

✦ Augsburg College Corporation Board

2-year term, vote for 9

✦ Rev. Michele (Shelly) Bliesmer-Olson

Congregation: Our Savior's, Cleveland

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Minnesota River

Nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee

✦ Rev. Craig Breimhorst

Congregation: Christ, Faribault

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Cannon River

(nominated for at-large position)

What ways have you served the church?

Pastor Developer, Good Earth Village Board of Directors, Cannon River Conference Nominating Committee, Global Mission – teacher in Tanzania (3 months), involved in community as well.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

Church-college/university relations are vital to our future, develop leadership for our church community, as well as the greater community. I am in the ministry because of campus ministry, and I have connected with Gustavus for confirmation retreats for 20 years and St. Olaf with senior high ministry numerous times. Often I have used campus settings for overnight in the Twin Cities for urban ministries – that connection is important to me.

Nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee

✦ Rev. Carl Bruihler

Congregation: First, LeSueur

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Minnesota River

What ways have you served the church?

Parish pastor since 1991, serving First Lutheran, LeSueur since 2005.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

As one who sees the importance of life-long learning, I place a high value on education and am a strong supporter of our ELCA colleges. I did my internship at Wartburg College and have a child currently enrolled at Concordia College in Moorhead.

Nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee

✦ Rev. Jason Bryan-Wegner

Congregation: People of Hope

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Zumbro River

(nominated for at-large position)

What ways have you served the church?

As a lay person I served as director of youth ministries at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Woodbury, MN. As a youth minister I also served on the Minneapolis and St. Paul Area Synods' Youth Leadership Task Force. As a congregation member and seminary student, I served as the developer of Summer KICKs, a summer urban youth ministry program at Christ Lutheran on Capitol Hill in St. Paul. I was also involved in faith-based community organizing at Christ Lutheran. I served on the churchwide Board of the Lutheran Youth Organization from 1997-2000.



✦ Augsburg College Corporation Board, continued

Rev. Jason Bryan-Wegner continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

As an alumnus of Augsburg, I bring my own experience as a student of the college, and, therefore, a vested interest in its ongoing success in carrying out its mission. As a young leader in the church, I believe I bring a perspective to the table from a generation in the church that is often underrepresented.

Nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee

✦ **Rev. Kerry Eversole**

Congregation: Bethlehem, Lanesboro

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Root River

What ways have you served the church?

I have served the church as an associate pastor first in a 2-point parish and then a 5-point parish in Watford City, ND from 1988 to 1996; as a member of the Upper Missouri Bible Camp Board for two years (one year as secretary); as a solo pastor in Lanesboro, MN from 1996 to the present; I currently am serving as vice dean of the Root River Conference and was just nominated/elected dean of the Root River Conference at our annual meeting in February and now awaiting confirmation at our Synod Assembly; I currently am the chairman of the Preston Harmony Area Ministerial Association; I have served a two-year term on the Augsburg College Corporation Board in 2006 and 2007.

Rev. Kerry Eversole continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

Although I am just 38 miles from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa and virtually drive pass St. Olaf College in Northfield on the way to Minneapolis, I am more acquainted with the mission and ministry of Augsburg College since I have had the privilege and honor of serving on the board these past two years. I would be happy to serve the college, our synod, and the ELCA in that capacity for another term.

Nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee

✦ **Rev. Jeff Laeger-Hagemeister**

Congregation: Grace, Albert Lea

Occupation: Chaplain, St. John's Lutheran Home, Albert Lea

Conference: Blue Earth River

What ways have you served the church?

21 years ordained ministry – 16 years parish, 5 years chaplaincy; synod Compensation and Benefits Guidelines committee; Synod Assembly worship planning committee; synod call shepherd; synod representative to Penn State Campus Ministry board.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

Previous service on this committee, my son graduated from Augsburg, Great respect for it's mission to its urban setting, graduate of a private Lutheran college, campus ministry board member (in the past).

Nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee



Synod Council

❖ Congregational Renewal Team

2-year term, vote for 5

❖ **Tim Bremseth**

Congregation: Fountain, Fountain
Occupation: President & CEO – Valley Design
Conference: Root River

What ways have you served the church?

Taught Sunday school 15 years, served as [congregational] treasurer 12 years, church choir member 25 years, various call and fundraising committees, I've cooked the lutefisk for our annual supper 10 years.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

Business founder and owner – 100+ employees. I'm a Gideon and have given presentations at many churches. I have a real concern for the well-being of rural and small town congregations. I want to "let my little light shine." I want to give back in service to the Lord and the church.

Nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee

❖ **Rev. Roger Claxton**

Congregation: Church of the Redeemer Episcopal, Cannon Falls and Grace Memorial Episcopal, Wabasha
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Cannon River

What ways have you served the church?

I have been ordained over 21 years, serving four regular calls and nine interims. I am serving under a Synod Council Letter of Call as the first ELCA pastor in Minnesota to be placed in charge of an Episcopal parish under the ecumenical agreement between our two denominations. I also serve as the Cannon River Conference chaplain. My ecumenical experience also includes working with the Presbyterians. I was on the Northwestern Minnesota Synod Call Committee for three years. I also served as a Lutheran Social Service Board member while we were in Alexandria, MN. I was a supervisor of volunteers in the House of Deputies for the 2003 Episcopal General Convention (national convention). I am a "Safe Church" Trainer (Episcopal program to keep children and others safe). My wife and I are an ecumenical clergy couple.



❖ Congregational Renewal Team, continued

Rev. Roger Claxton continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

My ecumenical experience has given me the curiosity to see how we ELCA Lutherans can reach out to our other sisters and brothers in Christ, especially those with whom we are in full communion or other stages of dialogue. I have served mostly rural congregations, in three different synods in Minnesota. This has given me a wide variety of experience with congregations by size, history, and cultures. I also have experience working in grief support groups and as a chemical dependency chaplain. I am a stepfather to three grown children, step-grandfather of eight. My avocation as an historian helps put present questions into historical perspective en route to current answers.

Nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee

❖ **Rev. Josh Ehler**

Congregation: First, Hope and Pontoppidan, Ellendale
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Minnesota River

What ways have you served the church?
Pastor of 2-point rural parish, Theological Conference Planning Committee (2006-present), Synod Nominating Committee (2006-2007), currently in training to become Natural Church Development Coach for the synod.

Rev. Josh Ehler continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

My primary perspective is as a rural, multi-point parish pastor. Both congregations I serve are in the midst of visioning and strategic goal-setting. I bring a passion for mission and development in the Lutheran church, which is fostered by my enjoyment of reading business models and concepts. I have a strong respect and understanding for ecclesial bodies, such as synodical ministries. And I believe that a critical route to the strengthening our individual congregations is through mutual sharing of resources and insights.

Nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee

❖ **Vonda Humburg**

Congregation: Community, Geneva
Occupation: Insurance agent
Conference: Blue Earth River

What ways have you served the church?
Organist, praise team leader, Sunday school teacher, choir director, Women of the ELCA president, secretary, church committee on strategic planning, confirmation guide, attended several Lay School of Theology sessions.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

Concerned view of declining worship attendance, cross-sectional view on attitudes of attending worship (perspectives from different age groups), and provide feedback from musician's point of view.

Nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee



❖ Congregational Renewal Team, continued

❖ **Rev. Judy Reitz**

Congregation: Grace, Nerstrand

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Cannon River

What ways have you served the church?

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

Nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee

✱ Lay & Clergy Leadership Development Team

2-year term, vote for 5

✱ **Rev. Eric Finsand**

Congregation: Chatfield, Chatfield

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Root River

What ways have you served the church?

Entering 16th year of ordained ministry (nine at Chatfield Lutheran), served six years as ELCA missionary in Japan, within the synod have been a member of the Theological Conference planning and Candidacy committees and have served as a conference vice-dean.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

As a former member of the Theological Conference Planning committee, I could add some institutional memory to future planning.

Nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee

✱ **Dorothy Gesme**

Congregation: Trinity, Hayfield

Occupation: Parish nurse

Conference: Zumbro River

What ways have you served the church?

Sunday school teacher, choir member, stewardship committee, former secretary on [congregational] council, Bible study, member of circle, Women of the ELCA president, Christian service group member



✱ Lay & Clergy Leadership Development Team, continued

Dorothy Gesme continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

I have a medical background in long-term care, so I am not a person whose interests have been spent in finances/large organization business. I'm a good listener and will do work I'm capable of within this council.

Nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee

✱ **Rev. John Henriksen**

Congregation: Grace, Albert Lea

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Blue Earth River

What ways have you served the church?

Congregation (as a lay person):
[Congregational] council, Stewardship committee, Education committee, Property committee, Sunday school and confirmation teacher. Synod: Synod Call committee, Stewardship committee, Committee on Consultation, Initial Interviewer for Candidacy, Synod Assembly Planning committee, Lay and Clergy Leadership Development team, Council as Leaders planning team, Theological Conference planning team. Other community involvement as well.

Rev. John Henriksen continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

I have come to understand that for the church to be a vital and evangelical presence in the world and the lives of the faithful we need to develop strong lay and clergy leadership. The ministry of the church belongs to all the people of God so the need to develop strong lay leaders is just as critical as developing strong clergy leadership.

Nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee



✱ Lay & Clergy Leadership Development Team, continued

✱ Rev. Julie Malone

Congregation: Trinity, Owatonna

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Minnesota River

What ways have you served the church?

I have been an ordained pastor for five years. Most recently serving at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna, prior to that I served Winds of the Prairie Ministry in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod (a five-point parish). my first call was at Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church in Annandale (also in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod). Before entering seminary I served as a paid lay staff person as Director of Intergenerational Ministry for Resurrection Lutheran Church in Monticello, the Minneapolis Area Synod, and Director of Youth and Family Ministry for Bethesda Lutheran Church in Inver Grove Heights, St. Paul Synod. Prior to entering paid ministry positions I was a member, since birth, of the LCMS (Missouri Synod) as a volunteer in many areas (i.e. teaching Sunday School, leading drama groups, leading many women's retreats, singing in choir, etc.)

My current responsibilities as part of the pastoral team at Trinity in addition to the usual pastoral duties are Small Group Ministry, Adult Education, Caregiving, and Prayer Ministry. I supervise an active Alpha program, Parish Nurse program, and Volunteer Ministry.

Rev. Julie Malone continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

Before I entered paid ministry as a career, I was Assistant Vice President in the Marketing area for LifeUSA Insurance Company in Minneapolis, MN. I was in the corporate insurance world for about 17 years. My administration and management skills, in addition to the above mentioned variety of service in the Church, gives me a comprehensive perspective on "church work," – volunteer, paid lay staff and ordained clergy – rural part-time ministry, multiple point parishes, and ordained ministry with the support of a large staff. I also believe my perspective as both a woman and someone who is relatively new to the synod would be beneficial.

Nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee

✱ Karen Ortloff

Congregation: Gloria Dei, Rochester

Occupation: Licensed psychologist – Christian counselor/mediator/life coach

Conference: Zumbro River

What ways have you served the church?

Youth leader, national youth gathering leader, choir director, book study leader, taught marriage class, former LCMS Ministerial Health Committee, opened Christian counseling services.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

Interested in promoting lay/ministerial mental health and leadership potential in daily living and church ministry.

Nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee



☐ Mission Planning & Action Team

2-year term, vote for 5

☐ Rev. Tammy Dahlvang

Congregation: Round Prairie, Glenville and Lunder, Twin Lakes

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Blue Earth River

What ways have you served the church?

I've served my synod by mentoring a first-call pastor, serving on the Blue Earth River Conference Nominating Committee, serving on the Synod Task Force to introduce the new hymnal, and attending the Churchwide Assembly as a voting member.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

My current ministry context is a two-point parish situated in a rural area. I've served them for six years now, and I am familiar with the needs and concerns of small churches. I see the importance of helping small churches in the synod participate in the larger vision of our national church. The two greatest questions I see small congregations facing are: 1. How can we be both locally and globally concerned? 2. What niche does the small church claim in contemporary culture?

Nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee

☐ Bonnie Hermann

Congregation: Trinity, Wanamingo

Occupation: Manager of Township Mutual Insurance Company

Conference: Cannon River

What ways have you served the church?

I have been on several boards at Trinity, member of the choir, and am accompanist. I served as secretary for the Cannon River Conference.

Nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee

☐ Glenn Leckband

Congregation: Our Savior's, Rochester

Occupation: Electrical engineer

Conference: Zumbro River

What ways have you served the church?

[Congregational] council, Board of Business and Finance, Board of Family Ministries, Board of Adult Education, Sunday school teacher, coach of congregation's youth softball team.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

My interests are with educating youth with a special desire to help them transition to be adults participating and leading in their circle of faith.

Nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee



Mission Planning & Action Team, continued

Craig Nelson

Congregation: Salem, Albert Lea

Occupation: Lawyer – Freeborn County Attorney

Conference: Blue Earth River

*What ways have you served the church? /
What particular perspectives could you
contribute to this role?*

I am seeking election to a second term on the Synod Council. I was elected to the Council in June 2006. I am a member of the Mission Planning and Action Team.

I am a lifelong member of my church--Salem Lutheran Church, Albert Lea.

I have been a voting member from Salem at the Synod Assembly on several occasions.

From June, 2003, until it disbanded in late 2007, I was a member of the synod's Lay School of Theology Board and an active "student" participant in the Lay School.

I am the forth generation of my family to have been a member of Salem, which celebrated its 100th Anniversary in May 2007, and I was blessed to be the chair of the 100th Anniversary Committee.

Craig Nelson continued

In the past, I served as the President of the Salem Congregation for six years. During that time, Salem held a capital fund drive and planned an addition to the church with included an elevator and gathering space; Salem's pastor accepted another call; Salem went thorough a period of interim ministry and called our current pastor. Salem also began building new addition, which was completed after my term of office ended! Over the years, I have taught Sunday school, been a Confirmation Class Assistant, and have helped facilitate discussions during "Alpha" classes. Currently, I am a member of the Salem Prayer Team, the Men's Friday Morning Bible Study, and the Salem "Sunday Night Together" dinner and discussion group--a group of church friends which has grown out of the "Alpha" Class.

Nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee



⌘ Committee on Consultation

6-year term, vote for 1

⌘ Rev. Darby Lawrence

Congregation: East St. Olaf and West St. Olaf, Byron

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Zumbro River

What ways have you served the church?

I served as a voting member at the Churchwide assembly in 1999, served on the Global Missions Committee for the Central-Southern Illinois Synod, have served four different congregational calls as pastor, helped organize and lead various conference youth events, helped plan and lead Crossways Confirmation camp, Augustana College, Rock Island for 14 years.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

I have served as a parish pastor in four different calls in two different synods. During that time I have been blessed to serve three healthier congregations and one embroiled in conflict. Having been a part of these various congregations in great conflict and in relatively conflict-free times I may be able to bring some insights and empathy to other similar situations.

Nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee

● 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

Vote for 21

● Rev. Karen Rask Behling

Congregation: Our Savior's, Austin

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Zumbro River

What ways have you served the church?

Associate pastor (Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Austin, MN – 2004-present; St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Charles City, IA – 1994-1998), pastor (Concordia Lutheran Church of Pickerel Lake, Albert Lea, MN – 1998-2004), interim visitation pastor (Mayville Lutheran Parish, Mayville, ND – 1989-1990), interim program director (Camp Shalom, Maquoketa, IA – summer 1988), counselor (Good Earth Village – summer 1985; Atlantic Mountain Ranch, Custer, SD – summer 1983), Good Earth Village Board of Directors (2001-2007, served 3 years as president), co-vice dean of the Zumbro River Conference (2005-2007), Lead First Call Theological Education Colleague group (fall 2007-present), Fall Theological Conference Planning Committee (1998-2003, served 2 or 3 years as chair), Planning team for Blue Earth River Conference (2-3 years), Eastern North Dakota Synod Candidacy Committee (1993-1994), Churchwide Assembly Voting Member (1993)



● 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members, continued

Rev. Karen Rask Behling continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

I have served congregations ranging in size from 10-2600 members and in a variety of settings – rural, small town, city. I strive to look at issues from multiple perspectives. I believe that which unites us is far greater than anything which might work to divide us.

Nominated by Zumbro River Conference

● Rev. John Carrier

Congregation: Faith, Winona

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Root River

What ways have you served the church?

Churchwide: Church in Society Peacemaker committee, Campus Ministry staff consultation. Synod: East Central Synod of Wisconsin consultation committee and co-author of sexual conduct policies and procedures; Southeastern Minnesota Synod reference and counsel, assembly planning, consultation. Founder of Southeastern Minnesota chapter of Lutherans Concerned/North America. And a variety of community involvement.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

I am interested in a more inviting and welcoming ELCA for those who feel disenfranchised from the church.

Nominated by Root River Conference

● Rev. Joseph Crippen

Congregation: St. John's, Northfield

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Cannon River

What ways have you served the church?

Youth director; pastor; Church Council of the ELCA (including roles on Executive Committee and both chair and secretary of Program and Services Committee); Advisory Committee of the ELCA Department of Ecumenical Affairs; part of the 2007 churchwide consultation of Bible, Book of Faith; consultation group with the ELCA worship staff in fall of 2007 on the new Occasional Services materials for Evangelical Lutheran Worship; synod Candidacy Committee; Synod Council; synod Mission Planning and Action Team; Synod Assembly Worship Planning team; board member of Lutheran Campus Ministry, Minnesota State University, Mankato; synod Board for Congregational Ministries; and many community activities.



● 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members, continued

Rev. Joseph Crippen continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

I have a great deal of experience with the churchwide organization, including three Churchwide Assemblies as a member of the Church Council, though never as a voting member. I think my recent time on Council gives me knowledge of many of the issues at stake in this assembly, including the Sexuality Study. My committee on the Council worked closely with the Task Force studying human sexuality. But I also have a deep commitment and joy at serving the greater church and realize that there will be many other issues before this assembly on which I bring a good perspective. The Churchwide Assembly is where we experience the broadest reality of what is to be the ELCA together in one place, with brothers and sisters from across the country all gathered together, and I think I could be a helpful voice for the synod at this assembly.

Nominated by Cannon River Conference

● John Dahl

Congregation: Our Savior's, Spring Valley

Occupation: Self-employed custom woodworking

Conference: Root River

What ways have you served the church?

Member worship commission (synod, 1995-1997); [congregational] council member -property, worship, currently chairman; worship commission; church choir; scripture reader; communion assistant.

John Dahl continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

Perspective as a life-long Lutheran.

Nominated by Root River Conference

● Susan Ferries

Congregation:

Occupation:

Conference: Root River

Nominated by Root River Conference

● Rev. Karen Grandall

Congregation: Our Savior's, Spring Valley

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Root River

What ways have you served the church?

I have been a pastor of two two-point parishes, a mission congregation, several interims in both rural and Rochester, associate pastor of a Rochester church. I arranged for the program "Discovering Hope" to come to Lanesboro to help rural churches revitalize. I have served in both Western North Dakota and Southeastern Minnesota and participated in Women of the ELCA/ALCW in both. Currently I serve on the Southeastern Minnesota Advisory Board for the Mission Loan Fund and would like to see more people invest in their funds.



● 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members, continued

Rev. Karen Grandall continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

I developed a strong interest in rural ministry and helping pastors be healthy in rural areas. I have served as mentor to several, and been collegial with many pastors over the 27 years since I was ordained. Lifting up pastors and pastoral assistants in our strong synod/weak national structure will be a challenge.

Because of my grandpa's service on the ALC World Mission Board and my sister serving as agricultural worker in Africa, I have an interest in Global Mission.

One of the most pressing concerns is to consult with churches to conserve energy, and cultivate a climate of caring for God's creation. We seem to have more and more weather events. After journeying to New Orleans, I see that sacrifice and persistence is needed by all of us to help those less fortunate both to prevent weather events and help people after.

Nominated by Root River Conference

● **Paul Hamlin**

Congregation: LeRoy, LeRoy

Occupation: trucker/farmer

Conference: Zumbro River

What ways have you served the church?

Sunday school teacher 14 years, working with Luther League and youth mission trips, served on [congregational] council twice, past [congregational] council president, have taken classes for the Lay School past 7 years.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

Would like to see lay leadership, and the youth evolved more. The last several years that has been my passion

Nominated by Zumbro River Conference

● **Rev. Patricia Hinkie**

Congregation: United in Faith Parish, Bricelyn & Frost

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Blue Earth River

What ways have you served the church?

Preaching the Word and rightly administering the Sacraments, teaching and visitation, loving [the congregation] as brothers and sisters in Christ and upholding them in prayer, synod representative on the Lutheran Social Service Board of Directors, Blue Earth River Conference pastors' chair, hospice grief support group facilitator, service trip to Tanzania.

Nominated by Blue Earth River Conference



● 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members, continued

● Barb Kittleson

Congregation:

Occupation: school-based occupational therapist

Conference: Cannon River

What ways have you served the church?

1989 [voting member] to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, member of rostered personnel committee in Southeastern Minnesota Synod, Minneola planning council secretary, Minneola Pastoral Board, Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly [voting member] a number of times.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

I have been following the role of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly decision-making and how those decisions impact small, rural churches and their communities.

Nominated by Cannon River Conference

● Michelle (Missy) Klemme

Congregation: Messiah, North Mankato

Occupation: Youth Coordinator, RN by education

Conference: Minnesota River

What ways have you served the church?

I have served others by working within the church as: Children's ministry teacher, [Vacation Bible School] & day camp coordinator, education team chair, member of a task force to transform traditional Sunday school into the rotation model format, co-coordinator implementing such program, adult Bible study student and leader, and volunteer member of a Leadership Team in the process of discerning God's specific call of this congregation – working through our vision, mission, and values, as well as how we are able to carry out God's will together as the Church as we are being called and led to do.



● 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members, continued

Michelle (Missy) Klemme continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

My only perspective is a Kingdom perspective. I hope God will use me in a way that will help others to get to know the life-giving love of Jesus Christ and make the Kingdom of God really crowded someday. My contribution in this role most likely would be as an advocate on behalf of the lost. I tend to ask myself and all Christian leaders “WHY?” Why do we make the decisions we do, why are we doing things the way we are doing them, and why do we spend our time, our money, and our energy as we do as individuals, congregations, and the larger church. And I pray continually that somewhere in the answer comes that it is because we love God with all our heart, our soul, and our minds, and we love those around us enough to use all that God has given us to reach the lost and suffering in a way that they can come to know such love and live in God’s Kingdom.

Once we work through some of these questions and back to the love of Jesus Christ, and continue to grow in that love through prayer and God’s Word, my next question prods us to look at “HOW” we might work together to reach the world in need of a savior. This is where God’s creativity gets to shine through all of us!

The world is watching us, the world is listening to us, and I just have to ask, “Is the world seeing the love of Jesus through us, and are they understanding that this love is for them?”

Nominated by Minnesota River Conference

● **Rev. Jeffery Laeger-Hagemeister**

Congregation: Grace, Albert Lea

Occupation: Chaplain, St. John’s Lutheran Home, Albert Lea

Conference: Blue Earth River

What ways have you served the church?

Ordained ministry 21 years, Blue Earth River Conference secretary, Augsburg College Corporation representative, Synod Assembly worship committee, synod compensation guidelines committee, interim ministry, synod call shepherd

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

16 years ministry in rural/small town settings, including multiple point parishes; 5 years chaplaincy; husband, father, and grandfather.

Nominated by Blue Earth River Conference

● **Mary Lager-Hagemeister**

Congregation: Grace, Albert Lea

Occupation: University of Minnesota Extension educator

Conference: Blue Earth River

What ways have you served the church?

Youth group director, youth commission, youth chaperone, music (choir, handbells, piano), Sunday school teacher, scripture reader, communion assistant, adult forum, adult bible and book study leader.



● 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members, continued

Mary Lager-Hagemeister continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

Social justice and equity. I do research with the University of Minnesota. I have the skills to critically analyze information, look at issues from multiple perspectives, and present information. I have also served in several professional organizations as a representative for my profession as well as a voting delegate so I bring experience of this type with me.

Nominated by Blue Earth River Conference

● Rev. Cary Larson

Congregation: Vista and LeSueur River, New Richland

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Minnesota River

What ways have you served the church?

As a rostered pastor living in service to the church is a vocation that penetrates all aspects of my life. As a pastor, my service is extended not only to the congregations which called me, but to the local congregations, conference, and the synod. Upon my installation, I restarted a text study with local pastors for the purpose of improving the proclamation of the Good News. Recently I have been asked to enlist as a coach in the ELCA's use of Natural Church Development.

Rev. Cary Larson continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

I have followed Churchwide Assemblies closely, even prior to being a pastor. The Churchwide Assembly 2009 will be a historic assembly. I was struck how last year I saw (via the Internet) two groups who were talking to each other and were not listening to the other. Is this how we get things done in the church? I believe I have a desire to hear all sides of the sensitive issues our church needs to address.

Nominated by Minnesota River Conference

● Jim Nagel

Congregation: Bethlehem, Mankato

Occupation: Clinical social worker, Mankato Clinic

Conference: Minnesota River

What ways have you served the church?

At Our Savior's, New Ulm from 1975-1990 – Most of the boards, vice-president and president, delegate[/voting member] several times to the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly. Bethlehem, Mankato from 1991-present – Chaired Church in Society board, multiple times on [congregational] council, vice president, a number of times a [voting member] to the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly, Mutual Ministry committee, currently on Personnel Committee, sing bass in choir.



● 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members, continued

Jim Nagel continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

My professional role is that of a negotiator and problem solver. These skills are second nature to me. I am interested in listening to and understanding issues from multiple perspectives. If chosen as a [voting member], I look forward to learning about the details and specific issues upcoming at the Assembly.

Nominated by Minnesota River Conference

● Andrew Nelson

Congregation: United, Red Wing

Conference: Cannon River

What ways have you served the church?

Pastoral intern, lector/assisting minister/cantor/guest preacher; call committee member for Luther College student congregation, leadership team member for FOCUS (student-led praise service at Luther College), helped organize Luther Seminary's annual Spring Mission Auction and Talent Show, member of SURGE (social justice committee at St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran), helped organize community building events at Luther College.

Andrew Nelson continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

In addition to bringing the perspective of a relatively young person, I feel I bring several particular perspectives to this role.

Though I am going into the ministry and will be completing seminary in a year or so, I have yet to be ordained and have not been employed for any great length of time in a congregation. So one perspective I bring is that of someone transitioning from laity to clergy. I have now had several years of theological training, but have primarily encountered the church as a lay person.

Second, as a young future pastor, this role represents the beginning of what I hope will be a long involvement in the workings of the wider church. So I bring the perspective of one with an interest in the future of this process, seeking both to help (in however small a way) to conduct the business of this assembly while learning first-hand how the process works.

Nominated by Cannon River Conference



● 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members, continued

● Rev. Reyna Purcell

Congregation: St. John, Waseca

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Minnesota River

What ways have you served the church?

Serving the church has been a life-long commitment for me. In addition to my commitment to God and my love for Him, I truly love the church. I value it as the body of Christ coming together in the world. It is not a perfect body to be sure, but it provides a way for us to not be perfect together in our struggle to see God's will and to serve that will in our world.

At the age of 13, I began teaching Sunday School, and by the time I graduated from high school I was the children's choir director, serving on two committees and the chair of the 30 Hour Famine campaign. In college, I served as the college sacristan, and basically became a one-woman Altar Guild. Now that I am ordained, I have committed my life to the church and to serving in whatever way God calls me. Synodically, I have served as an Educational Liaison, and as a crisis resource.

Rev. Reyna Purcell continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

I believe that I could bring some unique and important perspectives to this role, if I am called to serve by God and the church. I have to admit that I am a church policy junkie. From the time I was 15, I eagerly awaited new social statements and policy decisions. So, I am well-versed in current church issues, which makes it easier for me to read up on and understand any new issues that will be brought before the assembly.

I have spent time with the Lutheran Churches of Tanzania and the Caribbean, both of which give me a better understanding of the larger church and the ways that our decisions and actions affect the Lutheran Church throughout the world. This multi-cultural and global understanding of what it means to be the church is a perspective that I would bring to this role.

I also believe that as a young, female member of the clergy, I have a perspective that needs to be represented among the clergy who are called to be voting members for the national assembly. I believe strongly in the future of the ELCA, and that the younger members of our churches and our leadership need to be actively involved in the planning of that future.

Nominated by Minnesota River Conference



● 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members, continued

● Joan Rose

Congregation: Our Savior's, Rochester

Occupation: Retired nurse

Conference: Zumbro River

What ways have you served the church?

Synod Assembly Planning Committee (3 years), Congregation president at Our Savior's Lutheran (OSLC), Rochester (2 years), Chair of Evangelism Committee at OSLC (2 years), Chair of Memorial/Trust Committee at OSLC (currently), Co-Chair of Quilting group (currently). Other areas of service over several years: choir, outreach ministry, council, business and finance committee, Women of the ELCA mission projects, knitter of prayer shawls.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

I would study the impending issues, pray about them and discuss them with others to solicit other opinions.

Nominated by Zumbro River Conference

● Rev. David Rossow

Congregation: Christ, Byron

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Zumbro River

What ways have you served the church?

Synod Candidacy Committee (chairperson), Synod Ecumenical Affairs Representative, Evangelical Lutheran Worship Synod Introductory Committee, Synod Elections Committee (chairperson), Synod Assembly planning committee, Conference nominating committee, and Interfaith Hospitality Network board member.

Rev. David Rossow continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

It is my belief that the Holy Spirit works through the gathered people of God as the church comes together to discern how to carry out God's mission, sharing the good news of Christ to all. This I have experienced on the congregational and synod level and now I would like to experience through the Churchwide Assembly. Through being a voting member to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, I believe I would bring over 30 years experience as a pastor, firm beliefs yet with an openness to listening to different opinions, and most importantly, the love of God as expressed through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Nominated by Zumbro River Conference

● Rev. Kristen Schlauderaff

Congregation: St. Paul's, Red Wing

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Cannon River

What ways have you served the church?

Conference dean, member of delegation to companion synod of Ethiopia (other synod), synod council in LaCrosse Area Synod, ELCA stewardship strategy, Churchwide Assembly voting member.

Nominated by Cannon River Conference



● 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members, continued

● Roger Thompson

Congregation: Central Freeborn, Albert Lea

Occupation: Retired

Conference: Blue Earth River

What ways have you served the church?

Past synod voting member, Blue Earth River conference voting member, former Central church president, secretary, Sunday school teacher, choir member.

What particular perspectives could you contribute in this roll?

With God's help, a fair and open mind on matters of the church.

Nominated by Blue Earth River

Conference

● Richard Wintersteen

Congregation: Bethlehem, Mankato

Occupation: Retired professor

Conference: Minnesota River

What ways have you served the church?

Over many years I have lived in several places. I have served on the [congregational] councils of 8 different congregations. For the past 21 years in Mankato we have been members of Bethlehem congregation, where I have served on the old Board of Trustees, several boards and as an at-large member of the Executive Committee and [Congregational] Council.

In 2005 my wife and I were Global Mission volunteers in Tanzania, where we developed a course in Administration, Planning and Leadership for pastors and church workers.

Since 2006 I have been a member of the Global Mission/Companion Synods committee of the synod, currently serving as secretary.



● 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members, continued

Richard Wintersteen continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

Having lived and worked in many countries on 4 continents, I am very interested in the mission of the church, and in our connections with Lutheran and other Christians everywhere. We have worshiped and fellowshiped with strong and faithful people, often struggling against difficult situations. I want to support their efforts wherever they are. Moreover, I want to work to bring that depth of faith and vigor back here for our own strengthening.

As a social worker, I am supportive of the work of the church in its various service programs. I will seek to encourage this work as we continue to minister and serve in this difficult world.

As an educator (and parent of my son who teaches at one of our church colleges) my interest in this important activity of the church is strong. I will look with interest at issues related to the work of our church colleges and seminaries.

*Nominated by Minnesota River
Conference*

▲ 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members - Alternates

Vote for 21

▲ **Rev. Daniel Baker**

Congregation: First, Albert Lea

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Blue Earth River

What ways have you served the church?

Synod council (2 terms), Synod Assembly worship committee, Churchwide Assembly voting member (2001), conference leaders chair

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

Experience in rural and larger congregations, familiar with synod and churchwide organization and processes.

Nominated by Blue Earth River

Conference

▲ **Dottie Barrett**

Congregation: Messiah, North Mankato

Occupation: Retired teacher

Conference: Minnesota River

What ways have you served the church?

I have faithfully attended Messiah from its first year of existence, serving on many committees, most recently on the call committee.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

Serving on the Call Committee brought me in touch with the many perspectives of our membership as well as the diverse perspectives of the members on the committee.

Nominated by Minnesota River

Conference



▲ 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members - Alternates, continued

▲ Earl Branum

Congregation: Chatfield, Chatfield
Occupation: Retired Lab Manager, working at the Mayo Clinic for over 30 years
Conference: Root River

What ways have you served the church?
 Dean of the Root River Conference, Chair of Chatfield Lutheran's Call Committee, Chair of the Committee on the Election of a Bishop, treasurer of Chatfield Lutheran Lutefisk Dinner

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

As an active member of a local congregation and participant in the larger church, Earl brings a heart for the whole church and the perspective of a long lifetime of faithful concern for God's mission in our time and place.

Nominated by Root River Conference

▲ Rev. Carl Bruihler

Congregation: First, LeSueur
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Minnesota River

What ways have you served the church?
 Parish pastor since 1991, serving First Lutheran, LeSueur since 2005.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

I've not had the opportunity to participate in a Churchwide Assembly, and would be pleased to go see the larger church at work, in worship, and conducting the business of a faithful yet changing church.

Nominated by Minnesota River Conference

▲ Rev. Jay Dahlvang

Congregation: Salem, Albert Lea
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Blue Earth River

What ways have you served the church?
 Lay associate, Trinity Lutheran Church, Montevideo, MN, 1989-1993; Chalpain, Bethesda Lutheran Hospital, St. Paul, 1996-1997. Pastor, Zion Lutheran, Felch, MI, 1997-2002; Pastor, Salem Lutheran Church, 2002-present; ELCA book of Faith Initiative Advocate for Southeastern Minnesota Synod; Natural Church Development Coach; Albert Lea Medical Center volunteer Chaplain



▲ 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members - Alternates, continued

Rev. Jay Dahlyang continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

I'm a lifelong Lutheran who has been active in ministries both lay and ordained since the founding of the ELCA. I have much of my career yet ahead of me (God willing), and hope to serve as a Churchwide Assembly [voting member] in order to participate in shaping the future ministry and mission of our church.

Nominated by Blue Earth River Conference

▲ Sue Duden

Congregation: Grace, Nerstrand

Occupation: paralegal

Conference: Cannon River

What ways have you served the church?

I am currently serving on my third term as secretary on our [congregational] council, and I teach Sunday school. I previously served on a call committee, and I've attended past synod and conference meetings.

Sue Duden continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

Hi. I'm Sue Duden. My husband Gary and I live near the Big Woods State Park near Nerstrand. I'm a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Nerstrand, where I help out on the Church Council and with the Sunday school program. I grew up near Vasa, MN, where I was baptized, confirmed, and married at Vasa Lutheran Church. My husband is a builder, and I work in the local County Attorney's Office doing family law work. For the most part, my work involves individuals who are struggling in their current family situation – for all sorts of reasons. I'm reminded daily that very good people make mistakes. And that sometimes, very good people are overlooked or underestimated because they don't look or talk or necessarily act like their neighbors. Or, sometimes they simply don't have the resources that so many of us are blessed with. I try very hard to truly listen and keep an open mind in my work and personal life. I think we all benefit when we remember how much more we have in common, rather than focus on the smaller differences that might exist.

Nominated by Cannon River Conference

▲ Wendy Haberman

Congregation: Chatfield, Chatfield

Occupation:

Conference: Root River

Nominated by Root River Conference



▲ 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members - Alternates, continued

▲ Marty Helle

Congregation: St. Olaf, Austin

Occupation: Attorney

Conference: Zumbro River

What ways have you served the church?

Worship team, previous Churchwide Assembly voting member

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

Very familiar with the process and assembly.

Nominated by Zumbro River Conference

▲ Rev. Mary Iverson

Congregation: Epiphany, Eagle Lake

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Minnesota River

What ways have you served the church?

Pastor, Board of Directors - Habitat for Humanity, Treasurer - Common Ground (Greater Mankato ELCA Ministry), Mission Development, Synod Assembly Local Arrangements Committee.

Rev. Mary Iverson continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

I am willing listen, learn and participate fully at the Assembly. Upon return, I am willing to speak with others in order to help people in my conference connect to work of the ELCA at the churchwide level.

Nominated by Minnesota River

Conference

▲ Joseph Jackson

Congregation: St. Paul, Pine Island

Occupation: Retired from engineering management and operations

Conference: Cannon River

What ways have you served the church?

Gardener doing lawn care, tending and watering flower beds, involved in spring and fall clean-up days. Teacher of Akaloo Adult Study, People of Purpose, Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith, and Christianity Today topics. Worship helper as usher, cantor, reader, communion assistant, children's sermon presenter, money counter, etc. Caregiver as Stephen Minister/Leader, Interfaith Hospitality volunteer, and "Grief & Growth" discussion leader. Musician playing trumpet, guitar, and hand bells, singing, transposing music, and storing/sorting music. Representative at five conference assemblies (most recent 2005) and five synod assemblies (most recent 2007). Previously a deacon, church council member, 9th grade teacher, social justice/hunger advocate, and youth leader.



▲ 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members - Alternates, continued

Joseph Jackson continued

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

Long time member of a large congregation in a small town (over 30 years). Live long learner, adult educator, and avid reader. Husband, father, and 20 years as a people manager, raising 3 sons and staying married for 37 years (same woman). Worker with partial worldview from Hitachi GST employment, hosting Argentinean AFS student (1 year), 4 years in the USAF (mostly in Alaska), and being born in New York. Problem Solver from engineering education (MSEE 1976) and from finance and plan management experience. Advocate from former social justice/hunger advocacy and previous experience as a deacon, council member, etc. Independent futurist as an "INTJ" (Myers Briggs Type Indicator for approximately 1% of the population).

Nominated by Cannon River Conference

▲ Lorin Leslie

Congregation: Bethlehem, Mankato

Occupation: Sale representative

Conference: Minnesota River

What ways have you served the church?

Youth group, Bible class leader.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

Advocate for mainstreaming and moving beyond gay/lesbian stigmas. Bread for the World advocacy.

Nominated by Minnesota River

Conference

▲ Rev. Kathleen Lowery

Congregation: Stordahl, Zumbrota

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Cannon River

What ways have you served the church?

Called to pastor Stordahl, Zumbrota, 5 years ago, I have served faithfully (2003 - present). Under my care Stordahl has been a Contextual Leadership site for 3 years working with seminary students learning to be leaders in the church (2005 - present). President of the Kenyon Wanamingo Area Ministerial Association for 2 years (2005 - 2007). Member of the Election of a Bishop Committee (2007 - present). Initiated co-operative ministry discussions in the Wanamingo area (2007 - present). Worked diligently to improve understanding and the relationship between congregation and the greater church.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

Since I have never attended a Churchwide Assembly, I bring an open mind with no previous experiences. I bring the viewpoint and concerns of the small struggling rural congregations that make up a large number of the membership of the ELCA. I will bring back to the congregation the experience and vision of the denomination, since no one from Stordahl has ever attended Churchwide in remembered history.

Nominated by Cannon River Conference



▲ 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members - Alternates, continued

▲ Jan Overgaard

Congregation: First, Albert Lea
Occupation: homemaker
Conference: Blue Earth River

What ways have you served the church?
Church women, Bible study

Nominated by Blue Earth River Conference

▲ Rev. Nancy Solomonson

Congregation: Trinity, Ostrander
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Zumbro River

What ways have you served the church?
Synod Hunger Committee.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?
I have interests in peace, justice, and world hunger issues, as well as interest in worship, preaching, ethics, and pastoral care.

Nominated by Zumbro River Conference

▲ Katherine Tanabe

Congregation: Mount Olive, Rochester
Occupation: Physical therapist
Conference: Zumbro River

What ways have you served the church?
I have been active at Mount Olive since joining the church in 1992. I have served three terms on [congregational] council and have served in many capacities, including President, of their unit Women of the ELCA. I have served as Congregational Renewal team leader for the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council for four years and for two years on the executive committee. I have been on the Synod Arrangement Committee and the World Hunger Task Force for a number of years. I am currently in my second year as President of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Women of the ELCA and will be a delegate at the Triennial Convention in Salt Lake City in July 2008 (the 5th Triennial that I will have attended.)

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?
I feel that I understand the church in Southeastern Minnesota and would be able to represent it well. Having never attended a Churchwide Assembly, I also look forward to the opportunity to learn more about the greater church and to grow in my faith. I am energized by meetings and discussions about things I am passionate about and am excited to read the materials beforehand and be in discussion with folks about issues before I go.

Nominated by Zumbro River Conference



▲ 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members - Alternates, continued

▲ Russ Tesch

Congregation: St. John, Waseca

Occupation:

Conference: Minnesota River

What ways have you served the church?
[Congregational] Council, Stewardship Committee, Men in Mission secretary, choir member, synodical president of Lutheran Men in Mission, voting member to the Synod Assembly, Churchwide Assembly voting member.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

I have been an active member of the ELCA, study scripture, and listen and am involved in many of the ministries of the church. I have also read and studied some of the social statements and other current challenges facing Christians ecumenically and within our congregations.

Nominated by Minnesota River Conference

▲ Rev. Jane Ann Timmerman

Congregation: Our Savior's, Spring Valley

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Root River

What ways have you served the church?
Pastor, interim pastor, supply preaching, retreat leader, spiritual direction, grief group leader, [Via de Cristo] leader, TEC leader, Bible Study Leader

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

Significant involvement with spiritual direction (3 years training proper), supervision meetings, woman in ministry.

Nominated by Root River Conference

▲ Rev. Howard White

Congregation: Trondhjem, Lonsdale

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Cannon River

What ways have you served the church?
As a pastor I have served the wider church in the planning and implementation of youth events. I have also been a vice-pastor for congregations during the interim between pastors as the congregation continued through the call process. This was the system before there were interim ministers.

I served the Southeastern Minnesota Synod as the director of the Walking Three by Three special mission appeal. I have been a director of more than a dozen capital appeals for congregations within the Synod.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

With 30+ years of experience as a pastor I have the advantage of age and circumspection. I have no career aspirations that would cause me to be political in my voting or in the opinions I would share. I will vote my conscience, seeking what is best for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. My roots in the Lutheran church precede the formation of the LCA or the ALC.

During those 30+ years I have served in every parish situation except that of a pastor of an urban congregation. I have a sensitivity to real life in the parish, and want our ELCA to focus on its true mission in the world today.

Nominated by Cannon River Conference



▲ 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members - Alternates, continued

▲ George Wichmann

Congregation: Concordia Bear Lake, Albert Lea

Occupation: Insurance agent/tax preparer/hog farmer

Conference: Blue Earth River

What ways have you served the church?

I have served 6 three-year terms on our church council. Half of those terms I was the council chairman. I have served on two call committees; the last time (2004) I was the chairman. I mow the church lawn and cemetery (14 years). I have served four years as treasurer of the Blue Earth River Conference. In the last 10 years I have been a [voting member at] the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly three times.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

In approximately 40 years of serving on various church boards and committees I have encountered a good deal of sense and nonsense. I feel that I have a good ability to consider all sides of a question and make reasonable decisions relating to those topics.

Nominated by Blue Earth River

Conference

▲ Rev. Lane Zaffke

Congregation: Cross of Christ, Houston

Occupation: Pastor

Conference: Root River

What ways have you served the church?

I have served as Root River Conference Secretary, organized several youth servant trips to Tanzania and currently am on the Children Youth and Family Task Force.

What particular perspectives could you contribute to this role?

I would bring a perspective of a pastor and including youth into the church organization decision making process.

Nominated by Root River Conference



◆ 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members - Youth

Vote for 1

◆ Peter Zaffke

Congregation: Trinity, Spring Grove
Conference: Root River

What experience in ministry has the nominee had?

Peter has participated in the Youth Servant Leadership Institute through Good Earth Village. He is currently a member of the youth commission at our church, participates in the youth group, senior choir, youth study group, and has volunteered in many ways.

How do you express your faith?

I express my faith by going to church regularly and helping with church programs. I also have helped start a praise band in my church. I also express my faith by being in Youth Servant Leadership Institute. I also sing solos for my church.

Why do you want to go to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly and what will you get from it?

I would like to go to the Assembly because I think it would be a lot of fun. I believe that I would learn and be able to bring what I hear back to my synod and church. I think I would also be able to give my little bit of help to the church. I think that I would get a lot of experience to help with my church's happenings. I also think I would be able to maybe later become a better follower/leader in my church and synod.

Nominated by the Conference of Deans

◆ 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members - Alternate Youth

Vote for 1

◆ Elise Magnuson

Congregation: Lands, Zumbrota
Conference: Cannon River

What experience in ministry has the nominee had?

In school Elise is in Advanced Academic Teams competing for "state" status. As an adopted child, Elise knows what being "set apart" means. I see her helping out with Women of the ELCA programs with the "old ladies" in the congregation. She keeps reminding her mother who is a writer that she is only 14. Elise and her friends talk theology while they hang out.

Why do you want to go to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly and what will you get from it?

Elise wants to be a pastor. She already wants to know more about the churchwide expression. We would be doing a disservice to both Elise and ourselves by not extending open arms to this individual.

Nominated by the Conference of Deans



▼ 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members - Young Adult

Vote for 1

▼ Nichole Wentzlaff

Congregation: First, LeSueur
Conference: Minnesota River

What experience in ministry has the nominee had?

Nichole was a youth representative to our [congregational] council in her junior and senior year, 2006 and 2006. She is a leader among our young adults, and has participated in three mission trips to the Gulf Coast.

How do you express your faith?

I express my faith by participating in something I believe in very deeply: my community. I believe that through bettering and enriching the lives of the people around us, we are doing God's work.

Why do you want to go to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly and what will you get from it?

I want to go to the Churchwide Assembly to exercise the wonderful gift of voting and participating in my church. I hope to discuss and share my viewpoints, in hope of continuing the progress of the church. I also expect to enhance my faith through understanding the viewpoints of others who share my faith.

Nominated by the Conference of Deans

▼ 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members - Alternate Young Adult

Vote for 1

▼ Nicole Flotterud

Congregation: Wanamingo, Wanamingo
Conference: Cannon River

What experience in ministry has the nominee had?

Nikki is an excellent teacher of the faith and is well-liked by youth of all ages, teens to 3-year-olds.

How do you express your faith?

I share and express my faith by teaching Sunday school, sharing my faith with my family and mentoring confirmation youth.

Why do you want to go to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly and what will you get from it?

To have a better understanding of our church at a national level.

Nominated by the Conference of Deans

▶ 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members - Multicultural

Vote for 1

Information not available at time of publishing. See packet at Synod Assembly for more information.

