

IN OUR ELCA CHURCH BODY,  
WE RECOGNIZE  
“BOUND CONSCIENCE”

“BOUND CONSCIENCE DESCRIBES  
THE SITUATION OF THOSE WHO,  
AFTER CAREFUL REFLECTION AND  
DISCUSSION,  
HOLD A POSITION ON PASTORAL  
AND ETHICAL CONCERN BECAUSE  
THEY ARE CONVINCED OF IT BY  
PARTICULAR UNDERSTANDINGS OF  
SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION AND  
SEE IT AS INEXTRICABLY LINKED  
WITH FAITHFUL LIVING.  
IT ALSO EMPHASIZES THE  
IMPORTANCE OF RESPECTING THE  
CONSCIENCE-BOUND NATURE OF  
THE CONVICTIONS OF OTHERS IN  
THE COMMUNITY OF CHRIST.”

TASK FORCE FOR ELCA STUDIES  
ON SEXUALITY 2006

“WITH PRIDE AND  
CONVICTION WE  
BOLDLY PROCLAIM,  
‘EVERYONE’S WELCOME.’”  
NEW SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
TURTLE RIVER

## OTHER RESOURCES

### ReconcilingWorks

ReconcilingWorks advocates  
for the acceptance, full  
participation, and liberation of  
all sexual orientations, gender  
identities, and gender  
expressions within the  
Lutheran Church.  
reconcilingworks.org  
651.665.0861  
info@ReconcilingWorks.org  
PO Box 8070  
Saint Paul, MN 55108  
Monday - Friday  
8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries

Believes the public witness of  
gender and sexual minority  
ministers transforms the church  
and enriches the world.  
Elm.org

312-759-7070  
operations@elm.org  
P.O. Box 14317  
Chicago, IL 60614-8503

## LGBTQ+ ACCOMPANIMENT TEAM

A MINISTRY OF THE  
NORTHWESTERN  
MINNESOTA SYNOD, ELCA

*Recognizing and  
Welcoming the*

*Gifts of LGBTQ+\*  
Candidates for Ministry*



\* lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
transgender, queer(LGBTQ+)

**Northwestern  
Minnesota Synod  
Concordia College  
Moorhead, MN 56562**

☎ (218) 299-3019 | (800) 452-3692

📠 (218) 299-3363

✉ btesch@cord.edu



***“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”***  
Frederick Buechner

**How can we help?  
Let’s talk!**

This Team is looking forward to walking with your congregation as you prayerfully discern your congregation’s needs and the gifts of available candidates.

Let’s spend some time together! When we’re invited to join you for conversation, it might look like this:

The Northwestern Minnesota Synod needs gifted rostered leaders to fill the many positions currently open for our congregations’ spiritual leaders. The good news is we have gifted leaders available for a call right now, including those in the LGBTQ+ community. How might we connect these capable candidates with congregations in the call process?



The purpose of this LGBTQ+ Accompaniment Team is to accompany congregations in their discernment process through dialogue, education, advocacy, and support in specifically recognizing the gifts and calling of LGBTQ+ candidates: Diaconal, Pastoral, and Synodically Authorized Ministry.

**Evening One**  
Introductions  
Bible Study  
Reflection  
Congregational Considerations

**Evening Two**  
“Facilitated conversation on hopes, resources, concerns, questions, and next steps: opportunities to grow!”

**A MESSAGE  
FROM THE BISHOP**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our team designed this way of speaking and listening with each other and with God about the possibilities of LGBTQ+ candidates for a ministry serving in NW MN Synod congregations. I see this as a stewardship issue. God is calling people to ministry who are gifted and open to service to the whole church, and we recognize the need to prepare both congregations and LGBTQ+ candidates for ministry together. This process will honor the ELCA’s commitment to respect its members’ “bound conscience.” Congregations whose bound conscience would preclude them from considering these candidates may, of course, opt out. This process is designed for congregations who may not have thought about this possibility before and for those who are conscience-bound and for those who are conscience-bound to fully embrace the gifts of all of God’s diverse people.

In Christ,

*Bill Tesch*  
Bishop Bill Tesch

