

2017 Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly Biographical Information for Election Nominees

Synod Officers

Secretary

Pr. Karla Mickelson

- Congregation: Trinity, Moorhead
- Education: BA Concordia College, Moorhead; M.Div. Luther Seminary, St. Paul
- Vocation: Interim pastor, Trinity Lutheran & First Presbyterian, Crookston
- Service in Congregation: musician; food pantry volunteer
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: former Synod Council member; secretary Moorhead Conference (05)
- Service in Community: supports the arts in Fargo/Moorhead

Treasurer

Catherine Dickey

- Congregation: Trinity, Moorhead
- Education: BA German Literature, Michigan State; Accounting Major, Concordia College, Moorhead
- Vocation: CPA; Higher Education Accounting, Concordia College
- Service in Congregation: Council member 2014-2017; Lost & Found Ministry
- Service in Community: Friends of the Moorhead Public Library

Synod Council Members

Thief River Falls Conference 02: Rostered Minister

Pr. Jonathan Dodson

- Congregation: Immanuel/Ebenezer Lutheran Parish, Plummer
- Education: Augsburg College, Minneapolis; M.Div. Luther Seminary, St. Paul
- Vocation: Pastor
- Service in Congregation: worship, education, visitation
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Assembly Planning Committee; Synod Council
- Service in Community: Inter-County; Plummer Area Service

Moorhead Conference 05: Lay Person

Deacon Daniel Stauffer

- Congregation: Scandia, Averill
- Education: Diploma Business Education, Conesotga College of Applied Arts & Advanced Learning, Kitchener, Ontario; BA Economics & Sociology, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario; Bachelor of Education (adult education), Brock University, Saint Catharines, Ontario; Master in Theological Studies, Waterloo Lutheran University/Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario; Clinical Pastoral Education: Cambridge Memorial Hospital, Cambridge, Ontario;

Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH; St. Vincent Charity Medical Center, Cleveland, OH

- Vocation: Synodically Authorized Minister, Scandia, Averill
- Service in Congregation: lead worship; preside at weddings and funerals
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: 2016 Churchwide Assembly voting member
- Service in Community: 3rd vice-president Moorhead Lions Club; Moorhead Rotary Club (2013-14); Jail Chaplain volunteer Clay County Sheriff's Department

Fergus Falls Conference 07: Lay Person

John Wold

- Congregation: Sverdrup, Underwood
- Education: AA Golden Valley Lutheran College, Minneapolis; BS North Dakota State University, Fargo
- Vocation: farmer
- Service in Congregation: congregation president 9 years; serve as a mentor; Vibrant Faith member
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Audit Committee; Synod Compensation Guidelines Committee
- Service in Community: Underwood School Board; agricultural committees; school and community volunteer

Alexandria Conference 08: Lay Person

Kenneth Rothman

- Congregation: Shalom, Alexandria
- Education: BA Concordia College, Moorhead; Pharmacology, NDSU, Fargo
- Vocation: Retired; formerly skilled care nursing home owner and administrator
- Service in Congregation: Council member in three congregations; council member and past president Shalom, Alexandria; Finance Committee chair; Long Range Planning Committee
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: conference meetings; Page at Synod Assembly
- Service in Community: former board member Douglas County; Habitat for Humanity; Thrivent Chapter; U of M Extension master gardener for Douglas County

At Large Female, PCL

Gothe Jensvold

- Congregation: Trinity, Detroit Lakes
- Education: MA in Education, University of Manchester, England
- Vocation: Retired
- Service in Congregation: Christian Outreach Committee, Sunday School teacher, quilter, women's circle
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Council, 2016 Churchwide Assembly voting member, Mission Interpreter
- Service in Community: PEO member, Food Pantry volunteer, White Earth Daycare volunteer

At Large Female

Laura Tweten

- Congregation: Bethlehem, Ulen
- Education: BS Communications, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks
- Vocation: Financial Associate for Thrivent Financial
- Service in Congregation: Faithful Volunteer in youth programs; former president and vice-president of congregation; youth director Bethlehem, Ulen 1998-1999
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Pathways summer staff 1995-1997; Assistant Site Director Green Lake Lutheran Ministries, Spicer 1999-2004
- Service in Community: Civic & Commerce member; Community Education

At Large Youth

Mira DeGroat

- Congregation: First, Audubon
- Education: high school sophomore
- Vocation: Cinemagic 7 movie theatre, Washington Square Mall
- Service in Congregation: Sunday school teacher; after school church program; Synod Assembly voting member
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: LYO Board member
- Service in Community: bingo with elderly; ditch cleanup

Synod Consultation Committee

David Velde

- Congregation: Calvary, Alexandria
- Education: JD Hamline Law School
- Vocation: attorney
- Service in Congregation: served twice as congregational president
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: voting member
- Service in Community: chairman of nursing home board and local arts board

Jean Christensen

- Congregation: First, Bemidji
- Education: PsyD (doctoral level training in psychology)
- Vocation: retired psychologist
- Service in Congregation: congregation president 1999-2000; current church council member; various committees
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: former member Synod Sexual Ethics in Ministry Committee
- Service in Community: consultant for NWMN Foundation 8 years; member Mental Health Collaborative-PACT

Synod Discipline Committee

Pr. Nathan Loer

- Congregation: Immanuel, Wadena
- Education: M.Div. Luther Seminary, St. Paul
- Vocation: Pastor
- Service in Congregation: Men's Bible Study; youth chaperone; pastor for 14 years
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Compensation Guidelines Committee; Dean Detroit Lakes Conference (06)
- Service in Community: Wadena Rotary Club; elementary basketball coach

Patricia Swanson

- Congregation: Maria, Kennedy
- Education: RN, North Dakota State University, Fargo
- Vocation: administrator, Kittson County Hospice
- Service in Congregation: organist/pianist; Sunday School music leader
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod vice-president 3 terms; Synod Council 28 years; ELCA Discipline Committee
- Service in Community: volunteer American Cancer Society; president Kittson Memorial Foundation; administrator Kittson County Hospice

Pr. Anne Meredith

- Congregation: Zion, Blackduck & Our Savior's, Kelliher
- Education: M.Div. Luther Seminary, St. Paul
- Vocation: Pastor
- Service in Congregation: Pastor Zion, Blackduck & Our Savior's, Kelliher; Vicar, Calvary Bemidji; Christian Education Director, First, Bemidji
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Mission Interpreter
- Service in Community: worked with Peoples Church, Bemidji; Food Shelf and Servants of Shelter programs

Pr. Hope Deutscher

- Congregation: Living Grace, Hawley
- Education: M.Div. Luther Seminary, St. Paul
- Vocation: Pastor/Mission Developer
- Service in Congregation: Pastor/Mission Developer, Living Grace, Hawley; Pastor, Gran-Park-Rollag Parish, Hawley
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Council 2014-2016; Synod Assembly Planning Committee
- Service in Community: board chair, Rural Enrichment & Counseling Headquarters (REACH); former board chair and participant Lake Agassiz Concert Band; former board member Lake Agassiz Arts Council

Timothy Rice

- Congregation: Faith, Staples
- Education: Masters degree in Management
- Vocation: President/CEO Lakewood Health System
- Service in Congregation: treasurer; church fundraising
- Service in Community: Staples Area Men's Chorus; Staples Lions; Staples-Motley basketball program director

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