



## **Report of the Assembly Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee for the 2025 Synod Assembly, chaired by Judy Castelee, 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**

Nominee for Class of 2027 – 1 member (*Synod Council appointed in 2024*)

- One Lay Member, any gender:
  - Young Adult (30 or younger)
    - River Smith

Nominees for Class of 2029 – 6 members

- One Lay Member, man:
  - Piedmont
    - Jerry A. Hoke
- One Lay Member, man:
  - Appalachia
    - No nominee identified by the time of the report
- One Lay Member, any gender:
  - At-Large
    - Patricia Corliss
    - Karen Sutton
- One Lay Member, any gender:
  - Person of Color or whose primary language is other than English
    - Sylvia Eley
    - Cedric Wilson
- One Rostered Minister (Pastor or Deacon):
  - Coastal- woman
    - Deacon Liz Brendle Fox
    - Deacon Lisa Geiger
    - Rev. Tina Melusky
    - Rev. Jennifer Osheim-Owen
- One Rostered Minister (Pastor or Deacon):
  - Valley- woman
    - Rev. Kristen Van Stee



## Report of the Assembly Nominating Committee

### Committee on Discipline

Nominees for Class of 2031 - 4 members (6-year term)

- Three to be elected, lay members: at least 1 man, 1 woman, 1 any gender
  - Woman
    - Erin Hagar
  - Man
    - Charles Page
  - Any Gender
    - Marty Holliday
- One to be elected, rostered minister: 1 any gender
  - Rev. Joel Neubauer

### ELCA Church Council

Nominee for Class of 2031 - 1 to be elected (6-year term)

- Lay Member - Woman - person of color and/or whose primary language is other than English - Young Adult (at the time of the synod assembly between 18-30 years old)
  - No nominee identified by the time of the report
  - (Note: While Jillian Stierwalt has already been nominated for the position at the 2024 Synod Assembly, the ELCA Constitution requests that two nominees be presented to allow attendees at the 2025 Churchwide Assembly to vote for one of two candidates.)

Intertwining  
Hope**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** Age at the time of the Nonbinary**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



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**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.

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**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

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**Will serve if elected**

Yes

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### Submission

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**Name of person submitting the form**

Wanda Childs

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**Signature**

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**Date Submitted:**

Jun 06, 2025

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## Nomination Form for 2025 Synod Assembly

**Nominee For:** Virginia Synod Council

### Virginia Synod Council

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

**Gender** Man

**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** Jerry A Hoke

**Preferred Pronouns** he, him

**Congregation/Parish Name and Location** Our Saviour, Warrenton

**Conference** Germanna

**Conference Partnership** Piedmont (Richmond & Germanna)

### Nominee Experience

**Nominee Occupation** Semi-retired Physical Therapist

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

Grew up on a farm, worked in factories during college.

Have worked in nursing home, hospital, and home health settings, so I have experienced and understand people of varied work and career settings.

Have experience in long-range planning and emergency preparedness.

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

Multiple terms on congregation council, including council president over 3 decades.  
Served on many groups at OSLC including church choir, 2 call committees, mutual ministry, property, and worship committees.  
Served on OSLC/St Luke, Culpeper ministry partnership committee

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

Past member of Blue Ridge Ruritan Club.  
Fauquier Hospital Emergency Preparedness Planning Group  
Virginia Medical Reserve Corps

**Will serve if elected**

Yes

**Submission****Name of person submitting the form**

David Raecke

**Signature****Date Submitted:**

Jun 01, 2025

Intertwining  
Hope**Nomination Form for 2025 Synod Assembly****Nominee For:** Committee on Discipline**Committee on Discipline****Nominee For:** Committee on Discipline: Lay Member-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** Marty Holliday**Preferred Pronouns** she/her**Congregation/Parish Name and Location** Zion, Floyd-Willis Parish**Conference Conference** New River**Partnership** Appalachia (Highlands & New River)**Nominee Experience****Nominee Occupation** Executive Director of the New River Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board**List experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three)**

Marty has a Bachelors in Human Resource Management, Regional operations manager with Florida Tile, 175 employees including management staff, so discipline was part of her job. Equal Opportunity Officer in her region, which covers 13 municipalities so she is familiar with strict procedures to determine next steps in the process. She has been in



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

Served on church governing boards since she was 21 years of age - Episcopal Vestries & Lutheran Church Councils, currently serving as Zion Council President. Has served as Joint Council President Lutheran Youth Leader - 4 out of state trips from Zion and Church School Teacher. Marty is also a commissioned lay preacher and a commissioned Synod Authorized Minister.

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

High School Band Chaperone, Girl Scout Leader, Girl Scout Leader Trainer, (Green Circle)

**Will serve if elected**

Yes

## Submission

**Name of person submitting the form**

Wanda Childs

**Signature**

**Date Submitted:**

Jun 02, 2025



Intertwining  
Hope**Nomination Form for 2025 Synod Assembly****Nominee For:** Committee on Discipline**Committee on Discipline****Nominee For:** Committee on Discipline: Lay Member-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** Charles Page**Congregation/Parish Name and Location** Good Shepherd, Lexington**Conference Conference** Southern Valley**Partnership** Blue Ridge (Southern & Southern Valley)**Nominee Experience****Nominee Occupation** Retired, Financial operations in healthcare and banking Former**List experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three)**

Boy Scout Assistant Scout Master- Annual safety and procedural review relating to scout safety and adult training.

Oversaw Human Resources Department for a 200 employee healthcare company

Dealt with several direct report staff concerning behavioral and procedural issues

as Bank Branch Manager

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

All positions associated with Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lexington:  
Currently serving as church council member  
Attend weekly Bible study  
Member of Virginia Synod Endowment Investment Committee

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

Former board member of McHenry County (IL) Chamber of Commerce  
Weekly volunteer for The Community Table of Rockbridge Area  
Member of Greater Lexington Newcomers Club, serving on the Event Planning Committee

**Will serve if elected**

Yes

**Submission****Name of person submitting the form**

Charles Page (from JCastelee

**Signature****Date Submitted:**

Jun 01, 2025