

2023 Nominations for Central States Synod

Introduction

Each year the voting members of the Synod Assembly elect people who have been nominated to various positions, such as members of the Synod Council. Ultimately, the voting members of the Assembly are responsible for the nominations, but they are assisted by members of congregations, area ministry leaders, and the Nominating Committee. There are two stages to the nominating process, one before the assembly and one at the assembly. All Synod Council positions (except the youth positions) require a background check and therefore nominees need to submit a [disclosure form](#) along with the [nomination form](#).

Pre-Assembly

Early in the calendar year, the Nominating Committee works with conferences to fulfill its responsibility as described in the synod bylaws (S9.03.04). Nomination forms are to be submitted to the synod office no later than April 15, 2023. The chair of the Nominating Committee is Pat Bjuland, Atonement Lutheran Church, Overland Park, KS.

Phone: 816-674-0828. E-mail: pbjuland@sbcglobal.net.

At the Assembly

Nominations may also take place at the assembly as described in the synod bylaws (S9.03.05). People nominated from the floor need to provide information requested on the biographical form and in some cases, a disclosure form.

Participating in the Process

Whether you are a voting member of the assembly or not, if you have questions about how you can participate in the nominating process or would like to suggest someone for nomination, please contact your pastor, the chair of the Nominating Committee, Pat Bjuland, or Tim Anderson at the synod office (913-948-9701, tanderson@css-elca.org).

Helpful information:

Responsibilities for Synod Council members:

- Be the board of directors for the synod and serve as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- Carry out the resolutions of the assembly.
- Attend council meetings, ordinarily three times a year.
- Interpret the work of the synod through their conferences and across the synod.

The term "persons of color and/or person whose primary language is other than English" (PC/L*) is understood to mean African American, Black, Arab, and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino, Native American, and Alaska Native people.

The term "youth" means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election.

The term "young adult" means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election.

It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. (S6.04.B09. Adopted by 2009 Churchwide Assembly)

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Pre- Assembly Nominations 2023

The Nominating Committee offers the following nominations:

Synod Council Members (3-year term except where noted)

Vice President (incumbent eligible) (4-year term)	Nancy Nagel*
Treasurer (incumbent eligible) (4-year term)	Scott Schulte*
Secretary (incumbent eligible) (4-year term)	Chad Langdon*
Central Kansas Conference – lay female	Julie Barstow
Border Conference – clergy male	Zac Sturm
Youth – male (2-year term)	

*** Incumbent**

Consultation Committee (6-year term)

1 lay member	Rosalind Thorpe
1 clergy member	Kristen Koch

Discipline Committee (6-year term)

3 lay members	Pat Bjuland Cathy Hohl Dennis Kemper
1 clergy member	Steven Cauley

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Biographical Information—Nominees

Synod Council Members

Position: Vice President **Name:** Ms. Nancy Nagel
Congregation membership: Peace Lutheran, Washington, MO
Congregational Activities: President, VP, Bell Choir, congregational care, outreach committee
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: VP 2019-present
Community Activities: Neighbors United-Undoing Racism, 4 Rivers Progressive Coalition, YMCA
YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

Position: Treasurer **Name:** Mr. Scott Schulte
Congregation membership: Advent, Olathe, KS
Congregational Activities: Treasurer, chair of the Finance Committee, Assisting Minister, BeFriends Ministry, member of Council, Confirmation Guide, Financial Secretary
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Synod Treasurer, chair of Mission Endowment Committee, attendee at 2019 churchwide assembly
Community Activities: Treasurer for homes association, co-treasurer for BV West Band Boosters Association.
YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

Position: Secretary **Name:** Rev. Chad Langdon
Congregation membership: Christ Lutheran, Wichita, KS
Congregational Activities: Pastor, youth ministry, justice ministry, outdoor ministry
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Camp Tomah Shinga Board 2013-2018, Synod Day Coordinator for 2018 National Youth Gathering, Synod Council Secretary 2019-2023
Community Activities: Volunteer Coordinator, Lake Afton Public Observatory. Acting Secretary for Wichita chapter of Direct Action and Research Training Center (DART)
YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

Position: Central Kansas Conference Representative **Name:** Ms. Julie Barstow
Congregation membership: Peace Lutheran, Manhattan, KS
Congregational Activities: Director of Youth & Family Ministry, preparing Easter baskets, God's Work. Our Hands Sunday, Working on Church gardens for the food pantry.
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: 2019 churchwide assembly, synod youth leader initiative, regularly attend synod assembly, and involved with Camp Tomah Shinga.
Community Activities: Member of local PEO chapter supporting women in education, serve with family at the annual community Christmas dinner, and donate blood regularly.
YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

Position: Border Conference Representative **Name:** Rev. Zac Sturm
Congregation membership: Atonement Lutheran, Overland Park, KS
Congregational Activities: Senior Pastor (2019 – present), Associate Pastor (2017-2019)
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Voting member of 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Member of Central States Synod Discipline committee
Community Activities: Co-President of Good Faith Network of Johnson County KS, Flag football coach, Olathe youth sports.
YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

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Consultation Committee Members

Position: Consultation Committee **Name:** Ms. Rosalind Thorpe
Congregation membership: Atonement Lutheran, Overland Park, KS
Congregational Activities: Staff at Atonement as Director of Outreach Ministries, since 08/2019; as Ministry Assistant from 3/2013-08/2019. As Director of Outreach Ministries, I organize and connect congregational members with ministries in the community through a variety of service projects; work with visitors/new members; and have various office responsibilities. I was also a 17-yr member of Atonement’s Handbell Choir and have recently joined the Sanctuary Choir.
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: In the past, I have served as a synod assembly delegate from Atonement; have also helped with organizing a service activity for a past synod assembly.
Community Activities: Support Hillcrest Transitional Housing, Brookridge Elementary, and several food pantries through my work (above)
YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

Position: Consultation Committee **Name:** Rev. Kristen Koch
Congregation membership: Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, St. Ann, MO
Congregational Activities: 20 year ordination anniversary, 10 years in current call
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Current co-dean of Eastern Missouri Conference, Taught lay-preaching course for Lutheran School of Theology in St. Louis, Synod coordinator for the Quality of Call Initiative for Women of the ELCA, Served one term as at-large member of Synod Council
Community Activities: Pattonville Community Action Team (Organization that aids collaboration between Pattonville School District and local non-profits
Served one term on Resolutions Committee **YOUTH:** No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

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Discipline Committee Members

Position: Discipline Committee **Name:** Ms. Pat Bjuland
Congregation membership: Atonement Lutheran, Overland Park, KS
Congregational Activities: PMA, Library Coordinator, Write weekly Prayers of the People for worship, schedule worship assistants, worship coordinators, and prayer readers for worship, Stewardship Committee, Personnel Committee, Stephen Minister, Outreach Team
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Chair of the synod nominating committee since 2015, Consultation Committee 2016-2022
Community Activities: Good Faith Network, MLM
YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

Position: Discipline Committee **Name:** Ms. Cathy Hohl
Congregation membership: Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Florissant, MO
Congregational Activities: Previously on Stewardship Committee, Endowment Committee, Church Council, and numerous ad hoc committees. Currently congregational president, adult choir, and creation care team.
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Attended two most recent synod assemblies.
Community Activities: Various events sponsored by neighborhood or congregation.
YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

Position: Discipline Committee **Name:** Mr. Dennis Kemper
Congregation membership: Unity Evangelical Church, Bel Nor, MO
Congregational Activities: Parish Ministry Associate, Assistant Treasurer, Various ad hoc committees (constitution update, emergency procedure update, etc.), Stewardship committee, Worship committee, Lector, Assisting Minister
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Treasurer Lutheran School of Theology - St Louis, Board Chair of Lutheran Elementary School Association, Pulpit supply for Our Savior Lutheran Church, Salem, MO
Community Activities:
YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

Position: Discipline Committee **Name:** Rev. Steven Cauley
Congregation membership: Living Lord Lutheran Church, Lake St. Louis, MO
Congregational Activities: Senior Pastor of Living Lord Lutheran Church since 2020.
Synodical/Churchwide Activities: National Development Council Lutheran Men-in-Mission.
Community Activities:
YOUTH: No **YOUNG ADULT:** No **POC/LOE:** No

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2023 Nomination Biographical Information

Anyone accepting nomination for a Synod Council position must have a background check and therefore fill out a disclosure form. This does not apply to nominees for the Consultation and Discipline Committees or Churchwide voting members.

Conference _____

Position Nominated for: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Congregational membership (include city/state): _____

Congregational activities: _____

Synodical/churchwide activities: _____

Community activities: _____

Person of color/language other than English? ___ yes ___ no

Youth (younger than 18 years old) ___ yes ___ no (DOB _____)

Young Adult (between 18 & 30 years old) ___ yes ___ no (DOB _____)

Nominated by: _____

*Please return this form no later than **April 15, 2023** to Central States Synod, 420 W. 14th St., Suite 101, Kansas City, MO 64105 or Tim Anderson at tanderson@css-elca.org*

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Disclosure Form

As part of the election process, the Central States Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, requires, by continuing resolution S9.12.A08, that a background check be obtained for all nominees for synod officers and synod council members, **except for youth**. Please return this form directly to Tim Anderson at the synod office or by e-mail to tanderson@css-elca.org.

AUTHORIZATION

During the 2023 nominating and election process and at any time during the tenure of any position as a synod officer or Synod Council member to which I may be elected, I hereby authorize First Advantage Background Services, Corporation, P.O. Box 105292, Atlanta, GA 30348, 1-800-845-6004, on behalf of the Central States Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to verify my social security number and do a check of the national criminal data base for any convictions. An additional credit history check will be done for the nominees for the position of the synod treasurer. I understand that I may request a complete and accurate disclosure of the nature and scope of the background verification.

Nominee Name (Please print and include middle name)

Address (Complete address with city/state/zip)

Nominee Signature

Date

_____-_____-_____
Social Security Number *

Date of Birth

*For Identification Purposes Only