

**Discernment For the Call of Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod
Biographical Information Form**

*(By completing this form, I am stating that I am willing to stand for nomination
for the office of Bishop for the this synod.)*

1. Name: Rev. Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt

2. Current Position: Bishop, Southern Ohio Synod-ELCA

3. Congregation Membership: First English Lutheran Church, Lancaster, OH

4. Year of Birth: 1959

5. Date and Year of Ordination: 1987

6. Previous Positions:

Assistant to the Bishop, Southern Ohio Synod-ELCA (1996-2013)

Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Eaton, OH (1994-2005)

Associate Pastor, Peace Lutheran Church, Gahanna, OH (1990-1994)

Pastor, Faith in Christ/Christ Lutheran Church, Springfield, OH (1987-1990)

7. Education and Earned Degrees (with institutions and years, most recent first):

Master of Divinity, Trinity Lutheran Seminary (1986)

Bachelor of Arts, University of Arizona (1981)

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

- 1) Chair, Synodical and Churchwide Relations Committee-Conference of Bishops ELCA
- 2) ELCA Foundation Board
- 3) Christian Churches Together (National Ecumenical Table)
- 4) Capital University Board of Directors
- 5) Southern Ohio Synod/ELCA Military Support

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

- 1) Local Food Pantry
- 2) Ecumenical Work with Full Communion Partners
- 3) Band Parent Volunteer and Chaperone

10. What gifts would you bring to the office of bishop of this synod? (1,000 characters maximum)

- 1) I believe that the gifts I bring to the Office of Bishop include vision and leadership, providing clarity to the mission of the church, grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, crucified and resurrected.
- 2) Discerning the gifts and talents of others for leadership and encouraging them to use those talents in their daily lives and the church.
- 3) Administration

11. What do you see as the principal challenge to this synod in the next six (6) years, and how would you address it? (1,000 characters maximum)

Finding our distinctive Lutheran voice (justified by grace through faith) in a changing (and changed) culture: Lutheran Christians in Southern Ohio Synod congregations can rediscover the power of sharing our faith stories as a witness to Jesus. Equipping congregations to tell this story is crucial for us now and our future. As we raise up leaders for the church, our voice needs clarity and volume. Neighbors are hungry for something, and we in Southern Ohio share a baptismal calling to reach out beyond the walls of buildings into the world. Equipping leaders so they can equip our people is crucial to making this happen.

12. Describe your leadership style. (1,000 characters maximum)

Steady, relational, creative, hopeful, pragmatic and clear.