

Biographical Information Form

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD - 2E

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM: NOMINEE FOR BISHOP

1. **Name:** Barbara Berry-Bailey
2. **Current Positions:** Pastor and Special Assistant to the Bishop for Diversity Equity and Inclusion
3. **Congregation Membership:** St. Paul Lutheran - Downtown Denver
4. **Date and Year of Birth:** December 25, 1952
5. **Date and Year of Ordination:** August 16, 1992

6. Previous Positions:

2016 - 2018 - Interim Pastor, Our Saviour's Lutheran, Salt Lake City, UT
2009 -2016 - Companion Synod Relationships Manger, Global Mission, ELCA Churchwide Office
2006- 2009 - Producer, Grace Matters, the Radio Ministry of the ELCA Churchwide Office
2002 - 2006 - Renewing Worship Associate, ELCA Churchwide Office

7. Education and Earned Degrees (with institutions and years, most recent first):

- Master of Divinity, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, 1992
- Certificate of Completion, Harvard Business Program for Educational Broadcast Executives, 1982
- Bachelor of Arts, University of Michigan, 1974

8. List up to five (5) current or past synod or churchwide activities that would inform your service as bishop of this synod.

1. Anti-Racism Educator, Women of the ELCA (WELCA), Churchwide)
2. Assembly Worship Team Member, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod
3. Engagement with ELCA Conference of Bishops through work in Global Mission
4. Writer for The Lutheran Magazine; The Word in Season (AFP); Lutheran Women Today/Gather Magazine (WELCA); God's Story is My Story, edited by Walt Wangerin, Jr.
5. Lay Board Member, Commission for Communication (Churchwide)/Clergy Board Member Communication Advisory Committee (ELCA Churchwide)

9. List up to five (5) current or past community-related activities that would inform your service as bishop of this synod.

1. Board Member, Uptown Community Health Center - (Combined operation of Bruner Family Medicine, Caritas Internal Medicine, and Seton Women's Center) 2023 - present
2. Board Member, Urban Servant Corps, Denver, CO 2020 - 2023
3. Host Parent for Japanese Students, AFS Intercultural Program, Chicago, IL 2009 - 2011
4. Troop Leader, Girl Scouts of America, Philadelphia, PA 1998 - 2002
5. Presenter to U.S. House of Representatives on funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Washington, DC 1979

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

In addition to work in development, and state and national government representation experience in my previous career in public broadcasting, 31 years of leadership in all three expressions of the ELCA (i.e., congregational, synodical and churchwide), provide me with the ability to navigate a wide range of experiences and relationships. I have been blessed to serve as pastor in congregational settings in four ELCA synods. Serving as an associate in an ecumenical congregation gave me the opportunity to learn from and appreciate the differences in polities across the holy catholic church. As a fellow of the Fund for Theological Education, part of my seminary internship was assignment to the Northwest Interfaith Movement (NIM) in Philadelphia, an inter-religious community action agency. This provided experience in partnering with Muslim and Reformed Jewish communities of faith.

11. What do you see as the principal challenge to this synod in the next six years, and how would you address it? (1,000 characters maximum)

The principal challenge is the intersection of challenges; one being the need for us to develop and maintain authentic relationships both inside and outside the walls of our churches. Excellence in Leadership (EiL) provides the tools to do just that. By continuing to build on its success with EiL leaders in every conference, we can make it possible for participation from every congregation.

Another challenge is that of communication; external as well as internal. What we believe and teach about God in Jesus Christ is the balm in Gilead that brings about healing to our sin-sick world but we are a well-kept secret. An external communication effort that raises awareness of OUR Gospel message, is sorely needed. Our message is currently eclipsed by the *bad news* messages being promoted as the *only* Christian message. "The Lutheran Church in Your Neighborhood" campaign would speak to those outside our Church in the way "Christ's Church Better Together" speaks to those inside our Church.

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

My leadership style can best be described as collaborative; allowing for the gifts and skills of all in the team fit together for maximum effectiveness. While a bishop is the leader of the synodical expression, she/he/they must work collaboratively with other members of the of body of Christ, ecclesiastically, ecumenically, and at times, inter-religiously in order to do the work of the Church. This kind of collaboration has been effective in some African Lutheran Churches, specifically in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon (EELC) and the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC), where Lutherans work with members of the Muslim community to provide education and distribution of medical resources to people in their geographical territory.