

**REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA
SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2023**

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. The 2019 Churchwide Assembly changed the definition of “Clergy” to include both Ministers of Word and Sacrament (pastors) and Ministers of Word and Service (deacons). Since this Synod has adopted this change to the bylaws of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod constitution, Ministers of Word and Service (deacons) are now eligible to be nominated for Ticket 2. Deacons are no longer eligible for lay positions.
3. This year we continue the restructuring of the Synod Council adopted by the 2021 Synod Assembly. As a result, there are fewer seats open, including two rather than three Clergy seats, one rather than two Youth seats, and this year there are no At-Large seats open.
4. A reminder that a person making a nomination from the floor must immediately present to the Assembly office a copy of the nominee’s biographical information, and a picture of the nominee. This nomination form may be completed on-line and sent as an email attachment to the registrar, Ms. Cynta Outterbridge, at coutterbridge@sepa.org. The form can be found on the synod’s website, ministrylink.org.

TICKET 1: SYNOD SECRETARY (One person, lay or clergy, to be elected for a term ending 2027)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Rev. Karl M. Richard	St. Matthew, Springfield

TICKET 2: SYNOD COUNCIL, CLERGY (Two Rostered Ministers to be elected for terms ending 2026)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Rev. Heeralal Mukesh Cheedie	Redeemer, Pennel
Rev. David Lutcher	Advent, Harleysville
Rev. Heidi Rodrick Schnaath	St. Luke, Devon

TICKET 3: SYNOD COUNCIL, CHESTER CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE, LAY MAN (One lay man to be elected for a term ending 2026)

NAME	CONGREGATION
-------------	---------------------

TICKET 4: SYNOD COUNCIL, LOWER BUCKS CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE, LAY MAN (One lay man to be elected for a term ending 2026)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Mr. John Connors	God’s Love, Newtown

TICKET 5: SYNOD COUNCIL, LOWER MONTGOMERY CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE, LAY WOMAN (One lay woman to be elected for a term ending 2026)

NAME	CONGREGATION
-------------	---------------------

Dr. Marcia Boraas

St. John, Melrose Park

TICKET 6: SYNOD COUNCIL, LAY PERSON, YOUTH (One to be elected for a term ending 2025). *The term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service.*

NAME

CONGREGATION

Mr. Tredon Stevenson

Mediator, Philadelphia

TICKET 7: CONSULTATION COMMITTEE, LAY WOMAN (One lay woman to be elected for a term ending 2026)

NAME

CONGREGATION

Ms. Joan Nagel

Redemption, Philadelphia

TICKET 8: CONSULTATION COMMITTEE, LAY MAN (One lay man to be elected for a term ending 2028)

Persons not elected on this ticket will move forward to Ticket 9.

NAME

CONGREGATION

TICKET 9: CONSULTATION COMMITTEE, LAY MAN (One lay man to be elected for a term ending 2026)

Persons not elected on this ticket will move forward to Ticket 10.

NAME

CONGREGATION

TICKET 10: CONSULTATION COMMITTEE, LAY MAN (One lay man to be elected for a term ending 2024)

NAME

CONGREGATION

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION



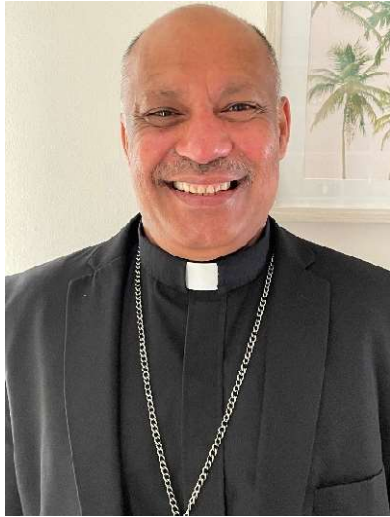
BORAAS, MARCIA (F-W): Attending Surgeon. B.A. from Princeton University. M.D. from University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. St. John Lutheran Church, Melrose Park, Congregational (St. John's): Chancel Choir; over the years I have served on Congregational Council (including as President); Social Ministry, Personnel, Pastoral Support, Finance, Property, as well as Transition and Call Committees.

Spiritual and/or Personal Gifts: 1. Sense of Humor 2. Thoughtfulness 3. Attention to detail 4. Empathy 5. Discernment of call

Although I did not know at the start, I have no question today that my professional calling as a (breast cancer) surgeon was enhanced significantly by the gifts listed above - both in relationships with my patients and with my colleagues. The work is inherently stressful, often frightening for the individuals on the receiving end of care, and it requires a great deal of both personal confidence and humility on the part of the surgeon. The rewards are correspondingly great, but I believe the characteristics above were essential to my patients' optimal care and to my own resilience and success during those working years.

In my church life, I served as President of the Congregational Council at St. John's from 2019 - 2021, a period which encompassed both an unexpected pastoral transition and the onset of the Covid pandemic. (This fortunately coincided with my planned transition to full retirement!) There were many, many challenges during this period. Working with our bridge pastor, our small congregation, and the Synod, we were able to adapt to pandemic changes - including online worship, committee, and congregational meetings - which evolved to a hybrid model; we wrote and approved a new Welcome Statement allowing us to become RIC certified; and we completed the in-depth congregational evaluation required by the pastoral transition. The transition process successfully ended with Pastor Felicia Swartz arriving at St. John's in June 2021. I absolutely believe that each of the gifts listed were critical to us arriving at that positive outcome.

While my faith focus until now has always been more personal and local, I have had more time recently to become curious about the administration and contributions of the "larger church". If my gifts and experience could be helpful, I would be interested in serving on the Synod Council in the open position for the Lower Montgomery Conference.



CHEEDIE, HEERALAL MUKESH (M-P): Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Pennel. M. Div. from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Member of Candidacy Team. SEPA Delegate for Church Wide Assembly; Hospitality Team Member at ELCA Youth Extravaganza; Multiculture Delegate at ELCA Youth Extravaganza; Member of Langhorne Lions Club; Participate in Langhorne Area Ministerium monthly meeting; Monthly Shared meals for community members and those in need of a meal.

Spiritual and/or Personal Gifts: Discipleship/Coaching, Leadership, Team Player, Serving, Encouragement

As a pastor and a discipleship Coach, I am passionate about the ways God calls us and send us to share the love of Jesus Christ in the world. With the spirituals gifts mentioned above, I have coached and helped many individuals identify their goals and come up with action plans to achieve those goals. Also, in my current ministry setting, as a pastor I have empowered and equipped lay preachers to preach. I also plan and lead yearly leadership retreat for council members and ministry team leaders. I also participate in community and conference events. Through all these activities, I continue to love and serve God through words and deeds, informing the congregation of the needs of the community, the Synod and beyond, giving them the opportunities to be connected in many and different ways.



CONNORS, JOHN (M-W): Professor, University of Sciences in Philadelphia. B. S. from University of Wisconsin – Madison. Doctor of Pharmacy, University of Kentucky. God’s Love Lutheran Church, Newtown. Synodical Service: - Current: working with Joy Baxter to develop a synodical Green Team (January 2023 - present); - Past: Member, Sebastian Kolowa University College (SEKUCo) Coordinating Committee; Congregational Service: - Current: Vocal choir; Sunday School teacher; Board of God's Love Christian Preschool; and, Church Council [Year 2 of second consecutive 3-year term, Vice President (2020)]; - Past: Ushered; Coordinated school supplies drives; Acted as St Nicholas; Coordinated alternative Christmas; Interim Ministry Advisory Committee; Christian Education Committee; Church Council [2 consecutive terms, VP (4 yrs), President during pastoral vacancy (1 yr)]. Seamen's Church Institute of Philadelphia and South Jersey; Member, Board of Directors (2014 - 2022), Bylaws Committee, Mission/Education Task

Force: <https://www.sciphiladelphia.org/>

Spiritual and/or Personal Gifts: 1. Teaching, 2. Intellectual curiosity, 3. Attention to detail
4. Written communication skills, 5. Recognizing and thanking others for their contributions and successes

[Numbers below correspond to the respective skill above]

1. Church: teach 4-6th grade Sunday School Work: taught pharmacy students about antibiotics in classroom and clinic

2. Church: researching/developing a synodical green team (ongoing) Work: researched best practices as a starting point in drafting policies

3. Church: adherence to congregational constitution/bylaws/continuing resolutions; reviewing budgets Work: compliance with accreditation standards for university and individual programs

4. Church: revising congregational bylaws/continuing resolutions Work: drafting/editing reports for institutional/specialty program accreditation

5. Church: recognizing/thanking members for contributions of time/talent is especially important in volunteer organizations Work: strove to develop culture of recognizing individuals and celebrating successes



LUTCHER, DAVID (M-W): Retired Pastor. B.A. from Susquehanna University. M.Div. from Lutheran Theological Seminary Gettysburg. S.T.M. from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Advent Lutheran Church, Harleysville. Bear Creek Camp Board, Synod Coordinator for ELCA Youth Gathering, Lutheran Community at Telford Board; Comfort Caring Canines Therapy Dog Group, Mitzvah Circle Foundation, American Camp Association Accreditation Visitor, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, YMCA Board Member.

Spiritual and/or Personal Gifts: I bring the experience of a parish pastor in a variety of settings: solo pastor, staff ministry as senior pastor and assistant, a pastor of a two point parish, and now as a bridge pastor in interim situations. I also served as a called pastor at Bear Creek Camp as program director. I especially am a proponent of congregations doing program together and sharing staff, which I feel is part of the future and survival of many ministry settings.

I have supported and encouraged staff and congregation members in doing ministry together. I have led two major building projects and a number of capital campaigns to support those projects. At Bear Creek Camp, I was responsible for hiring and training over 50 staff members on summer staff each year. Through my work, I have a familiarity of many of the congregations of this synod.



NAGEL, JOAN T. (F-W): Retired Accountant. B.S. from Lycoming College. M.S. from Bucknell University. Redemption Lutheran Church, Philadelphia. Current treasurer at Redemption Lutheran Church Treasurer of St. Paul's English Church; President of Home and School Association - James Russel Lowell School – 1985.

Spiritual and/or Personal Gifts: Administration, Listening, Empathy, Patience, Discerning

I have used all these spiritual gifts throughout my life. As I have walked with people through their lives, their taxes, and their faith I have helped to sort through the clutter and find what is important and necessary. I love helping people

approach issues they may not like with a sense of calm, comfort, and support. I hope to bring all these skills to helping congregations throughout our synod.



RODRICK – SCHNAATH, HEIDI (F-W): Interim Pastor, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Oreland. B.A. from University of Colorado at Boulder. M.Div. from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. D. Min. from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Member of Synodical Candidacy Committee, Southeast Pennsylvania Synod, 2020 - 2022 + Coordinator for Community Life, United Lutheran Seminary, 2021-2022, (contract position) + Title IX Investigator, United Lutheran Seminary, 2018-2022 (contract position) + Region 7 First Call Event, Planning Committee and Staff, 2005 -2015 + Theological Reviewer, Collaborate: Lutheran Confirmation, Sparkhouse,

2015(contract work) + Chair, Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly Committee 1999 + Member of Central States Synod Council, 1992-1995 LCA Youth Staffer, 1980-81; Board Member, East Mt Airy Neighbors Community Organization, 2011-2015 + Administrator, RevGalBlogPals, Facebook Community, 2014-2022 + Contributor to "Ask the Matriarch, "Friday Five," "Prayers for Monday" and devotions for the RevGalBlogPals.org website, 2009-2022 + Congregational Coordinator of Volunteers at Hesed House (homeless shelter in IL) 1995-2005.

Spiritual and/or Personal Gifts: 1) Creative, insightful problem solver. 2) Skilled storyteller, connecting people with the gospel and each other. 3) Passion for serving the whole church. 4) Wisdom. It's an honor to be asked for insight or advice. 5) Teaching is one of the best parts of being a pastor.

A colleague once called me a "Swiss Army Knife. I treasure the compliment for its insight into my creativity, adaptability and servanthood. I've served rural and suburban congregations in

Missouri, Illinois and Pennsylvania. It has been a joy to serve synods and churchwide through my work with Augsburg-Fortress, LTSP and United Lutheran Seminary. I am convinced that the church is not dying, it is evolving. I am inspired to keep trying new experiments! Luther was right. "The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me."



RICHARD, KARL (M-W): Pastor, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Springfield. Secretary, SEPA Synod, 06/2015 - present; SEPA Synod Council, 05/2010 - present; SEPA Finance Committee, 06/2010 - 05/2015 (chair 01/2014 - 05/2015); Dean, Upper Bucks Conference, SEPA Synod, 11/1997 - 10/2003; Member, Springfield Ministerium (ecumenical group) 2008 - present, treasurer from 2018 - present; Charter Organization officer, Troop 503, BSA, 2008 - present; Member and former treasurer, Quakertown Ministerium (ecumenical group) 1995 - 2007; Member, Ethics Committee, Phoebe Richland Nursing Facility 2001 – 2007 (2 terms); LTSP Alumni/ae Board, 05/2005 -05/2011; member and former convener, Quakertown Area Lutheran Churches, 11/1995 - 12/2007

Spiritual and/or Personal Gifts: From the list in the Rostered Ministers Profile, I would list my top five gifts as: Teaching, Interpreter of Theology, Establishing an Interpersonal Climate Participation in the Larger Church, Administration

I have a deep love for, and faith in, Jesus and his Church. I am a strong teacher of biblical and theological concepts, with the ability to present them in a way that average people can understand and apply to their lives. I understand the necessity of good processes, and can interpret these steps to others for the effective functioning of the church. I prefer to work collegially, eliciting the comments of others in the broader conversation, and striving to ensure each has the ability to be heard. I have been entrusted with various leadership positions in a variety of settings, both Lutheran and Ecumenical, and appreciate the importance of listening to different voices as we interpret the Spirit's movement. I have been privileged to have used my gifts as Secretary of our Synod, and would be pleased and honored to be able to continue to do so.



STEVENSON, TREYDON (M-P): High School Student.
Mediator Lutheran Church.

Spiritual and/or Personal Gifts: My top five spiritual and personal gifts that I would like to bring to the position if elected are, my willingness to learn and grow both as a person and follower of God, ability to communicate, intelligence, faith, and participation.

I've used these gifts in service to the church by helping Pastor Goodrich, and going places with her so that I can learn more about my faith as well as the world around me.