



Oregon Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Dear Congregations of the Vineyard Cluster,

I am writing to you to request your help. Your Cluster is currently without a Cluster Representative for Synod Council. Pastor Leah Stolte-Doerfler, Immanuel Silverton, resigned at the end of 2021 to concentrate her energies and time on her congregation, family and her personal well being. Her term was not scheduled to end until August 2023. The Synod Council can appoint a replacement to finish out the unfinished term. This is where we need your help.

The constitution allows the congregations of the cluster to bring forth a name or names for consideration and appointment by the Council. The person appointed would complete the current term, and be eligible to run again for an additional 3 year term at the 2023 Synod Assembly. The makeup of the Synod Council requires a combination of genders and classification as rostered or lay. To stay within the requirements, the person filling this position needs to be either a woman or a person that is gender fluid, and can be either a lay or rostered classification. Rostered classification includes pastors and deacons.

We encourage you to seek out an individual that is interested in doing this important work of the church, has the time and energy to engage, and has talents that will benefit the synod. We recommend that the person or persons brought forth be from a congregation other than Immanuel Lutheran so that other congregations of the Cluster have the opportunity to represent you.

Please prayerfully consider who you would like to have represent your Cluster in the Synod Council. The Council meets on January 22nd. We would like to be able to appoint your representative at this meeting, so that your Cluster has representative voice and vote in the matters of the synod. Please forward a name or names to me directly.

May the peace of Christ be with you always.

Stay safe and stay involved.

Gregory F. Shea, Oregon Synod Vice President