

**BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES OF CANDIDATES  
FOR THE OFFICES OF REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT**

**REGION 1**

**REV. PAUL E. HASS**

**Address:** 6 Hallock Drive  
Bella Vista, AR 72714

**Educational Background:** MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (2003); (currently in Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO DMIN program)

**Member of Synod Congregations:** 52 years

**Home Congregation:** Bella Vista Lutheran Church, Bella Vista, AR

**Synod Experience:** Convention Delegate (2010)

**District Experience:** Region 1 Vice-President (2012-present); Board of Directors Finance Committee – Chair (2012-2013), Member (2013-2015); Board of Directors Mission and Ministry Committee – Chair (2016-present); Convention Mission and Ministry Floor Committee – Chair (2015 Convention)

**Congregational Experience:** Pastor, Bella Vista Lutheran Church, Bella Vista, AR (2009 – present); Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, Enid, OK (2003-2009)

**Community and Other Experience:**

**Brief Personal Statement:** None provided

**REV. JOSHUA J. WILLADSEN**

**Address:** 8012 Williamsburg Road  
Fort Smith, AR 72903

**Educational Background:** BA, University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, WI; MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (2004)

**Member of Synod Congregations:** 41 years

**Home Congregation:** Bethel Lutheran Church, Fort Smith, AR

**Synod Experience:** Convention Delegate (2010, 2016); Floor Committee 11 Member – Structure & Administration (2016)

**District Experience:** Pastoral Counselor for Mid-South LWML District (2014-2016); Member of MDS Rural and Small Town Task Force (2015-present)

**Congregational Experience:** Pastor, Bethel Lutheran Church, Ft. Smith, AR (2013-present); Pastor/Founding Pastor, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Oakland, TN (2004-2013)

**Community and Other Experience:** Volunteer Reynolds Cancer Support House (2014-present); President, Oakland Regional Chamber of Commerce (2010); Board of Directors, Oakland Regional Chamber of Commerce (2009-2011)

**Brief Personal Statement:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, Amen!

## REGION 2

### **REV. JONATHAN M. BEYER**

**Address:** 208 Brentwood  
Hot Springs, AR 71901

**Educational Background:** BA, Concordia College, St. Paul, MN (1981); MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (1985)

**Member of Synod Congregations:** 59 years

**Home Congregation:** First Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, AR

**Synod Experience:**

**District Experience:** District Vice-President (Region 2) (2003-2006); Circuit Counselor/Visitor (1997-2003, 2006-2009, 2015-present)

**Congregational Experience:** Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, AR (1994-present); Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Clinton, MO (1985-1994)

**Community and Other Experience:** YMCA Board of Directors (2002-2014); Community Counseling Services Board of Directors (2000-present)

**Brief Personal Statement:** My passion is seeing people come alive in their faith in Christ, be it the first time or as a lifelong member hungering more for the Word of God and stepping out in faith to share the Good News with others as a fully committed disciple of Jesus Christ.

### **REV. KEVIN R. CONGER**

**Address:** 1204 Hill Street  
Jacksonville, AR 72076

**Educational Background:** MDIV, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN (2001)

**Member of Synod Congregations:** 60 years

**Home Congregation:** Hope Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, AR

**Synod Experience:** Convention Delegate (2013)

**District Experience:** MDS LWML Junior Counselor, Senior Counselor (2010-2011); Circuit Visitor (2012-present); Convention Floor Committee Member (2012); Rural Small Town Ministry (RSTM) Chairman (2015-present)

**Congregational Experience:** Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, AR (2001-present)

**Community and Other Experience:** Lutheran High School Executive Board (2001-2008), Chairman (2003-2005), Personnel Committee (2005-2008); Little Rock Air Force Base Community Relations (2009-2010); Veteran Clergy Partnership (2016-present); V.A. Directed Mental Health Clinician Community Clergy Collaboration (MC4) (2018-present)

**Brief Personal Statement:** The ministry is a calling to service. May the Lord of the Church continue to direct and raise up faithful servants for the work of His kingdom here in the Mid-South District.

### **REV. JAMES C. WALTER**

**Address:** 7807 Evergreen Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72205

**Educational Background:** MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (1991)

**Member of Synod Congregations:** 64 years

**Home Congregation:** Grace Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR

**Synod Experience:** Convention Delegate (1992, 2004, 2010); Participant, Model Theological Conferences in Phoenix, AZ (2002, 2005)

**District Experience:** Circuit Counselor (Michigan District, 1994-1995, Mid-South District 2003-2006, 2014-2015); Regional Vice-President, Region 2 (2006-2012, 2015-2018), First VP (2009-2012), Second VP (2015-2018); Chairman, Mid-South District Board of Directors (2009-2012)

**Congregational Experience:** Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR (1995-present); Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church, White Cloud, MI (1991-1995)

**Community and Other Experience:**

**Brief Personal Statement:** None provided

### REGION 3

#### REV. WILLIAM D. MILLER

**Address:** 6229 Saint Elmo Road  
Bartlett, TN 38135

**Educational Background:** MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (2008); (current PHD candidate, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO)

**Member of Synod Congregations:** 17 years

**Home Congregation:** Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

**Synod Experience:** Adjunct Faculty and Curriculum Writer for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (2011-2014)

**District Experience:**

**Congregational Experience:** Senior Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN (2014-present); Associate Pastor for Outreach and Church Planting, Messiah Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO (2012-2013); Associate Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN (2008-2011)

**Community and Other Experience:** Volunteer Coordinator for the Peace Center in St. Louis (2011-2012)

**Brief Personal Statement:** None provided

#### REV. CHARLES J. NEUGEBAUER

**Address:** 2082 Donnington Cove  
Germantown, TN 38138

**Educational Background:** BA, University of Delaware; MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (1983)

**Member of Synod Congregations:** 62 years

**Home Congregation:** Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

**Synod Experience:** LCEF Promotions; LCEF Nominating Committee

**District Experience:** First Vice-President (2 terms); Board of Directors Chairman (2 terms); Boards – Evangelism, Youth, Church Planting, Campus, LWML District Pastoral Counselor (2 terms)

**Congregational Experience:** Pastor, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis (1995-present); Pastor, Messiah Lutheran Church, Boston, MA (1988-1995); Pastor/Church Planter, Trinity Lutheran Church, Gallatin, TN (1983-1988)

**Community and Other Experience:** United States Navy (1972-1977); Rotary Club (1983-1988); Civic Associations (1983-present)

**Brief Personal Statement:** The Mid-South District has always been one of the most mission-oriented districts in the Synod. Sharing the Gospel with the lost has always been our main theme and purpose. Over the years, I have been blessed and privileged to seek to keep that focus alive in the midst of all the changes within both our District and Synod. If our gracious Lord grants me one last term in this office, I intend to reenergize and equip our congregations to be faithful to both our Confessions and to help reignite our shared calling to make disciples of all nations.

#### REV. ANDREW W. TOOPES

**Address:** 334 Sylvan Circle  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

**Educational Background:** BA, Concordia College, St. Paul, MN; MDIV, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN (1983)

**Member of Synod Congregations:** 61 years

**Home Congregation:** Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, KY

**Synod Experience:** Convention Delegate (1992, 2016)

**District Experience:** Mission Board, Mid-South District (12 years); Mission Board Chairman, Eastern District (3 years); Mission Board, Florida-Georgia District (3 years); LWML Zone Counselor (14 years total)

**Congregational Experience:** Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, KY (6½ years); Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church, Stuttgart, AR (1½ years); Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church, Bradenton, FL (4 years); Pastor, Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, Malvern, PA (4 years); Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Avilla, AR (18½ years)

**Community and Other Experience:** Law Enforcement Chaplain for local law enforcement (30 years); Chaplain for ATF and DEA (25 years); Hospital Chaplain (35 years); Hospital Ethics Board (3 years)

**Brief Personal Statement:** I have been blessed to serve in the Mid-South under every District President we have had. All of these men have served the Lord faithfully in that office. I believe with all my heart that it is time for a change. We need to take a practical look at the office of District President. Do we need a full-time President or would a part-time position better serve our churches and show us as good stewards? Times are changing and just because a model worked 30 years ago does not mean it will work today.

## REGION 4

### **REV. BARRY C. HILDEBRANDT**

**Address:** 16 Johnson Boulevard  
Chattanooga, TN 37415

**Educational Background:** AA, Concordia College, Austin, TX; Bachelor of Arts & Science, University of Texas (Austin) (1969); MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (1973)

**Member of Synod Congregations:** 71 years (57 years since my confirmation)

**Home Congregation:** Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN

**Synod Experience:** P.A.L.S. (1998-present); Convention Delegate & Floor Committee Member (Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Houston)

**District Experience:** Regional Vice-President (2006-2012); Circuit Counselor (1998-2006)

**Congregational Experience:** Pastor, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN (1994-present); Vicarage Supervisor (2003-2009); Long-Range Planning Committee Member (2000-2002)

**Community and Other Experience:** Member & Previous Chairman of Chattanooga Endeavors (Prison Ministry) Board of Directors (1996-present)

**Brief Personal Statement:** As a previous Circuit Counselor and Regional Vice-President, I was honored to serve in these two capacities and thoroughly enjoyed my involvement in District work. Both experiences put me together with wonderful pastors and fellow servants who had a real heart and dedication to our Savior's mission. It was easy and exciting to see the Holy Spirit's presence in their lives as we together focused on supporting existing ministries and pursuing new outreach opportunities. My prayer is that our District will continue to explore new mission ventures in the years ahead and that our Lord will bless us in these efforts.

### **REV. PAUL E. KRITSCH**

**Address:** 400 Fishers Loop  
Sharps Chapel, TN 37866

**Educational Background:** BA, Concordia Senior College, Ft. Wayne, IN (1969); MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (1973)

**Member of Synod Congregations:** 71 years

**Home Congregation:** Chapel of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Sharps Chapel, TN

**Synod Experience:**

**District Experience:** New Jersey District: First VP (2010-2012); Leaders & Learners Biblical Hermeneutics Instructor (2000-2012); Third VP (2004-2007); Circuit Counselor (1995-2004); Missions Committee (1988-1995); Slovak District (SELC): Circuit Counselor (1980-1988)

**Congregational Experience:** Pastor (45 years): Chapel of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Sharps Chapel, TN (2015-present); Redeemer Lutheran Church & School, Westfield, NJ (1988-2013); St. Paul Church & School,

Westport, CT (1977-1988); Christ Lutheran Church, Aurora, Ontario, Canada (1973-1977)

**Community and Other Experience:** Second Harvest Food Distributions, Diapers & Baby Food Collections, Union County Christmas Charities, Thanksgiving Food Baskets, Patriot Day Dinners, Neighborhood Bible Breakfast (2015-present); Sunset Bay Scholarship Committee, Chairman (2018-present)

**Brief Personal Statement:** My first District President told me that each pastor should be willing to serve the larger church. Since then, I have sought to serve my districts by volunteering to serve on committees and as an elected officer. There are so many people in the Mid-South who need the Gospel. It would be an honor to serve alongside our District President who seeks to support and encourage congregations of all sizes from the smallest to the largest in every location from urban to rural.

### **REV. GILBERT H. PINGEL (EM)**

**Address:** 8106 Carriage Crossing  
Chattanooga, TN 37421

**Educational Background:** BA; MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (1965); Graduate, U.S. Army Command & Staff College, and U.S. Army War College

**Member of Synod Congregations:** 79 years

**Home Congregation:** First Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN

**Synod Experience:** Under Call by LCMS to serve on active duty U.S. Army Chaplain (1974-2002)

**District Experience:** Circuit Counselor/Visitor (2006-present); Consecrated Stewards leader (2009-present)

**Congregational Experience:** Vacancy Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN (2015-2017); Vacancy Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN (2012-2013); Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN (2002-2008); Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Elizabeth, IL (1965-1973)

**Community and Other Experience:** President & Board Member U.S. Army Chaplain Corps Regimental Association (2012-present); Thrivent Chapter Officer (2008-2017)

**Brief Personal Statement:** I have always been open to serving the Lord and His Church where He leads me. The proclamation and sharing of God's forgiving love in the crucified, resurrected, and ascended Lord Jesus Christ is of eternal importance. If I can be of service to the Mid-South District and its congregations in fulfilling the Great Commission, I am willing to serve.

**REV. ROBERT M. PORTIER**

**Address:** 2070 James Road  
Sevierville, TN 37876

**Educational Background:** Bachelor of Business Administration, National University, San Diego, CA (1988); MDIV, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN (2007)

**Member of Synod Congregations:** 31 years

**Home Congregation:** St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sevierville, TN 37862

**Synod Experience:** Convention Delegate (2013)

**District Experience:** Administration and Finance Floor Committee Member (2012)

**Congregational Experience:** Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sevierville, TN (2007-present); Lay Minister, Grace Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, FL (2000-2002)

**Community and Other Experience:** Sevier County Right to Life (2007-2017); Women's Care Center Board of Directors (2011-2017); United States Navy (20 years)

**Brief Personal Statement:** I feel unworthy to serve in this position. However, if it be the will of this body I will gladly serve to the best of my ability, with God's help. Seeking to make the most God-pleasing use of his gifts to help our congregations to love God and our neighbors in the communities he has called us to serve.

**REV. ROBERT G. SEATON**

**Address:** 2825 Julian Ave. N.E.  
Cleveland, TN 37312

**Educational Background:** AA, St. Paul College, Concordia, MO; BA, Concordia College, Ann Arbor, MI (1978); MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (1982)

**Member of Synod Congregations:** 62 years

**Home Congregation:** First Lutheran Church, Cleveland, TN

**Synod Experience:** Convention Delegate (1989, 2010)

**District Experience:** Circuit Counselor, Chattanooga Circuit (1999-2006); Circuit Counselor, Southern District (1991-1997)

**Congregational Experience:** Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Cleveland, TN (1998-present)

**Community and Other Experience:** Cleveland Kiwanis Club

**Brief Personal Statement:** None provided

**REV. BRIAN M. TRUOG**

**Address:** 263 Ootsima Way  
Loudon, TN 37774

**Educational Background:** BS, Concordia, Seward, NE (1977); MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (1982); STM, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (1984)

**Member of Synod Congregations:** 61 years

**Home Congregation:** Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Loudon, TN

**Synod Experience:** Convention Delegate (1983, 2016)

**District Experience:** Northern Illinois District: Pastor's Conference Program Committee; Circuit Counselor

**Congregational Experience:** Senior Pastor, Christ Our Savior, Loudon, TN (2011-present); Senior Pastor, Cross Lutheran Church, Yorkville, IL (2002-2011); Pastor, Cross Lutheran Church, Yorkville, IL (1987-2002); Pastor, Hope Lutheran Aurora, IL (1983-1987)

**Community and Other Experience:** Chairman, Loudon County Health Improvement Council (2015-present); Chamber of Commerce Ambassador (2015-2017); Fire Department Chaplain (1987-2011)

**Brief Personal Statement:** I would look forward to working with the President and Board of Directors to promote the Great Commission and the Great Command in our district. (Making Disciples and Loving Our Neighbors)