

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:
(please do not exceed this space)

7. Education and Earned Degrees (with institutions and years, most recent first):
(please do not exceed this space)

8. List up to three (3) current or past synod or churchwide experiences that would inform your service as bishop of this Synod. (please do not exceed this space)

9. List up to three (3) current or past community activities that would inform your service as bishop of this Synod. (please do not exceed this space)

Ecumenical and Interfaith 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)

A 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 speak the truth, even when uncomfortable.
Able to help create and hold a vision for the future.
A broad view of the Christian experience (I am not a life-long Lutheran)
A healthy understanding of self and a great sense of humor.
A commitment to doing my best at any job I am given.
The ability to get along with just about everyone.
The knowledge that I do not have all the answers but have a willingness to learn.

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

Empowerment of others:
recognizing and encouraging the giftedness of all
every person has a voice and there is room for all of us at Christ's table
collaboration
Adaptive:
new situations call for new responses
the world is changing and so must the church
Administratively strong:
able to work with multiple staff
excellent communication skills
understanding of finances and sustainable budgets
Compassionate:
rooted in self-knowledge and foundational in building healthy community

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

Conversation with God and my family, as well as my church community and professional colleagues. My prayer has and continues to be that I will be available and willing to serve God in whatever capacity I am called. I have considered the impact that the change in work schedule, travel and public presence would have on my personal life and am willing to accept the challenges that would bring.

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 to 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 consider.

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.

Please submit this completed Biographical Information Form along with a digital photo by emailing the Sierra Pacific Synod Nominating Committee at nominations@spselca.org no later than March 15, 2021. Information will be posted publicly on the Sierra Pacific Synod website (www.spselca.org) approximately six weeks prior to the Synod Assembly.

