

Report of Task Force to Recommend Nominees for Synod Treasurer

Proposed: Nominate the following for a 4-year term as Synod Treasurer, beginning September 1, 2019, with the election to take place at the 2019 Synod Assembly:

Mr. Stephen Gehret, Reformation, Greeneville TN
Mr. Max Yost, Trinity, Lilburn GA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION & RATIONALE:

Constitutionally, the Synod Council is required to nominate one or more candidates for the position of Synod Treasurer. At its September 2018 meeting, the Synod Council appointed a task force to identify potential nominees for Synod Council consideration. Task Force members included current Synod Treasurer Lee Smith (chairperson) and two former treasurers (Dennis Wieckert and Sandra Gustavson). The team met via email and prepared an announcement that was mailed to all congregations. Announcements were also regularly included in the synod E-News. An online biographical form was posted throughout the Fall, with a December 7th response deadline.

As of the announced deadline, several potential nominees had been identified, but none of them were willing to accept the nomination. Two of the potentials indicated that although they were interested, they could not commit the time necessary for the position, given the many ongoing tasks included in the position description. Following consultation with the Personnel Committee, in early December the Synod Council Executive Committee revised the position description for Synod Treasurer¹, removing several ongoing responsibilities and replacing them with the following statement of expectations for the new treasurer:

Consults with synod staff and outside vendors to assure that normal accounting and treasury functions are conducted in an accurate, timely manner with appropriate attention given to internal control considerations

Upon notification of this change, two persons (Stephen Gehret and Max Yost) submitted online biographical forms indicating their interest and availability for the position. The Task Force determined that both were qualified to be Synod Treasurer and recommended that both be officially nominated by the Synod Council. When the nominations are announced at the 2019 Synod Assembly, there will be an opportunity for additional nominations from the floor.

For reference by the Council, the biographical information submitted by each candidate is attached as part of this exhibit.

¹ See Exhibit B.2 for the full, revised position description for Synod Treasurer.

Stephen Gehret



CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Reformation, Greeneville TN

CURRENT OCCUPATION: Retired

ACCOUNTING BACKGROUND: I have worked in not for profit higher education (Tusculum University, Barry University, and St. Thomas University) for 34 years as associate vice president for finance and vice president and chief financial officer. I am a licensed CPA in the State of Florida since 1979. I have a masters in business administration with a finance concentration and a bachelors of business administration in accounting. As noted in Experience in Congregations, I have served for four years as congregational treasurer for Reformation Lutheran Church, Greeneville, Tennessee.

FINANCIAL BACKGROUND: Served as board liaison to the Finance, Audit, Building & Grounds, and Investment Committees of Tusculum University for 12 years. Served as a primary reader for financial resources and physical resources for reaffirmations of colleges and universities since 1997 for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools - Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC).

EXPERIENCE IN CONGREGATIONS: Currently serving as congregational treasurer for Reformation Lutheran Church since 2014. Served on the stewardship committee of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Weston, Florida. Co-chair of stewardship committee at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church, Weston, Florida.

SYNOD & CHURCHWIDE INVOLVEMENT: Elected this past June, 2018, as regional representative of this Synod.

BALANCING RESPONSIBILITIES: My wife, Margaret, and I are both retired and travel several times a year to visit family and places we have planned to see together. It is our hope to continue our travels but review scheduling prior to committing to ascertain any potential conflicts with my duties as Synod Treasurer, if elected, or duties with our congregation.

WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING AS SYNOD TREASURER? My professional qualifications and past experience in not-for profit colleges and universities as well as Lutheran congregations have reinforced my continuing commitment to use my God given gifts to serve. I feel I have been called to use these skills for the benefit of the Synod at this time.

DEMOGRAPHICS: White, lay male, age 31 or older, primary language is English

Max Yost



CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Trinity, Lilburn GA

CURRENT OCCUPATION: Retired

ACCOUNTING BACKGROUND: Served as Church Administrator for 12 years at Christ the King in Peachtree Corners, GA. Duties included preparation of financial statements, managing bank accounts & brokerage account. Working closely with Treasurer and Church Council to monitor performance and prepare annual budgets. Interfaced with the Synod office on financial matters.

FINANCIAL BACKGROUND: Prior to working at Christ the King my employment has primarily been in the financial field including software systems for large and small companies including:

1. Major software developer, MSA based in Atlanta: Managed development and marketing of financial systems. Also served as a VP of Operations for the Canadian region.
2. Acquired and ran a small company providing financial and membership software for churches and Associations. Installed, trained, and supported churches on using our systems to maintain their financial records and produce reports.
3. Worked for large corporations developing and supporting accounting systems.
4. Education includes undergraduate courses in accounting and economics.

EXPERIENCE IN CONGREGATIONS: We have been members of Trinity in Lilburn, GA since 1988 and previously from 1977-1984. During that time I served as treasurer on the church council, Stewardship Committee, Property, and Worship & Music. The treasurer's duties included developing financial reports and budgets.

SYNOD & CHURCHWIDE INVOLVEMENT: Served on Synod Budget & Finance Committee since 2017

BALANCING RESPONSIBILITIES: Not currently serving in any Leadership positions at Trinity. Would continue to serve on Synod Budget & Finance Committee. Retirement gives me the opportunity to serve my church and the Synod in ways that I would not have been able to do while working. I am excited about that while Carolyn & I balance that with camping and activities with our children and grandchildren.

WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING AS SYNOD TREASURER? Would allow me to continue to use my experience and talents to serve the Lord.

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