

## **Biographical Information Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly Consultation Committee**

### **Pr. Aage Carlsen**

- Member, Kingo Lutheran Church, Fosston
- Occupation: Retired Pastor
- Service in Congregation: choir member; Friday School teacher; served on Stewardship Committee
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: past conference coordinator for monthly leadership gatherings
- Service in Congregation: volunteer reader and meal server at nursing home

### **Pr. Darrel Saathoff**

- Member, Trinity Lutheran Church, Pelican Rapids
- Occupation: Retired Pastor
- Service in Congregation: served Christ Lutheran, Minot for 26 years; interim ministry at Grove Lake Pelican Rapids, Hawley Lutheran, Bethel Wahpeton and St. Peters Augustana-Audubon
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: WND Synod Council; board member of Metigoshe Ministries
- Service in Community: Institutional Review Board member, Trinity Hospital, Minot; Committee Chair Parish Nurse Training Program, Trinity Hospital, Minot

### **Pr. Gary Halvorson**

- Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Karlstad
- Service in Congregation: ordained pastor since 1976 serving congregations in Anton, CO, St. James, MN and Karlstad, MN.
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: past Conference One Dean; past Synod Communication Committee member; Churchwide Assembly voting member in 1995 and 2005

### **Mr. Mark Wangberg**

- Member, First Lutheran Church, Bemidji
- Occupation: Attorney, former pastor

**Biographical Information**  
**Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly**  
**Synod Secretary**

**Pr. Heidi Mann**

- Member, North Buffalo Lutheran Church, Moorhead
- Occupation: Freelance Copyeditor; owner of Final Touch Proofreading & Editing
- Education: M.Div. Lutheran School of Theology; BA Augustana College
- Service in Congregation: served two congregations for a total of 11 years, as well as 3-month intern in campus ministry and pulpit supply; presently on leave from call; Worship Committee member; reader; choir member
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: past Synod Council member; past member of Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church visitors committee
- Service in Community: member of School Advisory Team for Norman County West School District; previous member of Community Children's Collaborative; organized and co-led Autism Spectrum Support Group

**Terrance Carlisle**

- Member, Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes
- Occupation: Retired from Viking Gas Transmission
- Service in Congregation: Vacation Bible School volunteer; Building Needs Taskforce; Call Committee; Church Council President
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Council; Synod Executive Committee; Bishop Election Committee; Bishop Election Taskforce
- Service in Community: volunteer driver for Becker County; Becker County Food Pantry volunteer; volunteer curling instructor with middle school students

# **Biographical Information**

## **Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly**

### **Synod Council Members**

#### **Conference 1: Clergy Position**

##### **Pr. Thomas Oberg**

- Pastor, Williams Lutheran Parish, Williams
- Education: M.Div. Wartburg Theological Seminary
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Council; Conference Dean

#### **Conference 1: Lay Position**

##### **Kathy Levenhagen**

- Member of Zion Lutheran Church, Lake Bronson
- Occupation: Synodically Authorized Minister - Maria Lutheran, Kennedy and Zion Lutheran, Lake Bronson
- Service in Congregation: pastoral duties
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: member of Synod Council
- Service in Community: cook for senior citizen fund raisers; hospice board

#### **Conference 3: Clergy Position**

##### **Pr. Kelly Ahola**

- Pastor, Gary Rindal Parish, Fertile
- Education: M.Div. Luther Seminary; BA Concordia College
- Service in Congregation: passions lie mostly with youth and children, but also include quilting, fellowship and Bible studies
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Council member
- Service in Community: support/sponsor orphan in Kenya through Children of Ngong Road; Early Childhood Initiative

#### **Conference 5: Lay Position**

#### **Conference 7: Clergy Position**

##### **Pr. Eric Lemonholm**

- Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes
- Education: D.Min. Luther Seminary (in progress); M.Div. Princeton Theological Seminary; S.T.M. Lutheran Theological Seminary; BA North Park University
- Service in Congregation: pastor; dishwasher
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Council Executive Committee; past member of Pathways Board
- Service in Community: president of Lakes Area Ministerium; board member of Habitat for Humanity of Detroit Lakes Area

#### **Conference 7: Lay Position**

##### **Michael Wammer**

- Member of St. Peters Lutheran Church, Audubon
- Occupation: retired
- Service in Congregation: president - 2 terms; past Sunday School teacher/superintendent; building fund drive finance chair; Education Committee; church council; past Call Committee chair

- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: past Dean of White Earth Conference; Churchwide Assembly voting member; Synod Council; Bishop Election Committee Task Force
- Service in Community: past member Audubon School Board; past member Board of Directors, MN School Board Assoc.; past president Cormorant Lion's Club; past president and board member Becker County Historical Society; past Commander Audubon American Legion and current service officer; Hospice volunteer; PA announcer for LPA football for 36 years

### **Conference 9: Clergy Position**

#### **Pr. Roger Johnson**

- Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Henning
- Education: M.Div. Luther Seminary; BA Concordia College
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: NWMN and EaND Synod Council; EaND Synod Rural Task Force; Synod Assembly Planner; Luther Crest Bible Camp Board; attended 3 Churchwide Assemblies
- Service in Community: Lions' Club; Lakota Ambulance Squad; Henning Community Health Action Team

### **Conference 10: Clergy Position**

#### **Pr. Robert Toso**

- Pastor, United Lutheran Church, Elbow Lake
- Education: MTH Luther Seminary; BA Concordia College
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Council member

### **At Large: Youth**

#### **Annie Kuebler**

# Biographical Information

## Northwestern Minnesota Synod

### Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

#### Conference 1

##### **Pr. Rodney Nygren**

- Pastor, Messiah Lutheran Church, Roseau
- Education: M.Div. Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary; BA Concordia College St Paul
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Assembly Planning Commission member
- Service in Community: Roseau Community Ministerium; Salvation Army; Roseau Community Task Force

##### **Liz Hardwick**

#### Conference 2

##### **Pr. Rena Peterson**

- Pastor, Viking Lutheran Parish, Viking
- Education: M.Div. Luther Seminary; BA Concordia College
- Service in Congregation: confirmation teacher; worship leader; other acts of ministry
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Worship Commission; Ecumen
- Service in Community: Food Shelf – LAH/BNP

##### **Gary Page**

#### Conference 3

##### **Pr. Gretchen Anderson**

- Pastor, United in Christ Lutheran Parish, Fertile
- Education: M.Div. Lutheran Theological Seminary Gettysburg; BA University of Nebraska, Lincoln
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Joint Synod Mission Imagination Table; Faith Practices Table
- Service in Community: volunteer track coach; Horizons

##### **Marilyn Malmanger**

- Member, Zion Lutheran Church, Fosston
- Occupation: retired teacher/lay visitation ministry
- Service in Congregation: church organist; church council; Christian education
- Service in Community: volunteer in nursing homes for games and programs; present programs for churches, schools, and community organizations

#### Conference 4

##### **Gary Coe**

- Member, New Salem Lutheran Church, Turtle River
- Occupation: retired, former Director of Management Consulting for Fujitsu Corp.
- Service in Congregation: Steward Committee Chair; Church Council member and treasurer; member of Vision Task Force

- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Co-chair of the Peoples Church Capital Campaign; member of Synod Stewardship work group
- Service in Community: past Town Board member and chair; Election Judge

### **Karen Coe**

- Member, New Salem Lutheran Church, Turtle River
- Occupation: Parish Nurse and Registered Nurse Consultant
- Service in Congregation: Pastoral Staff member; Vision Task Force member; Bone Builder instructor
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: past member of Synod Assembly Planning Commission; member of Disciplinary Committee; member of ELCA Parish Nurse Association
- Service in Community: Advisory Board member of North Country Hospice; Co-chair of the People's Church Capital Campaign; past member of NWMN Women's Fund Advisory Board

### **Conference 5**

#### **Pr. Dane Skilbred**

- Pastor, Salem Lutheran Church, Hitterdal
- Education: M.Div. Luther Seminary; BS Santa Clara University
- Service in Congregation: pastoral ministry as of September 2009
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Conference 5 Dean; attended Synod Assembly and Churchwide Assembly in 2009
- Service in Community: pastoral duties in the community; volunteer work at various charitable organizations

### **Jim Natwick**

### **Conference 6**

#### **Pr. Loren Mellum**

- Pastor, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Moorhead
- Education: D.Min. Luther Seminary (in progress); M.Div. Trinity Seminary; BA Trinity Lutheran College
- Service in Congregation: Senior Pastor Our Savior's Lutheran, Moorhead; Senior Pastor Trinity Lutheran, North Branch, MN; Youth Minister, Christ the King Lutheran, Fishers, IN
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: various synodical and conference ministry teams in NW Minnesota, St Paul Area Synod, Indiana-Kentucky Synod
- Service in Congregation: member of Churches United Board, Moorhead

### **Deborah Hovde**

- Member, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Moorhead
- Occupation: LPN
- Service in Congregation: Church Council; WELCA President, Call Committee
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: 2010 NWMN Synod Assembly voting member

### **Conference 7**

#### **Eric Hanson**

- Member, Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes
- Occupation: student Detroit Lakes High School/farm hand

- Service in Congregation: assistant Sunday School teacher; youth representative; previous Salt leader
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: 2009 National Youth Gathering; volunteer for work on homes hit by hurricane in Mississippi
- Service in Community: American Legion; Habitat for Humanity; sand bagging

### **Jenna Gilbertson**

- Member, Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes
- Occupation: Certified Optician
- Service in Congregation: Sunday School teacher, Circle
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: voting member to synod and conference

### **Conference 8**

#### **Pr. Mark Manning**

- Pastor, Breckenridge Lutheran Church, Breckenridge
- Education: D.Min. Luther Seminary (in progress); M.Div. Luther Northwestern Seminary; BA University of Wisconsin Parkside
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: former Stewardship Chair (LaCrosse Area Synod); former NWMN Candidacy Commission Chair; NWMN Synod Congregational constitution reviewer; conference representative to Concordia College Corporation
- Service in Community: Breckenridge Rotary Club President; Twin Towns Ministerium chair; volunteer cross country coach

### **Rita Buntje**

- Member, First Lutheran Church, Battle Lake
- Occupation: Retired
- Service in Congregation: congregation Board of Directors, past Vice President; past co-chair WELCA Board; substitute office secretary; Outreach Committee
- Service in Community: Lakes Area Community Center Board Member; Winonga Days races coordinator

### **Conference 9**

#### **Pr. Melissa Ehrhardt**

- Pastor, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Clarissa
- Education: M.Div. Trinity Lutheran Seminary; BA Midland Lutheran College
- Service in Congregation: worship leader, Bible study leader, confirmation teacher, highway pick-up volunteer, and everything that is in a pastor's vocational call
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: member of Luther Crest Bible Camp Board; Conference 9 Dean; member of Lutheran Association of Christian Educators

### **Christie Meier**

- Member, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wadena
- Occupation: Associate in Ministry
- Service in Congregation: coordinate congregational programs; coordinate member involvement
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Commission on Outreach, past member of Synod Committee on Discipline
- Service in Community: Philanthropic Educational organization; Red Flag Green Flag

## **Conference 10**

### **Pr. Gregory Billberg**

- Associate Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Alexandria
- Education: M.Div. Luther Seminary; BA Bethel College
- Service in Congregation: worship; adult and youth ministries
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Candidacy Commission
- Service in Community: District 206 School Referendum Committee

### **Ken Greiner**

- Member, United Lutheran Church, Elbow Lake
- Occupation: Veterinarian
- Service in Congregation: Church Council chair, past Seeds for Mission member; past synod assembly voting member
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: voting member – 3 years
- Service in Community: School Board Chair; Housing Development Authority

## **At Large Voting Member**

### **Dwain Fagerlund**

- Member, St Paul's Lutheran Church, Crookston
- Occupation: Attorney/Mediator/Hearing Officer/Law Practice Management Consultant
- Service in Congregation: President; Board of Deacons; Evangelism Committee; Alpha Coordinator
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Assembly voting member; Bridgebuilder
- Service in Community: President of United Way; Riverview Hospital Board of Directors Chair

## **Youth Representative**

### **Katie Nelson**

- Member, Gary Lutheran Church, Gary
- Occupation: Concordia student
- Service in Congregation: substitute Sunday School teacher; volunteer Vacation Bible School teacher/planner; past call committee member
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: definitely-abled representative/vice president for NWMN Synod Lutheran Youth Organization; Member NWMN Synod Assembly Planning Commission; past Co-chair for the Council of Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Presidents' meeting which led to a position within the Executive Committee for the Churchwide Board of the LYO

# Northwestern Minnesota Synod Ballot

## May 14-15, 2010

### Synod Council Members

#### Conference 1

[vote for one clergy]

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr. Thomas Oberg

[vote for one lay female]

\_\_\_\_\_ Kathy Levenhagen

#### Conference 3

[vote for one clergy]

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr. Kelly Ahola

#### Conference 5

[vote for one lay male]

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#### Conference 7

[vote for one clergy]

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr. Eric Lemonholm

[vote for one lay male]

\_\_\_\_\_ Michael Wammer

#### Conference 9

[vote for one clergy]

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr. Roger Johnson

#### Conference 10

[vote for one clergy]

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr. Robert Toso

#### At Large

[vote for one youth]

\_\_\_\_\_ Annie Kuebler

# Northwestern Minnesota Synod Ballot

## May 14-15, 2010

### **Synod Secretary**

[vote for one lay person or clergy]

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr. Heidi Mann

\_\_\_\_\_ Terrance Carlisle

### **Synod Consultation Committee**

[vote for three ordained pastors and one lay person]

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr. Aage Carlsen

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr. Darrel Saathoff

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr. Gary Halvorson

\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Mark Wangberg

For your information, the following persons will continue on the committee for another year:

Ms. Arvella Lang, Battle Lake

Ms. Jeanne Rains, Fosston

# Northwestern Minnesota Synod Ballot

## May 14-15, 2010

### 2011 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

#### Conference 1

[vote for one clergy male and one lay female]

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr. Rodney Nygren

\_\_\_\_\_ Liz Hardwick

#### Conference 2

[vote for one clergy and one lay male – one of them of color or language other than English]

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr. Rena Peterson

\_\_\_\_\_ Gary Page

#### Conference 3

[vote for one clergy female and one lay female]

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr. Gretchen Anderson

\_\_\_\_\_ Marilyn Malmanger

#### Conference 4

[vote for one lay male and one lay female]

\_\_\_\_\_ Gary Coe

\_\_\_\_\_ Karen Coe

#### Conference 5

[vote for one clergy male and one lay male]

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr. Dane Skilbred

\_\_\_\_\_ Jim Natwick

#### Conference 6

[vote for one clergy male and one lay female]

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr. Loren Mellum

\_\_\_\_\_ Deborah Hovde

#### Conference 7

[vote for one lay male and one lay female – one of them a youth representative]

\_\_\_\_\_ Eric Hanson

\_\_\_\_\_ Jenna Gilbertson

#### Conference 8

[vote for one clergy male and one lay female]

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr. Mark Manning

\_\_\_\_\_ Rita Buntje

#### Conference 9

[vote for one clergy female and one lay female]

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr. Melissa Ehrhardt

\_\_\_\_\_ Christie Meier

#### Conference 10

[vote for one clergy male and one lay male]

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr. Gregory Billberg

\_\_\_\_\_ Ken Greiner

#### At Large Voting Member

[vote for one lay male]

\_\_\_\_\_ Dwain Fagerlund

#### Youth Representative

[vote for one female]

\_\_\_\_\_ Katie Nelson