The Thirty-second Assembly of the
Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

ELECTIONS REPORT

You will be my Witness
"Go and make disciples... I am with you always"
Matt 28:19-20

You will be my Witness
UPSTATE NY SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2019

May 30-June 1, 2019
Joseph A. Floreano Riverside
Convention Center
REPORT OF ELECTIONS
THE 2019 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Section B2 Synod Council Members at Large
(Nominations may be made from the floor)
2 year term
(One Youth age 16-17)

1 Lay person of Color or Person of Primary Language other than English
(Nominations may be made from the floor)
4 year term

CURRENT SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Bishop John Macholz
Vice-President Thomas Madden

Central Crossroads Conference
Ms. Ann Maher

Foothills Conference
Rev. Sara Litzner (St. Matthew’s Chapel, Leesville)

Genesee Finger Lakes Conference
Rev. Aileen Robbins (Messiah, Rochester)

Hudson Mohawk Conference
Ms. Samantha White (St. Timothy, N. Greenbush)

Niagara Frontier Conference
Rev. Jeremiah Smith (Parkside, Buffalo)

Southern Tier Conference
Rev. Ernie Varga (St. Luke’s, Sidney)

Southwestern Conference
Ms. Sharon Hamilton (First, Jamestown)

At Large Persons of Color or Primary Language Other Than English
Rev. Pamela Hoh (Good Shepherd, Loudonville)
Mr. Christopher George (Prince of Peace, Depew)

At Large Young Adult:
Mr. Ian Macdonald (Zion, Clarence Center)

At Large Youth
Mr. Ben Wendel (St. Luke’s, Sidney)
SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBER Position Description

Qualities and Eligibility
Nominees for the Synod Council should be deeply committed to the life and ministry of Christ’s Church, especially as expressed through the Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, regular in their worship attendance, and charitable with their gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Each person elected to the Synod Council shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, with the exception of ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod.

Nomination, Election, and Term of Office
Conferences nominate for election by the Synod Assembly lay and clergy members to the Synod Council to terms of four years in accordance with the bylaws of this synod. Additional nominations may not be made from the floor of the Synod Assembly. Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated to the Synod Council prior to their election, if possible, or as soon as practical after their election. Members of the Synod Council are eligible for nomination and election to no more than two consecutive terms. The term of office for members of the Synod Council commences at the close of the Synod Assembly at which they were elected.

Functions
The Synod Council functions as the board of directors of this synod and serves as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. The functions of the Synod Council include:
• Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of this synod.
• Recommend program goals and fiscal proposals to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly.
• Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.
• Provide for an annual review of the roster of ordained ministers and of other official rosters.
• Receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA.
• Issue letters of call to ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament and letters of call to Ministers of Word and Service, as authorized by the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA.
• Report its actions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
• Perform such other functions as are set forth in the bylaws of this synod, or as may be designated to it by the Synod Assembly.

Responsibilities
Synod Council members must prepare for, attend and participate in regular and special meetings of the Synod Council and the Synod Assembly. In so doing, they must:
• Study carefully the issues on the agenda of the Synod Council.
• Listen to and participate thoughtfully in debate during meetings.
• Examine wisely possible amendments to proposals.
• Consider with insight resolutions or new business.
• Nominate and elect with care apt persons to serve on the boards and committees of this synod.
• Seek prayerfully the guidance of God’s Spirit in all matters, and act conscientiously for the sake of the unity and well-being of this synod, this church and the whole Church.
SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBER Position Description
(continued)

Privileges and Accountability
A member of the Synod Council:
• Serves as a voting member of the Synod Assembly with the privilege of voice and vote.
• May serve on committees of this synod as appointed or elected.
• May serve on their conference’s executive committee, according to the custom and discretion of their respective conference.
• Is accountable to the synodical vice president in consultation with the bishop and deans.

Other
• Nominees for Synod Council should preferably have experience functioning in board, council, or committee settings. Previous leadership in these capacities is highly desirable.
• No elected member of the Synod Council shall receive compensation for such service.
• Synod Council members are financially responsible for a portion of the expenses associated with their attending meetings of the Synod Council and the Synod Assembly.

AT LARGE SYNOD COUNCIL POSITIONS:

SB/L10.07.B. The following provisions shall govern the election of the two at-large lay persons of color or primary language other than English, and one youth, age 16 – 18, and one young adult, age 18 – 30, to serve as Synod Council members.

a. Each conference shall nominate one person of color or primary language other than English, and one youth, and one young adult for consideration by the Synod Assembly.

b. The Synod Assembly shall elect two persons of color or primary language other than English at least one of whom shall be lay, and one youth, and one young adult from the nominees for each at-large seat. At least one of the youth or young adults elected must be a lay person.

c. In an effort to ensure diversity, should it be necessary and only in the case of the at-large nominees, the Synod Assembly may accept floor nominations of persons of color or primary language other than English, and one youth, and one young adult for consideration by the Synod Assembly.

d. It is desirable that the at-large nominees include both males and females and be geographically diverse.
NOMINATIONS

Synod Council Member at Large
YOUTH
NOMINATION: Mr. Ryan Hunneshagen
Name: Ryan Hunneshagen
DOB: 08/17/2001
Address: 1040 Mineral Springs Road, West Seneca, NY, NY Zip: 14224
Phone: 716-825-0112 Email: ryanmhunn@gmail.com
Cell phone (not required): 716-604-6435 Gender: M

Your ELCA congregation of the Upstate NY Synod: Lord of Life
Your Upstate NY Synod Conference: Niagara Frontier

It would be helpful to the Synod Assembly voters if you would list up to three Congregation, Conference, Synod and/or ELCA, and Community/Volunteer activities that have engaged you during your faith journey:

1) Congregation
   1. Currently serves on the Board of Directors of Lord of Life Lutheran Church
   2. Peer mentor for Confirmation class
   3. Serves on Technology Worship Team during worship 2-3 times a month and for special worship services

2) Conference
   1. Attends Conference Organic Youth events regularly
   2. 
   3. 

3) Synod/Churchwide/ELCA
   1. Voting member of the 2019 Synod Assembly
   2. Attended 2018 National Youth Gathering
   3. 

4) Community or Volunteer activities
   1. Volunteers at Matthew’s Table, a monthly community dinner provided by our congregation for the Village of Depew Has volunteered at Ronald McDonald House, City Mission, Buffalo Urban League with Confirmation class
   2. Volunteers at the Erie County SPCA
   3. Provides home repair and maintenance for neighbors and at Lord of Life as a volunteer

Please check the appropriate category:
Clergy: ☐ Layperson: ☐
Young Adult (age 18 to 30): ☐ Youth (Voting member of a congregation under age 18): ☐
Person of Color/Primary language other than English: ☐

REMINDER: This short bio is essential to the process of all elections in the 2018 Synod Assembly of the Upstate NY Synod. If it is not submitted you will not be eligible for nomination. We ask you to prayerfully seek God’s guidance, read relevant information, and if you accept the call, submit this document to your Dean. Deans must submit completed nomination forms to Kathy Neugent (kneugent@upstatenysynod.org) by May 2 for inclusion in the nomination booklet. Bio forms are limited to one page single spaced.
Thank you for your participation in this year’s Synod Assembly!
We hope to see you again in Rochester for the Thirty-third Assembly of the Upstate New York Synod.
June 7-9, 2020