

Bishop Robert F. Humphrey – Brief Biography

The Rev. Robert F. Humphrey is the bishop of the Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Elected to a six-year term in 2017, Humphrey previously served as Pastor of Muhlenberg Lutheran Church, in Harrisonburg, VA, 2010-2017; Grace Lutheran Church, in Waynesboro, VA, 1990-2010 and Zion Lutheran Church, in Waynesboro, VA, 1981-1988. He also served as a counselor at Valley Pastoral Counseling Center, in Waynesboro, VA, 1989-1990.

Bishop Humphrey graduated from The University of Richmond with a Bachelor of Arts double major in History and Political Science in 1977 and from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary with a Master of Divinity in 1981. He interned at Hothorpe Hall in England in 1979-80. He also enjoyed post-graduate studies in Counseling at The University of Virginia from 1989-90. Over the years he has also served in a variety of civic and church leadership roles.

In 2004 Humphrey was one of approximately 100 pastors to receive a Lilly Foundation Grant for Sabbatical Leave. He used the 5-month sabbatical to study Spanish and Mexican culture in Cuernavaca, Mexico and visit congregations in the US working with multi or dual culture ministries. In 1997 he spent a summer sabbatical in Cambridge, England to study renewal efforts within The Church of England.

Bishop Humphrey has been married to Barbra T. Humphrey since 1977. They live in Harrisonburg, VA. They have a daughter, Jill Humphrey who is married to Johan Grimsrud. They have two children, Elias and Marja and live in New York City. The Bishop's sister is Laura Greenday, married to Frank Greenday. Their daughters are Kayley and Allison. They live in the Richmond, VA area.