

The Rev. Lee M. Miller II

Bishop, Upstate New York Synod

The Rev. Lee M. Miller II was elected on June 5, 2021 by the Synod Assembly of the Upstate New York Synod to serve as the fifth bishop in the synod's history. Pr. Miller begins a six-year term on September 1, 2021. Pr. Miller succeeds The Rev. John S. Macholz and is the son of former synod bishop, The Rev. Lee Miller, Ed.D., (1992-2002).

"I dream a church where love activates people to do justice and share the joy which we receive as a gift," Bishop Miller says. The Upstate New York Synod is a collaboration of 170 congregations and communities throughout the Upstate region. The synod is united in its proclamation of God's grace for all people, the work of justice in each community and neighborhood, and the joy that is found connecting communities to one another.

At the time of his election, Bishop Miller served as the Senior Pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Buffalo, NY, where he served for nine years, connecting the congregation to the community through local and global partnerships, collaborations, accompaniment work in racial justice, and in support of local schools and organizations.

Bishop Miller previously served as the lead pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, PA, and his first call was to Christus Evangelical Lutheran Church in Camden, NJ. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, and his Bachelor of Arts degree in English was earned from the State University of New York in Albany.

He has served the whole church throughout his ministry as a member of synod councils and candidacy committees as well as serving as a voting member of the 2009 and 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assemblies. Most recently Bishop Miller has served as the Dean of the Niagara Frontier conference and sits on the boards of VOICE Buffalo, and the Niagara Lutheran Health System.

Bishop Miller enjoys time away with his family, running, swimming, listening to music, and good naps. He is married to his spouse, Heather, with whom their greatest joy, is their son, Griffin.