

# **Report of the Nominating Committee**

**REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE  
SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA  
SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2015**

1. Nominations from the floor shall be made at the time of the first report of the Nominating Committee during the first business session of the Synod Assembly for all positions to be elected at this assembly.
2. A person making a nomination from the floor must immediately present to the Synod Secretary, or to the Assembly office, a clearly printed copy of the nominee's biographical information.

**TICKETS 1-7: To elect Representatives to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council, which functions as the board of directors of the synod and as an interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly.**

**S9.06. The Synod Council shall nominate at least one person for Secretary only if there is an incumbent; otherwise the Synod Council shall nominate at least two persons for Secretary. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.**

**TICKET 1: SECRETARY** (One to be elected for a term ending 2019; nominated by the Synod Council; one nominee required if incumbent, otherwise at least two required)

Ken Brown	St. Paul, Glenside
Pam Castellanos	Resurrection, Yardley
Karl Richard	St. Matthew, Springfield
William Vanderslice	St. Paul, Red Hill
Donna Wright	St. John, Melrose Park

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

**TICKET 2: SYNOD COUNCIL, CLERGY** (Three **ordained ministers** to be elected for terms ending 2018)

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONGREGATION</b>
William Rex	St. Luke, Ferndale
Tyler Rasmussen	Trinity, Pleasant Valley

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

S9.08.01.b. Representatives of congregations in each conference shall meet prior to the annual meeting of the Synod Assembly and shall nominate at least one lay person from their conference for the Synod Council, one nominee per conference to be elected by the assembly at the annual meeting. These lay seats assigned to conferences shall alternate every six years (or two terms) between male and female Council members. The Nominating Committee shall receive these nominations from the conferences to include in its reports. Voting members at the annual meeting of the assembly may nominate from the floor persons from the assigned conferences for election to the Synod Council.

**TICKET 3: SYNOD COUNCIL, CENTRAL PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE, LAY WOMAN** (One lay woman to be elected for a term ending 2018)

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONGREGATION</b>
Joyce Maloney	Trinity, Philadelphia

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor. Those not elected on this ticket shall be added to the nominees on Ticket 7.*

**TICKET 4: SYNOD COUNCIL, UPPER BUCKS CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE, LAY MAN**  
(One lay man to be elected for a term ending 2018)

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONGREGATION</b>
No nominee(s)	

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor. Those not elected on this ticket shall be added to the nominees on Ticket 6.*

**TICKET 5: SYNOD COUNCIL, YOUTH, LAY MAN** Voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election. (One lay man to be elected for a term ending 2017)

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONGREGATION</b>
Henry Strobel	Trinity, Lansdale

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor. Those not elected on this ticket shall be added to the nominees on Ticket 6.*

**TICKET 6: SYNOD COUNCIL, AT LARGE REPRESENTATIVE, LAY MAN** (One lay man to be elected for a term ending 2018)

**Nominees on this ticket also include those not elected on Tickets 4 and 5.**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONGREGATION</b>
Henry Boyd	Grace, Philadelphia
Robert Hensil	Holy Spirit, Secane

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

**TICKET 7: SYNOD COUNCIL, AT LARGE REPRESENTATIVE, LAY WOMAN** (One lay woman to be elected for a term ending 2018)

**Nominees on this ticket also include those not elected on Ticket 3.**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONGREGATION</b>
Susan Pursch	University, Philadelphia
Sandra Zimmerman	St. John, Phoenixville

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

**TICKETS 8-12: To elect voting members to the next ELCA Churchwide Assembly scheduled for August 8-13, 2016, at the Ernst N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod has been allocated 18 voting members, one of which is the Bishop and one of which is the Vice President. The Synod Council has determined the definitions for youth and young adult voting members: youth are “active, confirmed members of a congregation in this synod and who have not graduated from high school at the time of their election by the Synod Assembly;” young adults are “active, confirmed members of a congregation in this synod and who are between the ages of eighteen and thirty years at the time of their election by the Synod Assembly” (S.C. 01.12.04).**

**TICKET 8: CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY, YOUNG ADULT, Age 18-30, LAY MAN** (One lay man to be elected)

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONGREGATION</b>
Douglas Parry	Trinity, Lansdale

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor. Those not elected on this ticket shall be added to the nominees on Ticket 11.*

**TICKET 9: CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY, YOUTH, Confirmed, not graduated from high school at the time of election, LAY WOMAN** (One lay woman to be elected)

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONGREGATION</b>
Emily Fowler	New Hanover, Gilbertsville

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor. Those not elected on this ticket shall be added to the nominees on Ticket 12.*

**TICKET 10: CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY, CLERGY (Six ordained ministers to be elected)**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONGREGATION</b>
Regina Goodrich	Mediator, Philadelphia
Jennifer Ollikainen	Christ, Niantic
Karl Richard	St. Matthew, Springfield

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

**TICKET 11: CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY, LAY MEN (Four lay men to be elected)**

**Nominees on this ticket also include those not elected on Ticket 8.**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONGREGATION</b>
Tom Salber	Reformation, Philadelphia

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

**TICKET 12: CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY, LAY WOMEN (Four lay women to be elected)**

**Nominees on this ticket also include those not elected on Ticket 9.**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONGREGATION</b>
Joyce Brown Adams	Faith Immanuel, East Lansdowne
Doreen Kinzler	St. John, Philadelphia
Jill Meuser	Calvary, West Chester
Susan Pursch	University, Philadelphia

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

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## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

**BROWN ADAMS, JOYCE (F-P):** Retired. BSW from Temple University. M.Ed. from University of Illinois Champaign –Urbana. Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lansdowne. Currently serving on Synod Council as Delaware County Female Representative; served as Vice President, Faith Immanuel during the period when it was mission congregation; served as Council President termed ended February 2015; President of the Altar Guild; Facilitator/Teacher of the Creative Arts Work Group; Member of the Women’s Ministry. My interest include Youth, community service, justice and equality. I have pursued these interest through my interest and participation in the following organizations: National Association of Black Social Workers; Blacks in Criminal Justice and American Correctional Association and the African Descent Lutheran Association.



**BROWN, KENNETH (M-W):** Residency and Education Coordinator, Thomas Jefferson University. BA from University of Pittsburgh. M.Sc. from University of Glasgow. St. Paul Lutheran Church, Glenside. Member, SEPA SEKOMU Committee 2012-present; Member, Church Council St. Paul’s Lutheran Church 2014 to present. Member, Board of Directors, Creekside Food Cooperative. *I believe my attention to detail, organization and appreciation for rules and procedure will be useful in the role of Secretary. I believe that I will represent a currently underrepresented demographic in the church, permitting me to impart a different and valuable perspective.*

**BOYD, HENRY (M-P):** Self Employed. Grace Lutheran Church, Philadelphia. Lay Preacher; Youth Ministry/Choir; Adult Choir;

President Church Council; Voting Member at Synod Assembly; Outreach collecting food and clothing and furnishing for free distribution; Working at community health fair; Coaching boys basketball.

*God has gifted me with a true love for people. I have been blessed with a discerning spirit for seeking his will and have a servant heart leader’s heart. I am a diligent worker and a receptive learner.*

*“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20*



**CASTELLANOS, PAM (F-W):** Director, County Offices of Education, New Jersey Department of Education. BS Elem Ed. from Trenton State College. M.Ed. from Trenton State College. Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Yardley. Current: Council President, Worship Leader (music). Assisting Minister; Past: Council Vice President, Council Secretary, Communion Assistant; Current: Homeless and Those in Need (Shared meals and other volunteer activities), Chaperone for church youth events in Synod and locally (most recent SHYG); Past: President and Secretary of school PTOs (10 years) – established a communication

newsletter/email system for parents of middle school students, wrote articles for national PTO magazine and local newspapers.

*My faith and belief in God and God’s grace are central to my life. I am constantly striving to grow in my faith, through worship, Bible study, singing (praise band/choir) and testifying to others about how my experiences in brokenness have made my faith stronger. I feel that I am a*

*strong communicator (both oral and written), work well in groups and bring a balanced approach to situations.*

**FOWLER, EMILY (F-W):** High School Student. Cashier, Chick-Fil-A. Congregation: play cello in the praise band; Co-teach/mentor confirmation class; help Rejoicing Spirits; Teach Vacation Bible School; Play hand bells; Member of youth ministry committee; Synodical: President of LYO Board; SHYG Planning Team/helped write curriculum; SHYG large group leader; Female Synod Council Representative; Member of Synod Congregational Engagement Team for Campaign; Costa Rica Mission Trip 2014; Rainbow of Hope a Foundation I started in 2011 to raise money for children with disabilities. I make and sell homemade crafts. To date, I have raised and donated \$1700 to 9 different organizations. Involved in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and National Honor Society (NHS).

**GOODRICH, REGINA (F-P):** Pastor, Mediator Lutheran Church, Philadelphia. BA/BA from William Penn University. MSW from Wayne State University.



**HENSIL, ROBERT (M-W):** User Support Technician, The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. BSEE from Drexel Institute of Technology. MBA from Drexel University. Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Secane. Chair of Bishop Election Committee 2006 & 2012; Congregational Council (Temple); Congregation President (Temple); Synod Council; Synod Council Executive Committee; Praise Band (Temple); Assisting Minister (Temple & Holy Spirit); Lay member Synod pulpit supply list; Board of Directors – Delaware County Youth Orchestra; Past member of Board and past Treasurer of Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra.

*I am a problem solver. My gifts are leadership, stewardship and administration. I have served the church at both congregational and Synod levels and was a voting member to two churchwide assemblies. I have an understanding of the workings of the church and use that to assess situations and find solutions to problems that arise. I believe that in order to strengthen the financial positions of our Synod we need to first strengthen our congregations' financial position by educating and modeling stewardship for our members.*

**KINZLER, DOREEN (F-W):** Network Support Specialist, City of Philadelphia. St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Philadelphia. Past Congregational Council Member, Past President and Treasurer; Christian Education; VBS; Stewardship; Finance; Leadership Development; Youth and Family; Worship and Music; Faith in Action; Completed the Diakonia Program; Deacon; Synod Assembly Page for many years; Member of Synod Council; Treasurer of Feast for Justice Non Profit which serves 2,600 families monthly; Traveled to Tanzania to build relationships with the Companion Synod; Volunteer with LDR; Member of NE Conference Strategy Team to work together and share the resources and ministries of the congregations.

**MALONEY, JOYCE D. (F-W):** Clerk, XTL Inc. AS from Community College of Philadelphia. Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Trinity, Philadelphia, PA. Longtime member of Trinity; served on Congregation Council twice; Worked with various events and fundraisers; Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly; Marconi Older Adult Program.

*My spiritual gift would be the gift of faith that God has freely given to me. I am easily able to relate to people with compassion and understanding. God has given me the gifts of an open heart and a willingness to learn new things that allow me to become a better servant. With the help of God, I look forward to this new opportunity to serve.*

**MEUSER, JILL (F-W):** Quality Assurance Team Leader, SM Resources Corp. BA from Capital University. MBA from Virginia Tech. Calvary Lutheran Church, West Chester, PA. Voting member 2013 and 2011 Churchwide Assembly; Synod Council (past); SEPA Transitional Ministry Development Team (past); Board of Directors and Finance Committee for Deaconess Community of the ELCA (past); Capital University – Alum Advisory Board (past secretary) and of Southeast PA Alumni Group; Calvary Lutheran Church (past) Treasurer/Congregation Council; lector; communion assistant; communion assistant trainer, altar guild; and other congregational groups. Good Work; Polling Place Worker; Red Cross; Support involvement with War Survivors Ministries and the Carter Center.

**OLLIKAINEN, JENNIFER (F-W):** Executive Director, Lutheran Congregational Services. B. Music from Baldwin-Wallace College. M. Div.; STM; D. Min from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Christ Lutheran Church, Niantic. SEPA Synod Helping Hands Day Coordinator (2015); SEPA HHD Committee (2012-2015); SEPA Assembly Worship Team Leader (2013- present); SEPA Synod Christmas Ingathering Coordinator (2011-present); Chair, Lutheran Charities Board (2014- present); JYG Chaplain (2013); Youth Committee (Approx. 2002-2007); Lutheran Advocacy Ministries of PA, Policy Council Rep from SEPA (2011-present); Churchwide staff from 2007-2011; Churchwide Assembly SEPA Voting Member 2013; Congregational Service: VBS team every year; music leadership; adult study leader; worship conversations; community garden planning; Social Ministry Interest: Helping Hands Day, Christmas Ingathering; food security work with local community garden and cooking classes.

**PARRY, DOUGLAS (M-W):** Cashier, Target. Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale. LYO Board, President; SHYG Planning Team for three years; SEPA Synod Representative at the Youth Leadership Summit; National Youth Gathering Synod Day Planning Team; Congregational Planning Team for NYG; Costa Rica, 2014; Week of Hope trips, 2010-2011; Staff For JYG for two years; Staff for SHYG for three years; Helping Hands Day participant; 30 hour famine participant for 4 years and many others.



**PURSCH, SUSAN M. (F-W):** Retired. AA from Waldorf. BA from Augsburg. MSW from University of Pennsylvania. University Lutheran Church. Synod Council; Chair, Sebastian Kolowa Memorial Committee – Tanzania Church; Council President; Synod VP; Youth Ministry with DPS/LCA; Youth representative at LWF event in Budapest; Chair of Board for Lutheran Settlement House; Director Christian Education/Youth Huntingdon Valley, Pa and Litchfield, MN; Susan has a small raw dog food business providing quality food for your best 4 legged friend. She works with her neighbors on community clean up, security and occasionally provides child care. Susan is the Captain of Power Over Cancer Dragon Boat Team.

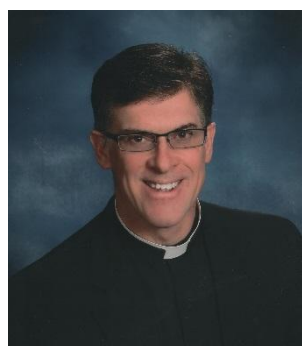


**RASMUSSEN, TYLER (M-W):** Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Coopersburg. BA from Iowa State University. M.Div. from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. SEPA Synod Council Member 2014 – present; Iowa State University Lutheran Council Member 2005-2007; Palisades Area CROP Walk Organizer, 2013-2014; Strengthening Families Facilitator, 2014.

*A vibrant personality with the friendliness of an Iowan, a heart for youth and those on the margins of a group or community, and the gift of encouragement, counseling, and hugging.*

**REX, WILLIAM (M-W):** Pastor, St. Luke Lutheran Church, Ferndale. BA from Shippensburg State College. M.Div. from Gettysburg Theological Seminary. Chair Communication SWPA Synod; Bishop’s Task Force for Special Projects SWPA Synod; SWPA Synod Youth Committee; Bishop’s Convocation Committee SEPA Synod; SEPA Synod Council; SEPA Lutheran Disaster Response Partners (LDRP); SEPA VAOD; Member of the Emergency Operation Center for Nockamixon Township.

*My leadership skills have been demonstrated in many ways over my years of service to the church and in the communities in which I have served congregations. I have led disaster response in several communities and have served on many committees and councils for my bishops in this Synod as well as in former Synods. I am currently the chief advocate for maritime intervention in the port of Philadelphia and serve the church as that advocate defending seafarers on times of personal as well as spiritual matters.*



**RICHARD, KARL (M-W):** Pastor, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Springfield. B.S. from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. M.Div. from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. SEPA Synod Council, 2005- present; SEPA Synod Finance Committee 2010-present; SEPA Synod Council Executive Committee 2012-present; LTSP Alum Board 2005 –2011; Dean of Upper Bucks Conference 1997-2003 (2 terms); Member Springfield Ministerium; Charter Organization Officer, Boy Scout Troop 503; Former member of Phoebe, Richland nursing home ethics committee; Former member and Treasurer of Quakertown Ministerium

(Ecumenical Group).

*I have been devoted to Jesus and His Church for as long as I can remember. I have a love for the Lord, and a desire to help people experience the presence of God. I have developed gifts for leadership, teaching, and communication of both the gospel and the work of the Church that have allowed me to bring others a clearer understanding of what our purpose is as the Body of Christ. I have had the opportunity to serve in various capacities in our Synod, as well as in ecumenical organizations. I have a deep appreciation of process and procedure as a way to be accountable in our ministry, an as a way to be consistent in how we operate as a body while we discern the Spirit’s guidance. I would be honored to use these abilities in service to the Synod in the role of Secretary.*

**SALBER, THOMAS (M-W):** RN Case Manager HIV Specialist, Keystone Homecare. AA from Community College of Philadelphia. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Philadelphia. Current Council President of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church; Finance Committee Chair; Visional Missional Resource Committee (Social Ministry); Music and Worship Committee; Candidacy Committee; Committee on Discipline; Synod Council; AIDS Awareness Network

Chair; Home care nurse specializing in HIV/AIDS; Board of Directors of Philadelphia Chapter of Association of Nurses in AIDS Care; Board of Directors of Lutheran AIDS Network; Member of African American Lutheran Association.

**STROBEL, HENRY THOMAS (M-W):** Middle School Student. Babysitter. Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale. Served on Family Ministry Team; Logistics Team for National Youth Gathering; Acolyte; VBS Teacher; Assisting Minister; Usher; Greeter; Biblical Storyteller; and currently part of the Lifesong Choir; 3rd Degree Black belt in Shaolin Kempo Karate; and currently part of their Leadership Program, where karate students serve at local soup kitchens, clean up local parks and do other community service; Henry is also part of the ENACT (or Environmental Action) Club at school, and participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade Day of Service. Henry has also participated in other service trips such as Broad Street Ministries and Week of Hope through Trinity, Lansdale.

*I am hardworking, dedicated and creative. I work well with others and try not to take myself too seriously. I have strong beliefs and demonstrate that through being kind, helpful and funny. I am also quite handy with tools and outside jobs.*

**VANDERSLICE, WILLIAM A. (M-W):** Senior Pastor, St. Paul, Red Hill. BA from Upsala College. M.Div. from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Upper Montgomery Conference Dean, 2013 – present and 1994-2000; Developed for SEPA Bishop’s Office in conjunction with ELCA Secretary and Synod Attorney, “Constitution, Financial and Pastoral Steps for the Orderly Close of a Congregation,” 2014; Provided pastoral support to two congregations navigating the decision to close; Pastoral Intern Supervisor, 1995- present; Bishop’s Convocation Team Chairperson, 2006 – present; Worship Planning Team Chairperson, 2008-2014; UM Conference Planning Chairperson, 1991 to 1994; Synod Committee on Lutheran School, 1991 to 1995; UB Conference Program Chairperson, 1983 to 1991; Candidacy Committee, 1980 to 1986; Youth Ministry Committee, 1979 to 1983. Judge of Elections, Upper Hanover #1, Montgomery County PA; VP and Care in Community Grant Coordinator, Upper Montgomery Thrivent Board; PA State Senate Guest Chaplain; Upper Perk Ministerium Treasurer; Board of Directors, Personnel and Finance Committee, Upper Perk Senior Center.

*My pastoral style and spiritual gifts facilitate dialogue and support individuals to form a common vision for doing God’s work in the world. I apply administrative, communication, consensus building, and organizational skills in developing, planning, implementing and evaluating ministry task. I utilize resources in social media to inform, encourage reflections, and invite participation in ministry activities. I employ technology, like Google Docs and Drop Box, to increase access to information and the involvement of others projects. I find strength in and value the diversity of people and traditions. I am open to new ideas, learn from past experiences and encourage growth among the people of God. I seek to identify, incorporate and nurture the gifts of others to enhance community life. I am as comfortable in navigating constitutions and organizational structures, as I am in building relationships with individuals to accomplish God’s work through the church.*

**WRIGHT, DONNA (F-W):** Interim Pastor, St. John Melrose Park. BA from Indiana State. J.D. from Washington University School of Law. M.Div. from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Current: Interim Pastor Groups SEPA 2008- present; Interim Ministry Association (ELCA), 2014 – present; Constitution Committee, 2014- present; SEPA Synod Assembly

Worship Planning Team, 2012- present; Past: Candidacy Committee, Deaconess Community of the ELCA and ELCIC, 2000-2008, ELCA Division for Ministry Board, 1993-1999, Board of Directors; Pacifica Lutheran Seminary 1984-1988; Constitution Committee for new Lutheran Church PSW Synod/LCA 1986-1987; Voting member Churchwide assemblies 2001, 1997, 1987, 1976. Current: Interim Ministry Network Annual Conference Planning Team, 2013 – Present; Cheltenham Area Multifaith Council, 2013 –present; Advocate for variety of justice issues (current and present).

*Deep desire to use my gifts for the good of Christ's Church; Many years of experience working with and interpreting Lutheran church constitutions so they make sense to those without a legal background; Organizational abilities; Awareness of big picture while paying attention to detail.*



**ZIMMERMANN, SANDRA A. (F-W):** Customer Service, Heidi Sue Variety. St. John Lutheran Church, Phoenixville. Sunday School Teacher for children 1976-2010; Adult SCS Leader 2014-2015; Completed the Diakonia Course 2011-2013; Fellowship Committee 2006-present; Chairperson of Fellowship 2010 – present; Currently on SEPA Visitation; served on and am now serving on Property, Evangelism, Christian Education Committees and Church Council; Breast Cancer Coalition of Phoenixville, Co-Chair; Board Member and now President of the Phoenixville Area Children's Learning

Centers; served on Healthy Women Board; Attend Leadership Academy sponsored by PCHF-completed program in 2007.

*I have been blessed with the spiritual gifts of faith, encouragement, counseling, healing and hospitality. I have an ability to work with all kinds of people in a collaborative way. I have a deep compassion for the poor, an attentive listener and a leader who serves in the name of Jesus.*