

NW Washington Synod Coaches



Kevin Bates (he/him), DMin, MDiv

Pastor at Magnolia Lutheran, Seattle

Session Options: In person, phone or remote.

Contact info: 206-434-1058, batespastorkevin@gmail.com

Bio: Kevin has been a coach for 8 years. He is working toward his accreditation by the ICF as a Professional Certified Coach. He is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University (1984), the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (1991), and San Francisco Theological Seminary (2013). Kevin has served congregations in rural, suburban and urban settings. His doctoral dissertation was an exploration of the pastor as staff supervisor. He enjoys accompanying church leaders as they navigate the hurdles, hassles and hopes of ministry.



Misi French (she/her)

Spiritual Director; Life Coach at The Heart's Way Home

Location: South Lake Union and Greater Seattle area

Session Options: In Person or Video Chat

Contact Info: 206-940-2458, heartswayhome@gmail.com

Website: www.theheartswayhome.org

Bio: I formerly was called as an Associate in Ministry, with a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies from Trinity Lutheran College in Seattle and a masters in Transforming Spirituality from Seattle University. I worked in the area of faith formation for over 25 years; specializing in cross-generational ministries, social justice education/experiences and the accompaniment model approach to mission trips. I currently have a private practice in Spiritual Direction and Life Coaching (The Heart's Way Home) and serve on the Coach Northwest administrative team. I am a 'big picture' thinker, giving great attention to organization, details, logistics and the overall vision. I also know that self-care and nurturing our own spirituality is, ironically, a challenge for those in ministry. Partnering with others on this journey is a passion and an honor. I am excited to work with Pastors, congregations and families discovering what it means to live out our faith at home, in our communities and in the world. In the coaching experience you will find an atmosphere of deep listening and thought-provoking questions that will inspire and empower you to take the next step toward your ministry and personal goals. Congratulations on taking the first step!



Hector Garfias-Toledo (he/him) MDiv, MEd (Bilingual English & Spanish)

Lead Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church and Schools, Lynnwood, WA

Session Options: Zoom, phone, in person

Contact: pastorhector@tlcs.church

Bio: Hector is a missionary and evangelist at heart. He has been involved in coaching since the early 2000's. He has served as mission developer in Mexico and Illinois, and as a missionary pastor to the English-speaking population in Taiwan. He has been using coaching practices to develop leaders in congregations. He served as Associate to the Bishop and DEM of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod for eleven years. During that time, he coached pastors and lay leaders in the areas of church planting and leadership development. He received training by the Intentional Impact Group on reproducing leadership. He took the ELCA Levels 1 and 2 coaching training. Currently, he is implementing a coaching culture initiative in the congregation to create a culture of accompaniment, mutual accountability, and coaching as a way of ministry and leadership coaches informally and promotes coaching among leaders in congregations.

Rev. Dr. Mark Griffith (he/him)

Pastor at Saint Luke's Lutheran Church, Bellevue

Session Options: In Person or Phone

Contact: markgriffith1@gmail.com

Bio: I grew up in Alaska, where as a young person I was steeped in a life of adventure. I love being outside in the mountains, in the wilderness, or on the water. I find all sorts of adventure out here in the Pacific Northwest from hiking and biking to paragliding and kayaking. My wife, Heather, and I have two children who are an absolute delight. I have a Bachelor of Science in Physics from Pacific Lutheran University, a Masters of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, and a Doctorate in Semiotics and Future Studies from George Fox University. I have completed coach training within the ELCA and with Coachnet. All of these educational opportunities have uniquely prepared me to be a coach. I am able to draw on my physical science background, theological training, and work in signs and symbols to help people achieve their goals. I have found the coaching tools to have a profound impact on my own life and in my life of ministry. I am excited to share these tools with others.

**S. Susan Harper (she/her), MSW, MTS**

Life Coach, Congregational Consultant, Spiritual Director

Location: North Seattle,

Church/Organization: Church of the Apostles (COTA) Fremont

Session Options: In person, phone, video chat

Contact Info: s.susanharper@gmail.com, 317-509-7878, 206-257-4999

Bio: Seattle native though lived for many years in Indianapolis. Degrees from Willamette University, Smith College School for Social Work, Christian Theological Seminary in

Indianapolis, completed an internship in Spiritual Direction from the Benedictine Center, The Lilly Fellowship Program in Leadership as well as the College for Congregational Development. Awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash, the highest award of the governor of Indiana for wisdom and inspiration in leadership

Coaching areas of expertise: Negotiating complex life and congregational transitions, moving from multiple and complex challenges, including uncertainty, change and conflict, to understanding, action and the development of new skills and personal expertise. I use the gifts and skills of active and holy listening for discernment. I respond out of integrating a lifetime of experiences in life, organizational leadership and specialized trainings. with guidance, support and questions. I encourage and help discover unique spiritual practices that are satisfying and grounding. The ultimate goal is personal and congregational/organizational growth, leading to a renewed sense of call, a deepening connection to the divine in all of life including one's own intuition and truth. One's own groundedness, inner sense of balance, freedom and creativity are likely to emerge, regardless of life's circumstances or challenges.

**Gil Jardine (he/him), CPC, MPA**

Session Options: In person, phone, video chat.

Contact info: 415-596-5578, leadercompetency@gmail.com

Bio: Gil is a deeply experienced, retired executive coach and coach mentor who was accredited by the ICF as a Professional Certified Coach (PCC) for 10 years. He received his BA from Columbia University and his MPA from UNC Chapel Hill. Gil has served multiple congregations in lay leadership positions focusing on adult education and mutual ministry over the past 40 years. He looks forward to helping church leaders, rostered and lay to become even more effective by accompanying them as they create a path to reinvent their roles to serve and build the beloved community in these unique times. For more on Gil's experience please refer to: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/giljardine>



Rev. Jane Prestbye (she/her)

Location: Kent, WA

Session Options: In person, Zoom, Facetime, phone

Contact info: 206-660-1199, klcpastor@kentlutheran.org

Bio: Currently serving as pastor at Kent Lutheran Church, Kent, WA. My past includes twenty plus years as lay staff and the same number of years as ordained clergy. Thirteen of those years include teaching ministry concepts and practices at a collegiate level. My own experience in being coached has convinced me of the positive impact of coaching. Being coached has helped me to do what I am called to do. I offer to others what I have received.

In my experience of serving as coach I enjoy working with individuals who desire change. If a staff team or a congregational team envision wanting more in their relationships and ministry, I will walk alongside. Group coaching is also a possibility where several people

want to grow in their own way but do it together. Coaching is an available asset whether one is just beginning a ministry profession or in retirement or anywhere in-between.



Gary Rothenberger (he/him)

CoachNW Steering Team

Session Options: In person, phone, Zoom or FaceTime

Contact: coachnw16@gmail.com

Bio: Coaching since 2010, completed my Associate Coaching Credential (ACC) in 2022. Served as coaching coordinator for six years and continues to work with Synod coaches to create pathways and partnerships to serve our Church's leaders. I have a passion for next generation leadership, especially in the Church, this is why I see coaching as a positive outcomes relationship, believing in the possibilities of your gifts, advocating for you and the realization of

your personal or mission's goals. Careers include residential and commercial construction/construction management and Parish Pastor (ELCA) with an emphasis on Collaborative Leadership Styles in the Parish.



Erik Samuelson (he/him), MDiv, MA, PCC

CoachNW Steering Team

Session Options: In person or remote.

Contact: eriksamuelson@gmail.com

Bio: Erik is a leadership, vocation, and transformation coach who works with individuals, teams, companies, churches, non-profits, and educational institutions. Erik holds the Professional Certified Coach (PCC) credential from the International Coaching Federation and is a certified Church Planter Coach through Fuller Seminary. He is the founder of "Come Alive Coaching" which offers coaching, workshops, practices, and resources to individuals and

communities looking to deepen their impact, renew their organization, and develop leaders. As a former college professor and campus pastor, Erik delights in helping young adults (and not-so-young adults) discover their calling and live into their vocational potential. He is a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and has led, consulted, or coached a number of new ministry starts, networks, and congregational renewal efforts. He also coaches with and is a member of the coaching school faculty for Vibrant Faith. More information can be found at www.ComeAliveCoaching.org and <https://vibrantfaith.org/coaching/>



Kasey Shultz (she/her). (English & Spanish)

Location: Seattle, WA

Session options: in-person, phone or video call

Contact: kdotc30@gmail.com

Bio: Kasey is a lifelong Lutheran and a firm believer in the power of lay leadership. She serves as the treasurer for a small community-powered church in south Seattle and as the administrative assistant for the coaching ministry of the Northwest Washington Synod. She has worked a variety of jobs, including barista, paralegal, farm assistant, habitat restorationist, and trail crew leader and has yet to work a job without an end date. She feels called to build authentic community, accompany young adults in discernment, and embody queer joy.



Cara Tanis (she/her)

Pastor at Emmaus Table at 7400 Woodlawn

Available for coaching by phone, on Zoom, or in-person - including walking sessions

Contact: pastor@7400woodlawn.org

Bio: We have more power than we often remember to make our life dreams and goals reality. Giving time, attention and intention is essential in the process of growth and flourishing. Having listening partners for the unearthing and tending of meaning and action for what is of great importance in your life is a gift you give yourself. As a spiritual director and coach, I am available as a partner committed to asking questions and deeply listening to the knowing and skill you hold to evoke your best life.

A few notes about Cara's Experience:

- NW WA Synod Coach Coordinator
- Coach since 2015, holds Associate Coaching Credential (ACC) with International Coaching Federation
- ELCA Level 2 Coach, Focus - Stewardship and Financial Empowerment
- Spiritual Director since 2011
- Pastor since 2001
- Mission Developer
- Hospice Spiritual Care and Bereavement Coordinator



Chienyu Jade Yi (she/her), MDiv. (Bilingual English & Chinese)

Pastor, Metropolitan Seattle Area

Session Options: Zoom, phone, or in person

Contact: pastor.yi.jade@gmail.com; (630) 664-7891

Bio: Jade is a missionary and evangelist at heart. She has been involved in coaching practices through the Intentional Impact Group since 2010 and using it for leadership development since 2017 as a mission developer. After completing the ELCA Levels 1 in 2018 and 2 (Discipleship) in 2019 coaching training, she joined her husband, Pastor Hector Garfias-Toledo to implement a coaching culture initiative in the congregation to create a culture of accompaniment and mutual accountability and promote

coaching among leaders as an interim pastor in 2019-2020. The Continuing Coaching Education from Coach Net in 2020, the ELCA Level 2 (Vitality) and the Mental Coach from Light University in 2022 further shaped her skill of coaching because she believes that coaching is a way of ministry and that it is crucial for those in leadership roles.