



Dear GLC,

Geneva Lutheran Church is part of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA (MCSELCA) which encompasses the 187 ELCA Congregations in Kane, Cook, Lake, and DuPage Counties. Our Synod Bishop, Wayne Miller, who was here last October, is not standing for re-election. A new Bishop will be elected at the Synod Assembly June 7-8. This is the annual business meeting attended by pastors and lay delegates from congregations. Our delegates are Pastor Trudy, Emily Abrahamson, Chris Diemand and Chrissy Voreis.

Pastor Trudy has been identified as a potential candidate in a pre-election canvass for Bishop of the MCSELCA. This is an invitation for her to participate with a total of 6 identified pastors in forums leading up to the election. Official nominations happen at assembly.

FAQs:

What happens if PT is elected? She will have to resign her call at GLC, as Bishop is a full time call. GLC will begin the work to prepare for the next pastor to lead GLC in our mission to live generous lives in Christ.

What happens if PT is not elected? She will take a sabbatical in late summer and both she and the congregation will do some work to prepare for our next steps in extending our mission. She will then return to lead us through these steps.

What does this mean for us? It means we deal with the mixed feelings we have of excitement, knowing what Pastor Trudy's leadership has meant to us and sadness at the possibility of change. This is nothing new for people of faith. We are called to trust that the Lord is leading us in the direction He needs us to go. GLC is a healthy congregation with a gifted staff and gifted lay leaders. We are GLC because we have created a community devoted to Christ's word and work. We step through the doors He puts in front of us.

What do we do now? Be present and prayerful and careful not to dwell too much in filling in a future that we can't know. Let's build as many baby kits as possible on May 19, celebrate another great program year, and continue our projects and mission. Let's worship together, pray constantly, and tell stories of God's generosity.

I have so many more questions!!! This letter has outlined most of what we know at this time. Whatever question comes to mind, ask first, 'Is this going to require filling in a future we can't know?' Questions about the Elburn AMC, fall and winter weddings, summer activities, etc. all are being considered by PT and the leaders, but to try to answer them now takes us into the territory of speculation. Know that we are considering and are ready for many possibilities. If you have other questions not answered above, and not requiring speculation, talk to any member of council (listed below).

All are welcome to attend the following pre-election forums (you do not need to be a delegate for the Assembly):

Saturday, May 18, 2019, from 1-3 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, Blue Island in Sanctuary (2519 Grove St., Blue Island, IL 60406) - parking lot available, accessible building

Wednesday, May 22, 2019, from 7-9 p.m. at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Naperville in Sanctuary (1313 North Mill St., Naperville, IL 60563) – parking lot available, accessible building

Thursday, May 30, 2019, from 7-9 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, Evanston in Sanctuary (3637 Golf Rd., Evanston, IL 60203) parking lot available, accessible building

Saturday, June 1, 2019, from 1-3 p.m. at The Lutheran Center/ Churchwide Office in Augsburg Room, 1st floor (8765 W Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631) - accessible by public transportation, parking lot available (call security at parking garage box for entry), accessible building

God of the past, present, and future, help us to always put our trust in You. We place in Your hands our congregation, our Synod, and the pastor who will be called as the leader for the Synod. Especially in times of uncertainty, commit us to more proclamation, more fellowship, and more stories of Your presence in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

In Christ,

Chrissy Voreis, President	Katie Bailey, Vice President	Joel Dawson, Secretary
Perry Erhart, Treasurer	Norm Loboda, Finance Secretary	Craig Desens
Seth Weingartz	Cathy Mozden	Dave Krodel
Brandy Hunter	Alyson Beck	Mary Klein

For more information about the Pre-election Canvass, the Assembly or the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, visit www.mtselca.org