

2024 Synod Assembly Elections – FINAL Nominee Packet

- We will be electing a people to serve on the Consultation Committee, the Committee on Discipline, the Synod Council, and as voting members to the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly
 - Below you will find position descriptions and the names of those nominated for those positions
 - Short bios of nominees (in alphabetical order) are below the descriptions
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Committee on Discipline

Electing 1 Rostered Minister to complete a vacated position, term ending 2025; 2 Rostered Ministers, terms ending 2029; and 2 Lay Persons, terms ending 2029

The Committee on Discipline of this synod consists of 12 persons, of whom six shall be rostered ministers (pastors or deacons) and six shall be laypersons, who are elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six* years without consecutive re-election. (*Due to a year without a synod assembly, we are electing members to 5-year terms this election process.) Members of this committee may be called to participate in a hearing when charges are brought against governing officers, ministers of Word and Sacrament, ministers of Word and Service, congregations, and/or members of a congregation. (Thankfully, members of this committee are rarely called upon.) (Full description in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA.)

Rostered Ministers

Rev. Nyla Schoeld – 1-year term
Deacon Marie Preftes-Arenz – 1-year term
Rev. Jory Mickelson – 5-year term
Rev. Glen Aaberg – 5-year term

Lay Persons – 5-year term

David Foster-Koth
Bob Spencer

Consultation Committee

Electing 2 Rostered Ministers and 2 Lay Persons, terms ending 2029

The Consultation Committee consists of 12 persons, of whom half shall be ministers of word and sacrament and half shall be laypersons. These members are elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of 6* years without consecutive reelection. (*Due to a year without a synod assembly, we are electing members for 5-year terms this election process.) When there is disagreement among factions within a congregation on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, members of a congregation shall have access to the synodical bishop for consultation after informing the chair of the Congregation Council of their intent. If the consultation fails to resolve the issue(s), the Consultation Committee of this synod shall consider the matter. (Full description in Chapter 20 of the ELCA Constitution and Chapter 17 of the Synod Constitution.)

Rostered Ministers

Rev. Beth Eden
Rev. Katherine GrayBuck
Rev. Kari Lipke

Lay Persons

John Fairbairn
Eric Peoples

Synod Council

Electing 1 Lay Woman; 1 Lay Man, 1 Lay Unrestricted, 1 Youth, 1 Young Adult, and 4 Rostered Ministers - of the rostered ministers, at least 1 is to be a deacon and at least 1 is to be a person of color or whose primary language is not English.

Youth position term length is 2 years, all other terms end in 2027.

The council typically meets every 2 months. The Synod Council is the board of directors of this synod, serving as the legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. Additional leadership functions include trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of this synod; recommending program goals and budgets; carrying out resolutions of the Synod Assembly; etc. (See Chapter 10 of the Synod Constitution for full definition of Council.)

SYNOD COUNCIL NOMINEES:

Youth

David Kinner

Lay Persons:

Sherianne Caldwell
Dan Squires
Elly Stitt

Rostered Ministers:

Rev. Andy Arnold
Rev. Kevin Bates
Rev. Paul Eldred
Rev. Jim Killough

Young Adult

Sam Martinez

Rostered Minister – Deacon

Deacon Luke Allgeyer

Rostered Minister - POC

Rev. Sam Sseba

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS

The 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will be held July 28-August 2, 2025 in Phoenix, Arizona. The Churchwide Assembly is the highest level of authority in the ELCA. Elected Voting members from each synod gather every three years to conduct the business of the church – hearing reports, discerning resolutions and memorials that are brought forward from synods, holding elections, etc. (See Chapter 12 of the ELCA Constitution for full definition.) Electing 7 (2 rostered ministers and 5 lay persons) in accordance with representational principles.

Youth

Seth Lambing

Rostered Ministers:

Rev. Paul Eldred
Rev. Ivar Hillesland
Rev. Kristi Lambing
Rev. Rick Rouse

Lay Persons:

Sherianne Caldwell
Steven Chapman
Dan Clements
Rachel Pritchett
Nisar Stephen
Elly Stitt

Young Adult

Dante Austin
Kasey Shultz

Nominee Biographical Information

M = Man; **F** = Woman; **NB** = Non-binary, gender fluid, other gender | **Youth** = Under 18 years old; **Y/A** = Young Adult age 18-30
POC = Person of color or person whose primary language is not English

Rev. Glen Aaberg (nominated for Committee on Discipline)

Northlake / Kenmore + Pastor | M | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Pastor, supervisor of church and preschool employees.

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Glen has provided occasional support to NW WA candidacy and discipline committees.

Gifts/Skills: Calm in crises, commitment to justice via grace and truth.

Deacon Luke Allgeyer (nominated for Synod Council)

Columbia City Church of Hope / Seattle + Deacon | M | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Liturgy Team, Leadership Team, Assisting Minister, Pulpit Supply

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Synod Council

Gifts/Skills: Luke has served one term on Synod Council and is hoping to serve another. He is a chaplain at the University of Washington Medical Center and has been a rostered Deacon since June of 2021. He is thoughtful and well-spoken in ministry settings and appreciates the opportunity to serve at the Synod level.

Rev. Andy Arnold (nominated for Synod Council)

Shepherd of the Vally / Maple Valley + Pastor | M | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Rostered Minister - pastor and associate pastor for over 25 years, serving in three different congregations. 15 years as an associate pastor with primary responsibilities in youth and family; 11 years as a solo pastor at SVLC. Worship Planner, guitar player, technology expert, community representative, liturgist, etc.

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: South King County Cluster Dean; Bishop's Convocation Planning Team for 8+ years; Coordinated technology for numerous synod gatherings. Previously coordinated the All Alaska Lutheran Youth Gathering and the Lutheran Summer Camp at Victory Bible Camp in Alaska and worked with the Montana Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Community: Habitat for Humanity Board Member and Treasurer at Mat-Su affiliate in Wasilla, AK and the Flathead Valley affiliate in Kalispell, MT. Churchwide: Currently managing streaming and the Network App for the ELCA Youth Ministry Network; ELCA Youth Gathering Team Leader for Communications in 2012 and 2015; team member for many cycles; and served on a programmatic team for ELCA Churchwide Office

Gifts/Skills: Andy is good at looking at issues from a variety of perspectives to understand how any given angle can be limiting. He sees the big picture and listens carefully to pick up on what others see that he might have missed. He advocates for the inclusion and amplification of voices that have been overshadowed. He is a well-organized collaborative leader who communicates clearly and understands budgets and finances. He is also generous with his time and expertise in areas such as information technology. Andy holds tradition respectfully while recognizing the church's need to evolve, and brings a depth of experience and equanimity in moving with the church into a future that is both similar to and different from what has been in the past.

Dante Austin (nominated for Churchwide Assembly Voting Member)

Immanuel / Seattle + Layperson | NB | POC | YA

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Sunday School Teacher, Cantor, Assistant Minister

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Synod Council Youth Rep., School DEJI, School Thespians

Gifts/Skills: Dante is a kind, considerate, and thoughtful young man who asks heartfelt questions to advance to church. His contributions to his congregation and community uplift and inspire others to help out in any way to make the communities in which they live, work, learn, and worship to be inclusive and loving places for all people who wish to enter those spaces.

Rev. Kevin Bates (nominated for Synod Council)

Magnolia / Seattle + Pastor | M | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Assistance with a recent remodeling project at our congregation; Assistance with a recent Capital Fund Campaign for our remodeling project; Assistance with the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd at our congregation; administrative oversight for our congregation.

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Consultation to Clergy, Board Member (2015 - present); Compass Housing Alliance, Board Member (2017 - 2020); Trinity Lutheran College, Board Member (2007-2015); Pastor-in-Residence, Wittenberg, Germany (2010).

Gifts/Skills: Curiosity; Thoughtfulness; Ability to ask questions; Openness to trying new things; Love of the Church

Steven Chapman (nominated for Churchwide Assembly Voting Member)

Central / Seattle + Lay Person | M | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Assisting Minister, Chair of Personnel Committee, Congregational President, Liturgical Art

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Synod Council (1998-2006), Synod Assembly Planning, Human Sexuality Task Force, Churchwide Voting Member (2005, 2009)

Gifts/Skills: I understand the work and time commitment required to be an effective Voting Member. I am currently working on a project collecting the history of the movement for the ELCA to recognize the gifts and ministry of its LGBTQ+ children. I have been a member of my congregation since 1990. I served two terms on the Synod Council where I planned many synod assemblies. I served on the Human Sexuality Task Force helping to lead congregations and individuals in deep conversations. I helped several congregations (and our synod) through the process of becoming RIC (Reconciling in Christ).

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Dan Clements (nominated Churchwide Assembly Voting Member)

Our Savior's / Everett + Lay Person | M | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Congregation Council, Treasurer, Columbarium Committee, Global Ministry

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Lutheran Immigration Support Services, Housing Hope Board, HIV Region 4 Board, Washington Cease Fire Board

Gifts/Skills: Multi-Cultural, Speaks 10 languages, deep caring about different cultures and environments, wildlife photographer, have a son who was murdered.

Rev. Beth Eden (nominated for Consultation Committee)

Lutheran Church in the San Juans + Pastor | F | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Pastor

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: While a member of the Rocky Mountain Synod, Beth served on their Synod Council, Candidacy Committee, as the Reference & Counsel Committee Chair. In the NWWA Synod, Beth serves as the Co-Dean of the Skagit-Isle Cluster.

Gifts/Skills: Beth has served many years as a pastor. She has a deep concern for the well-being of rostered professionals – and lay people. She is an excellent listener, and she is fair-minded.

Rev. Paul Eldred (nominated for Synod Council and Churchwide Assembly Voting Member)

Central / Seattle + Pastor | M | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Pastor, Central Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity – Seattle (2022-Present); Pastor, Holy Cross Lutheran Church – Bellevue (2018-2022)

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Vice President, Lutheran Campus Ministry at UW (2018-2023); Participant, Leadership on the Way (2022-2023); Member, NWWA Synod Bishop Nomination and Election Task Force (2018-2019); Co-Chair, NWWA Synod Gathering coordinating team (2017-2018)

Gifts/Skills: Paul is attentive and conscientious, engaging with the nuances of complex situations, and deeply listening to the opinions of others while ensuring that the voices of those most often unheard are included in the conversation. Having personally experienced rejection from the Church, Paul is keenly aware of those who face systemic or implicit marginalization and has always borne witness to the power of Christ's transformational and unconditional love in a relatable and accessible way. He tirelessly advocates for wider inclusion following Christ's gospel and example of radical love and grace. He now sees it as part of his role in the Church to use his experiences in leadership, governance, and board work to enact that same grace and love he first received in Jesus' name.

John Fairbairn (nominated for Consultation Committee)

Faith / Bellingham + Lay Person | M | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Call Committee, Transition Team, Council Member, Education Chair

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: School Principal, Exec. Director of Human Resources for Ferndale School District, Exec. Director of Teaching & Learning for Ferndale School District, Boys & Girls Club Board of Directors

Gifts/Skills: Particularly in my professional life I have been in leadership positions that require a great deal of discretion as well as positive problem solving. Both building and district leadership positions require the utmost confidentiality for all persons involved. I have skills in conflict resolution, organization, planning and the ability to see issues from multiple perspectives. I have spent much of my time helping to find graceful conclusions to complicated situations.

David Foster-Koth (nominated for Committee on Discipline)

Faith / Seattle + Lay Person | M | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Congregation Council President (twice), Chair of Stewardship Committee

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Board President of Compass Housing Alliance, (former) Lake City Partners Ending Homelessness, Lifetime Advocacy Plus (both current)

Gifts/Skills: Intelligence, judgment, discretion, experience, and empathy

Rev. Katherine GrayBuck (nominated for Consultation Committee)

Church of the Apostles/Seattle + Pastor | F | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Pastor

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Harborview Medical Center: Palliative Care Team, previous work with Ethics Committee.

Gifts/Skills: Skills of 5+ years' experience in chaplaincy; trained in diversity, equity, inclusion, and healthcare ethics; and background in conflict resolution during crisis.

Rev. Ivar Hillesland (nominated for Churchwide Assembly Voting Member)

Church of the Apostles / Seattle + Pastor | M | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Pastor.

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Synod Council (2019 to present), Synod Personnel (2014 to present), Strategic Team for Authentic Diversity (2020 to present), Acting Canon for Congregational Development in Episcopal Diocese of Olympia (2024)

Gifts/Skills: Ivar has experience as a trainer and consultant working with lay/clergy teams across the country on congregational development; served as a mission developer of a community of people on the edges of the church; has a deep experience working with our Episcopal partners; experience as an intercultural development consultant and member of our authentic diversity team; and has participated in the challenges of synod personnel and council work. He brings a passion for our profound theology, the ability to think outside the box and to think systemically about change, a devotion to underrepresented voices and justice, skill with trust development, change processes, conflict management, identity work, and decision making.

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Rev. Jim Killough (nominated for Synod Council)

Central / Everett + Pastor | M | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Pastor.

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry Omaha, Board President; Bridge Builder Consultant, Nebraska Synod; Habitat for Humanity Board, Nemaha County Nebraska

Gifts/Skills: Pastor Jim has 34 years' experience as a parish pastor. He has served as a solo, associate, and lead pastor. He has been an internship supervisor and interim pastor. Pastor Jim has the gifts of administration, teaching, and preaching.

David Kinner (nominated for Synod Council)

Pointe of Grace / Mukilteo + Lay Person | M | POC | Youth

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Youth Group, Worship Assistant, Music Leadership, Sound booth

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Youth Ministry

Gifts/Skills: David has an engaging personality with a rich curiosity of life and church history fostered by his grandparents. He is very active in his church through his music and helping in the sound booth. He would bring his listening skills and unique outlook of life to the Synod Council as a POC.

Rev. Kristi Lambing (nominated for Churchwide Assembly Voting Member)

Fir-Conway / Mount Vernon + Pastor | F | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Pastor, Chaplain, Church Council Member

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Nominating Committee, Cluster Co-Dean, Bishops Convocation Committee

Gifts/Skills: Kristi has listening and caring skills that help her to hear sensitive topics before coming to an understanding. She is outgoing when needed and thoughtful in her interactions with others.

Seth Lambing (nominated Churchwide Voting Member)

Fir-Conway / Mount Vernon + Lay Person | M | Youth

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Acolyte, garden cleanup crew, other service events

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: He is active on his robotics team, doing coding, scouting, and field building.

Gifts/Skills: He is kindhearted, with practice of being a good listener, he is engaging, and very thoughtful. He is passionate with those he loves and is a thinker which serves him well in life.

Rev. Kari Lipke (nominated for Consultation Committee)

Gethsemane / Seattle + Pastor | NB | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Pastor

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Current: Mental Health Counselor (MSW, LSWAIC) serving in community mental health. Past: Mission Developer; ReconcilingWorks faith community organizer; Student Services staff at a Lutheran church-related college; extensive congregational service as a lay person prior to discerning ordained ministry.

Gifts/Skills: Capacity for remaining grounded and curious in emotionally charged groups; gift for analytical and connective thinking; extensive study of and lived experience with social and environmental justice issues; trust in God's mercy; honesty.

Samuel Martinez (nominated for Synod Council)

Christ the Servant / Bellingham + Lay Person | M | YA

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Reconciling in Christ Audit team member

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Guest Services Director, Lutherwood Camp & Retreat Center

Gifts/Skills: Experience in youth ministry, camp ministry, and education. Over the past 3 years has been a part of and helped facilitate conversations surrounding LGBTQ+ topics in conservative churches and ministries. Passionate about people connecting to creation and Creator through camp and other opportunities. Methodical and thoughtful, excited to learn more about the Synod and how it interacts with the larger church body.

Rev. Jory Mickelson (nominated for Committee on Discipline)

Faith / Bellingham + Pastor | NB | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Pastor

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Prior to ordination, served as a mission developer.

Gifts/Skills: Comes from faith tradition outside of the ELCA, so can see issues from beyond institutional setting, is a member of the LGBTQIA+ community--one that is often traditionally disproportionately affected by Discipline Committees, has experience working with other marginalized communities including Indigenous communities, sensitive to cultural and social norms in other communities.

Sherianne Molzahn Caldwell (nominated for Synod Council and Churchwide Assembly Voting Member)

Immanuel / Seattle + Lay Person | F | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Church Council; Worship Committee; Assisting Minister; Usher

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Synod Council; Synod Executive Committee; Assembly Planning Committee; active with Immanuel Community Services

Gifts/Skills: Sherianne is not afraid of good trouble; she is a life-long Lutheran who is not afraid of change and challenging "we've always done it that way"; volunteer where needed; detail-oriented; comfortable with improv; hospitality; passion for social justice; encouraging; administrative assistant extraordinaire; not afraid to challenge leadership.

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Eric Peoples (nominated for Consultation Committee)

First / Bothell + Lay Person | M | POC | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Congregation Sabbatical Committee

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Synod Council

Gifts/Skills: As a business owner, Eric brings a financial background and a practical approach to problem solving.

Deacon Marie Preftes-Arenz (nominated for Committee on Discipline)

Faith of North Lakewood / Marysville + Deacon | F | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Preaching, Children's Ministry, Caring Ministry, Assisting Minister

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Synod Candidacy Committee, Leader of "Living Interfaith Church", Substance abuse treatment center director, Mental health counselor

Gifts/Skills: Thoughtful, deliberative, caring, clear communicator, deep faith--and able to make hard decisions

Rachel Pritchett (nominated for Churchwide Assembly Voting Member)

Bethany / Bainbridge Island + Lay Person | F | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Altar Guild member; project manager for \$250,000 sanctuary interior overhaul; former longtime office administrator; Scripture reader; and Communion server

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Namibia Task Force chair 15 years, Southwestern Washington Synod, and active at the churchwide level in this companion-relationship capacity; communicator, former Southwestern Washington Synod for 12 years; longtime front-page contributor of the former The Lutheran magazine; Northwest Washington Synod congregational attendee.

Gifts/Skills: Rachel brings full attention, a listening ear and sound judgement to the position. She would bring energy and commitment to conversation and would bring home and share spiritual treasures found at the assembly, as well as new ideas and opportunities found there, as well. She would share these with the synod, her congregation, and other congregations, if asked. While she has worked at many, many synod assemblies, and assemblies at the Lutheran World Federation, she has not attended one at the churchwide level, and has wanted to do this for a number of years.

Rev. Rick Rouse (nominated for Churchwide Assembly Voting Member)

Our Savior / Everett + Pastor | M | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Pastor, Teacher, Parish Consultant, Co-Chair of Refugee Resettlement Task Force

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: I am on the Synod Consultation Committee, I have served on the Churchwide Committee for Ministry in Daily Life, the Board of Directors at Wartburg Seminary and currently at P.L.T.S., and adjunct faculty at Luther Seminary.

Gifts/Skills: I bring a wealth of experience and knowledge of the church at all three expressions of the the ELCA-- congregation, synod, and churchwide by serving as pastor, church consultant, synod staff, and a member of various boards and committees across the church. I have attended but never been a voting member at a churchwide assembly. I trust that I can offer wisdom, theological and spiritual insight, a sense of fairness, and a passion for social justice.

Rev. Nyla Schoeld (nominated for Committee on Discipline)

Sammamish Hills / Sammamish + Pastor | F | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Pastor, Mission Leader, Youth & Family Minister, Board of Trustees for Augustana University

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Pastor, ELCA Youth Gathering /Mass Gathering Team, Augustana University Board of Trustees

Gifts/Skills: Pastoral care and leadership skills; Active Listening skills; Peer Ministry and Interpersonal Communication Training; A desire to care for the Body of Christ and serve in church as and where needed. I have served as a mediator for small groups in conflict and hope to bring the same level of support to this committee.

Kasey Shultz (nominated for Churchwide Assembly Voting Member)

Columbia City Church of Hope / Seattle + Layperson | F | YA

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Treasurer, Leadership Team Member, Musician

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: 2022 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Lutheran Volunteer Corps volunteer in Seattle, Young Adults in Global Mission volunteer in Madagascar, active coach in the NW WA Synod

Gifts/Skills: I bring a strong attention to detail, willingness to listen and learn from others, a love of the church, and a desire to see the church grow into its potential to work for justice and love in the world. I understand what is required of me as a voting member at Churchwide Assembly and I would love the opportunity to serve again in 2025.

Robert (Bob) Spencer (nominated for Committee on Discipline)

Our Savior's / Everett + Lay Person | M | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Lead Strategic Planning effort, Church Council, Personnel Committee, Call Committee chair Committee (all at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church)

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Synod Council, Synod Personnel Committee (Chair)

Gifts/Skills: I have experience working with Pastoral leaders, Lay Rostered Staff and the Synod staff during several terms on the Synod Personnel Committee serving with Chris Boerger and Kirby Unti. I have mediated in difficult investigations of various disputes amongst those groups.

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Rev. Sam Sseba (nominated for Synod Council)

Prince of Peace / SeaTac + Pastor | M | POC | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Pastor

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Synod Council, Former Cluster Dean

Gifts/Skills: Teachable, open to new ways of doing ministry.

Dan Squires (nominated for Synod Council)

Our Savior's / Everett + Lay Person | M | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Chair of the Capital Improvement Committee, Council President Queen Anne Lutheran Church, Chair of the Pipe Organ Replacement Committee Queen Anne Lutheran Church, Audit Committee Queen Anne Lutheran Church, reader/usher/communion assistant/trash collector at many churches.

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Lay representative to synod assembly for both Queen Anne Lutheran and Our Savior's Lutheran, Everett; YMCA Board; Commanding Officer Naval Station Everett 2001 - 2004.

Gifts/Skills: With a deep love for and thorough understanding of our ELCA from the congregational level, I would be honored to bring my leadership experience and commitment to our Synod Council. As a career Naval Officer, my family and I experienced the joys of membership at many Lutheran churches around the United States. The members of these Lutheran congregations supported, consoled, educated, and encouraged us with the blessings of God's love and the traditions of our Lutheran heritage. As a senior Project Manager and Deputy Program Manager at Boeing, I am steeped in the world of executing contracts, managing budgets, satisfying customers, and anticipating the next crisis. I am willing to humbly share my experience and enthusiasm with God's church as embodied in the NWWA Synod.

Nisar Stephen (nominated for Churchwide Assembly Voting Member)

Grace / Des Moines + Lay Person | M | POC | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Interim Lay Pastor at Lakeridge Lutheran and Kent Lutheran

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Synod Nominating Committee; Chaplain at Valley Medical

Gifts/Skills: Bring a global perspective as an immigrant from Pakistan; have theological training and pastoral experience.

Elly Stitt (nominated for Synod Council and Churchwide Assembly Voting Member)

Prince of Peace / Shoreline + Lay Person | NB | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Past President and Vice President of home congregation – and current council member of home congregation. Elected to Committee of Discipline.

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Currently on the Synod Council and Executive Committee. Elected to Committee of Discipline.

Gifts/Skills: Diversity is important. Nominee brings a transwoman perspective to diversity conversations. Nominee has shared and does share what it means to them for congregations (their people) to be fully welcoming and affirming. For them, in one word, life. in two words, literally life. Thoughtfulness, compassion, and a sense for justice are prevalent in how they work with others.