

Biographical Information Form

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM:

Southeastern PA Synod

NOMINEE FOR BISHOP OF THE

1. Name: Julius Carroll
2. Current Position: Intentional Interim Pastorates/averaging 14 months in length
3. Congregation Membership: Prince of Peace, Greensboro, NC
10/1946
4. Date and Year of Birth: 06/1981
5. Date and Year of Ordination:
6. Previous Positions: Reformation Lutheran, Philadelphia, PA
Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Washington, D.C.
Bethlehem Lutheran, Oakland, CA
Assistant to the bishop, Southeastern PA Synod
7. Education and Earned Degrees (with institutions and years, most recent first):
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia /Doctor of Ministry/2008
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia /Master of Divinity/1981
Queens College City University of New York/Urban Sociology/1976
8. List up to five (5) current or past synod or churchwide activities that would inform your service as bishop of this synod.
Chairperson of the ELCA Outreach Committee
Director for African Descent Ministries - ELCA
Assistant to the bishop - Southeastern PA Synod
Supervisor of nine seminary interns discerning Word and Sacrament ministry
Co-Leader of eight Confronting Racism Workshops for churchwide staff at the inception of the ELCA

9. List up to five (5) current or past community-related activities that would inform your service as bishop of this synod.

Secretary of the Worthdale Residential Community Association, Raleigh, NC

Tutor/Mentor of students in the "Loaves and Fishes" community outreach organization in Raleigh, NC

Pastor of the "West Oakland Community Charter School" (students/parents) in Oakland, CA

Coordinator of a tutoring program that engaged community youth with Howard University students majoring in education, in Washington, D. C.

Partnered with three other pastors to offer a half-hour Worship experience on a local television station during the Covid-19 pandemic, in Buffalo, New York.

10. What gifts would you bring to the office of bishop of this synod? (1,000 characters maximum)

I strive to live - out my calling to follow Jesus -- knowing that on this discipleship journey --- I'll make mistakes, stumble, and fall. But, through the power and the presence of the Holy Spirit: God - REACHES - DOWN & PULLS ME UP. God gives me the assurance of God's never-failing love as I press - on in my Christian journey. And so, the faith community affirms my gifts as: preaching in a biblically-centered and narratively - delivered style; providing pastoral care in crises and pastoral visitation on a regular schedule; administrative skills and the ability to design processes for strategic planning.

11. What do you see as the principal challenge to this synod in the next six (6) years, and how would you address it? (1,000 characters maximum)

"Jesus said (to his followers), 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' ... He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat and you will find some.' So they cast it," And, I can hear in my 'mind's ear' Jesus asking we in the SEPA Synod: have you caught any fish today? "No" we respond for: WE HAD 102,000 FOLLOWERS OF JESUS in 178 CONGREGATIONS - IN THE YEAR 2000. BUT, IN 2022 THERE WERE 146 CONGREGATIONS WITH 54,000 DISCIPLES OF JESUS. That's the CHALLENGE FOR US WITHIN THE NEXT SIX YEARS. And, I as your bishop would address this MISSIONAL - OPPORTUNITY by: casting a synodical vision via holy conversations (clusters of Rostered people/congregations/churchwide institutions addressing the question: WHERE IS GOD in the midst of our synodical lives. And, asking the strategic question: WHAT ARE OUR STRENGTHS, ROUGH - EDGES, CORE - VALUES and REALISTIC GOALS/STRATEGIES that will "EQUIP THE SAINTS, FOR BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST" .

12. Describe your leadership style. (1,000 characters maximum)

An African proverb teaches: A VILLAGE WITHOUT ELDERS IS LIKE A WELL WITHOUT WATER. If it seems good to the Holy Spirit and to the members of the Synod Assembly that I serve as your bishop - I do so as an ELDER in the ELCA drawing from my 'Well' of (I pray) EXPERIENCE AND WISDOM and, with a leadership style of Leading as a Nurturer: preaching/teaching the faith of the Church; taking care of the sick; walking with those who mourn the death of a loved one or, who face death themselves. Leading as an Enabler: supporting the baptismal gifts of others; delegating administrative and missional tasks and taking others seriously when they ask the question: WHAT IF WE...? Being in solidarity with congregational and community members -- being about justice and social service realities. Leading as a Witness to the risen Jesus and the new life that he brings -- through the baptismal waters; the breaking of the Bread and pouring of the fruit of the vine.