

Candidates for National Office

Secretary/Treasurer: Kevin Barger and Darren Hochstedler

Kevin Barger (incumbent)



Kevin Barger has served as the Director of Music Ministry at Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church in Richmond, Virginia since 1997. At Epiphany, he has responsibility for serving as the church's organist as well as leading adult and children's vocal choirs, adult handbells, brass and wind/string ensembles as well as youth music activities. In addition to his work at Epiphany, Kevin is involved in the Virginia Leadership Program for Musicians (LPM) as a board and faculty member. He serves as the assistant accompanist for the Richmond Symphony Chorus as well as singing tenor with the group. Kevin has served on the worship committee for the Virginia Synod, an instructor for the Synod's Power in the Spirit on several occasions and as the Assembly musician. He served on the state's introductory team for the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

resource in 2006. He served 2 terms as ALCM Region 2 Secretary/Treasurer, 1 term as ALCM Region 2 Vice President and is completing his first term as Secretary/Treasurer for the national board.

Kevin received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Thiel College and a Master of Business Administration degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. He enjoys running and spending time with his wife and three children and engaging them in the work of the church.

Vision statement:

ALCM provides a place to grow in faith and learn together with fellow musicians and pastors to create meaningful worship opportunities for those congregations we serve. Today, more than ever, we rely on professional colleagues to help us face the daily challenges of that task. As an officer of ALCM, it is incumbent on us to continue to provide rich educational, networking and development activities for our region and across the country. We are at an exciting juncture in better defining the future direction for ALCM, and I am committed to exploring new ideas and creating dynamic opportunities for our membership while maintaining the integrity of Christ-centered worship. In this commitment, we must prove to be a financially responsible organization, laying the groundwork for years of service to come. This is our opportunity to refine and commit to serve each other as well as the broader church.

Darren Hochstedler



Darren Hochstedler has served as a church music director for over 25 years in such diverse locals as Nuremberg, Germany, Hawaii, San Francisco and Washington State. Darren has, throughout his ministry, emphasized the importance of quality repertoire while making sure that there is a place for musicians of all skill levels to participate. He is particularly skilled in curating each congregation's hymnody insuring that both the treasured hymns of our Lutheran heritage are preserved while introducing music from Christians around the world as well as music from the great American songbook including spirituals and gospel music.

For the past 9 years, Darren has also served Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church as the business administrator supervising two successful capital campaigns, establishing and maintaining realistic yet visionary budgets

and assisting the congregation in practicing good financial and resource stewardship. In addition to music and the arts, he has a passion for ministry especially in the areas of administration and finance, social justice and community building.

Vision statement:

ALCM appears to be in the midst of a discernment period. Striving to clarify who our membership is, what types of services we desire and most importantly, how ALCM can move towards meeting those needs while continuing to maintain a solid financial position. I believe that the recently completed survey gave the board and staff a wealth of information with a few recurring themes. My primary vision for ALCM is that that national staff and board see themselves as facilitators and builders of networks and communities. As predominately volunteers, the board can't be expected to "do" as much as to encourage regions and states to "do" for themselves. This might mean developing and encouraging local chapters, developing a recruitment and retention program that is implemented regionally and most importantly, getting needed resources into the hands of our members, particularly directors of small music programs and programs in isolated areas.

ALCM is a unique organization that has managed to stay true to its heritage while staying current with the needs of today. In our quickening world, our call is to continue to be relevant to our members regardless of denomination, worship style, social issues, geographical location or any other thing that separates us.

Member at Large: Michael Krentz and Daniel Schwandt

Michael Krentz



Michael Krentz is a Lecturer and Director of Music Ministries/Seminary Cantor at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia; he is an Associate in Ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He also serves as Director of Music/Organist at Christ Lutheran Church in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He received Bachelor, Master, and Doctor of Music degrees from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. Dr. Krentz is currently Dean of the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, a member of the Worship Team of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA, and has served in the leadership of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, including as chairperson of ALCM's 1997 national conference, president of Region 1, and national Secretary-Treasurer.

Vision statement:

My vision for ALCM is simple: that ALCM would be for others, including those who are not yet members, what it has been for me.

For me, ALCM has been a primary means of learning and growth for almost 30 years. Articles in *CrossAccent* and presentations at conferences have given me new insight into the Church's worship, music, and worship and music together. ALCM has stretched me out of my comfort zone, and opened my eyes to new possibilities.

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ALCM has also been a voice for me, and many others. All together, we ALCM members have participated actively in the ongoing renewal of worship in the Church. ALCM has promoted the best in new music, and encouraged the Church to think seriously about musicians and their role and call in the church.

But even more, ALCM has been foundational to my emotional and spiritual wellbeing. When ALCM is embodied at its conferences, in lectures, workshops, around the dinner table, and especially at worship, I have been renewed, affirmed, and strengthened.

What is my vision for ALCM? That ALCM would be a means of learning and growth, that ALCM would be a voice, that ALCM would be a place of comfort, nurture and support - for me, for you, and for many others for many years to come.

Soli Deo Gloria if this vision becomes reality.

Daniel Schwandt



Daniel Schwandt is the Cantor of Immanuel Lutheran Church (ELCA) in the Edgewater neighborhood of Chicago and serves as the Cantor to the Seminary Community at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He also serves as the principle musician at Holy Trinity—Loop. He holds a degree in church music from St. Olaf College and has held church music positions in Wisconsin and the Twin Cities. His compositions are published through Augsburg Fortress and MorningStar Music, and he is in demand as a leader of hymn festivals and workshops. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Organ Historical Society and has served on the board of the Chicago Chapter of the AGO.

Vision statement:

Next year marks the tenth anniversary of our various denominational worship resources (LSB and ELW). It's been an exciting time to be the church these past nine years as we've explored our new worship books. In two years we also mark the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Many of our communities are searching for how best to claim the heritage of the Reformation and at the same time, work more earnestly for reconciliation and renewal. This is also the work of the ALCM as we discern our future and lay groundwork for the years to come. Trusting in the Spirit's guidance, we must continue to strengthen ALCM as a resource for church musicians who serve across the spectrum of Lutheran traditions, styles, and places, and we must work to engage in mutual support those whose ideas and abilities are different from our own while continuing to advocate for excellence in our craft. I also hope to see ALCM as a stronger and more deliberate advocate for increased musical formation at denominational and seminary levels. The landscape of musical training within theological education is practically non-existent in many locales and ALCM has a voice and role to play in changing that direction. Together, we can strengthen each other in the Body of Christ to sing "a more profound Alleluia."