



2022

# FBSynod Assembly Nominations Book



FBSynod Nomination Committee

5.20.22



# 2022 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

## NOMINATIONS BOOK

### Elections Standing Rules

- A. Nominations from the floor must have prior written consent of the nominee and be conveyed on a Floor Nomination Information Sheet to be presented to the Secretary at the time of Nomination. In lieu of written consent, the nominee may email consent to the chair of the elections committee at [info@fbsynod.org](mailto:info@fbsynod.org) prior to being nominated. A Florida Bahamas Synod Nominations Form - Floor Nominations with biographical data must also be presented to the Secretary at the time of nomination or by the established deadline.
- B. Write-in ballots will not be allowed. Any ballot submitted with a name other than for a properly nominated person will be declared illegal.
- C. At the discretion of the Chair, voting on elections may be by electronic device. Use of an electronic device in accord with Roberts Rules of Order, Section 45:42, is deemed to fulfill all requirements for election by ballot except in the first two ballots for the election of the bishop which shall be cast by paper ballot.
- D. The Chair may allow for the report of the Elections Committee and the taking of a ballot whenever the Committee is ready to report even if this is earlier or later than times scheduled in the agenda. A ballot shall take precedence over any other order of business.
- E. All voting members must be wearing their badges and be in their seats in the Voting Members section in order to vote. The doors to the meeting room shall be closed during the elections process.
- F. Only information concerning nominees on official Biographical Data Forms developed and distributed by the Nominating Committee will be permitted at the Assembly. No use of special handouts or display area distribution concerning nominees will be permitted.
- G. On the first ballot in the general election, names will appear in an order determined by draw by the chair of the Elections Committee. On the subsequent ballots, the names will be listed according to the number of votes received.
- H. In accord with the Synod Constitution (S9.08), in all elections except for the bishop, the names of the persons receiving the two highest numbers of votes, but not elected by a majority of the votes cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot. In cases in which votes are cast in one segment of the ballot for multiple positions on a committee, board, or Synod Council, the number of names entered on the next ballot shall be two for each remaining position to be filled. The names shall be the persons receiving the highest numbers of votes, but not elected by a majority of the votes cast on a preceding ballot.
- I. If only one person is nominated for a position, the chair shall declare the nominee elected, thus effecting election by unanimous consent.

**ABSOLUTELY NO PROXY VOTING WILL BE ALLOWED**



## 2022 Synod Assembly Open Positions

### 1. Synod Council Representatives

- Southwest Mission District - Lake, Mid Gulf, Tampa, Sun Coast, Gulf Coast & Caloosa Conferences
  - Rostered Minister, male or female (in good standing for a three-year term)
- Southeast Mission District - Miami-Dade, Broward-Bahamas, Tradewinds & Space Coast Conferences
  - PCLE\* Rostered Minister or Layperson, male or female (in good standing for a three-year term)
    - \*A person of color or primary language other than English.
  - Layperson Female (in good standing for a three-year term)
- North Mission District - 1st Coast, Heart of Florida, Pinelands, Panhandle & Flagler-Volusia Conferences
  - PCLE\* Rostered Minister or Layperson, male or female (in good standing for a three-year term)
    - \*A person of color or primary language other than English.
  - Layperson Male (in good standing for a three-year term)
- Youth - Any Mission District, male or female (in good standing for a one-year term)
  - Nominees for the youth position shall be a High School Student, 15-17 years of age at the time of election.

### 2. Consultation Committee 1 position (in good standing for a one-year term)

Minister of Word & Sacrament Female

### 3. Discipline Committee 4 positions (in good standing for a six-year term)

Layperson Male  
Layperson Female  
Minister of Word & Sacrament Male  
Minister of Word & Sacrament Female



## List of Nominees 2022

### Synod Council

Position	Term	Nominees
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#### Southwest Mission District

Rostered Minister, male or female	3	Paul Gibson	Anne Harman	Rob Martin
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#### Southeast Mission District

PCLE* - Layperson or Rostered Minister, Male or Female	3	
Layperson Female	3	Donna Person (I)

#### North Mission District

PCLE* - Layperson or Rostered Minister, Male or Female	3	Pr. Andre Keeley
Layperson Male	3	Steve Beumer (I)

#### Youth

Youth, High School Student age 15-17 - Male or Female	1	Elliot Rose
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(I) = Incumbent

\*\* At-Large Incumbent

\*PCLE = Person of color or primary language other than English

### Consultation Committee

Position	Term	Nominees
Minister of Word & Sacrament Female	1	Kari Niedermaier

### Discipline Committee

Position	Term	Nominees		
Layperson Male	6	Chris Dickman (I)*		
Layperson Female	6	Barbara Miller (I)*		
Minister of Word & Sacrament Male	6	Tom Holdcraft	Andreas Stein	Jeff Ungs
Minister of Word & Sacrament Female	6	Lois Sorensen		

(I)\* elected to a 1 year term October 2021 with ability to be re-elected to a full 6 year term



# **Florida-Bahamas Synod Council Nominations**



**Synod Council Southwest Mission District Rostered Minister,  
Male or Female  
3 Year Term**

**Name:** Rev. Paul Gibson

**Occupation:** Pastor

**Church Name:** Trinity, St Petersburg

**Are you a person of color or is your primary language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- MDiv from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia
- BA Music from University of Miami, Coral Gables

**Service experience:**

- Eight years as a pastor
- Member of the LGBTQIA+ community hoping to provide them with representation

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Sun Coast Conference Dean
- Synod Just Love Team



**Synod Council Southwest Mission District - Rostered Minister,  
Male or Female  
3 Year Term**

**Name:** Rev. Anne Harman

**Occupation:** Pastor

**Church Name:** St. Paul's, Clearwater

**Are you a person of color or is your primary language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- MDiv from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, June 2021
- MA of Christian Spirituality with a Certificate in Spiritual Direction and Directed Retreats from Creighton University, Omaha, NE
- MA of Music in Choral Conducting and Literature from University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

**Service experience:**

- 30 years of pastoral experience in the Catholic tradition
  - Responsible for developing & maintaining programs
  - Responsible for recruiting & developing the talents of employees and volunteers
  - Responsible for preparing and living within an annual budget
- Trained and worked in areas of spiritual formation for more than two decades
- I led an ongoing two-year spiritual formation program for adults

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- I am a newly ordained pastor and relatively new to the ELCA.
  - The Call Committee and others involved in my formation have encouraged me to find meaningful ways to engage with the wider church
- In my first call, I am involved with the blending of two congregations and discerning the future of our property and ministry
- I have worked closely with the Synod Staff & Council. As a leader and pastor, one of my strengths is being able to help people be heard & understood



**Synod Council Southwest Mission District - Rostered Minister,  
Male or Female  
3 Year Term**

**Name:** Rev. Rob Martin

**Occupation:** Pastor

**Church Name:** Christ, Cape Coral

**Are you a person of color or is your primary language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- MDiv, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA -- 2012
- MA, History, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL --2003
- BA, German Language, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI -- 1996

**Service experience:**

- 6 years as Museum Experience Manager, Conner Prairie Living History Museum, Fishers, IN
- Two years as Resident Director, Max Kade German House, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- Webmaster, President and Past-President over an eight-year period of Midwest Open-Air Museums Coordinating Council

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Pastor, First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tulsa, OK, member of the Tulsa Sponsoring Committee, an Interfaith branch of the Industrial Area Foundation.
  - Helped to develop what evolved into a "showers for the homeless" program, offering showers, bathroom facilities, coffee, conversation, telephone use and funerals.
- Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church, Cape Coral
  - Renting from and sharing space with Epiphany Episcopal Church resulting in a change in how both congregations interacted and a relearning of how to share space.





**Synod Council Southeast Mission District - Layperson**  
**Female**  
**3 Year Term**

**Name:** Ms. Donna Person

**Occupation:** Paralegal, retired

**Church Name:** Christ, Fort Lauderdale

**Are you a person of color or is your primary language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- Bachelor's Degree from Florida Atlantic University in 1979, majoring in Elementary Education
- Associate of Arts Degree from Broward College in 1977, emphasis in Psychology and Sociology
- Associate of Science Degree from Broward College in 1986, majoring in Legal Assisting

**Service experience:**

- Synod Council Member from 2019 to present, representing Southeast Mission District
- Secretary for Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization from 2018 to present, served several terms in this position, and has served as a Board Member.
- Secretary of Church Council at Christ Lutheran Church, Fort Lauderdale, current Secretary, served several terms in this position, and have served as a Council Member.

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Lutheran World Relief, Drop-off Site Coordinator, located at Christ Lutheran Church, which serves Southeast Florida, every February for multiple years
- Served as representative to Synod Assembly for Christ Lutheran Church twice
- Sunday School Teacher at Christ Lutheran Church from 1986 to 2005



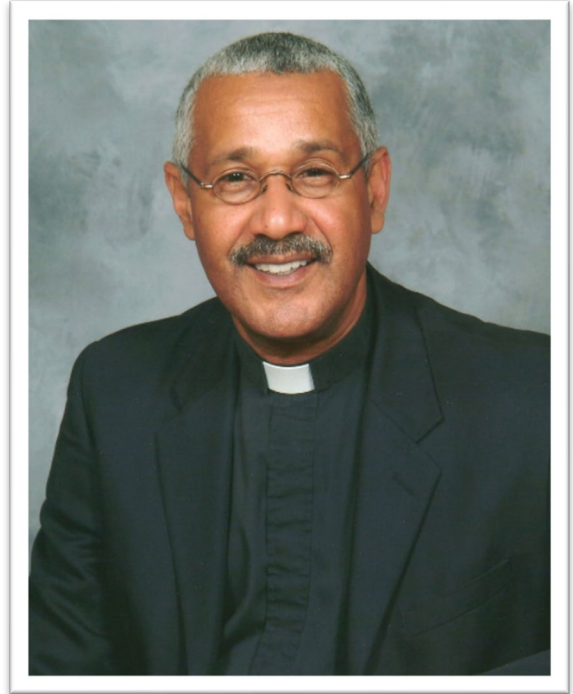
**Synod Council Southwest Mission District - Person of Color  
or Primary Language other than English - Layperson or  
Rostered Minister, Male or Female  
3 Year Term**

**Name:** Rev. Andre Keeley

**Occupation:** Pastor

**Church Name:** Faith, Daytona Beach

**Are you a person of color or is your primary  
language other than English?** Yes



**Education:**

- BA - Sociology-Anthropology, 1973, Morgan State Univ. Baltimore, Maryland
- MA - City Planning-Public Policy Analysis, 1977, Morgan State Univ. Baltimore, Maryland
- MDiv - 1989, Trinity Luther Seminary, Columbus, Ohio

**Service experience:**

- Social Worker
- Senior City Planner
- Community Service

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Saint Mark Lutheran, East Point, Georgia, Southeastern Synod.
- New Hope Lutheran, Dayton, Ohio, Southern Ohio Synod.
- Interim Ministry: University Lutheran, Gainesville, Florida / All Saints Lutheran, Port Orange, Florida / Faith Lutheran, Ormond Beach, Florida.



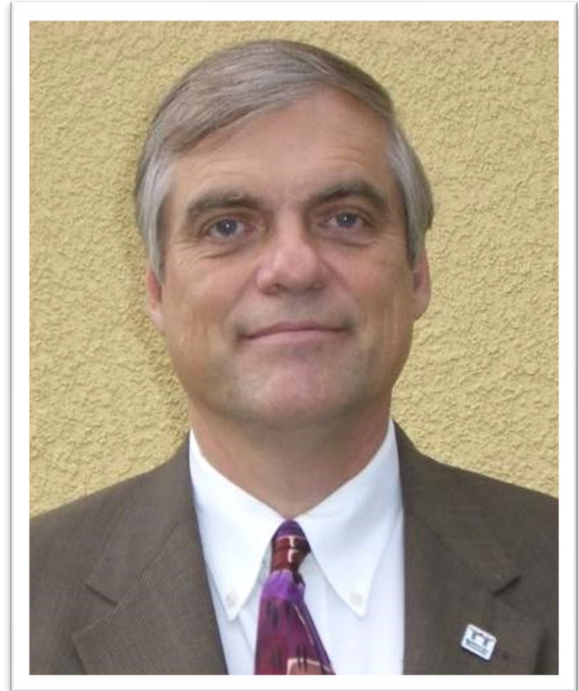
## **Synod Council North Mission District - Layperson Male 3 Year Term**

**Name:** Mr. Steven Beumer

**Occupation:** Business Owner

**Church Name:** St. John Evangelical,  
Winter Park

**Are you a person of color or is your primary  
language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, School of Labor and Industrial Relations

**Service experience:**

- Involvement in all levels of the church and active in the engagement of people learning and hearing about the saving grace of Jesus Christ
- Serve on various areas including Global Missions, World Hunger, Immigration, working for creation care and supporting efforts to accept people of all races, faiths and sexual orientation
- I try very hard to live out my faith every single day, sometimes using words but mostly actions.

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- I am currently a Synod Parish Deacon at St. John in Winter Park
- On the Synod level I have served on Synod Council, Consultation Committee, Anti-Racism Think Tank, Synod Malaria Coordinator and Global Missions for over twenty years
- On the churchwide level I have been a voting representative to the Churchwide Assembly and a delegate to World Hunger events and conducted listening events for the current Church/Government study



**Synod Council Youth (High School Student Age 15-17 at time of election) - Layperson, Male or Female  
1 Year Term**

**Name:** Mr. Elliot Rose

**Occupation:** High School Student

**Church Name:** St. Stephen, Longwood

**Are you a person of color or is your primary language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- High school student at Montverde Academy.
- Leadership Program at Luther Springs 2021 & 2022.

**Service experience:**

- Academic team captain (qualified to state tournament).
- Varsity Lacrosse Player.
- National Honor Society member.

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Service work within the church.
- Camp counselor at church camps.
- Student Leader in the youth group.



# **Florida-Bahamas Consultation Committee Nominations**



**Consultation Committee - Minister of Word & Sacrament,  
Female  
1 Year Term**

**Name:** Rev. Kari Niedermaier

**Occupation:** Pastor

**Church Name:** All Saints Lutheran Church, Port Orange

**Are you a person of color or is your primary language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- BS, Women's Health, UW- Madison, 2004.
- MDiv Iliff School of Theology, 2019.

**Service experience:**

- Served in two congregations with previous or current pastoral misconduct, and observed and experienced synod accompaniment, pastor's response(s) and congregational responses that were helpful and life-giving and some that were harmful
- Mother of six children (with lots of friends) who often experience conflict and boundary crossings and/or violations that require deep listening and accompaniment

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Certified Boundaries trainer for the Faith Trust Institute
- Consult with Leading Every Day as Disciples helping Congregations around the churchwide expression to pivot, listening deeply to where the Spirit is calling them and grieving/healing/letting go of trauma and things that are no longer life-giving.



# **Florida-Bahamas Discipline Committee Nominations**



## **Discipline Committee - Layperson Male 6 Year Term**

**Name:** Mr. Chris Dickman

**Occupation:** Entrepreneur

**Church Name:** Advent, Melbourne

**Are you a person of color or is your primary language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- Grande Diplôme en Arts Culinaires , Le Cordon Bleu, 2005

**Service experience:**

- Coordinator for the ELCA Youth Gathering 2018
- Served on many different sub-committees as a member of Synod Council
- Opened Castle Church

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- 2 Full Terms on Synod Council as a Lay Male Mission District Representative
- 2 Full terms as Vice President of Advent's Congregational Council
- 3 Full Term as Space Coast Conference Chair





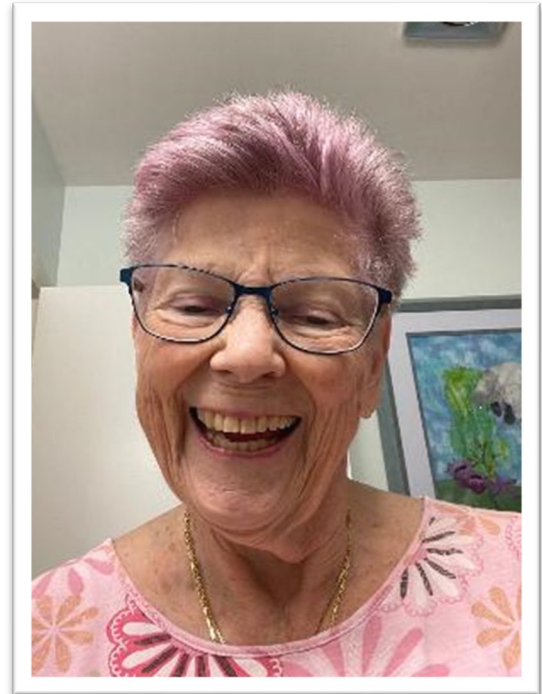
## **Discipline Committee - Layperson Female 6 Year Term**

**Name:** Mrs. Barbara Miller

**Occupation:** Teacher, multiple levels, retired,  
Volunteer, current

**Church Name:** Christus Victor, Naples

**Are you a person of color or is your primary  
language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- BA Bowling Green State University (Ohio) 1965, English , French, Speech
- MS Long Island University 1970, Secondary Education- English
- Certificate of Proficiency, Universitat Salzburg 1964, German language, history, culture

**Service experience:**

- Secondary school teacher in an alternative high school, Detroit area
- Pastor's wife, 33 years, urban and suburban communities
- International travel, immersion, education, accompaniment

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Adult Sunday School teacher, etc. etc. etc.
- Florida-Bahamas Synod Hunger Team Chair
- Churchwide Women of the ELCA Board of Directors



## **Discipline Committee - Minister of Word & Sacrament Male 6 Year Term**

**Name:** Rev. Tom Holdcraft

**Occupation:** Pastor

**Church Name:** St. Stephen, Tallahassee

**Are you a person of color or is your primary language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- BA Hospitality Administration, Florida State University, 1992
- MDiv Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, 2011

**Service experience:**

- 6 years with Marriott Corporation at various supervisor/manager positions in hotels and restaurants
- Two terms in the position of Dean in the Panhandle Conference

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Served as youth director for 5 years before going to seminary
- During seminary served on the interview team with 3 other students and gave recommendations for 2 keys staff positions: Director of Admissions and Campus Chaplain
- Transitions training with Florida-Bahamas Synod.



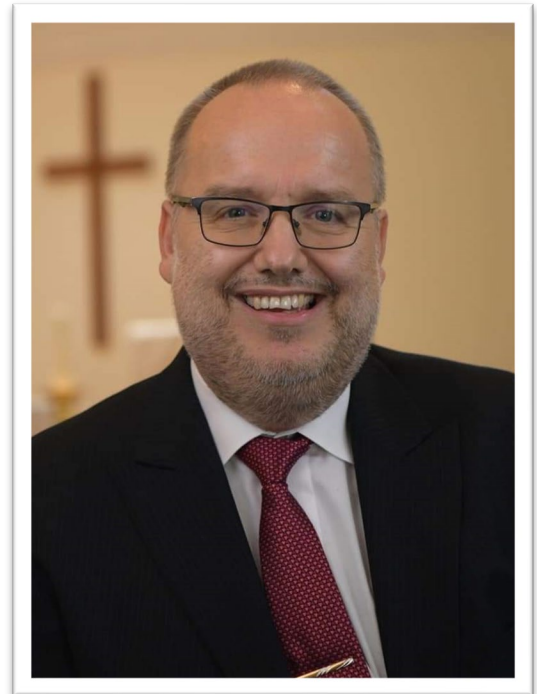
## **Discipline Committee - Minister of Word & Sacrament Male 6 Year Term**

**Name:** Rev. Andreas Stein

**Occupation:** Pastor

**Church Name:** Peace, Fort Myers

**Are you a person of color or is your primary language other than English?** Yes



**Education:**

- Master of Divinity, Sioux Falls Seminary, 1999

**Service experience:**

- As part of the Outreach Committee of my past synod (Nebraska) I dealt with and helped congregations that were trying to recover from boundary violations

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Presidential Advisory Committee, Luther House of Study at Augustana University
- Supervisor of several students in candidacy program preparing to become Ministers of Word and Sacrament
- Dean of the Lewis and Clark Mission Cluster of the Nebraska Synod



## **Discipline Committee Minister of Word & Sacrament Male 6 Year Term**

**Name:** Rev. Jeff Unga

**Occupation:** Pastor

**Church Name:** Shepherd of the Glades,  
Naples

**Are you a person of color or is your primary  
language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- Bachelor of Science, Upper Iowa University, Fayette, Iowa 1995
- Master of Divinity, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, 1999

**Service experience:**

- Ordained minister in the ELCA for 22 years

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Served Churchwide ELCA Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop of the Western Iowa Synod for 6 years



## **Discipline Committee Minister of Word & Sacrament Female 6 Year Term**

**Name:** Rev. Lois Sorensen

**Occupation:** Pastor

**Church Name:** Reformation, Lakeland

**Are you a person of color or is your primary language other than English?** No



### **Education:**

- MDiv - Luther Seminary, St. Paul MN, 2021
- MBA - University of South Florida, Tampa FL, 1990
- BS Engineering - Marquette University, Milwaukee WI, 1986

### **Service experience:**

- Much of my secular career was with a state agency, including:
  - Supervisory duties (rehabilitation or release of personnel)
  - Regulatory responsibilities (actions to achieve compliance or address noncompliance)

### **Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- I have served three congregations within this synod as a Stephen Minister, Synod Parish Deacon, intern/vicar, and (now) solo pastor
- Delicate situations in each capacity have involved the application of compassion, confidentiality, and appropriate action to protect the Body of Christ
- Interaction with colleagues in various synods has also informed my understanding regarding the value of advisors to our bishop and council