



## 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:

Spiritual Care Team, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of CLU, Berkeley, CA (2013 - present)  
Pastor, First United Lutheran Church, San Francisco, CA (1990 - 1999)  
Mission Developer, Lutheran Lesbian and Gay Ministries, San Francisco, CA (1990 - 1995)  
HIV Education Director, Lutheran Social Services of No. California, San Francisco, CA (1988-1989)  
Assistant Night Minister, San Francisco Night Ministry, San Francisco, CA, (1987 - 1988)  
Intern, Lutheran Office of Public Policy & First English Lutheran, Sacramento, CA (1986 - 1987)

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

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, CA  
M.Div., 1988  
California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, CA  
B.A., German, 1984  
B.A., History, 1984  
Honors: Summa cum laude, 1984 Honors Colloquium of Scholars Speaker,  
Departmental Assistant - History, President's Scholarship, Dean's Honor List

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

Member, Board of Directors for LUMIN (Lutheran Campus Ministry Network) (2018 - present)  
Member, Sierra Pacific Synod Council (2010 - 2016) and Executive Committee member (2 terms)  
Co-Chair, "Lutherans for Full Participation," 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, Orlando, FL  
as President, Board of Directors, Extraordinary Candidacy Project, (2002-2007)

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

Founding member, East Bay Interfaith Immigration Coalition, Berkeley, CA (2011 - present)  
Member, Steering Committee, Religious Witness with Homeless People, San Francisco, CA (1992-1999)  
International accompaniment in Palestine and El Salvador: 2012 Delegation to Israel & Occupied Palestine (Bright Stars of Bethlehem); and Vice President, Board of Directors, SHARE El Salvador/La Fundación SHARE, (2010 - present)

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

Ordained 30 years ago, being a Lutheran pastor has been a great joy, privilege, and responsibility: as a mission developer, in parishes in SF and Berkeley, on campus at the University of California, and at our seminary.

I've been a pastor, mentor, coach and counselor. I've baptized, confirmed, married, and consoled. I've cared for liturgy, preaching, and community organizing. I've balanced budgets, cultivated stewardship, and built endowments. I've forged solidarity justice seekers in the church and on the street. I've picketed with day laborers, marched for racial justice, strategized on synod councils and churchwide committees, discerned with students, disobeyed civilly and nonviolently, and created sanctuary for undocumented migrants. I've founded resistance movements to end ELCA discrimination against lgbtquia+ people.

All the while, I've held joy, energy, and enthusiasm, as I encounter God in my neighbor and in the struggle for authenticity, mutuality, and right relationship.

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

I thrive with collaborators on teams where new ideas are cultivated, robust and difficult conversations are cherished, and relationships are respected.

Colleagues have described my leadership style with phrases like: motivational, hopeful, innovative, developer, outside-the-box thinker, catalyst, coach, strategist.

As a leader, I think a lot about the future, beginning new initiatives, stirring up energy and enthusiasm for new directions, and encouraging transformation. I am committed to building a strong synodical leadership team motivated by a clear vision for our collective work together. I believe in delegating power and sharing responsibility with deans, regional, and local ministry leaders.

I believe strongly in the action, reflection, and evaluation model of transformational change at all levels of our synod.

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

I have been led to allow my name to go forward for consideration for bishop of our synod; I've tested this feeling through introspective prayer, contemplative retreat, and conversations with trusted colleagues, friends, and family inside and outside of the church.

I am humbled and a bit frightened by the prospect of this call, and also feel right about continuing this journey. I am well aware of the enormity of the task, even as I know that my ministry experience has prepared me well. I am aware of the Spirit's prodding more and more and it is by faith only that I take another step forward.

I have learned to trust that God, who is with us, calls us, in the familiar words of a prayer from Holden Village, "to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown, giving faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that God's hand is leading us and God's love supporting us; through Jesus Christ."

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)

We can't go it alone. Our main challenge is not survival -- a tempting diagnosis given decades of denominational decline. Our key problem is disengagement: from other churches; ecumenical, interfaith, and community-based partnerships; our neighborhoods and civic life.

Parishes don't reflect the class, racial, and ethnic diversity around us. We don't know our next-door neighbors and their needs and fears. The mayor, local principal, grocer at the corner store, have never met us. Too often we have failed to show up or invest time and resources into movements transforming life all around us. In many communities if we were to lock up, shut down, or sell off our churches, few outsiders would notice, or really care.

But we can forge deeper partnerships. We can connect with our neighbors. We can face the instability of the future together. Our parishes can be centers of courageous faith and moral leadership working with others to create hope and boldly transform the world in which we live.

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

\*Transformative engagement with neighborhoods and civic leaders: (e.g. involvement with PLTS' "faith-based community organizing" training; regional strategies for racial justice action; area mission plans, and coordinated partnerships around key emphasis like sanctuary accompaniment, housing insecurity, or climate justice; and deeper relationships to boldly confront systemic injustice and challenge the oppression and violence at the center of our society).

\*Entrepreneurial leadership development: (e.g. identifying new funding for mission development and internship sites; renovating the ELCA's system of candidacy and recruitment with churchwide and synods).

\*Revision of our synod's operational plan for greater flexibility, efficiency, and collaboration: (e.g. office consolidation, execution of a sustainable financial plan, regionally empowered mobility managers, delegated call-process responsibility, and the generation of renewable income from well-managed long-term legacy funds).

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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.

