

Pastor Manda Truchinski (she/her) is a Minister of Word and Sacrament serving as the Assistant to the Bishop in Sierra Pacific Synod. She says about serving on this committee:

I feel compelled by the Holy Spirit to share with others the promise of salvation in Jesus Christ that is for all creation. This is what led to my own vocational call and I believe it compels those who seek candidacy in our synod. To share means to travel the path together not knowing where it might lead, encouraging one another to persist faithfully, and holding one another accountable; in short, practicing what the disciples on the road to Emmaus did in the past and that which will one day be fulfilled in God's kin-dom reign.

I was blessed that this was how my own vocational discernment has evolved. From my youth, and up to the present there were individuals who would journey with me, reflecting the gifts of God which they saw in me, holding me accountable to the Gospel, revealing the truth of Jesus Christ in my life, and teaching me about the breadth and depth of the tradition that I was swimming in.

It wasn't a perfect process. There were painful moments brought by myself and others. Still, I believe that our method of discernment and formation has merit and potential.

I have a deep reverence for what candidates entrust to us: their vulnerability before God, their doubts and fears, their confessions and hopes, and their testimony of how God is transforming them. It is my hope that I can, as a member of this broken body we call the Church, serve as an agent of the external call in the discernment of our candidates, striving for the future iteration of what God is calling our Church to be.

