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(SD)-ELCA SD Synod Elects New Bishop

By: John Axtell Posted at: 06/04/2019 10:46 PM

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - The South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has picked a new bishop.

The Rev. Constanze Hagmaier, administrative pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Madison, was elected to a 6-year term on the fifth ballot during the synod's recent two-day assembly in Sioux Falls.

Hagmaier received 250 votes to edge The Rev. Bill Tesch, director of evangelical mission and associate to the bishop of the Synod, by 3 votes.

She will take office on Sept. 1 to succeed the term-limited Bishop David Zellmer with an installation service set for Sept. 7 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls.