

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: President of my homeowner's association from inception (1998) – present; volunteer as an alumni volunteer recruiting students for the University of Iowa.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: As a member from the very first day of a new congregation and serving on the leadership team as well as the council, I have seen from the ground up what a congregation can need assistance with. I would love to be able to help out other congregations and similar needs.

My priorities for this ministry: Support the goals of the committee by actively participating on the subcommittees, and bringing my point of view to the work being accomplished. I hope to help provide resources and support to all congregations in the synod. I would also like to find new and different resources to supplement the current. I also hope to learn from this experience as well.

My faith statement: All things in life happen for a reason – that reason is God. He is the good news!

2007 Ministry Support Committee Nominee Biographies

Lay Female Nominee for Ministry Support Committee—Vote for 1 (three-year term)

13A – Ms. Denise Rode

13B – Ms. Karen Dowsett

13A — Ms. Denise Rode † First, DeKalb (Northeast Conference)

Occupation: University Administrator, Instructor (NIU & DePaul University)

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Communion assistant, lector, member and chair of Youth Ministry Committee, Sunday school teacher and confirmation leader, Congregation council member, Call committee, part-time Senior High Youth Director (18 years), supporter of LCM at NIU, served on two pastoral intern support committees; past president- of congregational WELCA

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: member of Altrusa International; member of DeKalb Chamber of Commerce; Athena Award committee; Hope Have (homeless shelter) volunteer; member of DeKalb Tri-Congregational Association (ecumenical group from Methodist, Roman Catholic, and Lutheran churches who plan and support joint worship and service efforts); active volunteer for DeKalb public schools; supporter of literacy efforts, public radio, LSSI and the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation on state, regional and national levels.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: As an anticipated 2007 Diakonia graduate, I believe I am called to use to my life skills and experiences in service to God and the church. With an extensive background in higher education administration, counseling, and teaching, I hope to bring an informed lay perspective to the area of ministry support. I am aware that budget cuts and shifts in staffing at the Synod level have changed the landscape of this committee's work, and I wish to contribute my efforts and energy to support the mission of this important committee, which is enabling Christians of the Northern Illinois Synod to realize their call to ministry as both lay and professional workers.”

My priorities for this ministry: First, I would learn all I can about the committee's composition, scope, and charge. While all areas of the committee's work are of interest to me, I am especially interested in supporting and encouraging laypersons in their call to ministry. With decreasing resources, the committee also will need to creatively address ways of providing a high level of support and continuing education for our rostered leaders. I would look forward to working as part of a committee "team" to develop and maintain effective, creative programs and services that fulfill the committee's mission.

My faith statement: The core of my identity is that I am a beloved child of the Triune God—forgiven, reconciled, and freed to serve Christ, the church, and the world. The concept of justification by grace through faith is central to my faith; I can do nothing other than accept God's gift of salvation and live daily in the covenant of my baptism.

13B—Ms. Karen Dowsett † Trinity, Moline (Southwest Conference)

Occupation: Retired (Deere & Company)

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Chair, Worship Committee, Music;; Trinity Choir & Praise Ensemble, WELCA Ruth Unit, Altar Care, HR Committee Council: Worship Liaison, Memorial Liaison, Vice President, currently Council President and member of Mutual Ministry Committee

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Serviced 19 years on Trinity Regional Health System and served on several board committees including Ethics, Quality, Personnel Chair, President, Trinity College of Nursing and Allied Health & Sciences. Currently serving on Quad Cities Health Initiative Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Co-Chair of Smiles for All Team (access to Dental care for the poor and uninsured), Skip-A-Long Child Development Services Board of Directors, former Chair and currently serve on Executive, Strategic Planning, Resource Development Committees, Alternatives for Older Adults Board of Directors and service on the HT committee. In the past I have been involved with Junior Achievement, United Way and Illinois Quad-Cities Chamber of Commerce in which I served in several different roles.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I have 33 years of work experience in several areas of Human Resource. I have witnessed the need for this resource and am a proponent of continuing education for the lay and professional leaders of our church.

My priorities for this ministry: 1) To be a willing participant in providing support/resources for lay and professional staff to enable them to have healthy minds and spirit for their ministry; 2) To be open to listening to the needs expressed by our lay and professional members; 3) To maintain fair and equitable compensation for lay and professional staffing.

My faith statement: I believe in a "loving, gracious and merciful God: and that we have a friend available to us at all times. He know everything about us, but he is not judgmental. By asking God for help, he gives us guidance and "many chances" to become better people everyday.

Clergy Male Nominee for Ministry Support Committee—Vote for 1 (three-year term)

14A – The Reverend Arthur Bergren

14B – The Reverend Garry Breisacher

14A— The Reverend Arthur Bergren † First, Geneseo (West Conference)

Occupation: Ordained Minister

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: As it relates to the responsibilities of the Ministry Support Committee. I have background in my current and previous calls in event planning and an understanding of the call process and the need for salary guidelines. In addition, I am dedicated to continuing education and completed a doctor of ministry in preaching program in the spring of 2007.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Once again as it relates to the responsibilities of the Ministry Support Committee, I have provided leadership and coordination for multiple synodical events (Midsize Ministry Project, Lay Evangelist Program) and churchwide events (Redevelopment Conference).

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: Being nominated to serve our synod is an honor. I am glad to serve in any capacity to further our mission together in Northern Illinois.

My priorities for this ministry: My priorities are to serve faithfully with the other members of the committee to provide support for all our rostered leaders. Ministry is not easy. The Ministry Support Committee is here to provide resources to bless all the rostered leaders within Northern Illinois.

My faith statement: As a baptized member of the Church of Christ, I am called to serve God at home, in community and in my vocation. Through the Word and the Sacraments, I am given grace to serve God in those ways and more.

14B— The Reverend Garry Breisacher † Trinity, Ottawa (Northeast Conference)

Occupation: Ordained Minister

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: As a pastor I am particularly interested in helping capture God's vision for a congregation and finding ways to implement that vision and help the congregation become engaged in the whole process.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: I have been part of various ministerial associations, coached baseball and basketball, served on various boards.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: Over the years I have seen and experienced ministry becoming more difficult and challenging with the complexity of our society, constant changes taking place, and expectations increasing on professional leaders. I believe my years in parish ministry along with good support in the past have equipped me to be aware of the challenges and need for support and encouragement. I would like to be part of encouraging our professional leaders and providing means to assist them with their self-care.

My priorities for this ministry: I am particularly interested in helping provide opportunities and encouragement to professional leaders that will equip them to handle challenges and conflicts in healthy ways.

My faith statement: I believe God continually seeks to be part of our lives helping us become the people God created us to be. God meets all our needs to be loved, accepted, and forgiven in abundance. Then God equips, encourages and empowers us to live as God's children in Christ Jesus. We experience the blessings as we respond to God's great love in Jesus.

Clergy Female Nominee for Ministry Support Committee—Vote for 1 (three-year term)

15A – The Reverend Jane McChesney

15B – The Reverend Judi Huseth

15A — The Reverend Jane McChesney † Calvary, New Windsor (Southwest Conference)

Occupation: Ordained Minister

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: Thirty-two years as a lay professional in church music, Christian education at all levels, certified as a Stephen Ministry Leader and trainer for care-giving ministries and youth ministry. Three years as parish pastor at Calvary, and also serving in programmatic ministry in team ministry partnered with Edwards River Ministry.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: Illowa Lutheran Coalition Advisory Board; 14th Judicial Circuit Court – Mercer County Family Violence Council; serve on Crisis Team, Sherrard Community Unit #200 School District; Spirituality Retreat Leader; Vice President of the Illowa Lutheran Coalition and on the Southwest Conference Food Resource Bank Committee.

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I perceive a need to walk with those sensing a calling to serve in rostered ministry as an encourager, a listener, and supporting liaison in the discernment process, as well as supporting and nurturing rostered and lay leaders in our congregations through prayer and Christ-centered care. My experiences are once a lay professional and now as a rostered ordained pastor afford me the opportunities to listen and speak from many vantage points.

My priorities for this ministry: My priorities are to listen and be open to learning more ways we can be mutually supportive to our leaders and congregations to help us have healthy leaders, healthy congregations, and healthy ministries that lead to carrying out the mission of Making Christ Known.

My faith statement: I am a baptized child of God and heir with all the baptized in God's kingdom. I am justified by God's grace and called to live out that grace in my daily life, proclaiming the gospel, sharing the means of grace to nurture and nourish all God's people.

15B — The Reverend Judi Huseth † St Paul, Sterling (Central Conference)

Occupation: Ordained Minister

Areas of special leadership and interest in the congregation: I've been a Pastor for 23 years; I have served as a senior pastor and also as a solo pastor; in both rural and urban congregations. I have served as an intern supervisor and an intentional interim pastor; all in South-Central Synod of Wisconsin. I was also Secretary of the Synod for four years.

Areas of special leadership and interest in the community: In former communities I served on the chaplaincy board of Meriter Hospital in Madison; on the board of Transitional Housing, Inc. and HospiceCare, Inc. and in service organizations (Downtown Rotary, Madison; Janesville Noon Kiwanis).

Reason I wish to serve this area of ministry in the synod: I feel qualified, having had 5 units of CPE, Intentional Interim Training (which trains for major transitions, including conflict resolution), and having served on Synod Council.

My priorities for this ministry:

My faith statement: I am a child of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, marked with the cross of Christ forever. I am called to share my faith in compassion and grace, through Word and Sacrament.