

Cultivating a G.R.A.C.E. Mindset: Restorative



June 2nd - June 3rd, 2023
Bethany Baptist Church,
Syracuse, NY

**The Upstate NY Synod, ELCA
Cultivating a G.R.A.C.E Mindset**



Report of the 2023 Synod Assembly Nominating Committee

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Report of The 2023 Synod Assembly Nominating Committee

Section A: Discipline Committee

6 year term

1 lay to be elected

(Nominations may be made from the floor)

Section B: Synod Council Representatives From Conferences

4-year term

1 Lay Genesee Finger Lakes

1 Clergy Hudson Mohawk

Section C: Synod Council Members at Large

4-year term

1 Lay Person of Color and/or Person whose Primary Language is other than English

(Nominations may be made from the floor)

4 year term

One youth below the age of 18 (at time of election)

(Nominations may be made from the floor)

Section A: Discipline Committee

Current Discipline Committee Membership

Per the Synod Constitution: The Committee on Discipline of this synod shall consist of 12 persons of whom six shall be ministers of Word and Sacrament and six shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection.

We currently have 11 members and need to elect one layperson to serve.

Pr. Serena Mollenkopf-Grill (2018-2024)

Pr. Dave Roppel (2018-2024)

Tom Henry (2018-2024)

Beth van Doren (2018-2024)

Patty Henry (2021-2027)

Pr. Ken Simurro (2021-2027)

Pr. Rahel Hahn (2021-2027)

Kathy Haldenwang (2022-2028)

Judith Warner (2022-2028)

Pr. Dave Preisinger (2022-2028)

Pr. Dana Smith (2022-2028)

Position Description

6-year term

1 lay to be elected

(Nominations may be made from the floor)

Qualities and Eligibility

Nominees for the Synod Committee on Discipline 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 Committee on Discipline shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.

Nomination, Election, and Term of Office

The Nominating Committee of the Synod Council nominates clergy and lay members for election by the Synod Assembly to the Synod Committee on Discipline. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the Synod Assembly.

A member of the Committee on Discipline serves for one term of six years and is not eligible for consecutive reelection. The term of service for members of the Committee on Discipline commences at the close of the Synod Assembly at which they were elected.

Functions and Responsibilities

The Committee on Discipline, consisting of six clergy and six lay members, serves to render decisions in matters referred to it by the Synod Consultation Committee concerning formal ecclesiastical discipline involving a rostered person or a congregation.

When such matters are referred, a panel is formed of three clergy and three lay members from the Synod Committee on Discipline, appointed by the synodical vice president, and six members of the Churchwide

Committee of Discipline appointed by the vice president of the ELCA. This panel meets with and hears from the parties involved in the matter and renders a decision. If the allegations are sustained, the panel will impose a discipline appropriate to the situation.

Privileges and Accountability

- Persons elected to the Committee on Discipline may simultaneously serve on other structures of the synod if they are so selected or elected.

The Committee on Discipline is accountable to the synodical vice president, the vice president of the ELCA, and the synodical bishop.

Other

- Nominees for the Committee on Discipline should be persons of maturity and good judgment, who can function with discretion and fairness, and able to handle confidential information.
- The bishop of the synod is not a member of the Committee on Discipline.

Nominees

Layperson, Will Platnick, St.Andrew’s, South Glen Falls (HM) *(bio included)*

Section B: Synod Council Representatives From Conferences

Current Synod Council Membership

Bishop Lee M. Miller II

Mr. Thomas Madden, Vice-President
Rev. Debi Turley, Secretary
Mr. Todd Eames, Treasurer

Ms. Pamela Donovan (Central Cross Roads)
Ms. Melissa Bedell (Foothills)
Mr. Gary Roller (Genesee Finger Lakes) (*Term Ending*)
Rev. Dan May (Hudson Mohawk) (*Term Ending*)
Rev. Kwame Pitts (Niagara Frontier)
Rev. Timothy Hoyer (Southwestern)

Dean Representative

Rev. Jonathan Deibler (Genesee Finger Lakes Conference)

At Large Members

Mr. Atif Dean (PCL) (*Term Ending*)
Mr. Ryan Hunneshagen (Young Adult)

Position Description

4-year term

1 Lay Genesee Finger Lakes
1 Clergy Hudson Mohawk

One youth below the age of 18 (at time of election)
(Nominations may be made from the floor.)

At Large Persons of Color or Primary Language Other Than English
(Nominations may be made from the floor.)

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.
- Synod Council members are financially responsible for a portion of the expenses associated with their attending meetings of the Synod Council and the Synod Assembly.

Nominees

Genesee Finger Lakes Nominee:

Layperson - Gary Roller, Redeemer, Rochester (*bio included*)

Hudson Mohawk Nominee:

Clergy person - Andrew Tobias J. Nelson, St. Andrew, South Glens Falls

(Nominations may be made from the floor.)

Synod Council Members, at Large Nominees

At Large Persons of Color or Primary Language Other Than English:

Hudson Mohawk Nominee:

Layperson – Atif Dean, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Loudonville (*bio included*)

(Nominations may be made from the floor.)

At Large Youth:

(Nominations may be made from the floor.)

Nominee Biographies

(Listed in alphabetical order.)

In the “Biographical Information Addendum” you will find the biographies of each candidate nominated for a seat/position in the 2023 election.

Biographies within this addendum have been listed in alphabetical order for ease of reference.

Important information:

All biographies that were received by the Synod Office have been included in this report. All nominees must provide their biographical form before our election to be included on the ballot.

Dean, Atif



Upstate New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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Clergy Lay

- Synod Council
- Discipline Committee
- Youth (Voting member of a congregation under age 18)
- Person of Color and/or Person whose
- Primary Language is other than English

2023 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 admin@upstatenysynod.org directly.

Synod Council nominations are forwarded to your Dean, who forwards the form to admin@upstatenysynod.org.

Name: Atif Dean

DOB: 03/18/1983

Address: 65 Saybrook Drive, Apt. A, Latham, NY Zip: 12110

Phone: (518) 225-2832 Email: atifdean@gmail.com

Cell phone (not required): _____ Gender: Male

Your ELCA congregation of the Upstate NY Synod: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Your Upstate NY Synod Conference: Hudson-Mohawk Lowdenville, NY 12211

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. Church Council Representative
2. Involved in Church Choir
3. Involved in Worship Services such as a Lay Reader, Communion Assistant, etc.

2) Conference

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

3) Synod/Churchwide/ELCA

1. Synod Council Member from 2019 - to present
2. _____
3. _____

4) Community or Volunteer activities

1. CRDP Walk
2. Church Council
3. Worship and Music (sing in Church choir as a cantor)

Nelson, Andrew Tobias J.



Upstate New York Synod
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Clergy

Lay

Synod Council

Discipline Committee

Youth (Voting member of a congregation under age 18)

Person of Color and/or Person whose

Primary Language is other than English

2023 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

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Name: Andrew Tobias J Nelson

DOB: 11/16/1982

Address: 615 Nott St, Schenectady, NY Zip: 12308

Phone: (774)578-4524 Email: pastorandrewnelson@gmail.com

Cell phone (not required): (774)578-4524 Gender: flexible

Your ELCA congregation of the Upstate NY Synod: St Andrew, South Glens Falls

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

- Ecumenical Lent in my first call
- funerals and baptisms
- Reconciling in Christ conversations

2) Conference

- pre-Lent clergy retreat
- installations and holy closures
- meeting Interns who come through to serve tri-county

3) Synod/Churchwide/ELCA

- Big Love ministerium
- watching the way we handled/avoided/wept over Sierra Pacific Synod
- 'bound conscience'

4) Community or Volunteer activities

- Albany Gay Men's Chorus
- part-time work with Living Resources
- full-time work at Albany Med OBGYN

Platnick, Will



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Clergy

Lay

Synod Council

Discipline Committee

Youth (Voting member of a congregation under age 18)

Person of Color and/or Person whose

Primary Language is other than English

2023 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

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Synod Council nominations are forwarded to your Dean, who forwards the form to admin@upstatenysynod.org.

Name: Will Platnick

DOB: 6/25/1982

Address: 3 Bliven Way #201, Saratoga Springs, NY Zip: 12866

Phone: 5185959455 Email: wplatnick@gmail.com

Cell phone (not required): _____ Gender: Male

Your ELCA congregation of the Upstate NY Synod: St Andrew's South Glens Falls

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

1. ALPHA Small Group Leader
2. Created websites for several churches
3. Taught Bible course at confirmation retreat

2) Conference

1. Served previously as "Conference Deacon" (Now SAM) in Southwestern and Niagra Frontier
2. Led worship at conference ministeriums
3. _____

3) Synod/Churchwide/ELCA

1. Current Certified Synod Authorized Minister (SAM) in Hudson Mohawk
2. Youth Gathering Volunteer (Churchwide IT Team, Houston)
3. Led workshops on Digital Ministry at Synod Assemblies and Conference Assemblies

4) Community or Volunteer activities

1. American Bible Society
2. Soup Kitchens and Rescue Missions
3. Mission Trips

Roller, Gary



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Clergy

Lay

Synod Council

Discipline Committee

Youth (Voting member of a congregation under age 18)

Person of Color and/or Person whose

Primary Language is other than English

2023 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA FORM FOR NOMINEES FOR ELECTION

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Synod Council nominations are forwarded to your Dean, who forwards the form to admin@upstatenysynod.org.

Name: Gary Roller

DOB: July 3, 1949

Address: 158 Lida Lane Rochester, NY Zip: 14616

Phone: 585-621-8985 Email: gwr67@frontier.com

Cell phone (not required): _____ Gender: Male

Your ELCA congregation of the Upstate NY Synod: Redeemer, Rochester

Your Upstate NY Synod Conference: Genesee Finger Lakes

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. Life long member of Redeemer, Rochester. Past President (several times)of the Congregation Council
2. Past Chairperson for Worship & Music, Property & Finance Committees
3. Serve as a Worship Assistant for the Congregation. Chair the Altar Guild and Christian Ed committees

2) Conference

1. Genesee Finger Lakes Conference-Conference Council member
2. Served on the MiT Committee assisting two congregations with the merger/closing process
3. _____

3) Synod/Churchwide/ELCA

1. Volunteer Coordinator for the Lutheran Disaster Response Team
2. Served as Lay representative for GFL Conference on the Synod Council
3. Synod Constitution Committee, Synod Assembly Planning Team, Nomination Committee

4) Community or Volunteer activities

1. Boy Scout leader for 30 plus years (now retired)
2. Serve as a Director on the Old Orchard Beach Taxpayers Association
3. Senior Operations Team Leader, Monroe County Critical Incident Stress Mgt Team (Retired)