

Report of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee of the Southwest California Synod invited members of synod congregations with a desire to share their experience, knowledge and passion as leaders in the synod to consider if God was calling them to serve on Synod Council or on a Synod Committee. The Committee also worked with synod leadership, both rostered and lay, to identify those with the gifts, skills, and willingness to be called to leadership and service.

Descriptions of the duties of each open position are included with each open position below.

Ms. Jane Affonso

Pastor Maria Paiva

Ms. Terri Pyle

Ms. Mary Tabata

Pastor David Berkedal, Chair

Deacon Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson also served on the Nomination Committee until her appointment as Assistant to the Bishop

Treasurer

The Treasurer is a member of the Executive Committee, is expected to attend all meetings of the Council, Executive Committee, and Synod Assembly, and to report the financial status of the synod to all meetings of the Council and the Synod Assembly. They need a thorough knowledge of accounting procedures and functions.

The Rev. Dr. Stephanie Jaeger
St. Matthews's, North Hollywood
Rostered Person



Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

I have served as redeveloper and pastor of St. Matthew's—NoHo hearing and Deaf congregation since 2014;

- Led the congregation to start up a thriving non-profit, NoHo Home Alliance, focused on ending homelessness in the east San Fernando Valley;
- Served as executive director of NoHo Home Alliance since 2018 with primary fiduciary responsibilities as CEO overseeing our access centers, street outreach, an encampment-to-home transitional housing program, affordable housing advocacy campaigns and public municipal.
- Have overseen the upgrade of computer, data, donor, and communications systems in the parish to increase transparency, communication and best fiduciary practices;
- Led the evaluation of facilities use agreements, and strategic selection of new space use partners to enhance the sustainability of the congregation;
- Led the congregation from a deficit budget to a sustainable mission plan.

Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

- Faith Representative and Vice President of the NoHo Neighborhood Council of the City of Los Angeles (a publicly elected volunteer position, 2017-2022)
- Board Member, Pafenberg Family Farms (current)

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

- Dean—Twin Valleys Conference (current)
- Convener—Synod's Dean's Group (current)
- Board Member—Twin Valley's Lutheran Parish (current)
- Committee Member—Synod Property Committee (2018-21)

Mr. Robert McDuff

Central, Van Nuys

Lay Man



Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

- o Current Central Van Nuys Congregational Council Member; Financial Secretary and accounting advisor since January 2019. My financial work with Central is supported by my recent completion of the UCLA Extension's class MGMT X 423.18 - 384275 Nonprofit Accounting, as well as my time as the Treasurer for Visa International, Treasurer for Transamerica Finance Corporation, SVP and Head of Finance for the Investment Group at Wells Fargo Bank as well as 10 years in a variety of financial management roles at First Interstate Bank of California and its holding company.
- o Helped with Startup of Mobile Food Pantry through LA Regional Food Bank (resulted from my multi-year volunteer efforts with the LARFB), occasional distribution volunteer. Central's food distribution programs now serve an average of 350-400 households every week, benefitting over 1,500 people through the love of Christ.
- o Lead weekly Men's Bible Study online (started in fall of 2021)
- o Grill master for special events, occasional Math Tutor, assist with online worship
- o Supportive Spouse of Pastor called to urban ministry It should be noted that Marsha and I left our life in Northern California to return to LA (both having done graduate work at UCLA) so that she could follow her calling to do inner city ministry first through an internship with St Marks-Los Angeles (across from USC) and the New City Parish collaboration of congregations, then in her final year of seminary at Fuller with a part-time apprenticeship at Central LC in Van Nuys focusing on community outreach to Spanish speakers and the unhoused. We stayed in LA for Marsha to take the Call to Central-Van Nuys.

Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

- o Braver Angles Member & Participant Nov 2020-Present, working to practice and promote civil dialogue between individuals at opposite ends of political spectrum. I am currently in training to be workshop moderator, listed to be a volunteer Guide for the Braver Politics effort, and hoping to help start an Alliance in San Bernardino County.
- o Health Care Advocate, Member of Health Care for All - Los Angeles Chapter

4+years, including organizing town hall forum on single payer health care system at ULCA business school, in the name of social and racial justice as affordable access to equitable comprehensive quality health care is a human right (see ELCA social statement on Health Care)

o Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Water Committee 4 years, occasional participant on Chapter Environmental & Social Justice Committee o Inner City High School Math Teacher (2019-2020) at predominately black Christian school in South LA (previously 5 years in underserved school in Richmond CA, SF Bay Area, including Safe and Supportive Schools program administrator)

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

o Synod Budget/Finance Committee (since 2017), utilizing my longtime professional finance and management experience, along with attention to both strategy and detail, while fostering collaboration and effective team dynamics. It is here that I have repeatedly expressed a desire for: a) fiscal responsibility and longer-term planning, b) increased transparency of the synod's financial situation, c) better communication of the synod's role and services and monetary grants, d) acknowledgement of synod council's authority and flexibility with respect to use of investment funds, e) recognition of the need to focus on a long-term strategy and the mission of the synod through better support of our congregations serving impoverished, disadvantaged and diverse communities including f) closing the pay inequities of their pastors.

o Synod Justice Team (3+years), representing Health Care Reform advocacy, including co-developing Single-Payer Health Care Resolution passed at 2019 Synod Assembly and participant in Lutheran Public Policy Lobby Day 2021 (online to Sacramento)

o Synod Green Faith Team member (mainly 2018/19); liaison to Sierra Club and wide-ranging environmental issues

o Treasurer and Board Member of Twin Valleys Lutheran Parish (since summer 2021); including development of annual and quarterly budgets and board-approved expense reimbursement policy, along with review of monthly financials prepared by accountants. My work with the TVLP is done to support the collaboration of efforts across member congregations in the four Ministry table areas of Congregational Sustainability, LatinX Ministries, Homelessness and Poverty, and Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

Mr. Michael F. Metzger

Faith, Canoga Park

Lay Man

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

Currently I serve as a member of my congregational council and serve as lector twice a month.

Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

Three times a year I work for The Charitable Foundation - gathering supplies for two holiday meals, and in the summer assembling school backpack kits for school children in need.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

For the past 6 years I have served as the Synod Treasurer. I have also given classes on the congregational constitution and spent time working with congregations in understanding their finances and financial reports.



Secretary

The Secretary is a member of the Executive Committee, is expected to attend all meetings of the Council, Executive Committee, and Synod Assembly, and is responsible for the keeping of minutes of all meetings.

The Rev. Keith Banwart
St. Matthew', Glendale
Rostered Man

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

Senior Pastor - St. Matthew's, Glendale

Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

Fmr. President, SoCalLutherans.com
Fmr. President, Lutheran Health Ministries of the Foothills
Member, Glendale Religious Leaders

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

Secretary, Southwest California Synod
Fmr. Dean, Foothill Conference.



Mr. John Halbert
Hope, Hollywood
Lay Man

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

Currently serving as Vice President of Church Council and chair of Communications Committee. Served on Call Committee as we looked for a new pastor.



Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

Have volunteered on political campaigns, and served as a judge for socially responsible business plan competition. Member of Amnesty International.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

Currently serving as Secretary of Synod Justice Team, on Synod Council, as Chair of Metropolitan Conference, and on the Policy Board of Lutheran Office of Public Policy.

Synod Council Member-at-Large

Three open positions – one to be filled by a Rostered Woman; two to be filled by Lay Women

Members-at-Large are expected to be present at council meetings, to attend Synod Assembly, and to volunteer on Mission Teams, Task Forces and Committees.

Member-at-Large/Rostered Woman (one position)

The Rev. Marta Salazar

Fe y Esperanza, South Gate

Rostered Woman

POC or Primary language other than English

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

Pastor at Fe y Esperanza

Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

Board member of the Wall Las Memorias Project of Los Angeles
Support Group Facilitator at the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Team Coordinator at Talitha Cumi/Women Rise Up.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

Currently serving as Synod Council Member-at-Large



The Rev. Ruth Sievert
Trinity, San Gabriel
Rostered Woman

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

For most of the time that my two congregations were closed during COVID, I brought my two congregations together via You Tube Live and Zoom. Trinity, San Gabriel while being mostly Anglo, 1/3 of the congregation is Chinese, Latin X and African American. Community, LA is 100% African American. We alternated broadcasting Sunday, by Sunday, at each congregation via YouTube Live. We had Zoom coffee hour after worship and weekly Bible Study during the week. They learned from each other and new friendships were formed.



Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

I sing with the Long Beach Camerata Singers and serve on the Chous Council. In both the summers of 2020 and 2021 The Council helped produce "Front Porch Concerts". Residents around Long Beach got their neighbors involved to provide their front yards, and quartets sang 45 minute concerts to audiences from all over town for safe listening and visiting.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

I am the chair of our Synod Mission Team for Rostered Leaders. I have served on the Synod Council and the Committee to Elect a Bishop.

Member-at-Large/Lay Woman (two positions)

Ms. Frances Hale

Trinity, Pasadena

Lay Woman

POC or Primary language other than English



Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

About a year before the pandemic began I heeded the Lord's call and joined Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Pasadena. I didn't grow up Lutheran, and am eager to learn, so I jumped in with both feet to learn by doing. I am currently serving my congregation as treasurer, a worship assistant, and as a member of the chancel and bell choirs. In addition, I'm spearheading the effort to reconnect with our community post-COVID. We hosted a brainstorming luncheon where members were invited to share their ideas, and there will be a follow up meeting to discuss the steps to put our ideas into action. For the two previous years I served as a member of church council. During the time we were not able to worship in person due to COVID concerns, a small group of parishioners, including myself, produced Sunday services which were posted to Youtube.

Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

Over the past three years I have volunteered at our community bad weather shelter, monthly Love Our City banquets for our unhoused neighbors, and at Trinity's weekly LA County Regional Food Bank distribution center. I have also served as a host for the annual banquet at Youth Actor's Academy, which teaches life and business skills. Prior to the pandemic I worked and volunteered for Heifer International, even taking part in a 5K charity walk! During the pandemic shut down I co-produced, wrote and hosted Kid's Corner virtual Sunday school which consisted of a bible lesson, related craft, a prayer and a closing comment on the week's lesson. Viewers from across the country tuned in weekly.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

I represented Trinity at the previous Synod assembly.

Ms. Allison Demeter Johnson
Mount Cross, Camarillo
Lay Woman



Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

I am very active in my congregation. I am assistant minister often, lead Bible Studies, I have been on Church Council for last four years, taken communion to home bound seniors, on several committees- Senior Ministry, Worship and Music, and Care Team, maintain church bulletin board, Lead and sing Holden Evening Prayer service, and participate weekly in church

Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

I have participated in my son's Boy Scout activities and in helping him complete his Eagle Scout requirements, participated in local events for Autism awareness, and am often calling the graffiti hotline to keep our city clean.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

I have attended the Synod Assembly most years since my college years. Many as a delegate. I will be a representative to attend Triennial conference for WELCA next year. I have attended other synod and conference events.

Ms. Nancy Mason
Shepherd of the Valley, Simi Valley
Lay Woman



Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

Currently Vice President of Church Council, previously the Director of Still Waters Food Pantry, currently on Women's Board

Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

I ran the Homeless Pantry for eight years, was the President and am currently the Vice-President, and work with children's education as needed.

Floor Nomination

Member-at-Large/Lay Woman

Ms. Ligia Achar

Angelica, Los Angeles.

Laywoman

POC or Primary Language other than English

I have been Angelica Lutheran Church office Administrator since 2017. I have served as a council president in the past. I serve as an acolyte every Sunday at our church.



I run the food distribution program at Angelica Church, assist with the senior feeding program, serve as a member of New City Parish board, also planning a community breakfast twice a month.

I have been a voting member to the Synod Assembly in the past. I was part of the planning team of Bishop Brenda Boss installation at Angelica Church.

Endowment Committee Member-at-Large

Four open positions to be filled by Lay or Rostered Persons

Persons serving on the Endowment Fund Committee should have experience in financial management as well as an understanding of the Mission Goals of the Synod. They must be able to share openly in discussions concerning the policies and mission of the church, and must be able to participate objectively in decisions regarding the disbursement of funds, such as Synod Grants.

Deacon Nancy Ackerman

Emmanuel, North Hollywood

Rostered Woman



Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

- Finance Committee, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, North Hollywood
- Organist, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, North Hollywood

Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

- CFRE (Certified Fundraising Executive) B.A. The Pennsylvania State University; Certificate in Fundraising from UCLA Extension.)
- President and CEO of California Lutheran Homes and Community Services
- President, Greater San Fernando Valley Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals
- Board of Directors, FirstServe Community Services of the South Bay
- Nonprofit management and fundraising experience in religious, education, arts, and health and human services sectors, leading fundraising campaigns and provided organizational strategic planning and guidance, executive coaching, interim department leadership, assessments, and training.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

- Budget and Finance Committee, Southwest California Synod

Ms. Melissa Chaddick

American, Burbank
Lay Woman

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

As the pastor's spouse, there are some committees that I am unable to participate in; however, I have served on our church's listening campaign, co-led our Kidology ministries, and help organize our "Tiny Food Pantry."



Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

I serve on the executive board of my union, Hart District Teacher's Association.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

I have served on the Endowment Committee for the last three years.

Ms. Kathleen Elliot-Chillison

St. Mark's, Los Angeles
Lay Woman
POC or Primary language other than English

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

Long-term member of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Los Angeles. Recently assisted my Pastor, Matt Keadle with Easter Vigil service wherein 5 babies and youth were baptized.



Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

Weekly volunteer with My Friends House incorporated assisting with food distribution to the community. Member of Top Ladies of Distinction Ladera Heights Chapter serving as the Community Partnership Chair and Teen Advisor. Employed with Marriott International in Global Finance and Risk Management.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

- 1) Member of Endowment Committee
- 2) Advisory board member of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

The Rev. Marsha Harris
Central, Van Nuys
Rostered Woman

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

First, I serve as Pastor and Administrator in a bilingual congregation that has been increasing its commitment to its deeply impoverished neighboring community. I have led them to create a sense of vision and mission that was missing prior to my arrival part-time in 2016, and as called Pastor in 2017. One of the earlier things we were led to do was reconsider our impact on the neighborhood, and on the world around us. As for the world, a key piece is creation care: we now are solarized for our electricity, we strive to use compostables and renewable products whenever possible, including bamboo and recycled papers in most applications.



We planted 7 fruit trees around our parking lot in 2017-18, to both provide cooling for the asphalt impact and to offer fruit for gleaning to our neighbors, both unhoused and housed. We began food distribution in 2019, and shortly after the pandemic began and other food distribution and pantries closed we moved our service to weekly, now serving between 350-400+ households each week, between 1350 to 1850 persons. Prior to the pandemic we were offering weekly English classes to help our neighbors find better jobs and help their children with homework.

Through both my work and that of leaders we have raised up and others we have invited into serve with us, we have expanded our connections and increased our ability to bring resources into the community for the sake of food security, and addressing some root causes of poverty and homelessness. We now have a Garden Advisory Committee for the 1/2 acre Community Garden that hosts 30 individual gardener families and offers classes to the wider community. We also have an Advisory Committee of young 40's adults who have been drawn to serve their neighbors and are finding their way toward faith even as they help us plan for ways to better serve our neighbors, recruit volunteers and increase our ability to sustain these ministries.

Central has served as a host for homeless services for almost 19 years, and while there is no longer a drop-in service here, the Access Center and showers on our site still bring persons experiencing homelessness to our door and to our worship regularly.

Further, in 2021 we reopened our Camp @ Central (aft/evening camp) to serve 19 elementary aged children with the help of LRCC, 4 area youth and a team of volunteers that included a homeless couple whose children were in our camp. We currently host a TEEM candidate who is also completing her Bachelors degree at Cal Lutheran University. Central's current tagline is: Loving our Neighbor, Caring for Creation, Promoting Food Security, and meeting people wherever they are in faith to grow

Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

I have served with the LAPD Clergy Council since I was serving part-time, and upon my call and ordination in 2017, have continued as a regular partner and contributor. This has offered me connections for prayer caravans with other clergy and laity in the Van Nuys area, as well as new connections with local decision-makers, and with the local media.

Central identifies over 50 community organizations with whom we have partnered in recent years to promote their programs and ours including the Valley Pres Hospital, MEND, Helpful Honda, Tierra del Sol, Partners for Potential, and AAIMM (African American Infant and Mother Mortality) Task Force of LA Co Dept of Health. I have personally developed these relationships and have empowered others to either maintain them or to revisit them as we have moved to address the needs of our community.

I have served since 2019-20 with the Twin Valleys Conference Confirmation program, helping to teach, lead ice-breakers and discuss ways to grow our children in faith. I was one of the organizers of the Twin Valleys Conference initiative to develop better collaboration. In 2018, when our Conference voted for the study I was elected to co-preside over the efforts, and to co-supervise the consultant. When the organization was ready to form an Interim Board in 2019, I was elected chair, and have served as the Chair as we halted then restarted our collaboration efforts through the pandemic. I was blessed to see

the Twin Valleys Lutheran Parish officially launched at a Worship and Conference Assembly in September 2021, and to celebrate the granting of its 501(c)3 Non-Profit status after 10 months of waiting on the IRS, and I will be turning over the role of Board Chair when my term expires in fall 2022.

I will continue to serve in 2022-23 as the lead of the Ministry Table and liaison to the Board for the Twin Valleys Lutheran Parish "Synodical Congregational Sustainability Initiative" known as LatinX Ministry Strategy. This work is set to launch this summer to train - in collaboration with Rev. Dr. Alexia Salvatierra and Rev. Dr Michael Mata - 4-8 Spanish speaking faith leaders in active Bible study that will seek ways to respond to the gospel in their lives through serving their communities, as the Holy Spirit leads their groups. This work will be done with persons not necessarily connected to existing congregations, and will involve the work of prayer of the congregations they are linked with, to see the work through to fruit within 18 months to 2 years of its start.

In 2021 I completed the training for LA County Master Gardener, as part of my Continuing Education for Creation Care during the pandemic. I am allowed to serve Central's community garden for 1/2 of my servicer hours, and am required to serve other projects for the other half. I serve on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task force for the LA County Master Gardeners. This also links me with 400+ Master Gardeners serving all over LA County, in a variety of contexts and climates, enriching my should even as I teach others.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

I have served since 2015 (my internship with New City Parish & St. Marks-LA) with the Synod Green Faith Team. During recent years I have helped plan greater inclusion of Spanish Speakers in the World Water Day events, and have brought an urban ministry perspective to the table in discussions about how congregations can be both green and solvent.

I have also served since 2015 with the Evangelical Outreach Mission Table, including a) evaluating new start and redevelopment ministries for their annual review and funding recommendations, b) reviewing properties to make recommendations from EOMT for future mission potential or sale so as to fund such future missions, c) evaluating holy innovation proposals (2018) for funding through special innovations monies Synod Council had set aside, d) emergency

aid grants to congregations stepping up to serve in new ways during the pandemic, and needing new technology assistance funds for worship or other community outreach. As such,

I have been on the side of "applicant while on the committee", and am fully aware and experienced with stepping away from discussion and recommendations on any project I am party to, as part of the Synod's Conflict of Interest Policy. I even know how to do it on Zoom, and still get called back to the meeting when we're moving on to others' projects!

The Twin Valleys Lutheran Parish and its process to come into collaborative ministries has also drawn me more deeply into a variety of Synod activities, including: 1) asking questions about what is our mission, 2) seeking where we can find and sustain funding, 3) how do we reward initiative even if success is not always a certainty, and 4) what is the relationship between ELCA Church-Wide, our Synod, the Conferences, and a Parish.

The Rev. Kenneth Johnson

Church of the Resurrection, Redondo Beach
Rostered Man

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

Senior Pastor serving Congregation, K-8 school and pre school

Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

Family Promise host, El Salvador sponsor, Facilitator for Smart Recovery program

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

Very minor due to Covid restrictions



Mr. Les Peters

St. Andrew's, Los Angeles

Lay Man

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

Active involvement in our Congregation's mutual ministry committee, endowment committee, Pastor's sabbatical support committee I serve on altar guild, lector and participate in our congregation's community outreach mission projects.



Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

Food pantry distribution projects on the West Side & and at Port of Long Beach, participation the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Commemoration and Celebration.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

I have attended Synod assemblies to participate in worship and as an 'observer'. Participant in the LA Metro Conference Gathering and the Synod Spring Assembly.

Consultation Committee

Four positions to be filled by Clergy Persons

The primary responsibility of the Consultation Committee is to hear the issues of all parties involved in cases related to ordained ministers, officers, associates in ministry, congregations, and members of congregations, and recommend whether or not disciplinary action should be taken. Persons serving on the Consultation Committee must have an ability to listen to the opinions of many persons, share openly in discussions of sensitive matters, know the policy and mission of the church, and be willing to uphold the integrity of the church and individuals to which the church ministers. Members serve a term of six years without consecutive reelection.

The Rev. James Boline

St. Paul, Santa Monica

Rostered Man

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

Pastor, St. Paul, Santa Monica (2000-present)

Seminary internship supervisor (2012-present)

Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

Treasurer & past Vice President, SoCalLutherans, the LA chapter of ReconcilingWorks

Volunteer, Westside Food Bank, Santa Monica

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

Synod Secretary (2013-16)

Synod Council and Executive Committee (2021-present)

Synod representative on Diocesan Program Group for Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations



The Rev. Ron Cox

Ascension, Thousand Oaks

Rostered Man

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

Continued to coordinate the Eucharistic ministry program (taking communion to shut-ins & nursing homes); pulpit supply



Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

My past experience for this committee includes being the industry representative for international trade negotiations in support of the Departments of State and Commerce for 10 years. This required listening deeply to a myriad of different positions from different cultures in order to reach consensus. I am a Stephen Ministry leader and completed the synod sponsored training in conflict resolution by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC). I have used the LMPC training to lead successful conflict resolution at a congregation and taught classes on communication and conflicts for formerly homeless residents at a Santa Barbara Housing Authority apartment complex.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

Pulpit supply for Ventura and western Los Angeles counties; chair of Reference & Counsel; mentor for TEEM pastor

The Rev. Kenneth Johnson

Church of the Resurrection, Redondo Beach

Rostered Man

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

Senior Pastor serving Congregation, K-8 school and pre school



Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

Family Promise host, El Salvador sponsor, Facilitator for Smart Recovery program

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

Very minor due to Covid restrictions

The Rev. Sharon Richter

Trinity, Pasadena

Rostered Woman

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

I have been the pastor of Trinity Pasadena, since 2018. I took over as director of Trinity Food Ministry in 2020. I founded Trinity's Great Banquet Ministry in 2019, to provide a monthly dignified and even elegant banquet for homeless persons and the working poor in Pasadena, with waitstaff, entertainment, and a 3 course meal served around banquet tables. I ecumenically partnered with Fellowship Church to organize, cook, and serve these banquets. In 2021 I founded the Trinity Safe Parking Program, which provides overnight parking for individuals living in a vehicle, with access to bathrooms and electricity, showers, and case management to find housing and services. I partnered with Foothill Unity Center for case management and security services, and with San Gabriel Valley Safe Parking Committee for organizational structure.



Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

In addition to the Trinity Safe Parking, the Trinity Food Ministry, and the Trinity Great Banquets, I have been a board member with Lutheran Social Services of Southern California since 2019, serving on their Mission Advancement Committee.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

I was elected dean of the Foothill Conference in January 2022. In 2019, 2021 (virtually), and in 2022, I organized and managed the Foothill Conference Easter Vigil, with three congregations participating in 2019, four in 2021, and five in 2022, including one not Lutheran. Bishop Erwin presided at one and Bishop Bos presided this year.

Discipline Committee

Four positions to be filled by Lay Persons; one position to be filled by a Clergy Person

The Discipline Committee acts on the recommendations of the Consultation Committee. Persons serving on the Discipline Committee must have an ability to process input from many persons, share openly in discussions of sensitive matters. Persons, know the policy and mission of the church, and be compassionate, with a commitment to fairness and justice. Members serve a term of six years without consecutive reelection.

Lay Persons (four positions)

Ms. Robin I. Freeman

Church of Our Redeemer

Lay Woman

POC or Primary language other than English



Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

I have been a member of church council for many years. I serve as the liaison to the Church Preschool.

Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

I am a member of a sorority in Ventura County where I have been President, Vice President, Treasurer and several other offices. I was PTA treasurer last year. I serve on a committee for Ventura County Superintendent of Schools. I have tutored students in reading. I am a retired Assistant Superintendent and offer my services to local school districts when needed.

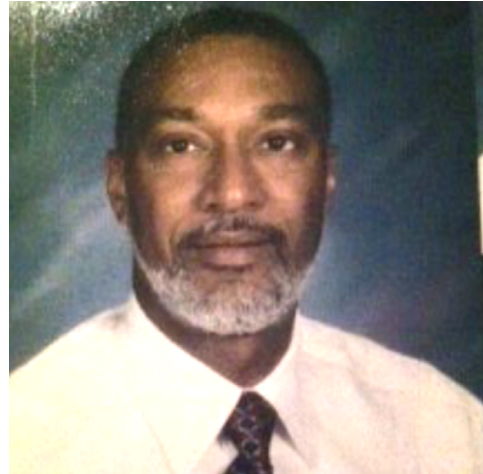
Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years: None.

Mr. Nolan Green

Our Saviour's, Long Beach

Lay Man

POC or Primary language other than English



Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

Many regular activities have been lessened during COVID-19. I am part of the prayer chain, I've been in contact/visits with some congregation members who have not returned to in-person worship, and our congregation will be resuming home visits to serve Communion.

Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

Work with my local congregation.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

I am Conference rep and a member of the Executive Committee. I attend our Conference's Collegium and once a month attend worship with a Conference congregation. I continue to serve as Synodical Sacristan.

Ms. Sherry O'Neill

St. Luke, Woodland Hills

Lay Woman



Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

I joined St. Luke 5+ years ago. I've served as Church Council Secretary for almost three years.

Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

Volunteer liason for St. Luke's hosting of the monthly Clean Streets program, where students earn community service hours.

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

I've participated in Synod twice; once with Zoom in 2021 and once before in person at Cal Lutheran (2018).

Clergy Person (one position)

The Rev. Kenneth Johnson

Church of the Resurrection, Redondo Beach
Rostered Man

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

Senior Pastor serving Congregation, K-8 school and pre school

Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

Family Promise host, El Salvador sponsor, Facilitator for Smart Recovery program

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

Very minor due to Covid restrictions



The Rev. Marcos Panahon

St. Matthew's, Los Angeles

Rostered Man

POC or Primary language other than English

Congregational service, currently and within the last three years:

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church Filipino Ministry. Multicultural Ministry



Community Service, currently and within the past three years:

Burbank Temporary Aid Center - giving socks and goods

Lutheran Maritime Ministry in giving caps, socks and toiletries

Synod involvement, currently and within the past three years:

Lutheran Social Services in giving coats, jackets

Lutheran World Relief for Health Kits and school kits

Synod Council Conference Representatives

Conference Representatives are elected at Spring Conference Assemblies and affirmed at Synod Assembly.

Channel Islands Conference Representative

Mr. Todd Honda

Shepherd of the Valley, Simi Valley
Lay Man

I (he/him/his) have been at Our Saviour's/ Shepherd of the Valley for the past 32 years during which I have held many leadership roles including: Council Vice President, Good Shepherd School Board President, Youth Board, Call Committee Chair, Endowment Committee Grant Coordinator, Mutual Ministry Chair and Confirmation teacher. I have participated in services as a Reader, Usher, Greeter and Last Supper Reenactor.



Foothill Conference Representative

The Rev. Zachary Johnson

Hill Avenue Grace, Pasadena
Rostered Man

Pastor Johnson has been called to Hill Avenue Grace since Ash Wednesday of 2020.



Greater Long Beach Conference Representative

Ms. Karen Moyer

St. Timothy, Lakewood

Lay Woman



A lifelong Lutheran born in Pennsylvania. Relocated to California in 1980 where I continue pursuing my faith in God at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Buena Park expanding my faith and service. Then I joined St Timothy Lutheran Church and became involved in the SWCA Synod and Greater Long Beach Conference.

Expanded my faith education by attending Equipping Leaders for Mission when the classes were first offered which allowed me support ELM and the Lay Leadership Mission Team. I was elected to Synod Council and served on the Executive Committee and several work groups Constitution, Mutual Ministry and Survey Team. Enjoy photography especially documenting the Synod Assembly.

As an active member of St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Lakewood, CA. I am currently the Treasurer and lead Bible Study on Zoom. Before COVID-19 lead our Alternative Rejoicing for Kids Sunday School and coordinated our Vacation Bible School.

A past president of the Southwest California Women of the ELCA Synodical Board and a current Board member.

I am also an active member of the Greater Long Beach Conference. I strive to attend the Spring and Fall Conference Assemblies. I will become more active in the Collegium meetings as the Greater Long Beach Conference Representative. Although I am at retirement age, I continue with my 42nd year of employment for Pacific Life Insurance Company as a System Analysis Consultant.