

My name is Ron Valadez and I serve Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Auburn, CA as their pastor. I've been a pastor since 2013 and have spent all of that time in our beautiful Sierra Pacific Synod. I grew up in Vacaville, CA and have been a Lutheran since early childhood. It has been an honor to serve on this committee, especially having gone through candidacy not that long ago myself in another synod. My own time on candidacy was a positive experience but like all institutions, there was room for improvement. My main goal is to make sure that all of our candidates enter ministry with their eyes wide open to the challenges of this field of work. Of special concern of mine is our candidates of color, female candidates, and our candidates from the LGBTQ+ community, as they will unfortunately encounter unique challenges, and my prayer is that they will be as prepared as possible for them.