

THE NOMINEES FOR SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT

***REVEREND JOHN GIERKE**

Pastor, Peace Lutheran Church, Conway, AR

Pastor Gierke has served at Peace since 2002. He is currently serving as the Mid-South District Secretary and as a District Reconciler. He has served as the Second Vice-President of the Mid-South District, Circuit Visitor, Convention Administration and Finance Floor Committee Chair and on the Constitution Committee. Pastor Gierke has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Dickson High Noon and Conway Rotary Clubs. He has served as Secretary and President of the Rotary Club of Conway and has been a member of the Conway Regional Medical Center Ethics Committee. Pastor Gierke states that if elected again, "He would continue to strive to serve with patience, humility, and integrity so trust is fostered and built with one another walking together in Christ's bond of peace."

REVEREND WILLAM ONDRACKA

Pastor, Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN

Pastor Ondracka has served as Pastor at Christus Victor for 7 years. He has served as a Congregational President and has been a member of the LCMS for 16 years.

THE REGIONAL NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DISTRICT

Commissioned Ministers of Religion

(Vote for 1 in Regions 1 & 2, and one in Regions 3 & 4)

REGIONS 1 and 2

***TESSA BRASHER** (Region 1)

Director of Christian Education, St. John's Lutheran Church, Lafa, AR

Ms. Brasher currently serves as Director of Christian Education at St. John's, Lafa focusing on children and youth ministry. She has served St. John's in many capacities and offices including Sunday School teacher, VBS Director, Women's Bible Study leader and organist. She has served on the District level in both youth ministry and LWML. Ms. Brasher has taught in both public schools and Lutheran schools in Arkansas. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Mid-South District for the past 3 years.

CONNIE SOSO - GOINES (Region 1)

Deaconess, Grace Lutheran, Greenwood, AR

Ms. Goines is currently serving as Deaconess at Grace Lutheran in Greenwood. She has served as the Mission Servants Committee chairperson of the River Valley LWML and has served on the Rural and Small Town Mission Committee of the Mid-South District. She has a background in social services with San Bernardino County, California. She worked there as a Staff Development Training Instructor for Foster Care, Medi-Cal and Cash/Food Assistance programs.

REGIONS 3 AND 4

LINDSEY HOFMAN (Region 4)

Teacher, First Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN

Ms. Hofman has served as a teacher at First Lutheran for 6 years and is has been serving as Interim Principal for 3 years. She has served First in many capacities and offices including Planning Council member for 3 years, Ex-officio School Board member for 5 years. Since 2016, she has been a member of the North Knoxville Business Professional Association and has worked with German Saturday school. She wishes to build up the Mid-South District and serve our ministries well. She believes success begins with prayer, focusing on Scripture and handling each situation with a balance of Law and Gospel.

***SHIRLEY PIEPENBRINK** (Region 3)

Teacher, Retired, Immanuel Lutheran Church

Ms. Piepenbrink is a retired Lutheran School teacher with 38 years of experience. She has served schools in Wisconsin, Tennessee and in Asia. She is currently on the Mid-South District Board of Directors and on the LWML West TN Zone Board. Her congregational service has been on the Board of Evangelism and Missions, and in the Choir and Bell Choir. She will be traveling to Tanzania for Gospel Outreach in May-June.

A.J. VEGA (Region 3)

Director of Christian Education, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

Mr. Vega has been serving as the DCE at Immanuel since 2015. He is currently serving on the Mid-South District Youth and Family Ministry Board. He has experience as a Worship Leader and as an Outreach Coordinator. He loves sharing the gospel with young people both inside and outside the church.

THE REGIONAL NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DISTRICT

Lay Persons

(Vote for 1 in each Region)

REGION 1

BRENT NELSON

Member, First Lutheran, Harrison, AR

Mr. Nelson is an IT Service Management Consultant. He currently serves his congregation as an Elder, and sings with the praise team. He previously served as co-chair of the worship committee and as the youth committee chair. If elected to the District's Board of Directors, Mr. Nelson would strive to help the District continue to share the good news of Christ with others.

JEFF PITTMAN

Member, Pilgrim Lutheran, Jonesboro, AR

Mr. Pittman is a Professor of Business Law at Arkansas State University. He has both his JD and MBA. He has previously been a representative to the District convention 2 times. He has served Pilgrim in almost every management capacity. He has served as the school board President of Concordia Christian Academy for the last 10 years. Mr. Pittman would serve faithfully if elected. He believes the LC-MS is grounded firmly in the Word but isn't connecting well with younger members of society.

3rd Candidate to be confirmed

REGION 2

***MARC HIGGINS**

Member, Shepherd of Peace, Maumelle, AR

Mr. Higgins has over 30 years managing Fortune 500 healthcare companies in various roles. He has served as the President of the congregation, Chairman of the Lay Ministry Board and as a church council member for 15 years. He has served on the Mid-South District's Board of Directors for the last 2 years.

TIM LOYD

Member, Grace Lutheran, Little Rock, AR

Mr. Loyd is a Realtor. He was a delegate to the District convention in 2015. He is currently the Chairman of the congregation for the last 3 years. Before that, he was the assistant to the Executive Director for 3 years and has been an Elder for about 15 years. Mr. Loyd has an interest in the workings of the District and the LCMS.

ROBERT MORRIS

Member, Peace Lutheran, Conway, AR

Mr. Morris is a Deacon and Congregational President at his congregation, serving since 2017. He previously served his congregation as an elder from 2003-2017, as well as Congregational President from 2009-2013. Mr. Morris is a Board member for the Conway Interchurch Housing Autumn Manor since 2014, and has been President since 2016.

REGION 3

JUDY GERMAN

Member, Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Olive Branch, MS

Mrs. Judy German is a retired public school teacher (46 years). She holds a Bachelors and Masters of Education. Judy currently serves her congregation as the Co-Chair of the Fellowship Committee. She sings in the choir. Judy previously served as the Chair of the Board of Daycare from 1996-2001.

***FRED GUENGERICH**

Member, Redeemer Lutheran, Nashville, TN

Dr. Guengerich is a Biochemistry professor at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Previously he was the Director of the Center of Molecular Toxicology. He has served on the Mid-South District's Board of Directors since 2015. He has also served on the Mid-South District's Constitution Committee since 2012. He has served his congregation as President and has been Head of the Board of Elders since 1986. Through his District involvement, he understands both our blessings and the challenges we face.

DOUG WERTH

Member, Our Savior Lutheran, Nashville, TN

Mr. Werth is a retired finance executive. He has served as a Board member of the Concordia Welfare and Education Foundation for 12 years. He was also on the ABLAZE Strategic Planning team for 3 years. He has served on his congregations Board of Directors, Church Council and Board of Elders for about 10 years. He served as a Board member and Board Chairman at the Hong Kong International (LCMS) School for 7 years. He's also served on the Lutheran Hour Ministries National Leadership Council since 2016. He believes we are sent to share the Good News with all those who are living in the dark.

REGION 4

RANDY BUECKMAN

Member, Grace Lutheran, Knoxville, TN

Mr. Bueckman is a Biomedical Engineering Manager and has also served as a robotics mentor at a STEM Academy since 2011. He has served his congregation in many capacities for over 40 years. He previously served on the Mid-South District's Board of Directors for 6 years.

JOHN CADDELL

Member, St. Paul Lutheran, Wartburg, TN

Mr. Caddell is currently retired. He has served his congregation in various capacities including the Board of Elders, Vice-President, President for 5 years and youth leader. He served as a youth Football coach for about 10 years. He has been a lay delegate to both the LCMS and Mid-South District conventions several times.

ALBERT COLLVER

Member, First Lutheran, Knoxville, TN

Mr. Collver worked for General Electric for 37 years. He owned a logistics consulting business for 6 years. He has served his congregation in various capacities, including President and Vice-President for 10 years, Board of Trustees Chair for 7 years and an Elder. He has been a lay delegate to a LC-MS convention and served on the Life Together committee. He was also actively involved with the Boy Scouts for 10 years.

BOB NERGER

Member, St. Paul Lutheran, Wartburg, TN

Mr. Nerger is a retired Engineer. He has served his congregation in several management positions over the last 40 years. At the Mid-South District level, he served on the Board of Youth for 6 years, the East Region Youth Board for 15 years and has been on the Nominating Committee once previously. He's also served with the local Thrivent chapter.

***LARRY ZEHNDER**

Member, Cross of Christ Lutheran, Chattanooga, TN

Mr. Zehnder was a Local Government Administrator for the city of Chattanooga for 40 years. He is presently a consultant with a Design and Engineering firm. He has served on the Mid-South District's Board of Directors and Finance Committee since 2012. He was also on the Mid-South District's Congregational Assessment Team in 2017. He has served his congregation as the President for 6 years, a Head Elder for 6 years and has been an Elder since 2000. On 2 occasions, he's been the President of a state professional association and is currently an officer of the American Red Cross' SE Tennessee District. He would gladly serve another term on the Board of Directors if elected.

NOMINEES OF THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

ORDAINED MINISTER

(Vote for one in Regions 1 and 2, and one in Regions 3 and 4)

REGIONS 1 and 2**REVEREND RON BACIC**

Pastor, First Lutheran, Little Rock, AR

Pastor Bacic has been serving First Lutheran since 2009. He served Risen Savior in Buffalo, Illinois for his vicarage. Pastor Bacic is a member of the Toastmasters and is involved with the VA Mentoring Program.

REVEREND JON BEYER

Pastor, First Lutheran, Hot Springs, AR

Pastor Beyer is a lifetime member of the LCMS and is currently serving at First Lutheran in Hot Springs, AR. He has served as a District Vice President and as a Circuit Counselor. For 14 years he was on the board of Directors for the YMCA and he is currently working with Community Counseling Services.

REVEREND STEWART MARSHALL

Pastor, Trinity Lutheran, Pine Bluff AR

Pastor Marshall has served congregations in Ontario, Canada, Texas, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, and Arkansas. He is also a retired Chaplain of the United States Army Reserves. Pastor Marshall has served the Southern District as a 3rd Vice President, Circuit Counselor, and on the Nominations Committee. He has been a member of the Kiwanis Club since 2010 and has served on several Ministerial Associations.

REGIONS 3 and 4

REVEREND DAVID GRAVES

Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran, Wartburg, TN

Pastor Graves has been the pastor at St. Paul Lutheran since 2013. He has been involved in the Morgan County Correction Facility and the Local Community Outreach Boards.

REVEREND ROBERT PORTIER

Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran, Sevierville, TN

Pastor Portier has been the pastor at St. Paul for the past 11 years. He has served on the Administration and Finance Floor Committee for the Mid-South District Convention and was a Circuit Rep. to the LCMS convention in 2013. Pastor Portier has served on the Sevier County Right to Life and on the Board of Directors of the Women's Care Center.

REVEREND CHRISTOPHER SHEETS

Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN

Pastor Sheets has been the Senior Pastor at Good Shepherd since 2013. In his ministry he has served Congregations in both Arkansas and Illinois. At the District level he has been a Circuit Counselor, District Convention Floor Committee Chair and a Pastoral Delegate to the LCMS Convention. Pastor Sheets has served the community by working with the County Prison Ministry and the Kiwanis.

COMMISSIONED MINISTER

(Vote for one in Regions 1 and 2, and one in Regions 3 and 4)

REGIONS 1 and 2

DAVID STUCKWISCH (Region 2)

Director of Christian Education, St. John Lutheran Church, Stuttgart, AR

REGIONS 3 and 4

JUNE WILLIAMSON (Region 3)

Teacher, Immanuel Lutheran Church & School, Memphis, TN

LAY PERSONS

(Vote for one in Regions 1 and 2, and one in Regions 3 and 4)

REGIONS 1 and 2

THOMAS MANCUSO

Member, Grace Lutheran, Holiday Island, AR

Mr. Mancuso retired from NASA, Houston, TX, in 1999. He has served his congregation as President multiple times, as well as Trustee and Call Committee member. He is currently an Elder. Mr. Mancuso has been a Lay Representative to District and Synodical Conventions. He is active in the local Food Bank & Meals on Wheels ministries.

REGIONS 3 and 4

LARRY HOOD (Region 4)

Member, First Lutheran, Knoxville, TN

Mr. Hood is Editor and Design Director of Nation Monthly Trade Journal. He joined First Lutheran in 1987 and has served on the Board of Christian Day School and Board of Elders where he is currently serving as the chairman.

DON ISRAEL (Region 3)

Member, Our Savior Lutheran, Nashville, TN

Mr. Israel is a retired CPA and Financial Executive. He has served the Mid-South District as Treasurer and on the Board of Directors 2002-2010. At various times he has served Our Savior as Congregational President, Treasure, Board of Stewardship, School Board and Call Committees. He has chaired two Building Programs and is presently chair of the Endowment Committee.

DAN JACOBS (Region 4)

Member, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Chattanooga, TN

Mr. Jacobs served as a Delegate to the LCMS Convention in 2016 and was a Delegate to the Mid-South District Convention in 2015. As a member of Good Shepherd, he has served as the congregational President for 3 different terms. He has also served on various boards throughout the years. He was on the Board of Directors for the Goodwill Industries for 5 years and has been on the Executive Committee for the Goodwill. He is currently retired.

NOMINEES FOR LCMS COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS – LAY

ALBERT COLLVER

Member, First Lutheran, Knoxville, TN

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LLOYD WESSELS

Member, Trinity Lutheran Church, Pine Bluff, AR

Mr. Wessels is a retired Grocer and a lifetime LCMS member. He has attended several LCMS Synod Conventions and has served the Mid-South District on the Board of Directors for two terms. At Trinity, Mr. Wessels has served as congregational President, Treasurer and Secretary. He is a Master Gardener and has had served as the Chairman of the Home and Garden show.

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