Council Nominees 2010-2012

At the Congregational Meeting on Wednesday, September 30, five of the following nominees will be elected to the Congregation Council. They will join the six members who were elected to serve through the end of 2010: Dennis Hanson, Corky Nakayama, Ed Nelson, Dick Nordstrom, Del Stephens, Kay Suddath

Donna Beavers

I am a 1982 graduate of CSU Fresno and currently work for Key Writing Concepts, Inc. Organizational consultation and planning are part of most Key Writing projects, including strategic and operational planning, program development, business plans, staffing plans, and marketing. Our firm also provides grant research, planning and development, grant proposals and reports. I joined Key Writing in 1999 and was named Vice President of Operations in 2006. I am responsible for quality control in writing and document development as well as administrative and organizational functions.

I joined Hope Lutheran Church on Pentecost Sunday 2005. Currently I sing in the choir, play in bell choir, and sing solos occasionally. I also sing with Fresno Choral Artists and have appeared in numerous productions with Good Company Players.

Prior to joining Hope, I belonged to Presbyterian congregations. While a member at University Presbyterian Church I served on the Board of Deacons, and was Moderator for one year of my three-year term. I also served on Music and Worship Committee, taught Sunday school, directed and choreographed special performances, and of course participated regularly in the church's music ministry.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on Church Council. If elected I hope to bring a fresh perspective to the work of the church. I also hope to continue growing in faith while learning more about our Lutheran heritage.

Robert L. Garabedian

I am married to Sharon and have two adult children, Kristina and Michael. I have Doctorate Degrees in dentistry and law and have taught dentistry in the Department of Continuing Education at the following dental schools: University of Detroit, Louisiana State University and University of Calgary. I have also been blessed to serve on three Board of Directors - Big Brothers, Fresno Community Theater, and International Association of Orthodontics - and on the Hope Lutheran Church Council.

International ministries are also important to me and have led me to make numerous trips over the last 12 years to India and Armenia to help the children in these countries.

At Hope I served on the last two constitutional revision teams, am currently Interim President on the Omega Fund, and have been a food server at many of Hope's functions. My vision for Hope is to expand and increase our various mission projects, spread the Word of Jesus Christ to the unchurched, and provide support for the least of the least. Extending our hand to the less fortunate is always a worthy endeavor.

Richard Hanson

I have been consistently attending Hope since September 1995. I have been active in Adult Choir since returning in September 1995. For the last two years, I also have been active in the Stephen Ministry program. I also am an amateur photographer, and use that talent as requested by the staff of the Church. I am a project oriented person, but also analytical and statistic oriented. I am a fiscal conservative, but a social moderate.

I am a supervisor in the Communications Bureau at the Fresno Police Department. I have served in this position for nearly 14 years (January 1996). I have been with the Police Department for twenty-six years. I have a Bachelor of Science degree from CSU, Fresno. My degree is in Criminology, with an emphasis on Corrections. I have 12 units of post-graduate work in accountancy.

My goals on the Council are to continue developing our outreach to the lower income families in our neighborhood. I would like to see the church help them meet their physical needs, knowing that God will use our ministries to help them meet their spiritual needs. I hope I have your support in working towards these goals.

Richard Lacy

My wife and I have been regular attendees at Hope the past two years and prior to that we were members at Trinity Lutheran. At Hope, we participated in the dine-in group this past year and I helped pound some nails for Habitat for Humanity. Currently I am a Professor in Business at Fresno State and feel I could bring good communication and computer skills if elected to the position. As a recent member to Hope, I look forward to bringing another perspective to the position. I see Hope's vision proclaimed by its own mission statement, "Extending Hope in Jesus!"

Samuel A. Lucido

My wife, Linda, and I have been members of Hope Lutheran since moving to Fresno in 1971. We have raised our family in Hope Lutheran. Our son attended the Learning Tree and was confirmed and married at Hope.

I have served in the Fresno Community as a Past-President of the East Fresno Rotary Club, a board member of the Boy's and Girl's Clubs of Fresno County, Board of Director of the Fresno County Workforce Investment Board, Fresno County Youth committee chairman, a board member of Fresno Survivors of Suicide and a past-director of the Clovis Community Foundation.

Being semi-retired after 35 years in the Real Estate development business, I find time to serve Hope Lutheran as it has so faithfully served my family.

I will strive to listen with a concerned attitude and act in a manner that will build goodwill and be beneficial to all.

Ada Mazzeo

I have been a member of Hope for 27 years.

Born and raised in The Netherlands, I came to the U.S.A. at the age of 31. My husband, Bill, being a Roman Catholic and me a Dutch Reformed, we needed a church that was home to both of us, and that became Hope. Since we joined we have raised three children to adulthood.

As a nurse by trade, I have worked the last 15 years in the N.I.C.U., first in VMC, later in Community Hospital.

Over the years I have given my time to Hope in a variety of functions, as a nursery attendant, the women's committee, usher, reader, greeter, altar guild, columbarium attendant, and any where else that I saw I could be of assistance.

The question is, am I a good Christian? It is easy within the church. Outside the church I can do a lot better. I am outspoken, which is not always appreciated or understood.

Foremost I believe in fairness to all, equal rights and change. Change is inevitable!

What do I see in Hope's future? Our church is graying and therefore it is important for our church to attract and retain young families. I love to sing (does not mean I'm good), so music is very important. Growing, not necessarily always in numbers. We have quite a few who are not active, and by taking care of our own, active and non-active, we grow in spirit.

And that is more important to me than numbers.

Vicki Hieber Pontius

I was first introduced to Hope Lutheran when I attended an afternoon Baby Shower luncheon which Hope provided for a young non- member unmarried friend of mine. I remember her being made to feel very comfortable and welcomed. My husband, Dave, and I then started attending off and on, and went to the prospective new member classes, joined the church and became part of the congregation. During my mom's illness, we were very comforted with the prayers, care and concern shown to us during that time and her subsequent passing. My background includes self employment, and serving as both teacher and educational administrator in Alternative K-12 and Adult education. I am currently semi-retired, self employed researching grant opportunities and a vocational charter school.

I am genuinely interested in people and have learned through my Stephen Ministry training to become a much better listener. I have a strong background in administration. My liberal arts degree is from College of Notre Dame, with a minor in comparative religions, and I have a doctorate in educational administration. I'm also fortunate to have been a volunteer for professional and community organizations, serving on boards in various capacities.

I am a trained Stephen Minister and an active member of the ministry team – I recently started volunteering with the Food Bank on Tuesday mornings – and with my husband, have been part of Potluck groups and are greeters for the 11:15am Contemporary Service.

My vision for the future of Hope Lutheran is to draw from the heritage of Hope and carry on traditions of social justice and community engagement while staying true to the mission of the church - Extending Hope in Jesus! *"Strengthen us to insist upon a just and peaceful world for all your children; to give thanks and grow in love by serving joyfully and freely."* And to bring a different set of values into the workplace and the community.

Mary L. Smith

I'm very honored to have been nominated as a candidate for Council. I have been on the Council three times previously, including one term as Council President. I currently serve as Council Vice-president. I believe that in order to grow, the church must keep up with the needs of not only its members but also the people who could become members. This may mean "change" which is always difficult to accept.

I have been a member of Hope and the Hope choir for 25 years. I am divorced with 2 grown daughters. I am a nurse and have spent most of my career in the operating room environment. Currently I am a nursing administrator at Kaiser Permanente.

If I am re-elected to the Council, I will do my best to ensure the present and future members of the Hope congregation are fairly represented in the decision-making processes of the Council.

Alyssa Walker

I am fifteen years old, and currently a sophomore at Clovis High School. I am a good student, and I'm involved in dance and FFA. I have attended Hope Lutheran since my baptism as a baby, and was confirmed last October. I take my faith very seriously and do my best to incorporate God in every aspect of my life.

I am very involved in our youth program at Hope. I rarely miss a Sunday night youth group, and I regularly attend Wednesday night Primetime. I have gone on many trips with the youth group, including the Western States Youth Gathering in Anaheim during the summer of 2008 and the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans during the summer of 2009. I have helped with VBS the past three years, and this Fall I am assisting on a weekly basis with the 2-3 year old Sunday school class.

I know that if elected to serve on the church council, I would offer a unique perspective. I would help to interpret the needs and wants of our youth group to others on the council. I believe I am mature enough to handle the serious decisions and situations the council might face.

Thank you for considering me for this position.