



**Southwestern Minnesota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

**Bishop Nomination Information Form**  
**2015 Bishop Election**  
**Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA**

Name: **Rev. Dr. Laurie Skow-Anderson**  
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**1. Brief biographical information including parishes served, education, conference or synod offices held, ministry you are called to at the present.**

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**Calls:** 2014-Present, Director for Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; 2001-2014 Pastor, Trinity, Pelican Rapids, MN; 1996-2001 Pastor, Atonement, St. Cloud, MN; 1991-1996 Pastor, Christ, Slayton, MN; 1986-1991 Pastor, American, Windom, MN

**Education:** 2010 Doctor of Ministry, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN Congregational and Missional Leadership. Thesis- Pentecost on the Prairie: The Movement of the Holy Spirit Creating Multiracial Ministries in Rural Congregations; 1986 Master of Divinity, Luther Northwestern Seminary, St. Paul, MN; 1980 Bachelor of Science in Education, Moorhead State University, Moorhead, MN; 1976 High School Diploma, Jackson, MN

**Offices:** 2011-2013 ELCA Church Council; 2004-2010 NWMN Synod Council; 2010-2014 New and Renewing Mission Table; Several other conference and synod committees and task forces.

**2. How would you describe your leadership style?**

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Collaborator is probably the best word to describe my overall leadership style. I am energized by working with others to establish goals and develop strategies to accomplish those goals. I tend not to lead by decree but rather seek a team approach. I've learned that different situations require different forms of leadership. I try to adapt to the situation. I lead by modeling spiritual practices and behaviors I would like to see in others. As a pastor, I lead by teaching and facilitating conversation about matters of faith. In general I tend to be creative and look for innovative solutions in challenging situations. My leadership style is direct, clear, relational, humbly and prayerfully Spirit-led.

**3. Describe your vision of ministry of the bishop: (2015)**

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The bishop is the spiritual leader of the synod called to nurture, first of all, his or her own relationship with God as well as pray, proclaim and plan on behalf of the synod. As a servant leader, the bishop discerns and desires to do God's will in all situations. As the team leader, the bishop

works alongside wise synod ministers and support staff who manage the programmatic and operational details of the synod. The bishop is a judicatory leader who relates to the ELCA Conference of Bishops and upholds the constitution of the church and the Lutheran Confessions.

#### **4. If you were elected bishop, what would be your focus of ministry? – 2015**

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I'd try to keep the focus simple. I'd want us to be a Great Commission (Mt 28 Go and make disciples) and Great Commandment (Mt 22 Love God and neighbor as yourself) and a Great Vision (Rev 22 River of life/tree of life/leaves for the healing of the nations) synod. Let's just go love God, love each other and go serve and heal a broken world. Love/Go/ Heal. This is essentially a focus on discipleship and spiritual renewal which is not so simple. The synod would focus on raising up leaders that will work at renewing and building authentic congregational communities that love God, are able to care for each other and also be the hands and feet of God in their neighborhood or mission field.

#### **5. Describe your understanding of the relationship between the synod staff and the congregations' ministry partners: (2015)**

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We do together what we cannot do alone. Campus ministry, Bible camps, Lutheran Social Services, colleges, seminaries, and the others ARE the SW MN Synod of the ELCA. Together we do what single congregations or even single synods cannot do. The synod staff will do whatever they can to support these partners in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are church together; we are church in the world.