



2023

# FBSynod Assembly Nominations Book



FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2023

FBSynod Nomination Committee

5.15.23



# 2023 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

## NOMINATIONS BOOK

### Elections Standing Rules 2023

- Nominations from the floor must have prior written consent of the nominee and be conveyed on a Floor Nomination Information Sheet to be presented to the Secretary at the time of Nomination. In lieu of written consent, the nominee may email consent to the chair of the elections committee at [info@fbsynod.org](mailto:info@fbsynod.org) prior to being nominated. A Florida-Bahamas Synod Nominations Form - Floor Nominations with biographical data must also be presented to the Secretary at the time of nomination or by the established deadline.
- Write-in ballots will not be allowed. Any ballot submitted with a name other than for a properly nominated person will be declared illegal.
- At the discretion of the Chair, voting on elections may be by electronic device. Use of an electronic device in accord with Roberts Rules of Order, Section 45:42, is deemed to fulfill all requirements for election by ballot except in the first two ballots for the election of the bishop which shall be cast by paper ballot.
- The Chair may allow for the report of the Elections Committee and the taking of a ballot whenever the Committee is ready to report even if this is earlier or later than times scheduled in the agenda. A ballot shall take precedence over any other order of business.
- 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 shall be closed during the elections process.
- 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.
- On the first ballot in the general election, names will appear in an order determined by draw by the chair of the Elections Committee. On the subsequent ballots, the names will be listed according to the number of votes received.
- In accord with the Synod Constitution (S9.08), in all elections except for the bishop, the names of the persons receiving the two highest numbers of votes, but not elected by a majority of the legal votes cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot. In cases in which votes are cast in one segment of the ballot for multiple positions on a committee, board, or Synod Council, the number of names entered on the next ballot shall be two for each remaining position to be filled. The names shall be the persons receiving the highest numbers of votes, but not elected by a majority of the legal votes cast on a preceding ballot.
- If only one person is nominated for a position, the chair shall declare the nominee elected, thus effecting election by unanimous consent.

**ABSOLUTELY NO PROXY VOTING WILL BE ALLOWED**



## 2023 Synod Assembly Open Positions

### 1. Synod Council Representatives

- North Mission District - 1st Coast, Heart of Florida, Pinelands, Panhandle & Flagler-Volusia Conferences
  - Layperson Female (in good standing for a three-year term)
- Southeast Mission District - Miami-Dade, Broward-Bahamas, Tradewinds & Space Coast Conferences
  - Rostered Minister, male or female (in good standing for a three-year term)
- Southwest Mission District - Lake, Mid Gulf, Tampa, Sun Coast, Gulf Coast & Caloosa Conferences
  - PCLE\* Rostered Minister or Layperson, male or female (in good standing for a three-year term)
    - \*A person of color or primary language other than English.
  - Layperson Male (in good standing for a three-year term)
- Youth - Any Mission District, male or female (in good standing for a one-year term)
  - Nominees for the youth position shall be a High School Student, 15-17 years of age at the time of election.

### 2. Consultation Committee 4 positions (in good standing for a six-year term)

Layperson Male  
Layperson Female  
Minister of Word & Sacrament Male  
Minister of Word & Sacrament Female



## List of Nominees 2023

### Synod Council

Position	Term	Nominees			
<b>North Mission District</b>					
Layperson Female	3	Linda Brent	Paula Edwards	Marilyn Kreitzinger	Marcee Wilkes (I)

#### **Southeast Mission District**

Rostered Minister, Male or Female	3	William Wiecher			
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#### **Southwest Mission District**

PCLE* - Layperson or Rostered Minister, Male or Female	3	Margarita Romo			
Layperson Male	3	George Algozzina (I)	Steven Eichhorn		

#### **Youth**

Youth, High School Student age 15-17 - Male or Female	1	Rico Gordon			
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(I) = Incumbent

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

### Consultation Committee

Position	Term	Nominees		
Layperson Male	6	Steven Beumer	Paul Hartfiel	
Layperson Female	6	Jane Wiley		
Rostered Minister Male	6	Walt Lichtenberger		
Rostered Minister Female	6	Grace Gravelle	Kari Neidermair (I)*	

(I)\* elected to a 1 year term June 2022 with ability to be re-elected to a full 6 year term



# **Florida-Bahamas Synod Council Nominations**



Synod Council North Mission District Layperson Female  
3 Year Term

**Name:** Dr. Linda Brent

**Occupation:** Business Owner, CEO

**Church Name:** St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran,  
Pensacola

**Are you a person of color or is your primary  
language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- B.A., Wittenberg University, Springfield, OH, 1973
- M.A., Nazareth College, Rochester, NY, 1976
- Ed.D., University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, 1983

**Service experience:**

- Life-long Lutheran; My father was and ELCA minister and Assistant to the Bishop in the Southern Ohio Synod; I learned and lived the life of the Church.
- Commitment to service throughout my life by teaching and leading; taught special education; taught at the university level (Wittenberg University, Hobart and Wm Smith Colleges); continue to teach classes and workshops nationally.
- Leadership experiences throughout my career, from education, to industry, to eventually owning and managing my own business providing training and education services.

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Current President, Congregational Council (St. Paul Lutheran Church), past President and/or Secretary of multiple Congregational Councils
- Chair, FL-Bahamas Synod Candidacy Committee
- Treasurer, Panhandle Conference, FL-Bahamas Synod



## Synod Council North Mission District - Layperson Female 3 Year Term

**Name:** Mrs. Paula Edwards

**Occupation:** Retired Military

**Church Name:** Salem Lutheran, Orlando

**Are you a person of color or is your primary language other than English?** Yes



**Education:**

- AA Golf Management
- BA Broadcast Journalism
- MA Education

**Service experience:**

- Church Council Member - Served on three different councils. Two were during military service and currently with Salem Lutheran Orlando.
- Just Love Co-Chair - Selected by the Bishop to serve as co-chair for the Just Love Team. Worked with the team to develop Advent Devotions, Lutheran You Should Know in Black History Devotions, and Celebration Event with Bishop Curry (Metropolitan Chicago Synod) and Juneteenth Event.
- Military life experience. I've traveled the world, am a retired Army colonel, commanded troops around the world, senior public relation specialist, and senior human resource specialist. I bring all of this experience to the Florida Bahamas Synod to assist the council.

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Worship Leader - I've served as a worship leader with three different churches. Two were during military service and currently with Salem Lutheran Orlando.
- Just Love Co-Chair - Selected by the Bishop to serve as co-chair for the Just Love Team. Worked with the team to develop Advent Devotions, Lutheran You Should Know in Black History Devotions, and Celebration Event with Bishop Curry (Metropolitan Chicago Synod) and Juneteenth Event.
- Church Council Member - Served on three different councils. Two were during military service and currently with Salem Lutheran Orlando.



## Synod Council North Mission District - Layperson Female 3 Year Term

**Name:** Ms. Marilyn Kreitzinger

**Occupation:** Retired

**Church Name:** St. Philip Lutheran, Mount Dora

**Are you a person of color or is your primary language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- Associate of Arts in Education

**Service experience:**

- I worked 10 years as Human Resource Manager. In this position I was able to connect the employee with the right position for the employer. Also knowing the laws, I was able to make the right decisions when needed.
- I worked as supervisor for a Veterans Medical Clinic 10 years. I was in personal contact with the veterans to help them with getting the benefits they were entitled to have medical, mental and financial. I learned to have compassion and take time to listen and make decisions that were right for the veteran.
- I now work for a nonprofit which deals with mental health awareness classes for students and adults. I help with events reaching out to the public on a one-on-one basis to share information, about what the organization has available for mental health issues, disposal of drugs safely, and prevention of drinking alcohol under legal age and other issues.

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- I have attended many WELCA triennial gatherings where I have met others from across the country, and being able to see what the church at large is doing. I was president of the WELCA for West Virginia for 4 years, plus being on the WELCA board prior to that time. I have served on on the board of WELCA of our synod.
- I have served on our church council 6 years, also served as president last 2 years.
- I have attended several synod assemblies here in Florida and West Virginia and I enjoy any opportunity / workshop to learn from a representative from Synod.





Synod Council North Mission District - Layperson Female  
3 Year Term

**Name:** Mrs. Marcee Wilkes

**Occupation:** Retired Teacher

**Church Name:** Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,  
Ft. Walton Beach

**Are you a person of color or is your  
primary language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- Bachelor of Science in Education, Troy State University, 1978
- Special Education Certification, Florida State University, 1996

**Service experience:**

- As a teacher, I was a member of the Bay County Teachers' Association.
- I was elected to represent my school and then was elected to the board. This organization was to help and support teachers in the classroom.
- I was a strong advocate for the needs of teachers and students.

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Current Synod Council Member, completing 2-year term.
- Church Council at Messiah Lutheran Church in Panama City.
- Active in Women of the ELCA:
  - Co-President at Messiah.
  - Voting member at the Synodical Women's Organization Fall Gathering.
  - Board member of the Synodical Women's Organization.



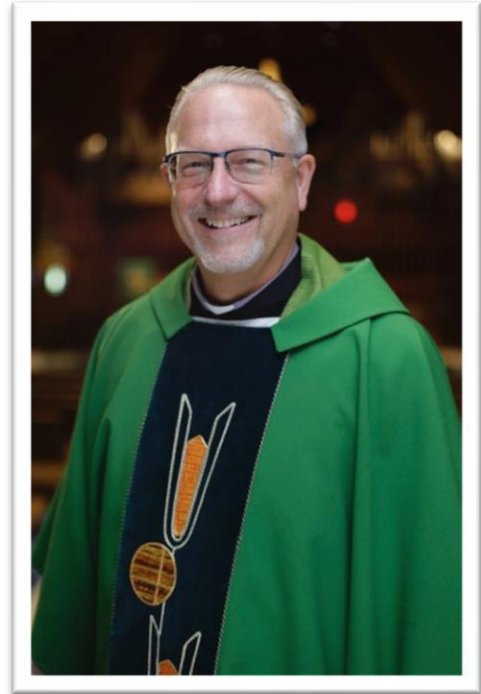
Synod Council Southeast Mission District - Rostered Minister, Male or Female  
3 Year Term

**Name:** Rev. William Wiecher

**Occupation:** Pastor

**Church Name:** Christ the King, Miami

**Are you a person of color or is your primary language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- 1985 Bachelor of Arts, History/Education; Religion, Capital University, Columbus, OH
- 1989 Master of Divinity, The Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, IL
- 2001 Master of Philosophy, Fordham University, Bronx, NY
- 2017 Master of Strategic Studies, Air War College, Air University, Maxwell, Air Force Base, AL

**Service experience:**

- 34 years of Parish Ministry
- 23 years Air Force Chaplaincy (Retired, Colonel) Major command Chaplain; Service Chaplain and Division Chief for Plans and Programs
- Board of the Trustees, Capital University

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Current, Dean of Miami-Dade / Monroe Conference
- Instructor and Program Director for Diakonia, Hudson Valley, Metro New York Synod



Synod Council Southwest Mission District - Person of Color or Primary Language other than English - Layperson or Rostered Minister, Male or Female  
3 Year Term

**Name:** Dr. Margarita Romo

**Occupation:** Executive Director - Farmworkers Self-Help, Inc.

**Church Name:** Resurrection House Mission, Dade City

**Are you a person of color or is your primary language other than English?** Yes



**Education:**

- A degree Pasco Hernando State College - 1983 (Distinguished Alumni Award 2018)
- Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, St. Leo University - 2014

**Service experience:**

- Evangelism among Migrant Farmworkers since 1971
- Appointed Founding Lay Minister of Resurrection House Mission, 1984 (Bishop Franzen)
- Served on multiple Local, State and National boards including: Southern Partners Fund, Kidcare State Council, Florida Immigrant Coalition, People's Advocacy Center for Training, Leadership Pasco, State Board of Children and Family Services, inducted into the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Lay Minister, Congregational President - Resurrection House Mission
- Cultural Ministry Team / Farmworker Ministry Committee - Churchwide
- Hispanic Ministry Team - Synodical



Synod Council Southwest Mission District - Layperson Male  
3 Year Term

**Name:** Mr. George Algozzina

**Occupation:** Director of Administration, ALOA  
Director of Music Ministry, King of Kings Lutheran  
Church, Port Richey, FL

**Church Name:** King of Kings Lutheran Church,  
Port Richey, FL

**Are you a person of color or is your primary  
language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- Associate of Arts in Business Management

**Service experience:**

- My occupational background is in training and development working under the human resources umbrella. I have experience with peer reviews, mediation, and arbitration which I completed for 23 years while working with Darden Restaurants. I had leadership responsibilities for 108 restaurants, 600+ managers, and 12,000+ employees as a division training manager.
- I have chaired task forces and special teams.
- I have extensive experience in project management

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Currently completing 2 year term serving on Florida-Bahamas Synod Council; serving on the Planning and Review Committee
- Member of the FBS Consultation Committee
- Served as Director of Operations and Director of Music for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Day School and Director of Community Outreach for St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School



Synod Council Southwest Mission District - Layperson Male  
3 Year Term

**Name:** Mr. Steven Eichhorn

**Occupation:** Retired Public School Administrator

**Church Name:** Apostles Lutheran, Brandon

**Are you a person of color or is your primary language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- B.A. Special Education - University of West Florida 1980
- M.A. Clinical Teaching in Special Education -University of West Florida 1986
- Ed.S. Educational Leadership - Nova Southeastern University 1999

**Service experience:**

- Dispatcher USAF Flightline refueling at various Air Force Bases. - 3 years
- Management of newspaper circulation department - 1 1/2 years
- Oversaw and led 30 Hillsborough County School Special Education Units and budget - 18 years.

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Served as secretary on Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran School Board - 10 years.
- Worship Assistant Apostles Lutheran Church - 4 years.
- Vice-President and President Apostles Lutheran Church Council - 5 1/2 years.



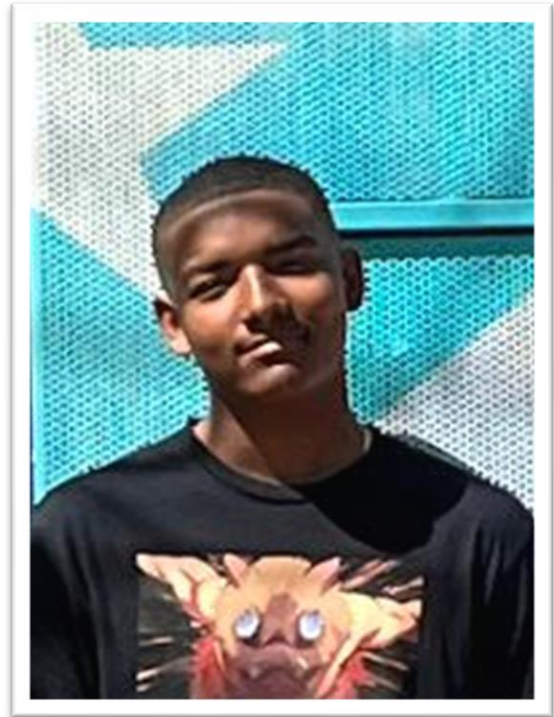
Synod Council Youth (High School Student Age 15-17 at time of election) -  
Layperson, Male or Female  
1 Year Term

**Name:** Mr. Rico Gordon

**Occupation:** High School Student

**Church Name:** St. Paul Lutheran Church, Tampa

**Are you a person of color or is your primary language other than English?** Yes



**Education:**

- Sophomore in High School
- Graduation in 2025
- ELCA Confirmand 2021

**Service experience:**

- Luther Rock Youth Summer Camp Representative 2022
- Church Acolyte more than 3 years
- JROTC Executive Officer, Counselor for JROTC Cadet Leadership Course

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- St. Paul Lutheran Church Kinship Market Volunteer 2021-2022
- Chair of youth pancake breakfast fundraising activities 2022-2023



# **Florida-Bahamas Consultation Committee Nominations**



Consultation Committee - Layperson Male  
6 Year Term

**Name:** Mr. Steven Beumer

**Occupation:** Business Owner

**Church Name:** St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
Winter Park

**Are you a person of color or is your primary language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- Labor and Industrial Relations, Wayne State University, Graduated 1979

**Service experience:**

- Served the past seven years as a Synod Parish Deacon.
- Served on numerous committees in the Synod including 20+ years on Global Mission, Hunger and several anti-racism committees; served on two separate occasions on Synod Council including a current term.
- Elected as Churchwide Assembly Voting Member.

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Served on the Churchwide listening leader for the current churchwide development of a society governance statement.
- Trained by Churchwide in being an anti-racism leader.
- I have served previously on the consultation committee.





Consultation Committee - Layperson Male  
6 Year Term

**Name:** Mr. Paul Hartfiel

**Occupation:** Machinist

**Church Name:** St. Matthew's Lutheran, Ocala

**Are you a person of color or is your primary language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- High School Diploma, Forest High School, Ocala, 2000

**Service experience:**

- Church Council President and Vice President
- Various Church Committees
- Volunteer in many and various church events

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Council President
- Council Vice President
- Voting Member at Synod Assembly



Consultation Committee - Layperson Female  
6 Year Term

**Name:** Mrs. Jane Wiley

**Occupation:** Retired - Administrative Assistant

**Church Name:** St. Paul Lutheran Church, Tampa

**Are you a person of color or is your primary language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- 2 years of college, Rollins College, 1964 -1966

**Service experience:**

- Work background as administrator, secretarial
- Lutheran Church member since 1966 (Presbyterian from birth until 1966)
- Pastor's wife for 48 years

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Active church member - choir member, SS teacher, worship assistant
- Church councils: member, president



Consultation Committee - Rostered Minister, Male  
6 Year Term

**Name:** Rev. Dr. Walt Lichtenberger

**Occupation:** Pastor

**Church Name:** Christus Victor Lutheran Church,  
Naples

**Are you a person of color or is your primary  
language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- 2007 to 2012, Doctor of Ministry, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA.
- 2000 to 2006, Masters of Sacred Theology, The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, PA.
- 1993 to 1997, Masters of Divinity, The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, PA.

**Service experience:**

- Co-Chair of Rostered Leaders Gifts, Planting Hope Capital Campaign, St. Paul Area Synod, ELCA
- Member of the Bishop's Advisory Committee for the SPAS Capital Campaign.
- Chairperson of Reference and Counsel (2020)- St. Paul Area Synod

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- 2018-2019 Congregational Resources for Preventing Sexual Misconduct Task Force.
- 2014-2019 Dean of the South Conference, St. Paul Area Synod (two terms, term limited).
- 2014-2020 St. Paul Area Synod Council member (two terms, term limited).



Consultation Committee - Rostered Minister, Female  
6 Year Term

**Name:** Rev. Grace Gravelle

**Occupation:** Redevelopment Pastor

**Church Name:** St. Matthew's Lutheran, Jacksonville

**Are you a person of color or is your primary language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- Master of Divinity, Luther Seminary St Paul MN 2015
- BA in Psychology, Metro State University, St Paul MN 2008

**Service experience:**

- Having worked in the mental health field and as a pastor I find my skills for understanding big picture issues as well as being able to listen for details is key to working with people in general.
- My Clergy Coaching training and experience allows me to wonder with people about dreams, hopes, and even hard life decisions.
- As someone seeking to serve this Synod on the Consultation Committee, I believe these skills are needed and can help us as the church to holy wonder around issues that arise.

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Senior Pastor Holy Trinity Raleigh NC 2020-2022
- Churchwide Assembly Delegate 2022
- Redevelopment Training 2015



Consultation Committee - Rostered Minister, Female  
6 Year Term

**Name:** Rev. Kari Niedermaier

**Occupation:** Pastor

**Church Name:** All Saints Lutheran Church, Port Orange

**Are you a person of color or is your primary language other than English?** No



**Education:**

- BS, Women's Health, UW- Madison, 2004.
- MDiv Iliff School of Theology, 2019.

**Service experience:**

- Served in two congregations with previous or current pastoral misconduct, and observed and experienced synod accompaniment, pastor's response(s) and congregational responses that were helpful and life-giving and some that were harmful
- Mother of six children (with lots of friends) who often experience conflict and boundary crossings and/or violations that require deep listening and accompaniment

**Current or past congregational or synod roles:**

- Certified Boundaries trainer for the Faith Trust Institute
- Consult with Leading Every Day as Disciples helping Congregations around the churchwide expression to pivot, listening deeply to where the Spirit is calling them and grieving/healing/letting go of trauma and things that are no longer life-giving.