

Pre-election Canvass Biographical Information



1. Full name

The Rev. Dr. Lawrence James Clark, II

2. Congregational membership (including city and state)

St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church (Chicago, Illinois)

3. Ordination year and location

September 10, 1995 Lutheran Church of Our Savior (San Francisco, California)

4. Have you attended a rostered leader's boundaries workshop? Yes

5. If yes, what year and what location? Fall 2018

6. Have you attended a comprehensive systemic racism workshop, like the synod's 2.5-day "Understanding and Analyzing Systemic Racism" workshop? Yes

If yes, what year and what location? *Not sure of the Date and Year*

7. Language proficiencies

English

8. Formal education and earned degrees (include institutions and years of attendance)

Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta (ITC)	DMIN	2011- 2017
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC)	DMIN	2000-2007
Trinity Lutheran Seminary	MDIV	1991 - 1995
San Francisco State University	BA	1984 - 1986
City College of San Francisco		1982 - 1984
Lowell High School		

9. Current position

Senior Pastor, St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church	2009 - Present
---	----------------

10. Recent positions

Executive Director of the Lutheran Theological Center in Atlanta (Atlanta, Georgia)	2006 - 2009
Interim Pastor, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church (Georgia)	2006 - 2008
Associate to the Bishop – Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA	2000 - 2006
Pastor, Bethany Lutheran Church (Chicago, Illinois)	1995 – 2003

11. Recent or most impactful continuing education experiences (including year and location)

Coaching (I am currently in the process of being credentialed as an Associate Certified Coach with the International Coaching Federation) – Coach Mentoring and Coaching Lab 200 (2019)

12. Community involvement

Chaplain, Chicago Fire Department (CFD) (Volunteer)
Advocate Trinity Hospital Governing Board (3 terms)
Amelia Earhart – LSC (Chairperson) PAC/ Real Men Read
Elder Abuse Taskforce

13. Congregational involvement

Worship Leader, Choir Member, and Director
Actively involved in several C.O.T.'s (Committees, Organizations, and Teams of the Congregation including the Communication Team, Stewardship, Music and Worship, Men of St.

Mark, Finance Committee, Spiritual Growth, Office Services

14. Synodical involvement

Leadership Lab – Staff Member, Co-Coordinator of Level and Chaplain

MCS African Descent & Latino Strategy Teams

MCS Synod Council and Executive Team

Conference Dean

Reference and Council Committee – Chair and member of the Team

Synod Assembly Planning Team

Chairperson, Professional Leaders Conference Planning Team

Liberation Diaconal Training Program – Leader, Co-Coordinator, and Instructor

15. Churchwide involvement

ELCA Renewal Team – Revivalist, Workshop Leader, Presenter and Trainer/Coach

ELCA African Descent National Strategy Team & Leadership Chairperson

ELCA Coaching Ministry – Trainer and Coach

CW Assembly - Voting Member and Worship Leader

Lutheran Men in Mission Board

African Descent Lutheran Association Governing Board – Treasurer, Chaplain, and Chairperson of the Payne & Robinson/Conway Scholarship Funds

16. Describe your sense of call to the office of bishop (1,000 characters maximum).

I have always been open to possibilities and opportunities to serve within the Church. I am also opening myself up to this process of a call to the office of Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA. I do so humbly and with a whole lot of prayers from colleagues and friends. Over the past few years, I have had the privilege to engage in conversations, and if nominated to be open to this process as the Spirit leads. I see this as a two-fold call, which comes from both God and the Church. It is a discernment process that began in the waters of baptism where I first received God's grace, mercy, and love, and has sustained me in weekly Worship, and as I have been fed at the Lord's Table. Moreover, each call began with my call as a youth leader, lay campus pastor, as a layperson, then as an ordained and rostered leader in a local congregation, synod staff, and as an Executive Director has been confirmation of my vocation throughout my life and ministry.

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

If elected Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago, I would bring several to the office. The gifts of preaching, teaching, pastoral care, administration, leadership, worship, generosity, stewardship, and a clear and concise articulation of what it means to be Lutheran. I love big cities and have lived, studied and ministered in urban contexts. I am a bridge that has sought to bring individuals

and groups together, building relationships and assisting them to find common ground. I am blessed with about 25 years of ministry experience, and I am a curator of wisdom from both life and ministry. I was brought up in a Christian home, baptized and confirmed, and nurtured through my youth group, and throughout my life within the Church. I bring with me the expertise and best practices from four (4) different Synods of the ELCA, which a variety of ways of being the Church in the public arena. I am confident in whom God has called me to be and can simplify complicated matters.

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

I am a leader that is guided by prayer and shaped by a life of experiences. I am a collegial collaborator and a team player, seeking to build trust with other leaders inside and outside the Church. I am also eclectic in my situational leadership style stepping up to the plate or delegating to another member of the staff. I believe in having clear roles and responsibilities as we together build the kingdom of God. Moreover, I am committed to be held accountable for my actions, and those I work with to ensure the highest level of performance. Finally, I believe and value, and I continue to be committed to evaluate and find ways to have balance, which helps us to more fully live into the core of what we say and assist the Church in equipping and educating all leaders. I have a heart for God's people, and I am filled with passion and believe in coaching and mentoring all leaders.

###