

# Allegheny Lutheran Synod Bishop Transition Task Force



Bishop Election Process



# Key Focus Areas for the Synod



1. Developing, facilitating, nurturing the life and mission of the church in the conferences and congregations
2. Congregational Support
3. Synod-wide visibility
4. Financial Management

Survey results showed:

- Strongest correlation on effectiveness was on Congregational support
- Moderate correlation on effectiveness was on Financial Management



# Survey Results

## Top Two Priorities for Bishop over next 6 years

- **Evangelism & Stewardship**
  - Helping congregations with evangelism and stewardship
  - Assist congregations in determining vitality of their ministries
  - Articulate a hopeful, grace-filled vision of Christianity that will support and encourage increased participation in synod congregations
- **Congregational Support**
  - Helping congregations discern and develop gifts for mission
  - Long term planning for congregational viability
  - Unifying and merging small local congregations to encourage new life and growth
- **Communication**
  - Spread the message of what God is doing in the Allegheny Synod, not just to fellow Lutherans or church goers
  - Firm, clear and effective communication
- **Leadership Development**
  - Continue supporting seminarians through programming i.e. TEEM and financial support
  - Attract and retain gifted rostered leaders in the Synod & encourage recruitment of pastoral candidates



# Attributes of Bishop



- Transition Task Force felt exiting attributes were still valid from last Bishop Election.
- 5 attributes
  - Faith Life
  - Personal Traits
  - Leadership
  - Within this Synod
  - Beyond this Synod



# Faith Life



The person serving as Bishop exhibits personal habits of daily prayer and regular worship attendance. The Bishop is centered spiritually and is supported by a foundation in scripture, confessions and theology. Trust and faith in God is evident through everyday life, preaching, and leading worship.

- Loves the Lord
- Models faith in the Gifts of the Spirit
- Understands self and other as simultaneous saint and sinner



# Personal Traits

To effectively meet the responsibilities of the Office with confidence, the Bishop displays the traits listed below

- Works with humility, integrity and honesty
- Loves people and enjoys being with others
- Recognizes own inner skills, strengths, and weaknesses
- Compassionate, empathetic, and approachable
- Recognizes and is sensitive to the need for a personal support system
- Will be attentive to the need for care of self, both physical as well as emotional and spiritual



# Leadership



The Bishop, who is grounded in the faith of the Church, leads from that faith. Bishop has talents and skills necessary to develop organized processes, communicate clearly and in a timely manner, understands and interprets financial management of this synod and the courage to make difficult decisions. Bishop is an active listener; open to new ideas, embraces and recognizes the value of technology and social media; is flexible in resolving differences and will follow through with compromises and related decisions.

- Leads this Synod in the continuing articulation of a vision for mission
- Communicates to the world the joy and identity of Lutheran Christianity
- Understands the value of ecumenical relationships
- Peacemaker
- Relies on gifts and work of others while recognizing own ultimate responsibility
- Leads and motivates others to follow by example



# Within the Synod



The Bishop is expected to support the leadership of this synod. This support includes a commitment to identifying and encouraging rostered and lay leaders to reach their full potential as well as support for developing leaders. The Bishop also exerts appropriate authority over rostered leaders while simultaneously providing pastoral care. The Bishop must be mindful of the balance between these roles.

- Relies on a strong foundation in the Scriptures, Lutheran Confessions and theology
- Articulates the authority of the Church
- Provides pastoral presence and leadership to Synod congregations, especially in times of transition, stress or loss
- Upholds standards for, and establishes expectations for, rostered leaders
- Demonstrates a desire to know all congregations, both large and small





# Beyond this Synod



The Bishop demonstrates the commitment to mission and programs of the ELCA and to the Church as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

- Partners with Region 8 Bishops, seminary leaders and the Conference of Bishops
- Is committed to deepening the companion relationship with the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Actively participates in ecumenical and interfaith relationships, especially with Full Communion partners and Roman Catholic and Orthodox traditions in this Synod and beyond.



# Digital Assembly 2021



- Synod Assembly will be held digitally
- Zoom Meeting Platform will be used for viewing speakers and videos
- Voting for elections to be done online via balloting software program
  - Exact program TBD by Synod Assembly Committee
- Each voting member will need a digital device to be able to log in with specific voting member code provided at registration
  - Digital device can be laptop, tablet or smart phone



# Digital Assembly 2021



- Synod Assembly Committee will provide education and training on voting software closer to assembly
- Zoom Meeting – With internet connectivity in mind, some congregations will host onsite at their church for voting members to come together to watch the Assembly – please speak with your Pastor for specifics about your church set up.
  - Voting members can participate from home if they wish and feel comfortable with the technology
  - Tech support help line will be available during assembly that voting members or rostered leaders can call if they need assistance.



# Bishop Election Process Overview



- To be elected at Synod Assembly June 4 & 5, 2021
- Office of Bishop will be called to a six-year term
- Synod will use *ecclesiastical* ballot per our constitution
- No nominees declared prior to the assembly
- Any ELCA “rostered” pastor in good standing is eligible for nomination
- A total of five ballots are possible with the final ballot being limited to two nominees
- The majority of the votes cast on that fifth ballot would be declared the new Bishop and a call extended



# 1<sup>st</sup> Ballot



- First ballot is considered the nominating ballot
- In order to be elected on the 1<sup>st</sup> ballot,  $\frac{3}{4}$  legal votes cast required to elect
- Anyone wishing to remove their name after the 1<sup>st</sup> ballot, must submit a Request for Withdrawal form to the Synod Secretary
  - Forms will be available online or at each site in paper form
- Following the First ballot, those rostered leaders wishing to remain on the ballot should prepare Biographical Information Form



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Ballot



- In order to be elected on the 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot,  $\frac{3}{4}$  legal votes cast required to elect
- If no one is elected, move to 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot
  - Limited to 7 persons plus ties who received greatest # of votes
- Following the 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot
  - nominees will participate in a Question & Answer Session
  - those rostered leaders remaining on the ballot need to fill out an Authorization & Release for Background Check and Screening



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Ballot



- Question and Answer Session conducted prior to 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot
  - 3 questions selected by the Transition Task Force
- In order to be elected on the 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot, two thirds legal votes cast required to elect
- If no one is elected, move to 4<sup>th</sup> ballot
  - Limited to 3 persons plus ties who received greatest # of votes
- Speeches – nominees will be given time for a 5 minute speech prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> ballot to address the assembly



# 4<sup>th</sup> Ballot



- Speeches by 3 nominees plus ties will proceed the 4<sup>th</sup> ballot
  - Time limit will be set at 5 minutes for each nominee
- In order to be elected on the 4<sup>rd</sup> ballot, 60% legal votes cast required to elect
- If no election on the 4<sup>th</sup> ballot, would move to a 5<sup>th</sup> and final ballot





# 5<sup>th</sup> Ballot



- 5<sup>th</sup> Ballot - limited to 2 nominees plus ties who received greatest number of votes on the 4<sup>th</sup> ballot
- In order to be elected on the 5<sup>th</sup> ballot, majority of legal votes cast shall be necessary to elect.



# Synod Contact Information



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