



## 2020 BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM:

Pastor identified as possessing the gifts for the office of

### BISHOP OF THE SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD

1. Name:
2. Current Position:
3. Congregational Membership:
4. Date of Birth:
5. Date and Year of Ordination:

6. Previous Positions:

Pastor: Faith Lutheran Church, Meadow Vista CA 2014-present  
Associate Pastor: Pella Lutheran Church, Sidney MT 2010-2014  
Intern: United In Christ Lutheran Parish, Fertile, MN 2008-2009

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

Claremont School of Theology, Claremont CA 2018-present  
Doctor of Ministry in Spiritual Renewal, Contemplative Practice, and Strategic Leadership  
Pacific Lutheran School of Theology, Berkeley CA 2007-2010  
Master of Divinity  
Ripon College, Ripon WI, 1991-1995,  
Bachelor of Arts, emphasis in piano performance

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

Co-chair/Chair of Synod Assembly Planning Team, Sierra Pacific Synod

Conference Dean, Sierra Pacific Synod

Synod Mission Table, Montana Synod

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

Ecumenical Worship and Service

Board Member- Upper Missouri Ministries Lutheran Camp

Foster Parent

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

Passion for the Church and its mission to share the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed.  
Desire for a church that is welcoming to all. No exceptions.  
Willingness to seek new ways of being church, adapting to a new time in history.  
Strong administrative skills  
Able to work collaboratively with multiple staff  
Excellent communication skills  
Understanding of finances and sustainable budgets  
Able to recognize other's gifts and empower for service  
Able to help create and hold a vision for the future  
Willingness to speak the truth, even when uncomfortable  
Multi-denominational background (not a life-long Lutheran)  
Broad view of Christian experience  
Compassion

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

Collaborative-I do my best to make sure that all voices are heard  
Am able to hold a vision for the well-being of the whole community over personal interests  
Willing to make hard decisions  
Able to face conflict and encourage open communication for the betterment of the community  
Practical  
Hardworking  
Honest and forthright  
Comprehensive self-knowledge/awareness  
Compassionate  
Humorous (willing to laugh at myself and situations when appropriate)

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

My first response was to talk it over with God. My prayer has and continues to be that I would be available and willing to serve God in whatever capacity to which I am called. I have also talked over the "pros and cons" with trusted colleagues and friends. I have asked them to pray with and for me. I have also spent a lot of time considering the impact that work in the Bishop's office would have on my family life: the travel, the public presence, the expanded size of the "parish."

During this discernment I have felt called to a more public role in serving with and for the Church. My time working in local parishes has allowed me the chance hone the skills and gifts needed to move into a position that works with the larger congregation of our Synod. The challenge of learning and growing in the role of Bishop is exciting and life-giving to me.

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)

Fear.

- Named and unnamed
- Keeps us from moving forward as a Church
- Contributes to our feelings of isolation and disconnection
- Keeps us from being a church for all people

I would address this by:

- actively promoting and exemplifying deep, thoughtful and respectful conversations
- provide space for developing trust, honesty and openness
- encourage boldness rooted in compassion and understanding

I believe that only by addressing our fears will we be able to be the church that we are being called to be: inclusive, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, loving, and Christ-centered.

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

1. Continue to work to create a culture of compassion and understanding that promotes unity (not uniformity) and boldness for the sake of Jesus Christ.
2. Support and encourage church leaders to be strong in spirit and emotionally healthy as they lead our churches into new ways of ministry and worship in our communities.
3. Support and attention to the needs of congregations as they seek ways to adapt to changing re-sources and work to develop creative ministry opportunities.

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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.

