



Northeastern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

August 3, 2020

Dear Church,

The planning of this year's Synod Assembly and the election of our Bishop has certainly been different ... COVID-19 has seen to that! We have been delayed a couple of times. Let's hope and pray that our Synod Assembly scheduled for September 11 and 12 will be able to go forward as planned.

Our Bishop Election Committee gathered on April 28 to open the envelopes which contained the names of potential nominees for Bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod. These were submitted by pastors, deacons and members of each congregation. Many of the congregational members who submitted names will be voting members at the 2020 Synod Assembly.

Our committee began to contact pastors, beginning with those who had been named the most. The next couple of weeks were times of discernment for these pastors. Upon a "yes" or "no" from each pastor, we continued to contact more pastors until we had ten (plus ties) affirmative answers.

Upon receiving these affirmations, we sent each pastor a background information form, an authorization form that would allow a background check to be performed, and a disclosure and consent form. These were sent out with a target date for return the middle of June.

Then, after the killing of George Floyd and the protests that surrounded that event, Bishop Allende suggested that we ask each potential nominee to reflect upon an ELCA document passed by more than two-thirds of the Churchwide Assembly last August titled, *"How Strategic and Authentic Is Our Diversity: A Call for Confession, Reflection, and Healing Action."* The Bishop Election Committee agreed. If you would like to read this document you can find it at ... https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Strategic_Authentic_Diversity.pdf

Each pastor was asked to study the document and to submit her/his answers to specific questions by the middle of July.

The background information and all answered questions have been received. The background checks have been completed.

Following are the eleven potential nominees (top ten plus ties) for the Office of Bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod. Included is each pastor's background information and each pastor's answers to the questions asked.

Remember, the eleven pastors named are **potential** nominees. The first ballot for Bishop at our Synod Assembly is where a pastor is officially nominated. This is an ecclesiastical ballot. Any ELCA pastor in good standing is eligible to be named on this first (ecclesiastical) ballot.

Please prayerfully read these materials. God be with you.

The Bishop Election Committee

Rev. David Anderson, Chair; Deacon Ruth Anderson; Ms. Katy Gill; Rev. Katie Jacob;
Rev. Dr. Leonard Killings; Ms. Jasmine Steighner; Mr. Jonathan Stufft