

Pre-election Canvass Biographical Information



1. Full name

Rev. Trudy A. Stoffel

She/her/hers

2. Congregational membership (including city and state)

Geneva Lutheran Church, Geneva, Illinois

3. Ordination year and location

2007, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Burbank, Illinois

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

If yes, what year and what location? 2018, Our Saviour's, Naperville

5. 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? 2019, LSTC

6. Language proficiencies

English

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

University of Wisconsin-Madison-1985-89 BA English and Political Science

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago- 2002-2007- MDiv

8. Current position

Pastor, Geneva Lutheran Church, Geneva, IL, 2012-present

9. Recent positions

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Woodridge, IL Pastor, 2007-2012

Bethany Lutheran Church, Crystal Lake, IL, Intern, 2005-2006

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL, Ministry in Context student, 2004-2005

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

Second City Improv Intensive- 2012

Intentional Impact Training- 2011-2013, 2017-18

Music That Makes Community- 2016

Re-Thinking Conferences, Luther Seminary- 2015, 2017

CROAR Anti-racism Training- 2019

11. Community involvement

Ecumenical partnerships: St. Peter's Catholic Parish, Fox Valley Presbyterian Church, Geneva
United Methodist Church

Non-profit partnerships: Northern Illinois Food Bank, Samaracare Counseling Services

Invocation: State of Illinois 100th General Assembly-5/15/2018

Geneva High School Baccalaureate, 2018

12. Congregational involvement

Geneva Lutheran has grown in Average Weekly Attendance from 158 in 2012 to 250-260 today, adding a third worship service, growing the staff, developing a new mission/vision statement, increasing our budget by over ten percent annually, building relationships in our community, and preparing to launch a mission. This has required encouraging current leaders and developing new leaders, strong preaching and worship leadership, and solid administration. On a more personal level, I sew quilt tops for Lutheran World Relief and, like most pastors, find a lot of joy

and laughter in the 'other duties as assigned'-calming babies, plunging toilets, and having a basic understanding of boilers.

13. Synodical involvement

Internship Supervisor- 2017-2019

West Conference Co-Dean 2017-18

West Conference Dean- 2013-2017

Outreach Team (attending progress meetings while Dean)

First Call Coaching-2014-15

Intentional Impact – 2011-2013

Fund for Mission Board- 2007-2009

14. Churchwide involvement

Youth Gathering in 2009, 2015, 2018

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

When I was interviewing for my first call, one of the council members in the congregation asked me if I had 'ecclesial ambitions.' Since I wasn't yet ordained I said, 'I'd like to be a pastor.' That has remained true through my first and second call, when I was called to be Dean, as an internship supervisor, in ecumenical partnerships, and more. Along the way I've learned that 'being a pastor' means administration, careful budgeting and stewardship, community organizing, crisis management, team building, leadership development, naming difficult things, and finding a way forward through them. I expect that the office of Bishop would involve these things and more in this calling that continues daily to bring awe, challenge, delight, and growth. The story from Scripture where I am finding this call is in Matthew 14: 22-32, Jesus is out of the boat. If I want to be where Jesus is, I best get out of the boat!

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

For those who like assessments:

Spiritual gifts- Faith, Leadership, Administration and Discernment.

Meyers-Briggs- INFJ (but a strong E public presence).

Enneagram-3-Performer

Buzz Feed Quiz –'If you were Ferris Bueller would you get caught?' I would get caught!

Harder to measure: a delight in exploring Scripture in community, a sense of humor, a way of saying hard things so that people can receive them, building and managing a staff, building community through collaboration, naming a vision and steps to accomplish it, and genuineness.

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

One of my favorite images for leadership is a Border Collie. These herding dogs work with a shepherd, using every sense to bring together the flock, keeping many things in view concurrently, listening carefully for the shepherd's voice, and only barking when necessary. Translated to humans: I am a servant of the Shepherd, working with the Shepherd. I keep many things in view, listening for Jesus' voice. I deal directly with conflict, bring people together for common purpose, prefer to surround myself with people who will challenge me, and I enjoy a little chaos so that I can bring order to it. Unlike a Border Collie, I don't bark at all, but won't hold back from taking a stand.

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