

Biographical Information Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly Consultation Committee

Pr. Aage Carlsen

- Member, Kingo Lutheran Church, Fosston
- Occupation: Retired Pastor
- Service in Congregation: choir member; Friday School teacher; served on Stewardship Committee
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: past conference coordinator for monthly leadership gatherings
- Service in Congregation: volunteer reader and meal server at nursing home

Pr. Darrel Saathoff

- Member, Trinity Lutheran Church, Pelican Rapids
- Occupation: Retired Pastor
- Service in Congregation: served Christ Lutheran, Minot for 26 years; interim ministry at Grove Lake Pelican Rapids, Hawley Lutheran, Bethel Wahpeton and St. Peters Augustana-Audubon
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: WND Synod Council; board member of Metigoshe Ministries
- Service in Community: Institutional Review Board member, Trinity Hospital, Minot; Committee Chair Parish Nurse Training Program, Trinity Hospital, Minot

Pr. Gary Halvorson

- Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Karlstad
- Service in Congregation: ordained pastor since 1976 serving congregations in Anton, CO, St. James, MN and Karlstad, MN.
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: past Conference One Dean; past Synod Communication Committee member; Churchwide Assembly voting member in 1995 and 2005

Mr. Mark Wangberg

- Member, First Lutheran Church, Bemidji
- Occupation: Attorney, former pastor

Biographical Information
Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly
Synod Secretary

Pr. Heidi Mann

- Member, North Buffalo Lutheran Church, Moorhead
- Occupation: Freelance Copyeditor; owner of Final Touch Proofreading & Editing
- Education: M.Div. Lutheran School of Theology; BA Augustana College
- Service in Congregation: served two congregations for a total of 11 years, as well as 3-month intern in campus ministry and pulpit supply; presently on leave from call; Worship Committee member; reader; choir member
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: past Synod Council member; past member of Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church visitors committee
- Service in Community: member of School Advisory Team for Norman County West School District; previous member of Community Children's Collaborative; organized and co-led Autism Spectrum Support Group

Terrance Carlisle

- Member, Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes
- Occupation: Retired from Viking Gas Transmission
- Service in Congregation: Vacation Bible School volunteer; Building Needs Taskforce; Call Committee; Church Council President
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Council; Synod Executive Committee; Bishop Election Committee; Bishop Election Taskforce
- Service in Community: volunteer driver for Becker County; Becker County Food Pantry volunteer; volunteer curling instructor with middle school students

Biographical Information

Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly

Synod Council Members

Conference 1: Clergy Position

Pr. Thomas Oberg

- Pastor, Williams Lutheran Parish, Williams
- Education: M.Div. Wartburg Theological Seminary
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Council; Conference Dean

Conference 1: Lay Position

Kathy Levenhagen

- Member of Zion Lutheran Church, Lake Bronson
- Occupation: Synodically Authorized Minister - Maria Lutheran, Kennedy and Zion Lutheran, Lake Bronson
- Service in Congregation: pastoral duties
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: member of Synod Council
- Service in Community: cook for senior citizen fund raisers; hospice board

Conference 3: Clergy Position

Pr. Kelly Ahola

- Pastor, Gary Rindal Parish, Fertile
- Education: M.Div. Luther Seminary; BA Concordia College
- Service in Congregation: passions lie mostly with youth and children, but also include quilting, fellowship and Bible studies
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Council member
- Service in Community: support/sponsor orphan in Kenya through Children of Ngong Road; Early Childhood Initiative

Conference 5: Lay Position

Conference 7: Clergy Position

Pr. Eric Lemonholm

- Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes
- Education: D.Min. Luther Seminary (in progress); M.Div. Princeton Theological Seminary; S.T.M. Lutheran Theological Seminary; BA North Park University
- Service in Congregation: pastor; dishwasher
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Council Executive Committee; past member of Pathways Board
- Service in Community: president of Lakes Area Ministerium; board member of Habitat for Humanity of Detroit Lakes Area

Conference 7: Lay Position

Michael Wammer

- Member of St. Peters Lutheran Church, Audubon
- Occupation: retired
- Service in Congregation: president - 2 terms; past Sunday School teacher/superintendent; building fund drive finance chair; Education Committee; church council; past Call Committee chair

- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: past Dean of White Earth Conference; Churchwide Assembly voting member; Synod Council; Bishop Election Committee Task Force
- Service in Community: past member Audubon School Board; past member Board of Directors, MN School Board Assoc.; past president Cormorant Lion's Club; past president and board member Becker County Historical Society; past Commander Audubon American Legion and current service officer; Hospice volunteer; PA announcer for LPA football for 36 years

Conference 9: Clergy Position

Pr. Roger Johnson

- Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Henning
- Education: M.Div. Luther Seminary; BA Concordia College
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: NWMN and EaND Synod Council; EaND Synod Rural Task Force; Synod Assembly Planner; Luther Crest Bible Camp Board; attended 3 Churchwide Assemblies
- Service in Community: Lions' Club; Lakota Ambulance Squad; Henning Community Health Action Team

Conference 10: Clergy Position

Pr. Robert Toso

- Pastor, United Lutheran Church, Elbow Lake
- Education: MTH Luther Seminary; BA Concordia College
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Council member

At Large: Youth

Annie Kuebler

Biographical Information

Northwestern Minnesota Synod

Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

Conference 1

Pr. Rodney Nygren

- Pastor, Messiah Lutheran Church, Roseau
- Education: M.Div. Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary; BA Concordia College St Paul
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Assembly Planning Commission member
- Service in Community: Roseau Community Ministerium; Salvation Army; Roseau Community Task Force

Liz Hardwick

Conference 2

Pr. Rena Peterson

- Pastor, Viking Lutheran Parish, Viking
- Education: M.Div. Luther Seminary; BA Concordia College
- Service in Congregation: confirmation teacher; worship leader; other acts of ministry
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Worship Commission; Ecumen
- Service in Community: Food Shelf – LAH/BNP

Gary Page

Conference 3

Pr. Gretchen Anderson

- Pastor, United in Christ Lutheran Parish, Fertile
- Education: M.Div. Lutheran Theological Seminary Gettysburg; BA University of Nebraska, Lincoln
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Joint Synod Mission Imagination Table; Faith Practices Table
- Service in Community: volunteer track coach; Horizons

Marilyn Malmanger

- Member, Zion Lutheran Church, Fosston
- Occupation: retired teacher/lay visitation ministry
- Service in Congregation: church organist; church council; Christian education
- Service in Community: volunteer in nursing homes for games and programs; present programs for churches, schools, and community organizations

Conference 4

Gary Coe

- Member, New Salem Lutheran Church, Turtle River
- Occupation: retired, former Director of Management Consulting for Fujitsu Corp.
- Service in Congregation: Steward Committee Chair; Church Council member and treasurer; member of Vision Task Force

- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Co-chair of the Peoples Church Capital Campaign; member of Synod Stewardship work group
- Service in Community: past Town Board member and chair; Election Judge

Karen Coe

- Member, New Salem Lutheran Church, Turtle River
- Occupation: Parish Nurse and Registered Nurse Consultant
- Service in Congregation: Pastoral Staff member; Vision Task Force member; Bone Builder instructor
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: past member of Synod Assembly Planning Commission; member of Disciplinary Committee; member of ELCA Parish Nurse Association
- Service in Community: Advisory Board member of North Country Hospice; Co-chair of the People's Church Capital Campaign; past member of NWMN Women's Fund Advisory Board

Conference 5

Pr. Dane Skilbred

- Pastor, Salem Lutheran Church, Hitterdal
- Education: M.Div. Luther Seminary; BS Santa Clara University
- Service in Congregation: pastoral ministry as of September 2009
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Conference 5 Dean; attended Synod Assembly and Churchwide Assembly in 2009
- Service in Community: pastoral duties in the community; volunteer work at various charitable organizations

Jim Natwick

Conference 6

Pr. Loren Mellum

- Pastor, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Moorhead
- Education: D.Min. Luther Seminary (in progress); M.Div. Trinity Seminary; BA Trinity Lutheran College
- Service in Congregation: Senior Pastor Our Savior's Lutheran, Moorhead; Senior Pastor Trinity Lutheran, North Branch, MN; Youth Minister, Christ the King Lutheran, Fishers, IN
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: various synodical and conference ministry teams in NW Minnesota, St Paul Area Synod, Indiana-Kentucky Synod
- Service in Congregation: member of Churches United Board, Moorhead

Deborah Hovde

- Member, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Moorhead
- Occupation: LPN
- Service in Congregation: Church Council; WELCA President, Call Committee
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: 2010 NWMN Synod Assembly voting member

Conference 7

Eric Hanson

- Member, Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes
- Occupation: student Detroit Lakes High School/farm hand

- Service in Congregation: assistant Sunday School teacher; youth representative; previous Salt leader
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: 2009 National Youth Gathering; volunteer for work on homes hit by hurricane in Mississippi
- Service in Community: American Legion; Habitat for Humanity; sand bagging

Jenna Gilbertson

- Member, Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes
- Occupation: Certified Optician
- Service in Congregation: Sunday School teacher, Circle
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: voting member to synod and conference

Conference 8

Pr. Mark Manning

- Pastor, Breckenridge Lutheran Church, Breckenridge
- Education: D.Min. Luther Seminary (in progress); M.Div. Luther Northwestern Seminary; BA University of Wisconsin Parkside
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: former Stewardship Chair (LaCrosse Area Synod); former NWMN Candidacy Commission Chair; NWMN Synod Congregational constitution reviewer; conference representative to Concordia College Corporation
- Service in Community: Breckenridge Rotary Club President; Twin Towns Ministerium chair; volunteer cross country coach

Rita Buntje

- Member, First Lutheran Church, Battle Lake
- Occupation: Retired
- Service in Congregation: congregation Board of Directors, past Vice President; past co-chair WELCA Board; substitute office secretary; Outreach Committee
- Service in Community: Lakes Area Community Center Board Member; Winonga Days races coordinator

Conference 9

Pr. Melissa Ehrhardt

- Pastor, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Clarissa
- Education: M.Div. Trinity Lutheran Seminary; BA Midland Lutheran College
- Service in Congregation: worship leader, Bible study leader, confirmation teacher, highway pick-up volunteer, and everything that is in a pastor's vocational call
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: member of Luther Crest Bible Camp Board; Conference 9 Dean; member of Lutheran Association of Christian Educators

Christie Meier

- Member, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wadena
- Occupation: Associate in Ministry
- Service in Congregation: coordinate congregational programs; coordinate member involvement
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Commission on Outreach, past member of Synod Committee on Discipline
- Service in Community: Philanthropic Educational organization; Red Flag Green Flag

Conference 10

Pr. Gregory Billberg

- Associate Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Alexandria
- Education: M.Div. Luther Seminary; BA Bethel College
- Service in Congregation: worship; adult and youth ministries
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Candidacy Commission
- Service in Community: District 206 School Referendum Committee

Ken Greiner

- Member, United Lutheran Church, Elbow Lake
- Occupation: Veterinarian
- Service in Congregation: Church Council chair, past Seeds for Mission member; past synod assembly voting member
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: voting member – 3 years
- Service in Community: School Board Chair; Housing Development Authority

At Large Voting Member

Dwain Fagerlund

- Member, St Paul's Lutheran Church, Crookston
- Occupation: Attorney/Mediator/Hearing Officer/Law Practice Management Consultant
- Service in Congregation: President; Board of Deacons; Evangelism Committee; Alpha Coordinator
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: Synod Assembly voting member; Bridgebuilder
- Service in Community: President of United Way; Riverview Hospital Board of Directors Chair

Youth Representative

Katie Nelson

- Member, Gary Lutheran Church, Gary
- Occupation: Concordia student
- Service in Congregation: substitute Sunday School teacher; volunteer Vacation Bible School teacher/planner; past call committee member
- Service in Synod/Conference/Churchwide: definitely-abled representative/vice president for NWMN Synod Lutheran Youth Organization; Member NWMN Synod Assembly Planning Commission; past Co-chair for the Council of Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Presidents' meeting which led to a position within the Executive Committee for the Churchwide Board of the LYO

Northwestern Minnesota Synod Ballot
May 14-15, 2010

Synod Council Members

Conference 1

[vote for one clergy]

_____ Pr. Thomas Oberg

[vote for one lay female]

_____ Kathy Levenhagen

Conference 3

[vote for one clergy]

_____ Pr. Kelly Ahola

Conference 5

[vote for one lay male]

Conference 7

[vote for one clergy]

_____ Pr. Eric Lemonholm

[vote for one lay male]

_____ Michael Wammer

Conference 9

[vote for one clergy]

_____ Pr. Roger Johnson

Conference 10

[vote for one clergy]

_____ Pr. Robert Toso

At Large

[vote for one youth]

_____ Annie Kuebler

Northwestern Minnesota Synod Ballot

May 14-15, 2010

Synod Secretary

[vote for one lay person or clergy]

_____ Pr. Heidi Mann

_____ Terrance Carlisle

Synod Consultation Committee

[vote for three ordained pastors and one lay person]

_____ Pr. Aage Carlsen

_____ Pr. Darrel Saathoff

_____ Pr. Gary Halvorson

_____ Mr. Mark Wangberg

For your information, the following persons will continue on the committee for another year:

Ms. Arvella Lang, Battle Lake

Ms. Jeanne Rains, Fosston

Northwestern Minnesota Synod Ballot

May 14-15, 2010

2011 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

Conference 1

[vote for one clergy male and one lay female]

_____ Pr. Rodney Nygren

_____ Liz Hardwick

Conference 2

[vote for one clergy and one lay male – one of them of color or language other than English]

_____ Pr. Rena Peterson

_____ Gary Page

Conference 3

[vote for one clergy female and one lay female]

_____ Pr. Gretchen Anderson

_____ Marilyn Malmanger

Conference 4

[vote for one lay male and one lay female]

_____ Gary Coe

_____ Karen Coe

Conference 5

[vote for one clergy male and one lay male]

_____ Pr. Dane Skilbred

_____ Jim Natwick

Conference 6

[vote for one clergy male and one lay female]

_____ Pr. Loren Mellum

_____ Deborah Hovde

Conference 7

[vote for one lay male and one lay female – one of them a youth representative]

_____ Eric Hanson

_____ Jenna Gilbertson

Conference 8

[vote for one clergy male and one lay female]

_____ Pr. Mark Manning

_____ Rita Buntje

Conference 9

[vote for one clergy female and one lay female]

_____ Pr. Melissa Ehrhardt

_____ Christie Meier

Conference 10

[vote for one clergy male and one lay male]

_____ Pr. Gregory Billberg

_____ Ken Greiner

At Large Voting Member

[vote for one lay male]

_____ Dwain Fagerlund

Youth Representative

[vote for one female]

_____ Katie Nelson