

Name: Barbara Harrison Condon

Current Position: Retired

Congregation Membership: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Boise, ID

Ordination Date: 09-30-1990

Previous Positions:

- Interim pastor for St. Paul's, Ontario, OR, Pastor, Synodical Net-Worker for Southern Idaho, Interim pastor for the The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Pocatello, ID
- Pastor for New Day Lutheran, Idaho Falls, ID, Interim pastor for Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran, Jackson, WY, Interim pastor for Bethel Lutheran, Firth, ID and Emanuel Lutheran, Blackfoot, ID. Priest for St. Paul's Episcopal, Blackfoot, ID
- Interim priest for St. John's Episcopal, Idaho Falls, ID, Interim pastor for The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Pocatello, ID
- Interim pastor for Bethel Lutheran, Firth ID and Emanuel Lutheran, Blackfoot, ID
- Hospice Chaplain, Bereavement Care Provider and Volunteer Coordinator, District Seven Health Department, Idaho Falls, ID
- Co-pastor, then solo pastor for First Ev. Lutheran, Idaho Falls, ID



Education and Earned Degrees:

- Certified in Death and Grief Studies from the Center for Loss and Life Transition, 2017
- M.Div. Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, CA 1989
- B.S. Geography and Planning, Texas State University, 1978

List up to five current or past synod or churchwide activities that would inform your service as bishop of this synod:

- Synod Council member
- Delegate to Churchwide Assembly
- Synod Net-worker for Southern Idaho
- Cluster Dean for the Upper Snake River Cluster
- Member of several Synod Committees over the years

List up to five current or past community-related activities that would inform your service as bishop of this synod:

- I served as worship coordinator for some of our community ecumenical services in Idaho Falls.
- Working with Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal, Disciples of Christ and Unitarian Universalist congregations for Sunday supply and other Diocesan and congregational activities.

- I served on the board, as a President of the Board, of Christian Counseling Services in Idaho Falls, ID
- I now work with congregations of various denominations across our synod and beyond, as well as the AAUW membership in Boise to provide grief and bereavement care through grief support groups and one-on-one meetings.

What gifts would you bring to the office of bishop of this synod?

Active listening is a skill that I have continued to work on both through being a parish pastor and now in my grief and bereavement ministry. I have the ability and willingness to be "present" with people even if that means days on the road to visit congregations and parishioners across our geographically large synod. Having helped start a new congregation in Idaho Falls I have wrestled with the conundrum of how to continue to minister to people who want their congregations to stay the same while also trying to help congregations reach out to new members of various generations and backgrounds. I am very willing to look outside the box when it comes to new ministries or revitalizing congregations.

What do you see as the principal challenge to this synod in the next six years, and how would you address it?

I don't believe that there is one principal challenge. The challenges I see are reconnecting congregations with the Synod. This would include having the synod leadership be physically present with them to listen to their concerns, celebrate occasions with them, and grieve with them when called for. Our synod continues to close congregations. We need to support, and get the ELCA to support, new ministries that may not look like traditional congregations but reach people looking for a spiritual connection in an alternative way. With the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic and the societal/political disharmony in our country, clergy have been retiring and leaving the ministry in droves. One of our challenges is to find more ways to support our current clergy in their calls and help people in our congregations discern a call to the ministry so that all of our congregations have pastoral leadership. Along with that, we need to continue to lift up, train, and support strong lay leadership.

Describe your leadership style.

I am a team player. No one has all of the gifts and skills that it takes to do the job of bishop. I would focus on the parts of the call that I have skills and gifts for and allow those with other gifts and skills to do the parts of the call that I am not as strong in. The ability and willingness to delegate is a strength I bring to the position. Clear and frequent communication is important to me. I also believe in the importance of physical presence whether that be in the office or in the congregational setting. I am also an active learner. If I don't know something I'm willing to seek out the answer or learn a new skill.