

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM:  
NOMINEE FOR BISHOP OF THE CENTRAL STATES SYNOD**

- 1. Name:** Aimée Frye Appell
- 2. Current Position:** Pastor, Peace Lutheran Church, Washington, MO
- 3. Congregation Membership:** Peace Lutheran Church, Washington, MO
- 4. Date and Year of Birth:**
- 5. Date and Year of Ordination:** May 30, 2010

**6. Previous Positions:**

Vicar, Christ Church Lutheran, Minneapolis, MN, 2008-2009  
Reading Team Convener, Church Innovations, St. Paul, MN, 2008-2010

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

M.Div. - Luther Seminary, 2010  
B.A. - University of Virginia, 1993

**8. List up to five (5) current or past synod or churchwide activities that would inform your service as bishop of this synod.**

Process Builder - Women & Justice Social Statement  
Church in Society Team, CSS Synod

**9. List up to five (5) current or past community-related activities that would inform your service as bishop of this synod.**

Chair - Neighbors United - Undoing Racism, 2014-present  
Franklin County Human Rights Task Force, 2016-present  
Chair - Vacation Culture School - 2017-present  
Parliament of the World's Religions - 2009, 2015  
Women's Interfaith Conference, St. Louis - 2015-2017

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

My strongest gifts are for preaching and proclamation, for writing, and for articulating my understanding of the gospel. My early life growing up outside the church allows me to bring a non-traditional perspective to the office, and to the work of proclamation. I tend to ask unusual questions, and look for unusual answers. I have a strong theology of reconciliation, which prompts me to seek compromise where I can. However, I will stand firm on issues central to the gospel, especially where justice and grace are concerned. I have built relationships of mutual trust with individuals from across the Christian faith, and from other faith traditions and belief systems.

**11. 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)**

The heart of our work as the Church needs to be a deep and introspective period of self-examination, followed by the ongoing work of repentance, around Christianity's role in the perpetuation of colonialism, racism, misogyny, homophobia, and other supremacist ideologies. Only then will we be able to seek restitution and reconciliation. This will be hard work. It will

require dying to some things - the 1950s models of large churches and even larger physical plants; full-time, single-occupation pastors; the centrality of the Church as the political and emotional heart of every community; the Christendom models of generational renewal, relying on the next generation to carry on what we have always done; the belief that our way is the best or only way to do and see things. The Church must live as if God's promises were true for us today, modeling daily renewal of our baptisms through repentance and resurrection living. I would like the synod to offer resources and training for congregations to engage in this work.

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

I believe that the Church's primary work is done in and through relationships, which makes me a collaborative leader. I see the key to leadership as equipping others for their. I prefer to work with a team, building relationships in the service of our mission. As a leader, I keep the team's focus on the mission and vision, gently guiding our work and making connections. I enjoy helping others use their gifts together to solve problems. I see the big picture, and work to shepherd the group toward our common goal, trusting others on the team to tend to their own details. I am flexible and easy-going, responding easily to changing circumstances. I have led several organizations through conflict situations, helping them to find the opportunities for growth and deepening of relationships through differences of opinion and difficult circumstances.