

Biographical Information Form

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM:

ALLEGHENY SYNOD

NOMINEE FOR BISHOP OF THE

1. Name: Kevin Shock
2. Current Position: Assistant to the Bishop, Allegheny Synod
3. Congregation Membership: St. Mark Lutheran Church, Snyderstown (Howard)
4. Date and Year of Birth: 23 February 1975
5. Date and Year of Ordination: 30 September 2006
6. Previous Positions:
Assistant to the Bishop/Director for Evangelical Mission, Allegheny Synod

Pastor, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Pleasant Gap PA
7. Education and Earned Degrees (with institutions and years, most recent first):
ELCA Level 1 Coaching Certification, 2022

M.Div., Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, 2006

B.A, Secondary Education/English/German, Juniata College, 1998
8. List up to five (5) current or past synod or churchwide activities that would inform your service as bishop of this synod.
ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, 2025 and 2011

Nittany Conference Dean, two terms

Allegheny Synod Council, two terms

9. List up to five (5) current or past community-related activities that would inform your service as bishop of this synod.

Head Dog Shift Leader, Centre County PAWS, 2021-present

Board of Directors, Centre Safe, 2024-present

10. What gifts would you bring to the office of bishop of this synod? (1,000 characters maximum)

I love to dig into scripture, to be in conversation with others about Jesus, and to proclaim his good news. I can ask questions, inquisitive and challenging, about our common ministry. I have ideas about how our ministry could look, and I crave working with others to help those to take shape. Those aren't necessarily gifts that have traditionally been prioritized in the role of Bishop, yet they are my strengths.

11. What do you see as the principal challenge to this synod in the next six (6) years, and how would you address it? (1,000 characters maximum)

I see many challenges: the need for congregations to quit trying to "survive" on their own and enter into cooperative ministry; the urgency to raise ordained and lay ministers from among our own; the infiltration of societal values that oppose Christ and his mercy. All of these challenges may be rooted in one major challenge: lacking discipleship. I worry that we fall into the trap of loving an idea of Jesus more than we love Jesus. It is difficult to follow him into a communal life of loving and serving our neighbors in a time with so many other distractions. I don't know how to address it Synod-wide, but I'm open to suggestions.

12. Describe your leadership style. (1,000 characters maximum)

My leadership shines when I'm a player on a team. In such a position I feel free to let my ideas be heard and to encourage others to speak theirs, to ask inquisitive and challenging questions, and to seek consensus. I have felt less freedom to lead that way in the Office of the Bishop than outside the Office. Administrative tasks, keeping track of details in the system, making final decisions all cause me anxiety and eat at my call to ministry. I know this from experience. My openness to the role of Bishop is dependent on a hope that we can redefine the role.