

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM

FOR BISHOP OF THE SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD

Please include a digital head shot with this completed form. The form will not be accepted without a head shot.

1. Name: Charles Leonard _____

2. Cell phone number: _____

3. Current Position: Pastor, St Mark's, Phila., Associate Professor at United Lutheran Seminary

4. Congregation Membership: St. Mark's, Philadelphia _____

5. Year of Birth: 1949 _____

6. Date and Year of Ordination: 12/ 15/76 _____

7. Previous Positions: _____

Assist. Pastor Messiah Lutheran Church, Philadelphia
Chaplain, United States Naval Reserve, Rank
of LCDR
Pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Missionary to Dutch Republic of Suriname, South America
Chaplain, Upsala College, East Orange, New Jersey
Associate Dean, Upsala College, East Orange, New Jersey
Interim Pastor, Atonement Lutheran Church, Philadelphia
Co-Interim at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Philadelphia
Director of Field education, Union Theological Seminary, New York
Director of Contextual Education, Lutheran Theological seminary Philadelphia
Director of Field Formation at United Lutheran Seminary
Pastor, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Philadelphia

8. Education and Earned Degrees (with institutions and years, most recent first):

Ed D	Columbia University	1997
M Ed.	Columbia University	1995
D Min.	Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary	1984
M Th.	Princeton Theological Seminary	1978
M Div.	Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia	1977
B Sci	Penn State University	1973

PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

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

I would bring a continue sense of organization and management

I would hope to bring a vision for the future and to promote the mission of the Synod _____

I like people and I have the gift of discernment

I bring a strong faith and commitment to enhancing the mission of the Synod

I relate well to most people and I am sincere in my dealings with others

I am a visionary

I am an encourager and like to empower people

2. What personal leadership challenges do you foresee as Bishop and how do you anticipate meeting those challenges? (1,000 characters maximum)

The next Bishop will have to encourage congregations and their leaders. There seems to be a low in excitement about the ministry. I want people to get excited about their faith and about serving Jesus Christ with their gifts. I want the Synod to see “the glass half full as opposed to the glass half empty”. I want people to realize that we need finances to operate the Synod, but money isn’t everything. I would want us to teach and promote the idea that Jesus has a mission for us to fulfill, no matter how small a congregation we may be. Our outreach to the outside and being faithful in reaching the lost and disenfranchised wherever they may be has become our foremost goal.

I see our congregations as aging and needing to reach the younger folk to hand-off the ministry. I believe that each congregation should have an outreach emphasis towards the poor, children , youth, families and senior citizens. We can’t do it all, but each congregation should be involved in some facet of this outreach. Fulfilling the “Great Commission” of Jesus Christ must be our main goal.

3. What do you see as the greatest gifts of this synod and how would you help grow these areas (1,000 characters maximum)

I believe our greatest gifts are our people. We are a very diverse group in the Philadelphia Area.

We have children, young adults, families, single people, married, various socio-economic groups, races and cultures. I would like to see us tap more into the gifts of these groups and work to have their voices represented on the various boards and committees of the Synod.

I would want to explore best practices of reaching the millennials and engage those who call themselves "spiritual, but not religious". I believe that some of these folks are a part of our Synod and I want to explore just how we help them become active in our Church. _____

I would want that those of African descent and Spanish speaking feel more valued and that they are an asset to the life of the Synod. _____

In essence, our greatest gifts are each other. _____

4. 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 believe that the Synod face many challenges for the next 6 years. It seems as if we will close more congregations if we're not able to get people excited about doing ministry.

Our mission support continues to remain somewhat stagnant. Some congregations are working under a significant financial deficit. We need to encourage and help them to find other streams of income for their ministries. The offering plate should suffice if everyone was carrying their share of the load, but we all know that this is not where most congregations are now. We all must emphasize stewardship and help people to recognize and utilize their spiritual gifts for the building up of the Kingdom. Each congregation will need to be encouraged to stress the individual call by baptism and that each should be involved in "making disciples". This must become a part of our DNA as Church.

We are also an aging Church that needs to find innovative ways of doing ministry in a post-modern society. This will mean doing church different. It will mean going out to where the people are to share in their struggles and to listen to where they see God working in their lives. Congregations will have to work more intentionally to connect and relate to those in their respective communities. ____

Our aging facilities of so many congregation need repair. We may have to "pool" resources and seek out more economical ways to get work done on these buildings.

Many congregations are feeling that they are out there "alone". I believe that we will have to explore and encourage more congregations to become involved in collaborative ministry. We know that this is a challenge for many congregations. Everyone wants their own pastor and facilities, but cannot afford to properly maintain either. We'll have to help people to see that "we can indeed accomplish much more together than we can alone". _____

5. Tell us a favorite story about Jesus and how you use it in your daily life (1,000 characters maximum)

The story of the "Rich Young Ruler" appeals to me most because it has to do with what I'm confronted with each day; helping people to understand that life is much more than their possessions. The young man wants what Jesus has to offer, but all his possessions holds him back.

Who we think that we are and how we value our "stuff" gets in the way of our service and commitment to Christ. Helping people to see how their pride, greed, self-righteousness, etc. get in the way of their relationship with the Lord. This may seem so simple to many, but it's been one of the greatest burdens I've carried in nurturing the faith of my people. _____

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Disclosure Form For Nominees

Out of care for this church, the following questions are asked of all who are making themselves available for election to churchwide office:

1. Have you ever engaged in, been accused of, charged with, or convicted of illegal conduct or a crime, including conduct resulting in suspension or revocation of your driver's license?

Yes No If yes, please explain on the attached paper.

2. Do you have any health conditions (physical or psychological) or any addictive behavior, including a history of drug, alcohol, or pornographic addictions that might interfere with your ability to serve or continue serving as a leader?

Yes No If yes, please explain on the attached paper.

3. Have you ever engaged in, been accused of, investigated for, sued, or charged with sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, substance abuse, child or spousal neglect or abuse, or financial improprieties?

Yes No If yes, please explain on the attached paper.

4. While on the roster, have you ever engaged in, been accused of, investigated for, charged with, or disciplined for any conduct proscribed in *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*?

Never Rostered Yes No

If yes, please explain on the attached paper.

5. Are you living in accord with *Vision and Expectations* and *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* for rostered persons in the ELCA and do you intend to continue to live in compliance?

Never Rostered Yes No

If no, please explain on the attached paper.

6. Have you ever engaged in any behavior or been involved in any situations that, if they became known, might seriously damage your ability to begin or continue in leadership and ministry?
 Yes No If yes, please explain on the attached paper.

I have read the above statements and my replies are true and accurate.

Charles Leonard

Print Name

Date: March 16, 2018

Signature: _____

Charles Leonard

I have attached ___ additional page(s). Yes No

Additional Information for Disclosure Form

Please provide as complete an answer as you deem appropriate on this sheet. Please make sure you number your answers to correspond to the questions. If there are more than one sheet, please number each page and note at the bottom "continued" prior to the last page.

Please write "Continued" if more pages