

The Bishop's Election Committee was formed in September 2015. The committee members were selected by the Synod Council to represent various aspects of the Greater Milwaukee Synod, including location, gender, age, race and ideas. The members of the committee are:

- Rev. Arthur Bergren, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Racine
- Rev. Elizabeth Davis, Cross Lutheran, Ixonia
- Robert Gee, Capitol Drive Lutheran, Milwaukee
- MaryBeth Hoffman, All Peoples Lutheran, Milwaukee
- Ericka Jones, Redeemer Lutheran, Milwaukee
- Barbara Loberg, Kingo Lutheran, Milwaukee
- Tom Natalini, Unity Lutheran, Milwaukee
- Rev. Kristin Rice, Cross Lutheran, Burlington
- Esther Rusch, Faith Lutheran, Cedarburg
- Rev. Jacob Werkheiser, First United Lutheran, Sheboygan
- Mary Lou Zuege, Kingo Lutheran, Milwaukee

The Discernment and Election Process for the Selection of Bishop, adopted by the 2015 Synod Assembly, and the ELCA Toolkit for Synod Bishop Elections were the guiding documents for the work of this committee. We also consulted with Scott Manske, Synod Vice-President; Matthew Brockmeier, Synod Secretary; Rev. Chris Boerger and Rev. Walter May, ELCA Churchwide Offices; the Assembly Planning Committee.

Sponsorship forms were made available on December 1, 2015. Any voting member of a Greater Milwaukee Synod congregation was eligible to act as sponsor. Prospective nominees were required to be rostered leaders in the ELCA. The deadline for receipt of Sponsorship forms was February 29, 2016. Those named were notified and had until March 18, 2016 to confirm their desire to continue in the pre-nomination process or to withdraw from consideration. Withdrawal at this point did not preclude the possibility of nomination on the 1<sup>st</sup> ballot at the Synod Assembly. The eight prospective nominees who agreed to participate in the pre-nomination process are:

- Rev. Lisa Bates-Froiland
- Rev. Sandra Chrostowski
- Rev. David Dragseth
- Rev. Paul Erickson
- Rev. Lindsay Paul Jordan
- Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe
- Rev. Harvard Stephens, Jr.
- Rev. Jennifer Thomas

Committee members developed and have maintained the Bishop's Election website which along with the synod Listserv has been used for sharing information about the ongoing election process. A Bishop's Profile was developed for use by both prospective nominees and voting members. Biographical information for the prospective nominees was made available on the website in both drop box form and as downloadable pdfs.

The committee planned and facilitated four nominee forums in order that people throughout the synod, not only those attending the Synod Assembly, could hear from the prospective nominees. The forums were hosted by:

- Mount Pleasant Lutheran, Racine
- Christ the King Lutheran, Port Washington
- St. John's Lutheran, Brookfield
- Incarnation Lutheran, Milwaukee

A total of over 300 people attended the forums. Video recordings of all four forums were made available on the election website.

A Synod Survey was developed with the assistance of ELCA Research and Evaluation. Results have been shared with the prospective nominees.

The committee will be responsible for the preparation, counting and reporting of the ballots at the Synod Assembly.

The Bishop's Election Committee wishes to thank all of those who assisted us in our work facilitating the election. We want particularly to express our gratitude to the eight prospective nominees for their willingness to participate in this process of prayer and discernment as together we seek that person who will serve as Bishop of the Greater Milwaukee Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Rusch, Chair