

2019 Nominations for Central States Synod

Introduction

Each year the voting members of the Synod Assembly elect people who have been nominated to various positions, such as members of the Synod Council. Ultimately, the voting members of the Assembly are responsible for the nominations, but they are assisted by members of congregations, area ministry leaders, and the Nominating Committee. There are two stages to the nominating process, one before the assembly and one at the assembly. All Synod Council positions (except the youth positions) require a background check and therefore nominees need to submit a disclosure form along with the nomination form.

Pre-Assembly

Early in the calendar year, the Nominating Committee works with conferences to fulfill its responsibility as described in the synod bylaws (S9.03.04). Nomination forms are to be submitted to the synod office no later than April 15, 2019. The chair of the Nominating Committee is Pat Bjuland, Atonement Lutheran Church, Overland Park, KS. Phone: 816-674-0828. E-mail: pbjuland@sbcglobal.net.

At the Assembly

Nominations may also take place at the assembly as described in the synod bylaws (S9.03.05). People nominated from the floor need to provide information requested on the biographical form and in some cases, a disclosure form.

Participating in the Process

Whether you are a voting member of the assembly or not, if you have questions about how you can participate in the nominating process or would like to suggest someone for nomination, please contact your pastor, the chair of the Nominating Committee, Pat Bjuland, or Susan Candea at the synod office (913-948-9701 or scandea@css-elca.org).

Helpful information:

Responsibilities for Synod Council members:

- Be the board of directors for the synod and serve as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly
- Carry out the resolutions of the assembly
- Attend council meetings, ordinarily three times a year
- Interpret the work of the synod through their conferences and across the synod

The Consultation Committee is one of several committees required in all synods. It is a group of people who assist the bishop by investigating complaints and recommending actions in an attempt to resolve issues that could lead to discipline of a rostered minister or a congregation as outlined in Chapter 20 of the Constitution of the ELCA. It consists of six members, three clergy and three lay who serve a six-year term.

The Discipline Committee is one of several committees required in all synods. The functions of the Committee are set forth in Chapter 20 of the Constitution of the ELCA. Committee members are called upon in cases involving the discipline of a rostered minister or a congregation. The committee consists of twelve members, six clergy and six lay who serve a six-year term.

Rostered ministers of Word and Service (Deacons) may be nominated for any "lay" position as long as they meet the requirements for the position.

The term "persons of color and/or person whose primary language is other than English" (PC/L*) is understood to mean African American, black, Arab, and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino, American Indian, and Alaska Native people.

The term "youth" means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election.

The term "young adult" means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election.

It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. (S6.04.B09. Adopted by 2009 Churchwide Assembly)

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Pre- Assembly Nominations 2019

The Nominating Committee offers the following nominations:

Synod Council Officers (4-year term)

Vice-President – lay	Ms. Nancy Nagel, Peace, Washington, MO
Treasurer - lay or clergy - incumbent eligible	* Mr. Scott Schulte, Advent, Olathe, KS
Secretary - lay or clergy	Rev. Chad Langdon, Christ, Wichita, KS Rev. Kendra Nolde, Gethsemane, St. Louis, MO

*Incumbent

Synod Council Members (3-year term except where noted)

At Large – Lay male, incumbent not eligible	Mr. Dallas Rakestraw, Reformation, Wichita, KS
At Large - Lay female (PC/L), incumbent eligible	* Ms. Linda Lockhart, Trinity, Kirkwood, MO
At Large - Deacon, female, incumbent not eligible	-
At Large, Youth - lay male (2-year term), incumbent not eligible	Mr. Theodore Keesee, Zion, Phillipsburg KS

* Incumbent

Consultation Committee (6-year term)

Clergy - female	The Rev. Barbara Chapman, Hosanna!, Liberty, MO The Rev. Christyn Koschmann, Martin Luther, Lee's Summit, MO
Clergy – female or male	The Rev. Donna Florio, Zion, Hanover & St. John, Lanham, KS

Discipline Committee (6-year term)

Clergy - male	The Rev. Zac Sturm, Atonement, Overland Park KS
Clergy - male	The Rev. Rick Raymer, Zion, Beloit, KS
Clergy - female	The Rev. Kris Dietzen, St Mark, Olathe, KS
Lay - female	Ms. Alesia Roccia, Family of Christ, Imperial, MO

Biographical Information—Nominees

Synod Council Vice President



Position: Synod Council, Vice President, Lay **Name:** Ms. Nancy Nagel

Congregation membership: Peace Lutheran Church, Washington, MO

Congregational Activities: Children and adult Sunday School teacher, choir member, bell choir, several terms on church council, two terms as congregation president, served on missional steering committee, outreach committee, congregational care committee.

Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Voting member to 2009, 2012, and 2017 synod assemblies. 2007-10 Took part in workshops along with others from my congregation in the Partnership for Missional Church. Process sponsored by Bishop Mansholt and Church Innovations. 2016 took part in meetings with Bishop Gustafson and staff concerning clergy shortage and strategy to address it.

Community Activities: Chair, Franklin County Human Rights Task Force Board member, Four Rivers Progressive Coalition Y Literacy Volunteer Tutor Stories Matter Steering Committee – working with local public and school libraries to provide books with diverse characters and topics, and providing programming for local families based on the books.

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

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1. Why did you decide to be open to serving as vice president of the synod?

Many, probably most, people do not enjoy going to meetings, preparing budgets, and making plans. But I find this administrative work, when grounded in the Holy Spirit, invigorating and a faith-forming experience.

At this point in my life this is a way I can serve the church. I had been discerning how God is calling me to use my gifts when I opened an email asking me to consider this nomination. I have the time and ability to travel as necessary. I have enjoyed meeting other lay and ordained people from around the Central States Synod and look forward to serving together as well as forming new relationships.

2. What gifts and experiences do you feel you bring to this position?

I have served as president of my congregation two different times and on the church council several times. I have served on various church and community boards and committees, I served in many roles as my congregation fully experienced the Partnership for Missional Church process.

Along with other work experience, I spent ten years as a parent educator with the Parents as Teachers program, where I learned reflective listening skills and strengths-based approach to programming.

I have good listening skills, written and oral communication skills,

I am the mother of three young adult children and two granddaughters (ages 2 and 5)

3. What would be some of your goals for the synod?

The current synod council has spent considerable effort in identifying priorities and we will build on that work. I will work with the new bishop and the synod council to develop goals for the synod that are based on Christ's love for our broken world, while being realistic about the constraints of that world in which we operate. Whatever goals or priorities are adopted, it is crucial to realize God is calling the people of the Central States Synod now, in 2019, not when our pews are full of young people or our budgets are balanced or we have achieved any number of worthwhile goals.

4. Describe your leadership style – how you work with individuals, groups, teams, etc.?

I tend to work collaboratively and supportively in a group setting. I try to get to know people and learn how God is working through them in a particular group. Sometimes those who speak the least contribute the most if supported appropriately. I think setting the agenda for a meeting is extremely important. What is left off the agenda is as important as what is on the agenda. I like the group to be prepared for the meeting, and try to see that happens by providing the necessary background information to make decisions. I think it is important to ground our work in prayer and scripture

5. What is your favorite Bible verse?

Scripture has informed and guided me throughout my life and as I've gotten older, I have come to rely on passages I learned in childhood. Here are a few of them – all Psalms.

"I was glad when they said unto me Let us go into the house of the Lord" Psalm 122

"This is the day which Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it" Psalm 118

*" I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help?*

My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth." Psalm 121

Council Treasurer

Position: Synod Council, Treasurer, Clergy or Lay **Name:** Mr. Scott Schulte

Congregation membership: Advent Lutheran Church, Olathe, KS

Congregational Activities: Assisting Minister, Council Treasurer, Member of Church Council, Chair of Finance Committee, Chair of INSTAR Coordination committee, Confirmation Guide, Sunday School teacher, usher, communion assistant, lector.

Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Synod Treasurer, Member and Chair of the Mission Endowment Fund Committee, Chair of Mission Budget Team, Member of Synod Executive Committee, Member of Synod Council, Chair of Bishop Transition task force, Area Ministry 7 Treasurer

Community Activities: Treasurer of Blue Valley West Band Boosters Association, Treasurer of Village of Kensington Home Owners' Association, Member of Kansas City chapter of Project Management Institute, Member of Alumni Advisory Board for Beta Gamma chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha.

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

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Synod Council Secretary

Position: Synod Council, Secretary, Clergy or Lay **Name:** The Rev. Chad Langdon
Congregation membership: Christ Lutheran Church, Wichita, KS
Congregational Activities: Pastor, so a little of everything, but I especially love; mission work, youth ministry and worship -related activities.
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Camp Tomah Shinga Board (6 years, 3 as president); helped start The Bridge in St. Charles, MO and Mision San Juan de Dios in Wichita, KS; Area 5 Treasurer (6 years); Synod Council (3 years); Central States Synod Day coordinator for 2018 Youth Gathering.
Community Activities: Volunteer Coordinator at Lake Afton Public Observatory; Kansas Astronomical Observers
YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

Position: Synod Council, Secretary, Clergy or Lay **Name:** The Rev. Kendra Nolde
Congregation membership: Gethsemane Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO
Congregational Activities: Pastor at 4 ELCA congregations including Zion, Ferguson and Gethsemane, St Louis. Retired December 2018 from, Gethsemane. Active participant and leader in: local area ministry colleague groups, Women in Ministry gatherings, ecumenical ministerial alliances.
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Synod council (fulfilling an unexpired term), voting member ELCA Churchwide Assembly; pastoral mentor, Bridgebuilder (healthy congregations) facilitator.
Community Activities: Facilitator for Sacred Conversations on Race, Ready Reader for 3-4 year old's in at-risk neighborhoods, Metropolitan Congregations United (faith-based community organization.)
YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

Synod Council Members

Position: At-Large, Lay Male **Name:** Mr. Dallas Rakestraw
Congregation membership: Reformation Lutheran Church, Wichita, KS
Congregational Activities: I served on the Church Council for six years. I have also served on the Learning Board and Personnel Committee for over nine years. In addition, I have taught Sunday School Confirmation for the last seven years.
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: I attended the 2005 Synod Assembly. In 2018, I served as the Synod Parliamentarian for the Synod Assembly. I plan to serve as the Synod Parliamentarian for the 2019 Synod Assembly. I am also in the process of obtaining my PMEA certification.
Community Activities: I am a managing partner of McDonald Tinker P.A.—a 14 attorney law firm in Wichita, Kansas. I am a member of the Wichita Bar Association and the Kansas Bar Association. I serve on the Ethics Committee and the Summer Intern Committee of the Wichita Bar Association. I also serve on the Board of Directors for Camp Wood YMCA. I have served as the Treasurer, Vice-President, and President of Camp Wood YMCA.
YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

Position: At-Large, Lay Female (PC/L) **Name:** Ms. Linda Lockhart
Congregation membership: Trinity Lutheran Church, Kirkwood, MO
Congregational Activities: Current: choir member, education committee, supervising board member for Parents Day Out program. Former: Confirmation instructor, Church Council, Call Committee.
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Current: Synod Council member, Bishop's Election Task Force.
Community Activities:
YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** Yes

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Position: At-Large Youth, Lay Male **Name:** Mr. Theodore (Theo) Keesee
Congregation membership: Zion Lutheran Church, Phillipsburg, KS
Congregational Activities: Lector/Communion Assistant, Music Assistant: Vacation Bible School for the past 3 year. Special music performed at holidays. Youth group activities.
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Attended Synod Assembly as youth representative 2017. Attended Camp Tomah Shinga for 2 years. Attended ELCA Youth Gathering 2018 in Houston.
Community Activities: Painted fire hydrants for 911 day of remembrance. Served Christmas meal for hospital employees. Volunteered for Phillips County Community foundation – Amazing Race Day. Volunteer assistance with Phillipsburg Youth Football events. Participates in; KAYS, football, wrestling, amendment select show choir, band, piano, swim team, pep club, scholars bowl and forensics
YOUTH: Yes **YOUNG ADULT:** no **POC/LOE:** Yes

Consultation Committee

Position: Consultation Committee, Female Clergy **Name:** The Rev. Barbara Chapman
Congregation membership: Hosanna! Lutheran Church, Liberty, MO
Congregational Activities: Active member. Regular adult faith formation. Lenten suppers, study, and prayer.
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Retired ELCA pastor. Previous Churchwide Assembly voting member. Previously served in other synods on Synod Pastoral Support Committee, Synod Worship Committee, and Synod Consultation Committee.
Community Activities: Geological/gemological presentations to various community groups of various ages.
YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

Position: Consultation Committee, Female Clergy **Name:** The Rev. Christyn Koschmann
Congregation membership: Martin Luther Lutheran Church, Lee's Summit, MO
Congregational Activities: Pastor of Discipleship and Youth Ministries.
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Co-write curriculum for Camp Tomah Shinga annually; Lutherans Restoring Creation.
Community Activities: Staff chaplain at St. Luke's East Hospital; Walk MS Team Captain; Building Better Moms co-leader (Church of the Resurrection - Leawood); KidsCOR volunteer (COR - Leawood).
YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

Position: Consultation Committee, Female or Male Clergy **Name:** The Rev. Donna Florio
Congregation membership: Zion Lutheran Church, Hanover & St. John Lutheran Church, Lanham, KS
Congregational Activities: Preaching, Leading Worship, Teaching- 1st Communion Classes, Confirmation Classes, Pre-marital Counseling, Funeral Planning, Bible Studies (x2), Women of the ELCA, Ladies Aid, Turkey Supper, World Relief Quilts, God's Work Our Hands Day, Hospital Visits, Home Visits.
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Synod Assembly Planning Committee (2013-2018), 2016 Churchwide Assembly Delegate, 2018 Elected to Synod Council (however due to Constitutional Changes reconfiguring Council representation position I was elected to was eliminated), Sacristan for Bishop's Convo, PMA Supervisor (2013-Present), Southeastern Synod Youth Affirm Staff.
Community Activities: Local Long-Term Care Facility Worship and Bible Study, Pastor's Corner Newspaper Articles, American Legion Auxiliary Past President and Chaplain, Blue River Valley Mercy Meals Board of Directors.
YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

Discipline Committee

Position: Discipline Committee, Male Clergy **Name:** The Rev. Rick Raymer
Congregation membership: Zion Lutheran Church, Beloit, KS
Congregational Activities: Pastor, Monday Bible Study Leader, worship leader, congregational visitation, nursing home worship leader.
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Synod Assembly, Conference meetings.
Community Activities: Hospice Chaplain, Emergency Services Chaplain, local Nursing home chaplaincy services.
YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

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Position: Discipline Committee, Male Clergy **Name:** The Rev. Zac Sturm
Congregation membership: Atonement Lutheran Church, Overland Park, KS
Congregational Activities: Pastor
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Previously served on Discipline Committee (2009-2015) secretary. Board of directors Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Kansas, 2018-present.
Community Activities: Flag football coach.
YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

Position: Discipline Committee, Female Clergy **Name:** The Rev. Kris Dietzen
Congregation membership: St. Mark Lutheran Church, Olathe, KS
Congregational Activities: Pastor of St Mark Lutheran since June 2007. Confirmation Leader; VBS; Sunday School; Mountain of Food collection; Winter Apparel Drive for MLM Christmas Store.
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Churchwide Representative 1997 and 2011. KC area ELCA Clergy text study group; Metro Lutheran Ministry; Children's Memorial.
Community Activities: Bethesda program for developmentally disabled adults; Mission Southside Olathe; Center of Grace Meal Ministry; Olathe Food Pantry.
YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

Position: Discipline Committee, Female Lay **Name:** Ms. Alesia Roccia
Congregation membership: Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Imperial, MO
Congregational Activities: I am a founding member of Family of Christ. I have served as Sunday School Teacher and VBS Coordinator. In leadership, I have served as Council Member for Education, Stewardship, Vice President, and Call Committee. I am currently President of Family of Christ Council. In Worship, I serve as Worship Assistant, Lector, and Bulletin Coordinator.
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: I am a voting member of Central States Synod Assembly and participating in the PME program.
Community Activities: My family joins other members of Family of Christ coordinating with Holy Trinity Church in serving breakfast to the marginalized in St. Louis City. Collaborating with Good Shepherd Lutheran, I help facilitate the Fellowship Forever Abilities Matter. This group is designed to serve adults with developmental disabilities and autism with fellowship, hands-on activity and worship. As the Director of Development for Lafayette Industries, I represent 412 adults with developmental disabilities employed at Lafayette through community advocacy programs, representation at the State Capitol and St. Louis County community including the Productive Living Board.
YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

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Nominations 2019 form

Anyone accepting nomination for a Synod Council position must have a background check and therefore fill out a disclosure form.

Conference _____

Position Nominated for: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Congregational membership (include city/state): _____

Congregational activities: _____

Synodical/churchwide activities: _____

Community activities: _____

Person of color/language other than English?	___ yes	___ no
Youth (younger than 18 years old)	___ yes	___ no (DOB _____)
Young Adult (between 18 & 30 years old)	___ yes	___ no (DOB _____)

Nominated by:

_____ (name and contact information)

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Disclosure Form

DISCLOSURE

As part of the election process for bishop, synod officers and Synod Council members, except for youth, the Central States Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is required by continuing resolution S9.12.A08 to obtain a background check of all nominees. Please return this form directly to Rev. Susan Candea, Bishop's Associate at the synod office or by e-mail to scandea@css-elca.org. (Those nominated to the Discipline and Consultation Committees do NOT need a background check.)

AUTHORIZATION

During the 2019 nominating and election process and at any time during the tenure of any position as a synod officer or Synod Council member to which I may be elected, I hereby authorize First Advantage Background Services, Corporation, P.O. Box 105292, Atlanta, GA 30348, 1-800-845-6004, on behalf of the Central States Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to verify my social security number and do a check of the national criminal data base for any convictions. An additional credit history check will be done for the nominees for the position of the synod treasurer. I understand that I may request a complete and accurate disclosure of the nature and scope of the background verification.

Nominee Name (Please print and include middle name)

Address

Nominee Signature

Date

Social Security Number *

Date of Birth

*For Identification Purposes Only