

## Additional Nominations for Synodical Elections

### Synod Council Secretary

#### Jan Johnson

*Redeemer, White Bear Lake*

**Vocation:** Business Owner

I was asked to consider serving in this position by someone who has known me for 20 years. I have had limited involvement in the Saint Paul Area Synod, attending one workshop.

I am the past church council secretary, a small group facilitator, and involved in prayer ministry. I have been on the children, youth, and family ministry team and have been a chaperone for various retreats, including a week-long mission trip.

I am past chair of the White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce and supporter of our local Young Life Program.

#### Connie Wiegel

*First, St. Paul*

**Vocation:** Computer Consultant

I am interested in serving as synod secretary because the synod is what connects our congregations, and through this connection, we can be more than the sum of our parts. I am inspired by the larger goals of the synod—like training leaders and ending poverty, and I want to see how members in our churches can connect more deeply and tangibly to these goals.

Recently I and five others from my congregation participated in Vital Congregations, Just Communities training sponsored by both metro synods. I love that the synod is interested in investing in leaders, and that the synod is about creating partnerships with other powerful organizations to encourage leaders to take public action inspired by their faith. I chair the ISAIAH social justice core team at my church. I was part of the call committee that called our current senior pastor. I regularly assist in worship services as a lay leader, cantor, communion assistant, and provider of special music.

My involvement in my community is directly related to my involvement with my church. My faith values compel me to “create God’s kingdom on earth,” and I believe the organized church can and should be a powerful vehicle for good in the world.

Through my church, I have had the opportunity to lead a campaign to ensure a fair and transparent process for selecting the police chief in St. Paul. I also represented my congregation through ISAIAH on the living wage coalition which successfully passed a living wage ordinance in St. Paul last January. At First Lutheran, I brought together a team of people to work together on social justice issues. Some of the people on the team have experienced poverty and homelessness. Others have a deep passion about providing health care to the homeless and elderly. We are exploring these issues and discerning what ways our team can affect the systems that create the problems we see in our community.

## Nominations: Committee for Consultation

### Committee for Consultation

*Lay, electing one to a six-year term*

#### **Robert Eiselt**

*Trinity, Stillwater*

**Vocation:** Church Administrator

I have been on the other side, so to speak, of the workings of the committee on consultation as we worked through a period of congregational conflict a few years ago, and I am willing to apply that experience toward helping others in a discerning and deliberative manner. I believe I possess some gifts that would be both valuable and helpful in this type of process, and I'm willing to try to help other congregations through such an experience.

I have attended several of the synod assemblies, as a voting delegate and as a visitor, participating in the election of two bishops and countless other decisions affecting the Saint Paul Area Synod.

I have been involved in several Lutheran congregations in the past 30 years as volunteer youth leader, Sunday school teacher/superintendent, council member, call committee member, council president and choir member. I have also served on numerous committees, vision task forces, and participated in a three year Youth Spirituality project while serving as a volunteer senior high youth leader. I have attended both MEA and outstate youth gatherings and attended two national youth conventions as well.

I have volunteered as a Scout leader, youth sports coach, United Way volunteer, and served on adult leadership committee of Young Life as the board chair.

#### **Katherine Tellekson**

*Salem, West St. Paul*

**Vocation:** Organization Development Consultant

I am interested in serving because I have seen the work of the committee in action and have been impressed with the value and grateful for the work that they do. Professionally I am called upon to mediate and help others manage conflict, to coach, to listen deeply to issues, and to stay open to possibilities. I find that kind of work fulfilling and would love contributing that to the synod.

I was part of the synod's Safe Haven for Children effort. I have also provided consultation to some congregations through the synod and have facilitated meetings for synod groups.

I serve as president of my congregation, chair of various task forces, part of our congregation's Bega Kwa Bega relationship, a member of our personnel committee, chair of our garage sale, a bell choir member, a chancel choir member, a volunteer in the church office, a trainer for our small group ministry initiative, and a volunteer for our month providing a site for Project Home of the St. Paul Area Council of Churches.

### Committee for Consultation

*Clergy, electing one to a six-year term*

#### **The Rev. Harvey Leuning**

*Gloria Dei, St. Paul*

**Vocation:** Associate Pastor

I am interested in serving as a member of the committee for consultation to be of service to the synod. When congregations are in crisis or in transition, it is important that other members of the body of Christ offer care and support by carefully listening to the congregation and the staff and by helping the congregational leaders discern an appropriate path to resolve the issues so that effective ministry can flourish.

I serve on the synod hunger work group and the synod assembly theme development group. I have served on the reference and counsel committee. I serve as an associate pastor, where I work primarily in the areas of worship, evangelism, outreach and advocacy.

I currently serve on the board of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition

#### **The Rev. Loren Mellum**

*Trinity, North Branch*

**Vocation:** Senior Pastor

Conflict happens. With this in mind, it would be my privilege to serve on a team that would serve the synod by investigating a situation, engaging in conversation, listening, bringing clarity to issues, and to join others in looking for a path that leads to new life. My current call has afforded me the opportunity to explore such challenges. In addition, I've been trained in Healthy Congregations and Bridge Builders systems work.

I've served in the Saint Paul Area Synod for ten years and I have participated regularly in conference and synod gatherings for leaders. During my first years, I served on the first call theological education planning committee. I'm interested in areas of serving beyond my local context and want to seek out opportunities that would live out my call in this way.

I am involved in the North Branch Ministerial Association, and I participate in a variety of ways in the community as my family and I make our life in North Branch.

### **The Rev. Dale Stiles**

*Fish Lake, Harris*

**Vocation:** Pastor

I am interested in serving on the committee for consultation because I would like to be more involved on the synod level than I have been, and when I was nominated for this position I felt like I had gifts to offer on this committee. According to the StrengthsFinder inventory that the congregation I serve is using, my number one strength is Harmony. This strength has been helpful for me in the congregations I have served as pastor. I also believe it would be helpful to me, the committee for consultation as a whole, and any congregations that might be involved at this level. I would be happy to serve the synod in this way.

I am involved in the community as a pastor in local ministeriums and as a coach (community education baseball and basketball).

## **ELCA Church Council**

*Clergy, electing two to nominate for election at the '09 Churchwide Assembly*

### **The Rev. Martin Ericson**

*Como Park, St. Paul*

**Vocation:** Senior Pastor

I am interested in serving on the ELCA church council because like most pastors, I care deeply about the health and effectiveness of our corporate witness and mission. I am a strong supporter of our institutional strengths and partnerships, as well as our global witness and ministry. I do support the church's movement toward greater inclusiveness and ecumenicity. I believe that our tradition offers gifts and grace to the

world at large and that we have the present leadership to carry those things forward in a meaningful and significant way.

I am involved in the Saint Paul Area Synod as a pastor of Como Park Lutheran Church, a member of the teaching parish program for Luther Seminary students. I am presently a member of the synod candidacy committee and a participant in pastor's text studies and conference gatherings. In past synods I've served as conference dean, and as a member of a synodical hunger and justice committee. In addition, I've served on a county child protection team, and several food shelf and one youth center boards.

I am involved in my congregation as senior pastor relating to all of the congregation's ministries and staff as they continue "Reaching out in Christ to a changing world."

I am involved in my community as a parent of three children, ages 10-14, who are active young students, athletes and musicians, I volunteer as chaperone, chauffeur, and adoring fan for their many events as much as I can.

### **The Rev. Loren Mellum**

*Trinity, North Branch*

**Vocation:** Senior Pastor

I am interested in serving on the ELCA church council first and foremost because I love my church, and I believe that God continues to be at work forming and reforming the ELCA into all God intends us to be as we live out our faith as fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ. It would be an honor for me to represent the synod in this regard. Most importantly, I view the ELCA church council as playing a key role in holding the trust of the congregations, synods, churchwide units as well as the employees and called leaders in the various expressions of the church. It seems to me that trust is won slowly, but can be lost quickly. In this regard, those that serve on the board of directors of the ELCA have the high calling of paying careful attention to how critical it is to be a legislative body that seeks the will of God through worship, dwelling in the Bible, discerning conversation, and decision-making that demonstrates faithful governance, but also urges and fosters a missional imagination in the ELCA.

I've served in the Saint Paul Area Synod for 10 years and I have participated regularly in conference and

## Nominations: ELCA Church Council

synod gatherings for leaders. During my first years, I served on the first call theological education planning committee. I'm interested in areas of serving beyond my local context and want to seek out opportunities that would live out my call in this way.

I am involved in the North Branch Ministerial Association, and I participate in a variety of ways in the community as my family and I make our life in North Branch.

### **The Rev. Kathryn Tiede**

*Living Waters, Lino Lakes*

**Vocation:** Senior Pastor

After years of life and leadership in ecumenical and interfaith circles and experience in a variety of parish ministry settings, I believe that I am ready to learn from and serve the Lutheran church on a larger scale.

My rather unusual but rich educational background also prepares me well to provide a "different" perspective than most Lutheran pastors. I began my theological studies at the Seminario Biblico Latinoamericano and the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, completed the M.Div. at Harvard Divinity School, and earned an S.T.M. in patristics and early biblical interpretation at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (in Columbia, SC). In my years as a student and pastor, I have been active in Jewish-Christian dialogue programs and teaching, university chaplaincy, rural parish life, suburban Minnesota Lutheran congregations, and Southern Episcopal parishes. This wealth of experiences has taught me to be particularly sensitive to questions of ecclesial life and polity, as well as very aware of the theological bases on which such issues are based.

When I was asked to consider being a candidate for this position, I accepted after much thought and prayer. If elected, I would be honored to serve the mission of the church in this way. As a disciple of the Living Lord, I will go where I am sent in His name.

I began my call in the Saint Paul Area Synod in September 2007. As a newcomer to the synod, I have made every possible effort to seek out relationships within the synod and to learn about its ministry. I participated the fall theological conference (fun!!), have been regular in my attendance at conference meetings, and am in a Bible study comprised of clergy from the synod. I believe strongly in the importance of collegial and synodical relationships.

In my previous two calls I served in the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina (EDUSC), under the Call to Common Mission while on the roster of the South Carolina Synod of the ELCA. In those years, I served as the chair of the Hispanic ministries team (EDUSC) and on the Hispanic and Latino outreach task force (SC Synod). In my first call, through the Minneapolis Area Synod, I was active in the first call group and a young clergy group (sponsored by a Lilly Grant).

As a solo pastor, I'm involved in just about everything! That being said, I have to give tremendous credit to the lay leadership of this congregation, who support me in my primary vocations of teaching and preaching and pastoral care. Living Waters is in a time of transition, however, so a fair amount of my work at present involves working with the parish leadership on matters involving administrative and communications procedures. We are in the process of reexamining our bookkeeping systems, for example, while at the same time rethinking our ministries with youth and young adults. We are working on forming a partnership with Luther Seminary in the next year, hoping to become a field education site for a student in the youth and family ministry program. This is a busy and exciting time at Living Waters.

As the mother of four young children, I am involved in the community mainly through the kids' lives, such as participating in Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts and school activities. My parents and our nanny help me shuttle them between swimming lessons and Tae Kwan Do and swim team and church choir and so forth. For fun, I'm training for a series of athletic events with a group of friends at the local health club. As the pastor at Living Waters, I am involved in the community as the chartered organization representative for the Boy Scout troop at the church, and I attend the Centennial Area Ministerial Association meetings.

### **The Rev. Carol Tomer**

*Pilgrim, St. Paul*

**Vocation:** Senior Pastor

I am interested in serving on the ELCA church council because the ELCA is committed to a diverse, broad, and engaging ministry, faithful to Christ and crucial for our time. I've served in ministry settings that represent a good cross-section of the ELCA's breadth and richness and geography. In addition to

my nine years as lead pastor of Pilgrim Lutheran in St. Paul, I've served as an international church pastor (Stockholm, Sweden), ELCA college chaplain (Muhlenberg), downtown congregation pastor (Seattle), retreat center pastor (Holden Village), Lutheran campus minister at a state university (Michigan State), Lutheran college faculty (Golden Valley Lutheran College), ALC Women national staff. Through these 29 years of serving in these varied settings, and in my years of education at an ELCA college (Luther), a divinity school (Harvard) strengthened by the ministry of a nearby ELCA congregation (University Lutheran), and an ELCA seminary (Luther), I've been blessed to be a part of the church in mission, the church embodying in wonderfully diverse ways the ELCA's five strategic directions. This church, our church, has a dynamic mission in this time of change and challenge, as we continue to be "claimed, gathered, and sent by God's grace for the sake of the world." It would be a holy privilege to bring my thanksgiving for my journey in the church and my care for our church's future to the holy conversations of our ELCA church council. It is all, indeed, God's work, our hands.

I am involved in the Saint Paul Area Synod as a dean; synod training team for the new ELCA worship book; synod council advisory member; synod consultation committee; formerly, president of the board for Lutheran Campus Ministry of Minnesota, and representative from the Saint Paul Area Synod to that board.

Pilgrim Lutheran is a "Home for Hungry Minds and Souls." Pilgrim has been blessed in many ways, and in the same way that I want to share in strengthening the whole church through service on the ELCA church council, I also want to share with synod sisters and brothers some of the ministry resources that have strengthened Pilgrim and enabled Pilgrim to reach out in greater ways to our local and global mission contexts.

In my community, I have served or am serving: Luther College alumni board; co-president, Lutheran Network for Inclusive Vision; board, Congregations Caring for Creation; delegate to Senate district convention; Macalester-Groveland district council; St. Olaf College church relations advisory board; planning team for ELCA clergywomen head of staff academy; planning team for ELCA Global Mission Event; written for ELCA publications, including *Seeds for the*

*Parish, Sundays and Seasons, Lutheran Woman Today*; am leading a pilgrimage to the Iona Community in Scotland this summer.

### **The Rev. Ted Vanderpan**

*Resurrection, Woodbury*

**Vocation:** Senior Pastor

This is an important position within the decision-making process of the ELCA and I believe I can serve effectively in this capacity. I have served as a congregational pastor in three synods and have been a voting member of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly twice (2001, 2007). I believe this gives me a broad understanding of the ELCA. As a member of the synod consultation committee, I dealt with difficult issues inside congregations other than my own. As a member of the synod council and synod council executive committee, I have dealt with sensitive and difficult issues on a synodical level. I believe I have the experience and the capacity necessary to think about the issues facing the ELCA in a way that takes into account the whole church.

In the past I have served as chair, Making Waves evangelism committee and the synod consultation committee. I currently serve as Southeast conference dean, synod council voting dean, and a member of the synod council executive committee.

I am the founding pastor and have served Resurrection since 1996. My primary responsibilities include preaching, worship planning, congregational mission and vision, stewardship, staff supervision and men's ministry. I enjoy helping with all sorts of outdoor work and maintenance projects at Resurrection.

I have served as both an assistant and head girls softball coach in the Woodbury Athletic Association. I have served as the convener of the Woodbury Area Clergy Organization and participated in our community Thanksgiving service. I am currently a member of the Woodbury Prayer Breakfast planning committee.

### **The Rev. Bonnie Wilcox**

*Gustavus Adolphus, St. Paul*

**Vocation:** Senior Pastor

I am interested in serving as a member of the ELCA church council because our long term identity as a denomination of the Christian Church demands that we strengthen the connection between local congrega-

## Nominations: ELCA Church Council and Churchwide Assembly

tions, synods, and the national church. Our common mission and future hope are tied together in Christ. I am thankful for the gift that the Church has been in my life, and I am committed to help the Church become a place of welcome, grace and community on all levels for those who have not yet heard.

Our identity is also connected inextricably with the world around us. The United Church of Canada has a New Creed that includes these important beliefs: We are not alone. We live in God's world. These statements "wrap around" their belief in the Triune God, and our vocation as the Church at work in God's world.

I have experience beyond the parish from my vocations before seminary to work on organizational change and growth, as well as some experience in legal work. It has been my honor to serve in a rural congregation (internship), a suburban, and an urban congregation, which has offered me the opportunity to observe the Spirit at work in very different ministry settings, as well as the chance to observe the ELCA in partnership in Tanzania.

Our denomination proclaims a radical message of abundance, hope and community in Christ to a world hungry to be fed. In a culture that distrusts institutions, what is the relevancy of this institution? Through the ELCA church council, I believe I will be given both a responsibility and the opportunity to consider the relevancy of the church in society today.

I am or have been involved in the synod in these ways: delegate to 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly; worship planning team for theological conference (2007), and synod assembly (2008); former member and chair, Ending Poverty team, 2002-2004; mentor pastor, first call theological education, 2000-2002; companion congregation to Iringa Diocese, Tanzania, 2001-resent; senior pastor, Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church; associate pastor, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church.

As senior pastor serving on the East Side of Saint Paul, Minnesota, I am committed to community building through relationships, Bible study, and prayer as tools of mission. I am actively involved in stewardship, confirmation and youth ministry, as well as our Tanzania companion partnership. Our congregation annually hosts Cursillo/Via de Cristo retreats.

In my community, I have served as an election judge in 2008; a member of ISALIAH clergy and religious leaders caucus; a leader in the organization of the southeast metro caucus of ISALIAH, and the Partnership for Justice with South Africa, 2005; board of directors, Mission Works, Minneapolis; leadership committee, Apple Valley Town Meeting for Youth; clergy planning group member for Annual Service of Remembrance, Pregnancy and Infant Loss Center.

### Churchwide Assembly Voting Member

#### *Clergy, electing one*

#### **The Rev. Jeff Beebe**

*St. Paul, Wyoming*

**Vocation:** Senior Pastor

I believe in the mission and work of the ELCA and know it is easy to forget or ignore all that is being done in Christ's name. Attending the Churchwide Assembly and learning more directly of this work would benefit me personally, the congregation I serve, and perhaps those of us up in the North conference as well.

I am aware that the Social Statement on Human Sexuality is currently being developed and will be before the assembly in 2009. While certainly not all the church does, this will receive the most publicity and, depending on what is finally approved, may have significant implications for the future of our denomination. Our congregation went through some difficulties around issues before the 2005 assembly, so I am aware of the emotions and possible impact decisions may have. I am willing to learn, listen, speak when appropriate, and be part of the process that leads to those decisions.

I am a 1981 graduate of Luther Seminary. I served Augustana, West St. Paul as an associate pastor from 1981-89 and have served St. Paul, Wyoming since 1989. I have had regular involvement on the synod level with the usual activities of synod assemblies, conference gatherings, and rostered leader events.

#### **The Rev. Kris Capel**

*Easter, Eagan*

**Vocation:** Associate Pastor

I am interested in serving as Churchwide Assembly voting member because I am passionate about the ministry the ELCA is doing around the world in Christ's name. I am willing to participate in that min-

istry however I am called to do so. I intend to serve with an open heart and mind.

I am a part-time pastor at Easter Lutheran in Eagan, I do not currently serve on any synod committees. I have two small children and love to volunteer at their schools as time allows.

**The Rev. Tim Housholder**

*St. Luke's, Cottage Grove*

**Vocation:** Senior Pastor

I am interested in serving as a Churchwide Assembly voting member because I have a deep passion for the ELCA. I am the third son of a retired ELCA pastor, and my two brothers are ELCA pastors. My family is deeply rooted in our denomination. I see this opportunity as a ministry opportunity—one to simply serve and seek the Holy Spirit's guidance as a voting member.

I am involved in the Saint Paul Area Synod first and foremost, as lead pastor of St. Luke. I have been intentional in the last two years (since accepting this call) to work with our lay leadership to increase our synod benevolence gift by \$20,000. This is only a start, but a move in the right direction to illustrate to our synod that we are partners in mission and ministry, and that we value this partnership. Secondly, we are a congregation embracing the joint synod ministry, Crossing Bridges. Also, I see our synod as a valuable resource for networking and partnering with other clergy and congregations, so I attend synod assemblies, ministeriums, and conference gatherings.

Aside from the responsibilities that are inherent in this call, I am involved as a "member" of my congregation by participating in small groups, various music ministries, and family/parenting ministries.

I am involved in my community as a volunteer at my children's schools; community athletic association coach and grade coordinator; and participant in Habitat for Humanity projects, Operation Christmas Child, and Loaves and Fishes.

**The Rev. Kris Linner**

*Trinity, Stillwater*

**Vocation:** Pastor

I am interested in serving as a Churchwide Assembly voting member because I believe each congregation and synod is in partnership in ministry with the

ELCA. Through our partnerships, the church can accomplish so much more, such as advocating for the poor, providing disaster relief, and developing new mission starts.

Until my recent return to parish ministry, I served as the coordinator of gatherings for those in specialized ministries. For nine years, I served on the ELCA committee for specialized ministry and on the InterLutheran coordinating committee. Currently I serve on the Give Something Back Scholarship Fund committee which issues scholarships to people going into chaplaincy, CPE supervision, or pastoral counseling.

I serve as pastor of care ministries at Trinity. In this position, I recruit, train, and support ministry teams that provide mutual care to congregational members, visit the sick, and officiate at funerals. I volunteer as a mentor for a confirmation small group.

**The Rev. John Stiles**

*Holy Cross, Oakdale*

**Vocation:** Senior Pastor

I am interested in serving as voting member to Churchwide Assembly because I was asked to and it would be an honor to participate.

I am involved in the Saint Paul Area Synod by participating in the Exemplary Youth Ministry pilot program in conjunction with Luther Seminary. I also served a partial term on the synod council prior to moving to another conference to accept a call in Oakdale.

I am involved in my congregation as the pastor, conducting regular worship, Bible studies, and counseling (among other things).

I am involved in my community with the local ministerial association and serve on the Board of Directors for HMCHA (Holistic Ministry of Children of the Horn of Africa).

**The Rev. Paul Tidemann**

*Gloria Dei, St. Paul*

**Vocation:** Retired Pastor

I am interested in serving as a voting member to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly because I think that the assembly needs voting members with experience and longevity in the church and because I have served in local church and global mission settings for over 42 years. I have served as candidacy coordinator for this

## Nominations: Churchwide Assembly

synod, in the synod urban strategy, in issues and task forces related to gay and lesbian persons. I am deeply committed to the whole mission and ministry of the ELCA, to the advancement of the Gospel of God's Good News in Christ Jesus.

I am involved in the Saint Paul Area Synod as an elected member of the committee for consultation. I am a member of the future leaders team of the Crossing Bridges mission appeal and in the Minnesota Without Poverty effort.

I am involved in my congregation as coordinator of the congregation's justice/advocacy effort through its outreach committee. I sing in the chancel choir. I assist with leadership of the Eucharistic liturgy and preach occasionally.

I serve on the coordinating team for the Saint Paul Interfaith Network that works on ways to bring greater understanding and cooperation among Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Bahai and other religious groups. I am the coordinator of the Guyana Mission Network that provides information and support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana.

### **The Rev. Stephan Turnbull**

*First, White Bear Lake*

**Vocation:** Senior Pastor

I am interested in serving as a Churchwide Assembly voting member because I care about the work and witness of our denominational church body and wish to be a listening and acting part of it.

I am involved in the Saint Paul Area Synod primarily through attendance and participation at synod assemblies. I am involved in the community as part of various information recreational clubs and activities.

### **The Rev. James Weckwerth**

*Christ the Servant, Vadnais Heights*

**Vocation:** Pastor

We as a church are attempting to face issues that matter greatly to those both inside and outside of the ELCA. It will continue to be a challenge for the ELCA to lead in the world by respecting all thoughtful and principled stands on these issues and staying connected and unified, especially in our proclamation of Christ. However, I believe that our faith and theology lends itself to this kind of leadership in the world.

It is with this hope that I am interested in participating more directly in the process of the decisions we make as a church by becoming a Churchwide Assembly voting member.

I am the solo pastor of Christ the Servant Lutheran Church in Vadnais Heights. I am also a member of the synod's stewardship group. I regularly participate in the synod's annual gatherings, ministeriums, and conference gatherings. I am part of a first call colleague group that meets monthly.

I help coach hockey for the local youth hockey program. I volunteer at my child's school. I play softball in the local school district's adult softball league.

### **The Rev. John Wheelock**

*Trinity, Lindstrom*

**Vocation:** Retired Chaplain

I have had the privilege of serving the ALC and the ELCA as voting member at the Churchwide Assembly once each in the '70s and the '80s or '90s. I believe there should be a cross section of representation at the assemblies, and I represent a group of non-parish clergy. I am a retired chaplain from Hazelden Foundation in Center City, Minnesota (27 years). I also represent a group of seniors (I am 68 years old). I love my church and want to serve in any capacity that I can. I have a great deal of respect and admiration for the leadership of this church, including our bishop and our presiding bishop. I believe that our Church is headed in the right direction and with a great deal of compassion for the world around us. I wish to be a part of that at a national assembly one more time.

I participate in the retired clergy caucus and meetings of rostered people serving in specialized ministry. I participate in the life of Cambridge United Methodist Church. I sing in the church choir. I facilitate a small group. We help with feeding the homeless in the Cambridge community through Interfaith Hospitality Network. We support the congregation financially.

I have volunteered at the local primary school. I am just beginning tutoring adults in English as a second language through the local school district. I play trombone in a community concert band. I belong to a community book club. I participate in a political party on a local level. I study classical guitar. I participate in a Twelve Step group. I am a board certified chaplain in the Association of Professional Chaplains; I have

served on A.P.C. committees on a state level. I am an officer in Chapter 684 of Vietnam Veterans of America, and serve as its chaplain.

**Churchwide Assembly Voting Member**

*Clergy (person of color or one whose first language is other than English), electing one*

**The Rev. William Siong**

*Hmong Central, St. Paul*

**Vocation:** Senior Pastor

I am involved in the work of the Saint Paul Area Synod through the Local Mission Partners team and by serving on the synod council. I am also a member of the task force for the election of the bishop.

As senior pastor, I teach, preach, counsel and evangelize. I lead a cross-cultural experience for Luther Seminary students, serve as vice president of the Community School of Excellence Parent Teacher Organization, and represent the Hmong caucus for the ELCA.

**Churchwide Assembly Voting Member**

*Lay male or female (person of color or one whose first language is other than English), electing one*

**Sally Ea**

*Christ Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill, St. Paul*

**Vocation:** Student

This past summer, I had the privilege to attend the 2007 Churchwide Assembly as a youth representative for the Saint Paul Area Synod, to the youth convocation. Being at the CWA was a great experience and I would like to have the opportunity to be a voting member. I believe that there should be more youth voting members at this level of the church.

In the Saint Paul Area Synod, I am currently serving as the youth representative on the synod council. I am now the female co-chair elect of CYCLOPs, which is apart of the BLYO (Board of the Lutheran Youth Organization). I have been able to represent the synod at many LYO gatherings, and I am currently focusing on LYNC for both metro synods.

In my congregation, I was the youth representative on our church council. I serve on two committees, the internship and gallery. I have been involved in VIBE Urban Youth Ministries for eight years. Throughout

the year, I contribute to many of the youth events at our church, Christ Lutheran.

In my community, I am currently employed at Lyngblomsten Care Center, which is a facility that is associated with our church and many others. For the past four years, I have been involved in my school's Relay for Life. This year I am the treasurer of our well-known event in our community. I also serve on two committees for my school district, ISD622.

**Churchwide Assembly Voting Member**

*Lay female, electing one*

**Joan Duke**

*St. Paul-Reformation, St. Paul*

**Vocation:** Retired Psychologist

I have attended the last two Churchwide Assemblies as a visitor and have become interested in the church's decision-making process. I would like to be involved in 2009 as we consider the Social Statement on Human Sexuality.

I have served on the reference and counsel committee and have attended conference and synod assemblies, serving as a delegate one year. I am involved in the Wingspan steering committee in my congregation as well as the interim ministry task force. I am a past president and member of the congregation council.

I serve on the Minnesota Psychological Association, the Reconciling in Christ core team, and as regional coordinator for Lutherans Concerned/North America.

**Audrey Fairchild-Ehm, AiM**

*Prince of Peace, Roseville*

**Vocation:** Youth Minister

I care about the future of this church and strive to engage young people into full participation within it. I have spent my life ministering with our young people into and assisting our church to become a place that is welcoming to them. It is important to me that this church be a beacon of hope for all those who enter our doors and that we, in turn, bring God and his hope out into our neighborhoods.

I have served and continue to serve as our synod coordinator to the ELCA Youth Gathering. This is my fourth gathering. I have served as a person supporting congregations to assist them to create a ministry plan

## Nominations: Churchwide Assembly

for their congregations. I mentor several youth ministry staff persons. I served as the coordinator of the synod youth gathering for four years. I am a member of the Twin Cities Urban Youth Ministry Network. I am one of the co-founders of VIBE Urban Youth Ministries and continue to work with those eight congregations who struggle to afford youth ministry within their congregations.

I serve as youth minister at Prince of Peace. I strive to have our young members engage in the full ministry of Prince of Peace. We have the Prince of Peace Responders, which is those high school youth who are willing to volunteer time and skills to assist our membership and others in our community to get their needs met. (i.e. snow shoveling, lawn mowing, grocery purchasing, etc.) I assist our youth group in hosting a fall festival with all proceeds going to support ELCA World Hunger—the last four years they have raised \$3,000 each year. I lead adult education at least once a year to be intentional about our members knowing what is happening with youth ministry in the ELCA, our synod, and congregation.

I have served people who have mental handicaps and mental illness for the last 30 years. I do adult foster care with two persons in my home for the last 21 years. I strive to integrate handicapped folks into our church. I have been involved in working to end poverty in Minnesota. I work with VIBE to educate young people in St. Paul to help them receive the support and education required to gain a post-secondary education which will assist them in choosing a vocation with living wage job. I work to educate folks about being good stewards of God's creation.

### **Judy Laabs-Foss**

*Trinity, Stillwater*

**Vocation:** Licensed School Psychologist

As a member of the Body of Christ I take his commandments seriously and joyfully. Jesus has said that I am to love God with all of my heart, my soul and with my entire mind; plus I am to love my neighbor as myself. When I seek to serve God he seems to place numerous opportunities in my path including my love for his church at Trinity. I am a good listener to the needs of people and look for creative ways to meet those desires. I share an excitement in the future of the Lutheran church and I am willing to have God use me with the gifts and talents he has given me.

I have attended the assemblies for a number of years and want to continue to serve God's church through these gatherings. I recently was a delegate to the Churchwide Assembly in 2007 and just began to understand this process. I would like the opportunity to attend again in 2009 since we will be discussing the area of education in the church, an important subject to me.

I have taught the 3-5 year olds in the Sunday school program for 27 years and numerous years as a teacher with vacation Bible school. One year I served as the 11:00 Sunday school principal. I have served on the women's board along with assisting at numerous lute-fisk and meatball suppers, stewardship suppers, funeral meals and some breakfasts over the years. I created and hosted the St. Croix Valley Christian Singles sponsored through Trinity. I have been a member of the wellness task force and wrote articles for the *Trinity Today* newsletter related to health. I have served on the congregational council for four years and currently serve on the nominating committee. I am a member of the equipping ministries and mutual care ministries.

I have attended Bible Study Fellowship and Community Bible Study programs. I served on the Via de Cristo council for 15 years and was the VdC Goodnews editor for 13 years. I have sponsored numerous members of Trinity through VdC and have served on numerous VdC teams since 1981. I currently serve on the National VdC board and write the national newsletter. In my community, I am a block captain for the National Night Out program and have been involved in this organization for 23 years.

### **Barbara Wojahn**

*Redeemer, White Bear Lake*

I have always been interested in what is going on in the church at large from serving on synod assembly committees or attending as a delegate or visitor. I feel I would bring the concerns of the average church member to bear on any vital decisions to be made for the ELCA, while listening with an open mind and weighing each decision prayerfully and carefully with no preconceived notions.

At the present time I am not officially involved, but have served on past synod assembly committees many times. In my congregation I serve as women's ministries coordinator; Primetime (seniors) coordinator; worship planning weekly and seasonally; Redeemer thru the Arts committee; choir; circle; and retreat planning.

I am a volunteer at Warner Nature Center (Science Museum of Minnesota), teaching school children about bird banding. This has been a 40-year labor of love as of this February.

**Verna Schwagmeyer**

*Luther Memorial, South St. Paul*

**Vocation:** Retired Teacher

I had the privilege of attending the 2007 Churchwide Assembly and found it fascinating and educational. I have tried to interest my congregation in learning more about the wider church. I am not involved in the synod, but have been active in my congregation. A try to attend the events of the Saint Paul Area Women and will be going to their churchwide meeting in 2008.

I am currently chair of the education team, church librarian, co-chair of the annual craft and bake sale, member of a women's Bible study circle, and a member of the Tanzania task force.

I am in the mah jong club at the senior center, but mostly as an observer. I attend high school plays, the grandchildren's athletic events, etc. After our 2005 trip to Tanzania, I spoke at a Moravian church, a local Lutheran church, and in the classrooms of three grandchildren. I drive for Mobile Meals.

**Julie Wright**

*All Saints, Cottage Grove*

**Vocation:** Director, Operations Support

I am interested in serving as a voting member to the Churchwide Assembly because I am happy to be part of an organization which encourages open dialogue about decisions that will affect local churches and the larger church community. I would welcome the opportunity to educate myself about the issues at hand, engage in conversation with others, pray, and then vote at the conference. I value ethics, respect for diversity, extravagant grace and inclusivity, with Jesus Christ as my ultimate guide in all decisions.

I serve as interim youth coordinator and small group coordinator in my congregation. I have previously served my congregation as a council member, adult education (chair), worship team (chair), facilitator of LifeKeys course, and small group leader.

As the mother of a 12-year old daughter, I am active in supporting her in sporting events and band/choir concerts. In years past I have been head coach of my daughter's softball team.

**Churchwide Assembly Voting Member**

*Lay male, electing three*

**Robert Eiselt**

*Trinity, Stillwater*

**Vocation:** Administrator

I am interested in serving as a Churchwide Assembly delegate because I care about the future of the church and our synod, and I would like to be involved in the discerning process as we map out the direction and focus of our mission and ministries in the ELCA. I have attended several of the synod assemblies, as a voting delegate and as a visitor, participating in the election of two bishops and countless other decisions affecting the SPAS.

I have been involved in several Lutheran congregations in the past 30 years as volunteer youth leader, Sunday school teacher/superintendent, council member, call committee member, council president and choir member. I have also served on numerous special committees, vision task forces, and participated in a three year Youth Spirituality project while serving as a volunteer Sr. Hi Youth leader. I have attended both MEA and outstate youth gatherings and attended two national youth conventions as well. I now serve as the paid full time administrator at Trinity. I have volunteered as a Scout leader, youth sports coach, United Way volunteer, and served on adult leadership committee of Young Life as the board chair.

**Paul Hardt**

*Pilgrim, St. Paul*

**Vocation:** Core Faculty Member, Capella University

The 2007 Churchwide Assembly took positions on various public policy issues, including asking Lutherans to learn more about the conflict in Darfur, calling for the ELCA to adopt a strategy on HIV and AIDS, opposition to the war in Iraq, asking congregations to be welcoming and supportive environments for returning veterans, and commitment to a strategy of positive engagement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The assembly also continued the dialogue on the church's statement on human sexuality. I am drawn to the breadth of engagement of the ELCA in the world. I am proud to belong to a church that seeks to engage God's whole world, and I want to contribute my energy to that engagement, as I have in civic and political life.

## Nominations: Churchwide Assembly

I have served as a voting member at the conference assemblies in 2008. I have served my former congregation as chair of the worship and music committee, participated in the choir, and served as an assisting minister. In my current congregation, I serve on the endowment committee, as assisting minister, on the youth fundraiser golf tournament; a book discussion leader; and as a stewardship campaign leader.

I have been a candidate for the Minnesota House, former vice chair of the Economic Development Authority, City of Farmington; president of the Corinthian Cemetery board; representative to Dakota County High Involvement Partnership for Progress; and former city council member, City of New Brighton.

### **David Laden**

*Como Park, St. Paul*

**Vocation:** Business Analyst and Comptroller

As a Christian, claimed by God through the waters of Baptism, I am open to God's call in my life and in the life of the church. The Churchwide Assembly is the ELCA's highest legislative body. As a legislative body, my observation is that both experience and continuity are beneficial. Decisions made at one Churchwide Assembly affect the agenda for future Churchwide Assemblies. For example, I was part of the 2001 Churchwide Assembly that authorized the development of a social statement on human sexuality which will be considered at the 2009 CWA. I'm interested and willing to attend in 2009 in order to follow this and other actions through to their next step and continue working for improved connection between the three expressions of the church: congregations, synods, and churchwide and reform in the ELCA.

I currently serve the synod as a member of the bishop's election committee, finance committee, and stewardship dream team. I have presented adult forums on past churchwide assemblies to synod congregations, presented a workshop for church treasurers at the synod's Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders, and conducted presentations on church governance. I have served as synod treasurer, as member of executive committee, synod council, and through participation in synodical-churchwide consultations. I have served as a visitor in the synod's every council visit program, on the vision task force, Erdahl Mission Endowment Fund committee, and as chair of synod assembly planning committee.

I am involved in my congregation through regular worship and fellowship. I currently serve as member of finance and stewardship committees and as sound technician. I have served as superintendent of Sunday school (seven years), on senior pastor call committee, church council, chair of education committee/board of education, property committee, personnel and search committees, youth ministry committee, choir, bell choir, and worship musician.

Currently a member of St. Paul Landlord's Association. as active on board of directors of Computer User Group for over 12 years including six as President. Habitat for Humanity volunteer.

### **James Elton Morgan**

*Bethesda, Inver Grove Heights*

**Vocation:** Advertising Executive

I am interested in serving as a Churchwide Assembly voting member because I am interested in the church and the synod congregations and the direction in which we are headed.

I am a church council member, head usher, and member of the outreach committee and property committee. I am involved in Mobile Meals and have served in many other positions as a member of Bethesda for over 30 years. I have served as an election judge for six years. Prior to that, I was an election ballot counter watcher reporter.

### **Jerry Neilson**

*Zion, Cottage Grove*

**Vocation:** Barnes and Noble Booksellers

I am interested in serving as a voting member at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly because as an active member of two ELCA congregations over the past 25 years, my interest in and commitment to participation has grown, and continues to grow. I have learned much about the ELCA churchwide organization, especially as a voting member at the 2003, 2005, and 2007 Churchwide Assemblies. That intensive, up-close participation has given me the opportunity to experience first-hand the policy-making processes that influence the growth and direction of our national and global church. I have observed first-hand the importance of a continuity of leadership among the assembly voting membership, and I would be honored to serve again as a voting member at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

Representing the Southeast conference, I am currently serving a three-year term on the synod reference and counsel committee (three years as chair). Previously, I served a three-year term on the synod nominating committee (two years as chair) and, prior to that, served a three-year term on the synod reference and counsel committee (two years as chair). I recently completed serving a two-year term on the synod committee for discipline. Representing Zion in Cottage Grove, I served as a lay voting member at the Saint Paul Area Synod assembly in 1996, 1997, 1999, and 2005. I served as a page at the 2004 synod assembly.

I recently completed serving a second, non-consecutive three-year term on the church council (serving as council president for one year each term). I served as parish public relations coordinator for 13 years. Previously, I chaired the Christian outreach committee (two terms) and the adult forum task force (four years); served four years on the mutual ministry committee; served a one-year term representing Zion on the Respect 2000 steering committee; and was an ushering section captain at the Greater Twin Cities Billy Graham Crusade in 1996. I am active in the Zion Men's Fellowship (serving as publicity director), and serve as lector, usher, and greeter.

### **Dave Nordhausen**

*St. Paul, Wyoming*

**Vocation:** Retired

I enjoy participating as the church does the necessary election of officers, adoption of budgets, establishment of churchwide policy, amendment of constitution and bylaws and review work of officers and proposals submitted by others. I was at the past three assemblies as a visitor, congregational observer, and fill-in voter. I feel I am able to engage others that see things differently than I do while keeping the church's needs and objectives as the focus.

I have participated at synod assemblies and other synod worship opportunities. I have been an active member of St Paul Lutheran for 30 years and have held many positions, but do not presently have an elected position, but am on a couple of committees.

### **Brian Oberman**

*Living Waters, Lino Lakes*

**Vocation:** Applications Consultant

I am interested in service as a Churchwide Assembly voting member because God seems to be calling me to serve in this manner, and a personal desire to use my strengths in deliberation, and relationships to be a "repairer" of the breach (in regards to the sexuality study present) and to be sure that being Lutheran is an asset ("grace matters").

I am involved in the Saint Paul Area Synod through reading and staying informed via website (and ELCA's); attending various training (Tool Kit), and conference assemblies (2008); via the call process; and working with synod staff on stewardship efforts at Living Waters.

I am involved in my congregation as stewardship chair since 1/1/2006; council member since 1/1/2006; and council president since 1/1/2007. I am a parent of two young children (ages 10 and 6) and so my involvement is mainly through church, neighborhood events, and Blue Heron elementary school events. I volunteer approximately 20-40 hours of my time to Living Waters a week, and therefore, between a full-time job and my church involvement, my ability to lead in the community (outside of church) is not an option right now.

### **John Osen**

*Immanuel, St. Paul*

**Vocation:** Software Engineer

Churchwide, synod, and conference decision-making has little visibility in my church. As a lay member for the last 20 years, I would like to get personal exposure and insight into as many aspects of this decision-making as possible. I would then use that experience to communicate the process and decisions to my congregation.

I am not and have not been involved in synod activities. I attended my first conference caucus this year. I was mystified by how my congregation was not represented well. I have had only "Martha" type roles in my congregation. I am an unseen snowblower guy. I provide hospitality by serving with my wife, coffee and freshly baked goods between services once or twice a year. My wife and I collect toys through our church to provide resources during the holidays for critically ill children in hospital through Christian's Toybox. In the past, my church has been impressively involved with my family. The congregation stood quietly and prayerfully behind my family as our eldest son, Christian, lost a three and one-half year battle to leukemia.

## Nominations: Churchwide Assembly

For eight years, I was involved with my children's schools. I served for five years on the Webster Magnet site council, where I learned the main reward for participation was not having a discernable role in positive change (though that did happen), but in finding out what was really going on a school. This is one driver for my desire to be a churchwide voting member. I also coached Lego Robotics for three years.

### **David Rausch**

*Farmington, Farmington*

**Vocation:** Retired Agricultural Engineer

I am interested in the issues coming up at the Churchwide Assembly and would like to make sure my point of view is expressed and learn from other points of view. I am a lifelong member of the Lutheran church and have been active in several locations and states.

I am presently on the synod nominating committee. At previous churches I was a delegate to the Western Iowa Synod and the Southern Ohio Synod assemblies. I have worked on two Mission Builder projects, one in Colorado Springs and another in Somerset, Wis.

I am a member of the OWL's Bible study group and the Men's breakfast group. I was a member of the site committee during construction of our new church and currently attend to adjustments of the security system and other building questions as needed. I have been a member of the senior choir. I did two large carvings for our church, the last one was published in the June 2007 issue of *The Lutheran*.

I currently teach weekly woodcarving classes at the Farmington senior center. I have been a member of the Lions Club in communities where I have lived. Other activities include co-chair for Habitat for Humanity in Forest City, Iowa, and a Habitat worker at various sites in Minnesota.

### **Roger Schwagmeyer**

*Luther Memorial, South St. Paul*

**Vocation:** Retired Teacher

The business of the ELCA affects people all over the world. I want to be a part of the decision-making process that will help others in the faith and their everyday living.

I am not directly involved in synod work at this time. In the past, I was on the outdoor camping and ministries team. I serve as secretary to the church council, participate in Lenten dramas, cook and serve meals when needed, serve as a member of our Tanzanian travelers mission group and traveled twice to Iringa, serve on the worship and music team, and serve and prepare soup suppers.

I am the adjutant for our American Legion post, school volunteer, and driver for Meals on Wheels.

### **Marv Widmark**

*Spring Lake, North Branch*

**Vocation:** Retired Education

I was nominated by someone I respect and for them to place this kind of faith and trust in me dictated to me that I had no choice but to say yes and allow my name to be entered.

I have worked closely with the synod in the call process that our church is currently undergoing. I am chair of the call committee and I serve as a substitute teacher and part of the driver education program at North Branch High School.