

Western Iowa Synod ELCA

2026 Nomination Biography(Enter your information in the spaces below)

Position Nominated for: Synod Discipline Committee

My conference: Seeds of Fatih

My name (first, middle initial, last): Sandy Kropf

My congregation: Bethel Lutheran

Congregation's town/city: Graettinger, IA

The ELCA values diversity among the voices in its governance. Several elected positions are categorically reserved in an effort to create or maintain diversity. If the position you are nominated for is reserved by any of the definitions listed below, please check the appropriate box. SAM, TEEM, or Vicar qualify as Lay for nominations.

- Rostered Youth (under 18)
- Lay Female Young Adult (18-30)
- Lay Male Person of Color/Non-English Primary Language
- Non-English Primary Language

Please use this space to highlight your experience (professional or work experience, congregational responsibilities, and community involvement) in relation to the position you are nominated to serve:

I am a retired elementary teacher. As a former educator I was involved in many meetings with staff and parents to resolve conflicts. As a member of Bethel Lutheran Church, I have served on Council (including the role of President 2 times), chairman of Prayer Team, and working with other leaders in Sunday School, Food Pantry Committee, and Shared Ministry. Although these church roles aren't usually a source of conflict, there were times we had to discuss how to deal with a situation which may not have been acceptable to those involved. After retirement I became a member of the Western Iowa Synod Candidacy Committee. This has been an enjoyable experience to walk along with Candidates as they go through the process, however there have been times we had to discuss issues with candidates that were not going well and could possibly cause them to be removed from pursuing their career as a rostered minister.

Please use this space to share what motivate your interest and your desire to serve the position to which you have been nominated.

I was asked by my Pastor to serve on this committee. I am a good listener, and try to be a person that listens to all information involving a situation which has been brought before a committee. I have had experience in other committees where we had to tell someone they could no longer continue to be part of the group they were working with in the church, or the position they were pursuing with Candidacy. It is never an easy decision, but it is always a decision that was made asking God's guidance in the process.

**Western Iowa Synod ELCA
2026 Nomination Biography**

(Enter your information in the spaces below)

Position Nominated for:	Discipline Committee (Living Waters-Rostered)
My conference:	Living Waters
My name (first, middle initial, last):	Edward W H Pease
My congregation:	Trinity Lutheran Church
Congregation's town/city:	Moville

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- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rostered | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (under 18) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-30) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Person of Color/non-English primary language |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-English Primary Language |

Please use this space to highlight your experience (professional or work experience, congregational responsibilities, and community involvement) in relationship to the position you are nominated to serve:

I have served on the Discipline Committee for 1 year, completing a term that was vacant. I currently serve on the Candidacy Committee. I am a Rostered Leader, serving Trinity Lutheran Church, Moville, IA. Before that I served as a Synod Authorized Minister as a Candidate for Ordained Ministry at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Rock Valley, IA.

Please use this space to share what motivates your interest and your desire to serve the position to which you have been nominated.

I desire to serve the church and the people of the Western Iowa Synod of the ELCA. Serving on this committee while not particularly glamorous, is one way that I can serve.

I think that it is important that we take seriously all allegations and handle them in timely, victim-centered, and justice oriented ways.

**Western Iowa Synod ELCA
2026 Nomination Biography**

(Enter your information in the spaces below)

Position Nominated for:	Discipline Committee
My conference:	Hands of Hope
My name (first, middle initial, last):	Emily D. Sauer-Alvarez
My congregation:	St. Olaf
Congregation's town/city:	Fort Dodge, Iowa

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I've been a pastor for 19 years in Iowa and Illinois. My current call is to St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge, Iowa where I have served the last 6 years. The general knowledge I bring to this position is an understanding of the complexities of leading a congregation. The inner workings of the church can be fascinating as well as challenging. I also know what it's like to be a pastor and the unique joys & challenges that a person faces in this position. On this committee I would bring the skills of leadership, active listening, and discernment.

Please use this space to share what motivates your interest and your desire to serve the position to which you have been nominated.

I've been in Western Iowa Synod for 6 years and felt it was time to have a more active role within our synod.