



Name Joelle Colville-Hanson

Current Position and Dates of Service Director For Evangelical Mission, Northeastern Iowa Synod 9/9/13

Current City and State of Residence Waterloo, Iowa

Congregation of Membership Good Shepherd Lutheran, Waterloo

Date and Year of Ordination 07 / 06 / 86

Previous Positions	Dates of Service
<u>Interim Pastor, Ridgeway Lutheran Parish, Ridgeway, IA</u>	<u>12/2010-5/2013</u>
<u>Pastor, Salem Lutheran, Roland, IA</u>	<u>6/2005-12/2010</u>
<u>Pastor, St. John Lutheran Church, Cushing, IA</u>	<u>1/1999-6/2005</u>
<u>Pastor, St. John-Trinity Lutheran Parish, Birnamwood, WI</u>	<u>9/1989-12/1998</u>
<u>Associate Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church, Madison, WI</u>	<u>7/1986-9/1989</u>
<u>Interim Pastor, Middle & Lower Coon Valley Lutheran Ch</u>	<u>6/1985-6/1986</u>

College and Post Graduate Degrees and Institutions	Dates of Study
<u>BA, Sociology Major, San Francisco State University</u>	<u>1979</u>
<u>Master of Divinity, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary</u>	<u>1985</u>
<u>Doctor of Ministry, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago</u>	<u>1998</u>

Current Board / Committee / Community Service	Dates of Service
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Past Board / Committee / Community Service	Dates of Service
<u>Ames Figure Skating Club</u>	<u>6/2006-12/2010</u>
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Honors / Honorary Degrees / Specialized Training / Other

Intentional Interim Training

What gifts do you believe you would bring to the office of bishop?

Although I have been out of the parish for four years; I believe it has been the thirty years I have spent as a pastor in small rural congregations that have formed me and given me an understanding of what the joys and challenges are for most pastors and congregations.

Those experiences have taught me the balance of sharing and sometimes pushing new visions, appreciating and affirming old traditions, listening and challenging and most importantly, showing up and being there. I believe this background has helped me be a good pastor and I would draw on it to be a good bishop.

My recent work as a Director of Evangelical Worship has developed my skills for helping congregations discover their mission and use new tools for outreach and renewal. The particular passion I would bring to the office of bishop is the use of Digital Ministry for outreach, mission and community building.

What would excite you the most about responding to this call? What would be the most challenging aspect of this ministry for you?

I am excited about the possibilities of how I can share my particular gifts and insights when it comes to digital ministry to help implement the strategic plan goals adopted by the Rocky Mountain Synod. I see many possibilities for using digital tools to claim and tell our story as individuals, congregations, synod, and church and show how those stories connect with the story of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ and how we can bring others (and their stories) into that Story.

I have moved many times in my life, and it never ceases to be challenging.

I also think it would be a challenge to be a leader in a synod new to me.

As bishop, how do you envision being a living model of faith? Give examples of how you live out your faith through your actions.

When I was young, I had no role models for female pastors, never mind female bishops. I just learned to be myself, and for me, it was freeing not to have to conform to someone else's idea of what pastor should look like.

But I also recognize the importance of role models. I am aware now that younger clergywomen see me as a role model. What I hope to model is being comfortable with who you are and learning to use the gifts God has given you to further the mission of God's reign of love, compassion, and justice.

I am particularly aware of how I witness to my faith and the church by my public presence on social media. There are plenty of false prophets who are not afraid to share their false gospels and false gods online. We need to be out there in full force sharing the Gospel of love and mercy and justice. Although some are taken aback by my outspokenness on racism, sexism, and LGBTQ issues, there are others, estranged from the church are encouraged to give the Gospel another chance from my witness.

I live out my faith best when I trust God. So it was out of trust that I packed my car and drove from California where I had lived my whole life to Wisconsin as a newly called pastor out of seminary. It was my trust in God that it was eventually going to be okay that got me out of bed to feed my children in the weeks and months after my husband was suddenly killed in a car accident. I have faced many difficult struggles in my life and yet I remain an optimist because I trust God. If my witness to that trust encourages someone else to step out in faith—even a little, then it's a good day.

What is your understanding of the role of a synodical bishop in the ELCA? In the Rocky Mountain Synod, specifically?

Working in the bishop's office in Northeastern Iowa Synod, I see that the role of the bishop is not what most people think it is. It is not to be a friend or even pastor to the pastors. It is to be a pastor to the whole synod—congregations, ministry settings and rostered ministers. It is to see to it that the mission of the church gets done. It is a lot of meetings and institutional work which people like to dismiss, but it is that work allows which others to do the "fun" creative stuff. It is to support, lift up and nurture the creativity and gifts of others. It is to represent and speak on behalf of the synod and the ELCA and not let your own needs and fears get in the way of that.

It seems to me the most contextual responsibility of a synod bishop is leading the mission of the church. I am very impressed with the Synod's Strategic Plan Goals and think the bishop can be helpful in keeping these goals front and center in many various ways.

What would you expect of congregations (and other ministries)? And what should they expect of you?

I would expect folks to keep their baptismal vows and the promises they make at the Bishop's installation.

Folks should expect me to obey my baptismal and my ordination vows, and the promises I would make at the Bishop's installation.

I think if we all keep those promises with God's help, we'll be fine.

How do you practice self care and nurture your spirituality?

I find renewal through engaging in creative activities that both connect me with God's creation and that I can complete so that I see the results of my work. Ministry is an ongoing endeavor in which you build on the work of others and others build on your work, so you rarely see tangible results. It is easier to accept this reality when you have other outlets that let you see the result of your work.

For me, this is photographing landscapes and wildlife where I have photographs that remind me of my time in nature. I particularly enjoy combining photography with hikes which refreshes me in body and spirit.

I also enjoy gardening which requires patience, but in the end, there will be a result of my work. These are fun hobbies but also a sacred time where I combine the work with prayer. I have solved many dilemmas either digging in a garden or walking along a river path.