

2017 Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Assembly

Nominee Vitae

Synod Council

Mt. Spokane Cluster Representative

Name: Patty Cowen

Congregation: Zion Lutheran Church – Deer Park, WA

Occupation: Insurance Account Executive

Church Leadership & Participation: I feel a strong call to be involved with the larger church body, to improve communication and help congregations work together. I am currently serving on the Synod Nominations Committee and previously served on Synod Council.

In my home church life, I enjoy participating in and leading adult bible studies and assisting with worship. I am part of the stewardship team, help with the Audit committee and have served on church council as treasurer. I have training as a Stephen Ministry Leader and I am active with The Walk with Christ community. Skills: Ability to manage, administer, organize, solve problems and negotiate.

Nominated by: Mt. Spokane Cluster

Palouse Cluster Representative

Name: Wayne Beebe

Congregation: Trinity Lutheran Church – Pullman, WA

Occupation: Retire Mental Health Counselor

Church Leadership & Participation: Strong in evangelism techniques and willing to work with congregations developing evangelism programs. Strong social media skills.

Videographer/photographer. Strong organizational skills. Focused on ecumenical social programs.

Nominated by: Palouse Cluster

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At Large Position – Lay Female

Name: Norfilia E. Tijerina

Congregation: Pasco First Lutheran

Occupation: Retired

Church Leadership & Participation: I am a firm believer that if you give back to your community, the quality of life for oneself and the community you live in improves for all. Volunteerism is part of my core values.

As a retiree from Battelle-Pacific NW Laboratories and a Business Manager in Finance my background includes 30 years in finances and working with others. I would bring planning skills organization of others and attention to details. I have volunteered as a Family Partner working with directly with family, the board of directors with Habitat for Humanity. I was also a board member of the Tri-Cities Red Cross. I am bilingual and bi-cultural in English and Spanish. I have served the past 2 years as Stewardship Chairperson.

Nominated by: Kristen Kuempel

Name: Robyn Lunsford

Congregation: Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church – Jackson, WY

Occupation: Land-use and Mapping Technician

Church Leadership & Participation: Gifts: Empathy & compassion, curiosity, innovation, generosity, good-judgment and intelligence.

Skills: collaboration, organization, attention to details, written and verbal communication with both adults & youth, teaching, conversant with numerous software platforms/suites.

Church: served on church council for two, three-year terms, with one year as vice-president of congregation; congregation delegate for several synod assemblies; numerous terms on congregational nominating committee; 20-year history working with youth within the community & congregation, as well as teaching Sunday school; currently serving on the youth & education and worship boards; spear-headed congregational outreach efforts to J1-Visa & seasonal employees in the community.

Nominated by: Rev. Barbara Harrison Condon

Name: Carol Olsen

Congregation: New Hope Lutheran (Synod Authorized Worshipping Community)

Occupation: Assistant director and Food Service coordinator for Luther Heights Bible Camp 1998-2016/ stay at home Mom

Church Leadership & Participation: President of the New Hope council, Secretary of the Shoshone Education foundation.

Nominated by: Tami McHugh

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Discipline Committee:

Name: Betty Krafft

Congregation: Messiah Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA – Sunday Supply

Occupation: Pastor

Church Leadership & Participation: 20 years' service in the U.S. Navy, 15 years parish ministry, numerous Family Systems classes

Nominated by: Patty Cowen

Name: Melvin Martin

Congregation: Immanuel Lutheran Church – Moses Lake, WA

Occupation: Retired, Potato Specialist, Agronomist, Consultant

Church Leadership & Participation: Council member for E WA-ID synod, VP Immanuel Church Council, choir member 40 years. Past: served on church council 18 years, chairman 4 years, SS Superintendent 2 years SS teach 8 years, Confirmation instruction 4 years, maintenance coordinator 10 years.

Ag manager for several multinational businesses, Manager of R & D, consulted on 5 continents, developed potato varieties and production systems.

Nominated by: Patty Cowen

Consultation Committee:

Name: Wes Howell

Congregation: Trinity Lutheran Church – Pullman, WA

Occupation: Pastor

Church Leadership & Participation: I have served in numerous Synodical position over the years. In 1998 I negotiated and established a Companion Synod connection between the NWW Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of European Russia. I then served as Chair of that Committee for 14 years. I have also served one and a half terms as Synod Secretary for NWW Synod (six years).

Nominated by: Rev. Phil Misner