

# Rev. Dr. Inba Inbarasu



**Ordination Date:** June 12, 2991

**Education & Earned Degrees:**

D. Min. Doctor of Ministry -  
Religion and Health, 2007,  
Chicago Theological Seminary.  
Chicago, Illinois

M.Th. Master of Theology, Specialized in Missiology, 1991,  
SAIACS, Bangalore, Karnataka.

M.A. Master of Arts, Public Administration, 1989,  
S.V.University,Thirupathi, Andhra Pradesh

M.A. Master of Arts, Philosophy, 1986, Osmania University,  
Hyderabad, Andra Pradesh

B.D. - Bachelor of Divinity, 1984, Bishop's College Senate of  
Serampore, Calcutta, West Bengal

**Current & Previously Held Positions**

Immanuel Pathways PACE, Immanuel, Pastor, 2021- Present

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, Visitation Pastor, 2013-  
2021, Omaha. Nebraska

Faith Ambassador Lutheran Parish, Interim Minister,2019-  
2020, Hooper, Nebraska.

Veterans Administration, Central Alabama Veteran Health  
Care System, ACPE CPE supervisor/Certified Educator and  
clinical staff chaplain, 2017-2018, Tuskegee/Montgomery,  
Alabama

Alegent Health/CHI Health System, CPE Supervisor  
Manager/Program Director,2008-2017, Omaha, Nebraska

**Please tell us a bit about yourself.**

I am blessed by God and claimed in holy baptism at a small Danish Lutheran congregation, India. God was at work through the Danish Missionary Society, who brought the Gospel. I am a member of the Kountze Memorial Lutheran church in Omaha and serving as your pastor at Immanuel pathways PACE ministries, Nebraska synod. I deeply care for mission and ministry of the church and our community. I love to think strategically, organize, and plan a path forward. I pay attention to the details while keeping the big picture. I try to bring relational and caring presence, approachability, hospitality, and empathic listening. I have 36 years of ministry experience from a variety of settings: Pastor in immigrant & shared ministry congregations; urban & rural; Pastor in specialized ministry; teaching in seminary; pastoral care; visitation pastor; clinical pastoral education supervisor. I embrace diversity and differences to work together for common purposes and for the sake of our ministry and witness. Having worked in different cultures, congregations, Federal and Corporate leadership, and non-profit faith/health care institutions, I bring varied experience with global perspective and would like to share the blessings through connecting, inspiring, and empowering through the opportunity of serving the synod.

**Describe what brings you energy as you consider the role of Bishop and how this might be a best use of your gifts, skills, and passion.**

The primary mission of the Bishop is to shepherd the rostered, lay leaders, and congregations to grow deeper in discipleship in Christ, celebrate, proclaim, and embody in our lives/world. The functions of the shepherd are caring, tending, reconciling, sustaining, & leading. This inspires and brings energy as I consider the sacred opportunity and call to serve. I have passion and gifts as a shepherd by building relationship, nourish, cherish, calling, equip, empower, and support lay and rostered leaders. I have an awareness of the great privilege and opportunity to serve with God's people in accompaniment as a team. I bring the following gifts to the office of the bishop: a pastor's heart; theologically reflective mind; soul's desire to serve; obedience to the guidance of the Holy Spirit; attentive listening; conflict management skills; administration; compassion; passion for the Gospel; empathy; and ability to engage and accompany in difficult conversations to help people identify the issues and seek solutions; perseverance; positive attitude; sense of humor; imagination curiosity; and a desire to minister to people/churches.

**As a candidate for Bishop, how would you describe God's call for the Nebraska Synod and your relation to this call?**

In Nebraska Synod, we are people of God who believe and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and the Gospel as the power of God for the Salvation of all who believe. We share core values: we are a church whose unity is in Jesus Christ, who gathers us around word and water, wine, and bread. We are deeply rooted, yet changing and always being made new. I have seen in many ways how God blessed Nebraska synod's 234 congregations. The mission field of Nebraska reflects Christ's love and light in the communities. Seeing the ways God has blessed our members, watching the joy of our members serving, responding to our communities both locally and globally need, is something to behold, but also an opportunity for the bishop to build on. Generations of God's faithful people are built on Jesus Christ's firm foundation. To stand on those broad shoulders and build it further, is a great opportunity to serve.

**Reflect on the opportunities and challenges facing the Nebraska Synod in the next 6 years.**

"Filling our Pulpits" a huge concern as reflected in our survey results is both a challenge and an opportunity for innovation and creativity. Some of our national challenges like the decline in church membership, engagement, aging congregations, and decrease in giving will likely continue in the next few years. This calls us to be proactive in building a high performing team of diverse voices focusing on Christ, making disciples, calling, equipping empowering, and supporting effective leaders. The pastoral care with strategic leadership vision is needed to build healthy leaders to form a healthy community, and emphasis on prevention through spiritual and professional support for leaders. Congregational vitality, shared ministry, spiritual direction, faith formation, intergenerational engagement, leadership formation support, and recruitment/retention of leaders are also essential. Call Process has to be creative and effective with mentorship, coaching, and support. We face challenges and opportunity in post pandemic time which taught us to be adoptive, creative, and healing from our grief/loss. We are co-creators, believing in the crucified and risen Christ who will continue to transform us. We can do better when we know ourselves. Together, we can do more with God of Hope as our helper.