

# Pre-election Canvass

## Biographical Information



**1. Full name**

The Rev. Sarah Jean Stumme

She/her/hers

**2. Congregational membership (including city and state)**

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Northbrook, Illinois

**3. Ordination year and location**

1998 (Location: Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, Postville, Iowa. Ordained in Northeast Iowa Synod of the ELCA on behalf of Upper Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA.)

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

**If yes, what year and what location?**

2015 Metropolitan Chicago Synod

2018 Metropolitan Chicago Synod

**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?**

Understanding and Analyzing Systemic Racism, 2004, ELCA Offices, Park Ridge, Ill.

Understanding and Analyzing Systemic Racism, 2013, Atonement Lutheran, Barrington, Ill.

Diversity and Context. Graduate level intensive course, Rev. Dr. Eric Law, 2014, Bexley Hall Seabury Western Seminary Federation, Park Ridge, Ill.

Multicultural Awareness and Diversity, PESI training, one day, 2017, Arlington Heights, Ill.

**6. Language proficiencies – English, Spanish (novice-tourist)**

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

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, State of Illinois, 2013 – present

Loyola University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, Master of Social Work, 2008-2011

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, Master of Divinity, 1994-1998

Pastoral Internship: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Slovakia, Bratislava, Slovakia and Evanjelické Lýceum, Bratislava, Slovakia, 1996-1997

University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa, Bachelor of Arts, 1989-1994

Universidad de Tarapacá, Arica, Chile, 1993

**8. Current position**

Pastoral Associate to the Bishop - Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA, Chicago, Illinois

**9. Recent positions**

Program Manager – Turnaround Synod Initiative (Contract Staff, 2011-2013). Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA, Chicago, Illinois

Clinical Social Worker (Contract Staff, 2011-2014). Family Service Center, Wilmette, Illinois

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

Leading Through the Transition Zone, Rev. Dr. Darrel Griffins, Chicago Ill., 2016

Post-Graduate Certificate in Bowen Family Systems Theory, Center for Family Consultation, Evanston, Ill., 2011-2013

Intentional Impact: Multiplying leaders and spiritual apprenticeship, Chicago, Ill., 2014

Unbinding the Gospel, Lily Grant, 2013-2014

CoachNet: Coaching Certification Training, Chicago, Ill., 2010

Psychological First Aid Training, American Red Cross, Highland Park, Ill., 2009

Courage to Lead: Clergy Retreat, Fetzer Institute and Lilly Endowment, Kalamazoo, MI, 2006

### **11. Community involvement**

Hand of Peace, Community supporter

North Suburban Genealogical Society, member and presenter

### **12. Congregational involvement**

Member, Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, Postville, Iowa, 1971-1998

Parish Pastor 1998 –2002, Zion Lutheran Church, Trevorton, Pennsylvania (3 site, multi-point, ecumenical parish)

Parish Pastor (full and part-time) 2002 –2012, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Northbrook, Illinois

Member: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Northbrook, Ill., small group member, prayer partner, baptismal sponsor

### **13. Synodical involvement**

Called synod staff – supporting the ministries, congregations and leaders of the synod

Preach and preside in congregations of the synod

### **14. Churchwide involvement**

ELCA Systems Leadership Academy, 2015-2019

ELCA Churchwide Council Member, 1999-2007

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

For six years, I have served as pastoral associate to the bishop. Here is what I have learned: Our synod is over-flowing with gifted leaders committed to serving the mission field. We have exemplary teachers, preachers, prophets, community organizers, chaplains, youth ministers, and evangelists serving on our roster. We have leaders faithfully serving in congregations. We have church buildings on street corners and in store fronts, physical signs that we are here to shine the light of Christ. God is abundantly blessing this synod.

We have challenges to navigate. We have a political and economic system feeding off fear and hate, inviting us to focus on survival, exclusion, and loss. The mission field is complex. Ministries of the church, synod, and congregations seem to be in competition. Even so, we are called toward a missional alignment serving the future versus protecting the past. This requires listening, courage, and investing in the present for the future.

God is steadfast in God's faithfulness.

I am called to identify how God is working in and through God's people and to imagine how God is inviting us to be more complete as the Body of Christ. It is a privilege to serve.

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

**Synodical:** Knowledge of the responsibilities of the synod: leadership development, candidacy, call process, congregational support, interim and transition ministry, and mission development.

**Competencies:** Include administration, coaching, leadership development, management, preaching, teaching, worship leadership, and pastoral care.

**Knowledge of the larger church:** I have been shaped by different expressions of the church. Large, multi-staff congregation in early formation, served on synod council as a youth member, campus ministry, urban seminary, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois ministry site, international horizon internship, three-point ecumenical parish (first call), served eight years on ELCA Church Council, suburban congregation for second call and synod staff.

**Bi-vocational:** A licensed clinical social worker, I have competencies in assessment and planning at individual and organizational levels. I have experience working with social service providers outside of the religious field.

**Personal:** I am committed to learning from Jesus and living into God's promises. Matthew 22:37-40

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

One of my core leadership gifts is identifying and valuing gifts, talents, and skills in people. My style is to invite people into leadership and to find opportunities for discernment and space for personal growth. I lean toward encouragement and asking questions.

My leadership style is informed by my relationships. I accompany aging parents, I am called to be present for nieces and nephews, I am a parent, a spouse, a sibling, a friend, a neighbor and a pastor. I have learned to lead with compassion, gratitude, and a refusal to let go of hope.

I value learning, practicality, transparency, collaboration, creativity, accountability, and humor.

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