



Nomination Form for 2025 Synod Assembly

Nominee For: Virginia Synod Council

Virginia Synod Council

Nominee For: Synod Council: Class of 2027-Lay Young Adult (30 or younger), any gender

Gender Nonbinary

Age at the time of the Synod Assembly 18-30 years

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

Nominee Contact Information

Name River B Smith

Preferred Pronouns they/them

Congregation/Parish Name and Location St. Mark, Floyd-Willis Parish

Conference New River

Conference Partnership Appalachia (Highlands & New River)

Nominee Experience

Nominee Occupation Recent Graduate, currently in transition

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

Served on Student Leadership Board with LuMin (Lutheran Ministries) at Yale University, 2022-2025, ie weekly worship planning and other events

Active and lifelong member at St. Mark, Willis and currently serving and worshipping at Grace Lutheran, Waynesboro

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

Worship leadership at St. Mark i.e. serving as lector, musician, acolyte and crucifer, etc.

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

Internship in 2023 in community organizing for safe and affordable housing in Waynesboro, Va. with Virginia Organizing 4-H Staff and Team Leader

Will serve if elected

Yes

Submission

Name of person submitting the form

Wanda Childs

Signature



Date Submitted:

Jun 06, 2025



Nomination Form for 2025 Synod Assembly

Nominee For: Virginia Synod Council

Virginia Synod Council

Nominee For: Synod Council: Class of 2029-Lay Member from Appalachia Partnership, man

Gender male

Age at the time of the Synod Assembly 31 or older

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

Nominee Contact Information

Name Nathaniel Porter

Preferred Pronouns he/him

Congregation/Parish Name and Location Our Saviour, Christiansburg

Conference New River

Conference Partnership Appalachia (Highlands & New River)

Nominee Experience

Nominee Occupation Professor of University Library and Sociology at Virginia Tech

List experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three) Masters in Systematic Theology and Ministry in Daily Life from Luther Seminary, life-long Lutheran, Scholar of Sociology of Religion, has a Phd from Penn State, Power in the Spirit speaker this summer "Tomorrow's Church: How congregations and our neighbors are changing"

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

Commissioned as a Virginia Synod Authorized Minister, Served as Council President and Council member, chair of the Audio Visual Team, Bible Study and Adult Education Leader at Our Saviour Lutheran in Christiansburg

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

Lesson designer and teacher in International Data Science Education Program, certified in Mental Health First Aid and Certified Accessibility professional (CPACC)

Will serve if elected

Yes

Submission

Name of person submitting the form

Wanda Childs

Signature



Date Submitted:

Jun 10, 2025



Nomination Form for 2025 Synod Assembly

Nominee For:	Virginia Synod Council
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Virginia Synod Council

Nominee For:	Synod Council: Class of 2029-Rostered Minister from Valley Partnership, woman
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Gender	Female
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Age at the time of the Synod Assembly	31 or older
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Do you Identify as a Person of Color and/or Language other than English	No
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Nominee Contact Information

Name	Rev Deanna Boynton
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Congregation/Parish Name and Location	Grace, Winchester
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Conference	Northern Valley
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Conference Partnership	Valley (Central Valley, Northern Valley, & Page)
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Nominee Experience

Nominee Occupation	Chaplain, Valley Health
List experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three)	Experience in congregational and non-congregational calls Supply preach at various congregations in the Synod, giving a view across contexts
List current or past congregational, synod or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position (up to three)	Served as Pastor of North Mountain Parish, Toms Brook and Strasburg as they developed their parish agreement Served as a representative to the Virginia Council of Churches Currently serve under special call from Synod Council as Chaplain at Valley Health, Winchester
List current or past community-related service activities (up to three)	Serve on the Northern Shenandoah Valley Faith Community Nurse Coalition Board Serve as co-chair of the BioEthics committee for Valley Health
Will serve if elected	Yes

Submission

Name of person submitting the form	Deanna Boynton
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Signature



Date Submitted:	Jun 13, 2025
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Nomination Form for 2025 Synod Assembly

Nominee For:	Committee on Discipline
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Committee on Discipline

Nominee For:	Committee on Discipline: Lay Member-Any Gender
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Gender	Woman
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Age at the time of the Synod Assembly	31 or older
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Do you Identify as a Person of Color and/or Language other than English	No
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Nominee Contact Information

Name	Erin Geoffrion
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Preferred Pronouns	She/her
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Congregation/Parish Name and Location	Grace, Winchester
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Conference	Northern Valley
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Conference Partnership	Valley (Central Valley, Northern Valley, & Page)
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Nominee Experience

Nominee Occupation

Teacher

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

Middle School teacher (mandatory reporting training)
Served 3yrs on Commission of the Status and Role of Women (UMC) which, among other mandates, supported and advocated for women and people in vulnerable positions

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

Former United Methodist pastor (joined ELCA 2022)

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

Worked with youth with severe behavioral challenges to teach academic and life skills

Will serve if elected

Yes

Submission

Name of person submitting the form

Erin Geoffrion

Signature

Date Submitted:

Jun 13, 2025



Nomination Form for 2025 Synod Assembly

Nominee For: Committee on Discipline

Committee on Discipline

Nominee For: Committee on Discipline: Rostered Minister: Any Gender

Gender Female

Age at the time of the Synod Assembly 31 or older

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

Nominee Contact Information

Name Sister Phyllis C Cox

Preferred Pronouns She/her

Congregation/Parish Name and Location Christ, Staunton

Conference Southern Valley

Conference Partnership Blue Ridge (Southern & Southern Valley)

Nominee Experience

Nominee Occupation Deaconess, formerly Faith Community Outreach Coordinator with Virginia Interfaith Power & Light

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

- 1- served two terms as both Congregation Council member, president, and Pastor/Parish Relations chair
- 2- Retail store manager for 20+ years
- 3- Represented the Deaconess Community of the ELCA at the Churchwide Assembly's social justice conference in 2022

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

1- serve as the only member of the Deaconess Community of the ELCA in the VA Synod
2- serve as co-chair of both the Tapestry Team (all social justice areas and the Creation Justice area.

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

Serve on National Board of Directors of Industrial and Commercial Ministries, Inc.

Will serve if elected

Yes

Submission

Name of person submitting the form

Phyllis Cox

Signature



Date Submitted:

Jun 13, 2025



Nomination Form for 2025 Synod Assembly

Nominee For: Committee on Discipline

Committee on Discipline

Nominee For: Committee on Discipline: Rostered Minister: Any Gender

Gender Female

Age at the time of the Synod Assembly 31 or older

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

Nominee Contact Information

Name Rev. Elise Anderson

Preferred Pronouns she/her

Congregation/Parish Name and Location St. John, Abingdon

Conference Highlands

Conference Partnership Appalachia (Highlands & New River)

Nominee Experience

Nominee Occupation Pastor (word and sacrament)

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

I have been an ordained pastor for nearly six years and have walked alongside a congregation through a rather traumatic pastoral change.

I taught high school for multiple years and was able to see many different situations where disciplinary actions were needed for both students and staff. This allowed me to see how different leadership and systems worked to help or hurt those situations and people involved.

I was on senior staff at Lutherock for two summers and had to work with the camp directors to solve issues with campers and staff alike. We had to find creative solutions to tough problems and many of the issues that came up were interpersonal in nature.

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

I am currently serving St. John Lutheran Church in Abingdon, VA. I formerly served Trinity Lutheran Church in Chattanooga TN. When in seminary I was the student director of our Public Church Fellowship program. This program worked with students to pair them with non-profits in the city of Chicago where they completed up to 20 hours a week for those organizations. This position created opportunities to supervise fellow students, build relationships with organizations in the city, and mediate any conflicts that would arise.

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

I work as a certified athletic trainer for the local school system. I worked as a donations coordinator and volunteer trainer for the Regional Outreach Cooperative in Chattanooga for four years, this organization trained homeless outreach specialists.

Will serve if elected

This is a self-nomination

Submission

Name of person submitting the form

Elise Anderson

Signature



Date Submitted:

Jun 13, 2025
