



Supplement

Digital Virginia Synod Assembly
on April 27, 2024



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Bulletin of Reports: Report of the Secretary

- page B-9 addition

Non-Congregational Calls:

- Deacon Phyllis Cox accepted a call from Synod Council on August 8, 2023 to serve as Regional Faith Outreach Coordinator at Virginia Power and Light.



Report of the Assembly Nomination Committee

The Assembly Committee on Nominations for the 2024 Synod Assembly, co-chaired by Christine Weller and The Rev. Laura Swanson, reviewed all positions to be filled and attempted, where possible, to present more than one nominee for each position to be filled in a particular category.

The committee presents the following slate of nominees for:

Synod Council

- **Class of 2025**
 - Youth Member (1 to be elected; 1-year term; 11-12 grade)
 - Ali Armentrout
- **Class of 2025**
 - Appalachia Conference Partnership (1 Lay Member/any Gender to be elected)
 - Pat Carriker
- **Class of 2027**
 - Blue Ridge Conference Partnership (1 Lay Member/any Gender to be elected)
 - Cam Haggett
 - Appalachia Conference Partnership (1 Rostered Minister/Woman to be elected)
 - The Rev. Kayla Keilholtz

Consultation Committee

- **Class of 2029** (6 year term) Lay Member (2 to be elected, at least 1 man and 1 woman)
 - Lay Member - Man
 - Richard Fraenkel
 - N. Duane Melson
 - Lay Member - Woman
 - Kristee Trumbo

ELCA Churchwide Assembly

2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly (8 voting members to be elected)

- **Rostered Ministers (Pastor or Deacon):** (3 to be elected)
 - One man
 - The Rev. Michael Church
 - The Rev. Luke Swanson



- One youth/young adult (person of any gender; 30 or younger at time of election)
- One person of color and/or whose primary language is other than English (person of any gender)
 - The Rev. Harry Griffith
 - The Rev. Viktoria Parvin
 - The Rev. Tarja Stevenson
- **Lay Members (5 to be elected)**
 - One man
 - Tom Bartkiewicz
 - Richard Corliss
 - Carlton Hardy
 - One woman
 - Judy Castelee
 - Oris Griffin
 - One person of any gender
 - Sylvia Miles
 - One youth/young adult (person of any gender; 30 or younger at time of election)
 - Cam Haggett
 - Jillian Stierwalt
 - One person of color and/or whose primary language is other than English (person of any gender)
 - Dr. Yolanda Shea

ELCA Church Council

Nominees for the Class of 2031 - 2 to be elected (1 of which will be elected to a 6-year term at the 2025 Churchwide Assembly)

- Lay Member - Woman - person of color and/or whose primary language is other than English - Young Adult (between 18-30 years old at the time of election at the 2025 Churchwide Assembly)

(Report Date April 18, 2024 - Replaces the one included in the Bulletin of Reports)



**Strong
Connections**



Nomination Form for 2024 Synod Assembly

Nominee For: Consultation Committee

Consultation Committee

Nominee For: Consultation Committee: Lay Member-Woman

Do you Identify as a Person of Color
and/or Language other than English No

Nominee Contact Information

Name Kristee Trumbo

Preferred Pronouns she/her

Congregation/Parish Name and
Location Muhlenberg, Harrisonburg

Conference Southern Valley

Conference Partnership Valley (Central Valley, Northern Valley, & Page)

Nominee Experience

Nominee Occupation Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)

List experiences or factors that you
believe have prepared you for service in
this position (up to three)

~ I have worked professionally in private practice, a state agency, and a non-profit organization where the community setting played a major part of the cultures I served
~ I have served on state committees that focused on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice
~ I have been an active member in the Virginia Counselors Association



List current or past congregational, synod or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position (up to three)

~ Past Congregation Council President and current Council Vice President focusing on Ministry Revitalization
~ Served as Congregation Voting Member to the Synod Assembly 2017, 2023, and upcoming 2024 virtual meeting

List current or past community-related service activities (up to three)

~ Past Red Cross Board of Directors President
~ Past Board of Directors member for Nurse Family Partnership
~ Founder of the Harrisonburg Rockingham Mental Health Professionals Network

Will serve if elected

Yes

Submission

Name of person submitting the form

Kristee Trumbo

Signature

Date Submitted:

Apr 08, 2024



Strong Connections



Nomination Form for 2024 Synod Assembly

Nominee For: ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Member

ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Member

Nominee For: Churchwide Assembly: Lay Member-Woman

Gender Female

Do you Identify as a Person of Color and/or Language other than English Yes

Nominee Contact Information

Name Oris T Griffin

Preferred Pronouns She/Her/Hers

Congregation/Parish Name and Location Muhlenberg, Harrisonburg

Conference Southern

Conference Partnership Blue Ridge (Southern & Southern Valley)

Nominee Experience

Nominee Occupation Associate Dean College of Education James Madison University

List experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three)

As a person of color, I know the harm that the church has done. And unfortunately, in some cases, continue to do. I live it every day, and I want the church to own up to it, talk about it, and truly walk the talk. I want the church to be a model for the community, but to do this, the church universal has to truly believe its own creed. I do equity work in my job, and part of my job is creating a level playing field where every voice is heard, and everyone is treated equitably.



List current or past congregational, synod or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position (up to three)

I am a cradle Lutheran, and I have had the opportunity to participate in the life of the church for all of my life. This is an opportunity so many do not have, and I will never take it for granted. There is so much work to be done, especially within the ELCA, and I want to be part of that work as much as I can. The experiences that I have had include serving on the church council, teaching senior high Sunday school, serving on the candidacy committee, communion assistant, and serving as a lector, greeter, usher, and office assistant. And so much more.

List current or past community-related service activities (up to three)

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated
People Helping People
Quilting Group

Will serve if elected

Yes

Submission

Name of person submitting the form

Oris Griffin

Signature

Date Submitted:

Apr 05, 2024



Report from Reference and Counsel

The Assembly Committee for Reference and Counsel received two resolutions for consideration at the 2024 Virginia Synod Assembly. They are included in the Bulletin of Reports, Section D.

[D- Reports from Committee of Reference and Counsel.pdf](#)

Virginia Synod 2024 Resolution on Care for Creation

(Bulletin of Reports pages D-1 through D-4)

1. The Committee has suggested editorial amendments to the resolution. (See below, pages S-8 and S-9)
2. The Committee recommends adoption of the amendments.
3. The Committee recommends adoption of the resolution, as amended.

Restitution of Privileged Associate Membership

(Bulletin of Reports pages D-6 through D-7)

1. The Committee shares this feedback regarding the resolution:
 - a. The first “Resolved” is not constitutionally permissible. Based on [Guidelines for Memorials and Resolutions](#), “Resolutions and memorials may not direct the churchwide organization to take action because of the principle of interdependence of the three expressions of this church (churchwide organization, synods, and congregations)”.
 - b. The second “Resolved” is not permissible based on Section 39:6 of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*: “Motions that conflict with the corporate charter, constitution, or bylaws of a society, or with procedural rules prescribed by national, state, or local laws, are not in order.”
 - i. This resolution conflicts with the established definition of Associate Membership, as stated in the ELCA Constitution and Bylaws, and is therefore not in order.
2. Given these procedural and constitutional concerns, the committee does not recommend adoption.



Virginia Synod 2024 Resolution on Care for Creation

- WHEREAS scripture clearly describes God declaring all of creation to be good; and
- WHEREAS care for creation is deeply rooted in scripture-humanity created in God's loving image and given stewardship responsibility to tend that creation ; and
- WHEREAS we are called in faith as Jesus' disciples and as the church to love "your neighbor as yourself" as did Christ who gave himself for us and for the sake of the world; and
- WHEREAS the 1993 ELCA Social Statement Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice affirms that "we are called to care for the earth as God cares for the earth;" and recognizes that "action to counter [~~E~~earth's] degradation....is essential to the future of our children and our children's children;" and declares that "each congregation should see itself as a center for exploring scriptural and theological foundations for caring for creation;" and that "as congregations and other expressions of this church, we will seek to incorporate the principles of sufficiency and sustainability in our life"; and
- WHEREAS ~~the 2022 ELCA the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), meeting in Churchwide Assembly 2022,~~ reaffirmed "the commitment of this church to engage in creation care and advocacy based on the principles of sufficiency, sustainability, participation, and solidarity," and encouraged "congregants, rostered ministers, and bishops to commit themselves to education about the urgency of the climate emergency,¹ the global opportunities of a just transition [away from greenhouse gasses],² and to lift up loving our neighbor in response to the climate emergency in their preaching [teaching, and Christian witness]"; and
- WHEREAS as individuals, ~~as~~ congregations, and as a synod of the ELCA, we share the calling to care for creation; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED that the Virginia Synod in assembly ~~encourages direct~~ all congregations of the synod to accept their responsibility to be stewards of the earth, and ~~to~~ adopt a covenant such as the one provided by Lutherans Restoring Creation (attached). ~~which will provide support and educational materials to grow faithfully and intentionally in this responsibility as individuals within the synod by:-~~
- ~~Worshiping in ways that celebrate and foster care for creation;~~
 - ~~Educating adults and children about biblical and theological foundations for creation care, ecological issues, and community practices;~~
 - ~~Improving energy conservation efforts in church buildings and grounds, and in means of practicing ministry;~~
 - ~~Promoting earth-friendly, creation-sustaining practices of members at home and work;~~
 - ~~Demonstrating care for creation in their local communities, and~~
- ~~Advocating for energy policies at the local, state, national, and international levels that will foster cleaner, renewable, and more efficient energy use in all sectors of society;-~~



and be it further

RESOLVED that the Virginia Synod Council at its earliest convenience be requested to:

1. adopt the “Synod Covenant with God’s Creation” provided by Lutherans Restoring Creation and attached to this Resolution to assist in guiding the Virginia Synod congregations in caring for God’s creation.~~provide leadership and oversight of this covenant by directing the Creation Justice thread of the Tapestry Team to work with partner groups (e.g., Arbor Day Foundation, Blessed Tomorrow, Center for Climate Justice and Faith, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Citizens’ Climate Lobby, Honor the Earth, Land Stewardship Project, Lutherans Restoring Creation, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, The Nature Conservancy, Virginia Interfaith Power and Light, and others) for its fulfillment;~~
2. provide leadership and oversight of this covenant by directing the Creation Justice thread of the Tapestry Team to work with partner groups (e.g., Arbor Day Foundation, Blessed Tomorrow, Center for Climate Justice and Faith, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Citizens’ Climate Lobby, Honor the Earth, Land Stewardship Project, Lutherans Restoring Creation, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, The Nature Conservancy, Virginia Interfaith Power and Light, and others) for its fulfillment;~~adopt the “Synod Covenant with God’s Creation” provided by Lutherans Restoring Creation and attached to this Resolution to assist in guiding the Virginia Synod congregations in caring for God’s creation.~~

¹ Gen. 1:27; 2:15; 9:8

² Lk. 10:27, Jn. 13:34; Gal. 2:20, Eph. 5:1-2, Titus 2:14; Jn. 3:16-17, Rom. 8:19-21, Col. 1:20

³ IPCC, 2021: Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [Masson Delmotte, V., et al (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. See also the AR6 Synthesis Report of the IPCC, publ. March 19, 2023.

⁴ “Just transition” is the transition to a net-zero carbon sustainable, resilient world without leaving stranded individuals or communities...~~Knowing that climate change impacts marginalized and vulnerable people the most, we must commit to actions that leave no one behind. In our efforts to protect God’s good creation, we will not exclude voices, because doing so would only mirror and deepen existing racial, gender, and economic inequalities.~~ (from the ELCA Advocacy document “Just Transition to a Sustainable Future” March 2021, pp. 1, 7)



10 Things to Know about 1517 Media

Spring 2024

1. **All Creation Sings** continues to expand and provide new resources for your congregation to connect with each other, your community, and our world through worship and prayer. With the use of new editions in your church; accompaniment options on piano, organ, and guitar; intergenerational activities and sessions with **Gather Together**; and **Kids Celebrate** booklets for the youngest in your church, you can help support the rhythms of the whole church year and give extra attention to themes of healing and wholeness, creation care, justice and peace, praise and lament. augsborgfortress.org/allcreationsings
2. The Spanish-language **Oye Mi Voz: Un Libro de Oraciones para la Prisión** joins the popular **Hear My Voice: A Prison Prayer Book** in supporting people in the criminal justice system and those who minister to them. This collaborative effort between the ELCA and Augsburg Fortress encourages all in the criminal justice system to spend time in prayer, trusting in God's never-failing love for them and the whole world. augsborgfortress.org/prison-ministry
3. Augsburg Fortress released the first two books in its new Mouth House series. Every synod staff and congregational call committee can benefit from reading **Call to Allyship: Preparing Your Congregation for Leaders of Color** edited by Rev. Angela T. !Khabeb and featuring authors of color from throughout the ELCA. **Ashes to Action: Finding Myself at the Intersection of the Minneapolis Uprising** by Shari Seifert makes an excellent group read. augsborgfortress.org/mouthhouse
4. 1517 Media was awarded \$1.25 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its Nurturing Children through Worship and Prayer initiative. Funding will support research and the development of new resources for children, families, church leaders, and congregational education. Look for more news about this new multi-year program, **Unbridled Presence**.
5. Augsburg Fortress continues to publish vibrant music to engage the worshiping assembly. Our new choral music features an exciting anthem by Nathan Zullinger, "**God You Spin the Whirling Planets.**" **Living in Wonder** is the final collection of Susan Palo Cherwien's hymn texts, featuring 21 new assembly songs. Our free **Summer 2024 Music Clinics** feature musicians extraordinaire David Cherwien and Mark Sedio. augsborgfortress.org/music/summer-music-clinics
6. **Sparkhouse Digital** continues to support early childhood programming, Sunday school, confirmation, and youth ministry. New mini camps, leader supports, and other activities are added quarterly! Subscribers can access **Digital Activity Kits** that help congregations provide resources for use in the home or as a supplement to in-person faith formation activities. sparkhousedigital.com
7. Sparkhouse continues to release books supporting youth and young adults in their faith journeys. **Unscheduled Grace: 40 Reflections and Prayers for College Students** by campus pastors Katie Fick and Matt Marohl accompanies students through the changes, challenges, and joys of college living. **Unearthing Us**, the third collection of poetry by Joe Davis, will release in July along with a facilitator guide by Rev. Jia Starr Brown. wearesparkhouse.org
8. Fortress Press publishes scholarship that matters in the academy, the church, and the community. Recent releases include **Our Trespasses: White Churches and the Taking of American Neighborhoods**, a timely examination of how race, geography, policy, and religion have created haunted landscapes and uncomfortable truths. Also of interest to churches are **Luther for Everyone: Who He Was and Why He Still Matters** and **Bonhoeffer for the Church: An Introduction**. fortresspress.com
9. Our Broadleaf Books imprint expands the mind, nourishes the soul, and cultivates the common good. Recent releases include **Trash: A Poor White Journey**—a personal look at economic divides—**Psalms of My People: A Story of Black Liberation as Told through Hip-Hop**, and **A Faith of Many Rooms: Inhabiting a More Spacious Christianity**. broadleafbooks.com
10. Our Beaming Books imprint sparks the imagination and equips kids and families to live full and flourishing lives, together. Recent releases include **What If I Can't Explain God?, I Love You Mucho Mucho**, and **Everyday Brave**. beamingbooks.com

Want to learn more? Follow us on social media, sign up for our free e-newsletters, and connect with us at the Youth Gathering and Music Clinics this summer!

To learn more about the five imprints of 1517 Media, scan here to watch a video that we created for the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.

