

# Pre-election Canvass

## Biographical Information



**1. Full name**

The Rev. Andrea Lorraine Walker

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

Shekinah Chapel, Riverdale, IL

**3. Ordination year and location**

June 16, 2000

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

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

November 8, 2007 New Jersey Synod

**5. Have you attended a comprehensive systemic racism workshop, like the synod's 2.5-day "Understanding and Analyzing Systemic Racism" workshop? IDI Workshop Global Mission**

**in house June 2018 If yes, what year and what location?** Beyond Diversity May 2010, Summit, New Jersey

**6. Language proficiencies**

Spanish three-month intensive  
French reading and conversational

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

2007 Doctor of Ministry, Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago (LSTC)  
1999 Master of Divinity, LSTC  
1995 Bachelor of Arts, Georgia State University, Atlanta

**8. Current position**

11/2012–present ELCA Churchwide Area Director for Madagascar, West and Central Africa

**9. Recent positions**

March 2006- Nov. 2012 Senior Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church Summit, New Jersey  
April 2003 – Feb. 2006 Associate Pastor  
March 2000- March 2003 Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church Bronx, New York

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

2014-2015 ELCA Leadership Development Program Chicago, IL  
2016 Creating Change, Center for Creative Leadership Greensboro, NC

**10. Community involvement**

Since 2012 extensive international travel for my role of Area Director for ELCA GM precludes much community involvement.

2010–2012 Vice President - Interfaith Council Summit, New Jersey

2003-2010 Member – Interfaith Council Summit, New Jersey

2000-2003 South Bronx Churches Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) community based organizing Bronx, New York including IAF 10-day training

**11. Congregational involvement**

Again, extensive global travel precludes much congregational involvement. When I am able, I supply preach and attend worship.

**12. Synodical involvement**

Annually 2009-2012 Chaplain First Call Theological Education Event Region 7  
2009 Preacher, New Jersey Synod Ordination

1994-1996 (approx.) Vice President Southeastern Lutheran Black Pastors' Conference (SELPC) in Southeastern Synod

### **13. Churchwide involvement**

2010-2012 National Youth Gathering Mission Manager

2009-2015 ELCA Committee on Discipline

2009 National Youth Gathering Chaplain for Safety and Security Team

2007 Luther College Church Youth Fest Speaker

2006 Pastor-in Residence Lutheran Theological Seminary Gettysburg, PA

2003 National Youth Gathering Mainstage Preacher/teacher

2003 ELCA Strategic Planning Roundtable Member

2001-2007 Church and Society Program Committee Member

1997-National Youth Gathering Volunteer Corps, Team Lead

1995-Breaking Open the Jar 25<sup>th</sup> Year of the Ordination of Women, Youth Facilitator

1994-1996 ELCA Evangelism Partner

1994-National Youth Gathering Youth Servant Corp Organizing Team

1993-(approx.) African American Lutheran Association (AALA) treasurer

1993-Global Mission Event Facilitator of Youth Portion-Atlanta, GA

1992-1996 ELCA Speaker's Bureau "Lift Every Voice" Keynote Presenter and Workshop Leader

1991-1997 Lutheran Center in Atlanta (LTCA) – Pilot Project Coordinator

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

When first asked to consider having my name entered for the process for bishop, of the Metro Chicago Synod, I said a resounding, "No, Way!" Then leaders and young pastors in the synod asked me to reconsider. When more than three people approached me to have this conversation, I had to take a step back and ask, "What is God up to?" Discerning whatever God is up to I must be open to the possibilities. I also checked in with two of my mentors, one a colleague and woman pastor in the ELCA, the other a strong lay leader. From their different social locations and having known me during varying stages in my journey they both named my skills and gifts for this ministry and encouraged me to move forward.

The young pastors described that they are looking for something different, a new style of leadership, someone who can look at the world, the church, and the Metro Chicago Synod from a different vantage point. I believe I can do this.

I believe that a call comes from God and the community. I believe that God through the community and my colleagues invites me to be open to discerning a call to serve as Bishop. I do this with confidence in my experience, in the church and God's guidance.

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

I offer the gifts of bridge building, administration, supervision, and being a catalyst for positive change. I served a small African American congregation in the Bronx and for nine years as senior pastor and head of staff of a wealthy, predominately white, suburban church in New Jersey. I have been a youth ministry leader since before the ELCA. This wide-ranging background roots my experience and ability to relate to people and build bridges across a spectrum of age, race, class and gender.

I have managed a small struggling church, supervised a staff of eight and a budget of over \$650,000. I currently oversee two budgets both over \$800,000 and supervise four team members and six missionary personnel in ten countries. These challenges shape my extensive background as an able administrator and supervisor.

I am a catalyst for positive change, thinking outside the box and willing to move in creative, unexplored directions. I worked with the Summit congregation to welcome five LGBTQ interns. Sisters in Prayer (SIP) a clergy woman group that I co-found, in New Jersey, is an example of my priority of mentoring young church leaders and helping young women to live into their calls.

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

My style of leadership is collaborative. I believe that all members of a team, organization, or group bring gifts. I lead with the guidance of LOVE. This means that I listen to those around me who have opinions, information and meaningful input. I observe my surroundings, the political climate, culture, actions, and feelings of all. I value every individual as a child of God made in the image of God. Once, I have listened, observed, and valued, then I am ready to engage any issue or task.

I believe it is important to support those whom I supervise, respect opposing views and not ask more of others than I am willing to give.

My leadership style is empowering and provides space for those around me to grow into their full potential.

###