

2019 REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

MISSION DISTRICT SYNOD COUNCIL ELECTIONS (Ratified by the Synod Assembly):

* Incumbent

DELAWARE

Lay Female Term Ending 2022 Andrea Gerrard, St. Stephen, Woodbury

Lay Male Term Ending 2022 William Emerson, St. Mark, Oaklyn *

GATEWAY

No Synod Council Election on District Level in 2019

NORTHERN

No Synod Council Election on District Level in 2019

WESTERN

Clergy Term Ending 2022 Rev. Carol Lindsay, Calvary, Cranford

MIDDLE

Lay Female Term Ending 2022 Linda, Magill, Holy Trinity, Manasquan

SYNOD COUNCIL NOMINATIONS (Elected by the Synod Assembly):

Synod Vice President

Term Ending 2023 Arundel Clarke, Resurrection, Hamilton Square *

Synod Secretary

Term Ending 2023 Cassandra Mack, Redeemer, Jersey City *

Middle District (Elect 1)

Lay Male - Term Ending 2022 Daniel L. Fields, Messiah, Parlin

Shore District (Elect 1)

Lay Male - Term Ending 2022 Steven P. Hernandez, Faith, Lavallette

At-Large Synod Council (From any Mission District - Elect 1)

Clergy Term Ending 2022 Rev. Giselle Coutinho, Bridge of Peace, Camden
Rev. Mark David Johnson, Emanuel, New Brunswick
Rev. David Knecht, Holy Cross, Springfield
Rev. Joshua Semovoski, Our Saviour, Stone Harbor

Youth Term Ending 2021 (From any Mission District - Elect 1)

Sophia Howard, Our Savior, Haddonfield
Josie Sanchez, Bridge of Peace, Camden

2019 NOMINATION BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

SYNOD COUNCIL: (Nominations for election at Synod Assembly)

VICE PRESIDENT Term Ending 2023

ARUNDEL CLARKE

*Resurrection, Hamilton Square
Mercer Cluster, Middle Mission District*

Arundel was educated at Dover Business College and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Network and Communication Management from DeVry University. He is employed as a Senior Associate in Software Quality Assurance Engineering with HIS Markit Ltd.

Arundel is seeking a second term as Synod Vice President. He has served as the congregation Chief Lay Officer, social ministry liaison, and youth ministry chairperson. In his community, Arundel is a coach for the New Jersey Special Olympics, an advisor on the Lawrence Township Special Education Parent Advisory Committee, and is a certified EMT.



SECRETARY Term Ending 2023

CASSANDRA MACK

*Redeemer, Jersey City
Hudson Cluster, Gateway Mission District*

Cassandra Mack is a graduate of the New York Institute of Technology. She was associated with Warren Lambert and Pricewaterhouse Coopers as a CPA with internal and computer audits.

Cassandra is seeking a second term as Synod Secretary and is a member of the LoveStruck project leadership team. In the past, she served as director of the Junior High Servant Mission Trip to Washington, DC. In her community, Cassandra is a Peace Team member of the Brotherhood Sisterhood Association of Hudson County, and has served as Treasurer/Assistant Secretary of the Infinity Institute PTA. Earlier volunteer work included being a leader for the Girl Scouts Carolinas Peaks to Piedmont.



AT-LARGE SYNOD COUNCIL
Clergy - Term Ending 2022

THE REV GISELLE COUTINHO

Pastor, Bridge of Peace, Camden

Burlington/Camden Cluster, Delaware Mission District

Pastor Coutinho is a graduate of Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA, with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She has a Masters in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work, and her Master of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia (ULS). Giselle is a current At-Large member of the Synod Council. As a NJ Synod coach, she also serves on the leadership team and is an ELCA Mission Developer Coach. In her community, Pastor Coutinho has been active in the Fairview Ministerium, as well as ecumenical partnerships for worship and learning. Within the Delaware District, she is involved in *sharing the sacred stories* with mission partners. Along with English, Giselle speaks Portuguese and Spanish.



THE REV. MARK DAVID JOHNSON

Pastor, Emanuel, New Brunswick

Raritan Cluster, Middle Mission District

Pastor Johnson is a graduate of United Lutheran Seminary with a Master of Divinity in Interfaith Studies. They are also a graduate of Drew University with a Master of Sacred Theology in Church and Society. Mark speaks some Spanish and is conversational in German. Before being called to Emanuel, Pastor Johnson served as Vicar at St. Michael Episcopal Church in Trenton. While in Trenton, they were a leader of community forums on gun violence prevention. Pastor Johnson is the NJ Synod Supply Coordinator and a Policy Board member of LEAMNJ.



THE REV J. DAVID KNECHT

Pastor, Holy Cross, Springfield

Central Cluster, Western Mission District

Pastor Knecht is a graduate of Lenoir Rhyne College, Hickory, NC, with a Master of Divinity in Parish Ministry, as well as a Doctor of Ministry in Missions and Education from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia (ULS), PA. Ordained in 1996, David previously served congregations in Oakland and Jersey City. Within the wider church, he serves on the Discipleship and Witness Team as well as the earlier Division of Outreach. David also speaks Mandarin and German. In his community he is an active participant in the Springfield Interfaith Clergy Council, Union County Interfaith Council for the Homeless, and the Lions Club of Springfield.



THE REV JOSHUA SEMOVOSKI

*Our Saviour, Stone Harbor
South Shore Cluster, Shore Mission District*

Pastor Semovoski serves as Vice Pastor and Stated Supply, Messiah, Cape May Court House.



SYNOD COUNCIL
At- Large Youth - Term Ending 2021

SOPHIA A. HOWARD

*Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Haddonfield
Southwestern Cluster, Delaware Mission District*

Sophia is a sophomore at Cherry Hill High School East. In her community of Cherry Hill, she is a youth volunteer at Penn Medicine.



JOSIE N. SANCHEZ

*Bridge of Peace, Camden
Burlington/Camden Cluster, Delaware Mission District*

Josie is a junior at Urban Promise Academy High School. She works part time at Underground Journey's and Chipotle. She participated in camp counselor training programs at Lake Stockwell Day Camp and Camp Matollionequay for day and overnight positions, as well as the NJ State Federation of Women's Clubs Girls' Career Institute.

At Bridge of Peace, Josie has experience as the youth representative of the congregation's Guidance Team and has served as a Synod Assembly Voting Member. She also is a volunteer with advocacy and social justice issues related to gun violence and domestic violence. Josie volunteers for the food pantry and child care during worship and other congregation activities.

In the city of Camden, Josie served as a tour guide and service project Coordinator for ME Urban Trekkers visit to Camden. She also volunteers for neighborhood clean-ups.



SYNOD COUNCIL
Middle District Lay Male - Term Ending 2022

DANIEL L. FIELDS

Messiah, Parlin

Raritan Cluster, Middle Mission District

Daniel is a graduate of Kean College with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematical Sciences and also earned a Teacher of Students with Disabilities Certificate from Rowan University. He is a teacher of Special Education and Mathematics for the Monroe Township Education Association.

Daniel is currently the Chief Lay Officer of Messiah. In the past, he served as financial secretary, chair of stewardship and fellowship, and a Sunday School teacher.



Community-related activities include being co-advisor of the Kiwanis Builders Club, Community VBS teacher for grades 2-3, and director of Public Relations and Community Involvement for Monroe Township Education Association.

Shore District Lay Male - Term Ending 2022

STEVEN P. HERNANDEZ

Faith, Lavallette

Central Shore Cluster, Shore Mission District

Steve served in the US Army as a Squad Leader and Mission Coordinator. He studied Korean at the Defense Language Institute as well as Middle Childhood Education at Wright State University. Steve is employed by the Ocean County Board of Social Services as a Welfare Fraud Investigator.

At Faith, he serves as a worship leader and cantor. Steve has also participated in teaching and leading Sunday School, Confirmation, and Bible Study. He served as Chief Lay Officer of the congregation from 2015 – 2017. As a 2018 Synod Assembly Voting Member, Steve served on the Committee of Reference and Counsel.



In his community, he serves as Chapter Vice President - OCBSS at CWA Local 1088 and participates in the Toms River Chess Club.

2019 DISTRICT ELECTIONS BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

The following were elected to the New Jersey Synod Council at their Mission District meetings. Their elections will be ratified by the Synod Assembly.

SYNOD COUNCIL Terms Ending 2022

WILLIAM EMERSON

St. Mark, Oaklyn

Southwestern Cluster, Delaware Mission District

Bill is a Senior Buyer with Coperion K-Tron. Along with completing diakonia studies, he was educated at Camden County College and Rowan University with degrees in business. Bill is a current member of the Synod Council, served on the Mission Advocacy Table, and the Ad Hoc Team for Synod Priorities. He is also serving as the Chief Lay Officer at St. Mark in Oaklyn, and actively participates in the congregation's Christian Education, Worship and Music, and Stewardship Teams.



ANDREA S. GERRARD

St. Stephen, Woodbury

Southwestern Cluster, Delaware Mission District

Andrea received a Bachelor of Science in Education from Valparaiso University and Master's Degree in Learning Disabilities from Rowan University. She is a Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant with the Clementon School District.

Andrea serves on the congregation council at St. Stephen and within our Synod serves as a member of the Bosnia IST Leadership Team. She is also actively engaged with LEAMNJ activities. Within her community, Andrea has volunteered and assisted with the local Girl Scout Troop and school district home instruction.



THE REV. CAROL LINDSAY

*Pastor, Calvary, Cranford
Central Cluster, Western Mission District*

Pastor Lindsay is a graduate of the Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, MO, and received her Doctor of Ministry in Worship, Preaching & Spirituality from the Theological School of Drew University in Madison. Carol has been ordained 30 years and for the last 17 years has served at Calvary in Cranford. She has participated in the ELCA sponsored events “Generosity Transformed” “Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising”, as well as our Synod-sponsored “Creating Cultures of Congregational Generosity.” Within her community, Carol is a member of the Cranford Clergy Council, supportive of the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council, and appreciates building bridges with our Muslim and Jewish brothers and sisters.



LINDA D. MAGILL
*Holy Trinity, Manasquan
North Shore Cluster, Middle Mission District*

Linda is a Wellness Ambassador for Rite Aid. A former member of the Synod Council, she also has experience with the ministry of our Resource Development Team, and was an ELCA Mission Interpreter Coordinator for our Synod. While at Augsburg Fortress, Linda served as a congregational and seminary relations manager.

She is a graduate of the diakonia program and in the congregation of Holy Trinity, she actively serves in the life of the congregation including as a youth mentor and Co-Chair of the congregation’s *20/20 Vision for 2022*. Linda actively serves in her community as a group facilitator at Common Ground Grief Center in Manasquan, and a Stephen’s Minister at Brandywine Assisted Living.

