

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