

Biographical Information Form

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM:

NOMINEE FOR BISHOP OF THE Southeastern PA Synod

1. Name: John T. Heidgerd
2. Current Position: Pastor, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Souderton PA (2019-Present)
3. Congregation Membership: Emmanuel Lutheran Church Souderton PA
4. Date and Year of Birth: April 9, 1961
5. Date and Year of Ordination: May 21, 2017
6. Previous Positions: Associate Pastor, Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Jamaica NY (2017-2019)
Chief Financial Officer - Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (2013-2017)
Chief Financial Officer - Lutheran Social Services of New York (2009-2013)
Various Finance Executive Positions - Gannett Co. Inc (1982-2008)
7. Education and Earned Degrees (with institutions and years, most recent first):
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (M/Div 2016)
Iona College, New Rochelle, NY (MBA - 1987)
Iona College, New Rochelle, NY (BBA - 1982)
8. List up to five (5) current or past synod or churchwide activities that would inform your service as bishop of this synod.
Southeastern PA Synod Council (2021 - Present)
Southeastern PA Synod Vitality Team (2022 - Present)
Chair/Southeastern PA Investment Committee (2021 - Present)
Board of Directors - Lutheran Campus Ministry - NY (2017-2020)
Chair/Board of Directors - Koinonia NY (1999 - 2004)

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

Board Member - Souderton/Telford Rotary Club (2021 - Present)

Advisory Board Member - Salvation Army Children's Services (2019 - Present)

Member - Indian Valley Character Counts Coalition (2019 - Present)

Board Member - Along the Way Inc. (2022 - Present)

Treasurer/Board Member - Food Bank of Westchester, NY (2005 - 2009)

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

I start by saying that I have a love for the church of Jesus Christ and the power that the Holy Spirit has endowed it to transform lives. I am but one example of many whose lives have been touched by the Gospel, and am ever grateful for the love of God that I have encountered so often through a holy relationship to the people of God.

I believe in a gracious God that promises us abundance; a God that challenges us to be generous in all that we do and in all that we are, and to witness what God can do with that generosity.

I am a skilled administrator, having honed my skills for leadership and service over a long career that has been spent in many leadership contexts. I am passionate for a church that serves its community showing in concrete ways what the love of Christ looks like in relationship to the world that God loves. I am also passionate about engaging the church in deeper connection to the mission of Jesus Christ in the world and serving those in need.

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)

So much has been written about the decline of the church, and there is much data that can lead us to despair over that. There is a lot of fear in our churches that seems to hamper our ability to move forward into whatever this new era of the church will look like. Six years from now, we will look different than we do today, but we must trust that God can guide this transformation into something that will enrich the Kingdom of God.

We are a people of resurrection. We confess this in our creeds and witness this in our worship. We understand that there is suffering and grief in the world, but we worship a God that has power over death; a God that is a God of the living, and a God that can do what we think is impossible; a God that is always bigger than we can imagine. I pray that the Spirit would empower me to witness to that God of promise in those situations where we are afraid to embrace an uncertain future, a future that rests in the loving hands of God.

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

Over a long and diverse career, I have learned to adapt my leadership style to fit the needs of many different contexts. I have had the privilege to direct large staffs where team-building and empowerment were critical to working together to achieve goals. I have also had the privilege to work in smaller groups where building trust was vital, as was gathering input from each team member on how to prioritize limited resources. I seek collaboration and consensus wherever possible, but also understand when it is important to be decisive so we can move forward together. As a pastor, I lead staff, volunteers and community members with a focus on mission, cultivating a spirit of generosity in our approach to interacting with the world and with each other. I fully believe and stand fast on the principle that we serve a God of abundance - a God that does not want us to be fearful and protective, but to love and serve generously, reflecting the grace that God has shown us.

Disclosure Form for Nominees

Out of care for this church, the following questions are asked of all who are making themselves available for election to churchwide office:

1. Have you ever engaged in, been accused of, charged with, or convicted of illegal conduct or a crime, including conduct resulting in suspension or revocation of your driver's license?
☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, please explain below.
2. Do you have any health conditions (physical or psychological) or any addictive behavior, including a history of drug, alcohol, or pornographic addictions that might interfere with your ability to serve or continue serving as a leader?
☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, please explain below.
3. Have you ever engaged in, been accused of, investigated for, sued, or charged with sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, substance abuse, child or spousal neglect or abuse, or financial improprieties?
☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, please explain below.
4. While on the roster, have you ever engaged in, been accused of, investigated for, charged with, or disciplined for any conduct proscribed in *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*?
☐ Never Rostered ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, please explain below.
5. Have you ever engaged in any behavior or been involved in any situations that, if they became known, might seriously damage your ability to begin or continue in leadership and ministry?
☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, please explain below.

I have read the above statements and my replies are true and accurate. Print

Name John Heidgerd

Date: March 18, 2024

Signature: Rev. John T. Heidgerd Digitally signed by Rev. John T. Heidgerd
Date: 2024.03.18 17:50:02 -04'00'

I have attached _____ additional page(s). ☐ Yes ☐ No