

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM:

NOMINEE FOR BISHOP OF THE NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD

1. Name: Charles Grube
2. Current Position: Pastor
3. Congregation Membership: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Dallas, PA
4. Date and Year of Birth: February 22, 1959
5. Date and Year of Ordination: August 14, 1988
6. Previous Positions:



Pastor, St. James Lutheran Church, Raughtown, PA (Upper Susquehanna Synod) 1988-1997
Teacher, Junior-Senior High School choral and classroom music teacher, 1981-1984

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

STM, Lutheran Theological Seminary Gettysburg, 2004
MDiv, Lutheran Theological Seminary Gettysburg (Honors in New Testament), 1988
BMus, Susquehanna University, 1981

8. List up to five (5) current or past synod or churchwide activities that would inform your service as bishop of this synod.

Serve on Synod Council
ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Member (two times)
ELCA Youth Gatherings (five times)
Seminary Internship Supervisor (six times)
Companion Synod Representative for Argentina & Uruguay

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

Board of Directors for Community Food Pantry
Board of Directors for Ecumenical Enterprises (Nursing/Assisted Living non-profit corporation)
High School Baccalaureate Speaker (five times)
Co-founder Jersey Shore (PA) Area Habitat for Humanity

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

I have trust in Christ's salvation and forgiveness, the Holy Spirit's work among us, the church's mission as the body of Christ living today, and our identity as children of God and disciples of Jesus. I feel I am a patient, gracious, and empathetic person. I am a good and careful listener. I treasure collegiality. I am rooted in theological, biblical, and liturgical thinking. My ministry has provided a certain wisdom that comes with age and experience, and I have relished opportunities to share that with partners in ministry who seek counsel. I am likewise invigorated when I learn new things and experience new ways from others, especially from younger people.

11. 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 significant challenge is the structure of the synod itself, how it will operate, and who will do it. Our synod has changed a great deal over the past 12 years and more, but our current state of transition may be an opportunity to reconfigure these dynamics more fundamentally. I would encourage prayer, imaginative thinking, and frank and open conversation among all people of the synod on the way together. By extension, the church's voice together in unity would be a strong witness to a world so fractured and fraught with so many "isms" and injustices.

12. Describe your leadership style. (1,000 characters maximum)

I feel most comfortable when the community works together to ideally build consensus. To that end, listening with empathy and grace is an important part of my leadership style, as is incorporating a broad and diverse community to work toward a goal. I am quick to delegate particular matters to those who are more adept in those matters. I am supportive and encouraging to those with whom I work, and value collegiality in the process.