

Position Z: (Slot 7) Person of Color/Primary Language Other than English, Lay Female, elect one

1. Ms. Benita Muganza – Trinity, Grand Rapids – Greater Grand Rapids Conference

Occupation/Vocation: Caregiver for elderly and handicapped person

Education: Computer Science (in India)

Congregation Engagement: Property committee volunteer

Synod Engagement: Translator for Congolese refugees. I am able to speak French, Swahili, Lingala, Tshiluba, and English (I am still learning but it's getting better).

Churchwide Engagement: Served as a synod voting member at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee, WI. I love praying for others, helping as I can with their needs ...

Gifts and Skills: I will be giving my best to help other people here in America but also in the world.

2. Ms. Jacquelyn Williams-Armstrong – St. Stephen, Lansing – Capital Conference

Occupation/Vocation: Retired (State of Michigan-34 years)

Education: Master of Public Administration

Congregation Engagement: Served as Council president for two terms ending January, 2021. I oversaw the departure of one pastor, the call to a stated supply pastor, then a call process (ex-officio member) culminating in the first-time call for our current pastor. I also served on praise team until the pandemic. I serve on the Cooperative Ministry group that is comprised of four (4) area churches and participated in planning and participation of several initiatives, including a recent Racism event and a huge Food Packing event where we packaged enough meals to feed 10,000 people.

Synod Engagement: I served some years ago on many different committees and events with the Synod. I was a voting member off and on for Synod Assembly over many years, as well as a volunteer. I recently attended Synod Assembly (pre-Pandemic) as a guest because we were between pastors and I was Council president and felt that it was the responsible thing to do. Currently I serve on the Cooperative Ministry group referenced above, which we were asked by the Synod to initiate.

Churchwide Engagement: I attended one Churchwide Assembly in Orlando a few years ago as a voting member. It was the one that included a very controversial and difficult vote regarding blessing same-sex unions.

Gifts and Skills: I have been an active and loyal member of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Lansing for more than 35 years. I have served in many leadership roles over those years right up to today. I am a problem solver and a very good communicator. I participated in the preparation of a document called the Pandemic of Racism which resulted in a recent Anti-Racism event called White Privilege. As I have attended Churchwide in the past, along with the above mentioned activities, I feel that I am equipped to serve in the Churchwide Assembly capacity.