

2019 Nominee

Vice President

4 year term expiring 2023

Name: Andrew Finstuen

Congregation: Redeemer Lutheran Church – Boise, ID

Occupation: Dean, Honors College/Interim Vice Provost Boise State University

Church Leadership & Participation: Andrew is a naturally gifted leader who faithfully served on Redeemer's council, including two years as the council president. Additionally, Andrew served on the nominating committee, the pastoral review team, a men's group participant and in worship leadership. Andrew served the wider church as a Pacific Lutheran University Regent for four years. In addition, Andrew is a producer of the film *An American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story* and author of the award-winning book *Original Sin and Everyday Protestants*. With both humility and humor Andrew brings extensive experience in leading effective meetings, synthesizing complex issues and situations, encouraging collaboration and participation, faithfully considering items from a theological lens and challenging those whom he leads to reach their full potential.

Name: Felicity Pittman

Congregation: Central Lutheran Church – Yakima, WA

Occupation: Church Youth Director

Church Leadership & Participation: Felicity Pittman has been hired by Central Lutheran Church in Yakima, WA to be our Director of Youth for the past four years. She is an excellent youth director. She has a wonderful rapport with our youth as indicated by the number of kids attending Wednesday evening youth activities and other youth events.

Felicity has planned and organized fundraising for the youth events like National Youth Gathering in Houston last summer, camping and hiking trips, and service projects for the community and Lutherhaven. She has actively been involved in numerous activities for the church. She plans and organizes receptions for new members, newly baptized, and graduation. She is the "go to" person to ask just about anything concerning the youth, Homeless outreach, and the church in general. Felicity is always willing to step up and help out wherever she can be of some assistance. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND her for the position

Upper Snake Cluster Representative

Clergy term expiring 2025

Name: Inger Hanson

Congregation: Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church – Jackson, WY

Occupation: Pastor

Church Leadership & Participation: As a solo pastor of a “little church with a big heart,” I am involved with most church activities, especially worship, education, and service. I cultivate ecumenical and non-profit partnerships to extend the reach of offerings and resources in my community. This has manifested in shared worship services, groundwork for a community conversation on race, and close connections with local hunger and domestic violence non-profits. While our cluster has geographic challenges, I am excited by the strength and inspiration that can come from informal connections between congregations, which I glimpsed from my congregation’s “Martin the Moose” project, and from leading last year’s Women’s Retreat at Luther Heights. I hope my practical small congregation experience, paired with my commitment to / vision of the wider expressions of church and partnerships, would be of use at the synod council level.

North Central Cluster Representative

Lay female term expiring 2025

Name: Debra Moore

Congregation: Celebration Lutheran Church – East Wenatchee, WA

Occupation: Retired

Church Leadership & Participation: Deborah has been a lifelong member of Lutheran Churches, serving on Youth, Outreach and Finance Committees. She is currently serving on the Celebration Lutheran Outreach Team and volunteers as a tutor for Hand in Hand Immigration Services. She has also been a leader in the OMNY program in both East Wenatchee and Ephrata.

For 15 years she served in elected office as a city council member and county commissioner. Her most recent job was Program Director for the Washington Agriculture and Forestry Leadership Program.

Deborah and her husband have farmed for 40 years in the Columbia Basin. She currently serves on a national committee, CARET, that advocates funding for agricultural research, extension and teaching. She meets annually with members of congress and staff to share the importance of agriculture.

At Large Lay male

Term expiring 2025

Name: Jim Girvan

Congregation: Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church – Boise, ID

Occupation: Retired, Professor Emeritus, former Dean and Public Health Professor College of Health Sciences, Boise State University.

Church Leadership & Participation: Jim has served as past-president of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran, Stewardship Committee member and new member Ministry Team. Search committee member for Luther Heights Camp Director.

Name: Brandon Burch

Congregation: Trinity Lutheran Church – Pullman, WA

Occupation: Software Engineer

Church Leadership & Participation: Brandon M. Burch is an Application Systems Analyst/Developer with the College of Veterinary Medicine, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington.

Brandon is an active and involved, long time member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Pullman, WA. Brandon, and wife Marilyn, have served as Financial Secretaries at Trinity Lutheran Church for 16 out of the last 22 years, serving on the Trinity Lutheran Church Council, and as a member of the Finance Committee.

Brandon has served as Treasurer for Lutheran Campus Ministry at Washington State University for nine years, has served as a Lutheran Campus Ministry board member, and is past president.

Brandon's gifts include the financial needs of the church, a desire to help others, and a willingness to serve. From his professional career, he is able to offer assistance in the digital world and has experience in visual communications. He has a heart for the life of the church, her care of people, and our ministry together "for the sake of the world."

At Large Lay female

Term expiring 2025

Name: Merlene Brockway

Congregation: Bethel Lutheran Church - Firth, ID

Occupation: Retired

Church Leadership & Participation: *Bethel Lutheran Church Council President for 5.5 years

*Bethel Lutheran Church Altar Guild Chair *Worship and Music Committee Member

*Upper Snake River Cluster Secretary *EWAID Synodical Women's Organization, Vice President currently Secretary *Voting Member to 10th Triennial Gathering of Women of the ELCA in 2017

*Organizer of the Upper Snake River Cluster Picnic 2017 and 2018

*Community Dinner Table, Blackfoot, ID—Kitchen Leader

Merlene actively serves the local church, synod and churchwide with enthusiasm and vigor. She gets things done through her hard work and seeking participation from others ensuring all can contribute to serving others. It is a pleasure to have her at Bethel and we know she would be a great contributor to the Synod Council.

Name: Karla Olson

Congregation: Peace Lutheran Church– Otis Orchards and American Lutheran Church – Newport, associate member

Occupation: Caregiver – three year old and 92 year old

Church Leadership & Participation: Lutheran World Relief Quilting - organized group at Otis Orchards and have been involved in other congregations over the last 30 years + Worship and Music Committee, American, Newport, several years Assembly Manager, EWA-ID Synod, ELCA 12 years and currently Assembly Manager coach (1 year)

Activity Coordinator and then Marketing Manager, Luther Park at Sandpoint Assisted Living Lutherhaven Ministries, Board Member 6 years, Grant manager 2 years, kitchen volunteer during fire camp. Married to ELCA pastor 30+ years

Youth Representative

2 year term – expiring 2021

Name: Fletcher Hamblen

Congregation: Our Savior Lutheran Church – Twin Falls, ID

Occupation: Student

Church Leadership & Participation: Fletcher worships at OSLC nearly every week. He has served as an acolyte, a reader, an assisting minister, and a lay preacher. He interacts well with people of all ages, and he has actively participated in volunteer work including the God's Work, Our Hands day of service.

He was chosen to represent the EWAID synod to the greater church by attending the ELCA Youth Leadership Conference in Omaha, NE in November 2018. Following this, he shared his experiences with the congregation. He is currently nominated to participate as a planner of next year's Leadership Conference.

He recently appeared on the local TV news to promote the congregation's largest annual fundraiser.

He has been graced with ample faith, curiosity, intelligence, and humor. These gifts will allow him to serve God's people well as the youth representative to the Synod Council.

Name: Claire Weber

Congregation: Hope Lutheran Church – Eagle, ID

Occupation: Student

Church Leadership & Participation: Claire is a committed and faithful high school student in our congregation. Service is one of her greatest assets and central to her understanding of living a life of faith. She is a natural leader, thoughtful, friendly, and positive. When she is elected to this position, she will bring her commitment and faithful perspective to the position; adding fresh energy, ideas, and providing a steady presence to the council gatherings/work together. You couldn't ask for a better voice to represent the youth of our synod. She is a gift!

Consultation Committee

Lay female

Name: Theresa Kappus

Congregation: Central Lutheran Church – Spokane, WA

Occupation: Librarian

Church Leadership & Participation: My primary involvement in church activities is to support my pastor spouse -- to be his “person to talk to”, his sermon test-audience, and his date for church and synod events. I serve on the worship team at Central Lutheran, preparing and presenting worship slides and serving as a lector. Past church involvement includes directing plays, singing in the choir, and providing an odd hot dish or two (odd being an appropriate adjective for my cooking) at potlucks.

A librarian at Gonzaga University for the past 20 years, I will be retiring in August 2019. I have served on committees at the library, the university, and for several professional organizations. I will be completing my three-year term on the board of the Washington Medical Librarians Association this summer as the outgoing Past President. I have excellent writing skills, no fear of public speaking, a talent for using humor to lighten up tense situations, and I can run a tight meeting (I prefer to keep things moving and get things done).

Name: Molly Hamblen

Congregation: Our Savior Lutheran Church – Twin Falls, ID

Occupation: Academic Coach/Advisor

Church Leadership & Participation: Interested in serving and helping where there is a need

Lay male

Name: Dan Harris

Congregation: Lutheran Church of the Master – Coeur d’Alene, ID

Occupation: retired mining

Church Leadership & Participation: I have been on Church Council 4 years in Coeur d’Alene and 6 years at church in Salt Lake. I have held President and Vice President Roles. I am currently the Chair of Stewardship Committee. I am currently on the Board for Lutherhaven Ministries.

Name: Jon Jensen

Congregation: Christ Lutheran – Walla Walla, WA

Occupation: retired journalist

Church Leadership & Participation: A lifelong Lutheran, Jon has been a member of six Lutheran congregations in five synods, giving him a broad base of experience. He has served on church councils in several of those congregations and has been active in many ancillary roles. He is a retired writer and copy editor. Jon is organized, thoughtful and tactful.