

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: Bill Vanderslice

2. Cell phone number: **Email:**

3. Current Position: Senior Pastor, Christ's Lutheran Church, Oreland, PA, 2015 – present.

4. Congregation Membership: Christ's Lutheran Church, Oreland, PA (Lower Montgomery)

5. Year of Birth: 1957

6. Date and Year of Ordination: 06/12/1983

7. Previous Positions:

- Senior Pastor, St Paul's Lutheran Church, Red Hill, PA, (Upper Montgomery), 1991 - 2015.
- Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church, Ridge Valley, PA, (Upper Bucks), 1983 - 1991.
- Contracted Seminarian, St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Fox Chase, (Philadelphia), 1982 - 1983.
- Pastoral Intern, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Eggertsville, NY, (Buffalo), 1981-1982.

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

- Senior Pastor Training, Gettysburg Seminary, 2016.
- Interim Ministry Training, 2009.
- Master of Divinity, The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, 1983.
- Clinical Pastoral Education, Bethany Medical Center, Kansas City, KS, summer 1980.
- BA, Human Resources, with a minor in accounting, Upsala College, East Orange, NY, 1979.
- Internship, Office of the Chaplain / Church Relations, Upsala College, East Orange, NJ, 1978 - 79.
- Internship, Office of Student Life, Upsala College, East Orange, NJ, 1977 - 78.

9. List up to five (5) current or past synodical or Churchwide activities that would inform your service as Bishop of this synod.

- Developed and applied the protocol for the pastoral care of congregational members and steps leading to the orderly close a congregation as the Bishop's Deputy. 2014 - present.
- Dean, Upper Montgomery Conference (3 terms), 1995 - 2001; 2012 - 2015.
- Chairperson, Bishop's Convocation, SEPA Synod, 2006 - 2016.
- ELCA Internship Supervisor, 1994 - 2015.
- SEPA Early Childhood Education Committee, 1991 - 1994.

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

- Community Grant Coordinator, Upper Montgomery Thrivent Chapter Board, 2009-2013.
- Treasurer and Executive Committee, Upper Perkiomen Community Ministerium, 1993-2014.
- Personnel and Finance Committees, Board of Directors, Upper Perk Senior Center, 2006-2009.
- Long Range Planning and Finance Committees, Board of Directors, Lutheran Community at Telford, 1986-1991.
- President, Pennridge Community Ministerium, 1987-91

PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

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

The Holy Spirit has given me a unique combination of analytical and management skills that inform me, with the input of others, to create a shared vision as well as a compassionate heart that guides my relationships.

I am a servant leader who nurtures a welcoming community through listening, learning, and participating together, while identifying common ground to build up the kingdom of God.

I bring good communication skills and a willingness to hear life experiences and views different from my own.

I encourage, affirm, and celebrate the diversity of God's people to strengthen relationships, align individual gifts and inspire others to accomplish goals that have been mutually defined.

I understand that there can be obstacles and resistance to change, but value these moments as growth opportunities.

I utilize best practices for administration, management of resources and technology, to partner with others in implementing the church's mission.

I bring a knowledge about fiscal responsibility by balancing three different congregational budgets that ranged between one hundred-fifty thousand dollars to one million dollars annually, by nurturing stewardship practices and new revenue streams.

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

Accessibility and Building Relationships

I recognize that the tasks of being a spiritual leader and administrator of a synod can impact accessibility to others and the focus of one's spirit.

I value regular contact with congregational and community members to learn from each other, explore new ideas and build meaningful relationships. I would intentionally spend time as the bishop with rostered and congregational leadership. I would visit congregations in support of their ministry and the mutual partnership shared between the synod and congregations. From small group gatherings, to include congregational and community leaders, I would develop visioning opportunities to engage, learn, create networks and form partnerships.

I am convinced that the people of God in community need to be grounded in God's Word and prayer in order to be open to what the Holy Spirit is doing and calling the people of God to do. I would focus as a pastoral leader on the people of God, build positive relationships, receive feedback and nurture a culture of trust, respect, and transparency, so that as a vibrant and welcoming community of faith we would be on the road together in implementing the mission of this church.

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

Jesus said to his disciples: *"But when you receive power from the Holy Spirit, you will be able to be my witnesses."* - Acts 1:8

The greatest gift is the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to do God's work in meaningful and new ways.

This synod has a rich heritage, with unique opportunities for ministry in our urban, suburban, small town and rural communities. Our diversity with respect to age, ethnic, cultural and gender identity is a gift from God.

This synod is a vibrant spiritual community. We can grow stronger by welcoming others, celebrating gifts, learning from others, and providing for full participation in the synod's mission.

Through transforming landscapes God says: *"See, I am doing a new thing! I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the desert"*- Isaiah 43:19

This synod has a history of trying new things. We can build on these experiences and explore new possibilities by encouraging collaborative ministries among rostered leaders, congregations and community partners.

By embracing our diversity and the gifts of the Spirit this synod will enhance its witness to *"proclaim good news to the poor, release to the captives, the recovery of sight to the blind, and to set the oppressed free."* – Luke 4:18

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)

One challenge facing us is the need to explore and develop meaningful ways of connecting to God, each other, and our communities, where everyone is welcomed at God's table.

I would support and grow these connections. Meaningful connections begin by acknowledging that everyone is a beloved child of God, and that together we are called into community with God and each other. "If one part of the body suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." - 1 Corinthians 12:26

Another challenge is the perception of limited resources which prohibit us from implementing the great commission "of going and making disciples." - Matthew 28:19.

I would seek ways to remind this synod that as God's children we are blessed with abundant gifts and the fruits of the Spirit that include "faith, wisdom, knowledge, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, speaking, interpretation, love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and gentleness." - Galatians 5 and 1 Corinthians 13

Our identity as beloved children of God, and the gifts of the Spirit, will equip us to go into our communities, identify needs and resources, build relationships and serve our neighbor.

5. Tell us a favorite story about Jesus and how you use it in your daily life.

I think of Jesus, who following his baptism, found himself in the wilderness where angels ministered to him and faith was tested.

As a foster child, I was baptized by the director of the Lutheran Board of Inner Missions in an office building in Philadelphia. In that moment my identity as a child of God was sealed.

Two years ago, I was diagnosed with leukemia. On the last day of chemotherapy that eradicated the disease, I experienced respiratory distress which brought me to the threshold of death. In that moment there were individuals ministering to me that I could not name. It was a deeply spiritual experience, as I realized those faces were individuals I had buried. Their assurance of God's presence gave me lasting peace and strength. Their message was clear: "God is working. There is nothing to fear."

What I discovered in the wilderness is that my pretenses faded, and my dependence on God strengthened, as I let go of my fears and made room for God to work through the medical personnel, prayers of the saints, gift of my son's bone marrow and all who cared for me.

I am blessed with health, a new immune system, and the energy of my twenty-six-year old son.

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.

Print Name: William A. Vanderslice

Date: March 19, 2018

Signature: William A. Vanderslice

I have 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.