

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT NOMINEES**  
**Churchwide Assembly – Clergy**

**Robert G. Argot, Jr.**

- 1) Pastor
- 2) Holy Spirit, Reading
- 3) Congregational Advocate for Thrivent Financial; Member of Adult Sunday School Class; Chaplain at three Nation Scout Jamborees
- 4) previously Chair of Boy Scout Troop Committee; member of Hamburg Area Music Association; currently perform with Berks Summer Band Institute
- 5) previous Bear Creek Camp Board, Chair of Bear Creek Camp Facilities Assets Committee; Chair of Hawk Mountain Lutheran Committee on Scouting; currently serving as Secretary of West Berks Mission District Council
- 6) 2016

**Kurt E. Garbe**

- 1) Pastor
- 2) St. Peter, Bethlehem
- 3) Supply preach; Companion Synods
- 4) N/A
- 5) Worship; Leadership Development
- 6) 2007; 2003

1. Vocation/Occupation
2. Congregation membership
3. Involvement in congregation & other churchwide organizations

4. Involvement in community
5. NEPS Committees/Task Forces served
6. Prior Churchwide Assemblies attended

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT NOMINEES**  
**Churchwide Assembly – Clergy**

**Russell F. Haab**

- 1) Pastor
- 2) St. John, Slatington
- 3) Global Missions Committee/Chair of Tanzania Team, and committee person for ELCA/ELCT Companion Synod/Diocese Consultation; Advisor for Lutheran Youth Fellowship; Advisor for Congregations Lutheran Youth Gathering
- 4) Convener of Northern Lehigh Pastoral Association, Northern Lehigh High School Baccalaureate Services
- 5) Global Ministry Committee
- 6) None

**Bruce G. Osterhout**

- 1) Pastor
- 2) Zions Lutheran Perry Twp., Shoemakersville
- 3) Helped start Berks County Confirmation annual retreat at Bear Creek Camp; Member of the Northern Berks Ministerium; Served 24 years at St. Luke's/Christ, Reading; Perform annual Renew Your Wedding Vows pre-game service at Reading Phillies; Thrivent Builds Habitat for Humanity supporter; Northern Berks food pantry and community garden volunteer
- 4) Potato Project supporter; started "Faith at the Movies" night at the Hamburg Strand Theater; helped produce two (2) commemorative Luther beers to raise funds for mission; Greater Berks Food Bank board member for 9 years; Ready Set Read, United Way, tutor
- 5) Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Pennsylvania Policy council member 6 years; Synod Assembly planning committee; Previously Bike for Hunger committee
- 6) 2016

1. Vocation/Occupation
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5. NEPS Committees/Task Forces served
6. Prior Churchwide Assemblies attended

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT NOMINEES**  
**Churchwide Assembly – Clergy**

**Julie G. Osterhout**

- 1) Pastor
- 2) Trinity, Wernersville
- 3) Member of West Berks Mission District Council; Directed West Berks Mission District Music Camp 2016 and will direct it in 2018; participated in 1<sup>st</sup> Call events
- 4) Ecumenical Affairs Committee locally in Wernersville; West Berks Mission District Hospital Visitors Program; Potato Project supporter
- 5) Currently serving on Discipline Committee
- 6) 2016 as visitor

**Anthony P. Pagotto**

- 1) Pastor
- 2) Dinkey Memorial, Ashfield
- 3) Pastor of St. James, Zenith (2004-2008); Pastor of Dinkey Memorial, Ashfield (2008-present); Pastor of St. John's, Jim Thorpe, East on Purchase of Service Agreement (2013-present); Serve as chaplain at Bear Creek Camp for summer sessions
- 4) Assist with local fire company as chaplain and secretary; Read 1 day/week with students at local elementary school; Assistant coach for Lehighon Cross Country Team
- 5) Joint Conflict Resource Team (2016-2018); Current Dean of Hazleton-Lehighon Mission District
- 6) None

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2. Congregation membership
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6. Prior Churchwide Assemblies attended

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT NOMINEES**  
**Churchwide Assembly – Clergy**

**Carl D. Shankweiler**

- 1) Staff (part-time) Northeastern PA Synod
- 2) Zion, Frackville
- 3) Pastor, Trinity, Buck Run and Pastor, Zion, Frackville; President, Lutheran Board for Mission Support
- 4) Tri-Valley School Board member
- 5) Secretary and Archivist, Northeastern PA Synod; Saxony Companion Synod Committee
- 6) 2009

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| 1. Vocation/Occupation  | 4. Involvement in community             |
| 2. Congregation membership                                      | 5. NEPS Committees/Task Forces served   |
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**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT NOMINEES**  
**Churchwide Assembly – Lay Female**

**Tina M. Argot**

- 1) High School Math Teacher
- 2) Holy Spirit, Reading
- 3) Congregational Advocate for Thrivent Financial; Member of Adult Sunday School Class
- 4) Past President of Hamburg Area Music Association
- 5) N/A
- 6) 2016

**Terry Fry**

- 1) Retired teacher
- 2) Christ, Oley
- 3) Member of church council-1<sup>st</sup> term; Organize monthly senior citizen luncheon-coordinating with Exeter Township; “Crossing Bridges” program to help with the luncheon; Team member of visiting group for shut-in members
- 4) While my children were involved in sports in the Oley Valley Youth Program-coached every team my children were on.
- 5) N/A
- 6) None

1. Vocation/Occupation
2. Congregation membership
3. Involvement in congregation & other churchwide organizations

4. Involvement in community
5. NEPS Committees/Task Forces served
6. Prior Churchwide Assemblies attended

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT NOMINEES**  
**Churchwide Assembly – Lay Female**

**Deborah Matern Graf**

- 1) Parish Deaconess/trained Spiritual Director
- 2) Trinity, Reading
- 3) My ministry includes; working with children, youth and Learning Ministries, Mission and Service, and Member Care; Active member of LDA/Lutheran Deaconess Conference (a community of deaconesses serving around the world.)
- 4) Regular volunteer at Opportunity House (local shelter for homeless people) and Greater Berks Food Bank; Family Promise (interfaith hospitality network) coordinator and overnight volunteer; Member of Vox Philia Chamber Choir
- 5) Presently: youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministry Team; Saxony Companion Synod Committee; Accompanied youth to visit South Central Diocese of Tanzania; and Loebau/Zittau District of Saxony
- 6) 2016, 2007

**Mary Ann Hazel**

- 1) Retired Nurse
- 2) Trinity, Lehighton
- 3) Women of the ELCA Vice President (Trinity); “Free” publicity venues promoting Trinity’s ministries; Former Hazleton/Lehighton WELCA coordinator (2008-20018); Hazleton/Lehighton WELCA secretary since 2012; Former NEPA WELCA board member (1998-2000)
- 4) Blue Mountain Health System Women’s Cancer Support Group; Former Group leader (2006-2014)
- 5) Tanzania Committee (2005-2010)
- 6) None

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2. Congregation membership
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4. Involvement in community
5. NEPS Committees/Task Forces served
6. Prior Churchwide Assemblies attended

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT NOMINEES**  
**Churchwide Assembly – Lay Female**

**Louise A. Sellers**

- 1) Retired
- 2) Trinity, Lehighton
- 3) Served in their store; member of Quilters; served on hospitality crew for church dinners; Mutual Ministry
- 4) N/A
- 5) N/A
- 6) None

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|---|---|
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| 2. Congregation membership                                      | 5. NEPS Committees/Task Forces served   |
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**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT NOMINEES**  
**Churchwide Assembly – Lay Male**

**Thomas Engle**

- 1) Engineer, Lab Manager
- 2) St. John, Boyertown
- 3) Served on congregation council for 9 years (non-continuous);  
Served on Mission District Council for 7 years (non-continuous);  
Second year on Synod Council; Teach Sunday School; lead Bible  
Study groups and retreats
- 4) N/A
- 5) Program Committee
- 6) None

**Alvin W. Sellers**

- 1) Retired
- 2) Trinity, Lehighton
- 3) Served on Church Council-president 1 year-vice president 2 years;  
chair of Property Committee at the present; chair of Personnel in  
the past
- 4) President of Thrivent Advisory Board for 6 years; Chaired the End  
Hunger Carbon County Food Package Program
- 5) N/A
- 6) None

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churchwide organizations

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6. Prior Churchwide Assemblies attended



**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT NOMINEES**  
**Churchwide Assembly – Lay Male**

**Mark Stana**

- 1) Substitute Teacher
- 2) Christ, Hellertown
- 3) Faith Formation Team member; Bear Creek Camp Ambassador for the congregation; Audio visual technician for the Contemporary Praise Service; Organize and run monthly breakfasts
- 4) Assist local Boy Scout Troops in hikes/biking requirements for their Eagle badges
- 5) Currently member of Different Ability Resource Team (A-Team); Bethlehem/Easton Mission District Council member/ Former member of the Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry Team
- 6) 2016, 2013

**Joseph Thompson**

- 1) Equipment operator and part-time Web design
- 2) St. Paul, Breinigsville
- 3) Council member; Evangelism; Webmaster; Media Outreach
- 4) President of Lower Macungie Fire Department; Den Leader Pack 431
- 5) N/A
- 6) None

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4. Involvement in community
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6. Prior Churchwide Assemblies attended

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT NOMINEES**  
**Churchwide Assembly – Person of color or language other**  
**than English-Lay Male**

1. Vocation/Occupation
2. Congregation membership
3. Involvement in congregation & other churchwide organizations
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5. NEPS Committees/Task Forces served
6. Prior Churchwide Assemblies attended

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT NOMINEES**  
**Churchwide Assembly – Young Adult Female**

**Katie Fritchman**

- 1) Door to door salesperson
- 2) St. John, Easton
- 3) Lay reader and singer; helper with children; author of annual church Christmas Pageant
- 4) Active in political groups; High School debate and mock trial groups
- 5) N/A
- 6) None

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|---|---|
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| 2. Congregation membership                                      | 5. NEPS Committees/Task Forces served   |
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**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT NOMINEES**  
**Churchwide Assembly – Young Adult Male**

**Elijah J. Kolman**

- 1) Plumber
- 2) St. Peter, Bethlehem
- 3) Regular worship attendance; help around the church building
- 4) N/A
- 5) NEPS Tanzania Committee
- 6) None

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|---|---|
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| 2. Congregation membership                                      | 5. NEPS Committees/Task Forces served   |
| 3. Involvement in congregation & other churchwide organizations | 6. Prior Churchwide Assemblies attended |