



Florida-Bahamas Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

2017 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

NOMINATIONS BOOK

ELECTION RULES

- Write-in ballots will not be allowed. Any ballot submitted with a name other than for a properly nominated person will be declared invalid.
- The Chair may allow for the report of the Elections Committee whenever the Committee is ready to report, and a ballot shall take precedence over any other order of business.
- Only Voting Members of the Assembly and congregational interns may be seated in the area designated for seating of voting members. (Congregational interns may not vote.)
- All voting members must be wearing their badges and be in their seats in the Voting Members section in order to vote. The doors to the meeting room will be closed during elections.
- Only information concerning nominees on official Biographical Data Forms developed and distributed by the Nominating Committee will be permitted at the Assembly. No use of special handouts or display area distribution concerning nominees will be permitted.

ABSOLUTELY NO PROXY VOTING WILL BE ALLOWED.

POSITIONS OPEN FOR ELECTION

- Synod Vice President (4-year term): Lay, Male or Female
- Synod Secretary (4-year term): Lay or Clergy, Male or Female
- Synod Council Representatives (3-year terms):
 - North Mission District: Lay Female
 - Southeast Mission District: Clergy
 - Southwest Mission District: Lay Male
 - Southwest Mission District: PCLE*
 - Youth 15-18 (Rising to 9th to 11th grade at time of election) Female or Male (2 year term)
- Consultation Committee (6-year term):
 - Three Positions 1 Clergy and 2 Lay Female or Male

*PCLE = Person of color or primary language other than English

LIST OF NOMINEES 2017

<u>Position</u>	<u>Needed</u>	<u>Nominees</u>	<u>Nominees</u>	<u>Nominees</u>
Synod Council Representative (3 Year Term)				
North	1 Lay Female	Val Neuhart (I)	Phyllis Wade	
Southeast	1 Clergy	Rev Don Reiter		
Southwest	1 Lay Male	Tom O'Reilly		
Southwest	1 PCLE*	Rev. Bruce Edwards		
Youth	1 Female or Male – 2 year term	Annabella Parker Christine O'Brien		
Consultation Committee (6 Year Term)				
	1 Clergy	Rev Rusty May	Rev Rob Rose	
	2 Lay	George Algozzina	Carol Grzegorzcyk	Kermit (Skip) Housh
Synod Secretary (4 Year Term)				
	1 Lay or Clergy	Rev Kenneth Blyth		
	Male or Female	Pamela Fairfax		
Synod Vice President (4 Year Term)				
	1 Lay	Cheryl Stuart (I)		
	Male or Female			

(I) = Incumbent

PCLE = Person of color or primary language other than English

Synod Vice President

Lay, Male or Female

Name: Ms. Cheryl Stuart
Congregation: St. Stephen, Tallahassee
Conference: 10 - Panhandle
Gender: Female
Primary Language: English



Occupation/Education Experience:

Currently "of counsel" (under contract, part time) with Hopping Green & Sams, where I have practiced law for more than 30 years. University of Wisconsin-Madison, J.D. & Master's in Public Administration, 1986. Michigan State University, BA, Socio-Economic Policy, 1978

Church Leadership & Participation:

Current Synod Vice President (2nd term); ELCA Region 9 Council Chair; ELCA Discipline Committee member; ELCA Attorney's Association member; ReconcilingWorks (current co-chair); Mission Interpreter; many congregational positions, including President, Stewardship Coordinator, Vicar Committee.

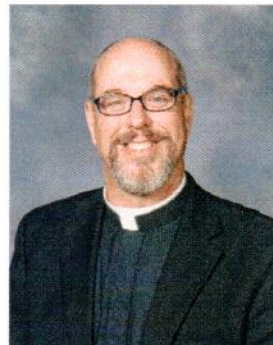
Specific Gifts or Talents You Bring to Position:

I am an independent, intuitive and creative thinker. I am comfortable sharing my faith and speaking in public. In leading a group or meeting, I foster inclusive discussion, but am not afraid to be decisive. I strive to be a leader who can articulate a vision and translate complex issues in an understandable way. I seek to inspire and empower others to fully use their God-given gifts.

Synod Secretary

Lay or Clergy

Name: Rev. Kenneth Blyth
Congregation: St. Armands Key, Sarasota
Conference: 12 - Midgulf
Gender: Male
Primary Language: English



Occupation/Education Experience:

Pastor at St. Armands Key Lutheran Church, Sarasota. Former Calls: Good Shepherd, Hernando, FL and St. Mark's, Baldwinsville, NY. Bachelor of Divinity, University of St. Andrews, Scotland. Master of Divinity, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Doctor of Ministry (Pastoral Care & Counseling), Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Church Leadership & Participation:

Served as Dean of Pinelands Conference/ bishop's panel examining clergy/congregational conflict/ chairperson of Consultation Committee; bishop's representative on Novus Way Same Gender Union Task Force; chairperson 2017 Assembly Worship and 2018 Bishop's Installation Worship; Reformation500 committee; trained boundary/misconduct workshop leader; Disaster Response Team of Central FL; Vice Pastor of Hope Lutheran, The Villages.

Specific Gifts or Talents You Bring to Position:

Appropriate use of the knowledge and skills developed during my doctoral studies and research, within my ministry. A wide-ranging experience of the life of the synod, from laughter-filled service as Synod Assembly announcer to highly-sensitive ministries examining conflict and alleged clergy misconduct. Demonstration of a high degree of collegiality and emotional intelligence; ability to journey with a project from inception to completion. Above all, a deep and abiding love of people, teamwork and the Gospel of Jesus Christ which has been entrusted to "earthen vessels" such as you and me!

Synod Secretary

Lay or Clergy

Name: Ms. Pamela Fairfax

Congregation: Christ, Cape Coral

Conference: 11 - Caloosa

Gender: Female

Primary Language: English



Occupation/Education Experience:

Retired Higher Education Vice President for Human Resources and Labor Relations; part time faculty. MBA and BS Business Administration, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.

Church Leadership & Participation:

Synod Council At-large and Executive Committee member (2016-present). Member Planning/Development team Detroit National Youth Gathering 2015. Caloosa Conference Chair (2013-present). Synod Parish Deacon. Church Council – past President, VP, Secretary; current member. As President, led congregation through financial crisis (relinquished property, moved congregation to shared worship site. Congregation continues to worship/develop new ministries).

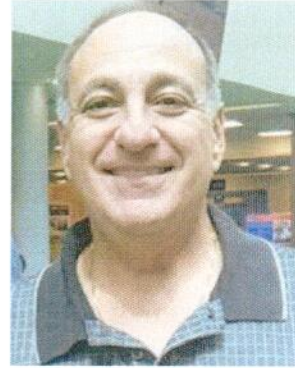
Specific Gifts or Talents You Bring to Position:

Passion for mission and ministry; ability to encourage others in mission to further God's call to us as individuals and as broader church. Experience developing and leading strategic planning and action. Respectful and appreciative of variety of ideas and opinions. Strong organizational skills, attention to detail and willingness to be part of a team.

Consultation Committee

2 Lay and 1 Clergy

Name: Mr. George Algozzina
Congregation: Good Shepherd, Tampa
Conference: 13 - Tampa
Gender: Male
Primary Language: English



Occupation/Education Experience:

My background is in training and development and worked under the human resources umbrella. I have experience in peer reviews, mediation, and arbitration which I practiced for 23 years. I had leadership responsibilities for 108 restaurants, 600+ managers, and 12,000+ employees as a Division Training Manager.

Church Leadership & Participation:

I am currently the Administrator at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Day School. I am also responsible for Music Leadership. I sit on the Church Council, Day School Board, Worship & Music Committee, Congregation Care Team and handle programming. At my previous church, I was Director of Music, Community Outreach Coordinator and in Administration.

Specific Gifts or Talents You Bring to Position:

Independent thinking; diversity training; strong leadership and human interaction skills; human resource training; corporate background with conflict/dispute resolution.

Consultation Committee

2 Lay and 1 Clergy

Name: Ms. Carol Grzegorzczuk
Congregation: Grace Lutheran, Lakeland
Conference: 07 - Lake
Gender: Female
Primary Language: English



Occupation/Education Experience:

I was in management from lower to store management with CVS for 25 years. I have an Associate Degree in computer science.

Church Leadership & Participation:

I was on church council as secretary; president of the women's group; participated in Bible study; also Sunday school; assisting minister; Synod representative or volunteer at Faith Lutheran. At Grace, I completed my studies to become a Synod Parish Deacon and became consecrated; assisting minister; take communion to shut-ins; attended Bible study; Synod representative or volunteer.

Specific Gifts or Talents You Bring to Position:

I have good listening skills. I took classes in conflict resolution and Listening labs with Pastor Bobbie Blackburn while at Faith. Used the conflict resolution while there to settle some disagreements. As management, I used that skill to settle disputes within the store. As a mother of three, I settled a lot of conflict.

Consultation Committee

2 Lay and 1 Clergy

Name: Mr. Skip Housh
Congregation: St. Paul, Pensacola
Conference: 10 - Panhandle
Gender: Male
Primary Language: English



Occupation/Education Experience:

Retired. Senior officer in health insurance and managed care, including Regional Vice President, Florida Blue. Active in the community. 15 years on the United Way of Escambia County Board of Directors, including Board Chairman. Board Chairman, Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County. BA St. Olaf College. MBA Northwestern University

Church Leadership & Participation:

29-year member, St. Paul, Pensacola. Church Council 3 times. Stewardship Chair 4 years. Mutual Ministry Committee. Property Committee.

Specific Gifts or Talents You Bring to Position:

Experienced in dispute resolution and negotiation in a variety of settings. Skilled in understanding all sides of an issue and finding common ground.

Consultation Committee

2 Lay and 1 Clergy

Name: Rev. Rusty May
Congregation: Redeemer, Fort Myers
Conference: 11 - Caloosa
Gender: Male
Primary Language: English



Occupation/Education Experience:

Pastor, St. Luke's, Valatie, NY and Emmanuel, Stuyvesant Falls, NY 1978-1985. Senior Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Jamestown NY, 1985-2004. Senior Pastor, Messiah Lutheran, Cape Coral 2004-2016. BA Muhlenberg College, M.Div. Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia.

Church Leadership & Participation:

Upstate New York Synod: Chair of Conflict and Healing Team, Synod Council, Bishop's Mutual Ministry Committee. ELCA volunteer missionary – taught in a seminary in Madagascar. Florida-Bahamas Synod: Critical Response Team, Natural Church Development coach, Pastoral Advisor for Caloosa Conference diakonia program; Florida-Bahamas Synod Council member 2010-2016; Synod Secretary pro temp 2017.

Specific Gifts or Talents You Bring to Position:

I am a team player that seeks to help build consensus. I seek to apply our core Christian values to the work at hand.



FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD NOMINATION FORM
PLEASE PRINT and send to Synod House or email to IreneF@FBSynod.org

instituted For: **Consultation Committee**

Title: **Rev** First Name: **Robert (Rob)** Last Name: **Rose**

Address: **6305 Secret Court** City/ZIP: **Tampa, 33625**

Congregation Name/City: **Calvary Lutheran Church** Conference: **Tampa**
Rob@CalvaryAlive.org

Email: Home Phone: **813-495-4777** Cell: **813-495-4777**

☒ Male ☐ Female

Category: ☐ Lay ☒ Clergy ☐ Youth (under 18) ☐ Young Adult (18-35) ☐ PCLE (Person of color or language other than English)

Primary Language: **English** Occupation: **Pastor**

Occupation & education experience (< 50 words):

Over the past twenty years I have worked at three different Lutheran churches - one in St. Louis and two in Florida. Additionally, I also worked at Van Dyke UMC in Tampa. I received my B.A. from the University of South Florida and my Master's from Asbury Theological Seminary. Additionally, I earned a Graduate Certificate in Non Profit Mangement and Innovation from the Sykes Business School from the University of Tampa.

Church leadership, participation (< 50 words):

Presently I am Associate Pastor at Calvary Lutheran. Prior, I was a local pastor at Van Dyke UMC. I led the staff for: missions, volunteers, coffee house, bookstore, children, junior high, high school, college, discipleship, childcare, and day school. During two years of my time there, I was also interim Executive Director of Cornerstone Family Ministries. I was responsible for reorganizing this 100 year old, inner-city ministry. Even though it had an \$8.2 million dollar budget, it was on the verge of bankruptcy.

List specific gifts or talents you would bring to the position (< 50 words):

I like to build bridges and find common solutions. I strive to listen to all parties who have concerns and find common ground whenever possible. I like putting a plan into action and not just talking about it. I believe the past holds our rich heritage and provides a foundation as we work to find new ways to face today's challenges. Throught the discernment of the Holy Spirit I hope to serve the Synod as we work together sharing the hope of Jesus Christ.

Person making nomination: **Jack Palzer**

Email: **Jack@CalvaryAlive.org**

Synod Council Representative

North Mission District – Lay Female

Name: Ms. Val Neuhart
Congregation: Hope, The Villages
Conference: 09 – Pinelands
Gender: Female
Primary Language: English



Occupation/Education Experience:

Have served at Hope, The Villages, since 2010. Business Administrator since April 2013. Currently enrolled in the Certified Church Administrator program through The Church Network. Previously served as Event Planner/Administrative Assistant for Florida-Bahamas Synod and as Office Manager and Youth Director at St. Phillip, Mount Dora.

Church Leadership & Participation

Completing term as Synod Council Representative/North Mission District. Previously served as Synod Council Representative At-Large/North Mission District. Serving second term as Chair of Pinelands Conference. Previously served on Synod's Youth Ministry Committee. Served as council secretary at former church in Wisconsin. Member of The Church Network (National Association of Church Business Administrators), national and local chapters.

Specific Gifts or Talents You Bring to Position

I have been blessed to serve the church both as a lay member and employee so am able to look at issues from more than one perspective. I've learned to be open to new ways of "being the church together." I enjoy networking with others throughout the Synod and having an awareness of the issues facing our congregations. With God's help, I'll serve faithfully and joyfully alongside you.

**Synod Council Representative
North Mission District – Lay Female**

Name: Ms. Phyllis Wade
Congregation: Holy Trinity, Fort Walton Beach
Conference: 10 - Panhandle
Gender: Female
Primary Language: English



Occupation/Education Experience:

Church Secretary for 19+ years; prior to serving as Church Secretary 20+ years of bookkeeping experience including 7 years with a CPA firm. Some college.

Church Leadership & Participation:

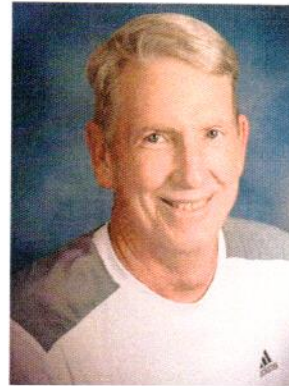
President of the Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) – term ends November 2017. Previously served as SWO Treasurer and Board Member. In my congregation, served on Council as Finance, Stewardship and Fellowship Chairs; taught Sunday School; served as WELCA Bible Study Leader, a Youth Leader, Care Group Coordinator (Shepherding Ministry).

Specific Gifts or Talents You Bring to Position:

Passionate about sharing God's love for all His children; organized; have the ability to see the "big picture;" detail oriented; supportive and encouraging.

Synod Council Representative
Southeast Mission District – 1 Clergy

Name: Rev. Don Reiter
Congregation: Advent, Melbourne
Conference: 04 – Space Coast
Gender: Male
Primary Language: English



Occupation/Education Experience:

Senior Pastor, Trinity, New Smyrna Beach 2006-2014
Interim, St. Mark's, Jacksonville, 2004-2006
Interim, St. Paul's, Melbourne 2001-2004
Senior Pastor, Holy Trinity, Port Charlotte, 1997-2000
Pastor, Redeemer, Melbourne, 1975-1997

Church Leadership & Participation:

Synod Conflict Resolution Team (Bps. Trexler-Benoway)
Synod Leadership Development Task Force
Bishop's Panel (Bp. Benoway)
Synod Congregational Health Task Force and Synod Transitions Task Force (Bp. Schaefer)
Initiator/Coordinator Synod Post-Call Retreat program (Current)

Specific Gifts or Talents You Bring to Position:

I have been trained in conflict management, and I am a Healthy Congregations Facilitator and Trainer. I have conducted more than 20 workshops throughout the synod over the past three years. Together with my pastoral experience, this gives me a broad perspective of congregational life, including its challenges, struggles, hopes and dreams. I am passionate about pastoral care and competence, congregational health, and critical biblical study.

Synod Council Representative
Southwest Mission District - Lay Male

Name: Mr. Tom O'Reilly
Congregation: Our Savior, Tampa
Conference: 13 - Tampa
Gender: Male
Primary Language: English



Occupation/Education Experience:

President and CEO of Aptaris. Have a deep understanding of the retail business from both the store and vendor perspective and bring decades of hands-on, in-the-details experience in advertising and promotion including new media innovations.

Church Leadership & Participation:

Long time LCOS Council member, serving as president multiple times. Developed and chaired Making a Bold Statement raising over \$150k. Led the Stewardship Committee and member for 10+ years, chaired the Call Committee. Member of Synod Council, Co-Chair of "Together in Mission" and Co-Chair of the Synod Profile developed for the upcoming Bishop Election. Active with NovusWay. Member of Lutheran Church of Our Saviour Choir.

Specific Gifts or Talents You Bring to Position:

Extensive work in team building, training in workshop, and have financial understanding. Forward-thinking leader with a history of driving innovation, growth and profitability. Serving on various small business boards; will bring a business perspective to the church.



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FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD NOMINATION FORM

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Please include a photo (preferably a head shot in the .jpg file format) with the nomination form.

PLEASE PRINT

Position Nominated For: Synod Council

Title: Rev First Name: Bruce Last Name: Edwards

Address: 4621 Steel Dust Lane City/ZIP: Lutz, 33559

Congregation Name/City: Resurrection House Mission, Dade City Conference: 15

Email: rezhousebruce@gmail.com Home Phone: 813-760-4924 Cell: 813-760-4924

☒ Male ☐ Female

Category: ☐ Lay ☒ Clergy ☐ Youth (under 18) ☐ Young Adult (18-35) ☒ PCLE (Person of color or language other than English)

Primary Language: English Occupation: Pastor

Occupation & education experience (< 500 characters):

Chamberlain High School, Tampa, FL
Sound Designer/Composer Gorilla Systems, FL
Lay Mission Developer (ELCA - Resurrection House)
Willow Creek Association Member
Graduate of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia

Church leadership, participation (< 500 characters):

Served as volunteer for Resurrection House Mission for many years, transitioning to Lay Mission Developer, followed by ordination in 2013 and the official organization of our congregation that same year. Served several years on Synod Council with Bishops Trexler and Benoway.

Executive board member for the Moore-Mickens Educational/Vocational Center

List specific gifts or talents you would bring to the position (< 500 characters):

Experienced in multi-cultural and cross socio-economic ministries.
Experience with grass-roots church building.
Many years worship, youth and family ministry (both ELCA and non-ELCA), as well as advocacy and conflict resolution.
Makes a great Lasagna.

Person making nomination: Margarita Romo

Email: romo1936@gmail.com



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FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD NOMINATION FORM

Please fill out this form and return it to ileanas@fbsynod.org.

Please include a photo (preferably a head shot in the .jpg file format) with the nomination form.

PLEASE PRINT

Position Nominated For: Youth Representative

Title: Miss First Name: Christine Last Name: O'Brien

Address: 4532 Court Way City/ZIP: Naples 34109

Congregation Name/City: Christus Victor Naples Conference: Caloosa

Email: christy.obrien.43@outlook.com Home Phone: N/A Cell: (540) 604-8390

☐ Male ☒ Female

Category: ☐ Lay ☐ Clergy ☒ Youth (under 18) ☐ Young Adult (18-35) ☐ PCLE (Person of color or language other than English)

Primary Language: English Occupation: High school student (11th grade)

Occupation & education experience (< 500 characters):

I am currently in 11th grade and I am in 2 AP and 1 AICE class. I have a 4.4 GPA and am also in JROTC.

Church leadership, participation (< 500 characters):

I am on my church's Internship Committee for my 3rd year. I read, greet, and usher during services. ~~there~~ I have helped hold service 3 times and this is my 3rd Synod Assembly. I periodically sing in the choir or do a solo.

List specific gifts or talents you would bring to the position (< 500 characters):

My gifts include getting my friends to come to church and trying to explain the Bible in a modern context. I have some ideas to get more young adults to church (making pastors more accessible through "office hours" is one). ~~that is one~~ I am also in contact with youth from several different churches, so any ideas they have I can bring up to the Council. I am 2nd in JROTC so I can lead and communicate effectively.

Person making nomination: REV. THOMAS J. SLATER

Email: pastor.slater@crlefl.org

Synod Council Representative

Youth – Male or Female

Name: Annabella Parker
Congregation: Advent, Melbourne
Conference: 04 – Space Coast
Gender: Female
Primary Language: English



Occupation/Education Experience:

Currently a Junior at Viera High School. Employed as a Server at NY Pizza for 1+ years.

Church Leadership & Participation:

Serve as the Youth Representative on Advent's Youth Leadership Team. She has prepared and given sermons as part of Advent's Youth-led services. Active member of Advent's youth group and has been on 5 mission trips as well as the National Gathering in Detroit. Attended the Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit with the other adult leaders from Advent.

Specific Gifts or Talents You Bring to Position:

Annabella is a natural leader working constantly on her skills to lead with a servant heart. She is also very gifted in inclusion and making sure every voice is heard in social and formal settings. Annabella is a crucial part of Advent's Youth Team and offers valuable insight consistently, efficiently and effectively. She would be a valued member of any team and hopes she can learn and grow as a part of the bigger church.