



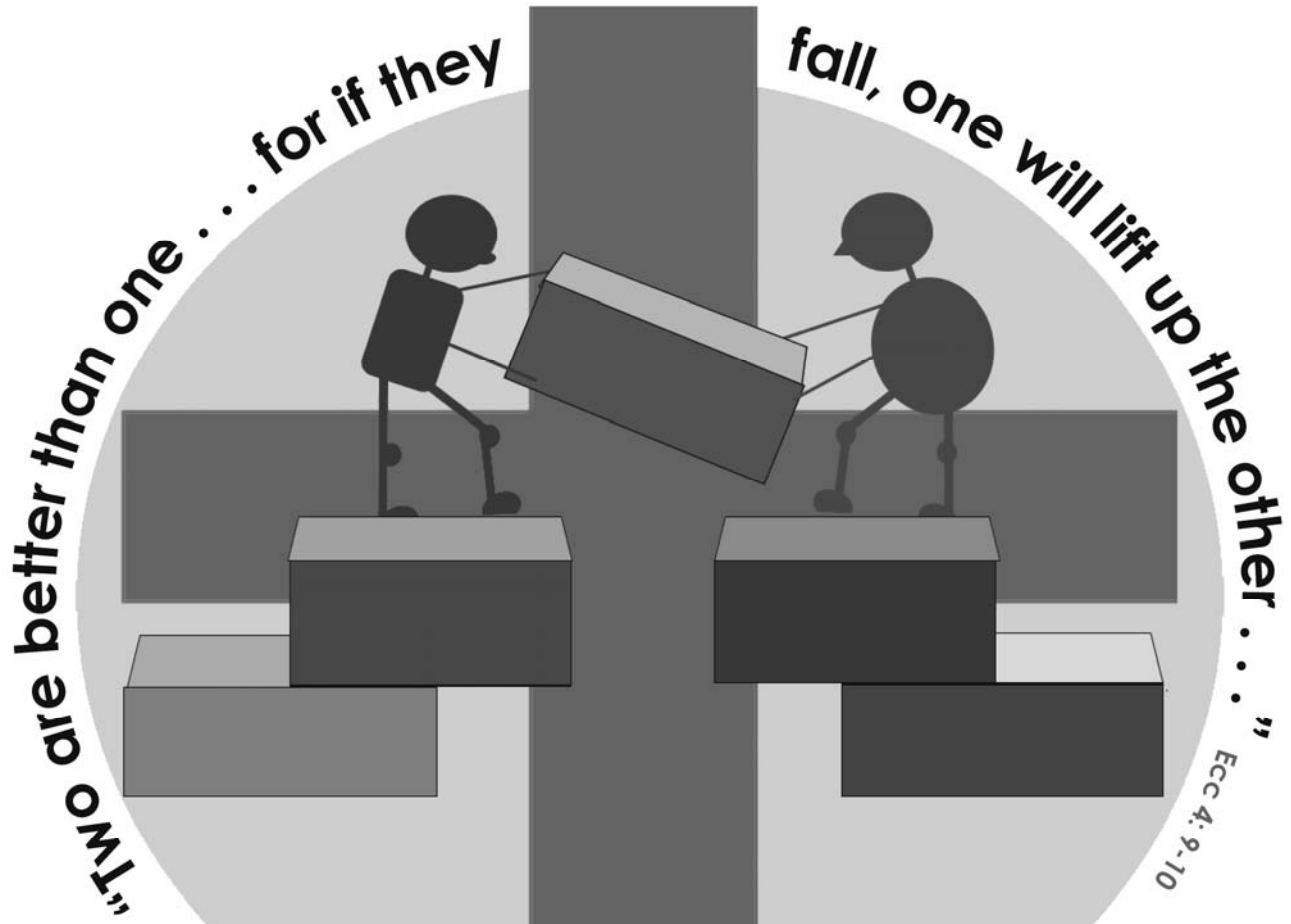
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Upstate New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Nominations Booklet

The Thirtieth Assembly of the Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Building Bridges
Synod Assembly 2017

June 8—10, 2017

Joseph A. Floreano Riverside Convention Center

**REPORT
OF THE 2017 SYNOD ASSEMBLY
NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

for

A1: Synod Council Representatives From Conferences

No additional nominations may be made

A2: Synod Council Members at Large

(One persons of color or primary language other than English)

(One youth age 16-18)

Nominations may be made from the floor

B: Philadelphia Seminary Board

(One person to be elected)

Philadelphia Seminary Board (vote for one)

(no additional nominations may be made)

(3 year term)

Nominee: Mr. Fred Risser

Congregation: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pittsford

Occupation: Supervising Bank Examiner by the NY State Department of Financial Services prior to retirement in 2015.

Native of Central Pennsylvania and a graduate of Thiel College in Greenville.

Synodical/Churchwide Involvement:

Fred was first elected treasurer of the Upstate New York Synod in 2002 and subsequently reelected in 2006 and 2010. During his time in office he has actively served on the Synod's Executive Committee, the Finance Committee and the Investment Committee. In 2006 he was elected to the board of the Foundation of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

Congregational Involvement:

He has served as treasurer, a member of the church council and as chair of the Endowment Fund of St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Camillus. He currently resides in Canandaigua and his church membership is at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pittsford. Fred Risser is married and the father of two adult daughters.

Section A1 - Synod Council Representatives

(No additional nominations may be made)

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBER

Position Description

Qualities and Eligibility

Nominees for the Synod Council should be deeply committed to the life and ministry of Christ's Church, especially as expressed through the Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, regular in their worship attendance, and charitable with their gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Each person elected to the Synod Council shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, with the exception of ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod.

Nomination, Election, and Term of Office

Conferences nominate for election by the Synod Assembly lay and clergy members to the Synod Council to terms of four years in accordance with the bylaws of this synod. Additional nominations may not be made from the floor of the Synod Assembly. Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated to the Synod Council prior to their election, if possible, or as soon as practical after their election. Members of the Synod Council are eligible for nomination and election to no more than two consecutive terms. The term of office for members of the Synod Council commences at the close of the Synod Assembly at which they were elected.

Functions

The Synod Council functions as the board of directors of this synod and serves as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. The functions of the Synod Council include:

- Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of this synod.
- Recommend program goals and fiscal proposals to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.
- Provide for an annual review of the roster of ordained ministers and of other official rosters.
- Receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA.
- Issue letters of call to ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament and letters of call to Ministers of Word and Service, as authorized by the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA.
- Report its actions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- Perform such other functions as are set forth in the bylaws of this synod, or as may be designated to it by the Synod Assembly.

Responsibilities

Synod Council members must prepare for, attend and participate in regular and special meetings of the Synod Council and the Synod Assembly. In so doing, they must:

- Study carefully the issues on the agenda of the Synod Council.
 - Listen to and participate thoughtfully in debate during meetings.
 - Examine wisely possible amendments to proposals.
 - Consider with insight resolutions or new business.
 - Nominate and elect with care apt persons to serve on the boards and committees of this synod.
- Seek prayerfully the guidance of God's Spirit in all matters, and act conscientiously for the sake of the unity and well-being of this synod, this church and the whole Church.

Privileges and Accountability

A member of the Synod Council:

- Serves as a voting member of the Synod Assembly with the privilege of voice and vote.
- May serve on committees of this synod as appointed or elected.
- May serve on their conference's executive committee, according to the custom and discretion of their respective conference.
- Is accountable to the synodical vice president in consultation with the bishop and deans.

Other

- Nominees for Synod Council should preferably have experience functioning in board, council, or committee settings. Previous leadership in these capacities is highly desirable.
- No elected member of the Synod Council shall receive compensation for such service.

Relevant Constitutional Provision

SB/L10.01.A. The term of office for clergy and lay members of the Synod Council shall be four (4) years. Clergy and lay members of the Synod Council shall be eligible for nomination and election to no more than two consecutive terms.

b. The term of office of members of the Synod Council, with the exception of the officers and the youth member, shall be four years.

SB/L10.01.B. The term of office for the members of the Synod Council other than the bishop shall commence at the close of the Synod Assembly at which they were elected.

*SB/L10.07.A. Conferences shall nominate individuals for election to the Synod Council in accordance with the following table***

Hudson-Mohawk Conference [one] member

Foothills Conference [one] member

Central Crossroads Conference [one] member

Southern Tier Conference [one] member

Genesee Finger Lakes Conference [one] member

Niagara Frontier Conference [one] member

Southwestern Conference [one] member

In addition, all conferences shall nominate one person of color and/or primary language other than English with two to be elected at large by the Synod Assembly as provided in SB/L10.07.B. Conferences also shall nominate one youth, age 16 – 18, and one young adult, age 18 – 30, with one youth, and one young adult to be elected at large by the Synod Assembly as provided in SB/L10.07.B

***As adopted by the 2013 Synod Assembly – Action SC13.06.09*

Nominations:

Foothills Conference

Clergy (3 year/Term 2):

Rev. Sara Litzner (Zion, Cobleskill)

Southwestern Conference

Lay (3 year/Term 2):

Sharon Hamilton (First, Jamestown)

Foothills Conference

Clergy (3 year—Term 2):

Rev. Sara Litzner (Zion, Cobleskill)

Rev. Dr. Sara Litzner has had the joy of serving as Pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cobleskill, NY for the past 6 years. During that time the congregation has been involved in very intentional transformational ministry and has focused on reconnecting the congregation with the community. Pastor Litzner has also enjoyed serving on the Upstate New York Synod Council for the last 4 years. Pastor Litzner is a graduate of Wartburg Theological Seminary where she earned her Masters of Divinity and New Brunswick Theological Seminary, where she earned a Doctor of Ministry. Pastor Litzner looks forward to addressing the challenges and new possibilities for ministry that the future holds, both in the congregation and on Synod Council

Southwestern Conference

Lay (3 year-Term 2) :

Sharon Hamilton (First, Jamestown)

Sharon has been a member of First Lutheran Church for more than 25 years. She has served as President of the Church Council, has been a lector, communion assistant, member of many church committees and currently serves as the representative on the Together In Mission Committee. She has been a home communion visitor for about 23 years. She has attended Synod, conference assemblies and most recently the ELCA National Assembly.

Sharon has been employed by Lutheran Social Services for nearly thirty years and is currently Vice President of Lutheran Senior Housing. She was a founding member and serves on the Board of First Things First, a collaborative Christ Centered ministry of First Lutheran Church, First Covenant Church and Zion Covenant Church. She also serves on the Boards of Chautauqua Blind Association, two Resource Center committees, is President of the Jamestown Noon Rotary Club, is a member of Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, and has previously served on several other community Boards.

Sharon has master degrees from Alfred University, St. Bonaventure University and a master’s certificate in gerontology from University of North Texas.

Sharon resides in Jamestown with her husband, Bob. She has three grown children and seven grandchildren.

Section A2- SYNOD COUNCIL VOTING MEMBERS AT LARGE

Persons of Color or Primary Language Other Than English

One youth, age 16-18

One young adult, age 18-30

SB/L10.07.B. The following provisions shall govern the election of the two at-large lay persons of color or primary language other than English, and one youth, age 16 – 18, and one young adult, age 18 – 30, to serve as Synod Council members.

- a) *Each conference shall nominate one person of color or primary language other than English, and one youth, and one young adult for consideration by the Synod Assembly.*
- b) *The Synod Assembly shall elect two persons of color or primary language other than English at least one of whom shall be lay, and one youth, and one young adult from the nominees for each at-large seat. At least one of the youth or young adults elected must be a lay person.*
- c) *In an effort to ensure diversity, should it be necessary and only in the case of the at-large nominees, the Synod Assembly may accept floor nominations of persons of color or primary language other than English, and one youth, and one young adult for consideration by the Synod Assembly.*
- d) *It is desirable that the at-large nominees include both males and females and be geographically diverse.*

Person of color or primary language other than English (vote re-election of the following)

Nominees:

Rev. Imani Dodley (GFL) Reformation, Rochester
Elected Term 1 2014

Name: Imani N. Dodley (GFL)

Congregational Membership: Reformation Lutheran Church

Education: BA - Theology from Ohio Dominican University, Columbus Ohio

M.DIV - Trinity Lutheran Seminary

200 HR RYT Yoga Instruction

Anti-Racism Facilitator Training - ELCA

Professional:

Mission / Evangelism - 2004-2005 - Bexley Lutheran Church

Grant Writer/ Community Advocate - 2000 - 2005 - TEACH - Welfare to Work program

Associate Pastor - 2005-2008 - Trinity Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Pastor - 2008 - 20012 - Christ the Good Shepherd

Senior Pastor - 2012 - current - Reformation Lutheran Church

Founder/Educator/Instructor - Yoga 4 A Good Hood

GRCC/ FIAN Network - 2010 - current

Synodical Experience:

Anti-Racism Team

Conflict and Healing Team

Africa Mission Team - 2010

Congregational

see above professional experience

Experience

2000 - 2004 - A member of St. Peters Lutheran Church - Evangelism/

Multicultural Partner for Rock on the Block Ministry

Personal:

Mother of 2 children (Hakeem 22/ Maisha 19)

Originally from Columbus Ohio

Rape Crisis Advocate for RESTORE network

Yoga and Health Enthusiast

(One youth age 16-18)
Nominations may be made from the floor

Nominations:
Central Crossroads Conference

Thomas Grindle (St. Mark's, Baldwinsville)

Congregational Membership: St. Mark's, Baldwinsville

Synodical Experience:
National Youth Gathering 2015 Synod Day

Congregational Experience:
Lector
Assisting Minister
Acolyte
Youth Group
Trumpet for Easter and other special services
God's Work Our Hands Matthew 25 Farm Project

Personal:
Junior Drum Major, Baldwinsville Marching Band
Area All State Band
Honors Student
All-County Band
Science olympiad
National Junior Honor Society
Junior Counselor Camp Whitman
Camper at Vanderkamp
YMCA: Youth in Government

(One youth age 16-18)
Nominations may be made from the floor

Nominations:
Southern Tier Conference

Ben Wendel (St. Luke, Ithaca)

Congregational Membership: St. Luke, Ithaca

Education: Currently a Junior at Ithaca High School

Professional:

Full-time student.

Past counselor with *Primitive Pursuits*, an outdoor survival school in Ithaca.

During summer and other school breaks, I work with a local law firm digitalizing files and performing general office tasks.

Synodical Experience: None yet, but I'm excited to learn. It's only recently that I have heard of opportunities to serve the synod. Pastor Laurie Carson has encouraged me.

Congregational Experience:

Leading worship as an acolyte.

Summer Ministry Leader, 2016. After approaching Pastor Laurie Carson, we developed two activities that I led: Knife Skills and Fire Building. I taught children and adults to use fire and knives safely.

Personal:

President, TV Production Club at Ithaca High School. This entails leading a group of students several days a week, producing video.

I love the outdoors.

I collect knives for display and use in carving, etc.

I love to travel. My family spent 6 months in New Zealand. It was a very formative time for me.

Thank you for your
participation in this year's

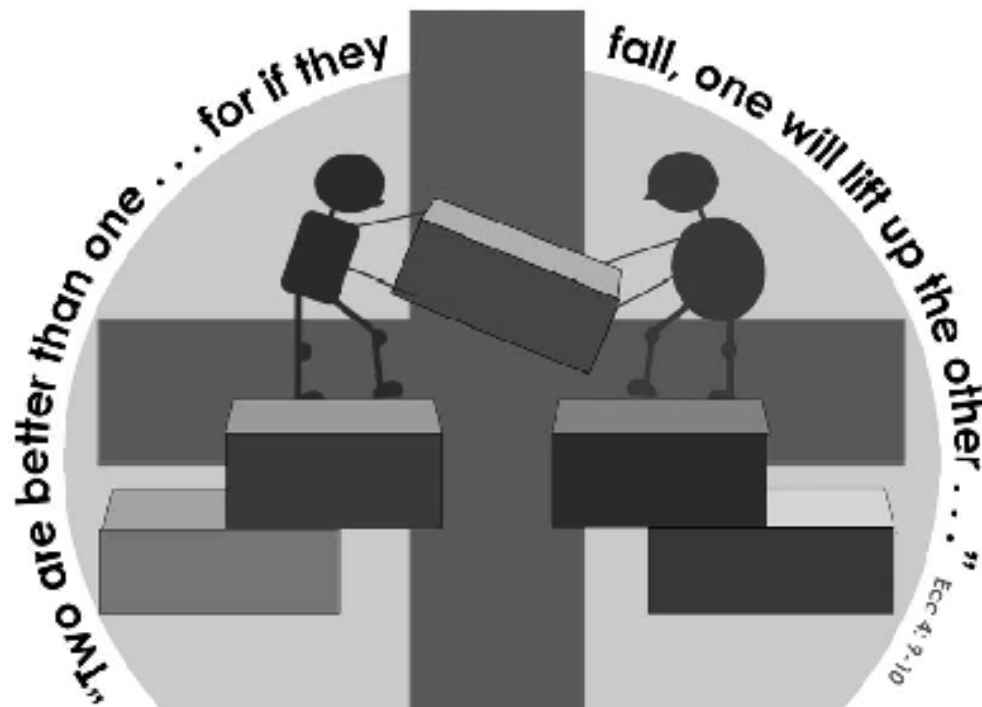
Synod Assembly!

We hope to see you again
in Rochester for the
thirty-first Assembly of the
Upstate New York Synod,

June 3—5, 2018



Upstate New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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