

*“Cultivating a G.R.A.C.E. Mindset: Generous Love”*



## **Supplement to the Nominating Committee Report**

THE THIRTY-THIRD ASSEMBLY OF THE UPSTATE NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

June 5-6, 2022 | Joseph A. Floreano Riverside Convention Center

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## **United Lutheran Seminary, Representative to the Board Position Description**

**S9.01.A17. Representative(s) to the Board(s) of the United Lutheran Seminary will be nominated by the Synod Council for election at a meeting of the Synod Assembly. Additional nominations may not be made from the floor.**

In accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA and the Bylaws of United Lutheran Seminary, the Board of Trustees of ULS consists of members elected by Church Council, Region 7 & 8 bishops, and synod councils of related synods in Regions 7 and 8. This year, the Upstate NY Synod Council is entitled to elect one Trustee to the seminary Board.

Trustees can begin their terms on July 1. Elections should be completed no later than June 20, giving time for the new Trustee to be informed of their responsibilities and expectations.

The ULS Board of Trustees normally meets three times in the year: September, January, and May. When necessary, special meetings may be held in person or via Zoom. Regular meetings may extend over two days and generally take place on one of the seminary campuses. Committees of the Board meet with varying frequency between meetings of the Board, often by Zoom.

As potential Trustees are considered, Synods will attend to the diversity of the Board – diversity of race, ethnicity, and gender, as well as experience and skills. As ULS looks ahead to the next few years, there are ongoing needs for experience with financial management and strategic planning.

The Board of Trustees has begun a process of strategic planning that it hopes will further refine the role of the Board in its oversight of the seminary. The Board of Trustees will engage a consultant to help us with this work that will involve the entire seminary community. Trustees will play a significant role in this planning process.

## **Expectations of Trustees**

**Adopted - September 27, 2021**

1. A Trustee of United Lutheran Seminary has a fiduciary relation to the seminary and must perform her/his duties as a Board member, including duties as a member of any committee of the Board upon which s/he may serve, in good faith, in a manner the Board member reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the seminary. A Board member is charged to act with such care, including reasonable inquiry, skill, and diligence, as a person of ordinary prudence would use under similar circumstances. Board members may be held personally liable for breaching their duties, but only if there has been self-dealing, willful misconduct, criminal conduct, or the Board member has acted recklessly.
2. The primary duties of Board members are of care and loyalty. A Board member must discharge her/his duties in good faith and with the degree of care that an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances. The fiduciary duty of care obligates Board members to act on an informed and reasonably diligent basis when considering material information. A Board member is not required to consider the interest of any particular group (such as staff, faculty or students) as controlling.
3. The fiduciary of loyalty requires Board members to act for the benefit of the seminary. This extends to the fulfillment of the purpose for which the seminary is incorporated: to educate and train faithful, capable, and creative persons for public leadership in Christ's Church to enable the Church to fulfill its mission, including preparing persons for the ministry of Word and Sacrament, Word and Service and other forms of ministry in the ELCA and other Christian traditions. Our mission includes educating and training women and men to exercise leadership in the Church and world, offering lifelong learning opportunities, and equipping the whole people of God to live their faith in their various and many Christian callings in the world. The mission also includes offering broad public educational and inspirational events and offerings, through courses, concerts, and education displays offered through the Seminary Ridge Museum, archives, and other events on our campuses in Philadelphia and Gettysburg.
4. Actions of the Board normally are covered by the business judgment rule: this rule provides that courts will not interfere with the decisions and actions of Board members in managing their corporation's affairs, if those decisions and actions are made in good faith and on an informed basis. Pennsylvania has adopted a version of the business judgment rule that is more deferential to decisions of the Board, and gives Board members more insulation from liability, than the versions of the rule adopted in other states, including Delaware and New York. Under this rule decision should be made by disinterested Board members backed by a written report through a process that is sufficiently independent of bias. Reasonable investigation should take place before the proposed action, and Board members should rationally believe that the decision is in the best interests of the seminary. Decisions and transactions that involve a conflict between the interests of the seminary and the private interests of a Board member are not protected by the business judgment rule. Such conflicts are covered under a Conflict of Interest Policy adopted by the Board.
5. Trustees of the United Lutheran Seminary are expected to come prepared for meetings of the Board and of any committees on which they serve. To the extent possible, meeting
6. agendas and reports will be shared at least five days before a scheduled meeting on the Board of Trustees webpage. As part of their preparation, Trustees also should avail themselves of opportunities for continuing education. From time to time the Governance, Infrastructure and Planning Committee or the Executive Committee will share links to online training articles, videos, and webinars.
7. The Board expects that Trustees will always speak well of the seminary in their encounters with its constituencies. At times, the seminary administration or development office will call on a Trustee to represent the seminary at a congregation, synod, or other gathering. In these instances, Trustees will be provided with information and resources they might need to speak on behalf of the seminary.

8. Financial support of the seminary is crucial for its ongoing mission and represents commitment from Trustees to that mission. Trustees, therefore, should give generously to the seminary. Although a minimum contribution is not specified, Trustees are encouraged to give at least \$500 annually. In addition, Trustees should help identify others who can become contributors to the seminary and encourage their participation in the seminary's mission.
9. Trustees should seek to ground all of their work on behalf of the seminary in prayer.

**United Lutheran Seminary, Representative to the Board  
Nominee**

Clergy – the Rev. Elizabeth George, Tri-County Lutheran Parish, Castleton, NY (HM) *(bio included)*

# Supplemental Nominee Biographies

Listed in Alphabetical Order

## The Rev. Elizabeth George (HM), Nominee for ULS Board



**Upstate New York Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Synod Council
<input type="checkbox"/>	Synod Vice President
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consultation Committee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>ULS BOARD</i>

2022 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

### BIOGRAPHICAL DATA FORM FOR NOMINEES FOR ELECTION

(This form must be completed by all nominees for election. Committee nominations are to be forwarded to Michelle Josephson directly. Synod Council and Churchwide nominations are forwarded to your Dean who then forward the form to Michelle Josephson at the synod office)

Name: Elizabeth George

DOB: 11/10/1964

Address: 70 Green Ave, Castleton, NY Zip: 12033

Phone: 518-303-6144 Email: chellman4557@gmail.com

Cell phone (not required): 717-364-4557 Gender: Female

Your ELCA congregation of the Upstate NY Synod: Tri-County Lutheran Parish

Your Upstate NY Synod Conference: Hudson-Mohawk

It would be helpful to the Synod Assembly voters if you would list up to three Congregation, Conference, Synod and/or ELCA, and Community/Volunteer activities that have engaged you during your faith journey:

- 1) Congregation (before ordination)
  1. Council member
  2. Choir
  3. Youth group leader
- 2) Conference
  1. Dean - Upper Dauphin conference in Lower Susquehanna Synod
  2. Dean - Hanover Conference in Lower Susquehanna Synod
  3. Feeding Ministry
- 3) Synod/Churchwide/ELCA
  1. Synod Council - Lower Susquehanna Synod
  2. Personnel Committee
  3. Assembly Planning
- 4) Community or Volunteer activities
  1. SPCA Volunteer
  2. Laundry Love Volunteer
  3. Blood Mobile Volunteer

Please check the appropriate category:

Clergy:  Layperson:

Young Adult (age 18 to 30):  Youth (Voting member of a congregation under age 18):

Person of Color/Primary language other than English:

REMINDER: This short biographical form (on previous page) is essential to the process of all elections in the 2022 Synod

# Tammy Lail (NF), Nominee for Discipline Committee



**Upstate New York Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
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Synod Council  
 Synod Vice President  
 Consultation Committee  
 Discipline Committee

## 2022 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

### BIOGRAPHICAL DATA FORM FOR NOMINEES FOR ELECTION

(This form must be completed by all nominees for election. Committee nominations are to be forwarded to Michelle Josephson directly. Synod Council and Churchwide nominations are forwarded to your liaison who then forward the form to Michelle Josephson at the synod office.)

Name: Tammy Lail  
 DOB: 8/8/65  
 Address: 11 Pamela Dr Levon, NY Zip: 14048  
 Phone: 716-867-5467 Email: tammy.lail@gmail.com  
 Cell phone (not required): \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: F  
 Your ELCA congregation of the Upstate NY Synod: Lord of Life  
 Your Upstate NY Synod Conference: Niagara

It would be helpful to the Synod Assembly voters if you would list up to three Congregation, Conference, Synod and/or ELCA, and Community/Volunteer activities that have engaged you during your faith journey:

1) Congregation

1. Board Member - Lord of Life - 2017 - present
2. Services Board Member - 2014 - 2016
3. Financial Secretary - Lord of Life - 2021 - present

2) Conference

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

3) Synod/Churchwide/ELCA

1. Member of Synod Assembly planning team 2019 - present
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

4) Community or Volunteer activities

1. Shea's Buffalo - volunteer - 2013 - 2019
2. Eric County Fair - Volunteer - coordinator - 2011 - present
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate category:

Clergy:  Layperson:   
 Young Adult (age 18 to 30):   
 Person of \_\_\_\_\_



# The Rev. Dana M. Smith (CC), Nominee for Discipline Committee



**Upstate New York Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Synod Council
<input type="checkbox"/>	Synod Vice President
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consultation Committee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE</i>

## 2022 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

### BIOGRAPHICAL DATA FORM FOR NOMINEES FOR ELECTION

(This form must be completed by all nominees for election. Committee nominations are to be forwarded to Michelle Josephson directly. Synod Council and Churchwide nominations are forwarded to your Dean who then forward the form to Michelle Josephson at the synod office)

Name: The Rev. Dana M Smith  
 DOB: August 16, 1985  
 Address: 530 Audubon Parkway Syracuse, NY Zip: 13224  
 Phone: 631-428-6881 Email: prsmith@alcsyracuse.org  
 Cell phone (not required): \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your ELCA congregation of the Upstate NY Synod: Atonement Lutheran Church - Syracuse  
 Your Upstate NY Synod Conference: Central Crossroads

It would be helpful to the Synod Assembly voters if you would list up to three Congregation, Conference, Synod and/or ELCA, and Community/Volunteer activities that have engaged you during your faith journey:

- 1) Congregation
  1. Mission Developer for Appleseed Outreach - a faith community addressing and working to end food insecurity
  2. Mission Developer for Appleseed Outreach - a faith community addressing and working to end food insecurity
  3. Chief Executive Officer for Atonement Housing Corporation - which holds and maintains 90 units of affordable housing on the southside of Syracuse
- 2) Conference
  1. Central CrossRoads Conference Cabinet Member - 3 years
  2. Liaison to the Conference from the Racial Justice Task Force
  3. Volunteered/Led Youth Activities for the Conference
- 3) Synod/Churchwide/ELCA
  1. Member of the Racial Justice TaskForce since 2019
  2. Attended ELCA Hunger training workshops
  3. Taught a session of Prayerful Art as a piece of FLATT
- 4) Community or Volunteer activities
  1. Consultant for Food Access for Healthy Neighbors Now (FAHNN) - newly formed group looking to get healthy food options into to the Southside of Syracuse
  2. Member of ACTS (Alliance of Communities to Transform Syracuse) - participate in community organizing and other protests/calls to action.
  3. Interfaith Works of CNY - participate in many community efforts led by them including refugee resettlement, calls for action regarding racism and more

Please check the appropriate category:

- Clergy:  Layperson:   
 Young Adult (age 18 to 30):  Youth (Voting member of a congregation under age 18):   
 Person of Color/Primary language other than English:

# The Rev. Gail R. Wolling (CC), Nominee for Consultation Committee



**Upstate New York Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Synod Council
<input type="checkbox"/>	Synod Vice President
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consultation Committee

**2022 SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

**BIOGRAPHICAL DATA FORM FOR NOMINEES FOR ELECTION**

(This form must be completed by all nominees for election. Committee nominations are to be forwarded to Michelle Josephson directly. Synod Council and Churchwide nominations are forwarded to your Dean who then forward the form to Michelle Josephson at the synod office)

REV GAIL R. WOLLING

DOB: 2/11/1951

Address: 8030 PICKETT LANE CICERO, NY Zip: 13039

Phone: 518-225-7537 Email: GWOLLING@SYNAL.COM

Cell phone (not required): \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: F

Your ELCA congregation of the Upstate NY Synod: GRACE AND HOLY SPIRIT CORTLAND

Your Upstate NY Synod Conference: CENTRAL CROSSROADS

It would be helpful to the Synod Assembly voters if you would list up to three Congregation, Conference, Synod and/or ELCA, and Community/Volunteer activities that have engaged you during your faith journey:

1) Congregation

ZAMBIA PRE-SCHOOL COMMITTEE LUTHER MEMORIAL N. SYRACUSE  
CROP WALK PARTICIPANT

3. SERVED AS PASTOR FOR 17 YEARS

2) Conference

1. DEAN - 8 YEARS

2. TEN TONS OF LOVE @ FIRST LUTHERAN SYRACUSE

3. ATONEMENT SYRACUSE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

3) Synod/Churchwide/ELCA

1. SYNOD COUNCIL - 4 YEAR

2. CHURCHWIDE VOTING MEMBER 2016

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4) Community or Volunteer activities

1. INTER FAITH WORKS: ROUND TABLE of FAITH LEADERS

2. END RACISM DIALOGUE COMMITTEE, STRATEGIC PLANNING

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate category:

Clergy:  Layperson:

Young Adult (age 18 to 30):  Youth (Voting member of a congregation under age 18):

Person of Color/Primary language other than English: