

2022 Synod Assembly Elections - Nominees

- We will be electing a **Synod Secretary**, a **Synod Vice President**, and four people to the **Synod Council**
 - Below you will find descriptions of each of the roles and the names of those nominated
 - Short bios of nominees (in alphabetical order) are below the descriptions
 - **Voting Members have the opportunity to nominate additional persons UNTIL MAY 21 online [HERE](#)**
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Synod Secretary

The secretary shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The secretary may be either a layperson or a rostered minister. The secretary shall: A) Keep the minutes of all meetings of the Synod Assembly and Synod Council, be responsible for the printing and distribution of such minutes and perform such other duties as this synod may from time to time direct. B) Be authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to attest all instruments which require the same, and which are signed and sealed by the bishop. C) In consultation with the bishop, classify and arrange all important papers and documents and deposit them in the archives of this synod. D) Submit to the secretary of this church at least nine months before each regular Churchwide Assembly a certified list of the voting members elected by the Synod Assembly. (Synod Constitution: S8.30)

NOMINEE: Rev. Netsie Griffith (F)

Synod Vice President

The vice president chairs the Synod Council and Executive Committee. The vice president is ex officio a member of the Churchwide Assembly. In the event of the death, resignation, or disability of the bishop, the vice president, after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall convene the Synod Council to arrange for the conduct of the duties of the bishop until a new bishop shall be elected or, in the case of temporary disability, until the bishop resumes full performance of the duties of the office. The vice president shall not receive a salary for the performance of the duties of the office. (Synod Constitution: S8.20)

NOMINEE: Kathryn (Kay) Edgerton (F, POC)

Synod Council

Electing 1 rostered minister; 1 lay woman; 2 lay men (at least 1 lay man is to be a person of color or whose primary language is not English) 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.)

NOMINEES:

Rostered Ministers:

Rev. Hector Garifas-Toledo (M, POC)
Rev. Anna Rieke (F)

Lay Women:

Mary Denny (F)
Cindy Shultz (F)

Lay Men:

Shane Lambing (M)
Tim Surratt (M)

Nominee Biographical Information

M = Man; F = Woman; NB = Non-binary | Youth = under 18 years old; Y/A = Young Adult age 18-30

POC = Person of color or person whose primary language is not English

Mary Denny (nominated for Synod Council)

Trinity/Lynnwood + Layperson | F | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Congregational President and member of Strategic Planning Team; Chair of Call Committee; Stewardship Chair; Adult Faith Formation Presenter--MA in Systematic Theology

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Lutheran Social Services--Chair of Immigrant Fund Campaign; Board President for The Samaritan Center of Puget Sound; Provincial for Sisters of Mercy Health Care; Board of Directors for Elizabeth Gregory Home

Gifts/Skills: Extensive experience in governance with excellent organizational skills; passion for and involvement in social justice issues; Clinical psychologist and faculty at UW Medical School; Outreach oriented--works collaboratively with other faith traditions; Certified Spiritual Director

Kay Edgerton (nominated for Synod Vice President)

Nativity/Renton + Layperson | F | POC | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Congregation President, Congregation Vice President, Facebook Administrator/Online worship assistant, Drama Coordinator

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Synod Vice President, Synod Council/Executive Committee, Region 1 Governing Board co-chair, Synodical Women's Organization

Gifts/Skills: I have been serving in leadership throughout the synod for over a decade and I believe my openness to creative, out-of-the-box approaches to mission and ministry have helped prepare the NWWA Synod for the challenges we have faced and will continue to face in the future. I am a collaborative problems solver and consensus builder and I'm told running meetings is my super-power. My goal is to empower more lay leadership and support the many new starts and Synod Authorized Worship Communities that are springing up in all corners of the synod. Most of all, I am open to the many and mysterious ways the Spirit is at work here in Northwest Washington.

Rev. Hector Garifas-Toledo (nominated for Synod Council)

Trinity/Lynnwood + Rostered Minister | M | POC | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Lead Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Latino Ministry strategy of the ELCA Augustana College Board of Trustees, Rock Island, IL Assist to the Bishop & DEM Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Chief Police Advisory Committee, Lynnwood WA NW WA Synod Council

Gifts/Skills: Pr. Hector is a mission-minded pastor who believes that the church is the Jesus movement. Participants in the movement are called to proclaim in word and in action everyday and everywhere. He began his ministry in the ELCA as mission developer in the Latino community. Later restarted a ministry which became a bilingual, bi-ethnic, and intercultural 9Scandinavian & Latino) With the former Bishop in Chicago, he developed a new approach to start new ministries, identifying church planters, develop a reproducing leadership culture in congregations, and instilling a culture of apprenticeship among church leaders. He has serviced in three countries, Mexico, Taiwan (Lutheran-Episcopal), and the USA. He has received level two coaching training through te ELCA and believes that coaching is a way of leadership that can be applied in daily ministry. He is bilingual (Spanish-English)

Rev. Netsie Griffith (nominated for Synod Secretary)

Faith/Bellingham + Rostered Minister | F | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: 1. Congregational representative on the board for Lutheran Campus Ministry at Oregon State University 2. Food Bank Volunteer 3. Congregational representative for the steering committee for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation two months' series of events, Corvallis, OR (a joint project with Oregon State University) 4. Pastoral lead for the areas of Christian Education, Finance, Communication, Outreach and Staff Relations

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: 1. Synod Council Secretary for the former E. Washington-Idaho Synod (now the NW Intermountain Synod) 2. Assistant to the Director for Peace Education in the former Division for Church in Society of the ELCA 3. Chair of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee for the EWAID (now NW Intermountain) Synod held in Boise, Idaho 4. Member of the Oregon Synod Candidacy Committee

Gifts/Skills: Pr. Netsie Griffith brings a wide variety of experience in the church having served on multiple rosters beginning as an ALC Church Staff Associate, an ELCA Associate in Ministry, and now on the ELCA roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Prior to her ordination, Pr. Griffith also served as a synodically authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament for the rural community of Horseshoe Bend, Idaho. She also considers her time serving as staff in the ELCA Churchwide Office beneficial in her understanding of the church, its hopes and its challenges. With the support and affirmation of others, Pr. Griffith has also served in significant volunteer leadership positions in multiple synods of the ELCA but mostly in Region 1. She also brings prior experience in serving as Synod Council Secretary, although in a different synod. Being new to the NW Washington Synod, she brings curiosity, and the task of discovery and openness in learning the valuable assets as well as challenges faced by the synod. She considers listening and support as important gifts she hopes to bring.

Shane Lambing (nominated for Synod Council)

Pointe of Grace/Mukilteo + Layperson | M | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Shane has served at Pointe of Grace (POG) as Council President, Vice President, Council Member at large. He was on the initial nominating committee as POG launched as an independent congregation. Shane has worked on POG's facility committee and represented POG at the Synod assembly. Shane has filled in as a lay-minister at POG. Shane has also served on the mutual ministry committee, as a member of the pastoral care team and has taught classes at POG on active listening, de-escalation, conflict resolution and pastoral care.

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Shane serves Swedish Edmonds Hospital as a per diem Chaplain. He is a mentor to First Robotics team 2522 (Go Royals!). He is on the Veteran's Affinity Group at Davis Wright Tremaine LLP (where he works), a member of the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC), and is certified in Mental Health First Aid (NAMI).

Gifts/Skills: Shane brings a wide variety of talents and experiences to the table. He has a B.A. in English, a B.S. in Leadership and Ministry, and a Master of Divinity in Theological Studies. Shane is trained in conflict resolution, de-escalation, Clinical Bioethics, and Mental Health First Aid. He has worked for 20+ years in law as an intellectual property paralegal and grew up working on his grandpa's cattle ranch. Shane has experience both as leader and worker on the front line. Mostly, Shane is curious about many different things and is interested in hearing people's stories. Shane believes that leadership begins with listening.

Rev. Anna Rieke (nominated for Synod Council)

St. John United/Seattle + Rostered Minister | F | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Pastor (2016-present), St. John United Lutheran Church, Seattle

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Co-chair (2020-22), Strategy Team, Sound Alliance (www.soundorganizing.org); Member (2018-20), Shared Leadership Team, ELCA Organizing for Mission Network (www.organizingformission.org); Trainer (2018), Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Community Organizing Course; Member (2015-16), Multicultural Committee, Metro New York Synod;

Gifts/Skills: I would bring to the synod council aptitude and a willingness to speak truthfully; put in the time and work alongside others; lead the way when called for; help organize people and money for causes I believe in; prayerfully consider the impact of our action and inaction alike; and find great joy in getting to know others through our shared work. I also have some experience reading basic financial and legal documents, which is helpful when serving on boards that have responsibility for fiscal and organizational oversight.

Cindy Shultz (nominated for Synod Council)

Emmaus Table/Seattle + Layperson | F | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Congregation Leadership Team; 7400 Woodlawn Baking Kitchen Coordinator

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: NWWA Synod LiVE Board (Living into Vocational Engagement);

Program Coordinator at Holden Village 2010-2015

Gifts/Skills: Adaptable, organized, committed to the mission of the church, hardworking, excited about innovation, and embraces challenges with a smile.

Tim Surratt (nominated for Synod Council)

Echoes/Bellingham + Layperson | M | Over 30

Roles/Activities in local congregation: Echoes - Outdoor and indoor church, pub church, creative church, service church Christ the Servant Lutheran Church - Adult Education Chair, Member of Justice Seekers and Community Ministries Christ Lutheran Church - Property Management and Reconciling in Christ Committees

Roles/Activities in the synod/churchwide/wider community: Participated in Bellingham Community Meal project Served as a volunteer for the Academy for Lifelong Learning at WWU Participated in events with Homes Now

Gifts/Skills: Tim is a retired Technology Manager with extensive experience in organizational development and organizational change. Tim has excellent communication skills and has experience in a wide range of professional and volunteer organizations. Tim is a good 'outside the box' thinker and is interested in a wide range of topics. Tim is very well versed in and actively practices inclusive behaviors.