



# Tapestry

August 2021  
Volume 34, Issue 4



**In This Issue**

- SWO Board Nominations.....2
- Ecclesiastical Ballot.....2
- Fall Gathering Update.....3
- FG On-line Registration.....3
- Register Now.....4
- Grant Assistance.....4
- Synod Assembly.....5
- LWR Good News.....5
- ELCA Fund for Leaders.....5
- Board Reports.....6
- Publications for you.....7
- From the Editor's Desk.....7
- Board Listing.....8



## *Phyllis' Ponderings*

Dear Sisters,

The SWO Board and Fall Planning Committee will have had their first in-person meeting on July 31 since January 2020! How exciting to finally be able to safely meet in-person.

One of the responsibilities of the Board is to prepare a written report for the Fall Gathering Program Book. This year's has been a challenge because the year was so different. I've always attempted to find something to be thankful for no matter what is going on--the silver lining. My silver lining is a tapestry of:

- the Board and Planning Committee learning to hold Zoom meetings,
- being able to attend a Spring Gathering virtually,
- inviting a small number of the Board to participate in "Pivot Don't Panic" offered by Churchwide instead of the traditional Conference of Presidents Meeting in Chicago (in February when it can be cold!),
- learning that despite the pandemic, you still managed to quilt and assemble kits for Lutheran World Relief, and
- seeing that WELCA can most definitely step outside the box.

It is my prayer that we won't forget that we can adapt how we do things, and we can step outside our comfort zone. That is what will keep this organization alive and growing.

This year's Fall Gathering is coming up and we will get a report from our current Love Offering recipient, C. A. L. M., to see how they have managed through the pandemic. Because I live close to them, it was exciting to see C. A. L. M. featured on the local news for the service they are providing.

A new Love Offering recipient will be announced at Fall Gathering, and we will have the opportunity to learn about the service they provide. The new Love Offering recipient will begin receiving our financial support on February 1, 2022.

The Board and Planning Committee are looking forward to welcoming you to Lake Yale. As always, there will be worship, Bible Study, workshops, free time, and some business we need to take care of, including a new Vice President, a Treasurer, and 3 Board Members.

Personally, the highlight of this Gathering will be that we can attend in-person! It feels like decades although we only missed one Gathering. See you soon!

Blessings!

**Phyllis Wade**  
**SWO President**

**FB-SWO Board**

---

**President:**  
Phyllis Wade  
secretary@htlc.gccoxmail.com

**Vice President:**  
Lisa Klima  
lisamarie274@yahoo.com

**Secretary:**  
Donna Person  
dperson7@aol.com

**Treasurer:**  
Laurie Nelson  
nlsnlaur@yahoo.com

## SWO BOARD NOMINATIONS



Have you ever thought about sharing your skills and talents by serving on the SWO Board? At this year's Fall Gathering, three (3) Board members will be elected, along with the Vice President (by ecclesiastical ballot), and the Treasurer. This is your opportunity to bring your experiences, We want you for the SWO Board! ideas, and creativity to the SWO Board.

Please contact Donna Person, SWO Secretary and Nominating Committee Chair, at [dperson7@aol.com](mailto:dperson7@aol.com) so you can obtain and complete your nomination form.

### By Nomination Form or by Nominating/Ecclesiastical Ballot?

#### That is the Election question!

This year at the Fall Gathering voting members will elect a vice president, treasurer and three (3) board members for a two (2) year term as part of the business they will conduct at the Fall Gathering in November. As noted above, nominations are currently being accepted for the treasurer and the three board members. Nomination forms can be found on [www.flwelca.com](http://www.flwelca.com).

The Vice President will be elected by a nominating/ecclesiastical ballot rather than a Nomination Form.

#### What is a nominating/ecclesiastical ballot?

When a new term approaches, the president or vice president are elected at the Fall Gathering by a nominating/ecclesiastical ballot; thus, no advance nominations are needed for these two positions. Any registered voting member of the gathering may place on the first ballot the name of any woman whom the spirit has led them to nominate on the ecclesiastical ballot.

At the upcoming Fall Gathering, the Vice President will be elected by using the "ecclesiastical ballot." It is important to emphasize that this is not just an election; it also is a call process. As such, we pray that the Holy Spirit will be with us as we engage in the election of the vice president, allowing careful consideration by the voting members

during the nominating process and the willingness of nominated women to accept the call during the voting process.

Called to Serve.  
ACTS 6:1-7

On the first ballot for vice president, voting members may write in the name of any woman. The ballots will be collected and counted by the Conduct of Elections Committee; the results of the ballot will be reported to the assembly. There will be an election if a nominee receives the required percentage of the ballots cast. If there is not an election, the first ballot is considered a nominating ballot. After the first ballot, any person nominated may withdraw her name if she is not eligible. The second ballot for vice president will contain the names of the individuals already nominated. This process will continue until a nominee receives the required amount of votes to complete the election.

**Lisa Klima**  
**SWO Vice President**

Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's  
Organization (WELCA) Fall Gathering  
November 12-14, 2021  
Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center



*I may have all the faith needed to move mountains but if I have no love,  
I am nothing. Corinthians 13:2b Good News Translation*

All women of the Church are invited!! This is a week end Gathering with ladies from all the congregations in the Florida Bahama Synod. Last fall we were unable to be in person because of COVID. You had the opportunity for a Virtual Mini Fall Gathering last fall. That was a taste of what you can expect this year, only in person. It will be great to see all of you. We will be taking precautions to ensure the health and safety of everyone. There will be a lot of changes this weekend

but God will help us move those mountains!

DON'T WAIT.... Registration is now open! There are several ways to register; go to our [fwelca.com](http://fwelca.com) website, click on 2021 Fall Gathering for details. You can download, email, or mail the PDF registration form with your workshop choices to our conference registrar, Diane Cummings. You may also register on line for workshops and housing. Deadline for registration is August 31.

We are looking forward to sharing with you God's love and assurance that Faith Can Move Mountains.

Blessings from your Co-chairs,

**ANN ENGLISH & LORAIN VAN HAECKE**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 31st**

## Fall Gathering

Definitely  
Time to



Registration for this year's Fall Gathering kicked off in June. You once again have several options for registering and paying.

PDF registration forms that you can mail, fax, or email to the registrar, Diane Cummings, are available online at [www.fwelca.com](http://www.fwelca.com) and on our Facebook page. Remember: you can also print these forms or share the online link with women in your congregation and conference.

Each year, more women have taken advantage of registering online. When you register online, you can select your workshops, choose your housing preference, and pay via credit card. When you register online, you will receive an email confirmation with your registration and payment information.

Please watch your email and Facebook for updated information about this year's Fall Gathering.

**Cheryl L. Semmel** Cell 785.224.1377 | [clsemmel@gmail.com](mailto:clsemmel@gmail.com)

*You're Running out of time!*

*Don't wait!*

*Don't hesitate!*

*Don't be late!*



## *Register for Fall Gathering before August 31!*

Our Fall Gathering registration deadline for this year is August 31. Why earlier than in past years? Our contract with Lake Yale requires us to guarantee 80% of the number of attendees. In simple terms, if we tell them we expect to have 250 attendees, unless we change the number on our contract by September 11, we will be required to pay for a minimum of 200 attendees whether we have that many registered or not. Because we forfeited our deposit for last year's Fall Gathering due to COVID, we simply cannot afford to pay for more attendees than we have registered. Please register early!

action  
cooperation,  
assistance, not  
help, aid, su  
backing, en  
inforcen

## **SHARE THE SPIRIT & LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE GRANTS**



The Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization has two grant (scholarship) programs to assist in the costs to attend our Fall Gathering, one for adult ladies and one for youth grade 6 through college. We know this year has been difficult in so many ways, including for some financially. We encourage individuals and Congregational Units to assist ladies in their Units with the costs and/or to make a donation to one or both of these grants. Donations should be mailed to **SWO Treasurer Laurie Nelson, 8598 N Calcutta Ave, Dunnellon, FL 34433.**

**Share the Spirit:** For our adult ladies, this grant program supplements funds to attend the Fall Gathering and encourages the participant, units, and other sponsors to help cover the costs of individuals attending the Fall Gathering. Who can apply? Any woman who would benefit from a spiritual weekend with sisters in

Christ like women of all ages, first timers, women needing a bit of financial assistance, or women who are in your congregation or community but not yet participants in your Unit—just to name a few.

**Let Your Light Shine:** For youth (Grade 6 through college), this grant program offers financial assistance to attend the Fall Gathering. Grants are awarded to supplement the cost of accommodations, meals, and registration fees. Previous grant recipients are eligible to apply.

Both applications will be available in June at: [www.flwelca.com](http://www.flwelca.com) on the Fall Gathering page. Include this form with your registration. If you have questions, contact the **Registrar Diane Cummings** at [sworegistrar1@gmail.com](mailto:sworegistrar1@gmail.com). Again, a reminder that for both grants, applicants are encouraged to also seek support from their congregation, sponsors, and self to share the costs.





Lutheran  
World  
Relief

### GOOD NEWS!

We have a new pick-up site for our February 2022 LWR Quilts & Kits Ingathering.

*Shepherd of the hills in Clermont* will be a new pick-up site this coming February.

*Chris Morse* will be the LWR contact person for Shepherd of the Hills.

Blessings,  
*Mae Haines*

Florida-Bahamas  
Synod Assembly 2021 - September 17-19

*"United Spirit, Diverse Body"*  
*1 Corinthians 12:12-14*

This year's Synod Assembly will be different with ways in place to make it as safe as possible since COVID-19 will simply not go away. That means that there will not be any display tables. However, I will be there and will be wearing a WELCA shirt each day. I will be more than happy to answer any questions that I might be asked while there. We will be represented; just not the way we usually are.

*Phyllis Wade, SWO President*

### ELCA Fund for Leaders

*for this church and for our future*

The Fund for Leaders Scholarship Application for the 2022-2023 academic year is available on our website, [www.flwelca.com](http://www.flwelca.com). The deadline is midnight, December 15, 2021. Applications should be submitted to **Donna Person, SWO Secretary**, 7418 Corkwood Circle, Tamara, FL 33321 or electronically to [dperson7@aol.com](mailto:dperson7@aol.com).

The scholarship will be awarded by the decision of the FL-BA SWO board at their January 2022 board meeting using the following criteria:

- ◆ The applicant must be a student in the candidacy process attending one of the eight ELCA seminaries in either the Master of Divinity or Master of Arts program or a student in an approved extension program of one of the ELCA seminaries and be enrolled in an approved program, such as the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program.
- ◆ Preference will be given to residents of the Florida-Bahamas Synod.

- ◆ Preference will be given to female applicants.
- ◆ Preference will be given to an active member of a congregational unit of the Women of the ELCA.
- ◆ Applicant should exhibit faith qualities that empower others.
- ◆ Applicant should demonstrate leadership qualities in church and the community.

Thank you, Florida-Bahamas Women of the ELCA, for your generous support of our Fund for Leaders Scholarship! It is your financial support that allows us to make scholarships available which, in turn, reduce the amount of debt our recipients will have after leaving seminary. If you would like to donate to the Fund for Leadership Scholarship, please send your donation to our Treasurer, **Laurie Nelson**, 8598 N. Calcutta Avenue, Dunnellon, FL 34433. Be sure to indicate that it is for the Fund for Leaders Scholarship.

### **Secretary/Historian Donna Person reports:**

**Historian** - Please help the SWO preserve its history. Do you have any photos, documents, or memorabilia from a Fall Gathering, your Spring Gathering, circle, unit, or Conference that you would like the SWO to keep? Please provide it to the Historian.

**Plus One** - At the November Fall Gathering, new circles are recognized that have formed in the past year. Do you know of any new circles in your Conference or area that were created in 2020 or 2021? **Denise Beumer, SWO Board member**, reported that a new circle, Women of Grace, has been formed at her church, **St. John's Lutheran Church** in Winter Park.



### **Treasurer Laurie Nelson shares A MESSAGE ON STEWARDSHIP:**

'Giving' is a powerful word these days when so many are in need. It seems everywhere we go there are endless organizations asking for (financial) help. You tithe at church; there are charity fundraiser at places you frequent; grocery and department stores want you to round up; and the endless donation request are in the mail. As a Christian, on a fixed income, I find myself sometimes struggling with our instruction to be cheerful giver. I was recently touched by an article in 'Living Lutheran' from our **ELCA Presiding Bishop Eaton**. She shares the words of Paul: *"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work"* (2 Corinthians 9:8).

*(Quote) Stewardship is a deeply spiritual act. It moves us out of ourselves and toward the neighbor in need. It glorifies God. It brings freedom from wealth and status. It unclenches our hands and hearts. It lets us rest in the promise of God's abundance. We become cheerful givers.*

Please prayerfully consider helping to rebuild our mission funds. Thank you to all our cheerful givers of FL-BA WELCA and remember we now have easy online giving through our website.

### **Global Mission Report by GMT Rep Gayle Backiel:**

Global Mission Table (GMT) is a group of men, women and pastors who have a love and concern for God's people in other countries. The Florida/Bahama Synod has five companion churches in the area of the Caribbean. These five are Cuba, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, and Suriname.

Because of Covid, we still have had very little interaction with our companions this year. In each of our companion churches, the vaccine is very limited. Only 1% to 10% of the people in these countries have been vaccinated.

There is a lot of discouraging news in each of the companion churches. All have suffered economically as well as socially and health wise, as have we. They suffer more because of the poverty that was already there.

I will focus on the good news in this article. Very good news! **Pastor Katie, the Chairperson of GMT**, will be at the Fall Gathering and tell us a little more about the work of our Synod's Global Mission and Companion Churches.

In Haiti, **Pastor Livenson** is safe. He says the streets are very quiet. Global Mission Table has agreed to send \$10,000 to the churches there to purchase food from local growers. This money will also maintain two trucks to de-

liver the food to the areas where families can pick up the groceries. This is an emergency measure and will feed about 100 families for one month

In Cuba, the situation is complicated because of political forces as well as Covid. As with all the Companions, we do what we can to be sure they are safe and healthy. The good news here is that the government allows people to worship as they wish.

In Guyana and/or Suriname, the relationships are improving. They need better internet service, and the vaccination rate is low.

In Jamaica, the United Theological College of the West Indies is suffering due to COVID and the lack of enrollments and other difficulties.

I know I promised to report good news. As Pastor Katie expressed in her beautiful prayer at the beginning of our meeting, *"The good news is there is hope in God. There is unrest here and in our Companion Churches. We seek justice and peace and that we might be an expression of God's word and will."* Please pray for our companion churches and all God's children in the world.

## Publications by Karen Weinrich

One of the Publications of the Women of the ELCA is Bold Café. This is an online magazine and podcast for young adult women. Each month focuses on a different topic. Do you no longer consider yourself a "young" woman? That's okay, you can read the magazine and listen to the podcast anyway. Consider sharing it with others, especially if you have a circle with younger women. All of the resources can be found at [www.boldcafe.org](http://www.boldcafe.org).

The pandemic has certainly changed the way all of us do things. Now that we have learned how to Zoom, did you know that the Bold Café also holds a monthly Zoom BYOD?

What is BYOD? Bring Your Own Dinner! Each month, you can prepare your own dinner and then join the Zoom conversation at 7pm CT. In August, registrants join **Rev. Michelle Terry** to talk about inclusive language about God. You simply need to click on the blue "register" button to receive a zoom link to join.

A promotional graphic for a Bold Café event. It features a blue background with a white fork and plate icon. The word "Café" is written in a white serif font at the top left. Below it is a red button with the text "boldcafe.org". To the right is a portrait of Rev. Michelle Terry, a woman with long brown hair wearing a black clerical collar. Text on the left reads: "Monthly dinner with Boldcafe writers + friends! (B.Y.O.D.)", "Thursday, August 12 @ 7 p.m. CT", and "Women of ELCA" with a logo at the bottom right.

### Join Boldcafe writers + friends for conversation and dinner, Thursday, August 12 @ 7 p.m. (CT)!

*Once a month we meet with some of our popular writers to talk about our favorite articles and more! Bring your own dinner (B.Y.O.D) and sign up via Zoom.*

The Rev. Michelle Terry is a pastor and popular Boldcafe writer. She will lead our conversation about inclusive language about God. Join us!



[Register Here](#)



From the Editor

### Is your Voting Member registered?

From the Editor's Desk — Linda Greilick

#### Congregational Unit leaders:

With the Fall Gathering fast approaching, now is the time to determine who will be your Unit's Voting Member at the event. For that person to be seated as a Voting Member, three tasks need to be accomplished. To be seated, the Voting Member will need to mark the appropriate box (Voting Member or Alternate) on their Registration form (Overnight or Commuter) and submit a Voting Member Registration Form to the Registrar Diane Cummings. In addition, since February 1, 2021, your Congregational Unit should have already sent a contribution for Regular Offering to the FL-BA SWO Treasurer Laurie Nelson. If you have not, please do so prior to seating of the Voting Members. Thirdly, your unit should have a constitution or affirmation on record with our FL-BA SWO President Phyllis Wade. If you are unsure as to your status on offerings or forms, please email those mentioned above to determine your Congregational Unit's status. Email addresses are available on Page 8 of this edition.

# Florida Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization Directory

## Executive Board 2020-2021

<u>President</u>	<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
<b>Phyllis Wade</b> secretary@htlc.gccoxmail.com Planning Committee	<b>Lisa Klima</b> lisamarie274@yahoo.com Planning Committee	<b>Donna Person</b> dperson7@aol.com J-Historian	<b>Laurie Nelson</b> nlsnlaur@yahoo.com

## Board Members and Missions\*\*

Gayle Backiel rbackiel@verizon.net J-Global Missions	Mae Haines stevemae@verizon.net J-LWR, CWU, Rachel's Day	Marilyn Kreitzinger manyjoys2u@gmail.com S-Katie's Fund, Disaster, Scholarship	Karen Weinrich weinrik@hotmail.com D-Publications
Denise Beumer dbeumer1000@gmail.com J-Anti-Racism, Justice Advocacy	Jackie Haynick jackiehaynick@yahoo.com Love Offering	Anne Storan astoran46@gmail.com D-Conference Coordinator, Plus One	

## Non-Board Members

<b><u>Registrar</u></b> <b>Diane Cummings</b> sworegistrar1@gmail.com	<b><u>Triennial Promoter</u></b> <b>Diane Spicer</b> dlsic@juno.com
<b><u>Tapestry Editor</u></b> <b>Linda Greilick</b> lindag65@verizon.net	<b><u>Planning Committee Co-Chairs</u></b> <b>Ann English</b> aenglish228@yahoo.com
<b><u>Webmaster/Web Advisor</u></b> <b>Cheryl Semmel</b> clsemmel@gmail.com	<b>Loraine Van Haecke</b> loraine.vanhaecke@gmail.com
<b><u>Human Trafficking Committee</u></b> <b>Phyllis Wade</b> secretary@htlc.gccoxmail.com	<b><u>Churchwide Board</u></b> <b>Raeann Purcell</b> raeannpurcell@hotmail.com

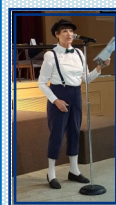


### What does our logo mean?

Our logo—with the cross, water and a white lily—identifies women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as children of God; baptized, forgiven, adopted into God's family, full of grace and hope in eternal life. It is a reminder of the growth, beauty, and vitality that rises out of that life-giving baptismal water. It is also a reminder of the mission of the church to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

\*\*Missions

D Discipleship  
J Justice  
S Stewardship



### **Tapestry**

The *Tapestry* is published six times per year. It is available online under the *Tapestry* link of the FL-Bahamas Women of the ELCA website located at [www.flwelca.com](http://www.flwelca.com).

To submit material for publication, contact **Linda Greilick, Tapestry Editor**  
lindag65@verizon.net

**Please submit *Tapestry* articles  
by September 15th for the October issue.**