

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM:
NOMINEE FOR BISHOP OF THE NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD

1. Nelson Quiñones

2. Pastor at St. John's Fogelsville, PA

3. St. John's Lutheran Church, Fogelsville, PA

4. February 6, 1965

5. April 21, 2002



6. Previous Positions:

- San Martin de Porres Lutheran Church, Allentown, PA
- Christ Lutheran Church, Easton, PA
- St. John's Lutheran Church, Allentown, PA

7. Education:

- Lutheran Theological Seminary Philadelphia MDiv., 2001.
- United Wesleyan College, Allentown, PA. BS, 1990.

8. Synod & Churchwide Activists:

- Lehigh Mission District Dean
- Synod Info Gathering Team Member
- Synod Council Liaison Representative
- Synod Witness & Service Ministry Team Member
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Churchwide Assembly Voting Delegate

9. Community-related Activities:

- Ecumenical joint worship services and church picnic, Community Park Tree Lighting, Catechetical outings, and Vacation Bible School with the United Church of Christ.
- Founding member of La Iglesia Cristiana La Hermosa -An ecumenical mission venture with The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church and The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.
- Arranged the participation of an interfaith and ecumenical gathering with Muslims, Lutherans, and UCC Youth and adults.
- Created a program for the Celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation that involved the theological views of the Roman Catholic, Buddhist, Latino, African American, and Muslim perspectives with the Lutheran faith.
- Guest Chaplain, Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- Guest Chaplain, U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Capital.

10. From a very young age I had a religious lens of learning. I don't know much about quantum physics but when I read in the Bible Jesus saying, "I am the light of the world." I understood that light travels from long distances as particles or waves. So I would wonder in thought from my reading, "Then, Jesus' particles and waves are showering us with light."

I grew up in a school district where the student body was composed of Caribbean, Latin American, Middle Eastern, African American, and Anglo American students. I had the opportunity to become friends with my classmates. In the process, I learned about their culture and religions. I tasted and ate their foods. This gift from God has been nestled in my life journey. This community of believers has been accented in my pastoral ministry in reaching out to network together. The gifts I bring to the office of bishop of this synod are an interfaith and ecumenical ministry of collaboration.

11. By the end of the 1980's the NEPA Synod had 303 congregations. We are now looking at 251 congregations in our Synod. The principal challenges facing our Synod is the closing of churches, a shortage of pastors and candidates, and the financial viability of local congregations to continue their ministries. Reading this and hearing it out loud is concerning but we cannot shy away. That's the law before us.

In my pastoral care approach, an alternative to address this decline may lie within the congregations' life. Salvation of a congregation may be reaching out to its new surrounding community and learning new ideas and new approaches to ministry. In addition, liberation for a congregation may be found in putting its efforts on reaching out instead of being consumed by the idea that it may close its doors. We gathered in the church because we believe that God's gospel is good news. To this end, we are a mission church that goes out to proclaim life. When God's Spirit moved over the waters it was a creating force. We are a living source of God's Spirit. We are also a creative force. I believe in providing creative efforts and resources when we work together. This is an opportunity to be a mission church.

12. My leadership style is one that is fed from the collaboration of and from the people I am gathered with. I come to a consensus because the group has come to a consensus. I believe in God. I believe in myself. I believe in God's community to provide answers in challenging times. Working together we can reach out the goals for church ministry. We are each others' resources in God's church. I continue to see through that religious lens that we can solve the issues and concerns facing our Synod—together.