

# 2006 NOMINEE BIOGRAPHIES

## Synod Council Nominations

**SECRETARY Nominees for Synod Council:** ✍ Vote for 1 (four-year term)

1A — The Reverend Gary Erickson

1B — vacant

**1A— The Reverend Gary Erickson** ♦ Bethlehem, DeKalb (northeast conference)

*Occupation:* Ordained Minister

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Stewardship, evangelism, adult education and worship leadership are important areas of ministry. Stewardship helps us understand our priorities within God's kingdom. Evangelism calls us to invite others to share the wonder of God's grace. Adult education helps us continue the formation of disciples throughout our lifetime. Worship leadership defines our congregational community and energizes that community for stewardship, evangelism, and lifelong learning.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* I actively support the activities of the Northeast Conference and the Northern Illinois Synod. In my community I am involved in two Bible study groups outside of my congregation and lead occasional worship services in an area retirement center.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* Having completed my first term as secretary of the synod I have learned much about the work of the secretary and the secretary's role in supporting the bishop and synod staff. It is a privilege to work with the Synod Council and to serve alongside so many faithful people.

*My priorities for this ministry:* I will continue to assist the synod through keeping the record of synod meetings, serving on the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, and working with synod staff to create as accurate a record of synod actions as possible.

*My faith statement:* Called into the Christian community through baptism, nourished by Word and Sacrament, forgiven by the risen Savior, and empowered by the Holy Spirit I am a disciple in the process of growing, celebrating and living into the abundant life offered to God's children.

**1B—vacant**

**LAY Female Nominees for Synod Council:** ✍ Vote for 1 (three-year term)

2A — Ms. Beth Nelson Chase

2B — Ms. Nancy Warden

**2A—Ms. Beth Nelson Chase** ♦ St. James, Forreston (central conference)

*Occupation:* Executive Development/Health Ministries, Wheat Ridge Ministries

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Church Council, chair Music and Worship, Director of Music, LYO Leader, WELCA.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* American Cancer Society/IL Division; former member of Kiwanis, active member of Performing Arts Guild.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* Opportunity to share in important outreach and vision of the NIS.

*My priorities for this ministry:* To share in faith and support in "Making Christ Known."

*My faith statement:* To live in faithful community wherever placed with family, vocation, ministry opportunities and with those in my daily walk with Christ as the center of all.

**2B—Ms. Nancy Warden ♦ Zion, Rockford (north conference)**

*Occupation:* Director of Administration Services - Epilepsy

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Church Council for 5 years with 2 years as President, Human Resource Committee, Long Range Planning Committee, Communication Committee, Small Group Leader, Confirmation teacher, youth leader Sunday School teacher, Prayer Chain, Centered Life task force, voting member to Synod Assembly.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* I have been a volunteer and a staff person in Young Life. I have a special interest in adoption and support of parents as I have an adopted son from Paraguay.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I have worked professionally in administration with non-profits and ministries in a local church, hospital and youth outreach organization. I see administration as a tool to enhance direct ministry. I am concerned about the declining numbers of people who are actively involved in congregations and those who do not even enter the door. I would like to use my gifts to Make Christ Known to those who do not have an active relationship with God.

*My priorities for this ministry:* I would support the Bishop, the Synod staff, the clergy and lay people in their specific ministry and use my gifts in whatever way will best serve the Church.

*My faith statement:* I believe that God has created us, loves us, redeems us, desires a relationship, and sends us out to be God's hands and feet in the world. My response is to be committed to the relationship and open to God's leading. I believe the Church is the place that we come to in order to worship and learn more of God and to be renewed to go out into the world.

**LAY Male Nominees for Synod Council: ✍ Vote for 1 (three-year term)**

3A — Mr. Robert Haak

3B — Dr. Randall Mullin

**3A—Mr. Robert Haak ♦ Messiah, Aledo (southwest conference)**

*Occupation:* Director of Augustana Center for Vocational Reflection

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* I have served in many capacities in congregations—from youth leader to council member to officer of a council. I am presently serving in a part-time ministry position in the Edwards River Ministry (Swedona, Ophiem, Sherrard). These experiences have given me experience within a wide range of congregational life.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* My work as Director of the Center for Vocational Reflection at Augustana, and my years of teaching Bible in the Religion Department, are relevant, I believe, to the sort of work done by the Synod Council. I deal with young adults as they try to discern their calling nearly every day of my work, and I have come to know the concerns of at least some members of a group of congregations in the Southwest Conference. I am particularly interested in how the church serves in rural ministries such as ERM.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I very much believe that the Synod and Augustana are partners in the work of the church. I believe that a close relationship between these two institutions of the church is crucial to the success of both in being the body of Christ in this part of Illinois. I would like to do what I can to continue to encourage this cooperation.

*My priorities for this ministry:* As stated above, my priorities would be two-fold: to pay attention to the ministry of the Synod to parishes, especially those in rural areas, and to manifest the cooperative ministry of the Synod and Augustana College.

*My faith statement:* In this context, I would stress my faith about how God works in this world—through the lives and insights and gifts of each of us. The context of that work are the places we live out our faith—in congregations, in synodical offices, on college campuses. Through the conversations we have together, God's will is done and his kingdom comes.

**3B—Dr. Randall Mullin ♦** First, Geneseo (west conference)

*Occupation:* Family, Physician

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* past-president of congregation, currently chairman of Building Committee.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Via de Cristo, past national president; past chairman Synod Outreach Committee; past president, Geneseo Rotary, Geneseo Youth Baseball, Geneseo Church League Softball.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* Past experience on Outreach Committee creates desire to spread gospel in this synod.

*My priorities for this ministry:* Empowering the laity for ministry using technologic advances to serve greater perview.

*My faith statement:* To those to whom much has been given, much can be expected.

**LAY Male Nominees for Synod Council: ✎ Vote for 1 (three-year term)**

4A — Mr. Jim Hankins

4B — Mr. Nord Swanstrom

**4A—Mr. Jim Hankins ♦** Grace, Wilmington (east conference)

*Occupation:* Truck Driver and Fork Life Operator

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Council President, Worship, Youth, Stewardship, Evangelism, Fellowship, Property, Call Committee, Nominating Committee, Church/Parsonage Committee, Sunday School Teacher, Church Bus Driver, Choir, Men's Group (Grace), Worship Liturgist.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Christian Softball League and Volleyball League, Member of the American Legion, Wilmington Area Christian Men's Group, Breakfast and Worship, and serve breakfast and dinner at a local Homeless Shelter.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* In the past I have served on other Synod level committees--Nominating Committee, Social Ministry Committee, Churchwide Assembly Voting Member in 2003, and a Voting Member for my home church at our N.I.S. Assembly many times.

*My priorities for this ministry:* Throughout my life I have never hesitated to serve in my community as a Boy Scout, later serving in the U.S. Air Force, and in my congregation. If I am chosen to serve on the Synod Council, I will always try to do my best and consider it an honor and a true privilege.

*My faith statement:* In 1967 as a young adult I was baptized at Grace Lutheran Church and became a member of Christ's family forever. And over the years He has truly blessed me with a caring congregational family, a loving wife of 30 years and a wonderful daughter. And I will never stop serving my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for He will always be my Guide and my Teacher throughout my life's journey.

**4B—Mr. Nord Swanstrom ♦** Our Savior's, Rockford (north conference)

*Occupation:* State of Illinois/Public Service Administrator

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* First Lutheran, Pecatonica: served as President of the congregation, church council and various committees. **Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Rockford:** Church Council, Coordinator of Worship and Music Cabinet, Served as Chair of: Personnel, Finance, Chancel Choir, Folk Choir and Men's Choir, Stephen Minister, Assisting Minister, Constitution Review Committee.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Former State Representative in the Illinois Legislature, Workforce Investment Board - Executive Committee, Planning & finance, Rockford Area Chamber of Commerce, Belvidere Chamber of Commerce, Rockford Noon Rotary, Past International President of 23,000 member Association of Workforce Professionals.


*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I believe that my life experiences and leadership skills in the church and in Public Service lend themselves well to viewing what the church today should be all about as one body in Christ. By setting goals and objectives in a team effort, much can be accomplished.

*My priorities for this ministry:* Building up the body of Christ is what we are all called to do. My priority in this ministry is to further develop and improve relations between local congregations, the Northern Illinois Synod, the ELCA and the universal church of Christ. Working together, we can truly become the disciples Christ calls us to be.

*My faith statement:* As author John Ortberg titles his latest book, *A God Is Closer Than You Think*. Indeed he is right. In the bloom of a flower, a hug, the touch of a hand, a song, a smile...we as a church are called to service in God's kingdom to spread the good news of God's love and redemptive grace. I believe that our God is a loving, welcoming, and forgiving God, demonstrated in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This God calls us all to be his servants.

### ORDAINED MINISTER Male Nominees for Synod Council:

5A — The Reverend Dennis Heaney

 **Vote for 1** (three-year term)

5B — The Reverend Leonard Hoffman

#### 5A—The Reverend Dennis Heaney ♦ St. John's, Somonauk (south conference)

*Occupation:* Pastor

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Outreach and Evangelism Ministries, Stewardship Development, Seminary Internship Supervisor.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Volunteer Hospital Chaplain, Somonauk School Community Growth and Economic Development Advisory Committee.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I have always been concerned for the mission of the church beyond the local congregation. It is important to work together to accomplish Christ's ministries on the synodical and global levels.

*My priorities for this ministry:* To seek new ways to enhance and strengthen the life of congregations, agencies and institutions, and synod-wide ministries of our church in Northern Illinois. In a time of societal stress and economic pressure in the church, we need to find new paradigms to build Christ's body and to encourage one another to greater faithfulness.

*My faith statement:* I am a Christian deeply nurtured in the Lutheran tradition and committed to seeking ways to increase in faithfulness and service to Jesus both in the church and in my life in the world. We are called to be witnesses and servants in the name of the Lord we worship and trust in the communion of Christ's church.

#### 5B—The Reverend Leonard Hoffman ♦ Trinity, Rockford (north conference)

*Occupation:* Pastor

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Parish Administration; Staff Management; Financial Resource and Stewardship; Adult Education

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Board President for Trinity Day Care, Inc.; Board Member for TLC...the Learning Center and Trinity House, Inc.; Cornucopia Food Pantry; Membership Team Leader for Association of Lutheran Development Executives.


*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I believe that the synod council has a key leadership role in offering a vision for mission and ministry for our synod and exercises that role through developing strategic planning for ministry.

*My priorities for this ministry:* Strategic planning related to stewardship of resources, transformational ministry and nurture of rostered leaders.

*My faith statement:* My baptism is the center from which I live life and do ministry. It is in baptism that God has claimed me for life and continues to draw me to Godself for mission and service. This faith is nurtured through the Word and the Sacrament as I am constantly renewed and set forth to serve.

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE Nominees for Synod Council:**

6A — Ms. Sarah Baeverstad

 **Vote for 1** (one-year term)

6B — vacant

**6A—Ms. Sarah Baeverstad** ♦ Our Savior's, Rockford (north conference)

*Occupation:* Student

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Youth advisor to Senior Pastor Call Committee (present), Sunday School teacher, VBS leader.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Young Life, Key club, Habitat for Humanity, 30 hour famine.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* Increase involvement in the Lutheran Church.

*My priorities for this ministry:* Learn and serve.


*My faith statement:* I believe in sharing the love of God with others so that they may come to know the joy of living a life with Christ.

6B—vacant

## Congregational Life Committee

**LAY Male Nominees for Congregational Life Committee:**

7A — Mr. Douglas Wood

 **Vote for 1** (three-year term)

7B — vacant

**7A—Mr. Douglas Wood** ♦ Faith, Rochelle (central conference)

*Occupation:* Maintenance/Custodian

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Serving as President of Church Council, Served as V.P. President and President. Serving as assisting Minister, Communion Asst. and Reader.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Have served for the past 15 years on the Blackhawk Area Council's Pinewood Derby Committee.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* To help strengthen my faith in Christ.


*My priorities for this ministry:* As in my congregation worship and getting more people to volunteer in our church.

*My faith statement:* Matthew 9:37 Then he said to his disciples: The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.

7B—vacant

**LAY Male Nominees for Congregational Life Committee:**

8A — Mr. Stephen Liezert

 **Vote for 1** (three-year term)

8B — Mr. Jeff Schneider

**8A—Mr. Stephen Liezert** ♦ Faith, Rochelle (central conference)

*Occupation:* Director of Product Development

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Lay Ministry and Worship Committee, Parish Planning committee and Building Committee. I served on Faith's Re-Visioning Team. Am presently chairman of the Property and Management Committee.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Community Breakfast Program for the needy. Food Pantry. Thanksgiving baskets Program.

**8B—Mr. Jeff Schneider ♦ Our Savior's, Rockford (north conference)**

*Occupation:* Manager

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Finance Committee for quite a few years. Past Treasurer of the Church. Past Stewardship Committee leader and committee member. Current President of the Congregation.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Social ministry, Sports group leadership, Business groups.


*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I have experience in this ministry and would like to share ideas with other Congregations.

*My priorities for this ministry:* My priorities for this ministry and Congregational Life in general is to increase the opportunities for members to become more "connected" and engaged with their Congregation at the Church at large.

*My faith statement:* My faith is guided by John 3:16 - That Christ died for me and for all people. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16

**LAY Female Nominees for Congregational Life Committee:**

9A — Ms. Barb Schwamberger

 **Vote for 1** (three-year term)

9B — vacant

**9A—Ms. Barb Schwamberger ♦ Immanuel, Amboy (central conference)**

*Occupation:* Retired

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* I am in the choir and serve as lector for my congregation, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Amboy, IL. I have been nominated to serve on the church council. I have attended the Congregational Resourcing Event at Kishwaukee Community College the past two years. I was a delegate to the 2005 synod Assembly where I participated in the Assembly choir. I am interested in promoting justice issues in my congregation.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Currently, I am Victim Advocate and serve as a facilitator for Victim/Offender Conferences for the Lee County Juvenile Probation Department Balanced and Restorative Justice efforts. I also serve as treasurer and volunteer coordinator for the Franklin Creek Preservation Area Committee which administers the Grist Mill at Franklin Creek State Park. In relation to my interest in justice issues and since my daughter is gay, I have joined with another person to form a group of citizens who wish to act as an educational and advocacy resource for our northern Illinois rural area in the hope we can help our communities understand the justice issues facing gay and lesbian people in the daily lives.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I am interested in using the gifts and talents God has given me to serve in what ever capacity my church may need me to serve.


*My priorities for this ministry:* I have not served on any committee for the Northern Illinois Synod, and do not know what my priorities for Congregational Life Committee will be until I become a part of this committee.

*My faith statement:* My faith journey began when I was baptized a Lutheran and continued as I attended and was involved in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Franklin Grove, IL. I remember so well the church of my youth where I sang in the choir, played the organ, became confirmed, attended Luther League meetings and traveled to Texas to attend the Luther League Convention. As I reflect on this time in my life, it seems I was involved in a true faith community. For a time as a young adult, I did not attend a Lutheran Church. Then for a period of time I did not attend any church. But something was missing in my life, and although I tried to tell myself I was a good person who did good things, my faith needed my church. When I rejoined my Lutheran church community, it felt as if I had come home after taking a long detour that took me away from my Lutheran roots. I am glad to be home!

## Ministry Support Committee

### LAY Female Nominees for Ministry Support Committee:

10A — Ms. Sue Cording

 **Vote for 1** (three-year term)

10B — Ms. Rhonda Peterson Dealey

#### 10A—Ms. Sue Cording ♦ Shepherd of the Hills, Elizabeth (northwest conference)

*Occupation:* English Teacher

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* High School Sunday School Teacher, Member of the Mutual Ministry Committee, Adult Bible Study Member, Lay reader for worship.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Actively involved in the Galena Federation of Teachers, current co-president Member of Delta Kappa Gamma, Honorary Society of Women Educators.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I have served on this committee for two years and am willing to continue my service. The pastors who care for the spiritual needs of the congregations in our synod need care themselves. They need to be provided with retreats and experiences to enrich their spiritual and physical lives. They need prayerful support and assurance that their work is valued and appreciated. To the extent that I can deliver this support, I am willing to help.

*My priorities for this ministry:* The Ministry Support Committee needs to continue to advise the Synod on matters of spiritual development for pastors. We need to provide time and resources to encourage the right candidates to enter the ministry and to aid and direct them as they move through seminary to their first call. We also need to help those who are in their first call and to assist all pastors at every stage of their careers with adequate compensation, fair work expectations, and continuing education opportunities.

*My faith statement:* I believe that God loves His creation, and He reaches out to us in his word and sacrament, healing our brokenness and calling us into communion with Him. His infinite grace lifts from us the burdens of our sinful nature. Once we have experienced His redeeming love, we are compelled to share the good news of Christ and bring God's grace and renewal to others. I believe that God has a plan for each of us, and that we can gain understanding of God's will in prayer, worship, and Bible study. God has entrusted our pastors with the leadership of His people in all of these areas.

#### 10B—Ms. Rhonda Peterson Dealey ♦ Shepherd of the Hill, Lockport (east conference)

*Occupation:* Social Worker

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Children's Ministries, Music Ministries, Adult Education.


*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* School District Strategic Planning Task Force.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* Served on Candidacy Committee in Arkansas/Oklahoma Synod in 1990's, Served on Committee for Lay and Professional Ministries in Central/Southern Illinois Synod 2004.

*My priorities for this ministry:* Support and development of well-prepared lay and professional leaders of the ELCA to further the work of God's kingdom in the world.

### LAY Male Nominees for Ministry Support Committee:

11A — Mr. Lee Harbison

 Vote for 1 (three-year term)

11B — vacant

#### 11A—Mr. Lee Harbison ♦ St. John, Pearl City (northwest conference)

*Occupation:* Retired

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* I have been on church council many times and am currently President of our church council. Have twice been chair of building committees and in two different churches I have been Financial Secretary for a total of approximately 12 years. I currently Chair St. John's Ministry Support Committee. I have given the Sunday morning message on many occasions.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* In the past I spent 15 years on a local school board and am presently Vice-President of our local Property Owners Association.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I have had a long interest in seeing that we have good candidates for the rostered ministries. I also believe they need to be supported and provided with help whenever the need arises, so they can effectively fulfill their ministry.


*My priorities for this ministry:* Recruitment and preparation of candidates for rostered ministries along with ongoing education. I have been on the Candidacy Sub-committee for about 10 years.

*My faith statement:* That I, through Christ, am able to spread the Word through example of my own living.

#### 11B—vacant

### ORDAINED MINISTER Female Nominees for Ministry Support Committee:

12A — The Reverend Susan Eckhoff

 Vote for 1 (three-year term)

12B — vacant

#### 12A—The Reverend Susan Eckhoff ♦ St. John's, LaSalle (south conference)

*Occupation:* Retired and serve part time as Chaplain at Mendota Lutheran Home

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Presently calling on shut-ins at St. John's and fill in preaching as needed.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Served on Putnam County Drug Awareness committee, served community in doing funerals and marriages of those not belonging to congregation.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* Being involved in ministry support involves concern for both the congregation and pastoral leadership and their identification of ministry/personnel concerns. Guidance and mediation might help situations improve and boost morale.

*My priorities for this ministry:* To aid as needed in listening; helping with problem solving and setting attainable goals; to allow needs to be addressed in a fair way that will help all involved. Also, it helps to have an outside advocate for the welfare of all involved. Most of all, many need to keep aware of the church's purpose and mission of Jesus Christ; to share, tell, and live the Gospel.

*My faith statement:* I believe that God is in my life of the Church, and the world. He is continually redeeming us and guiding us in ways to tell and live the Gospel of forgiveness and new life that will affect us all. However, I as a baptized member of Christ's Church seek to live, saved and sent to do God's will is grace and mercy filled. Now, as always, leading me into new avenues of faith and ventures of Godly relationships with others.

#### 12B—vacant

# Outreach Committee

**LAY Male Nominees for Outreach Committee:** ✎ **Vote for 1** (three-year term)

13A — Mr. Russell Deloney, Sr.

13B — vacant

**13A—Mr. Russell Deloney, Sr.** ♦ Shepherd of the Prairie, Huntley (northeast conference)

*Occupation:* ELCA Archives Technician/Office of the Secretary

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Present: Men's Ministry Coordinator, Usher, Assistant Minister for Sunday Services. Past: Vice President Synod Council, Zion Lutheran Church, Avalon Park, Chicago, Usher, Choir Member.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Member of the African American Club of Sun City, Huntley; past member of the Board of Director for Lutheran Family Mission.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* From 1988 to 2003 was involved with Global Mission for the Metro Chicago Synod. From 1997 to 2003 served as chair-person of Global Mission Committee. In 1995 traveled to South Africa to meet with Bishop of the Central Diocese to formulate the Companion Synod Agreement and Partnership.

*My priorities for this ministry:* To continue the work for which I believe, I've been called to do, with a new venue.

**13B—vacant**

**LAY Male Nominees for Outreach Committee:** ✎ **Vote for 1** (three-year term)

14A — Mr. Alan Sullivan

14B — vacant

**14A—Mr. Alan Sullivan** ♦ Bethlehem, Joliet (east conference)

*Occupation:* Electrical Contractor

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Building Committee.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Fair housing for all citizens. Green areas in a community for all to enjoy.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I believe in the mission of outreach; serving others.

*My priorities for this ministry:* Serving others.

*My faith statement:* I believe in Jesus Christ and God's Grace for our salvation.

**14B—vacant**

**ORDAINED MINISTER Female Nominees for Outreach Committee:**

15A — The Reverend Mary Frances

✎ **Vote for 1** (three-year term)

15B — vacant

**15A—The Reverend Mary Frances** ♦ Joyful Spirit, Bolingbrook (east conference)

*Occupation:* Pastor

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Evangelism has been an area of special interest for me since the days of my internship! Hospitality, faith sharing, welcoming and the practice of evangelism in worship and in daily life are regular areas of emphasis in my ministry.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* I am part of the Evangelism/Revival training for the ELCA and will be traveling around the country preaching at revivals during this coming year. We are also developing our prayer ministry to reach out into the community.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I believe that we have an incredible story to tell and too often don't know how to tell it. For some reason, most people feel awkward and embarrassed about their faith. What is it about Jesus Christ that I can't live without? Hmmm, where do I begin!?


*My priorities for this ministry:* Evangelism is not just a priority...it is a way of life, a way of growing relationships, a way of growing in faith.

*My faith statement:* I am blessed to be child of God, claimed through the waters of Baptism and saved by faith through grace, called to be a disciple of Jesus Christ who makes disciples who make disciples who make disciples.....

## 15B—vacant

### ORDAINED MINISTER Male Nominees for Outreach Committee:

16A — The Reverend Mike Clark

 **Vote for 1** (three-year term)

16B — The Reverend Chris Beamsley

## 16A—The Reverend Mike Clark ♦ Grace, Knoxville (southwest conference)

*Occupation:* Pastor

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Knox Township Youth Council, Community Hospice Chaplain, Institutional Review Board for Cottage and St. Mary Hospitals, Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging Board.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* From Frederick Muhlenberg to Lars Paul Esbjorn Lutherans have been committed to the principal "Ecclesia Plantanda," the church must be planted. The church must also be nurtured and supported. Outreach is the heartbeat of a growing church.

*My priorities for this ministry:* Supporting the congregations which have been started and encouraging those congregations which need to grow; we plant new churches but sometimes forget to encourage and affirm growing congregations and help other congregations grow.

*My faith statement:* God calls us through our baptism into the church, equips us with faith to grow in our commitment to Jesus Christ and sends us out to share the good news with others.

## 16B—The Reverend Chris Beamsley ♦ Cross of Glory, Homer Glen (east conference)

*Occupation:* Pastor

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Pastor. I receive great joy in equipping people for ministry, coaching staff and leaders in the congregation, preaching. Have particularly enjoyed working with our congregation's health team as we work with Natural Church Development in our context.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Natural Church Development Coach for Northern Illinois Synod; "Art Dad" for the elementary school; chaperone for the elementary school.


*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* We have the great responsibility and joy to reach out to the communities around us. The Gospel needs to be heard and seen especially as so many of our communities are experiencing some of the greatest population growth changes in the country.

*My priorities for this ministry:* To strategize how we can grow the church with the resources we have together and in partnerships with one another.

*My faith statement:* Our God is a God who loves us so much nothing can hold him back from us. In this relationship with God, we discover who we are and who we are called to be. Our relationship with God is like the shape of a cross - it is "vertical" as we love God in response to God's love and it is "horizontal" as well, reaching out as we respond to God's love and purpose for us.

**ORDAINED MINISTER Male Nominees for Outreach Committee:**

17A — The Reverend Robert Dealey

 **Vote for 1** (three-year term)

17B — The Reverend Michael Thomas

**17A—The Reverend Robert Dealey** ♦ Shepherd of the Hill, Lockport (east conference)

*Occupation:* Senior Pastor

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Member, ELCA Blue Ribbon Evangelism Task Force (the group that developed the current ELCA Evangelism Strategy); ELCA Partner in Evangelism, (1994-2006); Member, Central/Southern Illinois Synod Evangelism Committee (2002-2006); "Daily Reflections", editor, a daily electronic devotional (1998-current); "Glimpse of Hope", weekly radio broadcast host, 1989-1997.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Founding President, Maryville Outreach Center, Maryville, IL, a thrift store and food pantry (2000-2006). Newly constructed facility dedicated April 23, 2006. President, Maryville Ministerial Alliance, 1999-2006. Founding President, Cleburne County Cares, Inc. (a united community resource center), 1986-1989; two-time recipient of the Arkansas Governor Volunteer Excellence Award for work done in conjunction with Cleburne County Cares, Inc. Founding Board Member, Haven House, Inc., a domestic abuse shelter, 1989-1991.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* Because I believe that each and every baptized person is called to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with all people.

*My priorities for this ministry:* Teach people how to become more "evangelical" --in the sense of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

*My faith statement:* God calls, equips and sends us to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with all people. The act of evangelizing is done in a variety of ways in a variety of settings, because each of us is uniquely gifted.

**17B—The Reverend Michael Thomas** ♦ Living Waters, Crystal Lake (east conference)

*Occupation:* Pastor

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* I have served one term on the Synod Outreach Committee and have an understanding of the focus and direction of this team. I have been a Mission Pastor at Living Waters Lutheran Church since September of 1998. I continue to serve as worship leader, preacher, teacher, vision keeper, equipment manager and encourager to a group of Christians here at Living Waters. I am currently in the second year of the Association of Chicago Theological Schools Doctorate in Ministry Program in Preaching at the Lutheran School of Theology.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* While serving at Grace in Loves Parks from 1994-1998 as the Associate Pastor, I served on the Board of the United Way, President of the Parks Ministerial Board and member of the Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries Board. I currently participate in the Crystal Lake Ministerial gatherings, served with our teens at our community Food Pantry and Habitat for Humanity and have taken them on Youth Works servant trips.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I have enjoyed leading workshops at the Congregational Resourcing Event in recent years on Spiritual Gift discovery and on how to become a "Contagious Christian" (Mittleberg material). I believe the ELCA must equip people more and more on how to talk about what it means to share the grace of Christ without beating people over the head. We must see that God is seeking after us in order to guide and disciple others to know and share the grace of Christ in daily journey.


*My priorities for this ministry:* I think we need to equip and train people more about sharing their faith with others. People need to learn how to communicate the grace of Christ in order to tell their story to others in words and actions.

*My faith statement:* My mission is to inspire, equip and mobilize people to share the grace of Christ. God has claimed me to build my life on the grace of Christ, as revealed through the scripture and experienced in the Church.

# Social Ministry Committee

## ORDAINED MINISTER Female Nominees for Social Ministry Committee:

18A — The Reverend Rebecca Gordon

 Vote for 1 (three-year term)

18B — vacant

### 18A—The Reverend Rebecca Gordon ♦ Nativity, Wonder Lake (northeast conference)

*Occupation:* Pastor

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Nativity has been actively involved in mission discernment through the NIS T.I.M.E. mission planning process. Through this process the mission focus of education was identified through a congregational mission of "Growing in faith, living in God's love." A Mission Health Team has now taken over the goals of establishing a broad-range of discipleship growth experiences at all age levels in the congregation.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Nativity is in the process of growing the ministry of its food pantry into a multi-congregation and community-wide service agency as the Wonder Lake Neighbors Food Pantry. This involves creation of a pantry Board that will include leadership from three Wonder Lake congregations as well as key business and professional leaders. While the primary intention of this board will provide structure and leadership for the food pantry, it will have a secondary goal of community organization and awareness.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* Because of our call to love our neighbors and our role as stewards of the world God created, I believe every congregation has a role in planned, intentional social and environmental awareness and action. The ELCA's statement on the environment states, "Caring, serving, keeping, loving, and living by wisdom—these translate into justice in political, economic, social, and environmental relationships. Justice in these relationships means honoring the integrity of creation, and striving for fairness within the human family." As the church we do a fair job of ministry to people who face injustice. Yet we often neglect the systemic connections between these political, economic, social, and environmental relationships. This is the perspective I will bring to this ministry in a second term.


*My priorities for this ministry:* Fostering an awareness of systemic injustice in the congregation and community. Empowering people of faith to use the resource of citizenship to advocate for positive change through necessary channels. Encouraging the use of resources to create action and solidarity with people and the earth.

*My faith statement:* I believe that God created me, the earth, and everything living and non-living. Everything belongs to God, and God cares for all creation with love, mercy, and compassion. God created humans in God's image as special beings with a role to care for each other and the earth. God loves us despite our sin and brokenness, and in Jesus restores all creation to a right relationship with God. We are called by God into community with others where we can live in the grace and mercy we know in Jesus Christ. Through our new life in baptism, we can commit ourselves to lives of gentle service to others and the earth.

18B—vacant

## ORDAINED MINISTER Male Nominees for Social Ministry Committee:

19A — The Reverend David Vidler

 Vote for 1 (three-year term)

19B — vacant

### 19A—The Reverend David Vidler ♦ First, Mount Carroll (northwest conference)

*Occupation:* Pastor

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Rebuilding hope, confidence, and vision.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Renewing small churches and communities - economic development.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* This is my second term. I want to continue to work with the Social Ministry Committee.


*My priorities for this ministry:* Enabling congregations to carry out their mission to the communities they are called to serve.

*My faith statement:* Jesus calls us to serve/minister to the communities or neighborhoods where He lives.

## 19B—vacant

### ORDAINED MINISTER Male Nominees for Social Ministry Committee:

20A — The Reverend Gene Peisker

 Vote for 1 (three-year term)

20B — The Reverend William Swarbrick

### 20A—The Reverend Gene Peisker ♦ Trinity, Ottawa (south conference)

*Occupation:* Retired Clergyman

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Prison Ministry

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* United Way Board

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* Experience in multi-cultural living/working.

*My priorities for this ministry:* Encouraging the body to recognize and celebrate and exercise its diverse self.

*My faith statement:* I believe that God is not only interested in community. He is community! And so are we in Him.

### 20B—The Reverend William Swarbrick ♦ Trinity, Mt. Morris (central conference)

*Occupation:* Retired Pastor

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Preaching and conducting worship services on a supply basis when needed.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I don't necessarily. After 40 years of serving on various committees and 20 years of retirement, I have no ambition to be on any more committees. But social justice, human rights, and hunger issues have to be concerns of all Christians as they were for Jesus. My activities with Amnesty International and my previous membership on synodical and churchwide World Hunger Committees seem to be indicators that I might well be useful on the synod's social ministry committee, so I said Yes to the request to be nominated.

*My faith statement:* Faith is as much action as it is profession of belief, it involves commitment. As James wrote, "Faith apart from works is dead."

## 2007 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

August 6-12, 2007 – Chicago, Illinois

### LAY Female Nominees for 2007 Churchwide Assembly: Vote for 1

21A — Ms. Karin Graddy

21B — Ms. Mary Norman

**21A—Ms. Karin Graddy ♦ Bethlehem, DeKalb (northeast conference)**

*Occupation:* Director of Education & Family Ministry, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Rockford

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* I am an associate in ministry with a specialty in education. I have served as Christian Education director in two Northern Illinois Synod congregations since 1995. I am called to serve as part-time Communication Director for the Northern Illinois Synod.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* I serve on the NIS Congregational Life Committee and the Professional Leaders Conference planning committee. I have served as Christian Education Network leader for the Northern Illinois Synod. I served as meeting planner for an ELCA Leadership conference last November.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I have a great love for the church at all levels and wish to participate as a voting member to the Churchwide Assembly. As a Christian Educator, I am interested in the discussion that may occur at the 2007 Churchwide Assembly regarding the proposed ELCA Social Statement on Education.

*My priorities for this ministry:* Education is vital to all people for their entire lives. I look forward to studying all the issues that will be before us at the assembly and learning more about the great things our Church does in the US and world.

*My faith statement:* I am confident in the knowledge that God holds us tightly through all the ups and downs in our lives. We are saved by the great gift given to us through Jesus' sacrifice. I try to live each day in gratitude of those gifts.

**21B—Ms. Mary Norman ♦ Zion, Rockford (north conference)**

*Occupation:* Retired

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Hospitality Committee, Assisting Minister, Small Study Group Leader, Long Range Plan Committee, Special Ministries Committee, Facilitator for Discovering your Dependable Strengths workshops, Choir.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Kiwanis Club, visits with nursing home residents, soup kitchen volunteer, RAMP (regional access mobilization project) advisory board.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I believe the Lord has called me to serve in this way, and that by responding to this call, my faith will grow. I will be better equipped to witness and my territory for witnessing will be expanded.

*My priorities for this ministry:* To discover through prayer, study and conversation, how to best use my strengths in the churchwide deliberations, and to witness accordingly.

*My faith statement:* GOD IS SO HUGE and I am so small! Yet I love and trust him. When I am able to give myself up to him and his love for me, I am then able to TRUST him to love me totally, to guide me, forgive me and my imperfection, answer my prayers—according to his schedule and plan, be with me through each day, to care for those I love and don't love. I look forward to the time when he will finally take me home to live with him and all the saints.

**LAY Female Nominees for 2007 Churchwide Assembly:  Vote for 1**

22A — Ms. Johanna Lund

22B — Ms. Deb Martin

**22A—Ms. Johanna Lund ♦ Our Savior's, Rockford (north conference)**

*Occupation:* Certified Life Coach

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Current Chair Adult Education Committee, Current Chair Special Gifts Committee, Past Congregation President.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Board member in organizations dealing with health and wholeness. Chair of multiple boards.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* It is imperative to use the gifts bestowed by our Creator.

*My priorities for this ministry:* To act responsibly as a Christ follower.

*My faith statement:* I believe in the Holy Trinity and in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

**22B—Ms. Deb Martin ♦ Nativity, Wonder Lake (northeast conference)**

*Occupation:* Industrial Engineer

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Council president, evangelism and social ministry, asst. minister; Co-chair synod hunger appeal committee, synod coordinator for Mission Interpreters, synod ONE campaign leader.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Member local peace and justice group.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I've been a Lutheran all my life, but never attended churchwide assembly. I have attended 2 ELCA global mission events and several ELCA hunger leaders gatherings.

*My priorities for this ministry:* Support the ELCA in our work to strengthen members' faith, invite others, and share our resources around the world.

*My faith statement:* I am saved by grace alone and want to share the gifts God has given me in grateful response to God's great love.

**LAY Male Nominees for 2007 Churchwide Assembly: ✎ Vote for 1**

23A — Mr. Jerry Johns

23B — Mr. Jim Spring

**23A—Mr. Jerry Johns ♦ Bethlehem, DeKalb (northeast conference)**

*Occupation:* Retired, but still writing and consulting

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Church Council, Stewardship, Teaching, Mission Gift Fund, Mission Endowment Fund. Member and chair at various times for all of these.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Food Pantry, Theatre, and Music.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* To help provide thoughtful input and direction. To raise appropriate questions.

*My priorities for this ministry:* For the ELCA to be responsive to God's will.

*My faith statement:* Trusting the Lord and extend His love to others.

**23B—Mr. Jim Spring ♦ Bethany, Leland (south conference)**

*Occupation:* High School History Teacher

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Church Council President, Worship and Music Committee, Adult Sunday School teacher.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Teacher in town, heading drive for sesquicentennial celebration.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I was asked if I would be interested in this call. As a delegate from our congregation on a regular basis, I have discussions in which I have been blessed to participate, I have been very impressed with the way NIS has handled controversial issues. I look forward to representing this Synod in the same manner.

*My priorities for this ministry:* Proclaiming Christ, proclaiming Christ, and proclaiming Christ.

*My faith statement:* I know that my redeemer lives. Why would I want to keep that to myself?

**LAY Male Nominees for 2007 Churchwide Assembly: ✎ Vote for 1**

24A — Mr. James Johnson

24B — Mr. Trent Lange

**24A—Mr. James Johnson ♦ First, Lee (northeast conference)**

*Occupation:* Architectural Project Manager, Farm Owner, Township Supervisor

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Currently the Congregational Council President and Chairman of the Call Committee. Also currently serving on the finance committee, as a Trustee, and representing the congregation at the Synod Assembly. Including current service, congregational service has included: Church Council for fourteen years with three one-year terms as President, a Trustee for several years, a delegate to Pleasant View Lutheran Home for two years, a representative to the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly for five years, a Sunday School teacher for two years, Chairman of the Congregational Smorgasbord for five years, budget director for three years, Congregational Treasurer for eight years, and work on multiple committees.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Currently serving the second year of a three year term on the Social Ministry Committee of the Northern Illinois Synod (elected by the committee as Vice Chairman for the current year); Served one year as Records Director for Lee County Chapter of Thrivent; Served four years as a Shabbona Township Trustee; Currently in the third four-year term as Shabbona Township Supervisor; Charter member of the Lee, Illinois Lions Club; Co-Chairman of a fund raiser for local cancer victim; served eight years as a Director on the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Board.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* With our national church shaping the guiding policies and procedures that impact our synod and our congregations, I would welcome the opportunity to represent the Northern Illinois Synod, its congregations and its members in helping to shape the directions that are taken at the Churchwide Assembly.

*My priorities for this ministry:* When a previous Synod Assembly provided me with the opportunity to serve on the synod Social Ministry Committee, I defined my number one priority as focusing on the scriptures and making sure that all of my actions and my service to the committee are in harmony with the letter and intent of God's Word. To that end I have served on the Social Ministry Committee to the best of my ability by attending and participating in all meetings. Beyond the expected level of work, I have served the committee by volunteering more than once to take minutes when the committee secretary was unable to be at meetings and I have served the membership of the synod by seeking to make the resolutions process easier and more effective and by seeking to make the Social Ministry grants process available on the Internet. My priority for the Churchwide Assembly is simply that I will continue what I have begun on the synod level by placing special emphasis on working to be a conduit for all of the individual members of our synod to have their voice heard in the national decision making process.

*My faith statement:* My faith can best be summarized in excerpts from Deuteronomy 6:5, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind," coupled with Leviticus 19:18 "Love your neighbor as yourself."

## 24B—Mr. Trent Lange ♦ First, DeKalb (northeast conference)

*Occupation:* Speech Language Pathologist

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* I am currently president of the council and chair of the call committee. I have served as the youth group leader and a confirmation teacher.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* I am currently president of my neighborhood association. I was a big brother for BBBS of DeKalb Co for 8 years.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I value the work of our church in our society.

*My priorities for this ministry:* I hope to represent my local church and help connect them to the national church.

*My faith statement:* I believe Jesus Christ is savor of all and has a plan for my life that I must follow.

## LAY Male Nominees for 2007 Churchwide Assembly: ✎ Vote for 1

25A — Mr. Robert Ramage

25B — Mr. Jerry Johansen

## 25A—Mr. Robert Ramage ♦ Trinity, Galesburg (southwest conference)

*Occupation:* Retired

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* (Past and Present) Congregation Council (President, Vice President, Secretary). Committees-- worship, Christian education, stewardship, social ministry, pastoral call committee, delegate to NIS assembly, voting member at ELCA churchwide assembly in Denver, taught confirmation classes, led adult Bible study class.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Local Red Cross Board of Directors. Local United Way Board of Directors. Leadership Greater Galesburg participant and Board member.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* Participation in the Diakonia program has led to a desire to become more active in the church activities beyond the congregation.

*My priorities for this ministry:* To listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit for guidance in discussion and voting on issues before the Assembly.

*My faith statement:* I am a redeemed child of God continuing my journey of sanctification as I strive to be a good steward of God's gifts.

**25B—Mr. Jerry Johansen ♦** (central conference)

Biography not available

**YOUTH (Confirmed) Nominees for 2007 Churchwide Assembly:**

26A — Mr. Jacob Esker

 **Vote for 1**

26B — Mr. Nathan Knowles

**26A—Mr. Jacob Esker ♦** St. John's, Pearl City (northwest conference)

*Occupation:* Student

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* I am part of the Youth Group and take interest in that. I am also the Jr. High choir director.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Treasurer of S.A.D.D, Youth Director for Stephenson County Thrivent Board, Vice President of LYO NIS, National Honors Society, Varsity Choir / Showtime 24, 25, and 26, Concert Choir, and the All-State Choir in 2005 and 2006.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I would like to serve as a Churchwide Assembly voting member in order to come to understand the church as a whole, and how God works through people in order to do his works.

*My priorities for this ministry:* My priorities are to help decide the church's direction. To help guide the church in the way God wants it to go.

*My faith statement:* My faith statement is that Jesus died on the cross for my sins. I should then love and serve God to the best of my abilities, and to grow in my faith towards God.

**26B—Mr. Nathan Knowles ♦** Immanuel, Earlville (south conference)

*Occupation:* Student

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Music (guitar, saxophone), Choir, Youth Group, Sunday School.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* High School Band, High School Golf Team, High School Baseball Team, LOMC Swing Choir Tour Camper.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I feel I can speak for the youth of the synod to help change what needs to be changed and keep what needs to be kept.

*My priorities for this ministry:* My priorities are to represent the youth of not only my congregation but all over the synod. Part of my summer schedule takes me to other churches in the synod. While there I often hear the views and thoughts of the youth in those congregations.

**ORDAINED MINISTER Female Nominees for 2007 Churchwide Assembly:**

27A — The Reverend Marilyn Hanson

 **Vote for 1**

27B — The Reverend Marcia Strahl

**27A—The Reverend Marilyn Hanson ♦ First, DeKalb (northwest conference)**

*Occupation:* Pastor

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* As head of staff in my current ministry setting, I delight in worship leadership, administrative tasks, personnel issues, and serving as a visionary leader for the congregation. Making connections between the local congregation and greater church has always been an interest of mine as well.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Living in a college community, I am committed to seeking ways that the local congregation can be involved in the faith development of the student population. As such, I serve on the Board of Directors of Lutheran Campus Ministry. I also have a strong interest in reaching out to the unchurched and working cooperatively with other faith traditions in the community.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I care very deeply for the ELCA and have always had a great interest in sharing my gifts with the larger church. I have served as a synod secretary and ELCA Church Council member, as well as served on a synod staff for nine years. I want to continue to have a voice in shaping the direction the ELCA heads in the future.

*My priorities for this ministry:* My hope is that the ELCA will continue to be a powerful witness to Christ throughout throughout this land and around the world. We have a great message of hope to share with others and the resources for sharing them. I am committed to doing my part to ensure that we do this well.

*My faith statement:* I am a beloved child of God and a forgiven sinner, called to live out my faith in Christ through my words and deeds. I seek to be a positive and encouraging voice for Christ in this world.

**27B—The Reverend Marcia Strahl ♦ First, Chadwick (northwest conference)**

*Occupation:* Pastor

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* My areas of special interest in ministry are worship, teaching, particularly adult education and stewardship. I have introduced healing services to both of the congregations that I have served which is important for both individuals and congregational issues.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* I serve as chaplain to the Whiteside County Composite Squadron, Civil air Patrol and am active in emergency services. I'm trained in Critical Incident Stress Management and serve on the Illinois Wing CIS Team. I have also served for 3 years as Congregational Service Team Director for the Carroll County Chapter Thrivent Financial for Lutheran and Chadwick/Milledgeville C.R.O.P. Walk Treasurer.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I am interested in serving the greater church, especially through the synod and I served 4 years on the synod council of the Northwest Michigan Synod. I currently serve the NIS on the Stewardship Sub-Committee. In 2005 elected to Consultation Committee.

*My priorities for this ministry:* I have never attended a Churchwide Assembly and appreciate the importance of the Spirit lead deliberations that occur there for the future of our church.

*My faith statement:* My senior year in seminary I chose Romans 5:36-5 as a description of my faith development "...suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." This August I will be a 5 year cancer survivor. I am still a work in process and the Holy Spirit keeps filling my heart with God's love.

**ORDAINED MINISTER Female Nominees for 2007 Churchwide Assembly:**

28A — The Reverend Kris Zierke

 **Vote for 1**

28B — The Reverend Krista Stokke

**28A—The Reverend Kris Zierke ♦ Our Savior's, Seneca (south conference)**

*Occupation:* Pastor

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Worship planning and leadership; music; youth; education; have directed church choir.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Have served on Domestic Violence Faith Committee and answered crisis line; Community After School Program Board and Volunteer; Community Center Committee member; have served on Food Pantry Boards, Welfare Reform Community Board and Board of Youth Runaway and Family Services.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* It is an honor to be a voting member at Churchwide Assembly to help shape the future of the ELCA.

*My priorities for this ministry:* My priority is to listen to the people and the Spirit to shape the direction of our church.

*My faith statement:* I believe that God has created, gifted and saved us through Jesus Christ so that we may share the Good News with all the world.

**28B—The Reverend Krista Stokke ♦ First, Granville (south conference)**

Biography not available

**ORDAINED MINISTER Male Nominees for 2007 Churchwide Assembly:**

29A — The Reverend Thomas Rogers, Jr.

 **Vote for 1**

29B — The Reverend Don Knowles

**29A—The Reverend Thomas Rogers, Jr. ♦ Redeemer, Woodstock (northeast conference)**

*Occupation:* Pastor

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Since being called to Redeemer as my first call in 2000, we have worked diligently on congregational redevelopment. The main part of that has been keeping a missional focus, focusing on making Christ known from our place at the corner of Hickory and Dean Streets.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* I am a graduate of Leadership Greater McHenry County, a community leadership development course, and continue to work on my own leadership development. My goal is always to share learning with leaders here at Redeemer. I also serve as the youth exchange officer for the Rotary Club of Woodstock (Noon). In addition, I am involved in a weekly, ecumenical lectionary study and have been a proponent of community social justice issues.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* As the chair of the synod's Ministry Support Committee, I have learned more about how the church works and how it can work to benefit everyone. Attending the churchwide assembly will further widen my scope so that I might serve more effectively.

*My priorities for this ministry:* To serve our synod as a responsible voting member to the assembly and bring back as much as I can to benefit our ministry together.

*My faith statement:* Letting my light so shine that others may see my good works and give glory to God in Heaven. I stay humble by striving to love God and neighbor. I am called to bring "good news," "liberty," "sight," and "freedom" by proclaiming God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**29B—The Reverend Don Knowles ♦ Immanuel, Earlville (south conference)**

*Occupation:* Pastor

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* I serve as the sole pastor of a small town congregation.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Currently I am the chair of the Earlville Community CROP Walk Committee, President of the Mendota Lutheran Home Board of Directors, Publicity Coordinator for the Earlville School Band Boosters, Chair of the Synod Nominating Committee, and Clergy Consultant for Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center. In the past I have served as a Little League coach and Cub Scout leader.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* In conversation with members of the congregation where I serve I hear the diverse needs of the people of my community as well as a wide variety of understanding of what it means to be God's people. As a voting member at the Churchwide Assembly I would hope to bring those views to the attention of wider church.

*My priorities for this ministry:* It would be intent to bring an open mind to the Churchwide Assembly, to listen to the opinions and ideas expressed, and in good conscience, help make decisions that will further God's kingdom.

*My faith statement:* I believe that for sake of all people Christ died for the forgiveness of sin. As redeemed children of God through Christ, we are called as individuals and as communities of faith to share God's radical love through our words and our actions.

**ORDAINED MINISTER Male Nominees for 2007 Churchwide Assembly:**

30A — The Reverend Frank Moyer

 **Vote for 1**

30B — The Reverend Wayne Derber

**30A—The Reverend Frank Moyer ♦ St. Mark, Rockford (north conference)**

*Occupation:* Interim Clergy

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* Interim ministry with congregations working through crisis. Training/educating lay leaders in pastoral care with those in crisis.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Health ethics consultant; involvement with public education leadership.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* The ELCA 2007 Assembly will be focusing on critical areas that will shape the direction of the church. I believe my years of experience will be a value to that process.

*My faith statement:* Dynamic process of examining faith in dialogue with the scientific and technological advances of our age continues to affirm my trust in the love of God.

**30B—The Reverend Wayne Derber ♦ Calvary, Lee (northeast conference)**

*Occupation:* Pastor

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation:* As a pastor, I am involved with all aspects of congregational life. I especially emphasize preaching the good news of the gospel, care for people in need, daily Bible readings and prayer, inviting others into a relationship with Jesus, helping others through words and deeds of compassion, and living out our faith in our daily life.

*Areas of special leadership and interest in the community:* Co-chair of the synod's hunger committee, member of Bread for the World, help with local food pantry, recent president of the Mendota Lutheran Home Board, recent board member of Habitat for Humanity, member of the Foods Resource Bank committee, former dean of the South Conference, and member of the synod's nominating committee.

*Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod:* I feel that as a pastor for twenty-five years, I have a great deal of experience in pastoral ministry that would be beneficial in being a voting member to the Churchwide assembly. I feel that I especially understand issues of world hunger, rural ministry, and social justice.

*My priorities for this ministry:* I would emphasize what I believe to be the core teachings of the Christian faith: 1) following Jesus as Lord and Savior, 2) receiving salvation through faith as a free gift; 3) reaching out to bring others into a relationship with Jesus; 4) working for social justice; 5) caring for the hungry, poor, and outsiders; and 6) living out our faith in daily life.

*My faith statement:* I believe that God the Father has created us and sustains us from day to day. I believe that God the Son died to save us from our sins and rose again to give us eternal life. And I believe that God the Spirit empowers us to live out our faith with words and deeds of love, compassion, and justice.