

IN OUR ELCA CHURCH BODY,
WE RECOGNIZE
“BOUND CONSCIENCE”

“BOUND CONSCIENCE DESCRIBES
THE SITUATION OF THOSE WHO,
AFTER CAREFUL REFLECTION AND
DISCUSSION,
HOLD A POSITION ON PASTORAL
AND ETHICAL CONCERN BECAUSE
THEY ARE CONVINCED OF IT BY
PARTICULAR UNDERSTANDINGS OF
SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION AND
SEE IT AS INEXTRICABLY LINKED
WITH FAITHFUL LIVING.
IT ALSO EMPHASIZES THE
IMPORTANCE OF RESPECTING THE
CONSCIENCE-BOUND NATURE OF
THE CONVICTIONS OF OTHERS IN
THE COMMUNITY OF CHRIST.”

TASK FORCE FOR ELCA STUDIES
ON SEXUALITY 2006

“WITH PRIDE AND
CONVICTION WE
BOLDLY PROCLAIM,
‘EVERYONE’S WELCOME.’”
NEW SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH,
TURTLE RIVER

OTHER RESOURCES

ReconcilingWorks

ReconcilingWorks advocates
for the acceptance, full
participation, and liberation of
all sexual orientations, gender
identities, and gender
expressions within the
Lutheran Church.
reconcilingworks.org
651.665.0861
info@ReconcilingWorks.org
PO Box 8070
Saint Paul, MN 55108
Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries

Believes the public witness of
gender and sexual minority
ministers transforms the church
and enriches the world.
Elm.org

312-759-7070
operations@elm.org
P.O. Box 14317
Chicago, IL 60614-8503

LGBTQ+ ACCOMPANIMENT TEAM

A MINISTRY OF THE
NORTHWESTERN
MINNESOTA SYNOD, ELCA

*Recognizing and
Welcoming the*

Gifts of LGBTQ+
Candidates for Ministry*



* lesbian, gay, bisexual,
transgender, queer(LGBTQ+)

**Northwestern
Minnesota Synod
Concordia College
Moorhead, MN 56562**

☎ (218) 299-3019 | (800) 452-3692

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✉ btesch@cord.edu



“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”
 Frederick Buechner

**How can we help?
 Let’s talk!**

This Team is looking forward to walking with your congregation as you prayerfully discern your congregation’s needs and the gifts of available candidates.

Let’s spend some time together! When we’re invited to join you for conversation, it might look like this:

The Northwestern Minnesota Synod needs gifted rostered leaders to fill the many positions currently open for our congregations’ spiritual leaders. The good news is we have gifted leaders available for a call right now, including those in the LGBTQ+ community. How might we connect these capable candidates with congregations in the call process?



The purpose of this LGBTQ+ Accompaniment Team is to accompany congregations in their discernment process through dialogue, education, advocacy, and support in specifically recognizing the gifts and calling of LGBTQ+ candidates: Diaconal, Pastoral, and Synodically Authorized Ministry.

Evening One
 Introductions
 Bible Study
 Reflection
 Congregational Considerations

Evening Two
 “Facilitated conversation on hopes, resources, concerns, questions, and next steps: opportunities to grow!”

**A MESSAGE
 FROM THE BISHOP**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our team designed this way of speaking and listening with each other and with God about the possibilities of LGBTQ+ candidates for a ministry serving in NW MN Synod congregations. I see this as a stewardship issue. God is calling people to ministry who are gifted and open to service to the whole church, and we recognize the need to prepare both congregations and LGBTQ+ candidates for ministry together. This process will honor the ELCA’s commitment to respect its members’ “bound conscience.” Congregations whose bound conscience would preclude them from considering these candidates may, of course, opt out. This process is designed for congregations who may not have thought about this possibility before and for those who are conscience-bound and for those who are conscience-bound to fully embrace the gifts of all of God’s diverse people.

In Christ,

Bill Tesch
 Bishop Bill Tesch

