



Name: Rev. Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld

Current Position:

Intentional Interim Pastor - Atonement - Beloit

Congregation Membership & City:

Unity Lutheran Church - Brookfield

Date and Year of Ordination: 10/30/1980

Previous Positions:

Preceptor, Luther Seminary - Christian Public Leadership	9/17 - present
Intentional Interim Senior Pastor, Cross LC, Burlington, WI	10/15 - 11/16
Intentional Interim Lead Pastor, Grace LC, Kenosha, WI	3/13 - 9/15
Lead Pastor, Gethsemane LC, Brookfield, WI	9/10 - 11/12
Lead Pastor, Good Shepherd LC, Waukesha, WI	2/92 - 9/10
Co-Pastor, St. Peter's LC Milwaukee, WI	7/85 - 9/92
Interim Campus Pastor, Lutheran Campus Ministry, UWM	8/84 - 7/85
Resident Chaplain, St. Luke's Hospital, Milwaukee, WI	9/83 - 8/84
Associate Pastor, Cross Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI	9/80 - 9/82

Education and Earned Degrees :

Youth & Family Certification School, Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, IA, 2000 McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL - M.Div. 1979
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY - B.S., Psychology, 1974

List up to five (5) current or past synodical or churchwide activities that would inform your service as bishop of this synod:

Co-Chair, Task Force on Women and Justice - ELCA	2012 - present
Executive Board, Women of the ELCA,	2017 - present
Racial Equity Team, South Central Synod of Wisconsin,	2017 - present
Board of Trustees (Governance Com), Mission Investment Fund,	2011 - 2017
ELCA Rep to Illinois Synod Candidacy Team,	1982 - 1986

List up to five (5) current or past community activities that would inform your service as bishop of this synod:

Ethics Committee, Community Memorial Hospital, Menomonee Falls, WI	1997 - 2009
Campus Ministry Board, Milwaukee, WI	1994 - 2003
City of Brookfield Police Dept. Volunteer Chaplain	1996 - 2002
Board, YWCA - Waukesha County, WI	1996 - 1998
Board Member, United Way in Waukesha County	1993 - 1999

What gifts do you bring to the office of bishop of this synod?

I come to this process with a deep sense that God has gifted me to love and serve God's diverse people. I bring the gift of shepherding God's people as they walk in a discipling journey towards God's beloved community. I bring the gift of accompaniment, walking with the people of God in our synod: teaching, preaching, celebrating the sacraments and listening to them as we seek God's direction in our lives together. I bring the gift of a missional focus that moves us to respond positively to Jesus' call to go into all the world (to cradle Lutherans such as myself and to those on the margins) inviting all to God's table of grace. I bring the gift of speaking the truth in love, helping people to critically look at who we are and where God is calling us to be. I bring the gift of being passionately, and intentionally, anti-racist and multi-cultural believing water is thicker than blood which make us one baptismal family. I bring the gift of administration to enable us to effectively conduct the synod's business.

What do you see is the principal challenge to this synod (or the ELCA) and how would you address it? Our synod struggles with doing ministry and mission in a world that is deeply fragmented and no longer centered on the institutional church. Diversity is too often seen as threat rather than a gift of God. We are becoming increasingly older and smaller as we seek to be faithful to the Gospel. We struggle to see and celebrate the gifts that we possess. I believe we are called to faithfulness in the midst of these challenges, reaching beyond what is to be transformed into a church that is able to speak to an increasingly diverse, 21st century world.

Describe your leadership style. My leadership style is collaborative. As the leader I invest time building relationships, addressing conflicts and sharing control. I find this style helpful to obtain efficient results in the parish. I try to empower others to be leaders by supporting and motivating them to be all God has called them to be, using the gifts God has already given them to accomplish their task. I respect my staff, consult with them, listen to them, and value their skills and expertise so they can accomplish the work in their portfolios. The strength of the collaborative style is that more work gets done and gets done well. The challenge of this style is that it calls everyone to a higher sense of responsibility. Those who know me are aware that I have high expectations for myself and others. I expect people to follow through on their work. Yet, as Pastor, or Bishop, I take full responsibility for the work of my staff.