



Presentation of Nominees for Council, Synod Assembly,
and the Endowment Fund Committee

Council Presentation

PRESENTED AT THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 24, 2024

The Nominating Committee

- 1 Greta Grosch, Chair: Vice President Congregation Council
- 2 Kai Nilsen: Senior Pastor
- 3 Tracy Strantz: 2ND year Council member / Communication Committee
- 4 Jim Meinen: 2ND year Council member
- 5 Diane Betterley / Solid Ground Action Group
- 6 Grant Rykken / St John's Bible Action Group
- 7 Bill Reichwald / Cemetery Committee
- 8 Carrie Grafstrom / Worship Arts
- 9 Claudia Wiebold / Ralph Reeder Action Group
- 10 Nancy Stutzman / Small Group Ministry Team
- 11 Harold Torunsky / Tanzania Action Group

Council Members (three-year term)

OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Greta Grosch, Gil Hartley, Katy Gibbs, Bev Ogren

RETURNING COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Pastor Kai Nilsen

Tracy Strantz

Mike Vant

Kevin Roloff

Jim Meinen

Amy Johnson

Nominees for Council



Steve McCormack Nominee, Church Council

Steve and his wife Kris started attending Incarnation in 2022 after moving here from St Croix Falls, WI. Their daughter and her family attended here, and Steve and Kris soon became members. As a retired general dentist, Steve was a small business operator, and also served on the council at his previous church. At Incarnation he has participated in small groups, choir, monthly service projects with Hearts & Hands, the Feed My Starving Children MobilePack™, Habitat for Humanity, Global Health Ministries, funerals, and helped to get pickleball underway! Steve agreed to serve because he feels the warmth and energy of the community at Incarnation and wanted to be a part of that and wants to lend a hand where needed... like Rotary's pledge of "Service Above Self."



Katie Solfest

Nominee, Church Council

Katie and her husband Mark have been members for 20 years, and have 3 adult children. Katie has served as a Sunday School Teacher, Confirmation Guide, Small Group Participant and Leader and on the Small Group Leadership Committee, and with Feed My Starving Children. Katie has a degree in business administration and, before having children, was part of a management team at a call center for an insurance company. A leader, listener, creative thinker and team player, Katie's mom was active on her church council in her retirement, and Katie honors her mother's memory by agreeing to serve.



Ted Trahan

Nominee, Church Council

Ted and his wife Sharon have been members since 1993, and their (now adult) children Greg and Käthe were both baptized here.

Ted has served as a Confirmation guide, participated in (and led) numerous small groups, sings in Choir, volunteered for FMSC and Habitat for Humanity and served on council in the early 2000's — serving as president in 2004. Ted worked for 30 years in the biomedical industry (at Medtronic) and, in career 2.0, is now writing fiction. Ted continues to be grateful for the many things going on at Incarnation, including worship, music, small groups, service and stewardship opportunities, shared joy and shared grief. Ted says, “The council has done such a great job reflecting on the mission and vision of the church. The three pillars that guide the \$3.7M campaign are a perfect example. I am excited to work with a great group of people for a soul-driven higher purpose! This community inspires me, and serving on council is a way to reflect back the grace I have received.”



Sheri Hansen **Nominee, Church Council**

Sheri and her husband Bill have been at Incarnation since 2014, and have two young sons, Alex, 9, and Joe, 7. Sheri has participated in Feed My Starving Children, recently served on the call committee to call Pastor Joy, and her kids are in ILC kids and are part of the Grace Notes bell choir! Sheri is currently the director of communications, advocacy, and public outreach for the Minnesota chapter of the American Institute of Architects. She is also a licensed attorney. Sheri says, “I agreed to serve because Incarnation has given me and my family a great deal over our years of membership; it has expanded our hearts and minds, and helped us on our faith journeys and as members of our broader community. It is an honor to serve and give back however I can.”

Representatives for Synod Assembly (three-year term)

Current Synod Assembly Representatives:

Ken and Rosalie Grosch

Claudia and Don Wiebold

Vernita Kennen

Nominees for Synod Assembly



Deacon Jerry Dufeck **Synod Representative**

Jerry and Sharon, empty nesters from Shoreview, joined Incarnation in 2016 after Jerry's call at Living Waters in Lino Lakes. They have one daughter, Rachel; son-in-law, Craig; and two college-age grandchildren, Lindsey and Zach, who both attended Pastor Janet's basketball camps. Jerry, a U.S. Navy veteran of 23 years, also worked in civil service and as a contractor in telecommunications and security engineering. He began ministry formation at Gettysburg Seminary in 1997, entered public ministry in 2011, and has served in various roles, including pastoral care, prison ministry, hospice volunteering, and council leadership.



Ken and Rosalie Grosch **Synod Representatives**

Rosalie and Ken have been members at Incarnation for 30+ years where they have been active in small groups, choir, women's and men's groups, Kairos, church council, 2 call committees, Synod Representatives, Feed My Starving Children, Children's Ministry, wood working and quilters. Before their retirement, Ken served as the director of Global Health Ministries, and Rosalie was the Director of Activities at a long-term care facility. In addition, Ken and Rosalie served as missionaries in Ethiopia, Papua New Guinea, and China.



Vernita and Dale Kennen **Synod Representatives**

Vernita and Dale have been members at Incarnation 20+ years, and are active in the Hunger group, Kairos, small groups, Holy Hammers, woodworkers, Esther Circle, Women Read, Library group and the Kairos planning team. Before retirement Dale served as an FDA investigator, and Vernita was a public school librarian. They have been involved in Lutheran congregations in three ELCA synods and have strong connections with Lutherans in Brazil. To be a Lutheran Christian, Vernita says we need to see the whole of God's work in our world — being a voting member at synod assembly affirms that.



Claudia and Don Wiebold Synod Representatives

Claudia and Don have been members at Incarnation since 1998 when their son hit confirmation age. At Incarnation, they have been involved with Small Groups, served on worship teams, and helped with FMSC Mobile Packs at Incarnation and monthly packs at Coon Rapids. Recently retired from IT work, Claudia also serves as the chairperson of the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf Action Group, serves on the FMSC Action Group, and plays in the bell choir. They both enjoy biking, hiking, kayaking, reading, and traveling, and are privileged to serve as ELCA synod representatives, as they appreciate learning about synod activities and taking part in synod business.

Endowment Fund Committee (three-year term)

OUTGOING:

Mark Ostlund

RETURNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mark Tollander

Fred Lawless

Bill Reichwald

Matt Rowles, Jr.

Liz Thompson

Kai Nilsen

Nominee for the Endowment Fund



Al Montgomery Endowment Fund

Al and his wife Janet have been members at Incarnation since 2000. Al has participated in many groups including a “Dads Group”, “Your Money or Your Life”, and “Connecting in Grace”. Al also served on the original “Spirit Calls” Campaign Committee, and served on Council from 2015–2017. A retired orthodontist, Al owned and ran private practices in Shoreview and Woodbury for 35 years.

**Thank you to the 2024 Nominating
Committee and the Congregation
for their support of this process.**

