

2023 Synod Assembly

Nomination Booklet



North Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Nominations for Assembly Elections

Below is a list of all positions that are up for election at Assembly. Please read through each section and each person's information carefully to make an informed decision during voting.

NC Synod Council Secretary

- 4-year term of 2023-2027- choose one candidate

NC Synod Council

- 4-year term of 2023-2027- choose 2 Lay Males, 2 Lay Females, 2 Rostered Males, 2 Rostered Females
- 2-year term of 2023-2025- choose 1 Lay Female, 1 Lay Male

2025 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members (13 to be elected, with the bishop and vice president making 15 total voting members from NC)

- Churchwide voting members are sectioned off into two broad categories: People who May Have Attended and People who Have Not Attended. Then, broken into Lay Female, Lay Male, Rostered Female, Rostered Male, and Rostered Minister in each broad category.

NC Synod Discipline Committee

- 4-year term, 2023-2027
- This will be a Block Vote; you will vote to approve or disapprove the selected members of the Discipline Committee as a whole.

NC Synod Consultation Committee

- 6-year term, 2023-2029
- This will be a Block Vote; you will vote to approve or disapprove the selected members of the Consultation Committee as a whole.

Information Key

- * = person of color or primary language other than English
- YA= Young Adult
- I= Incumbent

Synod Council Secretary, 4-year Term— **Pick One**

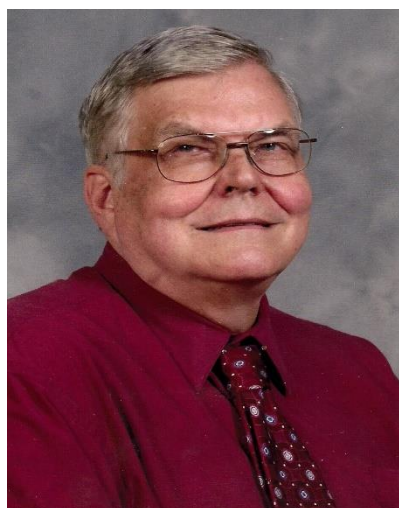


The Rev. Cassie McIntosh Overcash: Synod Secretary Nominee

Congregation : Grace, Thomasville

Education : MDIV, LTSS; Bachelor of Arts Religion and Philosophy from Lenoir-Rhyne University

Experience : Pastor Cassie is the Board president of the Cooperative Community Ministry of Thomasville, worked on the summer staff of Camp Agape, and served on the National Youth Gathering Community Life team. She has also served two terms on the NC Synod Council, attended the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, and serves on the Rostered Ministers Gathering Planning Team.



David Phillips: Synod Secretary Nominee

Congregation : St. John's, Salisbury

Occupation : Retired, Chief Nutrition and Food Services

Education : BS in Food Administration/Hospital Dietetics from the Rochester Institute of Technology, MS in Dietetics from State University College at Buffalo

Experience : In his current congregation of St. John's in Salisbury, David has acted as the Council secretary and is on the Columbarium/Memorial Garden Committee. David was also the NC Synod Assembly Minutes Committee and Minutes Recorder.

Synod Council Lay Female, 4-Year Term— **Pick Two**



Peggy Poe: Synod Council—Lay Female, 4-year term

Congregation : Amazing Grace, Granite Falls

Occupation : Retired High Schol Media Coordinator

Education : Master's Degree from the School of Library Science

Experience : Peggy currently serves on church council as the vice-president/treasurer and has previously served as the secretary. Peggy is also serving as a worship leader, the volunteer church office manager, oversees all aspects of work related to the St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Cemetery, and is currently working to revise Amazing Grace's Constitution and Policies and Procedures.



Susan Harris: Synod Council—Lay Female, 4-year term

Congregation : Salem, Lincolnton

Occupation : Retired Court Reporter

Education : High school graduate, Second cohort of Lay Preachers and the first cohort of SAM in the NC Synod

Experience : Susan has been a lifelong member of the Lutheran church. She has been a congregation council member, a Synod council member, and the Synodical Women's Organization President. Susan also attended the Churchwide Assembly as a voting member in 2019.



Stephanie Plonk: Synod Council—Lay Female, 4-year term

Congregation : Holy Trinity, Charlotte

Occupation : Teacher

Education : BS in Early Childhood Education from Southern Wesleyan University

Experience : Stephanie's experience as a teacher taught her how to care for all people and make them feel welcome as well as work on a team, listen, and compromise to reach decisions. Stephanie served as a lay leader for Teens Encounter Christ and currently serves on church council and teaches Sunday School.



Pat Phillips: Synod Council—Lay Female, 4-year term

Congregation : St. Luke's, Lexington

Occupation : Retired Educational Administrator

Education : AB in English from Lenoir Rhyne, MA in Adult Education from Appalachian State University

Experience : Pat established an English as a Second Language program at Davidson County Community College as well as supervised multiple departments in her time there. She also wrote and received grants, served on several committees at the local and state level. Pat has also served as a church Council President and is an active member of WELCA.

Synod Council Lay Male, 4-year term — **Pick Two**



Robert Arndt (I): Synod Council—Lay Male, 4-year term

Congregation : St. Mark's, Lumberton

Occupation : Librarian

Education : Master in Library and Information Science from University of South Carolina (2002), Master of Fine Arts from USC (1998), Master of Arts from UNCC (1993)

Experience : Robert has served on numerous faculty committees and has completed a term on Synod Council. He has served as Council President at St. Mark's for 10+ years and is an NC Synod Lay Preacher.



Jody Laffon: Synod Council—Lay Male, 4-year term

Congregation : Old St. Paul's, Newton

Occupation : Retired Security Personnel Superior

Education : High School class of 1982

Experience : Jody is currently the Church Council President at Old St. Paul's a Chairperson of the Synod Legal Committee, and the Secretary of the Synodical Administration Council.



Ben Robinson: Synod Council—Lay Male, 4-year term

Congregation : Emmanuel, Lincolnton

Occupation : Retired

Education : BA in Forestry from NC State

Experience : Ben has been the President of Emmanuel's Congregation Council for 3 terms, has been a Congregation Youth Advisor, and a Sunday School. Ben is also the president of Lutherhaus of Lincolnton Board of Directors and has attended Churchwide Assembly in 2011 and 2012.



Mark Howell: Synod Council—Lay Male, 4-year term

Congregation : Mt. Zion, Conover

Occupation : Emergency Management Coordinator

Education : Business Administration from Catawba Valley Community College, Animal Science from NCSU, Community Preparedness and Disaster Management from UNC-CH

Experience : Mark has vast experience in Emergency Management and is an International Critical Incident Stress Counselor. He has served as Congregational President, is a Lay Preacher, and is an NC Synod SAM.

Synod Council Lay Female, 2-year Term — **Pick One**



Jill Nelson (I): Synod Council—Lay Female, 2-year term

Congregation : St. John, Salisbury

Occupation : Retired Executive Secretary

Education : BA from Colorado State University

Experience : Jill has served on staff of the Rocky Mountain Synod and on the NC Synod Staff with DEM. She currently serves on the NC Synod Council as part of the Legal and Udit Committees, has served on the NC Synod Assembly Minutes Chairperson, and served on her Homeowners Association.



Carolyn Miller: Synod Council—Lay Female, 2-year term

Congregation : Trinity, Sanford

Occupation : Assistant County Manager

Education : Bachelor's in Science from University of Wisconsin, Master's in Professional Studies from Penn State University, Post-Graduate Certificate from East Carolina University

Experience : Carolyn has 27 years of experience in local government human resources and administration. She has served as Council President at Trinity and has been a Facilitator and presenter at WELCA retreats and gatherings.

Synod Council Lay Male, 2-Year Term— **Pick One**



Matt Hanson: Synod Council — Lay Male, 2-year term

Congregation : St. Andrews, Andrews

Occupation : Seminarian

Education : BA from Concordia College (2013), anticipated MDiv from LTSS (2024)

Experience : Matt is currently on his Congregation Council at St. Andrews and has over 8 years of marketing experience. He has also collaborated with Synod Staff to launch Anam Cara, a digital-first worshipping community in the NC Synod.



Ned Thigpen: Synod Council—Lay Male, 2-year term

Congregation : Macedonia, Burlington

Occupation : SAM at Grace, Liberty; Business Owner

Education : Bachelor of Arts from Lenoir-Rhyne (1985)

Experience : Ned is on the Board of Directors of NC Self-Insurers Fund, President of Ned Thigpen and Associates, and Vice-President of Risk and Insurance Brokerage. He is currently serving as a SAM at Grace in Liberty and has experience as a Congregational president and as a Church Council Member.

Synod Council Rostered Female, 4-year Term— **Pick Two**



The Rev. Pam Northrup:
Synod Council—Rostered Female, 4-year Term

Congregation : Christ the King, Cary

Education : Bachelor of Science from East Carolina University, Master of Education from NC State, Master of Divinity from Lenoir-Rhyne

Experience : Pastor Pam has served as a pastor for 16 years. She is currently the Chair of the Advanced Lay Ministries/Synod Authorized Ministers Leadership Team and is a founding member of the Flager County Family Promise Board of Directors.



The Rev. Jennifer Ginn:
Synod Council—Rostered Female, 4-year Term

Congregation : St. Luke's, Lexington

Occupation : Pastor (Retired Rostered)

Education : BA from Wake Forest University, MA from University of TN, MDiv from Lutheran School of Theology

Experience : Pastor Jennifer has served as a pastor to small and large congregations and has training in individual and group coaching. Jennifer has served as the Dean of the Mecklenburg-Union Conference, the Synod Finance Committee and Personnel Advisory Committee, and is a former Synod Council member.



The Rev. Cassie McIntosh Overcash (I):
Synod Council—Rostered Female, 4-year Term

Congregation : Grace, Thomasville

Education : MDIV, LTSS, Bachelor of Arts Religion and Philosophy from Lenoir-Rhyne University

Experience : Pastor Cassie is the Board president of the Cooperative Community Ministry of Thomasville, worked on the summer staff of Camp Agape, and served on the National Youth Gathering Community Life team. She has also served two terms on the NC Synod Council, attended the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, and serves on the Rostered Ministers Gathering Planning Team.



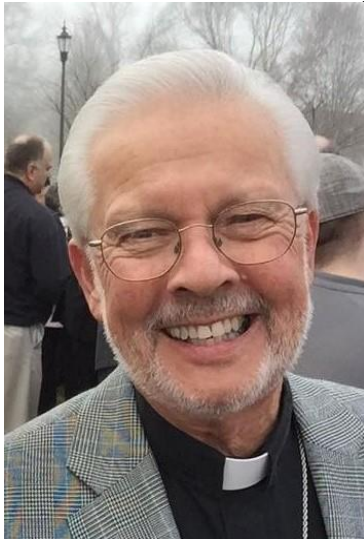
**The Rev. Jennifer Shimota (I):
Synod Council—Rostered Female, 4-year term**

Congregation : Coble's, Julian

Education : BA in English Composition from California Lutheran University, Secondary Teaching Credential from Chapman University, MDiv from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Experience : Pastor Jennifer is on the NC Synod Council, serves as co-chair of the Peeler/Casey Committee, and chair of the Synod Assembly Committee. Prior to her call to Coble's, she served as the Coordinator of Seminary Enrollment at LTSS.

Synod Council Rostered Male, 4-Year Term— **Pick Two**



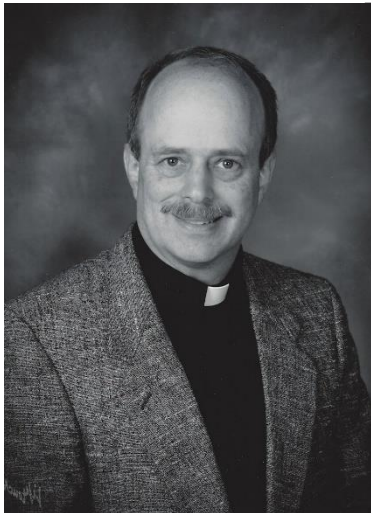
The Rev. Richard Graf:
Synod Council—Rostered Male, 4-year Term

Congregation : Holy Trinity, Hickory

Occupation : Interim Pastor

Education : BA from Lenoir-Rhyne, MDiv from Lutheran Theological Seminary, Doctor of Ministry from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Experience : Pastor Richard has served as Interim Pastor for 13 congregations since retirement. He is the President of Alamance County Community Council and Wilmington United Way. He has served on the NC and Florida/Bahamas Synod Councils, has served as the Synod Secretary and the Assistant to the Bishop.

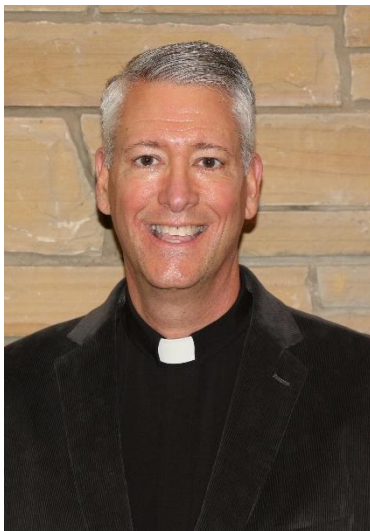


The Rev. Scott Swix:
Synod Council—Rostered Male, 4-year Term

Congregation : St. Luke's, Mount Ulla

Education : BS in Computer Science and MS in Computer Science, MDiv from Trinity Lutheran Seminary

Experience : Pastor Scott has spent 17 years in ELCA rostered ministry. He has experience in Mission development and redevelopment. He has been on multiple congregation councils and committees and has served as Dean of Conference and various Synod Committees in the NWL Michigan Synod.



The Rev. Jerome Cloninger:
Synod Council—Rostered Male, 4-year Term

Congregation : Macedonia, Burlington

Education : BA Theology and Religious Studies from Lenoir-Rhyne, MDiv from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg

Experience : Pastor Jerome has 20 years of experience as a minister of Word and Sacrament and has served rural and city congregations. He has served on the Synod Stewardship Table, as Synod Ambassador, on the Wakefield Care Center Board, has been a Natural Church Development Coach, and has been a Forward Together Coach.



The Rev. Terrance Jacob (*):
Synod Council—Rostered Male, 4-year Term

Congregation : Abiding Savior, Durham

Education : MDiv from University of Natal, Dip. Theology from Tulite Reformed Seminary, DMin from Luther Seminary

Experience : Pastor Terrance has served in various synods when he was on Churchwide staff including Synod Council in the Minneapolis Synod, Assistant to the Bishop in the Sierra Pacific Synod, and the Director for Evangelical Mission in the Sierra Pacific Synod, Northeastern Ohio Synod, and Florida-Bahamas Synod. He also served as Conference Dean in Florida.

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member — May Have Attended

ROSTERED FEMALE—PICK ONE



The Rev. Pam Northrup:

Churchwide Assembly—Rostered, may have attended

Congregation : Christ the King, Cary

Education : Bachelor of Science from East Carolina University,
Master of Education from NC State, MDiv from Lenoir-Rhyne

Experience : Pastor Pam has served as a pastor for 16 years. She is currently the Chair of the Advanced Lay Ministries/Synod Authorized Ministers Leadership Team and is a founding member of the Flager County Family Promise Board of Directors.



Deacon Katie Rivers:

Churchwide Assembly—Rostered, may have attended

Congregation : St. Mark's, Asheville

Occupation : Deacon, Director of Discipleship and Faith Formation

Education : BA in Music and Religion from Concordia College, Master of Arts and Certificate in Deaf Ministry, Concordia Theological Seminary

Experience : Deacon Katie has served on the NC Synod Candidacy Committee, Fall Convocation Planning Team, and attended the 2022 Churchwide Assembly. She has experience in ministry with youth, young adults, and people with disabilities.



The Rev. Cassie McIntosh Overcash:

Churchwide Assembly—Rostered has attended

Congregation : Grace, Thomasville

Education : MDiv from LTSS, Bachelor of Arts Religion and Philosophy from Lenoir-Rhyne University

Experience : Pastor Cassie is the Board president of Cooperative Community Ministry of Thomasville, worked summer staff at Camp Agape, and served on the National Youth Gathering Community Life Team. She served 2 terms on NC Synod Council, attended Churchwide Assembly in 2022, and is on the Rostered Ministers Gathering Planning Team.

ROSTERED MALE— PICK ONE



The Rev. Ethan Overcash:

Churchwide Assembly—Rostered, May have attended

Congregation : Emmanuel, High Point

Education : Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from Lenoir-Rhyne, MDiv from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Experience : Pastor Ethan has served as a Candidacy Chaplain for the last 3 years, worked in Summer Camp Ministry with Agape Kure Beach Ministries, and is a part of the “Clergy in Community” group at Wake Forest. Rev. Ethan attended Churchwide Assembly in 2016.



The Rev. Ron Philabaum:

Churchwide Assembly—Rostered, may have attended

Congregation : Alamance, Alamance

Education : Business Administration from AUI, MDiv from Trinity Seminary

Experience : Pastor Ron has served on the Ohio Synod Conference Council and on the NE Ohio Disciplinary Committee. He has been Church Council Leadership, on various Call Committees, and NEO Synod Involvement.



The Rev. Jack Russell (*):

Churchwide Assembly—Rostered, may have attended

Congregation : Living Waters, Cherokee

Occupation : Pastor Developer

Education : LSTC, ARTOS

Experience : Pastor Jack is a CWA delegate and the Vice President of Native American Lutheran Association. He is a Board member of the original Commission for Multicultural Ministries and attended Churchwide Assembly in 1999.

LAY FEMALE— PICK TWO



Linda Warren (*) : Churchwide Assembly—Lay, may have attended

Congregation : Church of the Abiding Savior, Durham

Occupation : Retired Mental Health Worker

Education : LPN from Durham Technical Community College, Certificate Substance Abuse Education Specialist

Experience : Linda has previously served as a Synod Council member and is currently a member of several committees of the Synod, including the African Descent Strategy Team. She has attended Churchwide Assembly in the past.



Jill Nelson: Churchwide Assembly — Lay, may have attended

Congregation : St. John, Salisbury

Occupation : Retired Executive Secretary

Education : BA from Colorado State University

Experience : Jill has served on staff of the Rocky Mountain Synod (1981-1988) and on the NC Synod Staff with DEM. She currently serves on the NC Synod Council as part of the Legal and Udit Committees, has served on the NC Synod Assembly Minutes Chairperson, and served on her Homeowners Association. Jill attended Churchwide Assembly in 2001.



Dr. Sylvia Black (*) : Churchwide Assembly—Lay, may have attended

Congregation : Holy Trinity, Chapel Hill

Occupation : Executive Leadership Coach

Education : PhD in Strategic Management from Columbia University, MBA from University of Kansas, MS in Computer Science from UNC-CH

Experience : Dr. Sylvia is currently a member of Synod Council, a Member of the Leadership Table of the Fund for Leaders, and has been the Chair of the NC Candidacy Committee. She attended Churchwide Assembly in 2011, 2016, and 2019.



Robin Huffman: Churchwide Assembly — Lay, may have attended

Congregation : Macedonia, Burlington

Occupation : Executive Director of NC Psychiatric Association

Education : BA in English from Wake Forest University

Experience : Robin has attended her association's national gathering and attended Churchwide Assembly in 2022. She is on the Synod Candidacy Committee and has served as her Church Council President.

LAY MALE— PICK THREE



Gregory Hudgins (*):

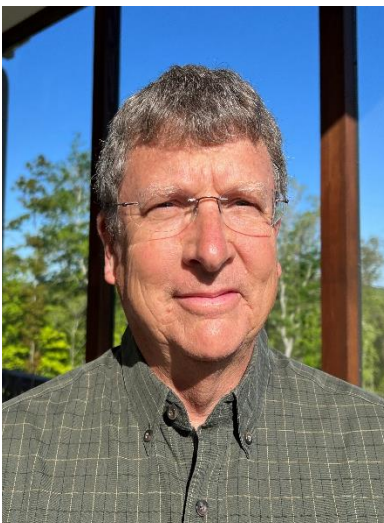
Churchwide Assembly—Lay, may have attended

Congregation : St. Paul's, Durham

Occupation : Retired Head of Operations for Duke's Investment Office

Education : AB and MBA from Duke University

Experience : Gregory is the current trustee and chair of Lutheran Services Carolinas and is a former trustee and chair of NC Lutheran Synod Foundation. He has also previously served as a Synod Council Member.



Douglas Nelson: Churchwide Assembly—Lay, may have attended

Congregation : Augsburg, Winston-Salem

Occupation : Retired Accountant

Education : BS of Accounting from Virginia Tech

Experience : Douglas was the Treasurer of Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center before retirement and served on multiple community organization boards. Currently, he serves as Chair of the Board of NC Lutheran Synod Foundation, Finance Chair of the Board of Lutheran Services Carolinas, and was the past Treasurer and council member of multiple committees at Augsburg. Douglas attended the Churchwide Assembly in 2022.



Mike Hix: Churchwide Assembly— Lay, may have attended

Congregation : St. Luke's, Charlotte

Occupation : Retired Associate Director Career Services

Education: BA in Intermediate Education from Lenoir Rhyne (1976),
Med in Psychological Counseling from Columbia University (1981)

Experience : Mike has served on St. Luke's Congregational Chair, Pastoral Leadership Task Force, Vision Team, Mutual Ministry Team, and has been the President of the Development Foundation. He has also served as the Campus Ministry Board Treasurer for the NC Synod and attended the Churchwide Assembly in 2022.



Rahim Brown (*): Churchwide Assembly—Lay, may have attended

Congregation : Abiding Presence, Fuquay Varina

Occupation : Youth Minister/ ELCA Intern Word and Sacrament

Education : MDiv from Saint Paul School of Theology

Experience : Rahim participated in the General Assembly when he was a member in the UMC. He has also participated in a Cluster Church assembly as a Lutheran member and will be a voting member in the 2023 Synod Assembly.



David Johnson (*): Churchwide Assembly—Lay, may have attended

Congregation : Church of the Abiding Savior, Durham

Occupation : Retired Technical Manager

Education : BSC from NCCU, MBA from Campbell University, CPM from the Academy of Public Managers

Experience : David has served on National and Local Lutheran boards and committees, has been President and Treasurer of his Church Council, served on the NC Synod Outreach and Campus Ministry Committees.



Brett Koceja (*):

Churchwide Assembly—Lay, may have attended

Congregation : Prince of Peace, Greensboro

Occupation : Public Accountant

Education : BS in Business Administration from UNC-CH

Experience : Brett has been a member of Lutheran Via de Cristo for over 25 years, Kairos Prison ministries for 12 years, is currently on the board of directors of 3 non-profit organizations, and has served on various church councils and committees.

Churchwide Assembly Voting Member—Has Not Attended

ROSTERED FEMALE—PICK ONE



The Rev. Karen Battle (*):
Churchwide Assembly—Rostered, has not attended

Congregation : Advent, Charlotte

Occupation : Retired Pastor, Spiritual Director, End of Life Coach

Education : MDiv from Trinity Lutheran Seminary

Experience : Pastor Karen has served the ELCA “since its inception” and is concerned about the future direction of the church. Karen is the Director for Education Resources for the Women of the ELCA and was on the Ecumenical Affairs Committee for the Southwestern PA Synod.



The Rev. Athena Thomasson-Bless:
Churchwide Assembly—Rostered, has not attended

Congregation : Christ the King, Cary

Education : MDiv from Wake Forest School of Divinity, BA Religion and Philosophy from Catawba College

Experience : Pastor Athena has experience as a queer pastor in the church and a pastoral leader of adaptive ministry. Athena has worked on the Synod Staff doing advocacy work, served as SJAM Coordinator for the Synod, and is on the Member of Mission Fund Board.



The Rev. Emily Norris:
Churchwide Assembly—Rostered, has not attended

Congregation : The Dwelling, Winston-Salem

Occupation : Pastor and Mission Developer

Education : BA in History and BA in Education from Wartburg College, MDiv from Wartburg Theological Seminary

Experience : Pastor Emily is on the Board of Directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary and is a member of Bishop Eaton’s Advisory Council. She is on the World Hunger Leaders Gathering Leadership Team and a Synod Practice Discipleship Co-Chair.

ROSTERED MALE— PICK ONE



The Rev. Ben Krey:

Churchwide Assembly—Rostered, has not attended

Congregation : CVLC, Durham

Education : MDiv from United Lutheran Seminary

Experience : Pastor Ben is part of the Synod Planting Hope Team and acted as the Northeast Philadelphia Conference Dean while in the Southeastern PA Synod. He has collaborated with 8 sister congregations to develop a joint marketing program, and for nearly 10 years has made disciples through 3DM.



The Rev. James Demmel:

Churchwide Assembly—Rostered, has not attended

Congregation : St. John's, Salisbury

Education : BA from Campbell University, MDiv from Duke University

Experience : Pastor James currently serves as the Associate Pastor for Youth and Outreach at St. John's and currently also serves as the LYO Board Advisor for the NC Synod. He is in a Congregational/ Pastoral Partnership with Christmas Church in Bethlehem, Palestine to promote a youth exchange program.



The Rev. David Drysdale:

Churchwide Assembly—Rostered, has not attended

Congregation : Zion, Hickory

Education : Bachelor of Science from SUNY Maritime College, MDiv from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Experience : Pastor David has served as church Council President, NC Synod Council Member, and is serving on the NC Synod Advanced Lay Ministries Leadership Team. He spent time in various industries and roles before entering seminary that give him an understanding of complex issues and decisions.

LAY FEMALE— PICK TWO



Signe Offenberg:

Churchwide Assembly — Lay, has not attended

Congregation : Holy Trinity, Chapel Hill

Occupation : Clinical Social Worker

Education : BS in Psychology from Guilford, MSW from Smith College

Experience : Signe has served on the Synod Candidacy Committee since 2021, has served as both Church Council member and Church Council President.



Elane Gerst (*):

Churchwide Assembly—Lay, has not attended

Congregation : St. John's, Salisbury

Occupation : Retired

Education : Associates Degree

Experience : Elane has served on council while in New York and at her current church, St. John's.



Cynda Harkness Bollinger:

Churchwide Assembly— Lay, has not attended

Congregation : Holy Trinity, Hickory

Occupation : Insurance Agency Owner

Education : Certified Insurance Counselor from National Alliance of Insurance Commissioners, Property & Casualty Insurance License from NC Dept of Insurance, AA Entrepreneurial Studies from Catawba Valley Community College

Experience : Cynda is a Chief Judge for Catawba County Board of Elections and the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Chairperson for Hickory Sunrise Rotary. She has been Faith Formation Ministry, Children's Ministry, and has been a Red Cross Blood Drive Coordinator.



Caroline Parrott (YA):

Churchwide Assembly— Lay, has not attended

Congregation : St. John's, Salisbury

Occupation : Graduate Student/ Physician Assistant

Education : Bachelor's in Psychology from UNC-CH, Master's in Physician Assistant Studies from Radford University (expected 2024)

Experience : Caroline is a member of the Young Adult Lay Female ELCA Nominating Committee, was the President of the Lutheran Campus Ministry at UNC-CH, and has been a Church Council Member at St. John's and her previous church.

LAY MALE— PICK ONE



Thomas Johnson (YA):

Churchwide Assembly—Lay, has not attended

Congregation : St. Luke's, Charlotte

Occupation : Student Pastor

Education : BA in Religious Studies from Lenoir-Rhyne, Set to graduate from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in 2024 with an MDiv

Experience : Thomas is serving as an Intern Pastor at Calvary Lutheran in Texas, is a Learning in Context Student at Jacob's Porch, and has also interned at the Center for Public Justice in DC. Thomas has also served as a student convener for Trinity Lutheran's Life Together.



David Kluttz : Churchwide Assembly—Lay, has not attended

Congregation : Morning Star, Matthews

Occupation : Retired Registered Professional Engineer

Education : BSME from UNCC Charlotte, MTS from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, ACPE from Atrium Health Behavioral Health

Experience : David has served as the President of Congregational Council at Morning Star for 3 terms. He has also served as an Assembly voting member for 3 Assemblies, has served on the Christian Education Mission Teams, taught Adult and Youth Formation classes, and has served as the President of Lutheran Men in Mission.

ROSTERED MINISTER — PICK ONE



The Rev. Betsy Mitchell:

Churchwide Assembly—Rostered, has not attended

Congregation : Holy Trinity, Charlotte

Occupation : Hospital Staff Chaplain

Education : BS from Clarks Summit University, MDiv from Union Presbyterian Seminary

Experience : Pastor Betsy has been a member of the Specialized Pastoral Care Ministry Team for several year and acts as a supply preacher. Betsy is also serving as a board-certified supervisory staff chaplain at a level 1 trauma center.



The Rev. German Santana (*):

Churchwide Assembly—Rostered, has not attended

Congregation : Arbol De Vida, Durham

Education : Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Master's in Business Administration from the Dominican Republic, Minister of Word and Sacrament from Lutheran Seminary Southwest

Experience : Pastor German has been a mission developer and serving Arbol de Vida since 2016 as well as attending synodical and churchwide activities.

Discipline Committee



Fred Black (*): Discipline Committee—Lay

Congregation : Holy Trinity, Chapel Hill

Occupation : Retired

Education : BA from Howard University, MPA from Syracuse University

Experience : Fred served in the US Army for 26 years and worked in Leadership Consulting for 24 years. He has served on the NC Synod Council for 6 years and on the Consultation Committee for 4 years. Fred has also attended the Churchwide Assembly on 4 separate occasions.



Mary Ballard: Discipline Committee—Lay

Congregation : Grace, Boone

Occupation : Professor of Psychology

Education : PhD in Developmental Psychology from West Virginia University

Experience : Mary currently serves as Grace's Church Council President, the Executive Board of Immigrant Justice Coalition, and has previously served on Grace's Vicar Internship Committee and the NC Synod Immigrant and Refugee Team.



The Rev. Deborah Frye: Discipline Committee—Rostered

Congregation : Calvary, Concord

Education : BA in Religion and Psychology from Lenoir Rhyne, MDiv from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Doctor of Ministry from Union Seminary

Experience : Pastor Deborah has served on Synod Council and has been a Dean in NWPA Synod and a Dean in the VA Synod. She has also participated in Interim pastor training and has served as an intentional interim.



The Rev. Ron Philabaum: Discipline Committee— Rostered

Congregation : Alamance, Alamance

Education : Business Administration from AUI, MDiv from Trinity Seminary

Experience : Pastor Ron has served on the Ohio Synod Conference Council and on the NE Ohio Disciplinary Committee. He has been Church Council Leadership, on various Call Committees, and NEO Synod Involvement.

Consultation Committee



Cherie Little: Consultation Committee—Lay

Congregation : Morning Star, Matthews

Occupation : Retired Teacher

Education : BA from Gettysburg College

Experience : Cherie has served for 6 years on the NC Synod Council, has been the Chair of the Peeler / Casey Funds Committee for 5 years, and has been Chair of Congregational Committee. Cherie has also been a coach and mentor of teachers and has been surrounded by ministry her entire life.



The Rev. Carolyn Remaklus: Consultation Committee—Rostered

Congregation : Good Shepherd, Raleigh

Occupation : Retired ACPE Chaplain Supervisor/Educator

Education : MDiv from Lutheran Theological Seminary (2011), MBA from University of Minnesota (1988)

Experience : Pastor Carolyn was a Stephen Ministry Leader and serves as a supply pastor. Carolyn also serves as a Supply Pastor and is the Committee Chair for the NC Synod Specialized Pastoral Care Committee and is a Congregational pastoral care support volunteer.



Jesse Lutabingwa (*): Consultation Committee—Lay

Congregation : Grace, Boone

Occupation : Higher Education Administrator/ Professor

Education : PhD from Jackson State University, MIA from the School for International Training, BA from Wartburg College

Experience : Jesse serves on Grace's council, worked for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, and served as Youth Consultant for the Lutheran World Federation. He has also served on the Call Committee for the current pastor at Grace and served on the Growing Grace Capital Campaign.



The Rev. Michael Collins: Consultation Committee—Rostered

Congregation : Emmanuel, Lincolnnton

Occupation : Retired Clergy

Education : BA in Psychology from Lenoir-Rhyne, MDiv from Lutheran Theological Seminary

Experience : Pastor Michael has served on the Synod Council of Montana, 2 terms as the Eastern Catawba Conference President, and 2 terms as the Southwestern Conference President. He currently serves on the United Way of Lincoln County Board of Directors.



The Rev. Christopher Webb: Consultation Committee—Rostered

Congregation : Holy Trinity, Hickory

Education : Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Lenoir-Rhyne, MDiv from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Experience : Pastor Christopher has over 25 years of Pastoral Leadership, Head of Staff experience, and Chaplaincy in the US Air Force Reserves. He is currently on the Board of Trustees at LRU, on Synod Council, and was the Dean of the Smoky Mountain Conference.



The Rev. Jill King: Consultation Committee—Rostered

Congregation : Trinity Oaks Chapel, Salisbury

Occupation : Campus Chaplain at Trinity Oaks

Education : BSED and MAED from Western Carolina University, MDiv from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Experience : Pastor Jill is the Chair of the Campus Ministry Committee, on the NC Synod Nominating Committee, and is a member of Women of the ELCA. She also has years of experience working in the School System.