

## Central States Synod 2021 Synod Assembly

Virtual Assembly via Zoom • June 4-5

### Biographical Information—Nominees

#### Synod Council Members

**Position:** Western Kansas, lay male

**Name:** Mr. John Dumler

**Congregation membership:** St. John, Russell, KS

**Congregational Activities:** PMA @ St. John, Choir, Pulpit Supply, Community Backpack Food Program- Chairperson, Education Committee, Member of the Russell County Association of Churches - Treasurer.

**Synodical/Churchwide Activities:** PMA Team member - Member of the Western Conference

**Community Activities:** RCT stockholder and member (Russell Community Theater) Sunday Worship Leader at the Care facilities in Russell, Kansas

**YOUTH:** No    **YOUNG ADULT:** No    **POC/LOE:** No

**Position:** Osage, clergy male

**Name:** The Rev. David Frerichs

**Congregation membership:** St. Andrew's, Columbia, MO

**Congregational Activities:** Prior to serving three congregations as pastor (Bethany, Tulsa, OK; Zion, Albion, NE; St. Andrew's, Columbia, MO), supported youth ministry and Bible study in my home congregation, worship committee/worship planning team.

**Synodical/Churchwide Activities:** Currently serve on Synod Council (appointed to complete an unexpired term), in Wichita helped lead Area Ministry Youth Team (before seminary), served on Hotel Life Staff at ELCA Youth Gathering (1991, '94, '97, and 2000), Churchwide Assembly Voting Member (2007), served on the advisory board for Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northeast Community College, Norfolk, NE. While serving in the Arkansas-Oklahoma and Nebraska Synods, I facilitated a number of clergy colleague groups featuring Bowen Theory of Emotional Systems as a resource for ministry and life.

**Community Activities:** In Albion, NE, I partnered with the sheriff to establish a Mobile Food Pantry serving our community and county.

**YOUTH:** No    **YOUNG ADULT:** No    **POC/LOE:** No

**Position:** Eastern Missouri, female clergy

**Name:** The Rev. Janice Hawley

**Congregation membership:** Holy Cross, Creve Coeur, MO

**Congregational Activities:** Pastor serving Holy Cross, manage 3 part-time staff and volunteers. Serve on strategic process team rolling out new 2025 vision; capital campaign, teach confirmation.

**Synodical/Churchwide Activities:** Serve Churchwide as national coordinator for ELCA coaching – specialty track care for creation; serve as Central States Synod coach

**Community Activities:** Volunteer on West County Interfaith Alliance Steering Team; member of women's educational civic organization P.E.O.

**YOUTH:** No    **YOUNG ADULT:** No    **POC/LOE:** No

**Position:** Eastern Missouri, female clergy

**Name:** The Rev. Carrie McElfresh

**Congregation membership:** Trinity, Kirkwood, MO

**Congregational Activities:** Pastor at Trinity Lutheran, July 2020 – present. Pulpit supply while on leave from call, April 2018-June 2020. Associate pastor at Hope Lutheran, St. Charles, July 2013-April 2018. Pastor at Community Lutheran in Geneva, MN September 2008-July 2013.

**Synodical/Churchwide Activities:** Excited participant in synod assemblies and Fall Theological conferences (Bishop's Convo.) Annual conference clergy gathering participant, 2009 Churchwide assembly (non-voting.)

**Community Activities:** Parent participant in Boy Scouts and Taekwondo activities for son, blood donor.

**YOUTH:** No    **YOUNG ADULT:** No    **POC/LOE:** No

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**Position:** At Large, male lay POC

**Name:** Mr. Terrence Freeman

**Congregation membership:** St. Phillip's, St. Louis, MO

**Congregational Activities:** Council President, Technology coordinator

**Synodical/Churchwide Activities:** Synod Council (Executive Committee), Eastern Missouri Conference Strategy Team, and Academy Presenter/facilitator, Racial Justice Team

**Community Activities:** One Hundred Black Men of Metropolitan St. Louis, National Youth Director, One Hundred Black Men of America, National Society of Black Engineers, Pre-College Initiative Program (Teacher/Mentor), STEM Professor/Mentor, A World of Difference Facilitator (Social Justice, Diversity, and Inclusion), Lecturer/Consultant/Motivational Speaker.

**YOUTH:** No    **YOUNG ADULT:** No    **POC/LOE:** Yes

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**Position:** At Large, female lay

**Name:** Ms. Chelsea Deines

**Congregation membership:** Bethany, Lindsborg, KS

**Congregational Activities:** Education Committee, active member of WELCA

**Synodical/Churchwide Activities:** Previous term on synod council

**Community Activities:**

**YOUTH:** No    **YOUNG ADULT:** No    **POC/LOE:** No

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### Consultation Committee

**Position:** Consultation Committee, male lay      **Name:** Mr. Dan Glamann

**Congregation membership:** Gathering Table (SAWC), Kansas City, MO

**Congregational Activities:** Former staff positions at Children's Memorial Lutheran Church KCMO (8 years) & First Lutheran Church, Mission Hills KS (18 years); activities included choir, Congregation Council, Sunday Church School teacher and superintendent, Social Ministry Committees & Hunger Committees, Worship

**Synodical/Churchwide Activities:** Assistant to the Bishop, CSS 2002-2015 (Director of Communications, Disaster Response). Delegate to ELCA Constituting Convention 1987; Voting Member Churchwide Assembly 1995; Former CSS Discipline Committee; Former board member of Hollis Renewal Center; Former board member of Camp Tomah Shinga

**Community Activities:** Gathering Table volunteer & Leadership Team; Former member and Board member of Heartland Men's Chorus; Former Board member AIDS Service Foundation

**YOUTH:** No      **YOUNG ADULT:** No      **POC/LOE:** No

### Discipline Committee

**Position:** Discipline Committee, female lay      **Name:** Ms. Rhonda Templing

**Congregation membership:** Emmanuel, Hoisington, KS

**Congregational Activities:** Lay minister in parish, financial secretary, treasurer for Emmanuel Women of the ELCA unit

**Synodical/Churchwide Activities:** Serve on PMA Team, serve on stewardship committee, serve on church wide Women of the ELCA stewardship committee.

**Community Activities:** Secretary/treasurer for Hoisington Historical Society Museum, volunteer at Hoisington thrift store, member Clara Barton Hospital Foundation

**YOUTH:** No      **YOUNG ADULT:** No      **POC/LOE:** No

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**Position:** Discipline Committee, female clergy      **Name:** The Rev. Ann Rundquist

**Congregation membership:** First, Mission Hills, KS

**Congregational Activities:** Gathering Table pastor: worship, teaching, food ministry, clothing ministry, pastoral care, musician, administrative Immanuel Lutheran ministry coordinator: confirmation, visitation, congregational life.

**Synodical/Churchwide Activities:** ELCA Hunger activities

**Community Activities:** NE Kansas City Chamber of Commerce board of directors, Northeast High School principal's advisory council

**YOUTH:** No      **YOUNG ADULT:** No      **POC/LOE:** No

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### Churchwide Voting Members

**Position:** Eastern Missouri, female clergy      **Name:** The Rev. Melissa Woepfel

**Congregation membership:** Lutheran Church of the Living Christ, Florissant, MO

**Congregational Activities:** Pastor

**Synodical/Churchwide Activities:** Central States Synod Racial Justice Team, Earth Charter Implementation Team (Part of the Lutherans Restoring Creation Mission Table), Board member of Lutheran School of Theology, STL.

**Community Activities:** St. Louis Clergy Table of Missouri Faith Voices

**YOUTH:** No      **YOUNG ADULT:** Yes      **POC/LOE:** No

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**Position:** Osage, male lay      **Name:** Mr. Stewart Jacobs

**Congregation membership:** St. Matthew's, Butler, MO

**Congregational Activities:** Council President, Council, Assisting Minister, Property Committee

**Synodical/Churchwide Activities:**

**Community Activities:** Giving for Living – Organization that promotes organ, eye, and tissue donation.

**YOUTH:** No      **YOUNG ADULT:** No      **POC/LOE:** No

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**Position:** Osage, male lay      **Name:** Mr. Dyke Kiel

**Congregation membership:** St. Paul, Nevada, MO

**Congregational Activities:** Former Council President, Choir Director, Transition Committee

**Synodical/Churchwide Activities:**

**Community Activities:** Nevada Rotary Club, Volunteer Nevada Community Outreach, YMCA Grocery Grab

**YOUTH:** No      **YOUNG ADULT:** No      **POC/LOE:** No

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**Position:** Osage, male lay      **Name:** Mr. Wayne Sharp

**Congregation membership:** Our Savior's, Jefferson City, MO

**Congregational Activities:** Presently: Stewardship coordinator- 3 years; Thrivent Builds for Habitat for Humanity team leader- 10 years; Thrivent Community Action team leader- 6 years; Buildings and grounds maintenance coordinator – 6 years; small group leader -12 years. Past: congregational Financial secretary; congregational vice-president and president.

**Synodical/Churchwide Activities:** Representative to original Central States Synod assembly and 6 of the past 7 synod assemblies. Representative from Central States to Churchwide Assembly 2016

**Community Activities:** Habitat for Humanity volunteer – 12 years; Board of Directors Cole County Lutheran Home Association – 9 years

**YOUTH:** No      **YOUNG ADULT:** No      **POC/LOE:** No

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**Position:** Osage, male lay

**Name:** Mr. David Stock

**Congregation membership:** St. Andrew's, Columbia, MO

**Congregational Activities:** Youth group RTLC trip coordinator, occasional catechism guide, covid-19 task force chair, church council member, occasional pulpit supply, occasional A/V technician, worshipping member.

**Synodical/Churchwide Activities:** Parish ministry associate, providing pulpit supply and worship leadership about 25 times per year for a rural congregation.

**Community Activities:** BSA assistant scoutmaster, merit badge counselor, and campout coordinator. Frequent Red Cross platelet donor.

**YOUTH:** No    **YOUNG ADULT:** No    **POC/LOE:** No

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**Position:** Border, male clergy

**Name:** The Rev. Michael Kern

**Congregation membership:** Hosanna!, Liberty, MO

**Congregational Activities:** 13 years ordained ministry in the ELCA, Assistant to the Dean of the Chapel at Valparaiso University, attendee of CSS Synod Assembly as a youth.

**Synodical/Churchwide Activities:** Border Conference Dean, CSS Compensation Committee member, leadership role in several synod-wide worship/prayer events, NE Synod Rural Ministry Taskforce (past), National Council of Churches Faith and Order Student Participant (2007)

**Community Activities:** Sports Vice president (past president) of the Liberty-Area Ministerial Alliance, member of the Liberty Mental Health Alliance, Walk to End Alzheimer's team captain, Cub Scout Assistant Cubmaster, rec league baseball assistant coach (past)

**YOUTH:** No    **YOUNG ADULT:** No    **POC/LOE:** No

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**Position:** Border, male clergy

**Name:** The Rev. Zac Sturm

**Congregation membership:** Atonement, Overland Park, KS

**Congregational Activities:** Senior Pastor, 2019-present (Associate Pastor 2017-2019)

**Synodical/Churchwide Activities:** Member of Synod Discipline Committee 2009-2015 & 2019-present, Member of Board of Directors for Lutheran Campus Ministry in St. Louis, 2009-2015, Member of Board of Directors for Lutheran Campus Ministry at KU, 2017-2019

**Community Activities:** Member of Nominating Committee, Johnson County Interfaith Justice Organization  
Flag Football Coach, Olathe Youth

**YOUTH:** No    **YOUNG ADULT:** No    **POC/LOE:** No

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**Position:** Western Kansas, male lay

**Name:** Mr. John Dumler

**Congregation membership:** St. John, Russell, KS

**Congregational Activities:** Chair- Education Committee, PMA, Coordinator- Backpack Food Program, Choir, Back to School clothing giveaway- Committee Member (Held at St. John)

**Synodical/Churchwide Activities:** PMA Team- Member

**Community Activities:** RCT Stockholder (Russell Community Theater) Russell County Association of Churches- Treasurer, Backpack Food Program- Director

**YOUTH:** No    **YOUNG ADULT:** No    **POC/LOE:** No

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**Position:** At Large, male lay POC

**Name:** Mr. Donovan Lucas

**Congregation membership:** Holy Cross, Creve Coeur, MO

**Congregational Activities:** Church Council, Social Ministry, A/V stream team, Data Content team

**Synodical/Churchwide Activities:** Churchwide assembly 2019, synod assembly

**Community Activities:** Feed My Starving Children

**YOUTH:** No    **YOUNG ADULT:** No    **POC/LOE:** Yes

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**Position:** At Large, YA

**Name:** Mx. Joanie Saltzman

**Congregation membership:** St. Mark Hope and Peace, Kansas City, MO

**Congregational Activities:** Worship Committee, former council president

**Synodical/Churchwide Activities:** Synod Council member at large

**Community Activities:** Youth worker serving teens experiencing homelessness.

**YOUTH:** No    **YOUNG ADULT:** Yes    **POC/LOE:** No

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**Position:** At Large, female lay POC

**Name:** Ms. Linda Lockhart

**Congregation membership:** Trinity, Kirkwood, MO

**Congregational Activities:** lector, choir, Confirmation instructor, youth mentor, call committee, PDO board member, other miscellaneous services, as needed.

**Synodical/Churchwide Activities:** Central States Synod Council member

**Community Activities:** Board member, St. Louis Press Club, founding member, Greater St. Louis Association of Black Journalists

**YOUTH:** No    **YOUNG ADULT:** No    **POC/LOE:** Yes