

Nominations: Synod Council Vice- President



Mr. Randall Foster is a retired Healthcare Administrator, having served 38 years in both the public (Los Angeles County - Martin Luther King, Jr./Drew and Harbor-UCLA Medical Centers) and private (Cedars-Sinai Medical Center) sectors.

Mr. Foster has held various responsibilities within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), presently serving as Vice President for the Southwest California Synod (123 congregations from Los Angeles to San Luis Obispo Counties). He served 12 years on the Board of Directors for Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, the last three as its Board Chairman. Concurrently, he served on the Board of Regents at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, having completed 12 years this past summer, the last two years as Board Vice Chairman. As a member of the Board of Directors for Augsburg Fortress Publishing House (now 1517Media) in Minneapolis, he recently completed his 6-year term. For the last three years, he chaired the ELCA's Sustainability Committee for the Theological Education Advisory Council (TEAC), and is presently chairing the communications team for the Future of the ELCA, both in Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. Foster is the recipient of the University of Southern California Distinguished Alumni Award (School of Public Administration) and the National Management Association's (Chapter 402) Manager of the Year. He received his Master's degree from the University of Southern California in Health Care Administration and has served as a preceptor for graduate students from 1991- 2001.

On September 30th, he and his wife Carolyn celebrated 36 years of marriage. The couple has three adult daughters, two of whom reside in Atlanta, Georgia with their respective families and the third lives in Carson, California. They have four teenage grandchildren: Camille, Cameron, Keenan and Kennedy. The Fosters are members of Community Lutheran Church in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles Metro Conference

Nominations: Synod Council Member at Large

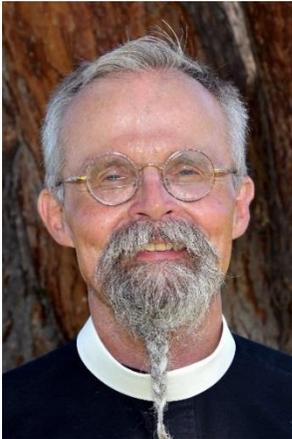
Position 1: Female/Clergy



Pastor Ruth Sievert has served at Lutheran Church of the Cross, Laguna Hills; House of Prayer, Escondido; First, Glendale; Ascension, Baldwin Park; St. Stephens, Palmdale; Trinity, Long Beach; Christ, Downey; Christ the King, Van Nuys; and St. Andrew's, Los Angeles. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Bowling Green State University in 1976, and her M.Div at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Her passions include quilting and singing. She is a member of St. Paul's, Santa Monica.

*Clergy/Female
Los Angeles Metro Conference*

Position 2: Male/Clergy



Pastor David Berkedal – Statement: Our culture is more than ever in need of the good news of Jesus Christ, and our Lutheran theology is especially relevant to the challenges we face, even as we approach the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. I have been concerned that our confessional movement has shifted from its foundations toward becoming another liberal protestant denomination. I established the Evangelical Mission Network in our synod for those who are likewise concerned. I have served as the solo pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Compton from 1977 to 1986, and as solo pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in San Dimas from 1986 to the present. In addition, I have served in our synod in a variety of capacities, including on the board of directors of Lutheran Social Services, on the synod Evangelism

Committee, on the synod assembly planning committee, and for 7 years (I think this is still a record) as Dean of the San Gabriel Valley Conference. I served as an appointed at-large member of the synod council, and as an elected at-large member for one term. I have also served as chairperson of the Nominating Committee for the past several years, and am also currently serving as Chair of the Synod Policy Handbook Committee. I am married to the Rev. Sally Welch, a clergyperson with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and we have one son, James.

*Clergy/Male
San Gabriel Valley Conference*

Position 3: Male/Clergy



Rev. Cesar Arroyo is Pastor at Faith, Canoga Park, and was Mission Developer in San Pablo, North Hollywood.

I believe that the unity of our Synod is strengthened with diversity.” The presence of diverse ethnic groups give us an excellent opportunity to impact our communities which are constantly changing. It is important that our actions, our presence and our evangelism, accompanied by our ‘historic service’ to and action within the community, develop in concordance with our doctrine as ELCA and the Southwest California Synod. I am happy to service and act within our Synod. May God guide us with clarity to continue doing our best each day.

*Clergy/Male
Twin Valleys Conference*

Pastor Thomas Boughman-Collinge is a Hospice Chaplain with Vitas Healthcare and served as pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Lehigh Acres, Florida. He is a member of Christ, Downey, where he is a guest preacher and represents the congregation at Lutherans Concerned Los Angeles meetings. He is a member of the Disaster Spiritual Care Team of the American Red Cross, and a Chaplain at the Anaheim Regional Medical Center.

*Clergy/Male
Greater Long Beach Conference*

Position 4: Female/Lay



Nancy Ackerman is currently serving in a synodical call as vice president with Netzel Grigsby Associates, Inc. She has extensive nonprofit management and fundraising experience in the education, arts, health care, and faith-based sectors. Her expertise includes capital campaigns, major gifts, prospect identification and cultivation, endowments, board and leadership development, governance, and strategic planning. She is a lecturer in the UCLA Extension fundraising program, and has been a member of Southwest California Synod Council and Executive Committee and the Candidacy and Worship and Music Committees of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. She is celebrating the 25th anniversary of her commissioning on June 2nd.

Nancy is a member of Emmanuel, North Hollywood, and has been its organist for 15 years. She volunteers on the boards of the Greater San Fernando Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and FirstServe Community Services of the South Bay (First Lutheran Church), on the Annual Fund Committee of Hillside, and with the Sierra Summer Festival (Mammoth Lakes, CA). She has been president of her church endowment committee and chaired the Lutheran Planned Giving Partnership of Southern California and Hawaii. Nancy is a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University and earned a Certificate in Fundraising from UCLA Extension.

*Lay/Female
Twin Valleys Conference*



Jamie Hovland is a member of Our Savior's, Lancaster and a Retired Deacon serving in youth and family ministry and general parish ministry, serving occasionally as an assistant minister and on the congregational LIFT Team while the parish evaluates its direction as it comes to the end of a 30-year pastorate. She has served as a volunteer with a local LGBT Outreach Center and as a board member of our Antelope Valley PFLAG group.

In the last three years, her main synodical involvement has been as a part of the Synod Worship team. She was part of the planning team for Bishop Erwin's Installation and has assisted the Reformation 500th Anniversary Planning Team.

I don't know that I have any special qualifications, but I have known and loved this synod for many years. I've been a deacon for 15 years, and it has been 27 years since I was called into

youth and family ministry. 3 years of retirement have been a good break from meetings. If the call comes to serve in this way, I will do so with joy!

Tehachapi Conference

Position 5: Female/Lay

Lisa Curtis is a member of St. Luke, Woodland Hills, where she has served as Vice President of the Congregational Council and Choir Director. She is also part of the Malibu Community Bible Study group.

Lay/Female

Twin Valleys Conference



Karen Moyer – Statement: I was a transplant from Pennsylvania seeking to make a change in my life. When I arrived I said I would never work in a large company, on commuters or in insurance. Well, my day job is with Pacific Life Insurance Company as a Senior System Analyst Lead with the IT Department. I have been with the company 37 years in July and I am doing everything I said I would never do.

As an active member of St. Timothy Lutheran Church, I wear many leadership hats such as Vice President, Assisting Minister, Bible Study Leader, and choir member to name a few. I facilitate or coordinate a number of activities such as VBS, Sunday School and Easter Egg Hunt.

Currently, I am chair of the Synod's Lay Leadership Mission team and President of the Southwest California Synod Synodical Women of the ELCA.

A Synod Council member would be a natural progression to my service to the Church and the Synod. I bring leadership and organization skills and the desire to spread the good news of Christ.

Greater Long Beach Conference

Position 6: Female/Lay



Carol Bjelland is a member of Ascension in Thousand Oaks and a retired Associate General Counsel for Verizon. She has served as a congregational council member at large, Global Ministries Team Co-Chair, Communion Assistant, and on the ALC Foundation Board of Trustees and Finance Committee. In the community, she currently serves on both the Kingsmen Shakespeare Company Board of Directors and the Conejo Players Theater **Company**. **She also serves on the Synod Global Ministries Team and was a voting representative at Synod Assembly in 2015 and 2016.**

Channel Islands Conference



Valerie Shaw – Statement: For more than 27 years, Community Lutheran Church has been my church home, having transferred my membership from a Lutheran Church in Chicago where I grew up. My two children, Matthew and Kaylen, were both baptized and confirmed at Community. Throughout the years, I have been active in various aspects of church life including several terms on the Church Council. I have served as a Pastor's Assistant, Fellowship Team Chair, Church Council member, Budget Strategy Team member, community organization's representative, secretary of ADLA, Los Angeles Chapter. In December 2013 I had the honor of being installed as a Deacon, started teaching our children's Sunday school. My prayer is to strengthen my relationship with God and increase my knowledge of the Bible as I continue to seek spiritual maturity.

Los Angeles Metro Conference

Nominations: Conference Representatives

Central Coast



Nola Huss – Statement: I am a retired Family Nurse Practitioner who moved to Santa Maria from Maine four years ago to live closer to my daughter and son-in-law. I have Masters degrees in Nursing and Health Care Management from the University of Southern Maine. I worked primarily in Home Care with a specialty in adult and pediatric wound and ostomy care. Many years ago, when I graduated from high school I thought about entering the ministry but that wasn't a career path for girls in the early 60's. I also found out you needed to have an ability in language studies and I knew I would be terrible at that. So I made nursing my ministry and hoped Jesus would speak to others through my skill, ability and compassion. My nursing career has offered me many opportunities that a poor kid from Texas would not typically have. I

have managed the operating rooms for Operation Smile (surgical mission to repair cleft palates in many countries), trained midwives in Iceland, trained mothers in the Lamaze Childbirth technique, and served on the medical team for Pope John Paul II during his visit to the Marianna Islands.

I am enjoying retirement as it offers me a chance to have the time to serve in other areas of interest. I volunteer at our local Humane Society, I have my very first dog, and I am able to serve on the council of my church (Gloria Dei Lutheran Church). I am also able to become more involved in my Churches ministries and activities, from volunteering in the office to serving as a Stephen Minister. I am also able to spend much more time with my daughter and son-in-law now that I am closer to them.

Lay/Female

South Bay



Jane Affonso – Statement: I have a passion for justice and peace, especially in the interfaith context and have most recently focused on environmental advocacy and fair trade. I Co-chair the synod Green Faith team and serve on Synod Council.

This year I started a Justice Team at First Lutheran in Torrance; we have showed four films, begun serving fair trade tea, stopped using Styrofoam, and engaged in advocacy to implement California's Human Right to Water bill.

Since 2009 I have chaired the Justice and Peace Action Team of the South Coast Interfaith Council and previously served on its Board. I'm Treasurer of Fair Trade Los Angeles and of Ten Thousand Villages, a fair trade store in Redondo Beach. I'm also active with the effort to rid the Torrance and Wilmington refineries of hydrofluoric acid. I previously served as Deputy Director of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice- California.

Lay/Female

Twin Valleys

Todd Kolberg is a member of St. Matthew's, North Hollywood, where he has served as President of the Congregation, Secretary, assisting minister and lector.

Lay/Male

Nominations: Mission & Ministry Committee (Endowment)



Sue Ma began attending worship at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church Chinese Ministry, Temple City in 2004. She graduated from Logos Evangelical Seminary with a Lay Ministry degree in 2011, and has served as Chinese Ministry Deacon President and a member of the Congregation Council. She works at Construction Laborers Trust Fund for Southern California as an Accounts Specialist, and her responsibilities include managing receivables at various stages of contracts.

*Lay/Female/Person of Color or First Language other than English
San Gabriel Valley Conference*

Manny Valdez – Please see Guidebook