

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM

NOMINEE FOR BISHOP OF THE FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD

This form will be used by BOTH those being pre-identified AND those at the Assembly whose names are on the third ballot.

First Name: Johan

Middle Name/Initial: A.A.

Last Name: Bergh

How can you be contacted during the Synod Assembly? (Hotel name and room number if known; cell phone number)

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Current Position: Pastor, St. Philip Lutheran Church, Mt. Dora, Florida

Congregation of Membership (Give congregation name, city and state):
St. Philip, Mt. Dora, Florida.

Birth Date/Year: ██

Ordination Date/Year: October 11, 1981

Previous Positions (With congregation or institution and years, most current first):

Pastor, St. Philip Lutheran Church, Mt. Dora, FL.
October 2012 – Present

Interim Pastor, Advent Lutheran Church, Orange Park, FL.
July 2012 to September 2012

Interim Pastor, St. Philip Lutheran Church, Mt. Dora, FL.
December 2010 to July 2012

Research Specialist, Valent Biosciences Corporation
February 2010 to 2012

Pastor, People of Faith Lutheran Church, Winter Garden, FL.
1984-2009

Pastor, King of Kings Lutheran Church, Melville, NY,
1981-1984

Education with Earned Degrees (With institutions and years, most current first):

- Doctor of Ministry, Lutheran Theological Seminary Philadelphia, 2006
- Master of Divinity, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, 1981
- Bachelor of Science, School of Natural Resources, The Ohio State University, 1977

List Honorary Degrees: NA

List up to five (5) current or past synodical or churchwide activities that would inform your service as Bishop of this Synod:

Current

- Florida-Bahamas Synod Coaching Ministry Coordinator
- ELCA Churchwide Coaching Ministry Leadership Team (including ELCA Licensed Coach Trainer & International Coach Federation Associate Certified Coach)

Previous

- Florida-Bahamas Synod Leadership Development Task Force, Chairperson
- Florida-Bahamas Synod Nominating Committee, Chairperson
- Florida-Bahamas Synod, Heart of Florida Conference, Dean

List up to five (5) current or past community-related activities that would inform your service as Bishop of this Synod.

Current

- Adult Lutherans Organized for Action (ALOA), Equipping 21st Century Disciples Program, Inter-Lutheran National Program Task Force, Member.
- Mt. Dora Ministerial Association, Member
- Greenfaith Fellowship Program, Fellow

Previous

- Garden Community Choir, Winter Garden, Florida, Founding Chairperson
- Ocoee Florida Rotary Club, Member, Program Chairperson

What gifts would you would bring to the office of synod bishop? (500 characters maximum)

The gifts I would bring to the Bishops Office include a passion for the mission of God in and through Jesus Christ and leadership and management skills helpful in these challenging times.

I would identify these gifts in the following manner:

- Leadership: Compassion and Urgency for Mission for Rostered Leaders and Congregational Leaders
- Administration: Organization for effectiveness and mission/purpose fulfillment
- Change Management: Sensitivity to organizational change dynamics
- Gospel Proclamation: Preaching and Lutheran Hermeneutics
- Mission Development: Disciple-Making in Today's Contexts

What is your concept of the primary role of the synodical bishop? (1000 characters maximum)

The primary role of bishop is multi-faceted:

- Vision-caster:** bringing the Dream of God (aka Kingdom of God) to bear on all we do as Synod
- Good News Bearer:** Preaching and Teaching so Gospel is known and lived
- **Confidant and Accountability Partner to Leaders:** Pastor to Rostered Ministers and Congregational Leaders
- Relationship Connector:** Wider ELCA, Ecumenical Partners, Inter-Faith Organizations

Because the primary role is actually multiple roles the challenge for the Bishop is to work to try to not be all things for all people and to work to prioritize roles with available time. I see all congregations and church institutions and agencies as outposts for mission and their leadership as being in the best position, locally, to adapt to change so that the mission thrives. As Bishop, through all the above stated roles, I would strive to empower and encourage local mission leaders to engage their challenges with innovation in organization and program and deep-rootedness in Christ.

What do you see as the principle challenge to this synod over the next six (6) years, and how would you address it? (1000 characters maximum)

The principle challenge is the redevelopment and new development of congregational mission. About 65% of our congregations are in decline. There are no easy solutions to success in this challenging environment. What we can do is provide direction and support for rostered and lay leaders so we are all Clear-Eyed and Strong-Hearted Together Following Jesus for the Sake of the World. I see us growing leaders who exhibit and grow in these five marks of a missional leader: Relational Intelligence (Clear-Eyed and Strong Hearted), Collegiality (Together), Discipling Others (Following), Theological and Spiritual Formation (Jesus), Missional Development Skills (For the Sake of the World) [see my recently published “The Five Marks of Missional Leaders Toolbox 1.0”]. We can call for annual congregational mission plans and provide education, care, support and accountability so our leaders are best equipped. I would work to provide personal and missional care and presence using video conferencing, phone calls, webinars and other technologies so the Bishop is less available for congregational ceremonial events and more available for connecting with leaders.

How do you tend to your physical, spiritual emotional health, and to your overall wholeness in Christ? (1000 characters maximum)

I really appreciate and use Portico’s Wholeness Wheel as a way to gauge and implement my life in Christ: The Spiritual Life consists of Vocational, Physical, Emotional, Financial, Inter-Personal/Social, and Intellectual wellness. For over 40 years I’ve been a runner, 20 years regular strength-training and cardio (the past 8 years or so 5 days a week is my routine), 4 years weekly hot yoga classes. I do regular financial planning with professional assistance, nurture and care for good friendships outside of my work relationships (I have, for example, some good golfing buddies), for 45 years I’ve done daily scriptural devotions, meditation and journaling (a core practice is daily use of *For All the Saints, A Prayerbook for and by the Church*), Continuing Education (professional development) is an annual priority (I have an avocational interest in Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Works) and Personal retreats (Benedictine practice, including my favorite: Gethsemane Abbey, Kentucky) is vital. My wife Janet and I enjoy bike riding together, back-yard porch parties with friends, fitness classes together (yoga and spinning for example) and sharing time with our family and friends.

How will you proactively address the additional stress of moving to or commuting to Tampa and all of the travel involved in the call? (1000 characters maximum)

Connection and Presence are vital. To make this happen best I would work to evaluate and implement greater use of technology to be present throughout our Synod and would evaluate how we structure the Bishop's Office presence in relationship to our 15 Synod Conferences. I recognize travel and time is required with Churchwide responsibilities as well as targeted time with congregations. Key will be prioritizing this travel and pacing this travel so there is the necessary time home for family and friends. I know this is not easy, but things must change in our Synod so the Bishop's life and work is sustainable. Helpful will be agreed upon expectations on the Bishop's face-to-face presence as well as the Bishop's Office (staff) face to face presence throughout Synod. When the Bishop is not traveling for Churchwide events or targeting planned trips to Synod Conferences and Congregations, commuting to Tampa would be managed by working to schedule a regular weekly schedule in Tampa Synod House Office and regular weekly office schedule in Orlando area (where I live; I could see one of our Orlando area local congregations or agencies perhaps providing office space if possible).

Please complete the form and submit it to Ileana Sardinas (ileanas@fbsynod.org)