, Stanford University,  
1987-1989

7. Education and Earned Degrees (with institutions and years, most recent first):

M.Div., Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

M.S., Stanford University, Materials Science and Engineering

B.S., Michigan Technological University, Metallurgical Engineering

8. List up to three (3) current or past synod or churchwide experiences that would inform your service as bishop of this synod.

1. Co-chair, Anti-Racism Working Group of the Racial and Ethnic Ministries Discipling Team, 2011-2014. Anti-Racism engagement and work is a lifelong passion.
2. Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, 2013: participating in the work of the larger church, including electing Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and sorrowfully witnessing institutional racism at work in the Assembly and seeking churchly repentance and repair.
3. Leader, Santa Cruz al Salvador youth and adult delegation, 2013. Connections with our sister synods are significant and I am grateful to be in a congregation in relationship with the community of Guillermo Ungo in El Salvador.

9. List up to three (3) current or past community activities that would inform your service as bishop of this synod.

1. Founding member, Interfaith Clergy Alliance and Interfaith Community of South County. Creating and building these communities has greatly strengthened our solidarity with one another and created deeper understanding and some shared work for justice.
2. Community development process with local Latino community to create the Beloved Community Arts Center, a ministry of Advent Lutheran Church.
3. Participation in local actions related to immigration justice and policing with PACT/Faith in Action and the Rapid Response Team.

10. What gifts would you bring to the office of bishop of this synod? (1,000 characters maximum)

My focus is and will be on Christ and the gospel. This focus clarifies our lives and activities as church. My own spiritual life as one who daily needs and meditates on the gospel helps to provide clarity and confidence based not on my abilities but on Christ among us.

In the life of the church, creating and maintaining healthy boundaries is vital to flourishing. Healthy boundaries also create inclusion and justice. My commitment to healthy boundaries comes through all of my work in ministry and opens up opportunities for others to engage in life-giving communities centered on Christ.

I am a strategic leader who makes connection across difference, able generally to work with others to see possibilities and the paths forward to accomplishing goals.

I am open to new ideas and interested in the Spirit's work in sparking and creating newness in local communities.

I have a willingness to face hard problems and work with them in community.

I like to express joy in God's goodness.

11. Describe your leadership style. (1,000 characters maximum)

I am a collaborative leader and careful listener. I like to create and support functional teams to lead, and it is important that there are open doors and invitations for people of color, children, youth, young adults, LGBTQ+ people and women to lead. Dwelling in the Word and prayer are always a part of my leadership in the church. I like to mentor younger leaders in the church and think that leadership always involves developing other leaders. I gently agitate to move others, especially in working for greater justice.

I bring Apostolic and Shepherding leadership to the church. Apostolic leadership involves building bridges, extending the church to new contexts, thinking about the future, and understanding and articulating how all the gifts the Spirit gives are necessary for the life of the church. Shepherding leadership protects and cares for people, creates spiritually mature networks of relationships and develops disciples of Jesus.

12. Describe your discernment process in being open to serving as bishop of this synod. (1,000 characters maximum)

The church has always been important in my life and wherever I have been, I have sought fellowship in following Jesus, in Lutheran churches and in ecumenical community. I love serving as a pastor in the ELCA and find such ministry both challenging and life-giving. I could joyfully continue to serve in my current call.

At the same time, I understand my call to serve the church in ministry to include openness to where I am asked to serve. My understanding of call is that it is both internal and external, and as I have been nominated to potentially serve as bishop of this synod, I am willing to be considered for service in the wider church.

I think that leadership is so important. My commitment is to a gospel-centered, inclusive, courageous and just church that speaks clearly about our faith and values in the world. I look forward to our public conversation on the present and future directions of our beloved church and to supporting whomever our synod elects to serve as bishop.

13. What do you see as the principal challenge to this synod in the next six (6) years, and how would you address it? (1,000 characters maximum)

I see the principal challenge as the stewardship of the gospel, ourselves and resources.

First, the stewardship of the gospel: proclaiming and acting on the gospel with courage and conviction, and organizing church and community for that life. Secondary and tertiary concerns in church life can cause us to lose focus on our primary gift and task.

Secondly, stewardship of ourselves and resources: Pastors, deacons, lay leaders, congregation members, congregations and institutions will need wisdom in stewarding their time, health, focus and financial resources. I would support conversations and reporting on the life-work of the congregations as they discern current realities and possible new Lutheran, ecumenical and community partnerships. I would support more robust financial stewardship throughout our synod, led by the Stewardship Discipling Team and possibly a part-time Stewardship specialist.

14. What are your top 3 priorities for this synod? (1,000 characters maximum)

Supporting each congregation, institution and agency in having or coming to clarity in their Christ-centered mission and how that is to be brought about: for example, through faith-rooted organizing for addressing systemic poverty and/or care for creation; through local evangelism; through increasing teaching ministries; through increasing faith development among children and youth.

Becoming an Anti-Racist synod through organizing; training; accountability in structures, systems and congregations; and taking new pathways for change.

Spiritual care of pastors, deacons and congregational leaders through encouraging pastors and deacons to access the good means available to them and what is to come through CLU, PLTS, and other means; and encouraging pastors to prioritize lay leadership development in congregations and explore lay leadership development initiatives in the conferences and synod.

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Please submit the completed 2020 Biographical Information Form along with a digital photo by emailing the Sierra Pacific Synod Nominating Committee at [nominations@spselca.org](mailto:nominations@spselca.org) no later than February 1, 2020. Forms will be posted publicly on the Sierra Pacific Synod website ([www.spselca.org](http://www.spselca.org)) in spring 2020 six weeks prior to the Synod Assembly.

