



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. Troy Pflibsen**
Address: 504 N. Gilman Avenue
Litchfield, MN 55355
Phone/email: 320-693-3207
pastortroy@yahoo.com



1. Brief biographical information including parishes served, education, conference or synod offices held, ministry you are called to at the present.

Professional Experience: 2013- Co-Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Litchfield, MN; 2007- Course Facilitator, Select, Sioux Falls, SD; 2006-2013 Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Belmond, IA; 2001-2006 Pastor, Bethany Lutheran Church, McCallsburg, IA; 1997-2001 Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Hawkeye, IA; 1995-96 Lecturer in Religion, Carthage College, Kenosha, WI; 1990-91, 92-93 Student Assistant to Professor Norma Cook Everist, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA; 1987-89 Youth Director, Zion Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MN; 1987-89 Program Director, Hiawatha Lutheran Bible Camp, Deer River, MN **Education:** Ph.D. Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, Historical Theology (2006); M.Div. Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA; (1993); B.A.; B.S. University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, Psychology; Recreation (1988)
Service in the Broader Church: 2010-2013 Lutheran Ecumenical & Inter-Religious Representatives Network, Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA; 2009 Companion Synod Initial Consultation, Namibia; 2008-2013 Board of Directors, Belmond Area Food Pantry, Belmond, IA; 2008-2010 Board of Directors, Life-Long Learning for Lutherans, Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA; 2008-2011 Board of Directors, Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp, Story City, IA; 2006-2013 Global Mission Work Group, Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA; 2004-2006 Haiti Rural Development Pilot Project, World Concern, Seattle, WA; 2003-2006 Board of Directors, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

2. How would you describe your leadership style?

My understanding of leadership in ministry is grounded principally in three biblical images. In 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12 Paul reminds us that all are gifted for ministry. It may be as a staff member or as an elected leader of a congregation. It may be teaching in the classroom, at the bedside of one who is dying, or building a faith chest that will hold important symbols of another's faith journey. Jethro's advice to Moses and Jesus' work with his disciples take this a step further. In

Exodus 18 the new leader is admonished to lift up others to help provide direction. Jesus spends much of his time encouraging, equipping, mentoring and resourcing the twelve.

In my last two parish ministries I have been specifically called to implement this vision for ministry. In my previous parish we returned leadership to boards and committees. Our role as staff shifted to identifying, equipping, encouraging, mentoring and resourcing leaders. We also introduced a small group ministry which moved leadership even further out into the community. At Zion, Litchfield this same movement was to begin through a long-range planning and visioning process. It has been delayed somewhat because of unanticipated changes in our staff. It is a potent vision, however, because even before it has been fully explored as a congregation it is already having an impact.

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

My role as pastor and bishop in the midst of this approach to ministry is to continually lift up the gospel and its implications for leadership. As more and more leaders are invited, encouraged and equipped, as leadership moves further and further out from a central few, it is easy to lose direction and focus. My role as pastor and bishop is to keep the ministry grounded and centered. My role as pastor and bishop is also to identify, encourage, equip, mentor and resource leaders. Through the many, many more can be reached than I can serve alone. As more are engaged in active ministry, more are engaged in the community.

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

I view the specific ministry of bishop through this same lens. The heart of my work will be to invite all to share their gifts. As bishop I will keep the gospel and this understanding of ministry in front of the synod at all times. I will also with intention encourage, equip, mentor and resource leaders.

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

This approach, this understanding of leadership in ministry, suggests a close partnership between the national and regional expressions of the church, and the local congregation. We share the call to proclaim the gospel in both word and service. Ideas and resources flow in both directions. Some ministries are rooted in the local congregation. Others are manifest more deeply in the regional or national expressions of the church. All share the same goal.